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Correspondence.

FREIGHT ON THE N. P. RAILROAD.

SPRAGUE, W. T., March 26, 1884.
Editor Willamette Farmer:

As you invite correspondence from different portions of the country, with your permission I desire to say a few things with regard to the N. P. railroad on the freight question. Just as our hopes were budding into promise, and we were beginning to feel the good effects of direct communication with the East, by one fell swoop of unauthorized power on the part of the above named railway company, our hopes were blasted and our realizations are gone to the four winds of heaven.

What I refer to is the discrimination of freights on the part of said company, between Portland and inland towns to the eastward. The railroad side of this question has been discussed very freely both by the railroad company and also by certain papers whose interests all center in Portland.

But as yet I have seen nothing from the class most interested, viz.: the consumers along the line, or adjacent to said railroad. Mr. Muir, of Portland, tried to explain this matter through the Oregonian a short time ago, but the rights and best interests of the people are so manifestly overridden by the policy of the railroad company, that his explanation and all others that have been made seem to be far-fetched and about as clear as mud. Mr. Muir stated that the matter of freights under the old regime were unsatisfactory to the railroad company, to Portland merchants, and also to the inland merchants. That they were unsatisfactory to the two former I admit, but the latter I unhesitatingly question. And, in proof of this, I refer to the protests made by the inland merchants against this outrageous and unwarranted discrimination of freights, calling for a repeal of the same and reinstatement of the former schedule of freights, or something similar.

While the railroad company say they are trying to make matters satisfactory to the merchants along the line, they ignore the fact that the consumers are the ones most directly interested in this matter. For, if the inland merchant has to pay twenty-five or thirty per cent. more for his goods at Portland than he would in an Eastern market, he just charges that over to his customers, and they are the real sufferers. The only way that it will materially injure the inland merchants is this: that goods being so much higher in price, the people must economize and buy less; hence their sales will be restricted.

It is a fact well understood in this upper country that a large share of the people who have come here are poor, and, with the best rates they could secure from the railroad company, it has been exceedingly hard for them to keep above financial ruin. Through the highly colored representations of the railway company and other interested parties, hundreds of people have sold out a comfortable little home in the East, and come west, only to find their means nearly or all used up in getting here, and very little or nothing left with which to begin life in a new country, where nearly every thing that they have to buy, which is transported over the railroad with high freights, is necessarily much higher than Eastern prices, and this is the class of people that have a right to be heard upon this question. Look at the flagrant injustice of this new freight schedule. Not satisfied with charging us the highest through rates to Portland, they still add the local rates which are very high, from Portland back to the inland point, wherever the cargo may be landed. Now, I ask, is not this an unmitigated usurpation of power, against which the people should fight until it is overcome. Where

are our Congressmen, and what are they doing for the bettering the condition of the masses of the people? Let the people sound the clarion note of war in their ears and send in petitions for a law regulating both freight and passenger rates on those transatlantic railroads, to the end, at least, that they shall not discriminate in freights to different points on the roads. It is very clear that the railroad company not only intend to feather their own nest by the late act, but also to build up Portland by the hard earnings of the people inland. It is a well known fact that Portland merchants and capitalists have made millions of dollars from the trade of this upper country. But they are not satisfied with sapping all its best interests for the last twenty years, but by this ungenerous act on the part of the railroad company they still propose to hold on to us with their iron hand of oppression, and compel us to buy our goods of them at their own prices. The Oregonian would fain have us believe that this has not been done in the interest of Portland merchants, and that they will deal very mercifully with us in the future. But we can only judge the future by the past.

These same merchants and capitalists have held an iron sway over this country for many years past, and never did they let up their grip until we had direct communication with the East; and now that we are placed in their power again by the railroad company, we may expect to be tortured by high prices to the bitter end. Human nature has not changed. It seems that the railroad company feel bound to show great respect to the millions of Portland by throwing all this upper country into their hands. But to the laboring class and those that till the soil and furnish the means by which the carrying trade on the railroad is sustained, they virtually say "Your rights we cannot respect." Like the old Southern slave-holders said by their agents in Congress, "The negro has no rights which the white man is bound to respect," so they say to the producing and consuming class, "You have no rights in this matter; it all belongs to us."

But the slave-holder was taught by the strong arm of a bloody civil war that he must respect the rights of his vassals, and, if nothing else will do, monopolists may be taught the same lesson in a similar manner. But to avoid this, I call upon producers and consumers to unite in one grand effort everywhere, and try to move our Congressmen and legislators to take this matter in hand, and, by the strong arm of the law, regulate these matters. But some tender footed one may say, "Why, you must not wage war with the railroad company!" So far as that is concerned, I would just as soon wage war with them for justice and right as with anybody else; and, if such a war is to transpire, in whatever shape it may come, I hope it will be hastened on, for I am getting old in years, and I want to take part in it before I die.
C. MISNER.

The Spring Valley Farmers' Club.

ZENA, OR., April 7, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer.

The farmers of this vicinity met last Saturday to consider the report of a committee appointed at a previous meeting to draft by-laws for a local club. The report was adopted as amended, and embraces but twelve short articles, setting forth,

- First—The name (which appears at the head of this article).
- Second—The object, the promotion of friendly intercourse among its members and the adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary for their welfare.
- Third—meetings, the first and third Saturday in each month.
- Fourth—Officers, executive, secretary and treasurer.
- Fifth—Their duties.
- Sixth—Elections, quarterly.
- Seventh—Committees, such as from

time to time the President may find necessary.

Eighth—Membership, actual farmers and their sons, and when no objection is raised, anyone not an actual farmer; only those over 21 are eligible to vote.

Ninth—Election of officers.

Tenth—Fines, for absence from regular meetings.

Eleventh—Funds, by assessment only.

Twelfth—Amendments.

You will readily see that these by-laws only aim to put the club in working order, and do not limit its range of usefulness, the latter part of article second allowing great latitude.

The order of business embraces, together with regular routine work, the following: Queries, suggestions and discussions on agriculture; discussions of political or general topics.

Under the last head the question of Local Taxation will be discussed at the next meeting (April 19).

The club has such men at the head of it as Major Walker, Geo. Eilers, Geo. T. Wait, Jackson Purvine, C. C. Walker and others, whose experience and judgment will no doubt prevent the adoption of rash measures, and whose solidity and steadfastness of purpose will insure the permanency of the club.

This is, to be sure, something of an experiment with us, yet we believe will lead to good results. There will be friction of thought, and that must lead to the wearing away of erroneous opinions; there will be combination of action, and in union there is strength; there will be social intercourse, and that will strengthen our fraternal feelings.

JAS. R. SHUPBACK.

California Beet Sugar.

We call attention to the advertisement of the Standard Sugar Refinery in this number of our paper. It is asserted by those who should know that pure white sugar can be produced from beets on this coast in almost unlimited quantities, at a price not exceeding the "grocery grades" of yellow sugar imported (duty free) from the Hawaiian Islands, and that strong refining grades can be produced from beets, sufficient to furnish all the refineries on this coast, for at least one per cent. a pound less than the same grade of sugar can be procured from any other source.

Assuming this to be true, it is the interest of every farmer on this coast that has suitable land for the purpose to avail themselves of this opportunity to experiment with this crop, as there is every reason to believe that in a very few years beet sugar factories will be built at all available points on this coast where good beets in sufficient quantities can be obtained for the purpose. Comparing our soil and climate with the sugar producing countries of Europe, it is not unreasonable to believe that in less than twenty years we will produce from beets all the sugar needed for home consumption, and will also become heavy exporters of beet sugar. And the history of this industry in Europe, proves that the production of sugar is not alone all the benefit to be derived from this industry, as it more than trebles the amount of beef and cereals in every district where a beet sugar factory is successfully established.

The success of the Standard Sugar Refinery at Alvarado, in this State, is a proof of what can be done, both in making sugar and feeding the pulp to cattle. A dairy of 150 cows is being successfully and cheaply fed on a portion of the pulp of that establishment.

The announcement of Mr. Dyer, Superintendent of the Alvarado factory, makes it a simple matter to get the true seed and to ascertain without cost whether the beets will do for sugar making or not.—Pacific Rural Press.

Both Clyde and Norman.

Messrs. Savage & Fletcher offer for the public use this season their magnificent Clydesdale horse Sir Stafford and also the well bred Norman stallion of Wide Awake origin, Sir George, so those who prefer one stock or the other can be suited at their stables. Those horses will be found at Ford & Minto's stables, Salem, from Tuesday until Saturday and at the home stables east of the Fair Ground on Monday.

No Safer Remedy can be had for Coughs and Colds, or any trouble of the Throat, than "Brown's Bronchial Trochee." Price 25 cts. Sold only in boxes.

FARM TALKS.

The month of March saw 6,000 new arrivals in Oregon and Washington, and April will no doubt bring hither twice that many. May and June will swell the total with increased population and the year 1884 may be expected to add 100,000 to the population of the Pacific Northwest. The mining excitement may add some thousands more but the sort of people who run after excitements are not worth much to build up a new country. The report is consistent that the new comers are of a superior class of farmers. These are what we need and need right here in the Willamette. It is not too much to say that our beautiful valley has too many people holding land here who are incapable of improvement. They plow and sow and reap and eat and work and sleep and do nothing more. They do not take reading matter to learn what the world knows. They know too much already. They have no occasion to study, to experiment, to think. They are not drones, either, but they might as well be for they are dullards. Success is beyond them. Their homes possess no attractiveness within or without. Their incomes are uncertain and their fortunes on the down grade. It is a pity that all such cannot sell out and leave. The next question is: where to go to? They can take up land East of the Mountains, to be sure, but that country needs live men also and to go anywhere is to occupy land while to be eventually sold out. If this valley can be waked to life and activity by the acquisition of live and energetic farmers who are farmers, then Western Oregon can be a garden spot of the world. As it is, there are too many who are too dull to win success; who know too much to learn; who don't study or investigate or learn by experience but simply live and resemble Indians by being in the way.

The kind of people we have alluded to don't take the FARMER but you all know them. Our orchards, as well as yours, is in bloom. The rare perfume from its blossoming is wafted far and near. It crosses a hill and friends living over in Polk can locate it by the snowy white of a hill top a mile or so south of Salem. We learn that many are planting out orchards. It is a good thing to do when the prospect for reward is so good. We have some words to say about fruit trees, gathered from experience. The south side of a tree is apt to feel the sun and be partially killed by the heat. This is a disadvantage, of course. If you have three or four foot clapboards handy it would pay to place one on the south of every tree when it is old enough to be injured. Another matter is this: not one man in six is fitted to work around trees. They murder them as indifferently as if they have no value. To do good work plow close or hoe about the tree. With an orchard of thirty to fifty acres it costs too much to dig by hand but every tree must be kept clear of weeds and grass. Do not let a careless hand work among them, or a fractious horse. Let the driver be most careful and have a steady team. Plow out the middle and leave the last two furrows, then get your best horse for that work, have a single tree twenty inches long and wrap the trace and hook with cloth or let an old boot leg, cover both so that they won't tear if they hit a tree; put the horse with this single tree to a small plow or a double shovel plow and then work out the ground close to the tree as well as possible.

Working an orchard pays largely, if well done. The roots in our orchard do not show in plowing six inches deep. The red hill land has more subsoil that is porous, and the roots go down deep. We are thinning the growth of limbs—work that should have been done long ago. It is more necessary to thin out than to cut back. If you cut out superfluous limbs, the other limbs will fill out with side growth. Some prune trees, es-

pecially the Petite d'Agén, throw out limbs like vines that twine to each other. The Columbia throws its arms out too long. So some trees need to have the branches cut out where too numerous, and some need to be cut back. Some plum trees keep in almost perfect shape, as the Peach and Reine Claude; Coes' Golden Drop needs some thinning. The Italian is a beautiful tree, solid and round-headed. Anyone who has a natural taste for the orchard can get a good book and go ahead cautiously, with certainty of becoming an adept by intuition. It is a beautiful business, for the most satisfactory, when matters work well, of any work that the farm has to do.

There is every prospect of a large fruit yield the present season, and a few weeks more will tell the story. Nature seems trying to make full amends this year for any deficiency in harvests of late years. We shall see.

Is your garden all in that can be planted early in April? Can you look your family in the face and assure them that garden stuff will be plentiful? Can the children watch the blooming of all sorts of small fruits with certainty that there will be ripe ones to pick in their season? We would like to know that every reader of the FARMER and all others have planted a rich garden spot and will tend it well. There is money in it; luxury and health go together there; long life and happiness grow in the best gardens. There is no mistake about the truth of this fact; not one man in five actually knows what the worth of a garden is. Now is the time. If you haven't made the garden, make it as soon as you can, and have the good of it.

Judging from the weather, spring seeding must be well advanced, save in low, wet land, and ought to be through with there, if the rains keep off a few days longer.

The Wool Business.

There are in the country between the Northern Pacific and Snake river something like one hundred thousand head of sheep, and at a low estimate they will yield five hundred thousand pounds of wool per annum. Heretofore all wool grown in this country has gone to Portland or San Francisco for packing and shipping and most of the sales have been made by commission merchants of those cities, but things are on the eve of a change and an effort will be made to pack, sell and ship this wool at home, if the railroad company will allow this place as fair rates as it does Portland. Mr. Talbot, who has been looking up the wool market in the east and posting himself as to packing and grading, is seriously thinking of handling wool with his headquarters at Colfax. This will be a great benefit to sheep men as they can get their crop packed, graded and stored at home, and will also have the benefit of telegraphic quotations of prices which enable them to take advantage of the market at any time, and save the commissions usually gobbled by Portland dealers. If Mr. Talbot establishes this business he will advance money on crops left with him.—Palouse Gazette.

Large Transaction.

Yesterday Sheriff Sears, as tax collector, drew a check of \$200,128.90 upon the Portland Savings Bank, in favor of Wm. Showers, county treasurer. The amount was paid in gold coin, all except the odd change, and carried in a wagon to the First National Bank. This is probably the largest coin transfer ever made here. It weighed 800 pounds. Besides this sum, Sheriff Sears has turned over \$30,000 to Treasurer Showers from the taxes of 1883. The treasurer is preparing his books, and will be ready to pay county warrants about next Tuesday.—Oregonian.

Many sheep raisers find it a necessity to follow in the path of their economical brethren, and have taken the initiatory step by commencing the entire use of Little's Chemical Fluid Shoe Dip.

Ammon's Cough Syrup never fails to cure if used in time and according to directions.

James R. Shepard