

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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Correspondence.

Letter from Lane County.

CARPUS PRAIRIE, Sept. 9, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The above named prairie lies about seven miles south of Cottage Grove. It commenced raining here a week ago to-night, and there has been but two days since that the headers could run. There has been no grain threshed in this immediate vicinity yet. The grain has, a part of it, been stacked, a part of it shocked and capped, a part shocked and not capped, and a part is still standing, or rather inclining, waiting for the header. That which is stacked or shocked well is all right, but there is very little in that condition, that which is poorly stacked being badly wet and sprouted. That which is still standing is in very good condition yet, and for a few days, and will save all right if it should dry off long enough then to save it. But that which is badly shocked is in a bad condition. I have just been looking at a piece of 70 acres of fine side oats belonging to a neighbor, which is well shocked but not capped. They are fully one half sprouted and are liable to almost a total loss, as it is warm and raining slowly. The loss in this neighborhood will be sufficient to have paid all the harvest expenses, which could all have been done in the dry weather that we have had, if the neighborhood had been united with one twelve-foot header and a thresher. Instead of that they have run two March harvesters, two reapers and one wire binder, and expect to finish with a header. Oats are heavy, but wheat is only average. I have two seedling apple trees, of which I sent you a sample of fruit, (but it miscarried) last year, and intend to send some again this year. They are the finest apples at this time of year that I ever saw. About all the difference that I can discover in them is that one comes in just as the other is going out. They are nearly round, are very smooth, and have a small core; also slightly sour, very brittle, and about the size of the Pound Pin. Yours, etc., J. T. TAYLOR.

[NOTE—Mr. Taylor sends us a box containing samples of apples. They are of large size—exceptionally so—and of fine flavor. Throughout the Willamette valley there are many excellent locations for fruit growing. But just now apples do not pay well, but we predict that before many years they will be in more demand.—EDITOR.]

Answer to "A Growl in the Grange."

WASHINGTON, W. T., Sept. 13, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Your paper of September 12th contains an article under the heading of "A Growl in the Grange," which tends to give the Grange a bad name among your readers who are not members of the order, and therefore not posted as to our business matter; because of such readers, I make the following explanation: The insurance papers would probably have been out in June as promised had not the copy sent for printing as promised been lost in the mail. The details of the loss and necessary delay, concern only the members of the order and will reach them through the proper channel. I much regret that my esteemed friend and worthy brother should thus publicly make an inquiry which in form is almost an accusation concerning a matter which he knew would not suffer unnecessary delay at my hands.

F. C. YEMANS,
Sec'y T. L. C. F. R. A.

A wagon load of salmon sold readily in the streets of Salem one day last week; they sold at five cents a pound; they were enormous fellows. It is against the law to catch them now in the Columbia.

The hop yield of Puget Sound is estimated at 2,000,000 pounds.

Winter Wheat.

This is one of the most important and most widely cultivated of the the cereal grains. Wheat grown in dry climates yields more bread than when grown in wet climates. The best soils for wheat are those which contain a good proportion of clay and lime. Light and sandy soils do not usually produce good wheat. Wheat will grow best on land which contains just as much clay as can be combined with it (the land) without subjecting it to be frozen out. The great drawback in the raising of winter wheat is found in the liability of the plant to be winter killed. This does not happen by direct action on the plant, but through the soil. If wheat is deeply rooted, a single hard freezing on the soil, by its lifting effect, actually breaks the upper part of the plant from its lower roots, and so greatly injures it. The worst effects are produced, however, by the repeated freezing and thawing of the soil, finally leaving the crown of the plant so far above the ground as to be exposed to the action of the weather, and entirely unprotected by the soil to which it properly belongs, and the plant is killed. This is most likely to occur on heavy lands, not drained. Thorough tillage is the first requisite in growing wheat; the soil must be well plowed, and is very much improved by subsoil plowing; the grain in quantity as well as quality of the crop, will more than repay this extra expense. The ground must be harrowed until the soil is well broken and fined; this properly done and the ground sufficiently fertilized, one bushel of wheat is ample quantity to sow per acre, and the resulting crop will be larger than if more seed had been sown. Sowing in dry ground is generally recommended for seeds; but wheat being liable to be smutty, is commonly prepared by steeping it in a solution of four ounces of blue vitriol (sulphate of copper) to one gallon of water for one bushel of seed, and in consequence of the steeping vegetation commences; if the seed in this State is placed in earth which is, and continues for any time, dry, vegetation is checked by the drought, which kills or greatly injures it.

Early sowing requires less seed than late, because the plants have more time and are more apt to spread and throw out a good number of stalks. More seed is required for poor than for rich lands, and rich land early sown requires the least of any. In practice it is found that it is impossible, even upon the best wheat soils, to grow this grain for several years in succession without injuring the land; and in most cases the crop becomes so small as to be unprofitable. What is taken away must be replaced either directly by manures, or by growing other crops which do not require the chief constituents of wheat. There are many rich soils, in which wheat runs to straw, and produces very little grain. This is commonly said to be owing to the land being "too rich," but, in reality, it is in consequence of a deficiency in phosphate of lime, as that tends to form roots and seeds. If the straw is short it shows that the soil lacks either nitrogen or potash, as these tend to produce stem and leaf. The only way in which a farmer can judiciously use manure is by having an analysis of his land by means of soil tests, showing what constituents are available and what are wanting. In addition to a wise selection of good and clean seed the depth at which they are planted is important. If covered too deep they will not sprout; if too shallow, they are apt to perish for want of moisture and other causes. It is laid down as a rule that wheat sown before winter should be as deeply covered with earth as to be beyond the reach of injurious frost, say four or five inches, but when sown in spring it should be lightly covered, little exceeding one inch. In light, dry soils it should be deeper than in wet, adhesive clays. In judging of seed wheat the dimpled end of the grain should be distinctly marked, and the point from which the little roots protrude must be somewhat prominent; the end from which the blade springs should also be slightly covered with the hairiness or wooliness. The little protuberance at either of those ends must not have been rubbed off, as the grain is thereby deprived of vitality. Kiln drying spoils grain for sowing. It may be known by unusual hardness and a smoky odor. Wheat that has heated in the stack will taste bitter; if slightly sprouted, sweet; and if long kept in the granary it will smell musty and look dull and dusty. If

eaten by the weevil it may be detected by pressing the kernel with the fingers. If rusted it will be shrunk; if smutty it will have a black appearance and a peculiar smell.

It is well known that in sowing or planting seeds many of them fail to germinate. If the surface of the soil has become dry, and even if moist when the seed is planted, it soon becomes dry before the seed germinates, unless the ground is pressed or rolled to compact it about the seed, in order that when it does germinate its tiny roots may be in immediate contact with the soil, and not perish for lack of moisture or nutriment only to be obtained from close contact with the soil. Winter wheat should be harrowed in the spring. It needs only to be known how easily the work is done, and how helpful it is to the crop, to greatly increase the practice. The slanting tooth-harrow, with the teeth set backward, is the best for this purpose, and finely pulverizes the surface without danger of tearing up the plants by the roots. On heavy soils it is better to have these harrows weighted to cut more deeply. Thoroughly harrowing wheat-fields in the spring will produce such a mellow seedbed as will ensure a good catch of clover.

Jute, and Its Manufacture.

This country virtually produces the world's supply of cotton, and there is no reason why it should not produce at least a leading portion of the supply of jute. This among fibers is second only to cotton in commercial importance. It is used in bagging and sacking for cotton and grain crops; and mixed with linen, cotton and silk, it is wrought into an infinite variety of fabrics, where its presence is wholly unsuspected by the public. The refuse portion of the plants, and the worn-out fabrics made from its fiber are converted into paper of excellent quality. The plant, which is known to science as the *Corchorus olitorius*, has been cultivated in India for centuries. So greatly has the jute industry developed within the last twenty years, that nearly a million acres of land are devoted to its culture. Nearly half a century ago the manufacture of jute was established in Scotland. From a small beginning it has expanded to great magnitude and importance. It is the leading industry of the town of Dundee, where it employs more than 20,000 workmen. The annual consumption of jute in the United States amounts to about \$30,000,000, and would be much larger if it could be grown and manufactured here. Experiments have proved beyond a doubt that the plant thrives with great luxuriance in the Gulf States.

There is no reason why this industry should not be established in this country. The production of the fiber would be a lucrative method for diversifying Southern agriculture, and the manufacture will afford a wide and profitable field for the employment of capital and labor.

What Makes Our Teeth Decay.

"Doctor, I've taken so much strong medicine that—"
"Oh, please stop! Pardon me, but I see you are beginning the same old story. Now, let me do the talking. I suppose you think a physician is wholly responsible for your decayed teeth, because you casually learned that the iron tonic he prescribed contained muriatic acid. Or possibly he prescribed hydrochloric or sulphuric acid. It is always well to take such medicines through a tube and then rinse the mouth thoroughly. But no one of these agents—however carefully administered, is capable of doing one-quarter the mischief which an examination of your mouth reveals. The havoc has been wrought by acids, it is true, but they were born in the mouth. You have what was formerly a beautiful set of teeth. Some time ago you discovered several decayed spots, which rapidly grew worse, so that your teeth seemed fairly to melt away. Take a mirror and examine one of these. The channel is translucent, breaks down easily and reveals a larger cavity than you expected. This cavity is partly filled with a whitish, pulpy debris, and when you probe in, the walls are quite sensitive. Hot and cold drinks hurt, and food lodging in the cavity starts the tooth to aching. Nitric acid did it.

Whence the nitric acid? From the decomposition of ammonia in the mouth. Frequently, the functions of the skin, kidneys and other excretory organs become impaired, the blood becomes overloaded with ammonia (which, in a vigorous, healthy condition is carried out of the system), and eventually this ammonia finds its way through the salivary ducts into the mouth. Then ensues beautiful chemical reaction. The particles of nitrogenous food which have been suffered to accumulate between the teeth—you're not going to interrupt me?"

"Why, I brush my teeth after every meal, doctor?"

"You do? And do you use your tooth-pick and bit of string with scrupulous care to clear out all the spaces? What is this lodged here between these teeth. A shred of beef?"

This shred of beef, then, as we were saying, decomposes after awhile and liberates nitrogen, hydrogen and oxygen. This latter agent instantly unites with the free ammonia in the mouth and a small quantity of nitric acid is the result. This nascent acid, which is far more energetic in its action than nitric acid taken into the mouth, attacks instantly the lime salts of tooth surface with which it may be in contact, and decay is the result.

What is the remedy? Cleanliness, first of all, and secondly, anything that will neutralize the ammonia. Fruit or vegetable acid will do this. Eat more cherries, apples, berries, pickles, sauerkraut; drink lemonade. Try water made tart with vinegar at meals. Do you understand now why your daughter, just blooming into womanhood, craves pickles, lemons and vinegar? She can bite into a raw lemon without wincing. Why? Because her blood is surcharged with ammonia, her mouth is full of it, the saliva is rosy with it.

Sour food, a tooth-pick and a spool of waxed floss silk for nitric acid (white) decay.

Another observation appropos to this subject. The free use of fruit acids insures the teeth against that disgusting accumulation, tartar, by virtue of its destroying the free ammonia. Before the ammonia decomposes to form nitric acid, a portion of it neutralizes the carbonic acid of the saliva by which its lime salts are held suspended in solution, and these salts are precipitated upon the teeth, forming tartar. A swallow of vinegar and water at night will do much to prevent tartar.

"But the decay in my teeth is brown, not white," you say. "The spots are exquisitely sensitive."

Hydrochloric acid is the little mischief maker this time. Have you several large fillings extending to the gum and so situated that food lodges in contact with them? Perhaps you wear a plate with clasps around one or two teeth. This favors galvanic action, and thence results hydrochloric acid in its nascent condition. But independently of these considerations this acid often abounds in the mouth of persons who use salt or salted meats immoderately. It has no direct relation to ammonia.

"The decay in my teeth is not like either of the above varieties," you say. "It is black as ink."

Sulphuric acid, then. The decay progresses very slowly, and you suffer very little at the hands of your dentist, and perhaps wonder why people make such a fuss about having teeth filled. This acid is less destructive than the other two named, still if you are greatly alarmed by its inroads, avoid the use of eggs and such food as abounds in sulphur. Your breath is likely to betray the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen, which does not at all resemble that of roses.

Thus far we have spoken only of the active agents of decay. The vitality of the individual has much to do with the matter of decay of the teeth. Fevers enfeeble the system and favor decay. Don't blame the medicines. The acids your physician administers correct the vitiated conditions in the system, so that if the teeth suffer it is probably in spite of his medicines, rather than because of them. After typhoid fever, especially, look out for decay.

The Siuslaw Fair will be held at the Green-door school-house, Oct. 3, 1884. There are special premiums offered for best butter, best pumpkin pie by a girl under 14 years, best fruit cake by a girl under 18 years, best soda biscuit by a girl under 14 years, best fitting dress pattern by a lady under 30 years. There must be five competitors for the above; \$6 to any persons raising fifty bushels of wheat on one acre of land; 50 cents for best looking baby one year old or under.

A Bold Store Burglar.

Sunday morning it was discovered by a clerk that the store of Caldwell, Beeker & Licke had been burglarized and goods to the value of several thousand dollars had been taken therefrom. There was much mystery and some surprise that a wagon could back up to the back door of one of our large retail stores and take away goods to the amount of several thousand dollars. The facts that have developed are these, and the credit is due to Messrs. Wheelon and Prettyman of this city for the capture of the robber. The burglar, A. Caldwell, was caught six miles south of Salem, on the old stage road. He had stowed the goods away in a fir thicket near the road and was camped within half a mile of them, intending to return to Salem, in the evening of Sunday. He was accompanied and assisted by his two little daughters, aged 12 and 14 years. When arrested he was made to divulge the location of the goods. The mode of entrance to the store was by secreting one of the little girls in the store just before closing hours, and then after all was quiet unlocked the back door, and admitted her father. The whole robbery was systematically planned and shows expertness, not only in the selection of goods, but in robbery and burglary.

The firm immediately issued a reward of \$500 for the return of the goods and the conviction of the thief. The circumstances connected with the capture was interesting and were about as follows: Wheelon and Prettyman tracked the wagon (a wide track 1 1/2 inch tire) by its peculiarity, down Front street through North Salem towards the Fair Grounds and then lost track of them, but continued on by the old stage road for about five miles, when the suspicious circumstances of a man, two horses and two small girls entering the brush as though to escape observation, was noticed, and following a blind road they came to a wagon which Mr. Prettyman identified as belonging to a neighbor named Mr. Catterlin. Here they found a cash mark and felt sure they were on the track. Not knowing how many there were, and being only partially armed, they returned to Salem and called on the Sheriff to assist them. Proceeding to the place they found (it was just dark) the party just starting to town. They arrested him and persuaded him to tell where the goods were stored. The prisoner told the mode of entrance and other important facts. He has been bound over in the sum of \$5,000, and lies in jail for the want of bail.

To Mrs. L. M. D.—

These lines are written on the death of an only sister, Mrs. L. M. Darby, wife of William H. H. Darby, who departed this life July 26th, in the 42d year of her age; she died of cancer in the breast after much suffering. She leaves a husband, six children, two step-sons, an aged mother, a brother and sister and many other relatives.

Dearest sister sweetly slumber,
To wake on earth no more;
We miss thy voice of gladness,
Each hour we number o'er
Those gentle smiles of pleasure
Have withered like flowers,
And yet thy memory blossoms
Throughout the gliding hours.
Dear sister, sweetly slumber,
Thy vacant place is here;
Thy joyous step is silent
And gone each hope so dear,
With weeping eyes we gather,
And hearts that wake to pain;
O gently rest, dear sister,
Till we shall meet again.

A SISTER.

Died.

At Knight, Mariou county, Oregon, on Saturday, September 6, 1884, Mrs. B. B. Herrick, of quick consumption; aged 27 years.

Oklahoma County Commissioners have levied an 18 mills tax for State, county and school purposes.