

WILLAMETTE FARMER

VOL. XV.

SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1883.

NO. 45.

Correspondence.

SEND IN CORRESPONDENCE.

We have always felt that the most valuable portion of our own or any other farming journal is the communications from practical farmers concerning their own farming experience. We feel that our columns should contain much of this reading. We invite free correspondence from our readers on all topics of interest to the farming public. Let us hear from all members of the family, young and old, fathers and mothers, those who hold the plow and those who hold the needles. That is what we are for and we hope to receive a great many such contributions.

After Three Years—A Visit to Polk County.

SALEM, Dec. 17, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Not having been in Polk county for three years I took a spin over to Sheridan on Saturday last and could not notice the improvements in that time.

The fall sowing of wheat was to be seen on every hand looking as green as in May. Bethel, where there was once a flourishing school, looks exceedingly dilapidated, but McCoy seems to have much improved in the erection of a number of substantial residences and other buildings; then Perrydale, a short distance west, appears about as three years ago. Ballston, a few miles farther west in the distance seems to be putting on quite village airs as a railroad station. Then we passed on to the classic Yamhill river at Sheridan, this little town is improving quite fast and has made many substantial improvements. Among the late improvements I may name Mr. James Morrison's flouring mills which is about ready to start. This is a water mill and is in good hands, as Mr. Morrison is an old mill man, having for several years, run the mill at Dixie. This is supplying a long needed improvement, as this is in the midst of one of our best agricultural districts, then there is a new and seemingly very substantive bridge over the river at that place, then they have hotels, stores and shops numerous and am sorry to say, one or two saloons.

W. C. W.

Letter from Umatilla County.

CENTVILLE, Or., Dec. 11, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Centerville is growing rapidly. Centerville has one of the best public schools in Eastern Oregon—has about 150 scholars—J. M. Taylor, principal. Centerville did a wise thing in building a good school house.

This has been a beautiful fall; no snow here yet, and the best roads I ever saw. We have just had enough rain to make roads but hardly enough for good plowing. The majority of us will summer-fallow our land next year.

Track-laying has commenced between Pendleton and Centerville.

I read with pleasure in last week's FARMER the story of the old blue-backed speller. I mastered that old book about twenty years ago and learned that Ann fed the old hen, and we also learned when we got as far as "Amity" that "Jolity" was spelled with two ls. Yes, the pages of that old book will be long remembered by many of us.

W. M. S.

The Penalty for Killing the Imported Pheasants.

LEBANON, Or., Dec. 17, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I noticed in your paper of December 7th, an article stating that an Albany man had seen some ring-neck pheasants supposed to be some of the same that O. N. Denny sent from China. Also stating that the law protected them until the first of October, (or until October). Now right here is where I want to correct that article. Our last Legislature passed a law protecting these birds for the period of five years, under a penalty of fifty dollars for any one killing or having one of these birds in their possession. I am very certain if I see any one with one of these birds that they will be informed on, for my brother went to the trouble and a great expense to get and send them to this State. He sent two lots of them. The first lot, seventy in number, starting and only eleven lived to reach Portland. They

were turned out below Portland. Out of the other lot of thirty, twenty-six reached Linn county alive. They are called the Langshan or golden pheasant, and if they are let alone for five years they will be quite numerous and I think will be scattered all over the valley. I hear of them now being at Sweet Home, Jefferson, and also hear of them being seen close to Salem and Oregon City. The males have white rings around their necks and a very beautiful plumage. They are a good deal larger than the native pheasant.

JOHN DENNEY.

A Difference in the Digestion of Animals.

Almost every one thinks that animals of the same species, being animals, are all alike. Upon this supposition they are generally in lots, or flocks, where each one gets its portion as best it can, the stronger robbing the weaker. The truth is, there is a great difference in animals of the same species in their ability to fully digest food. One animal, very often, gets as much again as another without any injury, but on the contrary, it may require double the amount of food to keep all its organs in healthful action. There is always more or less difference in the ability of animals of the same sort to digest and assimilate food. When they are fed in lots, or flocks, these differences cannot be well observed. When it is noticed that an animal is not thriving, it should immediately be separated from the others and put by itself, and a careful test should be made of its ability to digest food. Most of the sickness of young animals, and older ones also, comes from a disordered condition of the stomach, and this is gradually caused by over-eating. In order to test the ability of an animal for digesting its food, a comparison must be made, not with the amount it eats, but with its excrement compared with those of an animal perfectly healthy and vigorous. If undigested portions of its food are found in the excrement, then it is apparent that it is fed too much; if the excrement is in a loose and watery condition, it is probable also that this animal has been over-fed, and in either case there should be a reduction of food. By reduction of food I do not mean a lessening of the amount of hay and grass, but the feeding of more concentrated foods, such as grain or milk; beginning with a small amount and not increasing the ration beyond the degree of perfect digestion. This system of feeding will always insure a healthy condition and greater gain than with an excess of food, unless colds should intervene by allowing the animal to become chilled either by exposure to storms or cold drafts.

A farmer should always remember that it is not the amount of food which goes into an animal's stomach that makes the largest gain; but what it can entirely digest and assimilate. These differences are so great that experiments in feeding can never be made in fallible tests in the values of food, or different breeds of animals for fattening, or, indeed, of classes of animals of the same breed. As an illustration of this point, one calf may consume a quart of linseed-oil meal and wheat middlings and be in perfect health; while another of the same age, on this amount of food, would have scours; whereas if this kind of food was reduced to one-half or one-fourth the amount, it would do well. The same law will apply with equal force to young pigs or lambs, and also to full-grown animals.

I have learned that the growth and fattening of animals do not depend upon the abundance of food so much as upon other conditions; the most important of these, as I have herein stated, being the digestive powers of the stomach. The tone and ability of the stomach to perform its functions may be maintained and strengthened by mixing less nutritious food with that which is cooling in its nature, such as roots and forage, which may be cut fine with the grain. When thus mixed, there is a tendency to cloying and to fermentation. There will also be a better secretion, without which there cannot be perfect digestion. The stomachs of some animals require more rest than those of others, and without it there will be continual disorder and a feeble gain. The losses accruing to farmers from indiscriminate feeding, regardless of the peculiarities of the animals, are enormous.—Shepherd's Journal.

What is that which every one wishes to have, and which every one wishes to get rid of directly he obtains?—A good appetite.

Josh Billings has this playful application of "see-saw"—"I saw a blind wood-sawer. While none ever saw him see, thousands have seen him saw."

STRANGE AERIAL PHENOMENA.

The scientists of the world are interested because of strange phenomena in the sky of the rising and the setting sun. These have been observed all over America and also in England. Those who have noticed our beautiful sunsets, this clear weather, may remember the peculiar roseate glow that has remained in the western sky after the sun has set. A San Francisco journal suggests that this is caused by smoke, high in the upper air, from the Alaskan volcanoes. It also dismisses the possibility that it may be a reflection from meteoric dust, in the same way suspended. The New York Sun says:

"Whatever the cause may be, there have certainly been some most surprising atmospheric phenomena in the last two or three months in several quarters of the globe. India, Ceylon and South America have recently been treated to the spectacle of a green sun and a green moon, and now in more northern countries we are having the evening skies set aflame with strange reflections. The inhabitants of the earth sometimes behold marvelous sights in their travels through the universe under the guide of the journeying sun."

This red glare has lasted for some weeks. During the past months, too, the world has known terrible convulsions of nature in the Mediterranean, in the Java seas, and near Alaska. Such convulsions as occurred at these places have seldom happened in the world's history. It is suggested that the smoke of these volcanic disturbances has ascended to the upper air and causes the reflection we see when the sun has set. It is a fruitful cause for speculative inquiry and will hardly be understood.

Some weeks ago, in making a journey, we left the train at daybreak and waited at a railroad station on the Columbia for the coming of the day. At an early hour we noticed the eastern sky to be all aglow. It was a peculiarly beautiful sight and corresponded exactly with all the reports we read. No doubt it showed better east of the Cascades than in this valley, because the atmosphere is so clear and pure there; so much less damp than it is here. The sun came up behind a hill-point and the sky was peculiarly illuminated for quite a while before the sun actually rose. What seemed strangest of all was that when the sun did rise it came up in its ordinary way without an attending glow or radiance to mark its coming.

This radiance is accounted for on the ground that before the sun is on the angle of reflection makes this overhanging dust or smoke, or whatever substance it may be, visible. Let the sunshine pass through it, directly, and we do not know that it exists; but when the sun is below the horizon its rays come back from this cloud, or atmospheric dust, by reflection. There are more things in heaven and earth than our philosophy dreams of, and philosophers are engaged trying to read this riddle of the skies. It comes from some natural cause, but that cause is invisible and only seen by reflection, and that only because the myriad of particles of matter that are no obstruction to sunlight, furnish a reflecting surface as a whole and give the skies their ruddy tinge.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR WHEAT.

A correspondent writes from Cottonwood, Lincoln county, W. T., (north of Cheney): "I have 100 acres that was broken two years ago last spring. It raised a heavy crop of grain the first year, (1882) and a light one this year (1883). Would you advise me to summer-fallow it next year? Suppose I should cultivate it to flax, corn, sorghum, and vegetables, would it not be just as well for the next crop of wheat as if it laid entirely idle." Our friend had a heavy crop the first year, and would, no doubt, have done fairly the second only for the excessively dry summer. It is a common practice with farmers east of the Cascades to put in the ground two years after breaking sod, and then summer-fallow. If W. B. lets the land have

a good rest now he will get a good crop in 1885. Summer-fallowing puts the ground in order, rests it and cleans it, too, and it is ready for early fall sowing. From what we see and hear it is evidently a great advantage to sow land early in August; some say sow in July. Early sowing is very important. That is the reason summer fallows do so well. As to planting to corn or sorghum, that will put the land in first rate order for October sowing. The land cannot be cleared off much sooner. Many farmers say corn pays as well as wheat, and is almost entirely clear gain as a crop.

Mr. Blalock says corn will do well without any working, but working the ground helps put it in order for the wheat crop. If corn will turn off 25 bushels, and is worth as much or more than wheat, it will certainly pay well, but if there is any danger of an early frost the corn crop will not be very certain.

As to flax, we have heard it said that wheat follows that crop to good advantage. The trouble is, the stubble must be plowed, and that requires waiting for rain. Good Eastern farmers assert that it is unsafe to stir dry stubbles. Summer-fallowing leaves the ground in condition to sow at any time. While there are other ways that promise well, to summer-fallow is the surest and safest.

Our friend is in good shape to try an experiment that will be worth something for him and for the whole country. Let him plow up twenty-five acres for summer-fallow; plow twenty-five acres for corn; put twenty-five acres in flax, and put the rest in sorghum and vegetables. Let him take good care of all the land. Save his crop as early as possible and put in wheat next fall as soon as it can be done, and then he can tell which pays him the best. To do this to advantage he must keep an exact account of all his expenses for each crop, and see how much each twenty-five acres yields of wheat the succeeding year. This will give him satisfaction and tell him certainly the best way to farm in the future.

Carp.

The U. S. Fish Commissioners have sent out their car here and supplied many people with little fish, but George Leslie, of Salem, has lots of two-year-old carp in his ponds that are six or seven inches long. He has thousands of last year's fish, three to four inches long, whereas those sent by the Fish Commissioners are little fellows, fifty in a tin pail. Mr. Leslie sells his two-year-old carp at a dollar apiece, yearlings at 50 cents each. He shipped to-day (Dec. 12) ten of the larger size to Mr. Seth Luelling, Millwaukie, Or., who proposes to engage in the business and grow his own fish. There are many who could invest a little to advantage to stock their ponds. Where a man can arrange to make a pond he ought to have fish.

The Three Champions.

Prof. F. T. Merrill, the champion bicyclist of America, and Wm. E. Warren, the champion of Oregon, in conjunction with Mr. Manciett, the champion skater of Oregon, will give something never before seen in this country, a "Bicycle Exhibition." They will appear at Reed's Opera House on Christmas afternoon and evening, December 25th. Every one should take advantage of this rare treat, as they will never have the opportunity of seeing anything of the kind again. The H. A. C. band will furnish lively music for the riders. The admission is placed very low so that all should attend. Admission all over the house 50 cents; children 25 cents.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that McAfee & Hawkins have one of the neatest, best stocked and best arranged drug stores in the State. They have recently received a supply of toilet goods, fine cases, cut glass bottles, and perfumery that is not excelled in the State. If you want to get something for a Christmas present, something nice and yet not expensive, call at the National Drug Store, in the New Bank Building, Commercial street, Salem.

Whenever possible, remit money to us by Postal Order or Postal Note. Send direct and get a receipt from the office.

STOCK NOTES.

The Drovers' Journal, of Chicago, Ill., says: "One of the most interesting things to be seen at the stock yards, in connection with the live stock business, is the maneuvering of trained dogs in driving sheep from one point to another. The sagacity of a well trained shepherd dog in this respect is something wonderful. Frequently one sheep will stray away from the flock and start off in an entirely different direction. The moment the dog sees this he scampers after the straggler, runs ahead of him, and by dint of barking and growling (but without violence) succeeds in turning the woolly wanderer toward the gang and compels him to rejoin his companions. Such a dog, for that kind of business, is truly valuable.

Parsnips, carrots, Swedish turnips and mangel wurzel will all fatten pigs. These roots ought not to be given raw, but cooked and mixed with beans, peas, Indian corn, oats or barley; all of which should be ground. When pigs are fed on such cooked food the pork acquires a peculiarly rich flavor, and is much esteemed, especially for family use.

"No animal of the pig species," says Joseph Harris, "carries so great a proportion of flesh to the quantity of bone or flesh of so fine a quality of as the Yorkshires, or can be raised at so small a cost per pound, very docile, quiet in habit, excellent breeders, can be fattened at any age, no matter how young, and in quality of meat very sweet, tender juicy and the lean meat well marbled with fat. The best of hams and shoulders to cure, very small bones and offal when dressed, the thickest back pork for packing, in fact, it is the ideal pig."

Regarding the feeding of horses, the Germantown Telegraph says: "For fast driving, oats may be the best food for horses; but we hold to the old fashioned mode of feeding horses, which was generally in vogue from forty to sixty years ago, and is still so among a great many people, even lively stable keepers—that is, regular feeds of bran and short cut straw, mixed with a sufficient quantity of water to make it palatable; half a dozen ears of corn per horse daily, when the weather is not too warm, and plenty of good hay. We have known whole stablefolds of horses to keep the best of health, and be capable of doing the hardest work a horse can be put to by this mode of feeding.

New oats are not good feed for horses. They relax the bowels, and often if the change from old to new is sudden, the value of the oat ratio is almost entirely lost. As they shrink a good deal in drying, the old oats, though nominally dearer, are usually cheaper as well as better feed than the new crop.

How to Build up a Flock.

A Michigan correspondent says: "Four years ago I bought thirty ewes—grade Merino—culls from a flock, for which I paid three dollars each—a pretty steep price I thought; but they were round, heavy-bodied and short-legged. The first season they sheared on an average a little over five pounds of wool, and I raised twenty eight lambs. Could not buy such a run as I wanted, so I gave five dollars for his service. Have done the same twice, because I could not buy such as I wanted. Have lost but nine sheep in the time (four years); have sold forty-six for \$211, including culls, and have at present a flock of seventy-one. Sold my wool the 29th of June, which averaged nine and three fourth pounds per head, washed. I use, none but thoroughbred rams. Have just bought one which sheared twenty-seven pounds. Am not given to boasting, but my sheep are the wonder of the neighborhood, and my success something they cannot understand. I have but one motto—'Eternal vigilance is the price of success.' I was off-reef early this spring, for all my lambs (counting one year olds), \$7 apiece.

When you buy a fifty-cent or dollar bottle of Ammen's Cough Syrup, and have taken the outside wrapper off, see that there is a strip over the cork bearing the signature of the manufacturer, which to counterfeit is felony. Any friend who will furnish us information upon which we can convict one of those thieving, fraudulent imitators, we will pay the sum of five hundred dollars. We have a good remedy—an honest remedy—the best remedy in the world for the diseases for which it is recommended, and it is too valuable a remedy to mankind, and peculiarly to the manufacturer, to permit any dishonest scoundrel to put a worthless imitation on the market to injure its reputation. When you have a cold or cough, ask for Ammen's Cough Syrup, and do not suffer yourself to be talked into buying any other preparation.

The Consumption of Cotton in China.

The cotton goods consumed in China, are, according to German commercial publications, imported from England, America and Holland. The sources of the different articles are as follows: England furnishes the principal part of the jeans, drills and sheetings, a small portion of which is also obtained from America and Holland. The ordinary plain cottons (shirtings), T cloths, jeans, drill, sheetings, come almost exclusively from England, while America furnishes the better grades. Drills of a fair quality, only moderately sized, come also from Holland. It is a matter of speculation whether Holland is able to manufacture sufficiently cheap to compete with England, or whether it simply throws the refuse Dutch India upon the Chinese market. The same is also true of the cambrics and jaconets, dimities, twills, muslins, lawns, also long cloths, and yarn. Turkey red cloths come from Glasgow, (Leyden) Holland and Switzerland.

It is a matter of record that only the English have hitherto understood how to cater to the Chinese taste as far as regards printed fabrics, furniture, calicoes, chintzes, etc. The Germans make a trial with their velvets and velvetines, and it appears they will be likely to succeed. The consumption of colored damask is unimportant, and supplied entirely by England; also cotton lastings and blue mottles. Taffetas is originally a Japanese article, and is manufactured best in Switzerland; its consumption is very small. Colored cloths come occasionally from Germany.

The consumption of staple cotton fabrics in China is exceedingly large, and under certain conditions and favors the Chinese government is capable of assuming such gigantic proportions that it is well worth a serious effort on the part of our American manufacturers to gain a firm foothold in that country.—Textile Record.

What an Egg Will Do.

For burns and scalds nothing is more soothing than the white of an egg, which may be poured over the wound. It is softer as a varnish for a burn than collodion, and, being always on hand, can be applied. It is also more cooling than sweet oil and cotton, which was formerly supposed to be the surest application to allay the smarting pain. It is the contact with the air which gives the extreme discomfort experienced from the ordinary accident of this kind, and anything that excludes the air and prevents inflammation is the thing to be at once applied.

The egg is considered one of the best of remedies for dysentery. Beaten up slightly, with or without sugar, and swallowed at a gulp, it tends, by its emollient qualities, to lessen the inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and, by forming a transient coating on these organs, to enable nature to resume her healthful sway over a diseased body. Two, or at most three, eggs per day would be all that is required in ordinary cases; and since eggs are not only a medicine but food as well, the lighter the diet otherwise and the quieter the patient is kept, the more certain and rapid is the recovery.

For Sale, Cash or Trade.

An old fashioned Grover & Baker sewing machine, in good order—the works having been recently sent to San Francisco and put in first-rate order. It is the best machine for general family work. Produce will be taken in exchange for it. Enquire at this office.

Lost.

Some time last summer, a nice brocha shawl, which fell from a carriage while driving in the vicinity of Salem. A handsome reward will be paid, for the return of said shawl or information of its being found.

A boy of eight years was asked by his teacher where the zenith was. He replied: "The spot in the heavens directly over one's head." To test his knowledge further, the teacher asked: "Can two persons have the same zenith at the same time?" "They can," "How?" "If one stands on the other's head."

At a Bargain.

A fine fur set, collar and muff, of the very handsomest of mink, entirely new, made in the East; the owner will sell it for \$18, and which could not be bought at a store for double the money. Enquire at this office.

A Western editor has a libel suit on his hands simply because he alluded to the church choir as the lyres of the town.