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THE MAN AND THE CROP.

We are struck with a remark a contemporary quotes as the saying of a plain practical man and farmer, who exclaims: "This makin' monev a farmin' or a fruit-growin', depends more on the man than on the crop or the land." We notice this in all farming operations for many a man cannot be made to realize that only good farming pays. We have in mind a man who rented a good piece of hill land and put in a spring crop with about four inches deep plowing. He has good straw, and not much oats. If he had harrowed it and then plowed it twice that depth, the oats would have been there as well as the straw.

It is very easy to imagine that what we see others possess that is very excellent, was easily acquired, but the finest diamond the world possesses was only a dirty and ill-shapen stone when found. It has been prepared by science and skill, and at great expense, to shine on some royal crown. So it can be said, with strict truth: "There is no excellence without labor, and it must be intelligent labor to give trees excellence to farming products."

Speaking of "farmin' or fruit-growin'" the casual looker-on who visits some great orchard gathers an idea of its beauty and excellence and thinks there must be a profit in it, but as the sage old farmer says, who is quoted at the beginning: it "depends more on the man than on the crop or the land." We speak from knowledge and observation as to fruit-growing, for we know of land that was overgrown to forest, that now stands in bearing orchard. Does the looker-on realize how much has been done to change the wild forest to the bearing trees? First, the ground had to be cleared and cultivated to subdue it for that purpose; then he had to select and plant the trees, and this requires no easy work or careless handling. To plant the tree well is the foundation of the orchard. Then the growth of the young trees is watched, the ground is cultivated and the trees pruned year after year, and before the tree bears fruit to make any income the expense of caring for it and the interest on the outlay and cost of the land has more than doubled the first cost. But the sixth year the orchard begins to pay. It has had constant care and has been pruned and trained year after year, so that every tree has proper shape and size, all of which demands not merely care and labor, but skill and knowledge.

When the fruit ripens the character of the man is again apparent; some will permit the tree to be overloaded and see its limbs break under a load of small and inferior fruit, but the true orchardist has by pruning put his tree in shape to hold fruit to advantage. He has also thinned the growing fruit to give size to what it bears, for he knows that small fruit means small price. It is no easy task to thin the growing fruit on a large orchard, to the right proportion. Our fruit buyers ship to mining regions eastward of us and will not have small fruit at all. They also ship to San Francisco, and our fruit must be fine to command a sale there.

No extensive fruit-grower can depend on the market for green fruit. He must have some way to utilize it in case there is no sale possible at a remunerative price. He cannot set up a cannery, because that is very expensive, and no one man raises enough fruit to keep even a small cannery in stock. He can have a good drier, and for some varieties of fruit the drier answers the best purpose. Here again the man comes in question. We know of several fruit growers whose product is so popular that it sells readily at a high price, whereas others put up as good fruit, the same varieties, in fact, and it sell for much less. The package must be nice; it must be packed in an attractive way and first of all the fruit must be dried carefully, and have large size to command a price in St. Paul or Chicago. If so dried; then packed by heavy pressure in a nice box, with white printing paper lining and a waxed sheet

of paper over the face of the fruit, and handsome fruit laid uniformly on this wax paper, then the box when opened is very attractive. Take the cover off and turn back the white paper and carefully take off a part of the waxed paper and you see fruit that is as beautiful as a picture and the larger it is the better it appears.

Seeing the remark we quote for a text led us to go over a review of one branch of production to prove the truth of that saying. It is no child's play to be a producer. The man who farms well, can succeed where others will fail. We are coming now to a period—have reached it already—where careless work won't count. Our soil has lost its pristine vigor and requires good work to secure good crops. The railroads have brought the world to our doors and we must equal other States or fall behind.

We choose the line of fruit-growing to prove the fact that the man is superior to circumstances, because we know more of its operations than of most others and it proves so conclusively what the man and his will-power have to do with success. The world will not buy what is inferior in looks. Appearances regulate markets. The farmer who exercises good taste finds his reward. In early days we lived along in a pioneer way and the outside world did not interfere, but now we must equal any or not succeed.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

For the first time in the worlds' history labor is uniting and organizing upon a great scale of members to claim for itself all that can be exacted for its services. The trade unions have been growing in power and are now supplanted by the great order of Knights of Labor, which can be of the greatest usefulness if its demands are limited to the actual right and not to seek to force the world to pay unreasonable wages. The law of supply and demand comes in to regulate all the business of life. The labor supply exceeds the demand and that is one cause why so many are unemployed. Improved machinery, that saves labor, has come into use and revolutionized human affairs. The solution of the labor question lies partially in reducing a days work to eight hours instead of ten. That is equal to increasing the demand twenty per cent. The question comes: Can those who employ labor afford to pay eight hours what they have paid for ten? Speaking of the Knights reminds us that in the old States, and no doubt here also, political tramps are joining the order, or endorsing its principles, with avidity, hoping that they can reach power by means of labor votes.

The contest between labor and capital is the most important interesting event since civilized man has existed. It must be fought out in every nation to be a victory for labor, because any added expense, that manufactured goods cannot bear, will simply shut down the works. The laborer cannot demand more than the manufacture can afford to pay. When the cost of manufactured articles is excessive, foreign made goods will be sold here and our home industries will suspend. If labor can exert the same influence in foreign countries and give equal cost to iron and woolen and cotton goods in all lands, then wages may increase and the eight hours amount to something. If Knights of Labor can be organized throughout the world, great results will follow. In time labor may so organize the world over.

Mere theory is so often ineffectual that no observing and experienced person need be told that the stream cannot rise higher than its fountain. Labor, like flowing water, has but its possibilities. With us, the ballot can accomplish about all that is possible and with unity and organize co-operation labor will receive all that is its just due. There is a wild sort of calculation prevalent that is the merest folly, because contrary to reason. There are regular principles in nature and in society that are immutable and any effort to accomplish results not in accordance therewith must inevitably fail. That labor should have all it needs, and can fairly claim, is essential to our character as a free nation; if it claims too much, then a reaction takes place and labor loses ground.

Some interesting facts are found in an exchange; which says:
 Bradstreet's gives a deal of excellent and laborious service to summarizing and winnowing to the current industrial phenomena. Last week it tabulated the strikes and finds that they suspend about 50,000 men from labor, namely, 21,000 in the bituminous coal regions, 10,000 in New England textile and boot and shoe industries, 9,000 in the south-western railroad difficulties, and the rest in the nail manufacture and various other trades. This is an insignificant proportion of all the wage laborers of the country. The importance attached

to the railroad strike, however, is due to the fact that it is a struggle for control. If the Missouri Pacific and Texas Pacific cannot operate themselves without the assistance of the striking men, then it means the complete subjugation of western railroad management to trade-unions. This would not necessarily settle the matter at the East. In fact it was settled the other way at the East in 1877, when the military were called out to suppress rioting in the middle States.

A FRIENDLY WORD.

In these hard times we cannot afford to lose a name off our list and do not wish to annoy subscribers by demands for pay, but the plain truth is that back dues on our list now amount to thousands of dollars and we cannot do without it.

An easy way to pay dues and one too, that will greatly benefit us and cost you nothing, is to get four new names at \$1.50 each and get your own free as a premium and we aim to make advertisers pay as much as we can towards expenses and so reduce the price of subscription.

You can do us a favor while you earn your paper free. So, if you will try to get four new names—a club of four—write and tell us and you can send names as you get them. We will keep the account.

No man, woman, boy or girl even, but can get four new names at \$1.50 each, right in their own neighborhood. You will be surprised to see how easy it can be done.

Try it and you will oblige the WILLAMETTE FARMER.

A number who have gotten up clubs say they were surprised to find it so easy to get subscribers at club rates.

What Seed from Fine and Poor Heads.

During the year 1882 '83 and '84, some very interesting experiments were made at the Ohio Experiment Station by planting seed from the finest and poorest heads of wheat of ten different varieties. The first selections were made from ordinary grown wheat, and subsequently selections from crops grown from successive selections. The average number of kernels in heads grown from seed of best heads was 45 3; in those from seed of poorest heads the average was 18 45. The countings do not represent single heads, but an average of the best and poorest heads from the respective plots. With the best heads there was an increase in average number of kernels in all but two instances, and in most cases this increase is quite marked. The poorest heads show neither increase nor decrease of productiveness. The larger heads counted evenly, seldom varying more than five kernels, but the smaller heads, though appearing to be even, varied from five to twenty kernels. In growth and general appearance, the poor selections were a little inferior to best selections, usually being shorter and producing fewer large heads, but in most cases being some very good heads. Taken as a whole, the superiority of the better selection was plain and could not be mistaken. Of course the crops from good and poor heads received the same treatment and yet the poorest of the seed from good heads was more than two and a half times as great as that from seed taken from poor heads. See what has been done by selection with cotton; why cannot the same be done with wheat, oats, corn and other grains?

Grass.

There is no doubt, says the Maryland Farmer, but that of all food for the dairy, grass is cheapest and best, taking the cost of production into account, but this does not prove but that even in the times of "flush" feed, a ration of grain, especially to the butter making dairymen, is not decidedly profitable. There is no question but that growing grass supplies the finest of flavors to butter, and gives it good color, but at the same time there is an element lacking that contributed towards making quality in butter which is supported by meal. Grain as a part ration, has great value in both promoting and maintaining the milk flow, and giving not only firmness to the butter, but also extra weight. It is not wise to take the grass fed cow and begin at once to feed her a dairy ration of six or eight quarts of heavy grain food, but in thirty days the feeding of grain could be safely increased to a point that the owner might mark as the limit of profitable grain feeding. Rarely does it fail to be profitable to feed a grain ration to the butter cow, and even when butter is low, for eight pounds of butter per week on grass alone, or twelve pounds with grain, soon tells just how much grain can be profitably fed to cows on grass.

Heppner Gazette is Not a Claim!

Neither is it a mountain oyster; but it is a wordy paper scribbled up in plain U. S. language and printed on a sweat-shop press in a part of Eastern Oregon where cords and cords of vacant government and railroad land still lies out doors. It never stole hogs, but it is sometimes borrowed by the neighbors. Sample copy with description of the Heppner hills country, 10 cents in stamps. No discount to bums. It never sucks eggs. Address, J. W. Redington, Heppner, Oregon.

INSECTS AND THEIR ENEMIES.

The Relations of the Farmer Thereto.—How they Originate and How to Depose Them.

BY F. S. MATTESON.

When the grasshopper comes whatever measures are taken against him, must be prompt, and vigorous, and persevering to be effectual. Much may be done to prevent the spring crop of hoppers from injuring the crops in the neighborhood of their birthplaces; but as the migratory species breed in sandy, rocky, and desolate places, their main migratory swarms would appear to be practically unmanageable. Mr. Glover, from whose report I quoted in my preceding article, gives various methods of destroying the hopper. Plowing in the fall, or winter, or early spring, ground where their eggs are deposited, is highly recommended. When the young hoppers are yet wingless, burning; as in stubble land, firing in a circle so as to drive the young hoppers to the center, will destroy them in multitudes. Rolling the land, in the cool of the morning, while the insects are yet partially dormant, is of utility. Very many may be taken, (even the flying ones,) with a sheet attached to a light pole on two of its sides, and having pieces framed in at each of its other sides, and attached so as to form a hinge with a stop so as to open at an angle of forty-five degrees; and this machine is drawn rapidly along the ground and when desired the sheet may be folded up, and the imprisoned hoppers shaken out into a bag, or other receptacle, and killed with boiling water.

Horse power and wheels can be used with this machine, and it is rendered very effective. Driving the wingless hoppers into ditches, and then burning them with straw, is also recommended. An effectual hand implement for catching hoppers is a large and strong scoop-net, such as is used by entomologists to catch insects. It should have a hole in the bottom for emptying it, which may be tied with a string. This little implement is useful, not only to catch grasshoppers, but very many other insects, and may be modified to suit the occasion. I have used one to advantage on the turnip flea.

Grasshoppers have few enemies except birds. Hogs, turkeys, ducks and fowls devour them greedily, and are very useful in destroying them; but one can scarcely afford to keep a band of these orphans, in anticipation of a visitation of hoppers, which can be brought to bear immediately without much time spent in preparation. Very many birds eat them, and this is about all that can be said in favor of the sparrow-hawks and crows. Mr. Glover suggests the idea of utilizing grasshoppers in some manner, "either as a substitute for guano or manure, or of drying them as food for fowls, hogs, etc.," and why not. Why not as food for people? The Chinese are said to so use them, and it is so related how an ex governor of Oregon once dined with some Chinese dignitary in Portland, and was served with some kind of dish unknown to him; but which tickled his palate so pleasantly that he asked to be helped the second time, at the same time inquiring of his celestial host what it was. The yellow heathen peered shrewdly at the governor out of the corners of his bias eyes, and before putting the coveted food upon the plate he asked: "you likee him, gubelnel?" "yes," responded the governor, "I like it, what is it?" And as the joss-worshiper placed the food upon the plate, he softly replied. "Him grasshoppole. you sabe glasshoppole gubelnel?" And the governor was obliged to choke down his rising gorge, and eat grasshoppers diplomatically.

I once saw a man who, when lost from his company "on the plains," had subsisted for twelve days on "mormon" crickets straight, and liked them afterwards.

Therefore it appears that we have illustrations precedent for, the utilization of the grasshopper as an article of food, in John the Baptist; an Oregon governor; John Chinaman; and "Lo," the poor Indian, and, after having adopted tobacco from the Indians, it certainly does not become us now, to stick at grasshoppers. Yet, if we must draw the line somewhere in regard to adopting the nasty abominations of an uncivilized race, and conclude to draw it at grasshoppers; then, if some chemist could only hit upon a process for extracting an intoxicating drink from them, the fate of the grasshopper would be sealed.

Exactly the opposite of the grasshopper, is the dragon-fly. (Devils-darning-needle; mosquito-hawk.) His whole life is spent in usefulness to mankind. He has not even a single vice to command the admiration of that class of

spurious philanthropists whose sympathies and energies are expended in futile efforts to reclaim criminals and reform drunkards, while the sober and virtuous are either ignored or thrust rudely aside. His whole food is insects; and that too, so far as I am informed, of the noxious kinds. He is strong and swift of wing, and captures insects easily, and is as greedy of prey as the average Oregon trader is of profits. The eggs are laid in water, usually that of shallow ponds and ditches. The young dragons are wingless at first and spend the first stage of their lives in the water, living upon other aquatic insects. At the proper time they crawl up some stem of grass, or other plant, shed their skins, their wings unfold, and they fly away in the enjoyment of a new existence, and prey upon the insects of the air. There are many varieties; from three-fourths of an inch, to three inches in length, and of many colors and shades. Alert and vigorous and ever on the wing, the dragon-fly pursues his avocation in the interest of mankind. May his tribe increase.

To be continued

FANCY CHICKEN EGGS CHEAP.

To anyone who will send us \$4, we will send the WILLAMETTE FARMER one year, and a setting of 13 eggs of either of the following breeds: Wyandottes and Rose Comb Leghorns.

To anyone who will send us \$3.50 we will send the WILLAMETTE FARMER and a setting of 13 eggs of either of the following breeds: Brown Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks and Pekin Ducks.

The regular prices of these eggs are \$4 and \$2.50 respectively. This offer is open to all, whether they be subscribers or not.

Ten Pekin Duck eggs are a setting. As we only have a limited number of settings we suggest that those desiring such eggs to act at once. The first come, the first served.

Biggest stock at lowest prices at Port & Son's drug store.

Clackamas Co., prohibitionist have elected as delegates to a State convention J. H. Sambut, A. R. Shipley, A. Luciling, Mrs. Shipley, J. R. Kinney, and J. Franklin. State Senator A. R. Shipley, for representatives: Josiah Franklin, R. W. Porter, and E. N. Foster.

Contract for bridges and trestles of fourteen miles of P. and W. V. R. road between Tualatin river and Dundee, is awarded to Paquet and Smith, of East Portland.

Some fishermen recently caught 53 cat fish in Silver Lake, near Castle Rock. So then, where did these cat fish come from? The largest weighed 17 1/2 pounds.

THE GREAT **SIMMONS** Unfailing Specific FOR **LIVER** **REGULATOR** **DISEASE**

SYMPTOMS: Bitter or bad taste in mouth; tongue coated; white or covered with a brown fur; pain in the back, sides, or joints—often mistaken for Rheumatism; sour stomach; loss of appetite; sometimes nausea and waterbrash, or indigestion; flatulency and acid eructations; bowels alternately constive and lax; headache; loss of memory, with a painful sensation of having failed to do something which ought to have been done; debility; low spirits; a thick, yellow appearance of the skin and eyes; a dry cough; fever; restlessness; the urine is scanty and high-colored, and, if allowed to stand, deposits a sediment.

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