

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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Correspondence.

Hot-Beds and their Management.

SALEM, Or., March 13, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Mr. R. S. Cook, of McMinnville, has requested me to write an article and publish it in your paper, telling how to make and manage a hot-bed. Also how to prevent the ravages of the turnip flea. The gardener must have hot beds to grow early vegetables and to start his cabbage and tomato plants and whatever other plants he wants in his garden. If one has much hot-bed room it is better to use fire heat instead of manure heat. I will first describe the making of the manure hot-bed: The usual size is 3x6 feet; this determines the size of the hot-bed; six feet from front to back, and three times as many feet long as one has sashes to use. It may be made entirely on top of the ground or a hole may be dug six feet wide and the length of the hot-bed, from one to two feet deep. Fill this hole with fresh clean horse manure, treading it down firmly, if it is early in the season, the manure should be two feet or more deep so it will retain the heat longer; if late in the season, then it may be no more than one foot deep. Early in the season is say, February 1, and late say middle of March. The soil on top of the manure should be from six to eight inches deep and very rich garden soil, or it may be clean river sand. Sand works very nicely and does not pack or form into lumps. Around the hot-bed is a frame of boards made tight. It should extend above the top surface of the bed when completed, six inches in front side and eighteen inches on the back side. The bed should always extend east and west, the sashes sloping to the south. As soon as the manure is put in and the soil put on top, cover with the sashes. In two or three days the heat will raise. At first it will come up too high for planting anything in, but wait until it commences to go down, and when the thermometer indicates about 90 deg. sow seed. The soil must be kept moist and not allowed to get too dry nor be kept wet. It must be constantly watched and on all warm sunny days the sashes must be raised or taken off, not allowing the temperature in the day time to get above 75 deg., and at night it should go below 40 to 50 deg. If the sashes are closed an hour of sun will burn the plants up. On a cold night the plants will get chilled unless the hot-bed is covered with mats, carpets, or anything that will protect it. A great danger in managing a hot-bed is that the plants will damp or rot off just at the surface of the ground—the great and sudden changes in the temperature causes this. The best way to stop it is as soon as the small plants get their first pair of true leaves one fourth inch wide take them up and prick them out giving them room to grow and form good stalky plants.

Heating a hot-bed with fire heat is far more satisfactory than the above. Make either a lean-to on the south side of a building, wall or tight fence, or a separate house with roof going both ways, having the building run north and south, making it high enough so one can work inside of it standing erect. Heat it with a brick flue running underneath the hot-beds. The heat then is under the control of the workman, and the body of air inside of it being so much larger the temperature can be managed much easier. It takes experience to manage a hot-bed successfully. One may read all there is to be read in books and papers, then fail until he get experience. Peter Henderson's "Gardening for Profit," and his other works on gardening are the best books I know of on this subject.

The best way to manage the insect

called the "turnip flea" is by using air-slacked lime and ashes. Any garden soil should have heavy applications of ashes; leached or unleached. Also of lime. I put on of ashes at the rate of 12 or 14 wagon loads to the acre and repeat the application again in two or three years. Not many insects will live and thrive where there is plenty of lime and ashes along the row, or sprinkle it along the rows as soon as the seed is sown; then if the insects appear put on more. I believe the turnips attract more insects than any other vegetable we grow in the garden. My plan is to not grow any turnips at all, then by using ashes and lime I am not bothered but very little with insects destroying my small plants. Let us never forget that we may plant the seed, cultivate the soil, watch the plant grow and do all we can and still it is God who gives the increase.

DENTON FIELD.

Macleay Items.

MACLEAY, March 22, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Macleay is one of the foremost towns in the county. Mr. W. P. Hermon is our leading merchant. He came here last fall and has made a wide circle of friends and is prospering.

Our school is prospering finely with Miss Bailey, from Polk county, as the teacher. We wish her success. There was an entertainment at Mr. Levi Brower's to-day. A carpet sewing, which our Macleay belle's all took part in, and it was also Mr. B.'s birthday. If its getting fashionable to sew carpet rags on birthdays, I will inform the young ladies that I am going to have one every day of the week until ours are all sewed.

We have a singing school here, with Mr. L. Brower as leader. Many who thought that there was not a musical tone in their soul, have concluded that he is the right man in the right place.

At Mr. T. T. Geer's a few nights ago we had a nice birthday party in honor of Mr. G.'s 33d anniversary. It was a complete surprise as he was at his desk writing when we rushed in upon him. He looked as though he thought the Modocs had broken out again. It was gotten up and successfully carried through by Misses Mary Bat and Nora Williams, and was a pronounced success in every respect. Mr. and Mrs. Geer entertained the guests in a hospitable and pleasing manner.

There was also a pleasant party at the residence of Mr. Al. Herren. There were present many young people from the neighborhood as well as from Salem. It was well managed and Mrs. Herren was highly complimented on her fine supper, having everything heart could wish.

The Waldo Hills wolf club is doing a good work, having killed three wolves in two weeks. Messrs. Patten and Griffith being the lucky ones.

Uncle Johnny Kayes is very poorly at present. He is one of Oregon's pioneers and one of our most persevering and enterprising citizens.

The loss of Edmonson's Wide Awake is deeply felt by the entire community and we all sympathize with him in his misfortune. But as he is a thorough stockman we feel that he will soon have the vacancy filled. W. A. T.

Letter from Southeastern Oregon.

LAKEVIEW, Or., March 10, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I am much surprised at the number of letters received from Oregon asking of the ways and means of Southern Oregon, and although Gen. Sherman on the occasion of his last visit told us that "the Willamette valley was Oregon," yet we are happy to say that there are a few garden patches left after the Willamette is considered. One of these is Goose Lake valley, and as many of our best citizens are from the Willamette, we are ready to invite others from the same region. There are many thousands of

acres of land in this and adjoining valleys open to homestead and pre-emption entry. There is scarcely any choice between one claim and another. The water is near the surface and although rain seldom falls during the summer months yet it is found preferable not to irrigate field crops. The averages are for wheat, are twenty bushels per acre; barley, thirty bushels; oats, forty bushels. These figures are often doubled and even trebled. This has hitherto been considered a stock region and fortunes are rapidly being amassed in this line, for it is naturally adapted to the raising of all kinds of stock. Yet the varied enterprises of ordinary agricultural life prosper equally well. What fruit that has come into bearing proves itself equal to the best. As a poultry country we can scarcely see how it could be better. The turkey so troublesome to nourish grows here without the loss of one from the brood. We have a superior dairy region, yet our market for these products is high, for the people are so busy making money by other methods that these products seem trifling. So you will find here the largest farmers buying their butter or doing without.

The greatest aggravation to the farmers here is to see so much government grass going to waste annually, and every additional hoof that can be started out in the spring is considered another harbinger of the great crop—and so it is.

It is but natural, therefore, that home improvements should be neglected. We need more agriculturalists. Our land only awaits the plow and seed. A trifle of the skill and labor of the old States expended here will make any man rich. There is more to say than we are willing to say of the ways and means to wealth in this country. Come and see.

S. S. CALDWELL, Sect'y,
S. E. Or. Im. Society.

Linn County Council.

ALBANY, Or., March 24, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The Linn County Council will meet on the 29 instead of the last Saturday in the month. A. S. POWELL.

A Comparison of Passes.

The Tacoma News has been gathering authoritative figures about the Stampede and Natchez passes over the Cascade mountains:

From the crossing of the Columbia river to the nearest tide water the route through the Stampede pass is 20 miles and 300 feet longer than that by way of the Natchez pass, and the estimate of the cost of the mountain work is for the former \$1,600,000 greater than that invested in the latter. The length of the tunnel required is 16,800 by the Stampede pass, or 7,700 feet longer than that by the Natchez pass. The grade is 86 feet per mile for ten miles by the Stampede pass.

From the Columbia crossing to tide water by the Natchez pass the route is 20 miles and 800 feet nearer than by the Stampede pass. Tunnel 9,100 feet in length, or 7,700 feet shorter than by the Stampede pass. Cost of construction, \$1,600,000 less. The grade is 116 feet per mile for ten miles by the Natchez pass.

In the single matter of grade the Stampede pass has the advantage of the Natchez. Col. Smith states, however, that the grade on the Natchez may be reduced to 100 feet per mile, which would leave the Stampede an advantage of but 14 feet in grade for 10 miles, while in every point to be considered the Natchez has overwhelming advantage. Even with 18 bridges on the Natchez river, which will be required to reduce the grade to 100 feet, the cost will be 30 per cent. less than if the road were to be built through the other route.

The estimate of \$1,600,000 does not represent the actual difference in cost between the two routes. It refers only to the mountain work, and when the approaches are considered the total in favor of the Natchez swells to fully \$3,000,000. The Stampede pass requires 25 miles of the heaviest rock work along the Yakima canyon, many tunnels and ten degree curves, while the Natchez river presents a road bed comparatively free from rock work and easy of grade.

Send \$2 for the FARMER for one year.

Oregon, Washington Territory and California.

Two young farmers residing eight miles north of this place, decided last fall soon after the opening of the Northern Pacific Railroad, to take a look at Oregon, Washington Territory, and California, with a view of locating themselves in one of these places if they should be pleased. Their Wisconsin farms are worth \$125 per acre, and they thought it might be desirable to get cheaper lands. They thought well of the Yellowstone Valley, in Montana; but from Helena west, they found nothing but mountains. Arriving in Oregon, they were quite surprised to find but small acres of tillable land. Three ranges of mountains traverse the State from north to south—leaving only the valleys for cultivation. They say that the farms present a sorry look; poor buildings, and everybody wanting to sell. Hay was \$40 per ton in Portland, and very little for sale even at that price. Wild oats and wheat straw constitute the hay used by the farmers. Wheat is the principal crop, and is now very cheap. No corn; hogs are fattened on wheat soaked in barrels. They found the same thing in Washington Territory. One farmer there told them he lost all his stock last winter by starvation, except one pair of oxen.

Neither Oregon nor Washington Territory impressed them favorably as a grazing country. They were also very much disappointed with Portland. They found it a dirty, muddy, undrained city. One small flouring mill, no elevators, and no demand for labor. The wheat is sacked, taken to the railroad stations or river landings, and thence to the ocean vessels.

The railroad trains were loaded with people going West, many were mechanics and young men seeking employment, but none was to be had in any of the towns they visited. Hundreds go there, using up all their means by the time of their arrival, and then have to shift as they can, not being able to get back. Land agents attacked them at every turn; in fact, every second man was either a land agent or wanted to sell his farm. It began to rain the next day after their arrival in Portland (about Thanksgiving), thereby making the streets nearly impassable and everything unpleasant.

They say the buildings, roofs and all, are covered with moss, and the climate is very damp through the winter. They heard more coughing in Oregon and Washington Territory, than in all their lives before. They got their information from farmers mostly, going out among them. You may well believe, therefore, that the much bragged up Oregon and Washington Territory didn't suit them. They had left altogether too good a country to like either of these places.

They then went to California, with which they were much pleased. They found it, however, gotten up on too big a scale for ordinary farms. The country lies in great tracts of sandy soil, requiring irrigation. None but men of large means can successfully go into wheat farming in California (Southern California is not here meant, as they only visited the center of this State), owing to the great expense attending irrigation.

They therefore returned home well satisfied with their Wisconsin farms. They did a wise thing in going and looking before deciding to sell, and considered their \$500 well spent. They found men from Illinois and other Western States who had sold their farms, had gone to these countries, relying upon the big stories they had heard, and who found themselves "badly left." A. E. H. MILWAUKEE, Wis.

We find the above in a Western agricultural journal, the Prairie Farmer, that we receive in exchange and do not see how anybody with honest intention could get so many lies into the same space. Thousands of immigrants are arriving here who are finding homes and are content. Those who have been here a few years are all satisfied. Portland is a beautiful city and hay has never sold there for \$40 a ton in twenty years, if it ever has. At present it is worth about \$20. Of course there are land agents; also some wish to sell their improved farms to be able to take up new land. As to "coughing," the country is very healthy. Take the above through and it is a mass of slanderous lies from beginning to end, done, no doubt, for the purpose of preventing immigration. The extent of arable land open to settlement is as large and offers greater inducement than any other

section can present. We hope our contemporary who gave the above to the public will publish our brief reply.

Fruit Notes.

A Baltimore firm has introduced the Japanese persimmon into this country, and planted 1,000,000 trees. The fruit is said to be delicious, and the general opinion is that it will be well received when offered for sale.

From all quarters the Wilson strawberry has been attacked, but the source of warfare may generally be traced to those who are engaged in endeavoring to supersede it with something of their own. Newer varieties are given all the benefits of muleh manure and cultivation in order to make them attractive. If treated as the Wilson has been they would soon pass away. Having stood in high favor for more than ten years, it still remains the champion berry for shipping and producing under adverse circumstances.

It has been long a disputed question whether plants derived nitrogen from the air or not. The verdict has been in favor of the non-appropriation of that element from the atmosphere, despite Bonssingault's claim to the contrary. M. Ville, in order to test the matter, calcined a portion of the earth, to expel all nitrogen, and then grew a good crop of clover in the same with a fertilizer containing no nitrogen, the water used being distilled. This demonstrates that clover appropriates nitrogen from the air, and, consequently, when grown and plowed under, adds nitrogen to the soil. Wheat derives no nitrogen from the atmosphere, and when experiments were made with that plant the nitrogen was not increased.

One of the chief causes of decay, when apples or other fruit is stored, is close contact. Should an imperfect apple become diseased, the disease assumes a contagious form, and spreads from one apple to the other until all are destroyed. This is more particularly noticed with peaches and plums, and it reminds us that more care should be exercised in preserving fruits over winter. Lemons and oranges come to us from foreign countries wrapped in paper and packed only in small lots. It has been demonstrated that apples, when placed on a shelf, each being separated from the other, keep well; and why cannot a lesson be taken from the foreign methods, which enable fruits grown in warm climates to be safely transported to long distances? When fruit is wrapped it is partly protected from cold, and the difficulty from freezing is not so great. A cool place should therefore be selected for storage. No doubt many may object to the proposition of using so much care with fruit, but if the good quality and soundness result in an increased price no objection should be made.—Farm and Garden.

Myrtle Timber.

There is no place of which we have any knowledge where myrtle grows to that degree of perfectness that it does in Coos county. The wood, if as fully known as black walnut, would become more valuable than that highly prized finishing wood; and when we take into consideration the fact that the timber grows large and actually incumbers the ground, we can justly claim much wealth in this respect. When we take into consideration that what is being shipped from Europe to the United States, we should be careful how we destroy our myrtle. Canes made of the black myrtle are the finest we have ever seen, without exception, and can readily be sold for three or four dollars here. Some that we have seen would undoubtedly bring a large price in some city where men of money appreciate the beautiful. For furniture it has no equal for beauty of finish or durability, and when it is well known everybody will prefer it.—Coquille Herald.

Native Tobacco.

Last fall several farmers who have tried on a small scale the practicability of tobacco raising in this vicinity brought samples of the product for exhibition on the walls of the land office. A few days ago Mr. Myers, a gentleman who has spent the greater part of his life as a tobacco raiser in Kentucky, called in to examine these samples. After making a careful inspection he expressed surprise at finding an article of such excellent quality and gave it as his opinion that the business of raising and manufacturing tobacco in this vicinity would be found not only practicable but highly profitable.

Nov. 27,
1910
Pop. of Ore
207,000