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Correspondence.

MEETING TO FORM A WOLF HUNTING CLUB.

SALEM, OR., Jan. 14, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Pursuant to a call published in the FARMER a few of the residents of the southeast portion of Marion county met at the store of A. Avert and adopted the form of organization published below.

An election was had and Lewis Pettijohn was chosen President, Harry P. Minto Secretary, and A. Avert Treasurer, and Lewis Pettijohn, A. Avert and T. L. Davidson financial or awarding committee. I. M. Wagner, M. R. Moor, A. Hogg, H. E. Ankeny, G. H. Croisier and H. P. Minto of Salem, Charles Miller and William Pate of Jefferson, and Howard Hunsaker of Turner, were appointed canvassers to secure members.

There seemed to be no division of opinion as to the plan adopted being the best that can be for clearing the district of the pestiferous coyotes. The sum of \$25 was fixed upon as a price for a coyote scalp, which with fifty members would make a wolf cost each member fifty cents which would be reduced to twenty-five cents should the membership rise to one hundred, which should be got in the district. The following is the form:

FORM OF ORGANIZATION OF CHEMPEKETA WOLF HUNTER'S CLUB.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Chemeketa Wolf Hunter's Club.

Sec. 2. The officers of this club shall be a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall each hold his office until his successor is elected and qualified.

Sec. 3. Membership in this club shall be secured to any person who shall subscribe to its plan of organization and pay the fees and dues or assessments agreed upon by the club.

Sec. 4. Each member shall have one vote. All voting shall be done by ballot and questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast.

Sec. 5. The President shall call and act as chairman of meetings. The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all transactions of the club, and draw warrants on the Treasurer when ordered to do so by a vote of the club or its duly elected financial or awarding committee. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the club and pay out the same under orders drawn by the Secretary and signed by the President when authorized by the club or its financial committee.

Sec. 6. The President and two members elected by the club shall constitute the awarding or financial committee, who shall receive proofs of any wolf or other animal for the destruction of which a premium has been offered having been killed within the club limits, and they or any two of them shall upon satisfactory proof order the Secretary, who upon such order, shall draw his warrant on the Treasurer for the sum thus found to be due; such order shall in all cases be signed by the President and in all cases the scalp of the dead animal shall be surrendered by the parties to whom the premium is awarded and shall be destroyed in the presence of the awarding committee, or a majority of them; provided, wolves or other animals killed by poison shall not be deemed to come within the rules of the club, or be paid for from its funds.

RULES.

1. The boundaries of this club shall be as follows: Commencing at the city of Salem, and running up Mill Creek to Turner, thence along the line of the O. & C. Railroad to Jefferson, thence down the Santiam river to the Willamette river, thence down the Willamette to Salem. Provided, any wolf or other animal whose destruction is paid for by this club which is started inside of these bounds shall be deemed taken within the bounds although it may have been killed outside, and any wolf or other animal which shall be started outside of these limits, though killed within them shall not be paid for by this club.

2. Each member shall pay to the Treasurer of this club, upon joining the same, the sum of one dollar and the additional sum of fifty cents for each wolf or other animal killed and paid for by the club. Provided, the awarding committee shall have power to raise or lower the assessment as it may be found necessary to carry out the requirements of this rule.

3. The small wolf or coyote shall be

the unit for the destruction of which twenty-five dollars shall be paid by the club. A wild cat shall rate at one-half that sum or twelve dollars and fifty cents. A large wolf at double the rate of a coyote or fifty dollars, and a panther or cougar at fifty dollars.

4. When a premium has been awarded and paid, the secretary shall, upon the order of the awarding committee issue to the members of the club notices of an assessment so as to keep the treasury replenished to meet the requirements of this club.

The following became members: Lewis Pettijohn, H. E. Ankeny, T. L. Davidson, G. H. Croisier, I. M. Wagner, M. R. Moor, H. P. Minto, A. Hogg, Prof. T. C. Jory, and A. F. Davidson.

A Disease in Sheep—Who Can Give a Cure.

CRESWELL, OR., Jan. 2, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

We take the FARMER because we like its make up and wish it could be placed in every farmer's family on this north-west coast, and farther, we wish more farmers would write their experiences for publication. We are always interested in reading letters written of personal experience from farmers and their wives and children, but I think, judging from self standpoint, that many will say that they cannot write anything that will interest others, and furthermore that we have so much to do. Our reading matter must not be laid aside any more than our out door work can be neglected and so when can we get time to put our thoughts on paper for the benefit of others. But if we farmers neglect to send along our items for publication we hope our editor will circulate more among the farmers and gather them up for us. We would gladly welcome him this way.

There is in this section much mystery as to what ails the sheep and causes them to die. It has been generally laid to the leach and that they had become so diseased by running on low lands or around muddy springs. We were told by knowing ones that if we would examine the liver we would find the duct full of leach. Some two years ago we examined carefully six in succession directly after death and only found leach in one of them. Since then my neighbors and myself have from time to time given a careful examination to see if the presence of leach could be detected and on some we could find from four to six while in others not a leach could be found. Some grow poor and some die in good order so far as outward appearances showed. Some few swell under chops but most of them do not. Some cough and others do not, but all have more or less red water around the heart from four to six quarts. In some the liver is spotted or mottled; in others there would be hard dryish spots in the liver. All of which goes to show that it is a diseased liver together with dropsy that takes them off. We have read all the works that we could get on the diseases of sheep but do not as yet find any that give the proper name for it. We have tried the various remedies that we have seen published for the cure of leach or as a check, but without apparent success. The best guard against it is to have plenty of good grass. We are led to believe that the cause of so much loss in sheep is because we pasture too close, thereby driving the sheep to eat this ground moss or something else that does not agree with them.

Who can give us any light upon this subject from their personal experience.

N. A. W. HOWE.

The Mortgage Tax Law and Its Effects.

NEW ERA, OR., Jan. 10, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

This tax question seems to be almost threadbare, but still as I am pursued I do not propose to give up the field, providing you will indulge me with a little more room in your valuable paper.

So far as my observation goes the man who is out of debt has good reason to complain as he has an unjust proportion of the taxes placed upon him. I was talking the other day with a man

who has two brothers living near him, he said he was the poorest by odds of the three. The other two were a little in debt and by that means he pays more taxes than both of them. A horse was bought for \$150, the horse was assessed at \$50; the indebtedness taken out covers what the horse is assessed at and \$100 of other property besides, which in fact the man who holds the note pays. All there is in the case that is assessable is the horse and he is valued at but \$50. Now you will say the horse was not assessed high enough; that is fine logic that side foremost. But the man who had the horse in his possession when assessed did not complain as the assessor said he always aimed to estimate property at what he thought it would be sure to bring in cash at a forced sale. It gave a solid base to the property estimate of a county. I will confess that I have never raised a disturbance with an assessor for valuing my property too low nor have I ever heard of any of my neighbors doing it, and I will venture an opinion that none of those who have been after me with red hot pencils in the Disseminator, have ever raised a row with the assessor for undervaluing their property. Therefore if he gives general satisfaction, why begin any complaints? I still continue to believe that the most correct way to collect taxes is to assess all property and money in whosever hands it is found. Say, for instance, on the first Monday in May. Knowing nothing about notes, mortgages or accounts. Taking out nor allowing any indebtedness whatever. In fact keeping out of other peoples business. Simply let everybody pay the taxes on all the property they have in their possession upon a certain fixed day. Blanks can be sent out among the people to be filled out upon that day, which they must swear to, if called on to do so, by the person who is authorized in each district to take them up.

Should the Scotch loan company win the suits they have commenced against the different counties, would it not place capital that claims its home in Oregon to disadvantage? Well, it is about the way the present system of doing business generally comes out. When one man takes money belonging to another to use, let him become responsible for the taxes on that money, although it may for a short time seem a burden upon the borrower, but I firmly believe that money would be induced to come here into the State so he could soon borrow under conditions far more favorable to himself than at present. The present law is doing a good job of keeping money out of the State and there are some who will find it out before six months.

THOMAS BUCKMAN.

Renovating old Orchards.

PORTLAND, OR., Jan. 10, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In your issue of December 28th your correspondent writing from Hayward, California, offers some timely suggestions about renovating old orchards. Now that the completion of the Northern Pacific affords facilities to the farmers of Oregon for reaching a sure market for all their surplus fruit products there is no longer any excuse for neglecting the orchards which 20 or 25 years ago were a source of so much profit and was the pride of Oregon. Of late years they have been badly neglected, pruning and cultivation abandoned because, said the farmers, "It don't pay." It is a painful sight to ride over the valley and see this neglect; in some instances to see old orchards turned out into the commons like an old blind horse that has become useless, to die of neglect. There is no longer any excuse for them can be renovated and made to pay, acre for acre, better than the best wheat fields in the most prosperous years and most favorable markets. Let the work of renovating commence this spring; let it be thorough and complete and not neglected for any other work considered of more importance. Commence with the pruning knife and saw and remove the dead and superfluous branches, scrape off the moss

and old bark and give them a washing with lime or soap applied with a white-wash brush; then apply a top dressing of manure about the trees. It is the work of years to plant, cultivate and bring a young orchard into profitable bearing. The old ones will pay well the first season for the labor and expense bestowed upon their renovation and will improve year after year if rightly cared for. It is true we planted in early days some varieties that we would drop entirely if planting again for we have learned something by experience. But these varieties if not so useful as others we might name can all be utilized by canning, drying or made into jelly or marmalade. There is a market for immense quantities of such products, and here an opening for a new industry in Oregon. We have the material and may harvest the crop before the present year closes. The fairest and finest varieties can be shipped to Eastern cities as green fruit, and all others canned or dried. Every farmer who raises a surplus of fruit should have a dryer. Good evaporated fruit will find a ready market and in this way all can be saved.

I notice the causes and the cure of dry rot in apples is receiving attention from some of your correspondents and should like to see a satisfactory conclusion arrived at.

I cannot quite agree with your correspondent, Mr. Jessup, for I saw Oregon apples in her "palmy days"—from 1856 to 1870 when a commission merchant in San Francisco I handled thousands of boxes of Oregon apples every steamer during the flush season. I can name certain varieties that were in those days badly affected with dry rot so as to naturally affect their value. In some varieties that trouble still exists while in others it has materially disappeared. In those earlier days good care and cultivation has prevailed. In my mind there is some other cause of dry rot which I do not understand. I trust the investigation may continue till we ascertain the cause and find a remedy. Let us have more light.

J. B. KSAPP.

The Northern Edge of Marion County.

MONITOR, OR., Jan. 1, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Fall wheat looks well in this part of the county and nearly all the farmers have put their spare time in by doing the fall plowing and getting ready for early spring sowing. We all look ahead for large crops the coming season.

Mr. Joseph Ross, of Butte Creek, has a fine span of horses that are very sick with the staggers and are expected to die. The staggers is a very bad disease and farmers ought not to keep their horses too fat in the winter season, or give them too much dry feed. They don't exercise enough and this is the cause of this disease. Give your horses plenty of salt and oak ashes. To cure the staggers, boil oats and barley and feed when cold. Feed as much as you think best, but don't give them any dry feed, even though they are crazy for it. Give them plenty of exercise and don't over-heat them for if you do your horse is gone up. Follow the directions and you will not be bothered with blind staggers.

Mr. P. K. Johnson, of Ray, recently lost a valuable span of horses by over driving and then giving them too much cold water, and washing them off with cold water. I hope that all of you who are a friend to your faithful animal will take warning from this and take good care of your dumb friend. J. W. T.

[NOTE.—The staggers seems to be quite general, we will reproduce an article on this subject published last year from Dr. Jas. Withersombe, in our next.—Ed.]

Another Farm Gate.

CRESWELL, OR., Jan. 7, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have just been looking over an article in your paper styled the Farm Gate. As I am a farmer I have the right to and know how to appreciate the gate.

But must beg leave to differ with the writer in some respects, to wit:

As to having as few of them as possible. I think the farmer should have a good gate wherever it is necessary to pass through the fence, and to have every field and lot furnished with one, sufficiently wide as to admit of any farm machinery to pass through with ease. But if I had to proceed to as much labor and experience as he speaks of in order to secure one, no doubt I should have but few. What the farmer needs and wants is a way of making a good substantial gate with as little cost as possible, and one that will swing clear and easy on either level or hilly ground and not sag. Now I have a plan and method of making and supporting a gate, from six feet wide to that of sixteen, that will work easy and swing clear either on level or hill side land. All that is necessary to make one is to have six-inch fence boards the length you want the gate, and three pieces four and one half feet long of the same material, forty wrought nails, common fence posts six and one-half feet long and thirty feet of fence wire. I can take that much material and make and hang a gate that will not sag.

M. J. H.

NOTE.—Our correspondent has sent us the "ingredients" and he must give the cure.—Ed.

Ohio Correspondence.

LEONARDSBURG, Dec. 31, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In this age of variegated sunrises and sunsets, of crop failures and disappointments, of dull times and political treachery, I have drawn consolation from the FARMER and read with interest many items in it, as from thousands of miles away its honest moral face puts in its appearance from time to time. Your passing notice of the Elementary spelling book revived in my mind many almost hallowed memories of backwoods settlements, of log school houses, of large families, of scholars in blue jeans and red flannels, of beach fires and parched corn, of spelling schools and itinerant shadblowies and saddlebags, the itch and log-rollings, quiltings and cabin raisings, unselfish and friendly neighbors, scrub cattle and the murrain, sugar making and frogs, wolves and wild turkeys, the tinkling of cowbells and the screaming of male bovines in defiance, as from herd to herd they would answer each other, often ending in deadly rencounter, an occasional red man, and but one nigger in Delaware county, Pompey King, who had been a servant of Washington; Delaware with five hundred inhabitants; the seat of government at Franklinton, or Berkshire, or Granville, or Zanesville, or Chillicothe, forever passed from them, and Columbus, their proud rival, rising slowly and steadily amongst the stumps and swales of Scioto bottoms, I thought to myself, such is the romance of pioneer life, "carry me back." But to go back again to the starting point, I would say that this was the era of good spelling, and forty years of pedagogy, with its changes in school-books, especially spelling books, has been for the worse instead of the bettering of that most useful accomplishment, is the result of experience, and I believe you will agree with me in claiming the Elementary to be second to none as a spelling book, notwithstanding the date of its publication.

The new year now approaching brings with it many grave problems, whilst it relieves us from December with its fitful changes from rain to sleet, and from sleet to violent storms of wind and snow, the thermometer playing up and down like a striking machine among drunken boys at a county fair. Corn rotting in the shock, or in the crib, Kansas shipping corn to supply one of the great corn growing regions of the world, and yet fat hogs only worth four cents a pound. These are not pleasant things to contemplate or realize, yet they are stubborn facts, and their effects are manifest in the sales of real estate for the purpose of seeking a new equable climate. Delaware has a representative in the person of Stephen L. Cruikshank, now in Oregon, seeking a home; many others are awaiting his decision whether it be Washington, Oregon or Nebraska.

But of 1884, what shall we say. Under present auspices our currency will be meddled with, our tariff doctored,

whether it makes it worse or better; a chief magistrate must be chosen (and God grant it may not be some old standing candidate); the great agricultural domain of Alaska must have a good republican government; and some Norman and Clydesdale horses imported; old war memories will have to be dug up and got ready for the campaign; shot-gun practice revived around ballot boxes, and religious intimidation, with its potent corrective influences, used on darkies and presumptuous Republicans who dare to desecrate the sanctity of the ballot box down "thar," and we pause and ponder.

I saw by the Herald and Presbyter that Portland had two Presbyterian churches, and both had large accessions recently. This speaks well for Portland as well as for this very respectable branch of Zion.

I wish you and your many readers a happy new year, a prosperous journey through life, and rest beyond life's fitful scenes, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. So mote it be.

JOHN WATERS.

OUR ILLUMINED SALES.

It is singular enough to watch the sun rise or set and see the wonderful illumination of the upper sky an hour or so after or before the sun touches the horizon. Sunday evening there were clouds that looked dark and forbidding, but they were near by and the crimson glow that lasted long after sunset was in the far beyond. Monday evening the sun went down, out of our vision, at five o'clock and soon the wondrous illumination began on the southwest. There was no cloud to be seen. The sky was clear; lustrous stars looked through it everywhere. After the sun went down the crimson glow came and spread beautifully, gradually fading away an hour and a half after the sun disappeared. There are various theories as to the cause of this strange lustre in the upper heaven, for this matter, whatever it is, is said by scientists to be over fifty miles high. Some say it is "cosmic dust" that floats through space and is held in the very highest atmosphere. It must be very light, whatever it is, and the only pretense that claims it to be of earthly origin, suggests that it is smoke or vapor from some of the volcanic disturbances that occurred last fall. That theory is often accepted. Many say it must be that the earth is wrapped in the tail of some comet and it only shows in this way. It is something strange and uncommon and has been seen all over America and a great part of Europe.

THE BEST APPLES TO DRY.

A subscriber writes to ask what are the best varieties of apples for drying. We do not profess to be good authority on this subject but we know that of early apples the Red Astrachan dries best and makes the best kind of dried fruit. The Waxen is a very excellent cooking apple and is as good fruit as can be when dried. It lasts a long time, has solid flesh and makes a good yield. For that purpose it ranks among the best. The Baldwin is excellent to dry, Santa Clara Cider, the Fall Pippin, in fact any good tart apple can be dried, but some folks so jilicy that it dries away too much. For setting out an orchard to dry fruit is not advisable to have many varieties to have fruit that will come in sequence and afford business through the whole season. The Astrachan is early, the Waxen comes in early autumn. You can afford to plant a great many of these and the Baldwin's. You must find out the varieties that thrive best in that locality and soil. Any friend who can give fuller information on this topic is invited to do so.

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