

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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Correspondence.

Deady's Decision and the Rural Districts.

SPRINGFIELD, Or., March 18, 1884.

Editor Home Circle:

I have taken your paper some eight or ten years, and I have never written a line to it; but as you have invited communications, I will send you a few thoughts.

The tax question is agitating the minds of the people, and as Judge Deady has decided the mortgage tax law unconstitutional, by a far-fetched construction, and made some statements which the facts will not bear him out in, he sneeringly says the people in the rural districts elect assessors especially to make law assessments, and cites a case in Linn county to prove assessments on land are made at one-third value, or less. I cannot speak for Linn county, but in my precinct it is not so. Farm land here is assessed at from \$20 to \$25 dollars per acre, which is more than capitalists will value it at when they loan money on it and take it as security, and they are sharp in judging values. I thought it a judge's duty to decide upon the law, and not step aside to lecture the people and their representatives as to what the law should be. Probably he thinks people in the rural districts need a little of his august wisdom, but they will hardly take kindly to it. The Oregonian, in commenting on the decision, criticises the State court and assessors for having some respect for the will of the people and not having independence to do right. He thinks office-holders ought to be above and beyond the reach of the people, or anything except solid arguments. There is a great deal said about land being undervalued, and money being assessed at full value. Of course, there is no standard value on land. You must use your judgment as to its value. Its value fluctuates; when times are hard, it comes down. Not so with money; in hard times its purchasing power becomes greater; it is always worth its face, and in cold or heat, in rain or sunshine, it brings its interest, while you may work your land a year and make nothing; also, if you rent land and make it bring money interest, you will have to value it low.

I like your paper in most respects, but am not altogether with you on the tax question. Farmers ought to have one good paper, and all take and read it; then they could communicate with one another, make their wants known, and have an influence. I will write again about farm and hop interests here.

SPRINGFIELD.

[NOTE.—In some unaccountable way this letter got mislaid, and we publish now, even if a month old, and trust our correspondent will not take offense, but write us those promised letters he mentions in a private note to us.—EDITOR.]

Interesting Correspondence from an old Pioneer—A Lady.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Such a long time has elapsed since Mr. Hines' answer to me came out, that I hesitate about replying; but if you will permit me a little space, I would like to notice some of his arguments. I failed to receive the Advocate containing his answer until quite recently; hence my silence.

Bro. Hines says "Oregon would have been saved had, Dr. Whitman never lived." Now, let us follow out this mode of reasoning and see where it will end. America would have been discovered, had Columbus never lived. The war of the rebellion would have been gained, had Gen. Grant never lived. The Methodist mission would have been established in Oregon had Jason Lee never lived; and I think that the Advocate would have an editor, had Bro. H. never lived; and so on, ad finitum. But does

this change the fact that these events have been accomplished by certain men, whose destiny it was to fulfill them? God rules the destinies of nations as well as of men; and while Jason Lee was chosen to lead in the van of missionary enterprise, Dr. Whitman was the one chosen to lead in Americanism. They were both necessary in carrying out the great designs of the Ruler of the Universe. Then, again, Oregon was saved when the question was adjourned. This argument is as weak as the other. Time was only strengthening the English claim, and gave time for Oregon soil to be watered with the blood of her sons and daughters.

It is true that all great movements are made by the people; but they all have a leader. I know that it takes more than one man or ten men to accomplish these epochs in history. It was the train of emigrant wagons with the families that opened the highway across the continent; but they were led by Dr. Whitman, just as Grant led his armed forces against Richmond and saved the Union. No one says that Grant did this alone and unaided, but he was the successful general who led the war to a successful close. The same is true of Dr. Whitman. When he left his home in 1835, no thought of saving Oregon was in his mind; he was going to spy out the land for missionary work. In his six months' intercourse with mountain men and trappers, he could hardly avoid learning the views of the English in reference to the ownership of Oregon, and hear the oft-repeated assertion that wagons, women, and children could never cross the Rocky Mountains. With the characteristic stubbornness of his nature, he made up his mind to demonstrate the fact that they could by bringing his waiting bride and the historical wagon over the next season, which he did, and thus won the first ditch. Then, in '43, he led his conquering hosts in to possess the land. The opposition to him, on the 29th day of November, 1847, wrote in letters of blood the name of the man that they looked upon as doing them the greatest damage, and whom they had the most cause to fear, and that name was "Marcus Whitman." No one denies the influence of the Methodist mission, and all histories that I have read give them honorable mention. They have done a noble work, and have a perpetual monument in the Willamette University. But had the road across the continent never been opened, where would that high school have been? They came here as missionaries and builded the school first for the Indians, and, when this failed, for the children of the mission and such settlers as would come in, they did not know from where, any more than others. Mr. Beers, in conversing upon this subject in 1850, said: "We never expected to see an American settlement here."

The first white school was taught in the old institute in 1844, the year Mr. Gay turned it over to the board of trustees. What idea did they have? The rise, spread, growth, glory and triumph of Methodism, not Americanism. I see no disgrace attached to them in attending to their legitimate business, or any honor to accrue to them in imputing to them motives which they had not at the time. We all know that in after years they worked faithfully for the government. I loved those dear old missionaries; some of the most pleasant memories of my life cluster around them. I have sat around their tables and fire sides, and have gathered from their own lips the story of their lives in Oregon. I was also intimately acquainted with Dr. Whitman, and heard from him his trials and conflicts, and I know that his great heart beat for his countrymen in their struggle against the common foe.

One word more, and I am done: I am a Methodist and have been for thirty-five years and my heart throbs at the triumph

of Methodism; but I do not agree with Bro. Hines about the Willamette valley being the heart of the Western empire. It is true that there is no city upon the site of Dr. Whitman's station; but there is a large city right where I have heard him say there would be some day; that is Walla Walla. When Bishop Baker organized the Columbia River Conference, he said: "Oregon will be east of the Cascade Mountains." I think that coming events are proving that the great center of the Western empire is the portion of the country that Dr. Whitman was so anxious to save to the government.

AN OLD PIONEER.

Macleay Items.

MACLEAY, April 8, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

To-morrow Mr. Herman goes to Portland to lay in a new stock of goods, and if you want to get something cheap and good, just give Mr. Herman a call, and he will satisfy you all. He is always ready and willing to wait upon his customers. He also talks of starting a fish market.

Yesterday the funeral sermon of David Kiester was preached at Liberty School House, by Elder David Brower, from Salem, formerly of Macleay. The text was Job I, first clause, "If a man die, shall he live again?" There was a large crowd and good order, showing the position he held in life. He was born in Union Co., Dec. 4, 1821; united with the Dunkard Church in 1864; emigrated to Oregon in 1881; died Feb. 9, 1884, aged 62 years, 2 months, and 5 days.

Uncle Johnny Kayes is no better.

We must say that the horse show of the 28th of March was grand with old Marquis in the front, and last and least was T. J. Edmundson's celebrated Kentucky Jack. He seemed to draw more attention than anything else, especially from the ladies, which caused Mr. T. to feel a little jealous; but as it is only a question of time when the women will take the reins in their hands, my impression is then that Jacks will be in demand.

Mr. Walter Hartley has sold his Clydesdale stallion, Leonard, to Dan Durbin, of Howell Prairie, for four hundred dollars. He goes east of the mountains. Mr. Hartley is one of our most successful farmers and stock-raisers, and one who seems to prosper and always has plenty, and if you ever set down to his table, I think you will agree with me.

O. B. SERVER.

Letter from Whitman County, W. T.

PINE CITY, April 5, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have been a subscriber of your paper for a long time, and I realize its value. Our spring weather is coming beautiful and pleasant, a little more backward than common; not much rain—rather dry—to insure good crops. But we hope for rains later in the spring. The grass is growing beautifully; the hills are getting green; stock is doing well; and people are busy plowing, fixing for spring sowing. There was but little fall wheat sown here in this vicinity, but what was put in looks well. Immigration is pouring in to this country now from the East. That is what we want here—workers to improve the country. We have the soil, and all it wants is proper cultivation, and Washington Territory will produce equal to any part of the United States; for health its equal is hard to find, and there is no doubt a vast amount of minerals and ores that as yet are not unearthed that will, at no distant day, make this country loom up. If you have a vacancy in your paper for this, put it in.

A. J. SMITH.

Silk Culture.

OREGON CITY, April 14, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

There is one industry that we pay but little or no attention to, and that is silk culture. I am satisfied that we might

cause, in three or four years, hundreds of thousands of dollars to come to this State, if we would take up silk culture. It does not require but little capital, neither is it hard labor. It would take about two years before the leaves could be raised in sufficient quantity that silk culture could be made a remunerative business. When children are learned to manage the silk worm, they can, in three or four months, earn from \$30 to \$60 per month. Some one may say no, but I undertake to say that children six years to ten years old can do even better than the figures given above. Some time in the future I shall try and give some particulars about silk culture. I hope others will do the same.

LORAIN.

The Big Bend Country.

ALPOWA, W. T., April 10, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Will some of your readers living in the Big Bend country write to me, and tell us (several families want to come out here next September) where we can get some good vacant government land, giving quality of soil, convenience to timber, water, etc. Respectfully,

W. F. NEWLAND.

[NOTE.—We will gladly publish a column article on this subject. Who will write it?—EDITOR.]

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

The following nominations have been made:

Multnomah County.—Delegates to convention only.

Linn County.—Senator, J. K. Weatherford; Representatives, L. H. Montague, F. A. Watts, T. J. Black, H. Cyrus, H. Shelton, James Ferry; Judge, J. J. Whitney; Clerk, J. H. Garbraith; Sheriff, J. K. Sharlton; Commissioner, Andrew Condre; School Superintendent, D. V. S. Reid; Treasurer, H. Farwell; Surveyor, H. J. Coverill; Assessor, E. E. Hancock.

Polk County.—Senator, W. M. Walker; Representatives, Holt Fulkerson, Joseph Cravens, W. H. Kuykendall; County Judge, L. I. Dempsey; Sheriff, John F. Groves; Clerk, D. W. Sears; Treasurer, E. T. Miller; Assessor, Noah Gregg; Delegates to the State Convention, G. W. Bell, N. L. Butler, W. A. Basket, Ira S. Townsend, B. F. Smith.

Clackamas County.—Senator, W. H. Vaughn; Representatives, D. F. May, P. S. Noyer, R. Roth, Wm. Evans; Sheriff, A. P. Scheps (present incumbent); Clerk, H. L. Kelley; Treasurer, H. J. Harding; Commissioners, John Luelling and H. E. Hayes; Assessor, W. Curran; Coroner, J. Cooke.

Marion County.—Representatives, J. W. Taylor, T. L. Davidson, Lewis Savage, Henry Warren, Andrew Miller; Sheriff, Blair Forward; Clerk, W. R. Privett; Assessor, John Kennedy; Treasurer, Joseph A. Sellwood; Coroner, J. A. Rotan; Commissioners, F. X. Mathieu and Uriah Whitney; Surveyor, D. K. Murphy; County School Superintendent, W. M. Kaiser.

Wasco County.—County Judge, Geo. A. Leibe; County Clerk, Geo. Knaggs; Sheriff, J. B. Crossen; Commissioners, D. A. Turner and A. Weatherford; Assessor, S. W. Emerson; School Superintendent, E. C. Herron; Coroner, Dr. Robins. Resolutions were adopted strongly in favor of restricting freight tariff, and against monopolies.

Umatilla County.—Representatives, J. L. Morrow and L. B. Cox; County Judge, T. J. Tracy; Commissioners, J. L. Fuller and F. M. Crockett; Sheriff, J. P. Kesler; Clerk, J. W. Rowland; Treasurer, G. W. Webb; Assessor, C. P. Davis; Surveyor, W. T. Chalk; School Superintendent, John Eddington; Coroner, J. B. Lindsey. The convention adopted resolutions favoring the repeal of the usury law, and favoring taxation of mortgages; also for division of Umatilla county.

Baker County.—Representatives, Geo. Chandler and R. A. Lockett; Sheriff, J. T. Delay; Clerk, M. D. Wisdom; Treasurer, Pat. Campbell; County Commissioners, A. J. Weatherby and E. P. Perkins; Assessor, T. Devins; School Superintendent, John A. Payton; Surveyor, C. L. Means; Coroner, J. W. Cleaver.

Lane County.—For State Senator, E. P. Coleman; for Representatives, R. Vesch, L. Bilyeu, R. B. Hayes, and D. Burton. The choice for county officers was: Judge, J. J. Walton; Commissioners, Hill and Mitchell; Clerk, C. K. Hale;

Sheriff, J. R. Campbell; School Superintendent, H. W. Patterson; Treasurer, B. H. James; Coroner, F. W. Osborn.

Columbia County.—For Representative, John R. Watts; County Clerk, Frank Merrell; Sheriff, Thomas Cooper; Treasurer, Joseph Copland; Surveyor, S. G. Caudle; Assessor, Peter Louisignant; School Superintendent, W. H. Watkins.

Clatsop, Douglas and Yamhill only elected delegates to the State Convention.

Benton Co.—Representatives, W. G. Crawford, Allen Parker and E. Skipton; clerk, E. Holgate; sheriff, William Mackey; treasurer, Zeb Davis; commissioners, John Harris and A. Harning; school superintendent, E. A. Milner; surveyor, A. J. Locke; assessor, J. P. Alford.

Coos Co.—J. M. Siglin for senator; D. J. Lowe; representative; T. J. Lam clerk; A. G. Aiken, sheriff; A. Arrington assessor; A. P. Owen, treasurer; J. T. Hall, surveyor; R. Mast, school superintendent.

Union County.—State Senator, J. B. Rinehart; Representatives, F. I. Dick and E. E. Taylor; Sheriff, A. L. Sanders; Clerk, Frank Wilson; Treasurer, Frank Benson; Assessor, J. H. McCubbin; Surveyor—Simonis; School Superintendent, Jesse Hindman; Commissioners, George Ackles and John Standley; Coroner, E. G. Lewis;

Tillamook County.—For Commissioners, Wm. Rhoades; H. F. Holden; Clerk, Jos. Whiting; Sheriff, John J. Turner; Treasurer, J. L. Story; Assessor, J. F. Stockers; Surveyor, W. T. Newcomb; School Superintendent, Claud Thayers; Coroner, Dr. Patchen.

American Newspapers in 1884

From the edition of Messrs. Geo. P. Rowell & Co's. American Newspaper Directory, now in press, it appears that the newspapers and periodicals of all kinds at present issued in the United States and Canada reach a grand total of 13,402. This is a net gain of precisely 1,600 during the last twelve months, and exhibits an increase of 5,618 over the total number published just ten years since. The increase in 1864 over the total for 1873 was 493. During the past year the dailies have increased from 1,138 to 1,254; the weeklies from 9,062 to 10,028; and the monthlies from 1,091 to 1,499. The greatest increase is in the Western States. Illinois, for instance, now shows 1,000 papers in place of last year's total of 901, while Missouri issues 604 instead of the 523 reported in 1883. Other leading Western States also exhibit a great percentage of increase. The total number of papers in New York State is 1,523, against 1,399 in 1883. Canada has shared in the general increase.

Reunion of Old Students.

We have before us a copy of a circular issued by a committee having in charge the arranging of a reunion of the old students of Willamette University, who attended prior to 1860. The reunion will occur on Wednesday, June 11th, on the University campus. The following programme has been arranged: Commencing at 11 A. M., reception speech by Hon. R. Williams; response by Rev. F. S. Hoyt, D. D., with appropriate music under the leadership of Dr. C. H. Hall, after which a basket dinner will be served, to be followed with social reunion, interspersed with speeches, music, etc. A cordial invitation is extended to all old students, many of whom the committee cannot reach, from the fact that their location is not known. Geo. Williams, Salem, can give all desired information.

THE THOROUGHBRED HORSE is the title of a pamphlet handed to us by the author and compiled by D. R. Wells, owner of the horse Woodbury. It contains a treatise on the turf, cavalry, road, and farm horses in America, collated from U. S. reports and such other reliable statistics as procurable. Mr. Wells deserves great credit for the enterprise he has taken to show up the merits of the thoroughbred horse. Woodbury is without a doubt one of the best bred horses in Oregon at this time, and we are glad to say is being patronized by a number of good mares. His progeny will show to advantage another year.

In the advertisement of Sir Stafford, we fail to mention the owners' names. Savage & Fletcher are the owners. The horses are so well known hereabout that it is not necessary to mention the proprietors. But persons from a distance will find the proper names of the owners hereafter by consulting the ad.