

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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Correspondence.

Farm Hands—Some of their Traits

NEW ERA, OR., AUG. 9, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

A good situation will soon be made vacant as the young man who has been occupying it has given notice that he will leave at the expiration of the time for which he hired. He has a letter situation offered him, and his old employer parts with him with much regret and gives him a hearty recommendation to those who have offered him his new position. The place he leaves will be vacant and must be filled, good wages will be paid and a good home offered. The work that is to be done is not hard and there is considerable business to attend to in which there is money to be handled.

Set still! Set still, young man, until you are done smoking at least, you may scatter fire out of your pipe, be very careful! Oh, yes, I have no doubt but you are "very careful," but you never had a straw stack and had other people kindling fires around it, so you don't know just how it feels. You think you would be the very fellow for the place. Well! may be you are, but answer me these questions: First, did you not when you was at work for Smith make the horses trot at their portion of the work, but while at your own part of it you went very slow and sometimes stopped altogether? and was it you that out of carelessness broke the machine, and then thought you would make it right by big swearing. Don't swear! (I beg your pardon). It was the other fellow that swore. Was it you that was left in charge of a piece of work while the proprietor went to town, who said that now you had a good thing; boys try and get over as much ground but you need not be so particular how you do it. The old man will never find it out. He's too particular always about all his work, anyway.

Again, you and the other fellows generally meet after working hours for a good time and come crawling into bed some time during the night and have to be called twice or three times in the morning for breakfast, and then you move around slow and sleepy as though it was not your intention to get fairly waked up until after working hours for the day. The wages I get when I can get work is so small I really can't take any other time to learn of the world and enjoy myself than to take after hours in the evening. That is the very part, young man, I wished you to get out, would you put that vivid energy into your day labor that you waste in your night revels your wages would be increased; you would never need be out of employment. You are watched while at work when you little dream of it, and a value is placed upon your labor and you are paid for all you earn in the labor market. Do you suppose that anybody will hire you and voluntarily lose money on you? You are very foolish if you think so, and if you have never stopped to think upon the matter it would be greatly to your own interest to make a few figures. I had as well be plain while I am talking. If you have but little else than physical strength to offer a horse is better than you are. You will be paid nothing for your company, but your mental ability and good sense is what counts. I know it is the case that the lightest work gets the best pay, but it must have brains to back it. You may fill the bill so you can take the place of the fellow who is going to leave, but we will let you know if we want you; if you should receive nothing from us you may consider that we have reasons for not wanting you. Yours respectfully,

BUSINESS.

The fruit crop, especially plums, throughout Linn county will be one of the largest ever known. Almost every orchard contains trees that are breaking down with the heavy loads of fruit.

Sugar Beet in Oregon

A correspondent of the Oregonian, under date of August 9th, says:

For several years past I have been raising the sugar beet in Oregon and I find that it has been a sure crop every year, with the proper cultivation, and I believe it may safely be said that Oregon is one of the best locations for raising the beet and mangel wurzel existing, and if the beet contains sugar enough for the profitable manufacturing therefrom, a very important question can be solved, viz: a profitable business to the farmer and a great saving to the State, for instead of importing sugar to the amount and even more than our whole home consumption of wheat, we might be able to export sugar and give employment to many more citizens and increase our prosperity.

Our old wheat lands will raise the sweetest of sugar beets, with proper cultivation and fertilizing, and will yield from eight to fifteen tons per acre.

My method of cultivation on old wheat land is to fall plow the land and fertilize with well composted home-made fertilizer, top dressed, in the fall before the land gets too wet, and in the spring plow the land twice and work very fine, drill the seed in rows thirty inches apart, and when about four inches high hoe them out and thin to ten inches apart in the rows; then run a small subsoil plow drawn by one horse twice in a row at frequent intervals. I made a cheap subsoil plow out of an old steel plow by taking off the mould plate and cutting away the share to a point of about three square inches and fastening the handles anew. One horse will draw it to the depth of eight inches or more very easily, and keep the ground as mellow as an ash heap, and the roots can then be easily pulled in the fall. Twice hoeing by hand will then be sufficient. If any one wishes to have the sugar beet tested as to their saccharine properties they can obtain a supply by addressing James Withycombe, Hillsboro.

The Tightness of the Money Market

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 9.—Usually at this season farmers, whose crops are in their granaries, have had no difficulty in borrowing money, and so have been able to hold their grain for better prices; but this year there seems to be a concerted movement upon the part of banks, acting with the grain merchants, to force farmers to sell. Farmers find it impossible to borrow money to supply their urgent present necessities, and are unable to wait for higher prices. A gentleman at the Nevada bank was quite positive that the only relief was through the sale of grain. "For the last three years," he said, "farmers have made most of the money on the crops; shippers have lost. Last year the principal shippers in this city lost not less than \$5,000,000. One man lost at least \$1,000,000. All that money went to the farmers. Now this year the farmers want to borrow money on their wheat and the shippers have not got it to lend. The farmers have spent the profits of the last few years in improving their places and in buying more land, and of course have not got any ready money. This year they have to stand the brunt of the stringency."

George W. McNear, a prominent wheat buyer, said: "The farmers have spent a great deal of money in buying land in Arizona and Oregon, and have sent a good deal of money out of the State. That is one reason why money is scarce; yet they can borrow money at 6 per cent. on grain in warehouses. If the farmer becomes a speculator and holds his wheat for higher prices he has to run risks, like other men, and one of these risks is a tight money market. The market can be relieved very easily if the farmer sells his grain."

Sheep Raising in Lake County

One of the pleasing exchanges we get is the Lake County Examiner, published at Lakeview, Lake county, Oregon. Typographically it is far ahead of many of our Willamette valley exchanges. We take the following interesting article from its columns. Speaking of the advent of a band of sheep it says:

Though as yet in its infancy, it has, nevertheless, become already an important factor in the revenue necessary for the support of our county government. At a rough estimate, there are now in Lake county, about 60,000 head of sheep, and averaging the yearly clip from these at about 5 1/2 to 6 pounds, it would produce 330,000 to 360,000 pounds of wool. The valuation of the live stock and this

product, at the lowest cash estimate, can not be less than \$13,000, and basing these figures upon last year's rates of taxation, the tax derived ought, therefore, to amount to about \$26,000. But the direct tax on the sheep is not the only item of income derived from this source, for in addition thereto, the majority of our sheep raisers, in order to secure for themselves permanent shearing and dipping places or camps, purchase government or state lands, the principal portions of which are located however on tracts which would scarcely be fitted for agricultural purposes. These places requiring improvement in the shape of buildings, fences, etc., naturally add to the wealth of the county in this direction. Besides giving employment to the merchants and mill men and they in their turn to the teamsters, who on their part by requiring teams and for the latter feed, again benefit the stock raisers and farmers, and so we might go on, enlarge upon, and show that it is not only this class of the community alone that are benefited by this industry, but as the links of a chain, one works with the other for the benefit of the whole. To revert to the bands of sheep in this county, we are pleased to note that all of our herdsmen take particular pride, not only in improving the breeds, but also to keep them free from all scab or kindred diseases. To carry this into full effect, they dip the sheep regularly, and the principle dip used heretofore seems to have been sulphur and lime.

Our broad and fertile valleys, surrounded as they are by hills and mountains, with their abundance and variety of nutritious feed, afford room for an immensely larger amount of sheep for summer range and the close vicinity of our so-called desert for winter range, known as the safest and surest place to winter stock, places us in the happy position to say to our less fortunate neighbors in California or elsewhere, come ye, to share in our benefits and the blessings a kind providence has bestowed upon us. There is plenty of room for you and we will be glad to extend to you our hospitality and assist you in making your home with us.

Fruit Meats.

In the household the use of fruits is at once a sanitary and economical habit. Fruit fresh, dried, preserved may well take the place of meat to a very great extent, especially with the young. Meats call for tea or coffee, these stimulate and in the depressing efforts of active life may lead to more active and consequently more dangerous stimulants, sedatives and narcotics. Fresh fruit is most healthy, pleasant and satisfying; then to tide over the want of the fresh article or prevent its waste, next comes that which is nicely dried. Preserved fruits are costly and not as healthy as green or dried. Canning has many objections. In making preserves there is great cost incurred in the sugar, so it becomes a luxury to be sparingly used, instead of a principal dish. Practically about two-thirds of the sugar used in preserving fruits by boiling is lost by inversion into grape sugar or glucose. Quite a saving may be effected by using grape sugar or glucose at once. Very much of the preserved fruit of the stores is so put up. The article is itself healthy and unobjectionable and much cheaper than refined cane sugar. Sometimes the acid used in its manufacture remains in excess, but that can be easily detected and corrected by an alkali. In putting up fruit, especially those of pronounced flavors, it will be found economical, healthy and substantial, to use gelatine or starch in making it up for use at the table. In its preparation for keeping over, the more concentrated and distinctive in its flavor and general character the better, but it will often be found that in using at the table a little can be made to go a great way by the judicious use of some "body" as starch or gelatine. These hints are given to open up the practical questions of the rationale and economics of dietetics.

A Homely Friend.

It is astonishing how repulsive the toad is to most people. He is a very homely fellow but like many other homely folks has some great virtues. The Toronto Globe tells us of some of them as follows: "The toad can be both tamed and trained to an extent which will amply repay the necessary trouble and patience expended in the undertaking. In proof of this let some plucky reader instead of

screaming and kicking the next specimen that crosses his or her path into the wayside gutter, gently take it by the "snuff of the neck" (it won't bite) place it on the window sill and watch the results. Presently a fly comes within reach, when like a flash it disappears on the tip of the creature's tongue, speared apparently with a precision that would warm the soul of an Afghan. Another and another shares the same fate, until the supply or capacity fails—our knight of the lance the while maintaining an imperturbable gravity of demeanor, unbroken by even a wink as the savory morsels follow in quick succession down its capacious throat. It is not generally known perhaps that the tongue of the animal is so constructed that it can be projected fully two inches, and as already intimated, the aim is an unerring one. The process of eating its skin, in which the creature, after rending its outer garment, disposes of it, body, sleeves and all by slowly swallowing it, has been frequently described, and is an exceedingly interesting performance. In Great Britain, and presumably on the Continent as well, the existence of half a dozen or more of these creatures hopping about in the lawns and gardens in a semi tamed condition is quite common, and instances have been known of the little animal's return to its box every evening with the greatest regularity."

Nature seldom dashes the earth with rain, while the sky is clear and the sun is shining. Therefore the husbandman may infer that he makes a mistake if he sprinkles his growing vegetables at noonday, or when the sun shines. It is best to apply the water by night or when the sun is obscured by clouds. It will also be seen that, as nature understands her work, it is important that the application be made not by "immersion" or "pouring" but by "sprinkling." It will do well, now and then, in imitation of a shower to give a light dashing of the leaves with water, or even for a few minutes to pour on the water bountifully, but the most beneficial application is that which is made slowly, but continuously for several hours if possible, and then allowed a rest for several days. This will saturate the surface soil and gradually strike down to the roots of plants, and by dissolving the material for plant growth aid in pushing along vegetation.

Breaking up sitting hens.

Mr. George Mason, of Montgomery county, Iowa, writes the Prairie Farmer that he succeeds in accomplishing this sometimes difficult thing as follows: He has two movable coops with slatted sides and ends, tight roofs and ground for floor. These afford light, air, and shade, all necessary in summer. In the evening he catches the broody hens and puts them in one of these coops for four nights and days, giving them all they will eat and drink. On the fourth day, toward evening, he lets them out; at dusk they will hurry to the roost, forgetting all about the nest. Two nights after catch them again, using the other coop, and repeat alternate nights—four times. Move the coop each day. He warns our readers to try this and report results.

Oregon School for the Blind.

The regular annual session of the Oregon school for the blind will commence in Salem on Monday, September 8. All blind persons suitable for scholars will be received. An industrial department is organized for the session; board and tuition free. Those who are able will be expected to furnish for their use towels, combs, brushes, and napkins, also sheets and pillow slips, and such extra articles of furniture as they may desire for their rooms. All articles that go to the laundry must be plainly marked. Pupils will be received at the boarding hall three or four days before the opening of the session.

Last Saturday evening as Mr. Byron Baltimore, who resides some six miles northeast of Salem, was unhitching his team from the harvester he met with the following accident: He was working three horses to the machine and had unhitched two when the third became frightened and attempted to run away. Mr. Baltimore was in front of the sickle at the time and the machine was jerked upon him cutting off two fingers of the right hand, split the front finger of the left, made a deep and ugly wound in the small of the back. This is the most serious cut of all and will be apt to cripple him for life.

The Hop Crop.

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—A member of the firm of Libenthal Bros., hop brokers, in Water street, who has just returned from a short tour in the hop growing portions of this State, was seen by a reporter this morning and said: "I rate the English hop crop as equal to 150,000 to 180,000 of our average bales, and I estimate the shortage at 35 to 50 per cent. Last week we shipped to England 8000 bales. England has on hand 30,000 to 35,000 bales. Figuring on this they will have to import from Germany and America about 130,000 bales. The hops in this State this year are free from mold, and are coming out clear and white. True, the hop market has sagged along for some months, and has been almost dead. This has been an unfavorable season for brewers too, though statistics show that beer increased 10 per cent. last year. California hops, in my estimation, compare very favorably with other States. The hop crop of the Pacific coast has quadrupled during the past four years. California will ship from 35,000 to 40,000 bales this year, which will have to be sold abroad. The shortage in this State this year will average about one third, and the entire crop of this country will probably fall short from 25 to 30 per cent." From other sources the reporter learned that hop merchants and brokers were on the lookout for a big squeeze in this commodity, and that it will come before the end of the present season."

The city assessment roll of Astoria foots up \$2,199,986; \$472,695 is allowed for indebtedness, leaving a balance of \$1,727,291, on which is levied an assessment of 12 mills for the expenses of running the city government. On the tax list are 661 names; a 12 mill tax on \$1,727,291 aggregates \$20,734, which would make each of the 661 whose names appear, pay about \$31 apiece for their share of expenses in the Astoria city government of 1884.

The new coal fields on the Cle-el-um are not to exceed three miles from the projected railway line through the Starbuck pass. The coal is bituminous, of superior quality, easily obtained, and unlimited in quantity. Prospecting parties are hitting nearly every day for the Cle-el-um mines. Cooper says there is enough good paying rock in sight in the balloon hole to justify putting up reduction or smelting works. The copper in this mine is fully 60 per cent.

The stories of the sufferings of the Greely party are being told. They are horrible in the extreme, and taint of cannibalism. As fast as one of the company died the body was devoured, and a report says that one comrade stole more than his share of the flesh and was shot by the remaining and devoured. Officials in a position to know, decline to be interviewed about the matter. Greely's report is looked for soon, and that too with much interest.

Mrs. H. H. Savage, south of Salem, a daughter of Mr. Charles Claggett, of this city, was thrown from a horse on Monday evening and killed almost instantly. She had been to a neighbors to obtain help for the harvest field and was returning when the accident occurred. Her neck was dislocated near the base of the skull.

Those who have ordered maps of us will please be patient. Our publisher informs us that he will have some soon. The price, by consulting the adv., will be found to be higher—\$1 and \$1.50 respectively. We will have a full supply.

A party of masked men, on the 11th inst., broke up the Mormon organization in Lewis and Hickman counties, Tennessee. They are supposed to have killed three elders who were conducting the meeting.

THE "BOSS" THRESHER.

The "New Massillon" Heard From.

SILVERSON, OR., Aug. 14, 1883. We, the undersigned, have this day seen the "New Massillon" 33-inch Separator and Russell Ten-Horse Self-steering Traction Engine (purchased by W. G. Daws of T. B. Wait) run, and pronounce it the best threshing outfit we have ever seen. It threshed fast, and can't be beat separating and cleaning. A. COOLIDGE & CO., C. McALPIN, JOHN RAINS, Q. A. MARSHBANKS, F. McCLAIN, W. H. TURPIN, C. STALL, JOHN DAWS, H. T. VON VOLKENBERG. I concur in the above statement. W. G. DAWS.