

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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Correspondence.

"Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before Them."

PORTLAND, Sept. 4, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The connection is made. Another band of steel spans the continent and brings us in close connection with the eastern shore. Ere this is placed before your readers the grand ceremonial shall have passed into history of driving the golden spike; the imposing pageant in this metropolis of the New Northwest to celebrate the consummation of this grand event in the history of this nation. Thirty-one years ago I crossed the inland empire arriving in this city after a six month journey; now it can be done in six days. Are we prepared for this event? For the changes it will bring us, for the new conditions and circumstances that will surround us? Is Oregon, are the business men, are the farmers, prepared for the change?

The foundations now being laid for the new mammoth terminal hotel in this city, the recent call upon our citizens to throw open their doors, and the use of the several large passenger steamboats to improve hotel accommodations for the influx of visitors which this celebration brings among us, are all proof that Portland is not prepared for the change. The immense shipments of dairy products, fruit and vegetables by every steamer from California, is evidence that the farmer is not prepared for the change. We have had ample warning that the iron horse was coming—for the past six months the daily pulsations along the telegraph wire have recorded its progress; have informed us day by day how the intervening distance was being narrowed down till at last, on the 24th of August, the connection is made, and trains can pass from ocean to ocean. It is a proud achievement, and a grand triumph for those who have been foremost in carrying forward this great work to a successful termination, and we heartily join with all classes in giving them a princely welcome. But what concerns us most is how the new condition of things will affect us; affect the State at large. Fourteen years ago the Central and Union Pacific were joined together making the first continuous line from the Atlantic States to the Pacific shore. Some of us have not forgotten the great changes which that event brought us. In those days California was everything; it was the land of "gold and silver." We had semi-monthly mail and steam communication by way of the Isthmus. Our position had been isolated, but for years California had made regular large shipments of gold and silver and was the wonderful country to which all eyes were turned. Oregon was then known as a place on the map way up about the Columbia River, where they raised big apples, big trees, and made lumber, and if she did raise superior wheat California got the credit of it in the outside world.

This new event gave us the telegraph, a daily mail, and daily and constant communication with all parts of the older States. California was ready for this change as she thought, great were their anticipations; towns and cities were mapped out beautifully on paper; corner lots and lots near the corner were way up; everybody was ready, like the auctioneer who has his flag up and his goods displayed, sale to commence at ten o'clock.

There was a great rush from the older States to see this wonderful country and participate in the golden harvest. They came, they looked about, they saw, they held their breath, they hesitated. They couldn't see the value in corner lots without buildings; they couldn't see the value in lands in a state of nature; they saw gold and silver was not picked up in the streets, but was dug out of the mines by strong muscle and brain, by the most laborious and sweat producing processes.

The result was our Eastern visitors did not invest; they quietly went back home. Another result, the keen business men and sharp traders among them saw a splendid opportunity, and directly they undersold us in everything at our very doors. Our currency was gold and all our business operations were on a gold basis. Our business men opened their eyes, they too, saw that 50 per cent. profits and 25 per cent. added made on exchange, was no longer obtainable. They saw that they must adapt themselves to the new order of things, and come down to a more moderate scale of profits or take a back seat, and they were not slow in adopting the only alternative left

them. Corner lots tumbled—real estate depreciated 50 to 100 per cent. below the inflated prices; building improvements stopped; "To Let," was placarded on thousands of houses in San Francisco. The lumber trade and kindred occupations, that flourished with improvements, was paralyzed. In short, a general revolution in business matters and methods took place till all found their level under the new order of things the advent of the railroad had inaugurated. Such was the effect in California. How will it effect Oregon? Answer next week.

J. B. KNAPP.

Weather Report for August, 1883.

During August, 1883, there was no rain; 2 cloudy days, the remaining 29 days being smoky, the smoke obscuring the face of the sky.

The mean temperature for the month was 62.84 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 60 deg. on the 26th.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 61 deg. on the 17th.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 75.81 deg.

Highest temperature for the month, 87 deg. at 2 P. M. on the 26th.

Lowest temperature for the month, 55 deg. at 7 A. M. on the 19th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the north during 26 days, southwest 3 days, south 1 day.

During August, 1882, there was 0.03 inches of water fell, on the 23d; 27 clear and 3 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month, 63.21 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 74 deg. on the 30th.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 53 deg. on the 25th.

T. PEABCE,

EOLA, September 1, 1883.

A Prolific Pea.

TENISO, W. T., Aug. 26, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

As you publish a good agricultural paper, whose columns are always open to the farmer, I ask room for a description of a prolific pea which I planted near a small cherry tree that it might have support from the tree. It came up and put out at the top of the ground three stalks and further up it put out other shoots, the tallest of which measured five feet six and a half inches, and in all bore fifty-nine pods with six peas in a pod. I have the vine entire to show. If any farmer or gardener that reads the WILLAMETTE FARMER can beat that, please come out.

JOSEPH DAVIS.

The Harvest in the Chehalis.

CHEHALIS, W. T., Sept. 3, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I send you posters for our county fair, so you will see the programme.

The harvesting and threshing is about over. Wheat is turning out better than expected, the best fields of fall wheat making from 40 to 50 bushels per acre; early spring sowing, an average crop; late sown grain is very short, hardly worth cutting. Fruit and vegetables are poor crops. No apples in the country.

Yours truly,

WM. WEST.

Land Entries.

Permit me through your paper to answer the following letter which may also serve as a reply to many inquiries made of me of like character.

PALOUSE CITY, July 16, 1883.

H. Grass, Esq.—Dear Sir: Since the government has commenced an investigation of the way in which settlers are procuring lands, many who have recently proven up are offering their land for sale, and I wish to inquire would a person be safe in buying such lands? If it was after the purchase discovered that there was fraud practiced in making the entry would or could the government interfere with the title or entry to prejudice of the purchaser. Please answer and oblige.

In reply to the above inquiry, I answer that a person who buys land of the party making the entry before the entry is approved by the department at Washington City will not be treated or protected as innocent purchaser.

The action of the officers of the local land office is not final, but is subject to revision, approval or rejection by the general land office, and if it is ascertained that the land was acquired by fraudulent practices the entry will be canceled without regard to the claims of the subsequent purchaser.

The party making the purchase takes on such right or interest as the party making the entry acquired, and if by

false swearing or failure to comply with the law, etc., the entryman is without equity in the premises, his grantees must also be without equitable standing. The legal title does not pass from the government until the approval of the entry at the general land office.

There will be a careful examination made of the proof of residence and all matters connected with each entry, where patents have not issued, and if it is made to appear that fraud, such as I have indicated, has been practiced, the entry will be canceled, and the purchaser left to his recourse against the party from whom he purchased.

The fact, however, that the patent has already issued will not relieve the guilty party from liability to a criminal prosecution.

HENRY GRASS,

Special Agent General Land Office, Walla Walla Union.

Philadelphia Wool Market.

The following is taken from Mauger & Avery's monthly wool circular. They say:

During the past four weeks the wool market has remained steady, far as prices are concerned. The sales in the aggregate have been large but we doubt if the margin of profit has been sufficient to encourage a repetition of the business, and this opinion is confirmed by the amount of wool still held in the West.

The season in the country has been marked by much less excitement than usual, and also by the fact that manufacturers have sought to a greater extent than formerly to get their supplies at the place of growth.

The demand in the Eastern markets has been mainly for stapled wools, and the choicest high blooded Ohio fleeces; medium clothing has received less attention, while quarter blood, at low prices has sold in quantities. By a material curtailment of production the woolen mills have avoided an increased surplusage of goods; but it is still an undetermined question whether the wants of the country will absorb the production, if the machinery now idle should shortly be put in operation, as almost the only question affecting the value of domestic wool today, is the supply and demand. The wool buyer has to consider the influence of the curtailment, which the Journal of Commerce estimates equivalent to ten million yards of goods, and the prospect of a continued large stoppage of machinery for an indefinite period. They quote Oregon wool at 26¢ for unwashed, and 28¢ for combing.

Vacant Land in Marion County.

There is in the Willamette valley plenty of fruitful land known as foothills. It is heavily timbered and covered in most part by a dense growth of fir but is good rich soil and will eventually prove good farming land. A late issue of the Silverton Appeal speaks of a section of this kind. It says:

Land of every description is being taken up in the vicinity of the Forks of Abiqua. Germans have lately homesteaded and purchased 900 acres in a body, and desire 160 acres adjoining for at least four more persons, adjoining the large tract already taken. They are German Catholics and are a part of the colony recently brought by Father Adelhelm from Germany. Our informant learned that it was the intention of the settlers up on the Abiqua to put in a portable sawmill somewhere in their neighborhood to be used in sawing out lumber for improvements.

GET UP CLUBS.

The FARMER is making an effort to enlist in its behalf all the reading and thinking portion of the farmers of the North West.

Subscription has been reduced as low as we dare venture in the belief that we can double our list of paying subscribers and greatly increase its influence and popularity.

The FARMER is closing its fifteen year of publication. It is no new venture, no uncertain thing, but well founded and ably conducted.

Any single subscriber can remit \$2.00 and receive the FARMER one year from date of payment.

Those who write and send in a club of five, all paying at once, can have the FARMER one year for \$1.75 each.

Old friends of the FARMER can easily secure among their neighbors five or ten names and secure their paper at \$1.75 or \$1.50 per year.

We hope that many will get up clubs and vindicate our faith in their good will towards their old time friend,

THE WILLAMETTE FARMER.

TIMBER LANDS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The world's supply of forest grows shorter every year and the value of the remaining woods becomes more and more apparent. It is a matter of great importance that the value of our forest should be thoroughly understood by the world, and we shall now go over the different sections of country West of the Rocky Mountains to show the different woods that exist and the character and quantity of the same. Along the coast of Oregon and Washington there are immense groves of fir. There are three varieties of this fir, commonly known as the red, yellow and white, all of which are valuable for building purposes, the last being used for finishing work chiefly, the two former being excellent for framing and flooring. The best red fir would answer for making a great part of the agricultural machines in use by our farmers. These varieties of fir and spruce, are found in great abundance along the coast and on Puget Sound. They are general through Western Oregon and Washington and constitute a means of wealth beyond estimate. Cargoes of spars, timber and lumber now go from the Sound and the Columbia river to different countries at the ends of the earth. This trade is already immense and growing greater every year. The world is our customer and the market is unlimited.

Forest fires have devastated a great area of the coast and Cascade mountains and even portions of the forests of Western Oregon not mountainous, destroying millions of value that no less than centuries of time can replace. The remaining forests are of great extent and immense value, but the time will soon come when what is thus destroyed will be needed for commercial uses. Every possible pains should be taken to preserve what is left of the primeval forests of this region.

From the Summit of the Cascades to the Pacific ocean for a hundred miles east and west and five hundred miles north and south, from California to the British line, the greater portion of the country is covered with these forest of fir. In the mountains of the Cascade ranges are different specimens of the same and to some extent valuable pine and cedar. Of the latter an immense quantity is all through Western Oregon and Washington, generally on fertile low land, often on hill-sides, while along the coast is found a species of white cedar, the finest possible. There are different varieties of cedar, all of very superior quality and used for making doors and sash, as is also the sugar pine of Southern Oregon. There are, throughout the country west of the Cascades, in every part of the country, varieties of lumber suited to all wants. The character of timber changes somewhat as you go south, less cedar and more pine, with abundance of fir everywhere. The supply of building lumber is plentiful through all the western parts of Oregon and Washington.

The Northern Pacific Railroad land grant on the north of the Columbia, has every variety of excellent timber growing on its odd sections and so has the Oregon and California Railroad, which traverses the western valleys of Oregon and includes areas of the mountain region with magnificent forests in both the Coast and Cascade ranges. Perhaps the best tract of forests included in any land grant is that between the Willamette valley and Astoria, on the line of the proposed railroad branch from Forest Grove to Astoria, through the Nehalem valley, affording inducement for the completion of that road at an early day.

The Northern Pacific land grant enters the forest region when it passes through the Cascade mountains following the flow of the Columbia river. Down that river for 125 miles, from The Dalles to the mouth of the Cowlitz, its lands are mostly covered with forests and much of the mountain region contains timber of great value, including firs and cedar. Take the land grants of the two roads,

the Oregon and California, and the Northern Pacific, and they include an immense forest region, 300 miles of the Oregon and California, and 250 of Northern Pacific, being located in forest regions. Excepting that part of the Northern Pacific down the Columbia from The Dalles to Portland, the grants will all be earned at an early day.

More or less abundant, through the mountains, can be found also, hemlock, tamarack and some other woods useful for all purposes. Hackmatack also, we believe, but cannot say as to its abundance. The building woods in common use through all this region, that exist in full supply, are, fir, spruce and cedar. Hemlock is mainly used for its bark which is valuable for tanning. It exists in good supply near Astoria and a tannery is successfully operated at Upper Astoria.

Besides these building woods, there are very valuable varieties of timber suited to ornamental work and furniture, and so used by the furniture manufacturers of Portland and elsewhere. Oregon maple is of the finest character and is abundant. This wood is found all through the bottom lands of Willamette valley and along the streams of Western Washington. It has been very abundant, so that it has been used for common furniture and even for house furnishing. There is still a great supply of it obtainable and no doubt will be shipped to other States when our industries are permanently organized.

Along the southern coast counties is found the myrtle, large groves of which grow on the Coquille bottoms. The tree is evergreen and larger than our white oaks, very beautiful in appearance and the wood fully as handsome as the maple and darker, furnishing for ornamental uses a very elegant material. Oregon maple and myrtle should be known and used the world over.

Also, along all our western streams, are found extensive forests of ash. This is also used for ornamental purposes but has tensile strength that fits it for many purposes where even red and yellow firs are weak. It is well calculated for parts of wagon work for instance. Ash is a common article of fuel and it is a pity that this beautiful and useful timber should be wasted in that way.

Through all the open country west of the Cascades white oak grows and is remarkably good wood. This is also used as fuel by thousands and tens of thousands of cords every year. The value of this wood has never been well understood because it has never been properly cut and seasoned. If any enterprise was properly organized for manufacture of wood—say for the construction of agricultural machinery—our ash, oak and yellow firs would be found to afford all the material necessary. We have iron mines and iron works, also, so that such manufacture could well be encouraged.

Cottonwood or balm of gilead, also grows to immense size on the bottoms of all the country west of the Cascades. Though not commonly appreciated this wood is well calculated for some important uses. When well seasoned it is made use of for many purposes and no doubt would make the wood pulp that is the common stock used by paper makers. This wood grows in large quantity along the Columbia and on the islands in all the rivers.

Yew is another wood that can be made use of for various purposes and especially for finishing work. Another wood that ranks with maple and myrtle is our alder, which is abundant and very beautiful when highly polished. This is a favorite wood with our furniture makers. The abundant supply makes it quite an object to have it known and appreciated. New settlements are frequently made by clearing away the alder, maple, myrtle, laurel or ash that grow on rich lowlands. It is a pity that instead of burning such slashings by wholesale, this valuable wood could not be sent to some part of the world where it is needed and will be

appreciated and paid for. We include our evergreen-laurel among the valuable woods, though it is not found in any great quantity.

The person abroad who may wish to become owner of these lands that bear valuable woods must bear in mind that railroad land grants cover the most valuable timber regions west of the Cascades, and such land can be purchased at reasonable prices and on accommodating terms.

While the western lands of Oregon and Washington are generally covered with forests, they are the exception through the Eastern Country. However, there are valuable forest regions through that section and they are appreciated well for manufacture of lumber. Instead of fir, pine usually prevails away from the Cascades. Along their eastern bases pines are found and further inland are firs, hemlock and tamarack. The eastern slope of the Cascades has a good supply of "building woods. That region is not included in any railroad land grant however and the purchaser must obtain title through means prescribed by our land laws. Oak grows in some localities along the base of the Cascades on the east but the trees are more scrubby and have not the value of straight bodied white oaks found across the mountains.

Through the Blue Mountains good pine abounds. It is good enough for all building purposes. This region is also beyond the limits of any railroad land grant. Other woods grow through those mountains, but pine is the most valuable of all and the most abundant. The mountains are surrounded by farming districts and settlers often haul their building material and fencing. The Blue Mountains cover a wide portion of Eastern and Middle Oregon, extend along the South-eastern border of Washington, are cut through by the Snake river and extend thence north as the Couer d'Alene Mountains, to Northern Idaho and Montana. They are heavily timbered all the way and from Spokane Falls to the Rocky Mountains the ranges and hill regions afford great facilities for lumbering. The best lumbering districts seem to be at the headwaters of the Yakima, along the eastern slopes of the Cascades, W. T., and on the waters of St. Joseph and Couer d'Alene rivers, that flow into Lake Couer d'Alene, east of Spokane Falls.

Concerning the timber produced in that region our observation when traveling last year show that cedar and white pine are found in many favored localities through Northern Idaho and Northwestern Montana. The table lands along Clarke's Fork are heavily timbered with cedar, pine, fir, tamarack and hemlock, while cottonwood, birch and other small growths are found along streams. The land grant of the Northern Pacific will be immensely valuable along this portion of their line, because of the existence of their magnificent bench land forests though the steep mountain sides are not generally covered with valuable timber.

STATE NEWS.

The roundhouse at Roseburg is about completed.

Baled hay sells for \$18 per ton at Eugene City. Pretty good prices that.

Messrs Crawford and Miller are erecting a large sawmill in Mohawk valley, Linn county.

The booths on the State Fair grounds were rented on the 1st, and brought in several hundred dollars more than last year.

The hop house of Hon. J. Stump, so says the Statesman, was burned a few days since a short distance from Buena Vista.

Wm. M. Turner has rented his interest in the Oregon Sentinel to F. M. Overbeck, who will continue its publication in connection with Mr. Crane.

The good work still goes on. Near Auburn a Chinaman shot and killed another all the same as Mexican man. They should be encouraged in the good work.

It is sad news that the papers in Southern Oregon bring in regard to that terrible disease diphtheria. It is to be much more dreaded than the small-pox or all other diseases combined.

There seems to be quite a number of pioneers in Douglas county who have determined to avail themselves of the opportunity to visit their old homes in the Eastern States with the pioneer excursion.

Of the one million feet of bridge timbers to be put in between Grant's Pass and Glendale, there are only 100,000 feet sawed, which will somewhat delay the bridge work and consequently the track laying.