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Correspondence.

[Editorial Correspondence.]
THE WALLA WALLA VALLEY.

WALLA WALLA, July 2, 1883.

Walla Walla county does not occupy a large area on the map or on the world's surface, and the greater portion of its acres are not productive. Over towards the mountains, including the foot hills of Umatilla county, close by is the garden spot of the world, or at least this part of it. The rolling plains towards the north and west constitute two thirds of the county, but as yet have not become productive though much settlement has gone there the two years past. To the northeast, towards Grange City on Snake river, there is a large area that produces heavily. Eureka Flat, between here and Snake river, is reaping its first good harvest the present year. Though small in its entirety and not half of it become productive, it is probable that no similar area in the Willamette turns off as much wheat as this county does. It was estimated in April that the surplus from this county would approximate 50,000 tons, or over a million and a half of bushels. The present outlook warrants the belief that its exports will amount to 40,000 tons, or 1,333,333 bushels. That is an immense output for a country of this size, but will be greatly increased when the remainder of the county is settled and made productive.

My former letter related chiefly to the harvest prospects of Umatilla county and in this I shall confine myself to Walla Walla county. It does not seem possible that this valley will produce as much wheat as Umatilla county but experts and statisticians place the products of each at the same figure. To realize this result Walla Walla must have an astonishing harvest. One point in its favor is the fact that winter wheat is grown here exclusively, or nearly so. It is already so forward that there is no fear of sun or wind blighting the crop, while Umatilla county may suffer to some extent from those causes. As I stated in my last, considerable injury has already been inflicted and more may be expected, if hot spells occur before the grain is fully matured.

The foot hills in sight of town are in Oregon, principally. This year the showers that usually occur along the foot hills did not occur, and grain is little better close to the mountains than on Eureka Flat, close to the Columbia. It is wonderful to see how well the soil retains moisture and sustains the standing grain. This is principally due to the nature of the soil, which is a sandy loam. Experience this season shows that all the Columbia river region can produce wheat reliably, if farming is conducted on principle. This is a winter wheat region. From The Dalles to the Cour d'Alene mountains winter wheat is certain to bring good returns if the right kind of seed is sown in September on ground plowed well and thoroughly pulverized. In repeated instances I have seen that good harrowing has made the crop. The man who farms well needs never fear drouth in any county in Oregon or Washington East of the Cascades. Gardens do well on upland without rain, if well tended and well stirred beforehand and during the time of growing. Barley makes a good crop this year; so do potatoes and other root crops and all sorts of vegetables, and so does corn. The farmer who studies the situation can make a crop the first year, and every other year, if he labors with good judgment.

Walla Walla valley being the oldest settled country east of the Cascades, farmers here have more experience and thrive better. Alfalfa thrives well on the low places; so does timothy and so does Kentucky blue grass. A dairy farm near town has timothy and alfalfa growing. I saw in a drive this evening some fields of alfalfa that were furnishing an immense quantity of green feed for stock. When farmers here learn the capacity of the soil to produce, and put what they learn into practice, it will be evident that the capacity of this region has never been understood as that mixed farming can be carried on with profit. This county contains 750,000 acres of prairie, of which 600,000 acres is excellent wheat land, capable of growing much else besides wheat and with many inducements in favor of mixed husbandry. Along the mountains for ten miles in width, there is a perfect net work of waters. When this blessing is made use of sufficiently it will convert a large section of the country into an earthly paradise. There are many charming homes already, due to this natural cause.

This season has proven that the dry lands of this and other counties only need

proper cultivation to respond with good harvests. Eureka Flat has no running streams but this season farms there produce crops but slightly inferior to those grown along the base of the mountains. Lower Umatilla produces well, as Prospect Farm evidences, with 3000 acres that they claim will yield 30 bushels. Also, the Whelan farm, grown in "sand and sage," west of Umatilla river, is doing well. Dr. Blalock says that wheat growing at the mouth of the John Day river in Wasco county, is doing well and will make a good yield. This has been a crucial year, following the dry season of 1882, but has proved that with proper cultivation the upper country is safe against disaster, though seasons with usual rains are to be desired.

Garfield and Columbia counties extend east to the Idaho line and include a great deal of good soil. People there have become accustomed to putting in spring wheat and will suffer this year for so doing. The season is later there but winter wheat is the kind they must use and if they had used it this year they would have nothing to complain of. I start to-morrow for a tour through those counties and will report particulars as I proceed.

S. A. CLARKE.

Farmers Sons—What to Do With Them.

MOHAWK, July 5, 1883.

I spent the "Fourth in the shade of some of Webfoots' giant trees, in common with nature and myself. One train of thought led me to a retrospection of my college days, of classmates and fellow pupils. Nine-tenths of them were farmers sons and daughters. These sons had been taught to hold the plow, swing the scythe and do other common farm work. These daughters had been taught to milk the cows, churn the butter, make bread and wash dishes. Nearly all these boys come to school clad in comfortable clothes, respectable but not showy, with good serviceable heavy boots. Many of them "tacked," wore colored shirts and did their own washing. The amount spent by them for whisky, cigars, cologne and such like stuff, would have starved out a five cent beer saloon. The progress in studies, development of mind and expansion of ideas broad and liberal, were satisfactory to the faculty. Not a case of discipline during my stay. Surely these boys and girls will make their mark, and having been raised in the country, attended colleges in a village there can be no allurements to draw them from their avocation that has given them ruddy cheeks, vigorous health, and well balanced minds. Why should they? I at least had no thought of overlooking beyond the farm. But what are the facts. Now after more than a dozen years have passed I am yet a farmer. And what of the others? Let me see; there are the Fentons, Burnett, Knox, Tanner, Campbell, Bean, Holman, Wolverton, all lawyers. Campbell, Cole, Powell, the Harrises, doctors; besides teachers, preachers, clerks, etc. I can only recall four who are simple pure farmers. Of the girls only one is a farmers wife. Surprising! Do all classes in that college furnish such a proportion of candidates for the professions? Do other colleges do likewise? If so where do our farmers come from? Necessarily from those who never see the inside of college walls. From those who, for lack of means are compelled to remain at home, sacrificing mind culture for routine work on a farm. From those who for lack of energy and ability, desire nothing beyond the present crude and imperfect system of agriculture. From those who are by nature and education fitted for nothing else but a life of drudgery, labor of body without mind or thought. There are notable exceptions, noble men and women, who, fitted to grace any profession in the land, voluntarily choose the vocation of a farmer, and right well do they fill the position, with honor and credit to themselves and fellow men. Yet it is too true that our farmers as a rule, are in point of education and preparation inferior to every other profession. Why? It seems to me that there is now the greatest opportunity for young men of education broad and liberal, to enter the field of agriculture as a life study. Certainly nothing can be more noble and deserving of encouragement, than the devotion of ones life to the study of the principles that govern the production of all food substance. It should be a calling respected above all others, as being necessary to the support of human and animal life. What is there in the calling of a lawyer, doctor, etc., to exalt them above that of a farmer? Nothing I think, but the woeful ignorance of the farmers themselves. And we can never hope for exaltation except through the thorough practical education of farmers. Speed the day when educated farmers sons will return to the farms, when farmers may be found competent to fill the halls of legislation, State and national.

J. S. CHURCHILL.

[Editorial Correspondence.]
SOUTH OF SNAKE RIVER.

POMEROY, Garfield Co., July 5.

Thursday we left Walla Walla and drove to Dayton, thirty miles, through as beautiful a country as the world can produce. I had before traveled the middle and lower roads from Walla Walla to Waitsburg, but this time we took the upper road that lies through the foot hill region, or close to it, and is finely watered and long settled. The improvements are good and the houses of farmers all comfortable and many of them handsome homes. The absence of forest growth is compensated for by avenues and groves that have been planted. The poplar does so well that they generally use that tree, and they frequently stand in long lines, pointing their dark green and slender spires to a great height, adding beauty to the landscape.

Every foot of this route from Walla Walla to Waitsburg, twenty miles, is through beautiful country, with surrounding hills waving in grain, and the road usually winding beside some charming stream. I thought it the most attractive ride of twenty miles I had ever taken. The whole country was in grain, and the fields varied from the dark green of the late sown spring wheat to the rich golden color of the fall sowing that was nearly ripe enough to harvest. The barley too was white and almost ready to cut, and the oats, of which there is more grown here than below, presented another shade of ripeness. There is not and cannot be anything more beautiful than a rolling country, meandered by frequent streams, covered with ripening grain fields. Occasionally there were fields of corn, which is a crop that is neglected because it requires so much labor. Even the settler from the corn growing States soon learns to seek his ease and gives up growing corn, though this country will raise as good harvests of corn as the average of Western States, and it is worth much more here than there.

At Waitsburg I met my old friend W. N. Smith, the Postmaster, who has been here eighteen years, and I got from him many valuable points. Despite the drouth he says the present crop is the best and largest he has ever known. Coming down the Coppel we saw large fields headed out but entirely green. Mr. Smith said these were all spring sown—February and March—and promised twenty-five or thirty bushels to the acre. Even spring grain put in in April promised well, but most of the wheat was put in before April and give the utmost promise. Speaking for that portion of Walla Walla county and Columbia county near the line, extending for almost forty miles from the foot hills of the Blue Mountains to Snake river, he said the crop promised to be good.

There is usually more rain near the mountains and better crops than out on the plains, but this year there had been no rains since the middle of May, and the prospect for crops was as good near Snake river as near the mountains. This was the report I heard all along the line. The country is newer to farming out on the plains, and it is very evident that several years' cultivation is needed to bring land up to its best producing capacity. Between Walla Walla and Dayton two-thirds the wheat is fall sown and looks well and promises a very good yield. All that can injure it is excessive hot weather, and the hot wind, such as prevailed the week before near Pendleton. Mr. Smith thinks fall grain around there will average thirty-five bushels and spring grain twenty-five to thirty. Last year spring grain was heaviest in that vicinity and gave the largest yield, though that also was a season of drouth. Snow lay deep and long along the river last winter, which was an advantage to the winter wheat.

He told me the experience of Mr. Storms, on Coppel, near town, who sowed his wheat in July. He replowed his fallow and sowed at that time and the fields sown then show much better than wheat he sowed in September. So Mr. Smith believes early sowing—as early as June—is advisable and every farmer should have sheep to pasture his grain.

At Dayton I met an old friend, John Berry, cashier of First National Bank, who always takes interest in crop prospects. He said the acreage in Columbia county was the heaviest ever known and there is a greater proportion of fall sowing—about one-half—and that sown in spring was generally put in early.

Elias Muncy, a farmer and old resident, said fall wheat should go 30 bushels and he has some wheat sown in March that should go 25 bushels. One third of the

spring wheat is late sown and will go 10 to 15 bushels. This would give an average of over 25 bushels for the whole crop. Barley is over an average crop and gardens are fair. Oats are a very fair crop. Timothy hay is good on bottoms and red clover does fine any where.

At Dayton I also met and took notes from the county assessor, Mr. H. Hunter, of the firm of Hunter & Kuhn, merchants there, who has had long experience as a farmer. Mr. Hunter had reports from very competent deputies. He assessed last year and took notes that are valuable in computing the average in wheat. He says, in Columbia county, there was 18,000 acres new sod turned last year and sown last fall to winter wheat; besides this there was 8,000 acres old ground summer-fallowed or perhaps 2,000 acres of stubble or volunteer, so that the area in winter wheat is 28,000 acres; besides this there is 20,000 acres in early sowing of spring wheat and 2,000 acres late sowing. The total is 50,000 acres that should yield 25 to 30 bushels to the acre; taking the first figure there will be a million and a quarter bushels raised. The population of Columbia county is 6,500 souls and for seed and bread a double allowance would not take over 250,000 bushels, and that would a million bushels, or 30,000 tons for export. Mr. Hunter seems to have a thorough knowledge of his subject and his conclusions deserve respect, but they place the export product of Columbia county far above common expectations.

Mr. Hunter says the present crop is the best known in five years and may overgo his estimate but will not fall below it. Barley is over average and oats do well. There may be 3,000 acres of each in the county and 1,000 acres in corn; some wheat will be cut for hay. There is 3,000 acres in timothy that will average two and a half tons per acre. Mr. James, four miles out from Dayton, has just cut his meadow that went four tons per acre. Alfalfa succeeds on north and east sides of hills. Red clover does fine where well put in. Blue grass takes well. Every part of this and Garfield county promise good crops.

I have here given the very intelligent report of a very competent gentleman who has had exact means of information. My own view is that under ordinary circumstances results would equal his expectations, but I realize that it is now July, that hot suns and hot winds may burn up the maturing fall grain and that it will be very uncertain whether the spring grain can mature. The salvation of this country lies in its cool nights that refresh all nature and send moisture down into the soil. If there is no excessive heat the crops will mature, but a single day of hot sun and wind may ruin every thing.

No country on the earth has better security for crops than this. Fall grain is the only way to farm, early sowing is almost sure to succeed. No wheat should be sown in the spring. I asserted last year, after traveling through this and the Palouse country, that they could be certain of crops if they sowed fall wheat. Barley, oats, corn, timothy and gardens look well, despite the dry season.

From Dayton to Pomeroy the appearance of the crops does not improve. The proportion of spring wheat increases. The country is somewhat newer too, and I have observed that thorough cultivation is needed. There is a mistaken notion that deep plowing is not necessary but deeper working would insure more moisture. This country is a month behind Walla Walla valley in season and the rains extend this season no later here than there, though the soil is probably heavier, so crops suffer more from drouth here than there.

Pomeroy is thirty miles from Dayton and center of a magnificent farming country. I met here with J. W. Ranch, insurance and real estate business, who studies carefully the general interests of this region. He places the acreage at 60,000 in cultivation and 40,000 in crop, of which 5,000 acres is oats and barley, leaving 35,000 acres in wheat. The fall wheat is 12,000 acres and the remainder is spring sown. Some complaint is made already that wheat is burning. Many will cut spring wheat for hay. There are many stock men in this county who make a market for hay, so it usually pays well. Mr. Ranch is not confident of crops turning off well. He says fall wheat will do finely and it will be a good thing if people here learn not to trust to spring sowing. Spring wheat may mature if there come showers to assist it but there is no appearance of rain. To-day the wind comes from the north and farmers who come in from the country say grain is burning. I am of the opinion, making a rough guess, that Garfield county cannot be depended on to produce for export more than ten thousand tons of wheat and that Columbia county will do well to have twenty thousand tons for export,

making a million bushels surplus for the two counties.

I met a man, near Pomeroy, who lives in the Assotin country, in Garfield county, which is on Snake river beyond Lewiston. He said the grain in that vicinity was suffering badly and had already burned with the hot sun. That is a new country and feels drouth more than land longer in cultivation. Back a few miles we found a large bottom all in timothy, that needed cutting, and was as good a stand as I ever saw. I find more timothy as I get further up Snake river. There is usually more showery weather in the early summer along here than in Walla Walla and Umatilla counties but this season has treated all sections alike. I am satisfied that farmers here can raise prodigious crops, without fail, if they farm aright. Deep plowing and fall seeding will insure success. Even this year and last, which are exceptional for drouth, the fall grain does well and barley and oats sown early in spring will return a heavy yield. Gardens look well though deep plowing will make them look better. I was told at Walla Walla of a farmer named Chris Myer, who lives near town, who has 400 acres. He follows 200 acres and puts in 200 acres every year and does it well; as a result he has averaged, for many years, 40 bushels to the acre. Here is a sample of what thorough work will accomplish and all over this country good farming is all that is necessary to insure good returns. Orchards suffered badly last winter. I think there must have been warm weather to keep the sap up late and the severe cold caught orchards in that condition. Peaches are all killed and many cherries, plums and pears. It is pitiful to see hundreds of dead trees standing where last year was a thrifty orchard that had received many years of care and become a source of profit.

S. A. CLARKE.

Weather Report for June, 1883.

During June, 1883, there was one day during which rain fell, and .05 inches of water; 23 clear and 7 cloudy days.

The mean temperature for the month was 62.27 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 72 deg. on the 22d.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 54 deg. on the 17th.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 71.73 deg.

Highest temperature for the month, 80 deg. at 2 P. M. on the 1st, 5th, 6th and 22d.

Lowest temperature for the month, 51 deg. at 7 A. M. on the 2d.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the north during 25 days, south 2 days, southwest 2 days.

During June, 1882, there were 4 days during which rain fell, and .91 inches of water; 17 clear and 9 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month, 61.63 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 78 deg. on the 2d.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 50 deg. on the 9th.

T. PRARCE,

EOLA, July 2, 1883.

Notes by the Wayside.

STAFFORD, Or., July 7, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In accordance with promise I drop you a few notes in regard to grange work. Pursuant to agreement, on June 22d, I drove to Tualatin Plains in Washington Co., where I was pleasantly entertained for the night, by Brother Imbrie and family.

On the morning of the 23d, in company with a party of grangers, we visited the Farmington Grange, which had a public picnic on that day. It was well attended and a very enjoyable occasion. In my remarks I dwelt upon those subjects which are of the greatest importance to farmers, which seemed to meet the approval of all in attendance. Worthy Master Carpenter and many of the members appear to be aroused to a realization of the necessity of co-operation in grange organizations. Brothers Hare and Tongue, from Hillsboro were in attendance and made very interesting and able remarks. It is gratifying that there are members of the legal profession who see the necessity of our organization and the justice of its principles, who are willing to stand by the people, giving their aid toward the elevation of the masses.

The grain in Tualatin Plains has not suffered so severely from the drouth as some localities that I have visited, and what generally looks very well, considering the "faze out" of last winter.

On my return I visited some members of the Butte Grange, which they report in a flourishing condition. On the 29th, I started for Washington

Territory, and arrived at Washougal the 30th, where the grange held its meeting at 10 o'clock. An hour later the doors were opened, per notice, to the public. Much interest was manifested in the address of the State Lecturer, in which he laid before his hearers, as concisely as possible, the present fraudulent system by which the people are controlled and the advantages which would accrue from a thorough investigation of the financial, social and educational condition of our country in general, and the necessity of organization among the laboring classes.

About 1 o'clock the meeting adjourned and the good sisters, as is usual on such occasions, prepared a sumptuous feast, fitted for the sovereigns of the land, to which every one did ample justice. Dinner finished the Grange came to order and conferred the 4th degree on a class of four members, with six applications for membership.

After spending the night with Brother Yeomans at his beautiful prairie home, we took a ramble over his place, and find that the portion of the territory between the Washougal and Columbia rivers consists of rolling land with timber in the ravines, with scenery as picturesque as the eye could desire.

Thence went to Mount Pleasant, where I found Brother and Sister Sampson, Brother and Sister Turk and Brother and Sister Marble, all active members of our order. Found here a very neat church, erected through the influence of Dr. Atkinson, of Portland. The people here are interested in stock and dairying. Spent the night of the 30th with Brother and Sister Russell, who own a large dairy and a good farm situated on the bank of the Columbia.

The grain and grass crop is generally light, although we saw some that were heavy.

The people have learned the value of clover and are turning their attention to the different grasses. They also raise large quantities of potatoes, as between the hours of morning and evening dairy work they have ample time for their cultivation, which they find quite remunerative. Yours Fraternally, H. E. HAYES.

Town of Dufur, Wasco County.

The editor of the Wasco Sun, who has been traveling south of The Dalles, says:

The approach to Dufur was a surprise to us. We were delighted with its situation in a snug valley of the Fifteen Mile creek, whose merry waters made music and spread vigor upon the whole bottom. The view from some points was very fine. Its fine carpet of green grain and grass divided by the fences of the various estates upon the surface made us sigh for such a home. This snug place was named for and is the home of several members of the Dufur family, so long identified, and particularly through the elder Dufur, with most of the substantial industrial interests of Oregon. Mr. Andrew Dufur lives on the south side of the creek in a pleasant home. His bottom lands about the house were very desirable, and we noticed that he had taken a ditch across his lands from the creek upon the west side of the county road in order to irrigate his lands to the south of his residence. We visited Mr. Dufur and his wife while dinner was being got ready at the hotel, and were very cordially received. Mr. Harrison Dufur, our representative to the last legislature, lives about three miles up the valley, and, like his brother, is engaged in sheep and wool raising. The town has a first-rate blacksmith. The school-house, Odd Fellows' Hall and neat looking cottages and houses showed what can be done in a short time on good lands by pluck and go ahead.

Successful Timber Culture.

The Wasco Sun says: We wish to call the attention of the public to one problem which has puzzled many a Wasco farmer and that is, how to effectually, with the least expense, make the Timber Culture Act of value upon the high, open hills and plains of this region. Many kinds of seed have been tried, with no satisfactory result, and it has discouraged many farmers from trying to benefit by this grant Act of the government. Mr. Thompson has been trying the California walnut upon a high, dry piece of ground west of his residence with great success. We have referred to his efforts before, but we do so now at the request of Mr. Frank Huot, who has had success with walnut seed introduced by Mr. Thompson, after repeated failure with other kinds. Mr. Huot says that he set the seed on the 1st of April of this year, and that on the 4th of June one thousand plants were showing above ground. The bitter bark of this tap root tree is a sure preventive against the depredations of gophers, crickets or grasshoppers. It is to be hoped that every farmer in Wasco will persevere in making a timber claim that he can hold.