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them nay. We do all agree on great principles and why do we not agree in enforcing them? What is lacking? Organization is lacking and the capacity to organize carries with it the capacity to act. "Actions speak louder than words." Let our acts defeat political schemes and the schemers will abandon the field to us. Political parties mean well enough but the politicians themselves mean to secure spoil. Let us organize to act to defeat the spoilsmen and smash the machine and the country will be prosperous beyond a question. Act, act, act, and keep on acting honestly and fearlessly and we shall reconstruct the world and compel the dirty pool of politics to become a pure and limpid stream to refresh the world with pure patriotism and good government. It has been from this standpoint that we have for a dozen years past stood up for the Grange, believing it offered a means of organization whereby farmers can act in harmony to secure great and good results.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

Saturday Salem Grange turned out well and there ensued a discussion of the tariff, concerning which all the nation has lately had a surfeit, as Congress has this winter and spring done little else, than discuss the Morrison bill, which the House recently decided against. The tariff no doubt interests all who pay taxes to support the State. By means of the tariff, which is simply a scale of duties, called customs, levied on foreign or imported goods, we insensibly pay taxes as we buy the necessaries of life. Coffee no longer pays customs dues, nor does tea, but sugar is heavily taxed in favor of home producers, otherwise Southern sugar planters could not grow sugar to compete with more favored countries. To illustrate the tariff policy of protection there are lands south of our Southern States, the West Indies for instance, that can produce sugar cheaper than Louisiana can. Either our gulf States must give up growing sugar and rice, or grow them for a small profit or actual loss, or we must protect that item of production by levying a duty on imported rice and sugars. This we do and Southern planters actually are sustained in their business of growing sugar cane and making sugar by each of us paying two cents a pound to them to aid their sugar trade. Now, the question is: Is protection in the shape of a duty, which is a direct tax on all who use sugar, worth what it costs us all? To encourage making cotton and woolen cloths we pay a duty on imported goods. This enables our manufacturers to hold their own against foreign factories. There again we ask: Is the benefit of having these factories among us worth what we pay in duties; that we call protection? Take the customs dues of a single year and they amount to hundreds of millions of dollars that we insensibly but actually pay, and it is equal to direct taxation. In 1880 we imported over \$667,000,000 in value, on which a tax was collected equal to several dollars each for every citizen of the United States. This tax was in favor of the wool producers and the grain growers and the stock raiser as well as the rice and sugar producers and manufacturers. So the Grange orators talked on the important subject materially differing, some were champions of protection and some of free trade. We venture to say that no light was poured into waiting minds, no views were changed, no especial good was done. It was a debate in which brothers and sisters of the Grange uttered their thoughts, and with some no doubt the matter had been thought over long and carefully.

In this connection we venture to ask: What subjects are best adapted for the Grange to debate? Once in awhile it may be well enough to take up popular topics of a political nature such as the tariff and mortgage tax law, assessment and taxation, and others of general interest but, it seems to us that we neglect the farm and the farmer's legitimate sphere of action, to discuss national and political subjects that many of the members soon get tired of. The State of Oregon offers a wide range for the farmer to develop and the true business and duty of Patrons of Husbandry is, first of all, to discuss the subject that husbandry calls forth. We have great resources and need to understand them. Every man who tills the earth and cultivates the soil should experiment or at least must have methods of his own for the pursuit of his vocation, and reasons for them. It is absolutely necessary to interest members and reward their zeal for coming so far and spending a day in devotion to the Grange. Let us do something to call forth every man's experience and knowledge and make our general fund of information the common property of all the membership. Let

us organize this business of discussion thoroughly and make it useful and instructive, so that a member can tell his neighbor what was done and what he learned at the Grange, such a course would interest all the farmers, fill up the Grange with a working membership and make it what it needs to be and must be a great educator.

We might enumerate a hundred topics that possess great interest and are within the range of farm life and farm labors. Every farmer can furnish the thoughts that interest him and every farmer's wife knows of matters that interest and often perplex her. Let us make the Grange an educator. Let us put questions and call forth answers. We have often been surprised and even humiliated at learning something of importance from a source that we had underestimated, finding the person we supposed dull and uninteresting to be a student of nature, observer of men and things and possessed of great reasons. If we can work the Grange so as to call out the hidden wealth that silent observers have stored we shall gain much and can learn much. The Grange is only a farmer's club, well organized. Let us improve the organization constantly and make it as perfect as it will be and we shall find greater profit and pleasure. If we really take interest in the farm we should improve every means to extend our information and improve our advantages. If we can by means of Grange meetings increase the general stock of information then a great object will be accomplished.

THE HUSBANDMAN.

Good farming means something more than plowing, sowing and reaping crops, yet the majority seems never to find out that good husbandry means care of the premises and all the appliances of the farm. To husband is to save and care for. The man who husbands' his resources cares properly for all that he has and looks out for contingencies. The farmer is called the husbandman and if he does not really husband his resources and take care of all his possessions he is miscalled. To have a place for everything and keep everything in its place is one of the absolute requirements that is often neglected. Taking sufficient care of the valuable implements and machinery belonging to the farm is a necessity, but is also too often neglected.

The result of exposure to the weather is that the wagon or farm machinery that is neglected loses value and soon has to be replaced at cost of hundreds of dollars. Fences and buildings are neglected and orchards become a wilderness of wild growth, or the once thrifty trees are half dead and look scraggy and worthless.

The other day we traveled over the beautiful hills and enjoyed the loveliness of spring to the full. The world was looking its best and Nature was as beautiful as May can become. Nature sometimes goes back to its first form and we could see that trees set out and trimmed were in some instances throwing out wild growths that needed the pruner's knife. Occasionally dilapidated out buildings and fences mocked the beauty of spring verdure. There was one exception that struck us with more than common force, not that neatly kept premises were rare but this particular farm had lately changed hands and seemed also to have changed its appearance. It was a fine farm and had been famous for good crops. The owner had done well while he farmed it and sold at a high figure. In the past the place had not been beyond criticism on the score of "good husbandry." There was no great waste but there was some neglect. The first glimpse of its fields showed that a more careful hand was in charge. The fences had been reconstructed and stood firm and true; the old apple orchard that from neglect had become a nuisance and made small returns, had been carefully pruned and trimmed and was putting forth a new growth with promise of once more becoming productive; the fence corners were clean and even the little creek flowed unweaved by the obstructions known before the change of ownership. Everywhere the looks of the place showed improvement and gave evidence of practical thrift and good husbandry. There are many such premises, no doubt, and this one claimed our attention because we had known the place since its earliest settlement. It was not distinguished for its neglect and unthrift but was fairly kept, yet the change of owners had given it greater attractions and materially improved its value. We hope to see every neglected farm in Oregon pass to the ownership of good farmers and true husbandry who will consult appearance to the proper extent and by good management will call out its resources and tax them to the utmost, feeding the soil to enable it to produce,

when necessary, at least to the extent of utilizing the manures that can be saved on the place.

THE FRUIT OUTLOOK.

The Pacific Rural Press in a recent editorial on the above heading sums up: "We have not sufficient data to say anything definite as to values but it is safe to say that if one has a good quality of almost any kind of fruit this year he should look about well before he disposes of it. Fruit promises to be worth something this year." We have looked over several numbers of the Pacific Rural and find that all it contains from correspondents and from other journals has the same tone, a discouraging word concerning the fruit supply. The statements of different pests and growths that affect trees in that State are interesting. It seems that the beautiful climate they enjoy so much and tell of so glowingly favors the spread and increase of these things and they thus have to pay a heavy price for their luscious fruits. But leaving the matter of these pests, their causes and cure for another time we call attention to the direct statement made by the Press that fruits are scarce and those who have them can command a good price for their product either as ripe green fruit, or as canned or dried products. This scarcity in California removes from the path of Oregon fruit growers a competition of great capacity heretofore. We have only recently been wondering how much competition their fruit growers will offer against Oregon products in the regions east of us, not doubting that they will be on hand in force and really compete. So far as concerns peaches, grapes and oranges, with other semi-tropical varieties of fruits, we expect they will claim and occupy the whole field, but we have apples, pears, cherries, plums and prunes equal to the best the world knows, and can, no doubt, supply a large demand. Now that it seems probable that California will have a short fruit crop we can make more certain calculations for the product of Oregon orchards. The fruit crop with us is abundant. We hear of some localities where some varieties of fruit will be short, but as a general fact all the fruits named above promise a heavy yield, as do also peaches and grapes where they can be found. Two grape vines—Royal Muscadine and Delaware—have more grapes set on them this year than they have borne in five years previous. A little budded peach, one year from the bud, has a dozen peaches. We covered it with fir boughs according to Judge Wait's plan and the tree is perfectly healthy and promises to bear its baker's dozen.

But we wish to recall the old maxim: "its an ill will that blows nobody good." California's short fruit crop bodes no ill to our fruit growers. We have a large crop and a good market in prospect. We must get a good price too, with no competition to mar the prospect. We recite these facts for encouragement of fruit growers everywhere and have no doubt that this will be a great year for our fruit growers who manage well.

We have often urged that a man who has an orchard should have his own drier to save it with. There is no certainty that the market for green fruits will be reliable and remunerative. It is seldom so, and the safest way is to possess a drier of your own and keep it at work saving your fruit. In another column will be seen the advertisement of H. S. Jory, inventor of the Oregon fruit drier. He sold a large size \$500 drier to Mr. Seth Luelling, of Milwaukie, one of the most experienced fruit growers in Oregon, who said when it was built and finished that he held it at so high a value that he would not take \$500 bonus to have it removed. Mr. Alfred Luelling talks of ordering one when prepared to make use. Mr. Jory is receiving orders for smaller sizes. We expect to put a large sized one in our own orchard, though we have paid for the Acme patent right and have a small one in use. It is also a good machine. Perhaps as good as any, but the Jory drier is far more simple and easily managed, as all goes in and comes out at one door and the iron frame within the circular brick wall revolves with perfect ease. Another fact that has determined us to use the Jory machine is its durability. It will last a life time as there is nothing that can give way or wear out, with ordinary care. The fact that fruit driers can be had of all sizes and different cost is encouragement for people to plant orchards.

FACTS ABOUT FRUIT.

Since writing our paragraph on fruit outlook in Oregon we have learned that we were mistaken in our belief that all varieties would be in great abundance. It appears that stone fruits are not abundant. It may be that peaches prom-

ise well but there are few peaches grown in this valley. Cherries are everywhere a light crop and plums and prunes only succeed in a few localities. We have noticed that our valley exchanges speak occasionally of poor fruit outlook and it seems that there is a poor show in many localities. Cherries are nearly a failure around Portland, and plums and prunes amount to but little there, as we learn on Wednesday. South of Portland, near Summit station, four miles out on the west side road, there are nearly 30,000 trees out, mostly plums and prunes, and from those interested we learn that except apples and some varieties of pears all are short, and with some trees are dying. Considering that the fruit crop is so light in California and East of the mountains, we hoped for a good yield from all Oregon orchards. It seems that the apple orchards do promise well and we can hope they will bring a revenue to help out the surplus of products from our farming friends and patrons.

Our own experience this year is as follows: 300 Bartletts, eight years old, are bearing very heavily and may have to be thinned; some sixty cherries are all light bearers—they are eight years in orchard and ten to twelve years from grafting. So far as we can learn cherries are light crop everywhere. Petite prunes are few though we expected 300 bushels from 500 noble trees. We may have half or one-third that. On 400 Coe's Golden Drops, or Silver prunes, there is an enormous yield—too much for good health—and shall have to thin. From 500 Peach plums eight years old we expect all they can bear except in occasional instances; 250 Reine Claude de Bavay prunes will be full, and there is no finer fruit; 250 Columbia's will bear splendidly with occasional exceptions; 50 Bradshaws of good size are half overloaded and tother half not so; 250 Washingtons are one-third of them bearing fairly; 500 Italians hang full, most of them. Petites and Washington are the only varieties that are really deficient and in each case the tree is remarkably thrifty.

Printers Picnic at Salem.

The printers of Salem will give a picnic on Friday, the 6th day of June. The printers have given a number of public picnics in past years and they have been very enjoyable. The main feature of this coming occasion will be a horse race, open to all engine companies in this State, and a 100-yard foot race, together with innumerable prizes for all classes of athletic sports. The horse race will be for a purse of \$50. Good music and lots of fun will be the order of the day. Everybody is invited, and everybody should come if they want to have a good time.

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