

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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Correspondence.

Letter from Spokane County.

CORVONWOOD, W. T., Oct 24, 1883.
Editor Willamette Farmer:

Hoping a report of crops from this part of Spokane county may be acceptable, I herewith give it. Wheat gave a fair yield, taking into an account the very severe drought that was general all over the Pacific coast, the last rain of the Spring failing to the measure of an inch on the fifteenth day of last May, not another shower until about the fifth of October. Some fields made a yield of 25 bushels per acre, one as high as thirty. The growth of wheat stools was remarkable, one plant made 157 well developed heads with plump grains, it being the Little White Club.

Oats gave a yield of 30 to 40 bushels. A very fine variety of white oats is the best for table use, being just ready to grind in a common hand mill, making meal for porridge or pudding, equal to the best manufactured oat meal, no more healthful dish can be set before growing boys and girls, or "children of a larger growth" for that matter. A variety of hullless barley is also an addition to soups and makes a good mush. It yields 40 to 75 bushels per acre.

I planted a little over a pint of Gage corn on the highest land, which yielded 3 1/2 bushels of very well-filled ears. Sweet corn about the same. Brown corn and amber sugar cane was a success as an experiment. Watermelons never better, but not so large as I have seen; muskmelons, cantaloupes, and nutmeg melons were very fine; pie melons, and squashes, one vine have two weighing 47 1/2 and 46 pounds, just planted without ever being cultivated, (very shiftless, of course); cucumbers, ten vines made five gallons of pickles; potatoes without any cultivation, yield 250 bushels per acre, being the early rose variety; peas an enormous yield; white Yankee or navy beans, a quart of seed yielded 4 bushels; turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, mangle wurtzel, cabbage, artichokes, white and red clover, blue grass, have all been tried with perfect success.

Fruit trees set this spring made a growth of two and three feet; small fruits have done as well. I wish right here to say that wild currants of the different kinds might be raised on our farms to advantage, also chokecherries which make a pleasant addition to our table fruits; barberries, service berries, and wild raspberries would take to the wild land and bear immediately; cranberries and huckleberries can be readily propagated and might be improved.

One of our neighbors, Mrs. Baird, near Cheney, had berries to a great extent, she canned ten gallons of blackcap raspberries, and has apple trees beginning to bear, which were set three years ago, crab apples of the quince kind, and many other fruits. Shall we not, knowing these things, keep up courage and battle with a strong arm against the pioneers' troubles, knowing that the time will come when we as a people, will take our places before the world as a great and prosperous State.

Many people here are enjoying the luxury of salmon, there being an abundance to be easily caught in the Spokane and its tributaries.

I am constrained to finish this letter on an entirely different subject. At ten o'clock or near last night, a very large and brilliant meteor sped across the sky, lighting every object with a heavenly flame, and in a few minutes a loud explosion unlike any noise only an earthquake, the earth moving with a wavy motion, the sound reverberating for at least a minute and ceasing in a distant roar. Such exhibitions of the artillery of heaven are rare and startling, but are no more beautiful than the natural phenomena of the stars, moon, and sun. Man quakes at the wonderful exhibition of God's power, but every day he may witness the same if he but heed them.
MRS. A. BOWEN.

Some Pertinent Questions on the Mortgage Tax Law.

NEW ERA, OR., Nov. 12, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I would like to ask a few questions concerning the mortgage tax law, and particularly would I like the Linn County Business Council P. of A., after making this statement, "Resolved, That this Council is in favor of all property that has or claims protection under the laws of the State, paying its fair proportion to maintain such protection. To show how or where a neighbor of 'ours' pays

his share of the necessary expenses. He owns a place which he values at \$4,000. It is mortgaged for \$1,200, and it is assessed at \$1,200. The man pays 64 cents tax. In anticipation of a reply that the money lender will not venture money to more than one third the value of property mortgaged. I wish to ask, provided a man was to come with the money and buy up the present mortgages and venture as much more cash upon the property, and take mortgages upon all the property offered at two-thirds of its estimated value. Inside of five years what per cent of the farms of Linn county could he have in his possession? My opinion is he could begin farming on a large scale. The man who lends money demands nothing more than the fulfillment of the written bargain or agreement; then why make him pay his own taxes and the other man's too. If the Linn County Council or anybody else can give the figures that will correctly elucidate their statement above, your correspondent will be happy to stand corrected, but until then he will retain the idea that there is something about the sheets that balances very much to one side.
Yours fraternally,
THOMAS BRUCKMAN.

An Arctic Discovery.

Capt. Healey, of the revenue steamer Corwin has submitted a report to the chief of the revenue marine, in which he gives the particulars of the discovery of a large river in the Arctic regions, hitherto unknown save to natives. Ensign Storey, with two men and a small boat, was sent out from Hotham Inlet. Here they struck the mouth of another river of considerable size, which the natives said was one of the outlets of a larger river. Descending this branch in a southeasterly direction for two days, they struck the main stream, which proved to be a river fully three-quarters of a mile in width, having nowhere less than 2 1/2 fathoms of water, deepening at times to seven fathoms. They ascended the river a distance of 50 miles from its mouth. The banks generally were steep and thickly timbered with birch, alder and spruce, some of the trees attaining a height of 40 feet, with 12 inches diameter at the base. Back from the banks the undergrowth formed an impassable jungle, particularly where the banks were low. The current was strong at the bends, reaching the rate of two knots an hour. The natives reported that the river holds its depth of not less than two fathoms and its width of half a mile for not less than 300 miles beyond where Mr. Storey turned back. It was further stated by the natives that, by making a small portage near the head of this river, they could reach another stream flowing northward into the polar sea.

Death of Mr. DuRelle.

We notice in an exchange the death of B. M. DuRelle. For many years Mr. DuRelle was considered one of the most enterprising men in Marion county. Ill luck often followed him, but he seemed to have a wonderful faculty of getting on his feet again after it. The great flood of '62 finally took away his mills in the city of Salem, and he became disheartened, but soon turned up again in Salt Lake City a rich banker. Domestic troubles now came in with renewed prosperity, and after years of a life checked by many more failures and successes, he has finally gone over to the great majority.

A Devon Bull for Yaquina.

Last week we met a man driving a fine young Devon bull. He had a pack on his back and everything indicated that he was going some distance. Upon inquiry we learned from him that he had bought the animal of Geo. W. Dimick, of Hubbard, Marion county, Oregon, and that he was taking it over to Yaquina Bay to breed up his stock. He said he proposed driving it all the way, and as he was in the middle of the road and on foot, we rather think he was in earnest. We wish him success and also trust he will meet with no ill luck with his new purchase.

Choices Imported Bulbs.

Messrs. Miller Bros., of Portland, have received a fresh importation of choice bulbs of every size and color imaginable. They have imported them direct from Germany and Holland and we can vouch for it as we have seen the original bills of lading, and bills, etc. They will gladly answer inquiries or show them to any one who may address or call upon them. Don't forget the place, Miller Bros., Portland, Or., seedmen.

THE LANDS ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

A Splendid Exhibition of their Agricultural and Mineral Products.

One of the most interesting features of the fair of the New England Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Institute, in Boston, is the magnificent display of agricultural and mineral products from the section of the Great Northwest which is traversed by the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The arrangement of the exhibit is exceedingly tasteful and artistic. In the background is a very high screen on which appear in large capital letters the names of North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Underneath are grouped small sheaves of different kinds of grains and long grasses. We noticed one sheaf of rye, labeled "rye cut for hay," seven feet high, grown in Gallatin county, Montana, by C. & H. Edwards.

The samples of wheat are in great variety, conspicuous among them being numerous specimens of the famous "Scotch Fife." This is the hard, spring wheat which is produced so largely in North Dakota and Northern Minnesota. The soil and climate of which combine to bring it to the greatest perfection. The best grade of this wheat is quoted as "No. 1 hard" and brings ten per cent higher price than any other wheat grown, in consequence of containing a larger percentage of gluten, while in other wheat starch predominates. This wheat makes the best flour in the world, producing a larger number of pounds of bread from a given quantity than any other.

The annual consumption of this wheat in the extensive flouring mills of Minneapolis is upward of 23,000,000 bushels. There are on exhibit sample barrels of "Pillsbury's Best" flour made from this wheat. The capacity of the largest of the Pillsbury mills is 4,500 barrels per day, and of the entire group 14,000 barrels per day. The capacity of the Washburn mills is 7,000 barrels daily, and various other mills have a combined capacity of 16,000 barrels per day, making the total production of the mills at Minneapolis upward of 30,000 barrels per day.

The yield of hard spring wheat in North Dakota and Minnesota ranges from twenty-two to forty bushels per acre, weighing from sixty-one to sixty-four pounds to the bushel, while ordinary wheat weighs only fifty-six pounds.

There are also fine samples of wheat from Montana and Washington Territories noticed the White Australian Club, Little Club, Red Russia, White Winter, Viola Volunteer, Odessa, Black African, and other varieties. Prominent among them may be mentioned the "seven-rowed wheat," seven rows of grain growing out from the same stem; also the "winter bearded wheat," likewise a great producer.

Oats, barley and rye grow finely throughout the section of the country above named. There are oats exhibited here which stand seven feet high and would yield not less than one hundred bushels to the acre. The average weight of the grain is remarkably high, oats ranging from forty to forty-six pounds per bushel, and barley and rye are proportionally heavy. The barley raised in this region is harder than that produced further south. Exhaustive efforts have been made in California, Nebraska and Southern Dakota to produce the hard wheat of North Dakota, but although the soil appeared excellent the variation in climate, or some other reason not fully understood, made it impossible to raise this wheat in perfection, as its quality invariably deteriorated, although the best grade of hard spring wheat was sown.

Among the samples of rye exhibited are some specimens of white rye which are fairly amazing, each grain being of a pure cream white color and fully as large as any three grains of ordinary rye. The consistency of the grain is flinty, like the wheat of the northern region.

The grasses exhibited are in great variety and of most luxuriant growth. The "bunch grass" of the western part of North Dakota, Montana, Washington, and Oregon is conceded to be the finest and most nutritious grass that grows. The bunch grass and the buffalo grass grow profusely throughout this section, which contains the largest grazing ranges in the United States. Being naturally well watered, this is becoming one of the greatest cattle raising and sheep growing regions in the country.

This industry is increasing at a rapid pace and is among the most profitable of pursuits.

The exhibit includes fine samples of clover and timothy, some heads of the latter measuring over eleven inches in length, the grass itself being six feet high. There are specimens of alfalfa from Oregon five feet high, and clover of equal height from North Dakota. Among other agricultural products are fine specimens of peas, beans, hops, flaxseed, and flax in the stalk.

The display of vegetables from North Dakota is simply wonderful on account of their remarkably large size, although their full growth had not yet reached their full growth. The yield of potatoes is from two hundred to four hundred bushels to the acre. Onions of very large size are also shown; they yield as high as eight hundred bushels to the acre.

The mineral specimens from Montana are the finest ever collected in that Territory. They excite great interest from the fact of coming from a section of the mining regions in which the first search for the precious metals was made, and which has up to this time produced over \$162,000,000 in gold and silver, the product for 1882 reaching upward of \$10,000,000.

The specimens of copper from Lake Superior region are exceedingly fine. That section is well known as one of the largest copper producing countries in the world. There are also specimens of gold, silver, iron and lead ores and coal from various points in the region traversed by the Northern Pacific, showing how diversified and extensive are its mineral resources. The natural capabilities of this region have probably never been equaled in any new country that was ever opened, and the number of people who are turning their attention toward this vast undeveloped land of promise may be numbered by tens of thousands. This exhibition of the material advantages offered by the Great Northwest will doubtless have a stimulating influence upon the tide of emigration which is already setting so strongly in that direction.

The exhibit is in charge of Mr. A. J. Quin, New England agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad. His office is located at 206 Washington street, Boston. Mr. P. B. Great, of St. Paul, Minn., the General Emigration Agent of the road, is temporarily present at the exhibition, and to him at St. Paul should be addressed any inquiries from parties who may wish any information. He can send them printed matter on all sections of this vast territory.

The landed interests of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company are very large; they have a grant of land extending on either side of the road for a distance of fifty miles, and reaching from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound; an imperial domain of over 10,000,000 acres or farming, grazing timber and mineral lands.

In addition to the grant of lands to the Northern Pacific Railroad which they have in market, there is an equal amount of government land located in alternate sections with that of the railroad lands, which is open for settlement under the Homestead, Pre-emption and Tree Culture Laws of the United States. These beneficent laws open the way to free homes to all citizens who desire to avail themselves of their rights.

The fine belt of timber in Minnesota covers an area of over 20,000 square miles, while the timber belt in Washington Territory, lying between the Columbia river, British Columbia, the Cascade Mountains, and the Pacific and Puget Sound, is said to be the largest and finest in the world. It is as large as the State of Iowa and is estimated to contain 160,000,000,000 feet of timber, which up to the present time is largely unutilized by man, there having been only about 2,500,000,000 feet cut, leaving over 157,000,000,000 feet yet to contribute to the industries which it is destined to develop.—N. Y. Commercial.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of John A. Child & Co., druggists, in this issue. This is an old reliable firm that pride themselves on dealing only in pure drugs and chemicals. The best only of foreign and domestic fancy goods, perfumeries and toilet goods. Orders by mail will be carefully and promptly attended to. Their place of business is corner of Morrison and Second streets.

Four million dead letters were received last year at the office in Washington. Eleven thousand of these bore no superscription. Nearly two million dollars were found in these dead letters. Every letter and package is sent as nearly as possible to the right person.

How Money is Made Upon the Farm.

Experiments in growing animals, and in fattening them for the market, have quite often, seemed to show that no profit was made upon the undertaking; at any rate, no such profit as would satisfy a man with a speculative turn of mind. The opinion is frequently expressed that, taking the country over, but comparatively few farmers make any money upon their farms over and above that made through the steadily growing value of their acres. There are, of course, many things produced upon the farm that are not counted and charged up as a part of the yearly expenses, and credited to the farm, as they should be. Poultry and the egg product cut quite a figure in the living expenses, yet there are rarely any account taken of these—only when poultry forms quite an item in the business carried on on the farm. The same is true of milk and butter, except where the farm is a dairy farm; in which latter case articles used from what is rated as the leading products are deducted.

On some farms, the surplus of poultry and eggs is quite sufficient to pay for one or two leading articles in the grocery line for the entire year, if the poultry is properly managed. Then if the farm is not a dairy farm, the surplus product of the farm cows, properly utilized, will pay the grocer quite an added amount towards his yearly bill. The hens glean their living from sources that are mainly valueless for any other purpose, and the keep for a couple of cows is hardly missed upon a farm of two or three hundred acres, leaving the main sources of income intact. In fact, if the farmer is following the system of stock growing he should pursue, his cattle being well graded up, the increase will pay expense of feeding such cows as are kept for family use; if he does not raise cattle somewhat improved, he is not worthy to have his milk and butter at any less cost than those who do not live on the farm.

The farmer who bought his land—say 240 acres—for \$300, twenty-five years ago, and can now sell at \$50 per acre, has, after deducting compound interest upon the sum originally paid, and apparent profit on the investment of about \$47 per acre. But it is answered to this, that he has paid taxes, and placed fences and buildings upon the property, and it is largely upon these improvements that the gain from \$1.25 to \$50 per acre has come. But it must also be borne in mind, that he has had the use of the land during the period named, worth during the first two or three years, we will say, nothing; after that, from one to three dollars per acre, according to state of advancement in tillage, in seeding down, and in improvements.

If, as is the rule, he has built fences, and erected buildings out of earnings from the land, having had no means, from any other source, to make improvements with, has had his living during the years, and has now an accumulation of live stock and other personal property on hand, without having incurred the risk which so generally environ mercantile and manufacturing pursuits, there is no reason why, having had the use of fences and buildings up to the period of incipient decay, he should not count the increase in price over first cost as resting entirely in the land proper. If gain is made out of the products of the farm, it is by common consent conceded that wheat growing does not, taking the years together, add to this gain. Especially is this true after the first two or three years cropping, and doubly true after the land has become, owing to its location, materially enhanced in value.

During all the years that the average farmer has kept himself weighted down with inferior farm stock, on which he has made no profit, he has, nevertheless, secured a living. Under the mere drift of events—circumstances beyond his control—under which the man without brains and business tact shares to quite a degree equally with him who has a large gift of both, his land has yearly grown in value, so that he finds a customer for his acres in the thrifty neighbor who has accumulated a bank balance, not by waiting for an increase in the value of the land he has no intention of selling, but through feeding his grain and grass, not simply that he they may be consumed on the premises that he may say his produce is not being hauled off, but, on the contrary, to well-bred animals, that pay a profit.

We would ask, what source of profit is there upon the farm, leaving out the special lines, dairying, etc., except in following the plan to regularly turn off paying live stock? Certainly continuous wheat growing, with other grains

added, to the exclusion of feeding, can not be practiced upon lands in general, in fact not upon any land, without heavy outlay for keeping up fertility. If the man who goes along slipshod from year to year, feeding scrub steers until they are four or five years old, will go into market with a car-load, on the same train with his neighbor who has a car-load of two or three-year-olds of high breeding, he ought to be able, after the sales are made, to compute the advantages reached through receiving the proceeds from two or three years' keep, at six cents, over anything he can figure up on an experience of a four or five years' keep, upon a three-and-a-half-cent basis. This is one way for a man to settle the question whether he has ever really made any money, except through what is forced upon him by the gradual rise in the value of land in his locality.—National Live Stock Journal.

What a Farmer's Education Should Be.

The work of the farmer lies at the basis of the world's prosperity. The better man and the better farmer he may be, the more thrifty and prosperous will be the nation and the more he will benefit the world in his individual capacity. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that the farmer should be an intelligent and well-educated man, that he may fill his place in society in the best and most useful manner. But there is a popular impression abroad that a good farmer or a good shoe-maker or mechanic may be spoiled by too much education. If a good education prevents the one from growing good crops, or the other from making durable shoes or building solid houses or barns, there might be some truth in this idea. But why should the cultivation of the mind have this deplorable result? It is very plain that if such a result should be produced, something is wrong in the education, and it has not been of the right kind. And it is just here where failure is made in those cases where the education of farmers' children result in disappointment. We cannot deny that in many cases parents have been disappointed in this way. Children have been sent to country schools, and every year their minds and hopes have been turned further away from rural pursuits, from farm life and work, and in a direction towards city life, with all its ambitions until, when they have become freed from parental restraint, they have turned their backs upon the old homestead, and the old folks have been left desolate and alone in their old age, when most they needed the society and help of their children.

A farmer cannot be too well educated. He may, and should be, possessed of all the practical knowledge which relates to his business. This should be taught in rural schools as soon as the first rudiments—"the three R's," as they have been humorously called—have been mastered. This will require some primary insight into mechanics, hydrostatics, botany and chemistry. To a young mind that has been properly trained and has not been misled, there will open a very fair land of wonders, which the boy or girl may explore with the greatest advantage and delight, and in which every discovery will tempt to further explorations. Such a study will make farm life vastly more interesting and delightful than the superficial and frivolous existence which is too often passed by young men in towns and cities, where questionable, if not vicious excitements are sought to mitigate the real isolation which may be more often found in a city than in the country. Some of the most lonesome men and women are found in cities and towns and in the midst of crowds. Where one cannot find enjoyment in his own surroundings there he is isolated, as if he were alone in a desert, and there is no place where a person, old or young, can find more pleasing and rational enjoyment than on a farm or in a farm home.

Again in the Field.

John W. Gilbert, who has been in business in Salem, for twenty years and is well known through the middle counties of the Willamette is again in possession of a well equipped boat and store. He opens on Commercial street, in the old Gill block, and, of course, has the latest and best styles of goods. He has every advantage in purchasing goods and has used the experience of a lifetime in outfitting this establishment. Our readers who trade at Salem, only need to know that Gilbert is again in trade to know what to do. As usual he purchases furs, skins and hides and operates in wool when there is any, also keeps "leather and findings" for the supply of a wide custom, as he sells shoe makers stock all over this valley.