

# WILLAMETTE FARMER

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## Correspondence.

Senator Slater and the Protective System.

CANBY, Or., Feb. 11, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In your issue of the 25th ult. there is a review of Senator Slater. That review contains several fallacies; I am not disposed to criticize it at this time, but ask a brief space in your paper to show something of the injustice and inexpediency of a high protective tariff, which was the aim, object and end of Senator Slater's letter. I may be somewhat in the condition of the author of the review—as I now have on hand a small quantity of wool, the entire clip of two seasons, the selling price of which has been reduced as the result of reducing the duty on wool. But my little losses do not make any tariff just which would otherwise be unjust. This glorious government is mine; it is the government of the lordly manufacturer, and the princely merchant and bankers; and no more theirs than mine. And it is as much the government of every other farmer, stock or wool grower, every mechanic and laborer, every armless soldier and every other deserving fellow-citizen, as it is mine. The theory of our government is that it is a government of equal rights—it ought to be so practically. If this government is really a government of equal rights then exclusive rights should be excluded. The manufacturer says he has no exclusive privilege because the tariff law prohibits no one from becoming a manufacturer and all who are manufacturers are protected alike. There is no provision in the tariff law or any other statute law, which prohibits the beggar from being the owner of an iron foundry. There are laws, however, over which no human courts have jurisdiction, laws as potent and iron-clad as the laws of nature, which prevent very many from becoming the owners of cotton and woolen factories and iron foundries—these laws are the laws of situation and conditions and circumstances.

The pecuniary circumstances of the most of the farmers' and mechanics' and laboring men are such as to absolutely preclude them from becoming the owners of factories and foundries. Impossibilities are as prohibitive as statutes. Senator Slater's letter was written expressive of his convictions upon the great subject of equal rights. We believe that this government ought to be, if it is not, the impartial dispenser of equal and exact justice to all. We believe that desirable and commendable legislation is that which benefits the whole, or at least a majority of the people affected by it, and not such as benefits a few at the expense of the many. As between the wool growers and the great manufacturers who shot the present tariff law through Congress, the reduction on wool was unquestionably wrong—murderously so if you please—but neither Senator Slater or the Democratic party committed that murder; it was committed with malice afore thought, and in determined haste by the Republican party goaded on by the great manufacturers, regardless of everything which would not bring tolls to their mills. If a law which protects the manufacturer more than it does the wool grower, is still more unjust to those who are not protected at all. If it is unjust to those who are not protected at all. If it is unjust to make a distinction in favor of the great manufacturers against the wool growers, then it is still more unjust to make a distinction in favor of those manufacturers against the farmers, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, clergymen, artisans, miners and laborers who are all consumers. If the government gives or secures to one citizen \$1,000 and to another \$100, he who receives only the \$100 may complain of partiality, but certainly he has not as just cause of complaint as those who receive nothing and are taxed to pay the

whole. If this government was not intended to be, and is not and ought not to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people; but is in truth and of right ought to be and remain a government of the few, by the few, and for the few, then Senator Slater should obey the "command" of the wool growers because the wool growers are just as good and more deserving than the long protected manufacturers.

The review closes with two significant suggestions: One that "somebody will get hurt," and the other that factories are multiplying in the South. "Confession is good for the soul," and "self-preservation is the first law of nature;" "he who runs may read," and know that the present tariff, which increases the duty on some woolen goods, reduces it on wool, was enacted by the Republicans at the command of the great manufacturers. Perhaps some insane act of the great manufacturers was a necessity for the entire opening of the eyes of the whole people to their relative positions, interests and dangers. The present tariff would not have been what it is except upon the command and demand of the great manufacturers, empowered by caucus mandate; but it is what it is, and "somebody will get hurt."

Yes, factories are multiplying in the South. They have changed and they will change, and they generally change as business wisdom indicates. It is said that pig iron at this time is being manufactured in the South at a price so low that it is impossible for foreign pig iron to compete with it in the United States. There is a broad field in the South for wool growing and it is the home of cotton. Something is saved in transportation; something in fuel, and labor can be obtained a little cheaper there. In the North, now, factory operations are seriously intercepted, while in the South factory operations are much less intercepted. Our great flour mills, agricultural implement establishments and many other enterprises have struggled up under heavy tariff imposed burdens, and can now challenge competition at home, in all the European marts and in the remotest corners of the world; brains for their chief capital, and skill and energy for their chief stock in trade, have brought triumph, and I rejoice in that triumph. The great manufacturers of iron, cotton and woolen goods and other highly protected articles have had a "good thing" and there was no great necessity for economy, or great enterprise or energy as long as they could hold on to that "good thing," and they desire to hold to it forever and forevermore. The South, which asked for the first tariff, is now in its new life and enforced energy, seemingly advancing in demonstration of the fact that American manufacturers are capable of competing with foreign manufacturers. And New England, which opposed the first tariff, and was then for free trade, will in the not far distant future, as well when business wisdom bids it, go back to her first love.

AARON E. WAIT.

Letter from Polk County.

CROWLEY, Or., Feb. 6, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The FARMER of February 1st is before me full of interest to the Oregon farmers. Those articles headed, "the farmers and the law-makers," as also "What we say," are worthy of serious study and reflection. There is too much truth in what the Salem hardware merchant told you in regard to taxation. It is a well known fact that before the passage of the mortgage tax law the moral and truth loving people of the State paid the bulk of the taxes, and the system of evasion has only been half eliminated by the above named law. And we freely confess, after reading your comments and reflections on the same, that there is but one right way to do justice to all alike who have property in this State, or derive a benefit from our laws and government. And in giving our crude views on the

system of taxation, we would beg of the readers of the FARMER to reflect on the same before they rush into print to condemn the same, viz. "All property claiming protection from the courts should pay a just tax, or be refused that protection."—A. Sinner.

Here we have an axiom on which to frame a just and equitable assessment law that will bring to light all the property in the State, if the law will be framed right. All mortgages, bonds, notes of hand, certificates of stock, or other evidences of indebtedness, should have the stamp or sign of the assessor for each and every year since issue or since the passage of the law, or be refused adjudication in our courts. What right has a person, whether native or foreign, to make use of our expensive courts if he refuses to pay his just share of the expenses of such protection.

As to the question of not assessing invisible property, we would say in answer, that we have already too much invisible property in the State that escapes taxation, and the honest taxpayer does not desire to see the list increased. The object is to bring all property of any value in the State to light before the assessor. The next question that money would be cheaper if not taxed, will not hold water, because money is taxed in every State in the union, except New York. And where is legal interest higher than in Oregon? Jay Gould says there is \$200,000,000 lying idle in one street in New York seeking secure interest at 2 1/2 or 3 per cent. with good security. Why don't some of this money come here for investment? Is it on account of our tax laws? No, sir! for that would leave them at least 8 per cent. clear after paying all of the taxes assessed. Those moneyed men had rather wait and then put their money where it will do most good.

GEO. H. EILERS.

Renewing Old Orchards—How to do it.

SCHOLLS FERRY, Or., Feb. 7, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Under the head of Farm Talks I wish to see each good farmer express his views. There are as many ways as there are farms in this valley. All that has been said about renewing old orchards has certainly been to the point. My experience is: First, I let one go to ruin by not cultivating and pruning; and, second, I raised one from the same condition. I bought a farm with an old orchard upon it that had been neglected until it had nearly quit bearing, with quite a forest of young firs started amongst it. I slashed the brush and burned it and commended to plow; plowed it from six to eight inches deep and sowed to wheat. I made nothing to speak of as a crop. I chopped and sawed out the dead limbs from the trees, and a few medium as a result that year. Continued to cultivate by plowing and sowing grain for five years. Right here let me say that by plowing I don't mean skimming or scratching. In the centre, between the rows it is plowed to the depth of fifteen inches or more. I believe root pruning is as essential as to prune the top. I cut off some roots one inch through. Last summer I plowed the orchard and sowed nothing on it, but this fall when I plowed it I found the ground full of young roots that had come from roots that had been cut off, a thrier orchard is hard to find young or old. There was some growth over six feet long made this year, and as fine apples of the kind as there is anywhere. My observation has been that orchards as a rule, if pruned in the latter part of the spring and let go until the next year, is a great mistake. Trees that are pruned as soon as they start in the spring will shoot out thousands of water sprouts that must be taken off as soon as they start, except those that are to form the top of the tree. If you do not do this your tree are ten-fold worse than they were at first. But if this is done and thoroughly, in two years you will have an orchard that will surprise you and

your neighbors. Thorough cultivation is necessary, and to do this plant potatoes, carrots, mangel wurtzels, rutabagas or all of them, and you will have enough feed to pay you for four work. Mr. S. Miller, living two miles west of Oregon City, has done this same thing even after his trees were from four to six inches through. The root crop he fed to about 100 sheep, three or four cows, two to four horses and had plenty to use and plant. We give one, but might give many more, if it was necessary. All who give liberal attention have good orchards.

S. P. INGRAM.

The Sixteenth Amendment.

NEW ERA, Or., Feb. 11, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

While it is a good thing for the people to discuss the various topics that are agitating the minds at the present time would it not be well to consider the constitutional amendment that is to be decided by our votes next June. For my own part I shall support it and do all I can for it from the fact that I have never seen any ill result from being ready on our part to grant every privilege to others that we ask for ourselves, and in granting to our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters the liberty of a choice when we are selecting those who are to be our officers we are doing but a simple act of justice, and in withholding, as we are doing now, we are casting a reflection upon their good sense and judgment.

But it is not my object at present to enter into a lengthy discussion, only to call attention to the subject. The political privileges of one-half of our people is certainly of as much importance as transportation or taxation.

THOMAS BECKMAN.

Grange Meeting.

IRVING, Or., Feb. 11, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Lane County Pomona Grange will meet with Springfield Grange on the fourth Saturday in February. All fourth degree members in good standing are cordially invited. Important public questions will be discussed, and a full attendance is desired.

Respectfully,

A. C. JENNINGS, Sec'y.

Little White China Hogs.

SCHOLLS FERRY, Feb. 7, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I would like to know where I could get what is called the little white China hog. If you or any reader of the WILLAMETTE FARMER, know where I can get them I wish they would do so through the columns of this paper.

S. P. INGRAM.

Villard to the Board of Trade.

New York City, Feb. 1, 1884.

To the Portland Board of Trade: Gentlemen—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a certified copy of the resolutions which your honorable body passed on the 14th ult. in relation to my retirement from the several corporations formerly under my management.

Once more I am thus indebted to the Portland board of trade for great kindness. Your action on this occasion, is however, far more welcome to me than any previous evidence of your good will for it has taken place in these days of my disappointment and misfortune, and shows that my fate has not changed your former just appreciation of my motives and aims. Let me assure you that of the numerous messages of generous sympathy and undiminished regard that have reached me from all parts of this country and from Europe, none has been more cheering and bracing to me than your kind words.

I have spent the ten most active years of my life in promoting conscientiously and to the best of my ability, and welfare of your city and state, as well as of the North Pacific coast generally. I had to carry a burden than which a heavier one hardly any man ever carried in this country. I finally broke down under its crushing weight. The knowledge that I still have your esteem and confidence helps me much in my distress.

Yours truly and gratefully,  
H. VILLARD.

TILLAMOOK.

Mr. J. C. Bewley, son of Isaac Bewley, formerly of the Red Hills, near Salem, now lives in Tillamook. We met him in Portland the other day and had a pleasant talk about that country. It is shut off from this valley by the coast mountains, and its products are conveyed by steamer or sail vessels to Portland. The voyage from Portland to Tillamook has been made in 12 hours, and from Astoria in five hours, but this voyage is sometimes rough and people don't generally like the dangers of the sea. It is necessary to have a good wagon road from Portland by some direct route, as that is the best market to trade in. The road via Yamhill is very rough and mountainous. Mr. Bewley was at a settlers' meeting and was appointed one of a committee to look out a good road. He said he made a trip across by an easy route, as follows: Leaving the railroad at Forest Grove he went up Gale's creek, crossed by an easy route to the head of Wilson creek, and then down that creek to the shores of Tillamook Bay, or Kelchis, which is Mr. Bewley's home. He was astonished to find so good a route. There was no bad hills to climb; no severe grades to ascend. He went with Rev. Wm. Roberts, who was then very feeble. They only made a few miles a day, and Bewley kept asking his companion, who had been over the route, when they would get to the mountain part. He says they found no difficulty, and there was no place where a road can not be made over which an ordinary team can haul a usual load. From Forest Grove to Kelchis, down Wilson creek, is about 40 miles, the total distance from Portland is not over 70 miles by a practicable road. The base line of Oregon surveys commences at Portland. The due line from Portland passes through Mr. Bewley's farm, 48 miles west of that city. The practicability of the route via Gale creek on the east and Wilson creek on the west seems beyond doubt, and the settlers are interested in having it opened. Portland should take some interest in this matter and can afford to do so because that country will be a good customer.

The coast region is not appreciated at its actual value. Tillamook county contains much excellent country and will support a large population. On the bay large lumber mills are being erected and the magnificent forests of that region will soon find a market. The ridges back from the bay are heavily timbered and streams from the coast mountains are well calculated to float down logs for supply of these saw mills. Tillamook county has a vast wealth of timber, also prospects for coal that never have been followed up. The forests south of there were some years ago devastated by a terrible fire that swept over the foot-hills of the coast range but spared the grand growth of centuries east of Tillamook Bay. The alder is remarkably fine, with some maples. The larger growths are fir, spruce, cedar, hemlock, etc., and of the best quality.

The bottom lands of Tillamook and the streams adjacent are wonderfully fertile. Some of them are settled far into the mountains. Around the bay there is a great deal of tide lands that extends up the streams in some instances. It is a good stock country, and dairying is very profitable there. People all have some money and are reasonably prosperous. One incident illustrates the good qualities of the country: A man who owed \$800 wanted to sell his cows at \$25 each, two or three years ago, to raise money. He couldn't sell the cows and was advised to milk them and make butter. He commenced in the spring to milk 23 cows that during the season averaged 200 pounds of butter. This he sold for 27 cents, realizing \$55 for each cow. During the season he realized \$1,265 for the butter, paid off the \$800, and had money left to buy supplies. Owing to disadvantages of approach

Tillamook county was not settled as early or thickly as would be expected of a county within 60 miles of the metropolis of the North Pacific, and less than 40 miles distant from a railroad that can be reached by a wagon road through an easy mountain pass. Tillamook county has ten or twelve hundred people, and has room and profitable occupation for thousands more. Its lands are not nearly all claimed and settled on, and there is no section of country where tillage pays better. A few acres will raise an immense quantity of vegetables. Its bottom land equals our beaver dams. Oats yield 80 to 100 bushels to the acre. Grass of all kinds does well, and white clover is native there, as it comes up freely as soon as the land is cleared of shade. For dairying that region is unequalled, as also for stock raising. A few acres of tide land will yield plenty of hay and furnish pasturage for cattle. It is a country with variety of production and can become wealthy by good management. The building of saw mills will give rise to a lumber trade of consequence and aid the commerce of the bay. If coal proves to be there in good quantity and quality its commerce may reach great dimensions. Mr. Bewley says a man with half a dozen cows can make a living there and steadily gain property.

Tillamook is said, by good authority on that question, to have the best entrance of any point on the coast between San Francisco and Straits of Fuca. That was the published opinion of the captain of the revenue cutter Shubrick. The entrance is easy of access, and vessels of proper draught can cross the bar at any time. Portland should be interested in placing this interesting region in close connection with its own business. Her merchants can afford to subscribe something towards making a road. Washington county should seek connection with the ocean by making that part of the road that lies in that county up Gale's creek. Our Tillamook friends are on the eve of greater things. They must work their way out to the world so as to permit the outside barbarians to visit their region in summer to bathe in the surf. Tillamook county extends from the Nehalem to below Netarts Bay, and has all sorts of soil to offer for cultivation. The coast counties will soon assert themselves as of paramount importance not surpassed by the illusions of Cœur d'Alene gold.

The Advance in the Price of Meats.

San Francisco, Feb. 10.—[Special.] The late rain is responsible not only for the raised hopes of farmers, but also for raised prices of beef and mutton which now prevail. Within the last ten days the price of the articles of food has been steadily advancing, and threatens to advance still further. The wholesale price of beef has gone as high as eleven cents for choice, while the average value is seven cents. Mutton has risen to eight cents against five cents in ordinary seasons. The rain is the cause, for until its appearance feed was short and cattle were poor, and stock ranchers were compelled to sell or let the cattle starve. When the rain came at last beavers were so emaciated that it caused their death by thousands. The first night's downpour in southern counties benumbed whole herds of half-starved cattle, nearly all of which were allowed to die, the California stock preferring to take the risk of shortage in feed rather than expend a certain sum of money for hay with which to tide his cattle over. But now that the rain is over and the grass has commenced to sprout, such of the cattle as have been saved will be kept for fattening purpose. The prices of meats all over the coast will be high for some months.

The company of Russians mentioned in our columns a short time ago, says the Roseburg Plaindealer, as having located near Glendale, are vegetarians, who never eat meat or fish of any kind, religiously believing that it is wicked to kill any animal then feed on its flesh.

It is predicted that one-half the total to be appropriated this year will go to the Mississippi (\$8,000,000) and that there is small chance for any large appropriation for Pacific coast rivers.