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Notice to Subscribers.

To our readers: We publish only a sufficient number of the FARMER to supply actual prepaid subscribers and we cannot supply back numbers.

Correspondence on all farming topics as well as on all matters of general interest is always acceptable, and we are receiving more of it than came to hand during summer and harvest.

In Ohio the Legislature submitted a constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale of liquor which was voted on at the late election. It was some time before the returns were counted so it could be ascertained if the amendment was adopted or defeated.

That terrible and infinitesimal scourge, the aphid, seems to be spreading everywhere. This insect dies out of localities, but turns up elsewhere. Some friend told us the other day that with him they demolished the apple and pear and then turned loose on the plum.

The wheat farms, planted inside the Blackock Company's enclosure at the mouth of John Day, on the Columbia, in Wasco county, turned off fairly when the nature of the season and circumstances are considered.

The codlin moth is becoming domesticated in all our gardens and orchards. You will know it without ever seeing it if once you catch a glimpse of apple or pear that it has visited.

The compensations in farming life are illustrated by the fact that while orchards fail to produce well this year vineyards generally yield heavily and grapes have ripened better than usual.

of fruit off of four acres of vineyard. Last year he sold 450 boxes, and the year before only 30. This year is paying up for past deficiencies.

A DAILY PAPER stated last week that a steamer brought 350 boxes of fruit from San Francisco for Helena, Montana. That was one steamer and Helena was a single town far in the interior.

THE MECHANICS' FAIR.

For a week past the Mechanics' Fair has been held and has attracted more or less attention. As usual, the different stalls are filled with representations of the business of Portland. Something of this sort is necessary in a new country and possesses interest to the masses, for, at this distance from the world's great centers, we cannot show the proficiency in mechanical matters and artistic things that they have in older countries.

To our mind, the greatest attraction of the fair was offered by the gathering of agricultural products shown in the west end of the southern annex, off from the flower garden. Here A. J. Dufur, the veteran who made Oregon known to the world at Philadelphia in 1876, and who won so many prizes for our products, had gathered together and handsomely displayed products from all parts of our State east and west of the Cascade mountains.

When it is all said, the fact remains that if Oregon has especial cause for pride it comes from the products of our fertile soil. We can compete with all the world and need not fear failure when we depend on the farm.

Mother Earth to lend her forces to aid the exposition.

Around the wide room was a chevron de frise of sheaves of grain and grasses that beautifully presented to the beholder a summary of what Oregon breadstuffs resemble when the golden grain is ripe and waiting for the harvest.

We felt proud that agriculture proves itself so vitally important in every connection. In reality Oregon would cut a poor figure in the world without her unequalled soil and its generous and abundant products.

ORCHARD PLANTING.

The time has come again, when tree planting should be done, both for shade and ornamental trees and for orchards. Fall planting insures a more reliable growth and is often worth everything to a tree.

A tree that has grown well in the nursery has many claims upon you if you propose to set it out and depend on it for future production. The seed was planted and the young plant carefully tended.

In the first place choose carefully the trees you plant. Consult neighbors to learn what fruit succeeds best there and be guided by experience. If you wish to have a home orchard only, purchase 100 trees for an acre and set them a rod apart.

If you wish to plant out for a crop to put on the market, learn the varieties that succeed best in your locality and select from these a few of the very best. Don't select many varieties, but in preference plant out many trees of the choicest and most reliable varieties.

Don't send out of the State for trees for you may import poisonous insects by so doing. Already we have the codlin moth. We found them last week when picking pears in our garden.

Set your trees out in land that has

been plowed deep and well. Don't fail to stir the ground ten inches, and a foot is better. We venture to say that deep plowing and thorough cultivation will be the making of your orchard.

When you plant your tree cut off the top about three and a half or four feet from the ground, and make the tree throw out branches not over three feet high for the lower ones.

During the season go over the orchard with a sharp knife or pruning shears and keep the top trimmed in, cutting back some that are too vigorous to keep a good shaped head.

Cultivate your ground by plowing in April and then cultivate in May and June. Don't do any stirring of the ground after the first week in July.

If you care enough for your orchard to keep it in good heart you will have no sprouts or suckers; no moss or dead tops, but will have beautiful and healthy trees, well proportioned and prepared to hold up a heavy weight of fruit.

If you neglect them they will be a living, and perhaps only half living, accusation of that neglect. Not only will they refuse to reward you for cost and mispent labor but they will be a reproach as long they and you live.

GRANGE MATTERS.

It was unfortunate for the farmers of this region that the early efforts of the grange were attended with failure, which was due to inexperience and an effort to accomplish too much. Business experience comes slow, and is often costly.

We learn from Judge Boise, master of the State grange, that the order is now making headway in Yamhill county on the same basis that has been successful in Linn county. It is to be hoped that the movement will be contagious and spread through the whole northwest.

A RABBLING TALK ABOUT FARMING

In China whole families make a living on less than two acres of land. It is not much of a living, perhaps, but they do live. The man with twenty acres of good land is able to live well.

The value of twenty acres around Portland is increasing in both the value of land as property and the extent and variety of the products the land can turn off. Farmers and market gardeners find for themselves the value of manure; experiments show that many things can be done with enriched soil.

It is a question worth constant reference and deserving of continual study, to decide whether the same labor and cost expended on half the acres would not secure as great returns. To put it plainer: We believe it capable of perfect demonstration that in a majority of instances the farmer can make as much actual profit off of much less land if his methods can be perfectly systematized and the soil secure all the labor it can respond to.

If farmers would give their experience through the WILLAMETTE FARMER the result would be interesting as well as beneficial. There is not an item of product that could not be discussed with profit. The growth of root crops, and especially of small fruits will furnish topics for all winter.

To return to our first topic—the value of small farms well farmed—the time is coming when homesteads and pre-emptions will be scarce. Government acres will all be claimed, that are worth claiming, in the next ten years.

Over at Chehalis we found a farmer who had 200 acres of that fertile valley and thought he did not need so much. No doubt he took a right view. Good work on 100 acres of Chehalis bottom land will show magnificent returns and make any man very independent.

richest land imaginable the way it is often farmed in Oregon and the whole Northwest. Poets went into raptures, a century ago, over:

"A little farm well tilled." If all the good land in Oregon and Washington was subdivided, and highly cultivated in small farms, we should be happy and prosperous people.

HOW SHALL WE GET GOOD DAIRY STOCK

Since dairying is to become a business of prime importance, those who wish to take advantage of opportunities must begin to raise dairy stock. For this purpose introduce a Jersey or Holstein male into a neighborhood and breed good grade milkers, and you will soon see results.

At the present time a good milking cow will sell to a townsman, who expects to feed his cow all the time, and wants plenty of rich milk and cream, for \$75 to \$100. Cows have become important members of the community and have the say so in many respects, so the breeder of cows has a safe business.

A Portland grocery concern advertise that they bring a thousand pounds a week of the best of gilt edged Jersey butter, from Elgin, Ills. No doubt such butter would sell by tens of thousands every week. There are ten thousand persons in Oregon, living in cities, who would gladly pay 50 cents per pound for choice Jersey butter the year round.

The Oregon farmer must show enterprise or he will be badly left. The railroad has brought another era, a new set of people, more extravagance—if you will call it so, or more appreciation of excellence will be a better phrase. People with particular tastes have a right to be able to support them.

Every neighborhood has numbers of good milking cows that impart something of that excellence to their offspring. Breed such cows to a male of good butter pedigree, and the result will be that the impress of the long line of butter making stock, through the agency of the male, will create a new race of dairy cows very little short of the best known.

Prices of School Books.

The publishers of school books used in the public schools of this state have sent to the superintendent of every county the following price list. Persons unable to obtain these books of dealers at the prices quoted can obtain them of the publishers, who will prepay postage:

Table listing school books and their prices. Columns include book titles (e.g., Watson's Ind's Primary Reader, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth), and prices in dollars and cents.