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Notice to Subscribers.

TO OUR READERS: We publish only a sufficient number of the FARMER to supply actual prepaid subscribers and we cannot supply back numbers. If it is desired by subscribers to secure all issues they must arrange to send in their renewals in ample time to reach this office before expiration.

THE MORTGAGE TAX LAW requires that all mortgages shall be taxed and as mortgages are recorded in the books of record the only way the tax collector can get at them is to take these records and make a list of them. At least that is what the assessor of Marion county did, as we are told, last year, the effect of which was to greatly increase the assessment roll of that county.

CONGRESS has before it several bills for the control of inter-State commerce, which means for the control of the transportation system of the United States, where railroads, for instance, lie in the territory of more than one State, for any company whose business is all within a State must be governed by the laws of that State.

SENATOR DOLPH shows excellent sense in asking Congress to appropriate \$750,000 for the canal and locks at the Cascades of the Columbia. The work done there has been of the best order and looks as if it would last forever. Then there will be the work of getting around the Dalles, that will cost millions more.

WE HEAR of a young man, or at least one just in life's prime, who by hard work in his profession made a good start, say \$10,000 or \$12,000, and having made a really shrewd investment in Albina he sold out in the nick of time and realized nearly \$50,000, which he put into Oregon and Transcontinental and lost, not only all his speculative gains but his professional earnings, the result of a dozen years of hard labor.

and for life in London, to die, and still the lights of London glimmer and entice other young to rush thither and meet their fate—so often an unhappy one.

THE CITIZENS of Marion county have been somewhat exercised, as we learn, over the increased taxes put upon them. If not increased taxation at least increased assessment. We met a gentleman a few days since who, at the request of one of his own near relatives, had been to the assessment roll to discover the cause of the trouble.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

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HARD TIMES.

THERE is no evading the conclusion that our region is experiencing hard times. There are abundant reasons for it and we certainly have it. The collapse of railroad matters cost the money men of Portland probably not less than five millions of dollars.

henry, but that has gone past and our wheat fields are in perfect condition. If the Pacific Northwest reaps a good harvest and has full crops of all sorts for 1884 we can defy all troubles. So far as we can judge the winter has proved favorable to stock. If March does not come as a terror the wool clip will be large and all stock will come out of the winter in good order.

THE EFFECT of this money stringency will be to prevent building and development at Portland on the scale anticipated. There will be depreciation in real estate there, and very likely elsewhere. Farming lands can hardly be held at supreme figures when the country is universally "hard up."

"A little farm well tilled," Almost as much as in the twin of the couplet.

"A little wife well willed," There is nothing better than both combined.

ANSWERING A FRIENDLY LETTER.

WE have a kind letter from an old friend of the FARMER, Mark Sawyer, Esq., of McMinnville, who complains of the FARMER's position on the tax law and says: "Some think you made money by so doing."

THE FARMER deserves credit for introducing at an early day, the need of amendment to the tax law so as to include all money and make tax returns explicit beyond the possibility of evasion.

WANTS OF FARMERS.

MR. J. C. Bushnell writes to us: "I have often thought it would be a good plan to devote a small space in the FARMER to the 'Wants' of the farmer. We farmers sometimes want help and don't know just where to find it, while, if we could make our wants known through the columns of 'our paper,' which is read by thousands every week, we might get what we want without having to wait very long."

TO this sensible and practical suggestion we say that we will insert such notices in the FARMER, in a special column, for five cents a line for one issue and ten cents for one month. This is a low rate, the lowest at which we take regular displayed advertising, but we will do all we can to favor the farmer without losing money at it.

Stockmen from Eastern Oregon who visit Portland say the season has been very favorable for all kinds of stock, cattle not only make a live of it but actually have kept in fair order.

THE ASTORIA RAILROAD AND NEHALEM COAL FIELDS.

IT seems probable that Congress will revoke the land grant from Astoria at the request of one thousand or more citizens of that place and elsewhere, who believe that the interest controlling the grant has no wish to build or see a railroad built there. It is claimed that there are wealthy parties who are desirous of developing the country back of Astoria, who will build this road if the land grant is revoked, but will not do so while it exists.

IT seems that there are immense deposits of coal of excellent quality back of Astoria, on the line of the proposed railroad, and the intention will be to develop all the resources of that region. These comprise, besides coal, deposits of iron and forests of very excellent timber. Astorians assert that Villard and his associates have been interested in the Oregon Improvement Company, that owns the roads and mines connecting with Seattle, and were therefore interested in not having another mining district opened to come in competition with that.

IMPROVING OUR RIVERS.

WE are all interested in having the commerce of our country facilitated for that which reduces charges on transportation. Our producers pay the towage and the pilotage on the Columbia river. Their crops load the ships and the freight charge is a lien on the cargo. The entrance of the Columbia river will now admit a vessel to cross drawing twenty-three feet, which will accommodate the larger number of sea going vessels but the ships drawing heavily are the ones that regulate freight charges.

IT is impossible to drive piling in that Columbia entrance sand. No power can force a timber down, but Astoria parties have a simple invention that does it for nominal expense. An iron pipe goes down along side the stick and a pump forces water down it, so the action of the water washes out the sand and the timber goes down by its own weight.

THE sensible thing to be done is for our government to try this experiment and, commencing at Clatsop Point drive out a few hundred yards of such piling and watch the result. If it works well the piling can be continued as far as necessary. The surf was washing away Clatsop Point so that it was actually a few years ago that Fort Stevens would be swept into the sea. It seems that the pier we have alluded to has served the purpose of resisting the

surf and has created a sea wall that has possible the fort. With this actual experience in favor of the piling project it does seem as if Congress should make the experiment and see all those millions can be saved. At Puget Sound an insect—the torredo—eats all wood, such as piling, but the water of the mouth of the Columbia is too fresh to allow them to live.

WINTER WHEAT.

MR. D. T. Phillips, of Forest Grove, has been visiting a son at Salem, lately, and from him we learn of a kind of wheat that stood all the frosts of last winter. It seems that at an early day Gen. Lane brought to Oregon, the seed of a wheat that is variously termed, being called "white Tennessee wheat" for one, and known in Washington county as "Phillips' wheat", because a brother of Mr. Phillips brought the seed back with him to Forest Grove when he returned from a visit to Douglas county, the home of General Lane.

IT is Mr. Phillips' opinion that this wheat will resist any winter weather. The fact that it is gross grower necessitates a large and strong root and that no doubt gave it capacity to resist the winter when most other varieties failed. We asked if he ever pastured it, and he said he once permitted a man to turn a hungry band of cattle on a piece of it. They ate it off clean to the ground, literally mowed it, and that was in April but it made a growth of six feet and three inches after that.

THE OREGON SHORT LINE.

IT seems that the Oregon Short Line railroad has designs that reach beyond a connection with the O. R. & N. Company at Snake river. The engineers of that company were running preliminary lines down Snake river in the direction of Lewiston last year and very recently they seem to have been surveying for a route across Middle Oregon to cross the Cascade mountains into the Willamette valley.

THEY also say they have laid out a good and feasible route from Snake river, bending around the Blue Mountains to the south and following water courses in a natural way from the Blue Mountains to the Cascades without encountering impassable gorges or high ridges. As soon as Spring shall open, this force of engineers will survey the routes across the Cascade. At present they seem to think the choice will lie between the Minto Pass, that crosses on the route of the North Santiam near the base of Mount Jefferson, and a pass further south, this side of the Penagra route.

movements with interest. It may be possible that it is the Short Line that is proposing to build a railroad from Astoria to Tualatin plains as soon as the land grant is revoked.

SALMON SEASON OF 1884.

THE Astorian says that already preparations are being made for the coming run of fish. Material such as salt, tin, twine, etc., are being brought from the wharves to the canneries. Boats and nets are being overhauled and put in order, though not as active as in former years. Co-operation and a uniformity in the price of the fish caught is necessary to the owners of canneries. It is asserted that the high prices paid last year will break up every establishment, while the fisherman did not reap any benefit, as the eighty and ninety cents paid for each fish only increased the number of fisherman, so lessening the average catch of each man.

THE days of big profits are gone as is the case in every other business nowadays. The N. P. R. R. has done one grand thing. Heretofore the salmon had to be shipped to California where it was liable to be relabeled as Sacramento fish, which is not as good as that caught in the Columbia river. The Northern Pacific will carry it directly East and it sustains its own representation.

THOMAS CROSS died Tuesday night of complicated diseases, and after severe suffering. He came to Oregon over thirty years ago and has been one of our most enterprising citizens. As a stock man he had few equals. As a good man, though somewhat impracticable, he commanded respect. As a friend he was worth having and we feel that we have lost a friend. Mr. Cross was over sixty years of age, probably nearly seventy, and led a very active life, rendering much good to farming and stock interests, though not eventually successful. There are some men who find life a struggle and meet it manfully. He did. Whatever may be said of him and his faults, his good qualities predominated and he always meant to do right. He was sincerely a Christian and now, that life troubles are over, he will find, we and many hope, peace and rest beyond the confines of Life and Time, and work to do in the great field of immortality. Farewell.

Hazlett, the pilgrim printer, is again heard from. The last time it was Arizona that this famous typo was heard from; now it is the Walla Walla look-up that holds his restless spirit. The last time we saw him, some three years ago, he was standing on a Portland street corner. He stood with his arms folded, Spartan like, and immovable, watching with contemptuous indifference his fellow unfortunates of the calaboose as they slowly and unwillingly swept the ever dirty streets of our metropolitan city. For his contumacy he wore a ball and chain. We turned away in sorrow and pity. We ought to be able to afford a "character" even if we have not the antiquity of a London, or the advantages of "Courts," "Inns," and a "Temple Bar" in which to hide its old inhabitants. Dickens would have made Hazlett immortal.

OLDS & KING, 186 First Street, PORTLAND, OR. We call special attention to our Large Assortment of LADIES AND CHILDREN'S CLOAKS. Which we offer at the lowest possible prices for good goods. Our stock of dry goods is always kept complete in every department. By sending an order to us by mail any reader of the FARMER can obtain goods as satisfactorily as if personally in our store.

Sedgwick Steel Wire Fence. In the only general purpose wire fence we have a double line of wire, which will hold down, resist, and resist, as well as all other fences. It is the only fence that will hold down, resist, and resist, as well as all other fences. It is the only fence that will hold down, resist, and resist, as well as all other fences.