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OFFICE OF WLILAMETTE FARMER,) February 28, 1883.

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"WILLAMETTE PARMER,"

MANYONE RECEIVING A COPY OF THIS PAPER WILL CONSIDER IT AN INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE.

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. As these county records have been kept a long there ere a great many mortgages on record. A great many of them have been baid off, but the records do not show that they have been cancelled as they ought to. This is due to neglect, for whenever a mortgage is paid off the holder of it should go to the clerks office, take the book of mortgages, find the record of that particular one, and endorse on the margin in red ink a statement of its cancellation, duly dated and signed. Owing legislation for the preservation of poputo the universal carelessness of all parties to mortgages the assessor seems to have made returns of a great number of paid up mortgages and the county has returned the same to the State. The effeet is that the county must pay the State tax on all these mortgages and will come out heavily loser unless some way of relief can be devised.

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 Our members of Congress must use all their efforts to secure the improvement of the great river so that it can do its share towards transporting the products of the country to the sea and to the world. Portland will evidently find competition there is need for permanent out that her prosperity depends greatly authority to hold them in subjection to journal took such grounds. Now that tation. If steamboats can run from As- very steadily and they have such finantoris to Colvide and Lewiston all the cial strength to be plain such wealth lation, to force money to make returns, year round Portland has nothing to fear at command to buy their way through and have shown that a very complete from any city growing upon Puget all courts and legislatures, the public Sound. The producers of the whole fearthat it is too often done. But while northwest are interested in having our the power of capital increases there is an reaches mortgages. rivers made navigable so they can assist increasing spirit of opposition to moncommerce. Water transportation is cheaper than land travel and Congress force that it will end in revolution if no amendment to the tax law so as to incan well efford to spend the millions other means exists to secure justice in clude all money and make tax returns necessary for this country is well worth that connection. It is right that the indeveloping. We can raise fifty millions teresis of the people should be protected is well worth the encouragement of Congress.

work in his profession made a good start, as for the public. Whatever will secure say \$10,000 or \$12,000, and having made to them a fair rate of earnings, without a really shrewd investment in Albina he public projudice or undue rivalry besold out in the nick of time and realized tween competing vailroads, will be as nearly \$50,000, which he put into Ore-gon and Transcontinental and lost, not the public. gon and Transcontinental and lost, not only all his speculative gains but his professional carnings, the result of a dozen years of hard labor. The man who found himself on the road to for that our region is experiencing hard time suddenly saw his lucky speculation times. There are abundant reasons for it it until his mind gave way and he is of railroad matters cost the monied men striking illustration of the unhealthiness millions of dellars. The stoppage of of making money too easy. Money work to some extent and the retrench-The farmer who prudently lives and works capitalists. Money is made scarce by has the most certain success and if he is this deficit of \$5,000,000. People are exhappy than mere worldlings are. The and in some places distress is occasioned. play "Lights o' London" teaches a les- The worst cause of all is the failure of son. The young go to the great city full crops in a measure through the whole of hope and greet its thousand lights as Columbia region. When the farmer they strike the eye. The old go back falls behind the world suffers. The crop wearily to the old country home, poor prospects are fairly good. Last year our the not only make a live of it but actualand, broken with the fierce battle of life, worst weather came the first week in Feb. 11y have kept in fair order.

their fate so often an unhappy one.

THE CITIZENS of Marion county have been somewhat exorcised, as we learn, over the increased taxes put upon them. If not increased taxation at least increased assessment. We met a gentle man 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. This gentle owner, and he found his own land assessed at \$12 an acre for 1883 that had never before been rated higher than \$10. acting as a representative of others, he made the desired investigation. It seems the assessor had heard many complaints that the law required full valuation of property and that valuations were never half, scarce one-third, the value of land, assessment to more nearly comply with the law. Our friend laughed heartily as he explained the matter. Said he: You have been right all the time in the FARMER, when you stated that all prop erty was assessed for below its value. We have all been having our land appraised at \$10 an acre and are excited over it because the assessor has this year put the assessment at \$12 an acre. Now, the fact is, there is not one of us would sell his farm and improvements for less \$30 an acre, and you see what a stir we all make when our land is assessed at 40 per cent, when before we have only been assessed at 30 per cent of its actual value."

INTER-STATE COMMERCE,

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. The public demand fair lar rights but we see it intimated that the most that can be expected is the creation of something like a National Advisory Commission, similar to the railroad commissions of Massachusetts and New York, and authorized to examine into and report on matters to which their attention is called. Perhaps such a commission, if well conducted and consisting of men reliably friendly to popular rights, may do good work, but the anti-monopolists of the country will not be satisfied with half way measures but will demand radical action to control the great corporations and restrict their ability to impose charges on the public. There must be eventually, strong action on the part of the States and the United States, to control transportation. There is a deep-scated feeling that the great corporations have too much license; that their power to impose taxes has no limit, and as rathroads are seldom actually in reason. The power of corporations grows opoly in the land which acquires such way to secure peace and harmony. The establishing of some such control as will WE HEAR of a young man, or at least secure justice and fair dealing all round, one just in life's prime, who by hard fis as much for the interest of corporations

There is no evading the conclusion disappear in thin sir. He griered over and we certainly have it. The collapse watched now by keepers. Here is a of Portland probably not less than five made or carned in the regular way gives ment that has been commenced on all times in the FARMER, in a special column. more estisfaction and is more apt to last. sides affects thousands who were not for five cents a line for one issue and our government to try this experiment his set are taking some interest in the contented, withal, he is happy, more acting payments of accounts due them

and for life in London, to die, and still reary, but that has gone past and our the lights o' London glimmer and entice wheat fields are in perfect condition. If other young to rush thither and meet the Pacific Northwest reaps a good harvest and has full crops of all sorts for 1884 we can dely 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. We all look to the prospect the labors of our producers being abundantly blessed with feelings of intense interest.

The effect of this money stringency man is a practical farmer and a land will be to prevent building and develop ment at Portland on the scale anticipated. There will be depreciation in real estate there, and very likely elsewhere. Having this personal interest, as well as Farming lands can hardly be held at supreme figures when the country is universally "hard up." Mechanics will not find work as readily nor wages as good as in 1883. The general drawing in of expenditures will be a healthy indication, for economy will so he added a little to former rates of bring us out of trouble. We are not croaking, nor do we wish to discourage the world around us. We have many blessings and great advantages, but the farmer can make up his mind to go slow for once, and try to go sure. 'Slow and sure" is the watchword for the present time. All the natural resources of our the roads and mines connecting with wonderful country remain unimpaired; all we have to do is to work on cautiously not having another mining district and prudently. Many a farmer is involved because he wanted to increase his that. However this may be, Oregoniacres. Many have done so and now wish they had not. There is a world of up Oregon, and will be pleased to know meaning to that little line.

> "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 ombined.

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." Evidently our friend does not think so, so we wont fret ourselves about his neighbors who probably borrow his paper and have opinions that do not cost them anything. We hear this accusation from different sources and what we wish to know from these wise people is: Who is there to pay us for our opinion? It is so easy for people to be suspicious and unjust that we make no complaint to this unjustice, but we do feel that the WILLAMETTE FARMER is entitled to the respect and confidence of the farmers of this region. So far as it is possible we study their interest and have never failed them and it is unpleasant to see a disposition to mistrust. The tax law of to-day partially fills a want this paper was the first to set forth. At least three years ago we showed that ten millions of money escaped assessment and protested against it. The law as it stands is in a great measure the result of the constant presentation of the need of such a law in this paper, because no other leading this law is passed, we have shown again and again that we need still more legissystem of returns is necessary. This law is good as far as it goes, but it only

The FARMER deserves credit for introducing at an early day, the need of explicit beyond the possibility of evasion. The present law is only partial in of bushels of wheat for export and that by the government, and there is no other its operation and money still evades the assessor. Let us bave a law made by the next Legislature that will require a written statement with oath made to it. And let there be such a penalty as will make it dangerous to trifle with law.

WANTS OF FARMERS.

read by thousands every week we might they could build out a pier of piling that heard we conclude that the Union Pawait very long."

tion we say that we will insert such no. of the projected stone wall. losing money at it.

Stockmen from Eastern Oregon who visit Portland say the season has been very favorable for all kinds of stock, catTHE ASTORIA RAILROAD AND NEHALEM COAL FIELDS

It seems probable that Congress will believe that the interest controlling the there are wealthy parties who are desir-live. ous 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. The idea is that the land grant will enable the owners of it to build a competing road at any time build such a road now, so they ask its such grants and especially so where no effort has been made to build the roads.

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. had cultivated this wheat with success 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 ans are all interested in whatever builds Nehalem country will furnish mines of great importance, as well as timber, that can be brought to the Columbia or its bays, and create a coal and timber trade equal to that on the Sound. Of course, the world's demand for timber will increase in the future, and so will the demand for coal on this coast. We may then look for the development of great interests in that direction. Astorians say, that as the coal districts exist half way to Forest Grove, there will be inducements to build through and give connection with the Willamette valley.

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 A ship that can carry three thousand tons amounts to something in the way of competition. There are times, however, when the Columbia bar is not safe for ships drawing twenty-me feet. The

surf and has created a sea wall that has movements with interest. It may be saved the fort. With this actual experience in favor of the piling project it proposing to build a railroad from Astorevoke the land grant from Astoria at does seem as if Congress should make ria to Tualatin plains as soon as the the request of one thousand or more cit- the experiment and see all those millions land grant is revoked. izens of that place and elsewhere, who can be saved. At Puget Sound an insect-the toredo-eats all wood, such as grant has no wish to build or see a rail- piling, but the water of the mouth of the road built there. It is claimed that Columbia is too fresh to allow them to

WINTER WMEAT.

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 in the price of the fish caught is necesand is a threat against those who shall winter. It seems that at an early day Gen. Lane brought to Oregon, the seed of repeal and will no doubt be successful. a wheat that is variously termed, being The temper of the country is against called "white Tennessee wheat" for one, and known in Washington county as "Phillips' wheat" because a brother of paid for each fish only increased the Mr. Phillips brought the seed back with him to Forest Grove when he returned average catch of each man. from a visit to Douglas county, the home of General Lane. Mr. Phillips but had abandoned it for other kinds on account of its rank growth. It often made a growth of six feet in height and was therefore difficult to harvest, being apt to fall down, in fact it would fall down a good deal, so he tried something Seattle, and were therefore interested in else. Last year a neighbor, whose field touches him, sowed some of this White opened to come in competition with Tennessee and Chile Club wheat on twenty acres of summer-fallow. In the spring the Chile Club was all killed, just as it was in all other localities, but the that there is a great probability that the White Tennesse was there, alive and most enterprising citizens. As a stock well. It was thin on the ground but made a fair crop.

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 isked if he ever pastured it, and he said he once permitted a man to turn a hun gry band of cattle on a piece of it. They atc it off clean to the ground, literally mowed it, and that was in Aprilbut it made a growth of six feet and three inches after that. An argument that lifes troubles are over, he will find, he advanced in favor of drilling in wheat at a good depth was that when it was in deep enough and well rooted there was youd the confines of Life and Time, and less danger of its falling down. There does not seem to be a general supply of White Tennessee wheat in the country but it can be had no doubt in the Umpqua. If our friends there know about it they will confer a favor if they will tell from; now it is the Walla Walla lock-up us their experience with it, and say if that holds his restless spirit. The last we describe it correctly and if it is the time we saw him, some three years ag same in Douglas county as Mr. Phillips he was standing on a Portland street co describes it in Washington county.

THE OREGON SHORT LINE.

It seems that the Oregon Short Line low unfortunates of the calaboose as they railroad has designs that reach beyond slowly and unwillingly swept the ever a connection with the O. R. & N. Com- dirty streets of our metropolitan city. pany at Snake river. The engineers of For his contumacy he wore a ball and bar is uncertain and needs to be made that company were running prelimina- chain. We turned away in sorrow and certain. In 1881, engineers came out to ry lines down Snake river in the direc pity. We ought to be able to afford a examine and report on the work neces- tion of Lewiston last year and very resary to improve the ocean entrance and cently they seem to have been surveying tiquity of a London, or the advantages after studying the subject carefully de- for a route across Middle Oregon to of "Courts," "Inns," and a "Temple Bar" cided in favor of a stone wall to cost cross the Cascade mountains into the Dickens would have made Hazlett im over \$3,000,000, to run out from Clatsop Willamette valley. Mr. John Hacklepoint across the line of breakers. The man, who was assistant State Treasurer Astoria chamber of commerce advocated some half dozen years ago, returned the driving of piles in place of a stone last week from Prineville, where he rewall, claiming that sand and brush, logs, sides and says he had very lately piloted etc., would gather and make a permanent a corps of engineers belonging to the sea wall. Since then their theory has Short Line, from the crossing of the Debeen sustained by the history of piers schutes to Black Butte, which is on the run out on the north-east from Clatsop line both of the Minto Pass road and Point. This fills up every year with the the Lebanon road. He says they found action of the tide and surf and has to be a much better route than they expected extended further as a consequence, and report that they found a good cross-This demonstrates that piling costing ing of Deschutes, thirty-five miles south one-tenth the money, can be made to of Prineville. They also say they have answer all the purpose of a stone wall. laid out a good and feasible route from It is impossible to drive piling in that Snake river, bending around the Blue Columbia entrance sand. No power can Mountains to the south and following force a timber down, but Astoria parties water courses in a natural way from the have a simple invention that does it for Blue Mountains to the Cascades without nominal expense. An irea pipe goes encountering impassable gorges or high Mr. J. C. Bushnell writes to us: "I down along side the stick and a pump ridges. As soon as Spring shall open, have often thought it would be a good forces water down it, so the action of this force of engineers will survey the plan to devote a small space in the FAR. the water washes out the sand and the routes across the Cascade. At present MER to the 'Wants' of the farmer. We timber goes down by its own weight, they some to think the choice will lie farmers sometimes want help and don't This has been tried successfully else- between the Minto Pass, that crosses on know just where to find it and have to where. The people who have the con- the route of the North Santiam near the wait until we can find it, while, if we tract to extend out the Fort Stevens pier base of Mount Jefferson, and a pass could make our wants known through told Gen. Miles, when he was there a further south, this side of the Pengra the columns of 'our paper,' which is few weeks ago, that they were confident route. From what we have seen and get what we want without having to would stand the surf and soon gather eific people have entertained an intenand hold fast a ridge of sand that would tion to have an independent route to the To this sensible and practical sugges, for small expense answer all the purpose mouth of the Columbia or to Paget Sound or both. The latest news from The sensible thing to be done is for New York shows that Jay Gould and ten cents for one month. This is a low sud, commencing at Classop Point Northern Pacific. It is predicted they rate, the lowest at which we take regu- drive out a few hundred yards of such will soon have control. If he controls lar displayed advertising, but we will do piling and watch the result. If it works both the Union Pacific and Northern Paall we can to favor the farmer without well the piling can be continued as far cific roads there will be no further inas necessary. The surf was washing ducement for him to build the Short away Clatsop Point so that it was ac- Line through as an independent entertually feared a few years ago that Fort prise. Then schemers who toss about Stevens would be swept into the sea. It millions so handily, work in the dark to accume that the pier we have alluded to a certain extent, and have to do so. We has served the purpose of resisting the shall watch the outcome of these railroad

possible that it is the Short Line that is

BALMON SEASON OF 1884.

The Astorian says that already prepa rations 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 sary 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 bonefit, as the eighty and ninety cents number of fisherman, so lessening the

. 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 relabled 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 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

ted and he always meant to do right. we and many hope, peace and rest bework to do in the great field of immortality. Farewell.

heard from. The last time it was Arizone that this famous typo was heard ner. He stood with his arms folded, Spartan like, and immovable, watching with contemptuous indifference his fel-

Hazlett, the pilgrim printer, is again

"character" even if we have not the an-



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