

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

VOL. XVI.

SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1884.

NO. 41

Correspondence.

Notes and Observations in Wasco.

SALEM, Nov. 18, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

My former communication closed on October 14th, at which time I was nearing the Blue Mountains via the valley of Rock Creek. Coming within fifteen miles of the timber line of these mountains I note the grass is greener. The variety known as "big bunch grass" is rapidly giving way by overstocking, but in its stead a finer grass—which is deemed more valuable for sheep—seems to be thickening over the ground, affording at this date an excellent pasture, which I find improves as the timber line is approached. It is observable, also, that actual settlers are more numerous as we near the mountains, for which there are several very good reasons. First, the land is better in quality and capacity to withstand drouth; second, it, by contiguity to the Blue Mountains, has a better summer climate; third, the opportunities to locate a homestead either with a supply of spring water or by wells of moderate depth is much greater than on the plains nearer the Columbia—probably at least four to one; fourth, the nearness to the timber as a supply of fuel, fencing and building material, is a very potent influence in the choice of a location; fifth, it is found that within this distance from the mountains the winter as well as summer climate is better for stock as well as for crops; as the winter climate, like the summer, is more changeable and more moist. The Chinook winds frequently cut the snow from the face of the hills with magical power, when the plains below are held in the embrace of hoary Borealis. As a result of these and other causes bonifide settlement is more general within these limits, and school districts more numerous; more towns are located, and these show more signs of life and thrift, than in the plain country. Indeed, I believe that in the three locations of Fossil, Heppner and Adamsville. Dairyville included, there were more new buildings erected within the year than I have seen altogether during that time in so much of Oregon as has fallen under my observation. These are business points amidst grazing districts; and though the buildings in many cases are nothing greater than is necessary to shelter the family of a citizen during the winter, for the enjoyment of educational facilities, and social communions, still they are indications of permanency on the part of the builders and still stronger indications of a future development and stability of these little towns.

Some of the older residents within this belt are acting on the belief that the increase of "bunch grass farmers" is destroying the country as a stock country, and are looking towards other districts for grazing lands, in consequence of which stock of all kinds is moving not only eastward and southward, but also northward on to the dry plains and amongst the breaks of the canyons of the Columbia, Deschutes, John Day and their minor constituents. While I concede that for men who desire to run horses or cattle by the hundreds, or sheep by the thousands, on the public lands, the increase of homesteaders who plow and fence these lands tends to lessen their profits and will ultimately compel them to either buy their ranges or seek new locations. Still, regarding the country as essentially pastoral, both by nature and situation, I fully believe that it will be made to carry more than double the stock of any given kind that it now feeds and support them with more safety.

The change I think I foresee will come about in this way, and is beginning here and now: A new come homesteader offers a neighbor flock owner to take a band of sheep and herd them from his own home, boarding himself, at herders wages; thus giving the flock owner all

the grass he owns, and probably much more, and doing the herding at one-third less cost. The cost to keep a herder supplied being about fifty cents per day. If this introduction results in proving the homesteader as good a herder as the one he has taken the place of, the natural result will be that next year he will run a band of sheep on the shares and run his farming operations so as to provide winter feed for the flock, should that be necessary. He will thus become a small flock owner with a range limited by the neighborhood of others like situated. To increase the flock the herd or the hirel, as sheep, cattle or horses may be kept by such settlers to the utmost extent the ability to carry through winter will justify. To keep the best quality of stock in order to get the most possible return for feed and care, it is reasonable to suppose will be the natural and desirable outcome. As to what particular breeds of horse, cattle or sheep this country will most profitably carry, every succeeding chance of observation confirms me in the judgment I had formed before I had other means than a general descriptive knowledge of it, namely: Medium sized animals of the respective kinds. While it is a grass country, it is also a short grass country, and as the largest kind of grass, the big bunch grass, (which is bunch grass because the climate is too dry to sustain a vegetation forming a dense sod) it will become more and more a short grass country, though it very likely will be that the surface of the soil will be more generally occupied than it now is.

Whether the causes now operating to compel large flock owners to either move to new ranges or plant themselves permanently here, by purchases of lands commanding the free grazing of districts too rough for homesteads, or pursue a course of leasing bands of sheep to be kept on shares, in lots according to the range of the leaser, I fully believe the homesteader settler, within a line of fifteen or twenty miles of the timber lands of this entire Columbia valley, is going to be a permanent resident, a home builder, and though such is hardly his condition now, he will become a home liver, and yet a stock raiser. His present helps, which are few, and his hindrances, which are many, I will endeavor to notice in my next. J. MINTO.

The Cider Question in England.

CORVALLIS, Or., Nov. 10, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Just at this time, with our magnificent apple crop, many are regretting the consequent waste. Except where the luxury of a "drier" can be afforded it is impossible it can be utilized. In the the southwestern counties of England (her special apple counties), the farmers are in a more difficult plight still. Till within the last few years apples were grown for cider, and the cider was used as partial payment to the farm laborers. Thanks to the educators and agitators of the country, this practice is gradually dying out. But then, what to do with the surplus apples? There has been a popular superstition that feeding them to the cows makes the milk dry up. Where this is exclusively the case the effect would probably be injurious, but mixed with other food the reverse is found to be the fact. At a conference of western farmers lately held at Salisbury, England, a score of letters were read on this subject, of which we take the following:

No. 2 (a Somersetshire farmer) gives his men no intoxicating drinks, gives 1s. a week extra, and tea at harvest, threshing, etc. Has no difficulty in getting men for extra work. "The effect on the men who volunteer to do without cider or ale is very marked, both in themselves and their homes." Has four acres of apple orchard, but made no cider for five or six years. Sells all marketable apples, gives the men a quantity of those rather small for market, and for the last two years has put the remainder through the rot pulper and mixed with hay and straw chaff for the stock. Does

not think large quantities should be used in mixing for stock, but simply enough to act as a tonic and to flavor the chaff. Would rather have the work of nine men with tea than ten with cider for all harvest and extra work, taking average men and not pledged abstainers, as they will do more work in a given time. The secret of the curse is in giving boys regularly their quart of cider a day, and training them to be drunkards by the time they are men. He farms 240 acres, and harvests over 100 acres of hay and grain annually without intoxicants.

This correspondent gives 1s. a week in lieu of cider, and tea, cocoa, coffee, lemonade, or oatmeal drink. The men say they can work better and longer with the latter. Has "not the slightest difficulty" in getting in hay or corn harvest. Even the other farmers' men who can get cider will come in the evenings without asking and help carry, and are more pleased with his drinks than with cider. There is an improvement in the homes of those who do not use cider, and the wives persuade the husbands to work for teetotal farmers in preference. He has orchards, and the unsaleable fruit he gives his cows, with chaff, which improves the quality of the butter. He is continually cutting down old trees and grafting others with marketable fruit, and has no difficulty in selling really good fruit. He also refuses to grow and sell barley for malting, but sells and raises it for feeding purposes, and find it pays better.

No. 2 (a Gloucestershire farmer, farming about 400 acres, half pasture, half arable) has given no intoxicating drinks for five years, and has had no difficulty in finding labor, even in haymaking and harvest. Gives oatmeal-and-water, skim-milk, tea or coffee, at harvest time only. Pays 1s. per week extra in winter, 2s. 6d. in summer—the women 1s. The laborers are more trustworthy and more inclined to pay their debts than formerly, their houses are more comfortable, and the men and their families are more inclined to attend some place of worship.

Is trying the plan of giving his surplus cider apples to the cows and finds from the experience of others that the acid would be hurtful if cattle were confined to them, experiments already tried do not commend apples alone for feeding purposes, though the evidence is conclusive that they are invaluable as a condiment mixed with other food.

MEMBER OF WILLAMETTE GRANGE, Benton County.

Grange Hall Dedication.

WOODBURN, Nov. 17, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Woodburn Grange Hall is nearly completed and will be dedicated Saturday, November 22, 1884, by the State Master; also public speaking at 1 o'clock P. M. by the State Master and H. E. Hayes, State Lecturer. Come all. B. S. BONNEY, M.

Queen Victoria's Appearance.

Queen Victoria I saw twice in England—once on the platform of a railway station, and a second time walking in the grounds of Windsor Castle. The Queen looked just as do her pictures, with the exception that her color and her eyes, mouth and her gross figure all give her a very common appearance. There is nothing regal, or even dignified, in her manner or walk. She wears very large shoes, and dresses in deep mourning, with a window's cap. She has no grace of figure or outline, and, in short, her whole appearance goes to disprove the theory that patrician birth is evidenced in appearance.

Dillon Bros., of Normal, Ill., have attended five fairs this season with their Norman horses, and were awarded fifty-four premiums; forty-five first, and nine second, seven of which were sweepstake premiums. The class of fairs they have attended has brought them in competition with the best stock in the United States, and the large number of premiums they have taken speaks volumes for their stock. Horses that can carry away the prizes from the Illinois and Indiana State fairs, and the St. Louis fair, can compete successfully at any fair in the world. Dillon Bros. will have a number of their Norman horses on exhibition at the fat stock show in Chicago, in November, and from there they will go to the World's fair in New Orleans, where they will exhibit a number of their finest stallions and mares.

Henley, Democratic, is probably elected in the Northern district of California by a majority of 15, as representative in Congress.

Big Hotels Afloat.

Should the revered George Washington suddenly reappear in the flesh he would probably evince some astonishment at the several improvements made in the world since he went out of it. But nothing, perhaps, would be more surprising to the good old man than the fact that the hundreds of people he might see, magnified twofold, in the big reception room at the Barge Office had all been brought across the ocean in one vessel. Indeed, it is almost beyond the belief of the minds of to-day that more than half a thousand persons could be comfortably and safely transported in one ship a distance of 3,000 miles in a week; but such is a reality, and a confirmatory idea of the magnitude of the undertaking may be obtained from the fact that the cost of a round trip of one of these monster transatlantic couriers ranges between \$40,000 and \$50,000. And the hundreds at the Barge Office are more than duplicated by the steerage passengers at Castle Garden.

"The cost of a voyage differs according to the speed of the vessel," said Mr. Gustav Schwab, of the North German Lloyd line, yesterday, "the faster vessels being more expensive than the slower ones."

"That seems rather illogical," replied the reporter. "One would naturally imagine that the shorter voyage would cost the less money."

"The explanation is in the consumption of coal. The faster steamers use from 125 to 130 tons of coal per day, while the slower steamers use only about 60 to 70 tons per day. The distance to Southampton is about 3,100 miles, and our faster steamers make the trip across in from seven to eight days and the slower steamers make it in the neighborhood of ten days."

"How many in a crew do your largest vessels carry?"

"About one hundred and sixty men, including officers. The salaries of captains are never less than \$1,800 a year and sometimes reach \$4,000, according to their percentage on gross earnings. The wages of the seamen and petty officers average \$1 per day each, and the daily cost of feeding the crew and officers is averaged at fifty cents per day capita."

"How much does each person on a voyage eat in the day?"

"Oh, I could hardly tell that, but we calculate on allowing a pound and a half of meat for each person."

"Can you give fresh meats and vegetables on every day of the voyage?" was asked of Chief Steward Charles Winter, of the Elbe, who overheard Mr. Schwab and the reporter talking.

"Oh, yes," was the reply. "On our big trips we ship about fourteen thousand pounds of fresh meat, and we serve it daily, not only to the first and second cabin passengers, but to the steerage and the crew. Should we meet with any accident causing delay we could give the first and second cabin passengers fresh meats and all the luxuries of the season for several weeks by putting the crew and steerage passengers on regular sea fare of salt meats. We have three ice cellars—one for fresh fish, one for poultry and one for meats—and in these everything is preserved."

"How much ice is required for a voyage?"

"The amount varies, according to the season, from ten to twenty tons."

"How about fresh eggs; do you have hens on board?"

"Ha, ha, ha. Oh, no, not exactly. We get fresh eggs at the beginning of each trip, and they, are kept fresh by a patent preparation of lime and some other preserving matter."

"Butter—how much butter is consumed on a voyage?"

"Between twelve hundred and fourteen hundred pounds. We use from two to three thousand cigars. Wines and beers are not so largely consumed, because we keep the price up in order to keep down intoxication."

On a well regulated steamer, it was learned, the bedclothes, towels, table linens and coverings for all the furniture are changed every day. On a vessel of 5,000 tons 2,000 napkins are used on every trip in the first cabin and about 1,000 napkins are used in the second cabin, while the sheets number about 2,000 and the towels 3,000. Different colors are used on the upholstery and furniture every day, because of the relief a change of scene affords to persons who become seasick, and also owing to the additional freshness of the atmosphere

of the cabins thus obtained. The steamer is newly painted on the outside from stem to stern every voyage, and to do this work, together with the repairing and cleaning of upholstery, from two hundred to four hundred men are employed. The washing is done at the end of each voyage.

"How much crockery do you use in a day?" was asked of the steward.

"Somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 pieces in the first and second cabins, separately, and about 2,000 pieces of glassware. The silver of the first cabin—about 1,000 pieces—is valued at \$40,000, and the same quantity in the second cabin is worth just half that sum. Of course, you know, although everything is just as serviceable and clean in the second cabin, nothing is as elegant."

Although the principal revenue on the big ocean steamers is from passengers, they all carry tons and tons of merchandise, which is generally of a raw nature. Nearly every transatlantic steamer obtains its wines, canned goods and delicacies abroad, but of the breadstuffs and most of the smoked meats they obtain on the other side it frequently occurs that the steamer has carried it from New York as merchandise freight. The captains say they can carry such articles to the markets abroad and buy them as cheaply as at the home market.

To load a vessel requires the greatest skill, too; and this is another of the big expenses that are included in the enormous cost of an ocean voyage. And sometimes on a rush, a cargo of 2,000 tons of merchandise has been loaded on board a steamer within twenty-four hours. A feature of the transatlantic freight trade is that cargoes exported largely exceed those imported in bulk, and that the cargoes imported are of much more value than those exported. Everything is run on military, or rather naval, discipline, and not a profane word is ever permitted from officer or sailor.

Chinese Pheasants.

One day this fall a flock of Chinese pheasants alighted in the yard of Mrs. Jesse Parish, near Jefferson, Marion county. They consisted of one male and five or six females. The male bird was perfectly gorgeous in his plumage, having a heavy top-knot and a very long tail, the feathers being very beautiful and all the plumage very brilliant. This bird is one of the most beautiful of the feathered creation and was introduced from China a few years ago. Several pairs were turned loose on the Ankeny farm in the Santiam bottom about ten miles from Salem several years ago, and the flock mentioned must be part of their increase. The laws of Oregon forbid the killing of these Chinese pheasants. It is the object of the law to give the birds ample time to grow and increase and become domiciled here in Oregon. Our game laws are good and should be well kept. To fill our woods with good game birds will be of value to the country.

A Chinese farm house is a curious abode. Usually it is sheltered with groves of feathery bamboo and thick spreading banyans. The walls are of clay or wood, and the interior of the house consists of one main room extending from the floor to the tiled roof, with closet-looking apartments in the corners for sleeping rooms. There is a sliding window on the roof, made of cut oyster shells, arranged in rows, while the side windows are mere wooden shutters. The floor is the bare earth, where at nightfall there often gathers together a miscellaneous family of dirty children, fowls, ducks, pigeons, and a litter of pigs, all living together in delightful harmony. In some districts infested by marauding bands houses are strongly fortified with high walls, containing apertures for firearms, and protected by a moat, crossed by a rude drawbridge.

Says the Crescent City Record: A large whale came ashore down the coast below Alexander's place last week, measuring 38 feet in length and 12 feet across the flukes, which is the largest fish that we recollect of coming ashore or of being caught about here since the place was settled by the whites. This is a regular bonanza for the "noble red man," as it will give him muc-a-mue for the winter.

Gen. Gordon writes as late as Nov. 4, that he can hold out against the Mahdi. He confirms the report that Col. Stewart and party were killed.