

WILLAMETTE FARMER

VOL. XIV.

PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1882.

NO. 41.

Correspondence.

Hop Growing.

BURNA VISTA, Or., Nov. 16, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

If you will permit me space in your paper I will answer inquiries from many wanting information in regard to the hop business. First, kind of soil and situation required: You must have good rich soil—sandy loam is preferable, but any soil rich enough to raise good corn or potatoes, without any clay nearer than three feet from the surface will produce good hops if the soil is dry; but the richer the soil the better; but do not flatter yourself you can raise good hops on your old, worn out fields, for you will be losing your labor if you do. Situation: Your hop yards should be sheltered from the wind as much as possible, and yet not shaded too much from timber so as to prevent the sun from shining all day upon the vines. Rich river bottom land, either sandy or loam, where it does or does not overflow, is good for hops if the soil is rich and does not wash too much from the current of an overflow. Time to set out roots: We think the best time is in the month of February or March, although some prefer to set them out in the fall of the year. Before setting your roots plow your ground good and deep—a foot deep if you can. After thoroughly pulverizing, clod mash, then lay your ground off eight feet each way, so that your hills will be just eight feet apart. Each hop set should be about eight inches long, and contain two sets of eyes. After laying off your ground in this manner, in each hill plant two sets, and from four to six inches apart in the hills; dig a hole about four inches deep, and after placing the sets in, cover with about four inches of dirt. Hop sets are slow about coming through the ground, and it may be as late as the first of May before your vines begin to shoot through the ground. After the first year they will come through the ground about the first of March. Many do not pole the first year, but you may raise, by tending well, from three to four hundred pounds per acre the first season. But whether you pole or not the first year, be sure to keep them clean and the ground loose and mellow. Hop poles should be from twelve to sixteen feet long, about two and a half inches through at the large end, with the knots closely trimmed, so that the vines can easily be stripped from the pole. The male hops, I had almost forgotten to say, should be set in every tenth row, and every tenth hill in that row. The remainder of the row is set with the female hop, which alone bears. The male hop only impregnates the other vines by the pollen blowing through the yard. The holes for the poles are made with an iron spud, about four feet long, with a knob on the upper end, the lower end sharp pointed, with a gradual swell about one foot from the lower end to the thickness of about three inches. The hole should be eighteen inches deep, then, after sharpening the pole, jab them down into the holes. The poles should be about eight inches apart at the ground, and about eighteen inches apart at the top end; this is to prevent too thick a cluster. Two poles to the hill is sufficient. It is always better to set your poles before the vine comes through the ground in the spring. Train the vines after they are about a foot long; rap them around the pole with the sun, as they will not go opposite to the revolution of the sun, then tie them with good yarn or coarse burlap ravel, not with thread or small twine, as this will cut the vine; tie only a half knot, so that as the vine grows the string will give; train in the heat of the day, and not on a cold or rainy day, as the vines are then brittle and will easily break. Train two vines to each pole, pulling or breaking the others off, and do not allow any more to grow during the season. After the vine has grown almost to the top of the pole it will send out suckers; these limbs must be cut off four or five feet from the ground, as they sap the strength from the vine. Cultivate as you would corn; keep free of weeds, ground loose and mellow, surface as level as you can. On good soil, if you follow this method, you can raise from twelve hundred to two thousand pounds to the acre. In my next I will give method of picking; kind of boxes used; method of drying; and the best method of constructing dry houses. The cost of hop sets is from five to six dollars per thousand, boxed ready for shipment, and it will take about fifteen hundred sets to the acre.

R. F. WELLS.

The Tax Question Discussed.

POLK COUNTY, Or., Nov. 20, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

As you are generally very fair toward those who may happen to differ with you on any subject, will you allow the undersigned to criticize some remarks made in the FARMER

of November 17th on the new "Tax Law." We will pass over and say nothing of the huge cry and lamentation set up last week by some Portland papers in regard to this very law of taxation, as the farmers of this valley well understand the aim and object of that paper, but the day of its influence is past among the farming community, but we, as a friend of the FARMER, had hoped that its editor would at least say nothing until the law was tried in the courts of this State. But now, you, too, state that the "law is inoperative as regards money loaned in this State from Scotland, and that such loans are governed by the laws of England." "That company (the Scotch) cannot be made to pay taxes on such loans, neither is it regulated by any usury law, etc." Great Scotland! deliver us! I see we shall have to fight the battles of the revolution over, as our forefathers left a rap down, and we didn't gain our independence from Scotland, as we cannot tax their money, though invested in real estate. Good heavens! what a blunder we made of it when we set up for ourselves. If that be so, Mr. Editor, are we not in great danger of having all of the money invested here to come from Scotland? What chance would an American stand here to lend money and pay taxes on the same when, as you say, Mr. Editor, Scotch money cannot be taxed here. But we boldly deny the premises, as there is nothing exempt from taxation except public property in the United States. What is money, if not the very best of property? a property that is recognized and accepted among all civilized nations. The second sentence in that article hits the truth from beginning to end. You seem to think, Mr. Editor, that taxing money at its face is virtually double taxation, because real estate is not assessed over half its value. Well, I am informed that the Scotch Company only lends money on half the value of the real estate, secured by mortgage, and, as you state that the borrower will have to make up the taxes, so I can't see where the wrong comes in, as he only pays on one half of the value of the real estate. But in our estimation the weakest argument of all is this: Money loaned represents land generally, and as it is so easy to conceal it, or to find some way to evade taxes on it, the effort to tax it produces fraud, demoralization and corruption. Why do Portlanders keep their stores and shops open after nightfall, as it is so easy to steal and conceal and evade the police, especially your liquor shops cause much demoralization and corruption, why not order them to shut up at sundown? As I understand it, "the law was made for the evil doer, but not for the righteous man," it protects him in his rights. The whole argument seems to hinge on this: What is money? If property it must be taxed wherever found, if not property, we should not attempt to tax it. As to the present law, we have not seen it, only what we have heard from its confessed enemies, it may need ameliorating, but its main feature, vice taxing all property wherever found in the State, will hereafter stand forever on the Statute Book, for it is based on justice, and the people will see to it, that it is executed. Nobody desires to drive money from the State, but if money cannot bear taxing like any other property, then let it slide and we will try to get along without Scotland.

TAX PAYER.

Planting Pears for Profit.

WASHOUGAL, W. T., Nov. 16, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have read with much interest your article on "Fruit Growing in Oregon—Opinions of a California Expert;" and I noticed that, in common with most of the California fruit growers, Mr. Hayden has the Bartlett fever, and fearing that some may take the advice he gives, and follow the California example, I would give a few words of warning. Ten years ago, in the peach growing section of New York there was found to be a considerable larger profit in raising Crawford's Early than any other variety of peach. This led to a demand for trees of that variety which the nurserymen could not supply for several years, although they increased their stock each year. It also led to an over supply of the fruit, so that they were a drug in the market, and from being the most profitable it became the least so. This bit of fruit history is being repeated in California to-day, only it is another fruit. Last year there were not enough Bartlett trees; from the size of a switch up to the size of a spade handle, in California, Oregon and Washington, to supply the California demand, and I fully believe that the result of this boom will be that, ten years hence, the Bartlett will prove to be one of the least profitable of pears. The Bartlett ranks first for canning, and will, perhaps, always find a demand at low prices, but we

farmers and fruit growers of Oregon and Washington hope soon to have railroad connection with the mining and wheat growing region east of us, and to find a good market for our fruits all the way to St. Paul. These markets will call especially for apples and pears of the late fall and winter varieties. In planting pears for profit there should be such a variety of kinds as will include the best kinds for each season, from the earliest to the latest; but in planting to supply distant markets, there should be but little of the very early kinds, as they ripen fast and decay soon. For such markets the Bartlett, Clapp's Favorite, Flemish Beauty, Beurre d'Arjon, Winter Nellis and Beurre d'Esther will be found reliable and profitable. I would give these varieties rank as follows: First, Beurre d'Arjon; second, Winter Nellis and Beurre d'Esther; third, Bartlett; fourth, Clapp's Favorite and Flemish Beauty. I place Beurre d'Arjon first because the tree is very hardy, well shaped and of vigorous growth; the fruit is handsome, of good size and delicious flavor, also a good keeper, its season being from October to January. All things considered, it is without a peer among our pears. Yours truly,

F. C. YEMANS.

Lane County Pomona Grange.

IRVING, Or., Nov. 20, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Lane County Pomona Grange will meet with Grand Prairie Grange in their hall, two miles west of Irving, on the second Saturday in December. Patrons from a distance invited. Basket dinner.

A. J. JENNINGS, Secretary.

Factories Needed.

The following taken from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer is so applicable to this city, that we endorse every word of it and hope its suggestions will not fall listless on the public ear: Factories are quite as much needed here as railroads, and more. Railroads will bring people into the country, but if there is nothing for them to do they will go away again.—Factories will give them that something to do. A few of the industries needed here will be found in the paragraphs following:

A match factory has paid in Victoria for several years past, and one or two in Portland also. Why will not one be set up? We have the best of wood for the purpose, and a demand at home for matches almost sufficient to keep a factory going without outside orders.

A wood pulp mill for the making of paper. The wood is going to waste all around us in quantity sufficient to make all the paper used on the Pacific slope. Pulp paper mills are springing into existence all through the wooded regions of the East, and ere many years there will be a dozen on Puget Sound. Who will build the first?

A boot and shoe factory is imperatively required. The 50,000 inhabitants of Western Washington wear out \$50,000 worth of shoe leather per month, \$40,000 of which go to California and eastern manufacturers. The representative of a leading San Francisco boot and shoe house who did the Sound up last month, showed the writer his order book.—During his last visit he took orders to the amount of \$33,000. To compete successfully a factory here should have nearly or quite a hundred thousand dollars invested in machinery, stock, etc. A hundred or more operatives would be employed, and an addition made to the town at once of at least a thousand inhabitants.

It is really singular that a tub and bucket factory has not been set up in this western country before. That article of this description should come all the way from the east, is shameful, as may also be said of other wooden ware, as bowls, washboards, handles, etc.—We may also include brooms.

We have repeatedly, in previous issues, dilated upon the business and profits that await the future maker of beet sugar. No region under the sun is better adapted to the cultivation of sugar beets and the making of sugar than this, and a second Claus Sprinkles fortune awaits the capitalist who will properly undertake the business.

Several of the enterprises above referred to are within easy reach of our own citizens, individually and unaided. Others will require united effort, and still others need the help of outside capital. We can get some of them with little effort, and, by persistent trying, we can get them all. Let us try.

We had a friend say to us a few days ago: "I never do anything for a cold; just wear it off." That is exceedingly dangerous; one might do that 19 times and the 20th time the cold would settle on the lungs and lead to consumption, and thus cut one's life short many years. Is it not better, and more sensible, to go to your druggist and get a bottle of Ammen's Cough Syrup, than run any risk at all.

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY.

HOW SOME CAN AND SOME CANNOT RAISE SHEEP.

Great Profit on Moderate Capital—Sheep Walks in Oregon, Washington and Montana—High Price of Meat and its Effect Upon Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IMPORTANT EVERYWHERE.

We have recently taken a fresh impulse to become partial concerning a very important industry, that represents a great amount of capital invested and pays a larger per cent. of profit on the investment, than is earned by any other staple product known in this region if not in the wide world. We propose to relate two days experience with sheep growers, and in the outset give notice that we shall surprise conservative minds by statements that astonished us when we heard them, but we find them soundly supported by testimony of many good men, and as we know the men well in many instances, we accept their statements as reliable, and give them to the world.

Sheep husbandry grows in importance in every section of this country. The wheat farmer learns that he needs sheep in the Willamette valley to glean his summer-fallow, to utilize his waste land, to supply meat, and when he has made the most use that is possible of them as scavengers, he finds that his band of sheep have proved the most profitable and least troublesome item of farm stock. They also find that they do not keep nearly as many sheep as they ought. It is safe to say that Western Oregon does not support over one half as many sheep as could profitably be kept, and that the loss of possible profit is a great item. Wheat fields that grow too rank because they were not pastured at the proper time, afford an example in the loss account.

SHEEP BREEDERS OF WESTERN OREGON.

There are many wheat growers who keep sheep in such a way that they deteriorate, though still profitable; but they get the use of them in weeding their fields at the expense of half starving the poor sheep. There are some who take good care of their small flocks and see them improve for so doing, and get good pay from them. We have shown that there is more profit in keeping sheep on well improved pastures than in growing wheat. In Western Oregon we have some men who are noted breeders; such men as Mintz, Guthrie, Cross, Davidson and F. R. Smith. Several good breeders live in Lane county. There are good breeders in Yamhill and Washington, and a fair share live in the Umpqua valley. These generally stick close to Merinos, the Spanish and French being most popular, and some show good American Merinos. Some breeders are interested in Leicester, Cotswolds and New Oxfordshires, while of late Mr. G. W. Hunt, of Sublimity, is importing Shropshires. The high grade Merino has been the favorite, but meat is now so scarce that good mutton is far more of an object than heretofore and must henceforth dispute the palm with good fleeces.

While quite a number are breeders of thoroughbred sheep there are also some who keep good sized bands. S. W. R. Jones of Gervasia, has probably 2000 sheep. He has made a great part of his fortune by that means, having a mountain range as well as French prairie pastures. M. Wilkins and sons, and others in Lane county, keep many sheep besides cattle and horses. Wilkins has 600 to 800 New Oxfordshires, and considers them far better wool producers than Cotswolds; they are as heavy in carcass and as good in quality of flesh. While a Merino wether weighs 60 pounds New Oxfordshire of his band averages 100 lbs. As they sell by weight they are profitable; as they are harder than Merinos they have a decided superiority. They produce combed wool that is ten per cent. value above common. The hardness of these sheep can be seen from the fact that they have never sheltered or fed them in any winter, nor have ever met with heavy loss. These sheep run on the foot hills of the Cascades and on rich bottom land. They have pasture made up of native grass chiefly, into which timothy, orchard grass, etc., have largely taken hold. As the pasture is not overstocked, the grass improves rather than deteriorates.

SHEEP IN SOUTHERN AND COAST COUNTIES.

One of the most successful sheep men in Western Oregon is D. M. Guthrie, near Dallas, in Polk county. He not only grows fine sheep for breeding purposes, but has quite a band of them, common stock well graded up, from which he derives a good profit in wool and mutton. His Cotswolds and New Oxfordshires come into market as extra choice wethers. These are the wool growers of importance in this section, though they do not often keep sheep by the thousand as they do east of the Cascades.

Douglas county, which includes Umpqua valley, is a famous sheep region, though its grasses seem to have deteriorated of late years.

Here, in the Willamette, the native grasses are nearly run out, but sheep pay large interest on cultivated grasses, and mixed grain makes excellent pasture. The hills of Umpqua produce a short grass that dries up early; sheep thrive in early spring and do well when early fall rains start the grass, but summer pasture is very dry. They should scatter different grass seeds including small white clover and rib grass over those hills, and if they take in there as they do elsewhere, those hills will soon carry much more stock than now, and do it better. The sheep business in Umpqua has made rich men of many, like Thomas Smith, D. W. Stearns, the Sutherland's and many others we cannot name; Umpqua wool has no superior and few equals on this coast. Sheep and wool are the great staples of Umpqua valley, and will be more and more appreciated when they learn that improved grasses will give double returns in better sheep and heavier fleeces.

There are some flocks of sheep in Rogue river valley, where the climate is favorable, but sheep do not yet occupy the wide pastures of Middle-Southern Oregon. There are sheep in some districts of the coast mountains, towards the ocean, along the south coast, but there the chief dependence is cattle, and the climate is a safe one for cattle raising on a large scale. Sheep are found along the coast all the way to the Straits of Fuca. They do well on Shoalwater Bay. Can be found on Clatsop, and at Tillamook, in the islands of Puget Sound, as well as on the mainland; through the wooded region along the Columbia they help pay the taxes. It would be interesting to trace their history through all this region, and we may sometime do so, but now we will go to the wider and more exclusive domain which is found in Eastern Oregon where broad plains and wide spreading mountains give them rich pasture all the year round.

KEANS OF THE CASCADES.

For some years past sheep walks have been encroaching on cattle ranges, and gradually stock men have been becoming sheep men. The assertion that sheep pay twice as much profit as cattle and horses is no doubt true, even while it is true that, for a term of ten years, either cattle or horses, well cared for, will yield a full hundred per cent profit per annum on the investment, besides paying all expenses. The stock business is simply immense, that is, when well carried on. But we may as well premise that while—as a stock man lately said—one man may understand horses, and another may be good and successful with cattle, it is seldom any one man is well able to run sheep, horses and cattle all at the same time. Sheep men are not so common as they might be, as has been proved by the want of success of many who have attempted it. To hear those who have succeeded state their case, it seems easy enough to manage the business.

HORSES ON EASTERN PASTURES.

Before commencing on sheep we will look at horse raising, which are the easiest of all stock to keep. Turn your hand of horses out, on any good range, even in the Eastern counties when snow laid for ninety days last winter, and you need only look them up once in a while and they will take care of themselves. If the snow is deep they pay it away to get at the standing bunch grass and keep in fair order on it. They can paw for a living, when split-hoof cattle will starve to death. There are great herds of horses in Northeastern Washington, where they have few cattle and not many sheep. Stock died so in 1880-1 that cattle are very scarce in that section, but horses are more plenty and more certain as profit. Horses are numerous in all parts of Eastern Oregon and Washington; some bands are of the Indian, or Cayuse stock, that by gradual improvement pay well to the owners; others are American mares of a low grade, while bands of horses of different degrees of nature can be found until you come to good carriage stock and high grades from thoroughbred ancestors. Of late, horse men are turning their attention more to securing improvement in the direction of trotting stock, so as to bring some good roadsters to market. Style and form and action with speed, and fair size is what they strive for. Many old mares can be found on the bunch grass range that have never had halter or bridle on, but have raised large families.

CATTLE, STOCK AND BEEP.

Cattle were sold off of Northern ranges and went East at low prices in 1880 and 1881, but great bands of them still range the hills and plains of Middle and Eastern and Southern Oregon. These regions are remote from the ways of the world—at least from the railways and waterways—and not being available for agriculture, are utilized by herdsmen, who literally own the cattle on a thousand hills. Beef is beef, now-a-days, and cattle are up in the world at prices that make the cattle kings very proud of their profession. Not very long

ago we wrote up the cattle business in Southern Wasco and Grant and Baker counties, so it is not necessary to repeat. Suffice it to say that while cattle are high priced and far more profitable than ever before in Oregon history, they still lack much of being as profitable as the nimble-footed sheep, whose loof is handed down in a Spanish proverb as shod with silence. Before we leave the horse, we will say that he thrives on the big bunch grass. He gains strength and bone and muscle from feeding on the rolling plains. This grass is of several varieties, with similar characteristics. Last week, when riding and walking over the high, grassy ridge close to the Columbia, near its junction with the John Day river, we closely inspected the standing bunch grass. It had not been pastured but stood as it grew, its seed fallen off; stalk and leaf were withered and dried up and apparently mouldy, but that was only in appearance; despite appearance, this grass was neither mouldy nor damaged; it had dried up but saved all its nutritious qualities; had cured as hay cures, and is valuable as feed when other grasses have no value, or very little value at all. This makes the bunch grass very important as winter feed. When snow is on the ground the horse will dig down to it and make a good living. Even the sheep will scrape the snow away to get down to its stem.

THE GRASSES SHEEP LIKE.

But the sheep does not like any coarse, long grass. It prefers the shorter, sweeter growths and needs variety. He helps himself to weeds; he browses, when he can, and nibbles close the shortest grass that grows, actually keeping fat when herbage is scarcely visible, when he would do poorly if he had to wade through tall grass that was over his back. We had so often heard men who live close to the Blue Mountains say there was no sheep grass near the Columbia river, that we took pains to examine and saw that all among the scattering bunch grass there is a smaller growth, known as sheep grass, on which sheep thrive, while larger stock devour the other grass. Nature has dealt kindly with that region and before we close it will be evident that many have held a mistaken idea in supposing that bunch grass will wear out and leave no successor; that eventually the ranges will be barren and worthless. It is not in that way kindly Nature protects the world, for from its vast laboratory it continually evolves hidden things; plant follows plant in endless succession, though we cannot say from whence they come.

UMATILLA AND BLUE MOUNTAIN RANGES.

The greatest sheep range in Eastern Oregon is found in Western Umatilla county, along the base of the Blue Mountains, and all through these mountains. John Q. Wilson, formerly a resident of Salem, and of late years in Eastern Oregon, where he has been stock-raising for twenty years, now has a sheep range east of Heppner, and the other day gave us interesting particulars of his methods and success. Last spring he had 1,850 ewes, that brought him 1,700 lambs. It was a fortunate year, as he did not feed at all during the winter, and the wool yield was good. The grass came early in the spring, lambing time was April, and lambs and ewes did well. Shearing came in May, and after paying for shearing and transporting to market, where he sold at 24 cents, he realized a full average of \$1.50 per head from his wool, which gave him plenty of means to handle himself. After shearing, the sheep were driven into the mountains. Sheep eat the small grasses that come up very thickly through all the foothills; when these dry up, as happens early in the summer, the mountains are near by, and afford green grasses and tempting browse all summer. Mr. Wilson says you must put flesh on your sheep in June and July to make a success of it; so, when the foothill grasses begin to dry he divides his sheep in bands of 1,800, putting an experienced herder with a band of that number, and they start by easy stages, driving a few miles every day, until they get to their customary range. There is a sort of pre-emptors right recognized in these matters. The mountain range as yet is free, but the oldest use creates a right that stock men recognize and do not interfere with. Each resumes, year after year, the range occupied before. The last corner moves on beyond with his sheep, to find unoccupied territory. Mr. Wilson says some men drive their sheep one hundred miles into the mountains to find new pasture; another sheep owner tells us that of late they go until they almost meet the bands that come from the other side of the mountains. The Blue Mountains occupy a great territory and spread out ranges in all directions. They are not so abrupt as the Cascades; have little or no underbrush, and among the open pine forest grasses everywhere. There is also abundant water from springs and small rills, so that sheep luxuriate

(Continued on Fourth page.)