

# WILLAMETTE FARMER

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## Correspondence.

Notes by the Wayside.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

After visiting the Linn County Business Council, December 1st, I spent the night with Brother and Sister S. Froman, who are members of the Council, also of Grand Prairie Grange. I have not language at my command to explain the principles and character of a true Granger, but in thought and action they seem more ennobling than those persons who are opposed to associating with their neighbors in the Grange for the purpose of promoting the welfare of mankind; and go where I may among the members of our order I find evinced a spirit of kindly regard such as is not universal in the world. After spending the greater portion of the Sabbath with Brother and Sister F., and consulting in reference to the best interests of the Grange, and the various methods of overcoming the numberless obstacles with which we, like all other organizations, are forced to contend. I walked over to the residence of Brother and Sister Thomas Froman, where the night was pleasantly spent. As Brother J. Froman is a Deputy we planned some work for Linn county.

It is my intention to meet with Lebanon Grange at its next meeting in January, and I hope that all the Brothers and Sisters of that and adjoining Granges will be with us. Let us commence our work for 1884 with a zeal equal to the stupendous task before us.

Brother Irvine is as enthusiastic as ever. It is no wonder that Linn County Council has proven a success, with such counselors as Brothers Irvine, Rodgers, Shelton, Froman's and numerous others, with Sisters ever ready to aid and counsel in their endeavors to elevate the producers of the country, who by their example seem to reach the sentiments of the entire community.

From these Brothers and Sisters I learned much which will be of interest to other Granges as I visit them in the future. After returning home and attending the Multnomah Pomona Grange, went to Clackamas, where there is a dormant Grange. Held a public meeting, but did not succeed in reorganizing the Grange. There is quite an interest manifested here, the seed however must be sown before we can reap a harvest.

Spent a pleasant night with Brother and Sister Phillips, thence wound my way to the residence of Brother and Sister A. Miller, below Milwaukie, with whom I spent a very interesting evening, and after a night of refreshing sleep took the steamer for Portland at 6 o'clock Monday morning, bound for Clarke county, W. T., but in consequence of the late change of time missed the boat, so took the cars for Sandy and hired some fishermen to take me across the Columbia. Arrived at Washougal after six miles walk in time to partake of the bounties of Brother and Sister Russell's tea table. Also found Brothers Yeomans and Russell waiting, ready to take up the line of march in the morning.

December 18.—Having been furnished by Bro. Russell a good horse and waterproof coat, which covered me from my eyes to the soles of my boots, we three started for Brush Prairie, Clarke county. Bro. Yeomans thought the road miserably long. Bro. R. said well he might, as he crossed the road back and forth like a ship beating against the wind; his excuse being that we rode so slow that he was obliged to put in his time some way. I agreed with Bro. Y. that the road was both long and miserable, and hasn't changed my mind yet. We had a merry ride, and arrived in due time at our destination, where we were welcomed by Brother and Sister Messenger, of whose generous hospitality we gladly partook.

At 6 o'clock P. M. we held a public

meeting, which was well attended, and resulted in the reorganization of the Grange. Found upon inquiry that they had retained their entire outfit, also a library which cost them sixty dollars. Like the majority of dormant Granges, they ceased work in consequence of the admission of unsuitable material. After a general discussion it was decided that Bro. Yeomans should install their officers on the 5th of January.

After spending the night with these good people, we proceeded to Maple Grove and accepted the invitation extended by Brother and Sister Goodnight to stay with them, and although we were by two hours too late for dinner, and insisted we were not hungry, our kind host and hostess declared that they were aware of the failing of Bro. Russell, and judging all Grangers by his standard, hastily prepared a delicious repast, to which we did such ample justice that I was reminded of the little boy who, on his first visit from home, rammed his hands in his little pockets, and declared to his aunt that he was not hungry, although he had not eaten anything for twelve hours.

Held a public meeting in the evening and audience was large and much interest was manifested, resulting in the reorganization of the grange. Bro. Yeomans will install the officers on the afternoon of January 5th. Bro. Russell and myself proceeded to Battle Ground post office, where we accepted the hospitality of Brother and Sister J. L. Groat. This entire country is fine grass land formerly covered with ash timbers, but the farmers are clearing it up. Bros. Groat, Goodnight and Messenger have good farms. The land is sufficiently rolling to admit of blind drains. Timothy grows to an enormous height. There are large tracts of ash swale land still uncleared that at no distant day will be the homes of wealthy farmers. Dairying is the occupation of the people and when they have established creameries and cheese factories so that all the butter and cheese can be sold under one brand, thus establish a uniform price as well as a uniform quality for and in the market. This will be a wealthy section. White and red clover does well and the people have learned that there is no profit in grain.

From Battle Ground we went to Fourth Plain, where we held a meeting in the evening. Found some good grange people, but not a sufficient number to organize a grange at present. Received some encouragement, however. Sister Norton said "that she could get women enough to carry on a grange but the men were too sleepy," and I believe from appearances that she could do it. Bro. O. Flarty gave an interesting account of the manner in which corporations imposed their monopolies upon the people of California. Here is a nice prairie, gravely and dry, the soil is rich and productive.

The following day we went to Grand Prairie; here we found farmers plowing and sowing. Was told that they preferred this time rather than earlier in the season as the wheat is not so likely to be injured by frost. Having no appointment here we passed on to Grass valley and took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Knapp, of whom we learned that our appointment sent to that place had not been announced. This is also a fine grass country and overlooks Lackamas lake, a beautiful sheet of water about four miles in length and one-half mile in width, and an altitude of one hundred and fifty feet above the Columbia river. Here is a fine water power. The company owning it have completed a good saw mill at the lower end of the lake. Large numbers of saw-logs are run out of the Washougal river, and caught between Ladies island in the Columbia and the main land. We crossed the Washougal near its mouth, and arrived at Bro. Russell's in time to assist in the milking of a fine lot of cows, which form his dairy.

On the day following I attended the

Washougal Grange, which was organized about one year ago. It is to the true-hearted patron an enjoyable treat to visit the Grange and note the harmony of feeling, the true brotherly and sisterly fellowship existing between its members, and feel that here one can grasp the hand of an aspiring Granger, and know that at the friendly meeting in this hall—the home of the patron—there exists an interest outside of self. Here one can behold the beauties of our Order and mark the contrast between an organized and unorganized neighborhood. Its members constitute the finest intellect of their country and the fact that their number has been nearly doubled (only lacking two) in the brief period of its existence, is sufficient evidence that by its works it is known. There are at present two classes being admitted. This Grange has interesting work laid out for every meeting, even more than the day will permit them to accomplish. After partaking of a sumptuous feast they proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, and extended an invitation to Past Worthy Master of Oregon State Grange, A. R. Shipley, of Oswego, to install their officers on the third Saturday in January.

Washougal supports two stores, one hotel and saloon, but now that the ladies are entitled to vote in Washington Territory they intend to make music for the whiskey dealers, and good husbands of their men, while they educate their sons and daughters to lives of usefulness.

Clarke county is a much better section for farming purposes than I had supposed, and land is held at reasonable rates.

By urgent request of the friends where I have lectured I promised to pay them another visit in the spring. More anon. H. E. HAYES.

Attend to Your Own Business.  
MACLEAY, Or., Dec. 25, 1883.  
Editor Willamette Farmer.

How do some people have so much time to attend to other people's business? I have a small farm, that is, it would be considered so in this country, and I find it takes all my time to attend to it and my own affairs. But some of my neighbors have much larger farms as well as many more babies (which seem to be a natural production of the soil in Oregon), and I don't think they are any earlier birds than I am. For all that, I find that they have an abundance of time to attend to other people's business. But the question is: Do they attend to their own? I think I can answer that question for them, for I don't think they do. I am aware that the impression prevails that farmers have a great deal of spare time, but it is a mistake. The energetic farmer is one of the busiest men we have among us. There is always something to do on a farm and I think those people that have so much spare time had better put it in sweeping their own door yards; I am sure it will pay them in the long run. I have not employed any of them to attend to my business, for I consider I am capable of doing that myself. Now, Mr. Editor, don't understand me to say that our neighborhood is made up of this class of people, for the majority of the neighborhood are as Christian-like and law-abiding a class of people as there is in the world. Another mystery is how some know every little incident and neighborhood gossip that happens at our dances, spelling schools and gatherings generally. If you want to know anything about a neighbor, just question one of this class and you can learn all about them. I hope I have not tread on anybody's corns, but just impressed it on the neighborhood gossip's mind. Your bachelor friend, W. A. T.

is the Mortgage Tax Law Unfair to Capital.  
IRVING, Or., Dec. 31, 1883.  
Editor Willamette Farmer.

Please allow me to express a few wandering thoughts in regard to the Mortgage Tax Law. Considerable has

been published in the FARMER in favor of and some against the law. The principal reason advanced why the law should be repealed is that it is unfair to capital. An unwarranted assertion, as the law has nothing whatever to do with the assessment. A note secured by mortgage is exempted; so it makes no difference to the honest taxpayer whether he is assessed on a \$1000 note or a \$1000 mortgage. But the law does prevent the dishonest tax payer from omitting his note altogether or from giving it in at less than its face. The fault then, if any exists, must be either in the law or with the assessor.

The law says that all property shall be assessed at its "cash value." Who could ask for more or would demand less. The law then is all right. How about our assessors? They are publicly charged with perjury in making false returns, if so let the aggrieved party—money—present them to the grand jury. But how may we determine the true value of any property? Some say the true value of anything is what it will bring in the market in an ordinary business transaction. If this is true then the assessor must assess the business men at their selling price, (even if they mark at from 50 to 200 per cent. profit); our newspapers on their subscription lists, etc. I think the farmer, when he puts anything on the market, has a right to his profit as well as the merchant. Should not the true value of any property be determined by the actual net return obtained from a careful and judicious management or investment of the same. This then being the true principle upon which we base our calculations, we will take the average farmer of Oregon and their net returns for a term of years, and our yearly assessments and county record of chattel mortgages and they prove conclusively that the farmers do not make legal interest (8 per cent.) upon the assessed value of their property.

Let us consider this subject fully and fairly so that when it comes—and come it will—before our next Legislature, its members may act understandingly and deal justly with all classes.  
Respectfully, A. C. JENNINGS.

Farm Gates.  
SALEM, Or., Dec. 24, 1883.  
Editor Willamette Farmer:

A farm gate is expensive and too often a constant source of trouble, and the rule should be to have as few of them as possible. Where a gate is found to be necessary it is far best to take some pains about it and make it well, for a poor gate is far more expensive in the end than a first-rate one. A most important point about a gate is strong durable and well set posts. If the posts are not strong enough the gate will not swing steadily or remain in its proper position, and will soon sag and give trouble. The posts should be at least eight inches square, ten or twelve would be better, and should be solid wood. They should be set at least three feet deep in the ground, and the ground well firmed around them. A solid oak scantling should be laid under the gate at the surface of the ground, and should be just long enough to fit in between the two posts. This will brace them apart in an upright position, and help keep the gate in place. Then, if at any time the gate should sag a little, it can be elevated by driving a wedge between the end of the scantling and the fastening post. The gate itself should be made of durable timber, heart fir, ash, yew, or oak. Take care to select slats that are as light as they can be had—as weight is objectionable. Let it be well braced both ways, setting slats across from top to bottom in the shape of a letter X. It is impossible for a gate thus braced to sag, so long as the braces are kept in place. A good hinge and strong fastenings are indispensable. The old fashioned pine fastenings are good, but are more trouble than some of the patent fastenings, and are constantly getting lost. Another point about a farm gate

is, to have it wide enough. Nine feet is none too much, though many make them eight, and some as narrow as seven feet. There is more safety in a wide gate. Many a runaway and breaking of buggy, cart or wagon has been caused by narrow gates, in consequence of the wheel of the vehicle striking the post and frightening the team.

After a gate is well made and swung in place, have it painted. It will pay in the end. And make it a law of the farm that every one passing through a gate shall close and fasten it securely, even if he expects to return in five minutes. He might not return as early as he expected, and a sudden flow of wind might blow the gate to and break it, or passing stock might get into the field unperceived, and cause a deal of trouble.

Always contrive to have the path or road curve a little before the gate is reached, as a sharp turn makes it difficult to drive through a gate without striking a post. If the fence is parallel with the road, set the gate back a few paces, and curve the fence up to the posts so as to give a better turn. Try to have the gate on level ground if possible, as a hill on either side would make it bad for stopping the team. It is worth while to make a good job of it when started, as nothing gives more satisfaction than a safe and easily-managed gate.  
C. W.

A Coming Immigrant.  
GREENEY, Col., Dec. 18, 1883.  
Editor Willamette Farmer:

Please do not send me any more numbers of the paper until I write to you again, for we will start for the northwest the latter part of this week or the first of next. To-day is the warmest we have had for three weeks. Wheat is \$1.10 to \$1.20 per hundred. Irish potatoes 45 to 50 cents a hundred pounds. Butter 45 cents a pound. Eggs 35 cents a dozen. I have sent every number of your paper that I have received to friends East or given to friends here.  
Yours respectfully,  
WM. T. CARVER.

Warts on Horses.  
SCIO, Or., Jan. 1, 1884.  
Editor Willamette Farmer:

I see one of your subscribers wants a remedy for warts on horses. I have cured, and known others curing warts on horses, and men too, by applying common salt for a short time. It is best to bind a small thin sack with salt in it, to the wart, then wet it every day or two. I cured a large wart on the breast of a fine horse a few years ago by cutting it off with hair by tying tight then applying salt every day or two till well. The skin is now smooth.  
Yours truly,  
WILLIAM CYRUS.  
SALEM, Jan. 3, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Warts may be removed by excisions or torsion; twisting or pulling by the hand being very often sufficient. If they are on the sheath of the penis, or on the prepuce surrounding the auface of the urethra, the animal has to be cast and the whole mass removed by cantery or knife, and their seat cauterized. If this is not done they are apt to grow again. External or epidermic warts may be effectually removed by the following:  
Acide arsen. 3 drachms, ung. petrolis 3 drachms, M. et sig. Apply to the wart every four hours until they drop off, then grease the part with lard.  
C. W. JEFFREY, V. S.

Toads in Oregon.  
OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 20, 1883.  
Editor Willamette Farmer:

I noticed in a late issue of the FARMER the statement that there were no toads in Oregon. That is a mistake for there are toads in our garden and on the farm every year. Our place is five miles south of Oregon City.  
Yours truly,  
SAM'L WALDRON.

Gov. Irwin, of Idaho, says he has not earned his salary for the past six months and returns it to the treasury.

The Kate Putnam Company, Coming.  
Manager Stechhan, of New Market theatre, Portland, was in Salem on Thursday. If sufficient encouragement is offered he will bring up the Kate Putnam Company. This little lady came to Portland unheralded and has won the hearts of the people completely. The pieces to be put on the boards will be such as "Fanchion the Cricket," in which she is unrivaled, also other popular and pleasing plays. We have no doubts but what inducements will be offered to the company. If you are in the city next week, make it a point to find out and attend. It will be worth anyone's time and money to see Kate Putnam. Its not often that really good actors come to Salem and when they do we shall ask our readers to come and see them. We say come and see Kate Putnam.

A Ghastly Voyage.  
Captain Baker, of the Wm. H. Besse, recently arrived in Boston, says his bark was directly in the vicinity of Anjiers at the time of the terrible disaster, which killed thousands, and changed the face of the land around Sunda Straits. He left Batavia August 16th, and the following morning at daylight those on deck noticed a heavy bank of clouds rising from the west and obscuring the sun, and at the same time the barometer dropped down to 29.40, and again suddenly rose to 30.70. All hands were called and sail taken off fast as possible, heavy showers of rain and ashes commenced falling, completely covering decks and spars to a depth of several inches. By noon it had grown darker than the darkest night and commenced to blow a hurricane, but, strange to say, the sea remained perfectly smooth. Heavy rumblings, like distant thunder, were constantly heard at intervals. The sky was lighted up by lightning flashes, and a strong smell of sulphur permeated the atmosphere and made it difficult to breathe. All hands were affected by this awful scene, and many of the sailors thought the world was coming to an end.

Throughout the gale the tide set strongly to the westward, and the bark drove through the water at the rate of fourteen knots an hour. At 3 P. M. the sky commenced to grow brighter, but ashes continued to fall like snow. On the following day the bark entered the straits of Sunda, and the extent of the damage done was plainly to be seen. Whole islands had sunk, and those that remained had changed in form. The northwestern part of Krakatia Island had disappeared, and Verelatin and Long Island, heretofore covered with trees, were completely bare. They saw a very large number of bodies, and the water for miles was covered with trees and dead bodies. The sea for 600 miles was a field of lava. They experienced a hurricane from the north and northeast with a tremendous sea, which lasted for three days. During this time the decks and cabin were flooded with water, and a portion of the bulworks and everything moveable on the deck was washed away. The most fearful thing of all was the sea of corpses: "for nearly three days we came across body after body of persons who had lost their lives in the earthquake." One man alone counted sixty in plain sight, and thousands must have perished.

Running Away Rats.  
A writer in the Scientific American, in treating of the question, gives a simple plan by which any one can rid his premises of rats and keep the vermin away permanently. He says: "We clear our premises of these detestable vermin by making whitewash yellow with copperas, and covering the rafters and stones in the cellar with it. In every crevice in which a rat may tread we put the crystals of copperas, and scatter the same in the corners of the floor. The result was a perfect stampede of rats and mice. Since that time not a footfall of either rat or mouse has been heard about the house. Every spring a coat of yellow wash is given the cellar as a purifier, as an exterminator, and no typhoid, dysentery or fever attacks the family."

Sorghum.  
Mr. H. C. Perkins left, says the Eugene Guard, one day this week, several stalks of sorghum, measuring over ten feet high, which he raised on his farm near this city. We hope to hear of many acres of sorghum being planted, and also of a manufactory being established in this city to warrant our farmers in raising the same. Here is a chance for some of our local capitalists engaging in a business that will pay a handsome profit, besides benefitting the people of the country.

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