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Correspondence.

Protection and Free Trade.

BUTTE CREEK, Oregon, Jan. 29, 1883.
Editor Willamette Farmer:
In your last issue, I noticed a communication from a farmer in regard to free trade. I cannot agree with the writer. He says: "Protection has already well nigh ruined this nation."

Where is our navy? We almost shiver at the thought, for fear some of us might accidentally run against a Spaniard, or an Italian, or even a Chilean. A few modern men of war could take this whole coast with scarcely the loss of a man.

Now, Mr. Editor, if this nation is well nigh ruined, I cannot see it. We are the most powerful and free nation on the globe, and are respected by all the nations of the world. It is true we have a small navy, but we do not require a large one. Our government is prepared to equip a large navy on short notice, and just let Chili, or even Great Britain, try to take this coast. Your correspondent would find that he was very much mistaken about them taking this coast without the loss of a man. How was it in 1812? How was it in the rebellion? Our navy was not any larger at the commencement of the rebellion than it is now, and yet they did not destroy the government. He further says: "But Congress had rather give money to bounty jumpers, and invest in improving frog ponds and sloughs, etc." Congress has never given money to improve frog ponds and sloughs, but has given money to improve our rivers and bars, which are a great benefit to the farmers throughout our State. Does your correspondent mean to say that the appropriations made by Congress to improve the bars at Yaquina, at the mouth of the Columbia river, and at the Cascades, do not benefit the farmers? I think he does, and he will have a great deal of trouble in stuffing such stuff down the throats of the farmers of this State. Listen to him again! He says: "But, it is a lamentable fact that the public mind in England under protection, and see the difference, etc." Why does he take the history of England? I refer him to the history of our own country. What has free trade done for us? President Buchanan gave us his opinion in a message to Congress in December, 1857. He says: "The earth has yielded her fruits abundantly, and has bountifully rewarded the toil of the husbandman; our great staples have commanded high prices, and up till a brief period our manufacturing, mineral and mechanical operations have largely prospered. The elements of material wealth in rich abundance, and yet notwithstanding all these advantages, our country, in its monetary interests, is at the present moment in a deplorable condition. In the midst of unassisted plenty in all the products, and in all the elements of national wealth, we find our manufacturer suspended, our public works retarded, our private enterprises of different kinds abandoned, and thousands of useful laborers thrown out of employment and reduced to want. The revenue of the government, which is chiefly derived from duties on imports from abroad, has been greatly reduced, while the appropriations made by Congress, at the last session, for the current fiscal year, are very large in amount." Not even revenues as produced from the so-called revenue tariff are less industry and thrift. It was a time of profound peace at the close of that period, 1860. Expenditures of the government were light; no war debt; no pensions to pay, and yet the government had to borrow money 12 per cent. to meet current expenses.

Contrast with this exhibit the condition of our country in 1880, after twenty years of free trade. Not only have our people (eminent under the present tariff, and at higher wages than those of foreign countries) the purchasing power is ever increasing, while our workmen live better and spend more than ever before. They are also saving more of their wages. It is said, by good authority, that seven eighths of the deposits in savings banks are earnings of laboring men and women. Take the State of New York—refer to the *Banker's Magazine*, vol. 29, page 4, when I state that in the year 1860 the deposits in New York savings banks were \$175,110, or say \$15 per capita. In 1870, after ten years of protection, deposits were \$4,360,217. In 1880, after twenty years of free trade, they were \$353,629,637, or about \$100 per capita. The deposits of the savings banks, per head of the population in New York, 1874, was \$617; in Massachusetts \$129; Connecticut \$134; in Rhode Island \$203; Austria the amount per head is only \$8.20; France \$3, and in England \$9.20. These figures offer a suggestive commentary on the statements of those who pretend that free trade, in better circumstances and can save more of his wages than in the old world.

A. B. MANQUAM.

Education of Boys and Girls.

PORTLAND, Oregon, Feb. 3, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

We are created social beings. Children want companionship with other children; they crave it, they seek it as naturally as a duck takes to the water, and in cases where there is only one child in a family, extra pains should be taken to supply this want; allow them to have pets of puppies, kittens, lambs, calves or kids, birds or fowls; there is no family so poor, but it can gratify this want in some respects, and it affords much amusement and gratification to the child and relieves in some measure the cares of the mother. When we moved to the mouth of the river our boy was a year old, our house was isolated, and he did not often see a child. There were no roads, and the only means of travel was by boats. So he was in a boat almost daily; he had dogs, cats, kids and lambs for pets and toys without stint. At an early age he showed a fondness for picture books and stories. When he was about three years of age the publication of *St. Nicholas* was commenced; we subscribed for it for him, and have continued it to the present time without missing a number. For several years his mother read it to him, and he was so much interested in the stories that he insisted on hearing them repeated many times. The summer before he was five years old, a school was started in the neighborhood about half a mile from our house. After it had been in progress awhile, he began to talk about it to his mother; it was on his mind daily; he wanted to go to school with the other children. His mother tried to dissuade him, telling him that she would not spare him. The subject was on his mind and increased daily, till he actually set the time when he should commence going to school. He hunted up an old school book of his sister, found a dinner bucket to carry his lunch, and showed such earnestness in the preparation that it was evident he intended to set out for school at the appointed time. His mother apprised me of his plans, said she was convinced he was really in earnest about going to school, and asked what should be done about it. I replied, the path is plain; there is no danger of his getting lost and there are no vicious animals about; humor him, let him go; he will soon get tired of it, and will be satisfied. So, on the appointed day, he set out with the book and dinner bucket in hand and a note to the teacher. He had before this showed a desire to learn to read, so he could read the stories in his papers—the *Nursery* and *St. Nicholas*, and had learned the alphabet. He returned at night happy, delighted; he had had a "splendid time; had lots of fun; he was going every day." And so he did, to the close of the session, happy with his school experience. There was no effort made to push his mental development; I forbade any such course, let him take

what came easy and natural; gave him freedom for play and amusement with others of his age, while older ones were confined to their lessons. He manifested a desire to learn to read as that seemed to him the stepping stone to unlock the mysteries of books and papers, and he accepted cheerfully the little tasks given him by the teacher.

When we went to the farm, there was no school. A year or two later a district was formed and a school house built. We were, at the extreme end of the district, two miles from the school house, with a low bottom and creek to cross at the outlet. The route was mostly through the timber, a plain wagon road, very little traveled, and no children on the route to accompany him. The distance was too far to send him alone on foot and it was not practicable for him to swim the creek daily with his pony. He could be safely trusted to cross the creek in his boat, also to saddle and ride his horse. So we fitted up a stable on the opposite side and furnished it with feed; also had a shed built at the school house for the pony. Thus equipped he attended regularly and made fair progress until mid winter, when an accident brought it to a termination. One day, on his return, in passing through a little hollow or depression in the road, he was suddenly thrown from his horse and bruised a little, though not seriously hurt. He came on home afoot, crossed the stream and arrived safely; could give no account of his horse, had not seen him, did not know what had become of him. When he left the school house a woman of the neighborhood left at the same time, traveling in the opposite direction. The accident occurred nearly a mile and a half from the school house. Before the woman had gone half a mile, here came the pony, on the knee run, dripping with sweat and foam, the saddle turned under his belly and one stirrup torn off. It appears that at the time of the accident, he wheeled and took the back track, and had traveled about seven times the distance that the woman had walked. Some wood choppers close to the road turned him out of his course and ran him into some tree tops and caught him. Finding the horse in such condition, of course, alarmed the neighborhood. Friends returned with the pony, expecting to find the mangled remains of the boy by the wayside. On enquiry we found that he left the school house on the run, and that that was his usual style of going. On account of his age and having to go alone, I thought best to terminate his attendance. His mother was indignant, thought he had abused his pony, and said he must return to school. So after resting several days he started again, and on his first return he met with the same accident at the same place; the pony, however, came on home alone, and in this instance he knew what had become of the pony. The horse is perfectly gentle, and not at all scary, and the most probable solution of his conduct was, that in the first instance he saw and was frightened at a wild animal. About that time a cougar was prowling about the neighborhood and had been seen by several persons. Although his opportunities for attending a regular school have been limited, he has received instruction at home from his mother, in time and amount sufficient to compensate for his irregularity. In the fall before he was ten years of age he entered the public school of this city and attended one year. Here he acquired a little experience not taught in the school-room. City boys must show their superiority over the new arrivals from the country. College boys must give fresh arrivals a certain introduction. If the greeny stands it pretty well and accepts it as fun, he is soon half well with them and ready to assist at the initiation of the next new comer. So our boy had to have his turn, and one day as he was set upon and crowded beyond what he thought fair in such cases, he showed a spirit of resentment which the boys, of course, considered needed a little discipline, which they then proceeded to administer, when to their great surprise four or five of them lay sprawling in the dirt quicker than I can write it. Boys are usually discreet when there is danger, and in this case they thought a little distance was safer than close contact. As the street had just been McAdamized they found abundant material and commenced throwing stones. Here a greater surprise awaited them, for they found the country boy a match for a dozen of them; he could throw further, straighter and hit harder. When they were at a safe distance, he was entirely beyond the reach of their projectiles. Boys recognize superiority as readily as older persons; a trace followed, and he was soon a favorite among his schoolmates, and also with his teachers. He likes school and takes to it kindly, but likes his pets, the animals on the farm, his horse, dog and gun better. We furnish him with books of history, travels, etc. He takes the *St. Nicholas*, *Youth's Com-*

pani and *The Little Granger*, reads them, and is interested in all as much as older people in their favorite periodicals. He is beginning to take an interest in the *FARMER*, *Rural Spirit* and *Rural New Yorker*, and looks with as much interest for the arrival of the mails as the older members of the family. Education does not consist merely of a certain number of days and months' tuition inside college walls. Remoteness from the conventional school-house, we consider, a poor excuse for neglect in matters of mental and moral culture. The lack of such advantages must be supplied by the parents. The minds of our young folks might be compared to a plowed field ready to receive the seed. If we do not sow the grain weeds will spring up and occupy the soil. Our boys are being educated whether we will or no; there is no standing still, no middle ground. Shall we sow the seed and occupy the soil, or give it up to weeds or briars? Thus far our boy loves the farm, its free life and invigorating air, better than the city. It gives us no anxiety whether he shall follow farm life in the future. If he does we shall be content. Should he choose some other vocation the experience of farm life, the self reliance, good health, physical development and muscular fiber will be good capital to assure success in any other vocation he may choose.

While pleading for the boys I should not forget the girls. Their training and culture is quite as important as that of the boys. What are you doing with your girls? Children and youth of both sexes are naturally seeking information. It is a necessity of their nature next to that of food and clothing. In what way can we supply it so easily and so cheaply as with good books and papers? "But," said a father to me the other day, "my boys won't read, they don't care for books and papers." Then the fault is yours; you didn't commence rightly, nor commence early enough. The weeds and briars have commenced to grow. In such cases I would recommend the course my father took with me when I was eight or nine years old. He hired me, for a stipulated sum in money, to read the family paper every week, every page, advertisements and all, for one entire year, and after that the history of the United States. This awakened an interest in books and papers that never left me. But wasn't it a bitter pill the first few months to wade through the four pages of that paper and in reading the advertisements. It did seem to me that the family of "Co." was a very large one, and that nearly every man in business in that town where the paper was printed had gone to the "Co." family for a partner. Children and youth need companionship; the sexes should mingle and be allowed to have little parties, visits and reunions, under the watchful eye of parents and friends. In what way can families co-operate so easily in city and country as to allow such reunions of the young folks from house to house, the parents of the entertainers taking charge of such gatherings, directing them in amusing and instructive channels. Make the home circle attractive with books, papers and music, and the young people will cluster there instead of prowling the streets, seeking amusement in doubtful places.

J. B. KNAFF.

Reply to Questions.

CLARK'S, MERRICK CO., Neb., Jan. 22d.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have been reading up an old copy of the *FARMER*, a year or two old, and am quite interested in Oregon and Washington Territory, as therein depicted. As there may be considerable of a change within a couple of years, relatively, or even in one year, I write for renewed information on the various points of interest to an intending emigrant. From reading the *FARMER*, I infer that East of the Cascades is the most natural home of the sheep and from some articles in the paper I have received the impression that the native pastures will not sustain as many animals (sheep for instance) as our natural pastures here in the Great Platte valley in Nebraska. Here it is estimated that an average of three acres will sustain a grown cow or steer during the pasture season and that what will feed a cow will keep eight or nine head of sheep. Now if I leave this State it will be because I can find a new location where winters are very short and where I can engage in farming and sheep and wool growing in a small way. I should like to own about a section of land or thereabouts, where I could keep twelve or fifteen hundred head of sheep and raise some grain, fruit, etc., in addition to the principal business of wool and sheep growing. I have read with much interest Dr. Vanderpool's letter in the *FARMER* and think I could suit myself in Wasco county were it not for the fact that there is no means of transportation for produce. Mr. Parker's letter in regard to

the Cold Spring country in Umatilla county, is also interesting, but while in reach of facilities for transportation via the railroad, I have an impression that it is too far north, that the winters would be longer and more severe than in Wasco. On what terms are school lands in your State sold, and at what price, now? In this State school land is sold either for cash or on ten years time, the purchaser paying one-tenth at the time of purchase and making payments annually, with interest on deferred payments. How near to the railroad could one buy good land in Marion county from the railroad company, and at what price? Would it be asking too much to ask you to send me a partial list of their lands in Marion county? Would Merino sheep do well on the foothill region in that county? The land in Marion, I suppose, will have to be cleared mostly? Enclosed find stamps. Please send me a late copy of the *FARMER*, and as much information as possible.

Very respectfully,
FRANKLIN SWEET.

Mr. Sweet has been reading the double edition of the *FARMER* that reviewed the whole Pacific Northwest and alluded to all interests and occupations and was published just two years ago. It is true that many changes have taken place since then. The Cold Spring country has been all settled and is now tolerably well farmed. He is mistaken in supposing that it is too far north. We will try to answer his inquiries in full, so far as possible, for the benefit of all who are interested in the matters involved therein.

It is possible that the natural pastures of Nebraska will sustain more stock in the grazing season, but probably the grazing season is much shorter there than here. We cannot say how much land it takes to carry stock, because grass differs in different localities. Here, stock men drive their sheep to the mountains the first of June and keep them there until the winter is at hand in the fall. Here, too, there is usually a great deal of range where grass grows but where farming cannot be carried on. Stock men do not pretend to own the pastures they use East of the Cascades, save in some instances, as the Dufars of Wasco county. It has always been possible to find wild land where stock can run at large. Half, or more, of Oregon is in that condition now. The same is true of Washington Territory.

It will be easily possible for Mr. Sweet to locate where he can combine farming and wool growing in a moderate way. That is one of the things we continually urge and try to prove practicable. We see no reason why he cannot carry out his idea in almost any portion of the eastern country.

School lands are not yet in the market in the Territories, and will not be until they become States. In Oregon school lands are appraised, they being \$2 an acre. They are usually sold at that price, though often worth much more. The State has other lands donated from government, and maintains a land department. The terms are: one-third cash and two thirds on time at 8 per cent. interest. As the State loans the money, it is willing to let the deferred payments lie and collect the interest.

As to railroad lands in Marion county, the company has some not very distant, but it would be rough land. The foothills and timbered portions of country not taken at an early day are railroad land, and are sold at various prices according to grade. Actual settlers are taking up all good railroad tracts. It is not possible to send any list of such lands.

Great changes have taken place since February, 1881. That year we went to Walla Walla, making the journey by boat, 65 miles from Portland to Lower Cascades, by rail six miles to Upper Cascades, by boat 45 miles on the middle river to Dalles City, where we took railroad again around the Dalles of the Columbia 16 miles to Celilo, where another steamer received us and carried us on the Upper Columbia 130 miles to Wallula, where a narrow gauge railroad 30 miles long completed the journey to Walla Walla, almost 300 miles by rail and river, using three railroads and three steamboats, and occupying two days' time. All that has been changed. The Oregon Railway and Navigation Company have their railroad finished, and you take the train here at 4 o'clock, evening, to find yourself ready for breakfast at Walla Walla. The Northern Pacific, also, that had made little headway at that time, has now some 350 miles of completed road that reaches from Wallula to the center of Montana. Other railroad work has been done, and the country is beginning to respond by actual progress to these enterprises.

As to chances to locate lands, you could locate the entire domain of New York in the vacant lands of Eastern Washington, and cover Pennsylvania with the vacant lands of Eastern Oregon. We have yet vacant lands that some time will make homes for millions of people.

About Labor—Protection of Labor—Convict Labor.
PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 30, 1883.
Editor Willamette Farmer:
Bret Harte says:
"If 'o v it is not doct for one scientific gaud To say another is an s—at least all though I was 'about to remark' that your correspondent, who hails from Folk county, and comes to the front with an argument in favor of Free Trade—I trust he is a gentleman and if not strictly scientific, at least possessed of a good degree of common sense. But really, Mr. Editor, his communication in last week's *FARMER* reads to me like the disjointed utterances of some old Rip Van Winkle philosopher, who has been asleep somewhere out in the woods while the nation progressed for twenty years, and has practically accepted the principle of protection as the true one. My aim, however, is not to enter into a controversy on that subject, but rather to take exception to the editorial note in the same issue on the subject of convict labor. The question is fairly before the public to-day. The contract system of convict labor as now existing is a benefit to the comm wealth or not? It seems to me that it is a mistake for the *FARMER* to try to dodge the question. Permit me briefly to state why I think it is a mistake to evade it. First the Northwest requires immigration in order to the development of the country. Second the farmers of the Northwest require, for their best interest, that the consumer be brought as near to the producer as possible. In other words, that the cities become more populous in order to create a home demand for farm produce. Now, Mr. Editor, here are two propositions and with them I will conclude, trusting you will accept these few remarks as given, in all candor:

Proposition 1. Convict laborers are not "consumers" in the same sense or to the same degree as freemen. Wherever one is employed to substitute a free toiler there is a manifest loss directly or indirectly, or both, to the farmer.

Proposition 2. The employment of convict labor to substitute free skilled labor in the State Prison at Salem, does tend strongly and persistently to keep emigration out of the cities and indirectly out of the State. The tendency is not in the direct ratio of man to man, but like a lever works the public mind throughout the length and breadth of the land (for it is noised abroad and that right quick). It kept me out of this State for a year or two and is keeping others out to my personal knowledge to-day.

REPLY.

We have very positive views on the use of convict labor and have no hesitation to express them.

Representing the farmers of Oregon, we wish to keep down taxation. The State Prison has been a great expense, but promises soon to be self-supporting. If by the contract system the labor of convicts can be made to help pay their expenses, it should be so conducted.

Convicts are often outcasts, with no trade. To leave them in prison idle would be wrong, because idleness begets crime. To employ them in some useful labor is a mercy to them as well as a saving to taxpayers. It is possible that habits of industry may improve a convict, whereas habits of idleness never can reform him. If they can learn some way to earn a living they may go to work and be good citizens when released again. From both the moral and economical points of view it is advisable to give the convict employment in prison and the small proportion convict labor will bear to the working world at large forbids that the employment of such labor shall be productive of evil. If it is, the resulting good will far more than offset all the bad results.

California Fruit Growers.

The second annual meeting of the State Fruit Grower's Convention of California, was held at San Jose in November last, and was fully reported in the *Pacific Rural Press*. The attendance included many progressive fruit growers; their discussion lasted several days and was fully published in the *Pacific Rural Press*. We have carefully taken out and filed away this report, as it has come in that paper, because it covered much valuable information, but this week we receive from both the publishers and our friend W. H. Jessup, of Hayward, a pamphlet containing the entire report, and in connection with some valuable information in connection with our own interest in fruit growing, canning and drying fruits, packing and transporting green fruits of all kinds, the value of different fruits for the various uses of commerce, insect pests, and in fact every matter connected with fruit growing, and ought to be in the hands of many Oregon fruit growers. Send 25 cents to Dewey & Co., San Francisco, and you will receive a copy by mail and will thank us for the information.

We think it unnecessary to go to a doctor and pay him to prescribe for a common cold. At the same time it is of the utmost importance to pay attention to it and get relief—or evil consequences may follow. We use Allen's Cough Syrup. It has never failed yet to do all that is claimed for it, and we take pleasure in recommending it to our readers. If you have not tried this medicine, go to your druggist and ask to see a large bottle and read the label.

Letter from Ohio.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I am thankful that by good newspapers we are acquainted with each other and that they enables remote sections to commune with a facility that would astonish the good people who lived in the days of old.

Congratulate you on your advance movement in daring to break ground right before