

WILLAMETTE FARMER

VOL. XVI.

SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1884.

NO. 2

Correspondence.

Lincoln County, W. T.—Its Capabilities, Etc

COTTONWOOD, W. T., Feb. 4, '84.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Having received some letters of inquiry from subscribers to the FARMER, I ask leave to answer through the medium of your excellent paper, as to the advantages of Lincoln and Douglas county as a place to make a home and a competency as a farmer or a stock raiser.

The scenery in Lincoln county is not surpassed by any portion of the West. A view of the mountains from almost any point where they can be seen is particularly fine, especially when the many colors of the various ranges are lighted by the setting sun; the snow caps glistening in all the colors of the rainbows as range after range appears back of others in succession—the Spokane, and Columbia river ranges and in the far distance the Cascade range.

No climate could be more genial and pleasant to a person raised in the North. The entire absence of storms: the regularity of temperature—neither extremes of heat or cold. The infrequency of high winds, of violent rain storms; the rain is so gentle that a laboring man thinks not of ceasing work—rain even falling mostly in the night. The snow acts as a perfect protection to crops and even fruits. Frosts or snow thickly enveloping the branches and twigs of the fruit trees and berries, setting the fruit and insuring it from harm. This is the paradise for sleighing parties; good roads being the rule from the first of December until the last of February, the roads remaining good in the summer. This may seem strange but to one who has lived in a country where business and travel is always more or less impeded in winter and spring by deep mud, one learns to appreciate the fact.

Water can be found by digging to the depth of fifteen to twenty-five feet and there are springs found in every section that are inexhaustible. Small lakes or running streams abound and along all streams there is more or less timber, and heavy timber on all the rivers or in the mountains. The water is perfectly pure and soft and in summer very cold.

The producer has a market of his own as everything he has for sale is invariably wanted by new comers, or if he prefers he can haul it to Cheney or Spokane Falls where he will be paid a paying price. The distance is from thirty to fifty miles.

There are many quarter sections of lands yet vacant, but of course are not choice, in the region of the Badger mountains, a distance of forty to eighty miles west of this town. There is one disadvantage in living in a newly settled district—the loss of society. There is no society to those who do not wish to attend dances, as that amusement is plentifully patronized, the exercise continuing the whole night. Another disadvantage is the distance to schools and the scarcity of schools. Children growing up in ignorance; mothers should organize schools in their own families, but the deplorable fact stares one in the face: that some mothers are not capable of doing that.

Much choice land remains yet untaken and there are some dissatisfied settlers who will sell, with the improvements to enhance the value of the land, at almost what it has cost them to put on the improvements. Also in the Colville valley there is land plentiful, but it is said to be colder than in the more open country. Later springs and earlier frosts in the fall. This is about seventy miles from Spokane Falls. The regularity and evenness of temperature is proved by the fact that many of the farmers' wives have very nice gardens of annual flowers and the tenderest roses live through the winter with little protection. Turnips, carrots, parsnips, artichokes, blue grass

and clover come out from under the snow by the first of March crisp and alive.

MRS. A. BOWEN.

Italianizing Bees.

MILWAUKIE, Or., Feb. 13, 1883.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Fewer questions are asked than, "How shall I Italianize? and when shall I do it?" There is always a loss in removing a queen and substituting another, even where we have laying queens on hand; and where we are to use the same colony for rearing a queen, there is still greater loss. Where one has an apiary of black bees, his cheapest way, especially if he has plenty of time to devote to the subject, is to purchase a choice tested queen and rear his own queens from her. If he has as many as a dozen colonies and proposes to continue to increase the number, it may be his best and surest way to purchase an imported queen. If the choice queen is purchased in the spring or summer months, I would not remove the old queens until the summer crop of honey is over; but, instead of allowing natural swarming, take two or three frames from each old stock about swarming time, and make nuclei, giving them queen cells from the Italian brood.

When these queens are hatched and laying, build the nuclei up with frames of brood, given one at a time, until they are full stocks. By such a course you have the full benefit of the old queens during the honey season, until the new ones are ready to take their place. After the honey yield has begun to decrease you can remove the old queens, and give now the small colonies cells, as you did the nuclei at first. This does the swarming for the season, and the Italianizing at one and the same time. You can purchase all tested queens if you wish, but I would advise taking the dollar queens while there is any great difference in price. After your stocks have all been provided with Italian queens, by either of the plans given above, if you wish your bees to be pure Italians you are to commence replacing all queens that prove to be hybrid as soon as the young bees are hatched in sufficient numbers to enable you to decide. Now, if honey is only your object, I would not replace these hybrids until they are one or two years old, for they average nearly as well for honey gatherers and will raise just as pure drones as full-blooded Italian. If you should find the bees of any particular queen too cross to be endurable, replace her with another at any time. Be careful, however, that these hybrid colonies are not allowed to swarm naturally, for, if they raise a queen she will produce hybrid drones; and this is something we wish to guard against. It will be better to raise all the queens yourself, and practice artificial swarming exclusively, and while you are seeking to Italianize, especially if you are surrounded with common bees. If you do in the manner given above you can reap the Italian blood, even though there are hundreds of stocks of common bees within the range of your apiary. But if you are going to raise queens for the market you should buy up or Italianize all of the common bees within two or three miles of you in every direction. Your neighbors will very soon become converted to the Italians if you keep right along and let crops of honey decide the matter and they will be quite willing to pay you for introducing Italian queens into their colonies, and in a few years you will succeed in having your whole neighborhood Italianized.

CHARLIE RUSK.

The Tariff.

WALLA WALLA, W. T., Feb. 18.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I take the present moment, to write you supposing that you like to know the farmers feeling on matters pertaining to their general welfare. I will note some things that are up to white heat. First, the burdensome embargo that the general government loads us with, is the one

absorbing thought, viz. the high tariff which prohibits our free intercourse with European markets in exchanging our farm products. This question cannot be taboed any longer. I hope the farmers will write freely, as you seem to admit freely all communications from that source. Monopoly seems to be taking shape, by collusion of the railroad management to foster those grand schemes which cripple small efforts at competition. My idea is that government should look with a jealous eye, upon the encroachments of the great money corporations of our common country. The idea of keeping labor at a high standard of value is like all other efforts that is foisted upon our nation as a pretext to rob other and more laudable pursuits; I say, the man who goes on to a homestead and endeavors to make a home and establish a business of his own is far more deserving of favors from legislation than the common day laborer who roams over the United States without any settled home. He is only looking for big pay for labor and actually does nothing to contribute to the solid prosperity of a country. The high priced labor has swamped money and enterprise in its infancy. Men who labor for these big wages disdain the idea of settling down upon government lands, because it takes years of self-denying exertion to build up a home, and as long as the policy of legislation is to keep up these artificial prices, we may expect to see a nation of tramps looking for high wages. My ideas may not be very concise but I hope you will get the idea.

My idea is, that steady work at wages in accordance with the proceeds of such labor is far better for all parties than a few weeks of high priced labor and the corresponding shut downs, that invariably occur, sending many honest men into the saloons and hanging around the street corners looking for a big thing to turn up. We farmers have had a hard time to battle our way against the storm, while legislation is wielded as it is to foster all other pursuits, while we are the only class of men who go out into the markets of the world and show that we are able to compete with other nations in our products.

MILTON EVANS.

A Few Suggestions of Tax Collectors.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have been much interested of late in the discussion of the Mortgage Tax Law in your valuable journal, and while it seems to me that the present law is a great improvement on former legislation for the collection of taxes, I yet think it open to serious objections. It has made the assessment and collection of taxes more complicated, especially in cities and districts where the property mortgaged lies partly within, and partly without a city or district.

Now the people are in favor of just and equal taxation, and my object in this article is to outline a plan, which, if adopted, I think would go far towards simplifying matters, and would make it much more difficult to evade taxation than under any former method. In order to more fully show the working of this method, I have presented it in the form of a bill, and will discuss its merits further on. The form is as follows:

Sec. 1. Real estate and personal property shall be assessed to the owner thereof, at its cash value.

Sec. 2. In order that any tax, whether county, city, or district, may be collectable, the rate of levy must be fixed before the assessment is made, and each assessor shall be furnished with an account showing the rate of levy in this county, city, or district.

Sec. 3. Each tax-payer shall pay the taxes assessed on all property owned by him, in each county, city, or district assessed, without deducting indebtedness, except as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 4. Assessors shall take an account

of the amount each tax-payer owes each creditor, and give said taxpayer a certificate of indebtedness of the following form: Due from A. B., and offset by the amount owed C. D. \$—, as taxes in — county, or city of —, or district No. —, for the year 188—; and said certificate shall be a tax to the collection of the amount therein specified, on the account between A. B. and C. D. until said taxes are paid; then the said certificate shall become void.

Sec. 5. Tax collectors shall give separate receipts to each taxpayer who is a debtor; one for the amount paid on the net value of his property, and one for the amount paid on the sum due each creditor.

Sec. 6. The tax collectors receipt shall be equivalent to an endorsement of the amount paid, on the principal of the debt therein specified, and be a bar to the collection of the amount for which said receipt calls.

Sec. 7. Notes, accounts, mortgages, deeds of trust, and all evidences of indebtedness shall be exempt from taxation, and shall not be considered real or personal property as defined in this act.

Sec. 8. Taxpayers shall have a right to a deduction of indebtedness due on all mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts or other obligations due the State, or the Board of Commissioners for the sale of school and university lands, or judgments in favor of the State, or any of its educational funds.

Sec. 9. A debtor shall not be permitted to offset his assessment in more than one county, city, road district, or school district, by the same item of indebtedness, during the same year.

Sec. 10. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed.

Now the provisions of Sec. 1st are obvious. They are founded on the broad principle of a just and equal distribution of the burdens of government. Section second is necessary in carrying out the provisions of section four. By the provisions of section three, each county, city, or district, receives taxes on all the property contained therein except as provided in section eight. By former methods of deducting indebtedness, a county, city, or district, might contain a great amount of property, and still the burden of taxation be borne by comparatively few. Section four is necessary because a debt may become due and collectable between the time of assessing and that of collecting a certain tax; but, by the provisions of section two, the assessor knows the rate of levy in his county, city, or district, and calculates the amount of tax due on the property offset by any item of indebtedness as provided in this section accordingly. Now, when an account is brought forward for settlement the debtor presents his certificate, the amount of which is deducted from the debt, pays the balance and the account is cancelled. The separate receipts mentioned in section five, enable debtor and creditor to settle their account more readily. In section six, because the tax is independent of any interest to be paid by the debtor, the receipt is to be equivalent to an endorsement on the principal of the account. Notes, accounts etc., as provided in section seven, are exempt from taxation because they have already been taxed, indirectly, by the provisions of section four and six. Section eight simply exempts from taxation property owned and controlled by the State, and allows a deduction of indebtedness therefor. Section nine prevents a double assessment of property for the same year. The object of section ten is obvious.

Now let us see how to proceed according to the bill proposed. The assessor, provided with an account showing the rate of levy in his county, city, or district, meets Mr. Jones, a farmer: How many acres of land have you? How many horses?—cattle?—sheep?—hogs? How much cash on hand? What do you owe? Ans: I owe the Trust Compa-

ny \$2,000; Sam. Brown \$1,000, and John Smith, \$500.

The assessor takes an account of each item of indebtedness and gives Mr. Jones certificates thus: Due from Mr. Jones, and offset by the amount owed the Trust Company, \$—, as taxes in Marion county, for the year 1884. Against the items owed Brown and Smith, he gives similar certificates. After a while those creditors present their accounts; Mr. Jones produces his certificates of indebtedness, or, if the tax has been paid, his receipts, the amounts are deducted from their several accounts; Mr. Jones pays the balance, and the account is canceled.

Now, Mr. Editor, the ten million dollars worth of property in this State, which you mentioned a few weeks ago as evading taxation, does so, principally, on account of the discrepancy between debits and credits; and in order to more clearly show the advantages of the plan proposed in the foregoing bill, I will give you a few of the methods practiced by those who evade taxation.

Their plans are various. On the part of the debtor they are: First, taking out indebtedness that has been outlawed. Second, giving fictitious debts to fictitious names. Third, before the present tax law, mortgaging property to fictitious names while they, themselves, or their accomplices, hold the securities, &c.

On the part of the creditor the methods are: First, to assure the assessor that, though they hold accounts against such and such persons, they do not consider them good. Second, those who lend money, have their notes drawn to fictitious names, white at the same time they are made negotiable; thus a note is made payable to L. Jones or bearer and is filed away by the creditor or one of his accomplices. Now, when the debtor is assessed, he gives in the amount he owes L. Jones, which amount is deducted from the value of his property, but the assessor is unable to find L. Jones and so the note goes, untaxed. But still L. Jones or bearer is sure to turn up about the time the note becomes due.

By the plan proposed on the bill, any mortgage, note, or account, which is good enough to be deducted as indebtedness, is good enough to pay its proportion of the taxes; and no advantage could be gained by giving in any fictitious indebtedness, or by making any mortgage, note, or account payable to a fictitious name.

This article is longer than I desired it to be, but I wished to make it so plain that it could not be misunderstood.

Yours Truly,

JOHN W. JORY.

Blind Stagers and How to Treat.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 10, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I see by reading the papers that there are some very valuable horses dying with blind staggers all through the country. There is no use of a horse dying with blind staggers if properly treated. Now for the benefit of my brother farmers I will give a simple and reliable recipe if properly followed. When you see that your horse has got the staggers in the first place you want to take all the hay and straw from him, and also see that he don't ca his bedding, and see that he don't eat old weeds and old dry grass; if he is allowed to eat these he never will get well, for that will feed the disease. The only feed that you must give them is bran made into a mash with a tablespoonful of salt peter dissolved in water and three or four tablespoonfuls of sulphur and mix the whole into a mash and give that three times a day for two or three days, then give half the medicine and some shorts to the bran, exercise the animals so as to make them perspire freely. If a mare with foal don't give the sulphur, because sulphur will cause them to lose their colt, but treat them otherwise as I have directed. You can in three or four days give them some hay, but dampen the hay with water,

after a teaspoonful of salt peter has been dissolved in it. You can give the animal hay sooner if he is not very bad. Use the best crystallized salt peter. Don't let the animal eat dry hay or anything else of that kind till you see he is out of all danger.

H. MASSEY.

Notes from Seio.

Seio, Or., Feb. 18, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Scarlet fever is prevailing in this place to some extent; two deaths in the family of Alexander Montgomery in the last week, daughters 14 and 20 years of age. Oh how dreary is that home to-day since the loved ones have passed out of sight. Hope only bridges over the great chasm without which men would lead a lonely life indeed.

Snow about fourteen inches deep; weather moderates, wind from the south, indicating a thaw soon. Stock fed none too plenty, though all are doing well now.

Grangers and others are still discussing the mortgage tax law and are in favor, if necessary, of following it to the highest tribunal in the land, and if found to be unconstitutional by the courts will try some other method to equalize the burden of taxation. WILLIAM CYRUS.

Questions Answered.

CANYON CITY, Or., Feb. 1, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Has a married woman the same right to take up land that a single one has? Where can I get the address of breeders of choice poultry and rabbits, as I do not find any advertised in your paper? Are there any Planet Jr. goods for sale in Portland, and who by?

ANSWER.—(1) No. (2) Address Jno M. Garrison, Forest Grove, Oregon. (3) We don't know of any house in Oregon that carries the Planet Jr. goods.—Ed.

Multnomah Pomona Grange.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The next meeting of Multnomah Pomona Grange will be held in Milwaukie on the 15th of March, at ten o'clock, p. m., at which time the officers will be installed, six or eight candidates initiated, and speeches by prominent Grangers. We look for a full attendance at this meeting.

A. F. MILLER,
Secretary.

Oregon's Indebtedness in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—The Chronicle prints an article to day referring to recent failures in Oregon, and discussing the business situation there. In conclusion it says: "The indebtedness of the Oregon business community is largely in San Francisco. During the next six months jobbers of this city will have half of the interior merchants of Oregon in their power, and it should be borne in mind that the security of the country is first-class; and that the present distress is incidental merely, and not a settled or lasting condition. By an easy and generous course our merchants may retain a great business which harshness, even to a degree consistent with business justice, may direct to another field. The new Northern railroad affords opportunities for other connections, and this should not be forgotten."

GET UP CLUBS.

The FARMER is making an effort to enlist in its behalf all the reading and thinking portion of the farmers of the North West.

Subscription has been reduced as low as we dare venture in the belief that we can double our list of paying subscribers and greatly increase its influence and popularity.

The FARMER is closing its fifteen year of publication. It is no new venture, no uncertain thing, but well founded and ably conducted.

Any single subscriber can remit \$2.00 and receive the FARMER one year from date of payment.

Those who write and send in a club of five, all paying at once, can have the FARMER one year for \$1.75 each.

Old friends of the FARMER can easily secure among their neighbors five or ten names and secure their paper at \$1.75 or \$1.50 per year.

We hope that many will get up clubs and vindicate our faith in their good will towards their old time friend.

THE WILLAMETTE FARMER.