



ISSUED EVERY WEEK BY THE  
**WILLAMETTE FARMER PUBLISHING CO.**  
 TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: One year, (Postage paid), in advance, \$2.00  
 Six months, (Postage paid), in advance, 1.25  
 Less than six months will be, per month, .25  
 ADVERTISING RATES: Advertisements will be inserted, providing to be acceptable, at the following table of rates: One inch of space per month, \$2.50  
 Three inches of space per month, 15.00  
 Two-half column per month, 30.00  
 On column per month, 15.00  
 Sample copies sent free on application.

**THIS PAPER** MAY BE FOUND ON THE EAST AT GEO. F. HOWELL & CO'S Newspaper Advertising Bureau (10 SPRUCE STREET), WHERE ADVERTISING CONTRACTS MAY BE MADE FOR IT IN **NEW YORK.**

**SPRING CARE OF ORCHARD.**

If your trees are just set out from the nursery you must watch their growth and pinch off the buds you do not want; also pinch off the ends of those sprouts that are too vigorous to let the others grow equally well. Only a little care is needed and work done in the right place at the right time to make trees assume the best possible shape. This means that the limbs shall be balanced by equal growth on all sides, no central limbs allowed, no limbs crossing each other and the center open rather than the contrary. One important matter is to have the branches come out equally at about four feet and let, if possible, a central stem stand and branches depend from it, if possible. The experienced pruner will have his orchard shaped beautifully and will not permit his careful work to be undone by a careless ploughman. Too often trees are destroyed by being mutilated where the single trees or the harrow have struck them. If the careless man would tie up the bruised place, by binding a strip of cloth around the part injured, the harm will be remedied. Last year we did this and when we took off the bandages last fall, it was healed entirely. If left exposed to sun and air there will be a dead place on the tree, and soon may be a dead tree instead of a live one.

If you see any tree loaded with an unreasonable quantity of young fruit, it is often true that the tree is injured somewhere on the body. A wounded tree will put all its strength into unnatural production and often dies in the effort. It is generally the case, that instead of failing to produce a wounded prune tree will have ten times too much fruit set on it. Last year we noticed a golden-drop plum to be heavily loaded when going into its fourth year. When the fruit was not fully grown it prematurely ripened and the tree died, all because it was overloaded. Trees that bear too much one year, usually fail to bear the next. This is ruinous to the trees and to their owner. If he would secure a fair crop regularly, year by year, he can secure it by thinning off the fruit when too plenty. Overbearing injures the quality; make the tree produce all it ought of good size and it will have good flavor also.

We have given here some items that are pertinent to the spring season. To prune well and to thin off over abundant growth of fruit, are very important matters for the orchardist. He can find pleasure and real enjoyment in his work if he will study horticulture and observe carefully for himself. The man who works with intelligence makes money and has satisfaction. We have repeatedly mentioned the success of Judge Grim in selling his apples. He owns several farms and reserves the fruit when he rents them. His reputation is such that his apples bring him in a handsome profit, whatever the experience of others may be.

We have several times mentioned the Ben Davis apple as a late keeper and as popular East, but Mr. Settlement says while it is good looking and keeps well, in flavor it is only a poor second quality of fruit. The Oregon winter apple he says is the Yellow Newtown Pippin. If well cared for it keeps late and is in all respects number one.

How to take the best care of fruit trees is a question that demands attention. For ten years we have plowed the surface not over five inches deep, and perhaps less. This keeps the surface clear. During the spring we gave two plowings and harrowings, using the spring tooth harrow the last of June or first of July as a finish. This keeps the surface cool and aerated, keeps out weeds, and keeps down sprouts. We have the trees carefully dug around by the middle of May and plow towards them, having first plowed from them. To put an orchard down to clover may do if clover takes well and other grasses and growths keep clear; but there is usually more other grass than clover. Last year we could not plow all the old orchard as the

weather made the soil too dry. The part that was not plowed stood thick to the wild blue grass that has lately taken in this valley and we cut it for hay though it had been plowed as clean as possible the previous year. This prevalence of native grasses and weeds makes it expedient to plow shallow and stir the surface enough to keep down such growths.

**THE LABOR QUESTION.**

The Knights of Labor and other Societies are spreading strikes and demanding eight hours for a days work, and everywhere, from Maine to Florida, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the influence of the labor agitation is felt. This may work temporary and local injury but must result in good. It appears that owing to inventions and labor saving machinery there is not work for over three-quarters the laboring people of the United States. Another reason is that women take part now in vocations they formerly knew nothing of. The world is in an entirely different condition now from ten or even five years ago, and these strikes mean that labor is shaping matters for a permanent understanding. If there is too much labor unemployed the only way to fix matters is to divide what work is to be done among those who want work. The surest way to secure this is to call eight hours a days work, by which means one hundred and twenty-five men find work now where one hundred did before. This makes the eight hour law a good thing. How much pay a man shall get for eight hours work is another question, and one that will settle itself in a natural way.

The Knights of Labor seem to have acted injudiciously and thrown away a great opportunity. It was hardly possible that men in that line of life should possess experience sufficient to work wisely all the time. We must condemn their faults and let them try again. If they can really grapple with the great question at issue and secure for labor its just rights then the future of our nation is assured to be prosperous and happy. Labor must not degenerate and must advance towards higher aims, truer education, better life and greater privileges. Place the laborer under such legal guarantee as will arbitrate his case fairly and he can ask no more. Some are afraid labor will wreck all industries. We do not fear any serious harm for labor will soon learn the fundamental and axiomatic truth that more cannot be got out of anything than there is in it. When that is learned the question is answered. The manufacturer will soon learn that his situation is pleasant when he pays his hands moderate wages and then associates them with himself as participating in a share of the net proceeds; already many enterprises are conducted on that basis and it works well. The working force feels a pride in such participation that is honorable and justifiable and cannot be realized by the man who merely works for his days wages.

**ELECTION NOTES.**

Since the Registry law is pronounced unconstitutional the people wonder whether the Supreme Judges have been hypercritical and followed the letter of the law at the expense of true principles. Other States have election law similar to the one laid aside and the question is: Why can New York have such a law and not Oregon? Judge Thayer differed from the majority of the Court and thought the registry feature was legal and right. However, knowing where the fault lies the next Legislature may avoid the unconstitutional features and get up a law that can stand.

By the time we shall go to press both sides (or all sides, counting Prohibition as number three) will have State tickets in the field and the political battle will have begun. Whichever ticket wins will give us a good Supreme Judge. When the Republican convention met a strong opposition was developed to Judge Waldo and much was said against him; predictions were made of his defeat and when he was nominated by a large vote it was said money would be spent to beat him and that Portland precincts would organize against him. That may have been mere say-so. A candidate for Supreme Judge who has a six years record to point to cannot be defeated, because his decisions do not please a few wire pullers at Portland, if the people of the country are informed of the situation. We have no use for partisan politics on the Supreme bench. The State needs a good judge, not one who seeks the office, but one who can honestly, ably and fearlessly fill it. Judge Waldo is not a partisan, nor an office seeker.

The Prohibition party will take a

hand in politics this year and may indirectly produce important results. It is thought Temperance men will count a thousand on the vote for State officers and by so voting may weaken the party most of them come from. We shall see! People are not so narrow-minded as usual this spring. It is an off year with no Senator to elect until January, 1889. Many will vote mixed tickets. Some who very bitterly oppose Senator Mitchell would prefer to see his and their party defeated in a few straight heats than see his power perpetuated. There are many who say the way to beat a corrupt politician is to defeat the party he controls and so defeat his farther aspirations. Political "bossism" must be put down to secure the reign of the people. This will prove to be one of the years when we shall see political independence—more or less.

It is about time that the party bosses found out that American voters cannot be used like "dumb, driven cattle" but must be treated like reasoning beings. Too often somebody "puts up" the primaries. This also shapes the county convention. We are frequently more numb and dumb instruments in the hands of the manager. So let us vote understandingly or not vote at all.

**THE COAST COUNTIES OF OREGON.**

A gentleman lately arrived from Kansas tells us he was much interested, before he came, in reading a description of the coast counties and is disappointed at finding that the coast line is almost inaccessible from this part of Oregon. The time is not distant when railroads will cross the coast mountains by various routes to connect the central system of railroads with the best ports on the coast. A little way south of the Columbia is Tillamook. Then comes Nestucca, then Grande Ronde Pass then Siletz, Alsea, Yaquina, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, Port Orford, Ellensburg, and Chetco. All this coast line possesses great advantages for various purposes and is only thirty-five to fifty miles from the main valleys now densely occupied. It is not very difficult to build across the coast range and sometime a line of road will run up and down the coast and have its connections with valley towns. That will bring all the west slope of the coast range into near and close connections with the rest of Oregon and will develop unexampled resources that ought not to lay idle a single hour.

The actual scope of country available for agriculture, along the coast, is not large, but taken in connection with the several other inducements for settlement it will be well worth the improving. There is good land around the various bays and along the rivers that put into the sea. The farther south you go the more open land is found in the mountains, affording excellent range for stock and much good farming land. The climate over there is directly affected by the ocean winds and currents and is more mild in winter and less warm in winter even, than here. But that region of three hundred miles of longitude possesses resources that are unfailing and time will make productive of millions. The great forests of fir, spruce and cedar themselves constitute a source of generous wealth and every year the world has more use for them. There is coal underlying the whole length of Oregon's coast, and not only that, copper, lead and iron, besides native ores of silver gold and cinnabar are found near if not over the coast side of the ranges. The beach for hundreds of miles is rich with flour gold, so that between agriculture and stock raising, gold mining, lumbering and working coal veins, as well as copper, lead and iron, the coast is beyond rivalry as a wealth producer.

The southern coast is especially rich and valuable in forests and ores, and possesses more scope of farming and grazing lands. Curry county has a delightful climate and a growing population, but people cannot get to and from the interior and all its business is done coast wise, usually with California. Tillamook has a direct commerce with Portland, a small steamer runs in and out there, taking their dairy products in a few hours to the metropolis of Oregon. Yaquina is looming up and has a commerce of considerable importance that is caused by the Oregon Pacific railroad. The success of this enterprise shows what we can expect of the coast region whenever it is brought into direct connection with this and other valleys. A railroad between Roseburg and Coos Bay is talked of and will come in time. Oregon is far from finished yet, even this valley will some day be much more highly developed. The coast counties make slow growth, but sure, and we are certain to become in a few years seats of important enterprises. Their development cannot be rapid so long as immigration from East of the Rocky Mountains remain as slow as it is now.

**The Apiary.**

**BEE NOTES FOR MAY.**

BY E. Y. CHASE.

**Races of Bees Continued.**

In considering the subject of bee culture the object of these papers is the general diffusion of knowledge of apiculture chiefly for the benefit of beginners, and also to place upon record the results of individual experience. For this purpose a regular plan has been laid out, subjects to be considered in their proper order of time and place, this will require the whole season. It will not do to enter into discussion with anyone, for this will occupy space that can be more profitably used for other purposes and will direct our attention from the regular course intended. By this, there is no wish to undervalue the labors of others who have worked in the same field; all praise to them for their efforts! and particularly those in Oregon who have done so well, friend Brooks among the rest, he will please accept thanks for his kind words. This time however we will step aside a little from the course to notice his criticism in the last issue of the FARMER of the paper on Races of Bees. He has tried Italians and thinks for honey producers they do not excel Blacks. That is a singular experience, and does not coincide with that of nine-tenths of the best and most successful bee keepers. However when he states that his peculiar location may explain the reason, he is probably correct. One reason why Italians excel Blacks is that they breed up earlier in the spring, and consequently get to work earlier upon the spring bloom. Last spring my Italians had fifty pounds of honey in the hives, before the Blacks were strong enough to do anything. Now if they are placed where the fruit bloom is late or scarce, or where the flora is of an Alpine character, in a word, when the bloom is late and mostly wild flowers, I can well understand why Blacks, who build up later in the season, should do better in such a locality in certain seasons. Now in considering this case, we must bear in mind several things. Italians bees are creatures of cultivation, and like all other finely bred stock do best in cultivated fields. Fine blooded horses, Durham or any of the other fine breeds of cattle, Merino sheep, or Berkshire hogs do not thrive so well in a wild mountainous country allowed to grub for themselves, as in cultivated fields. If in a few exceptional cases common stock does best, it does not follow that it always does so, and should be adopted to the exclusion of improved blood.

Italian bees do best when fed upon an abundance of tame flowers prominent among which and superior to all, are the different varieties of clover, as yielders of honey both as to quality and quantity. Cultivation in the Willamette valley has in many localities almost exterminated the lobelia and other wild flowers, and its whole surface, in season is white with clover bloom, and it is here that beside Italians, Black bees show their inferiority as honey gatherers. We raised side by side last year twenty-five colonies, of each variety all were treated exactly alike, and the honey yield of Italians was more than twice that of the Blacks. One colony of the former producing two hundred pounds of clover honey one-third box, the remainder extracted doubled itself and we have to add, that two weeks ago we removed twenty pounds more of comb honey from the same hive. I know of many others in the valley who think as well of fine bees, some of whom will not allow Blacks a place in their yards. We are glad to hear Mr. Brooks report of his splendid yield of honey last year. We have been rather diffident about publishing statements of what are the possibilities of bee keeping under scientific management, for fear our readers would not give us credence for this reason all the truth has not been told. For instance, it is a fact that last year from ten swarms we increased to fifty and had a yield of more than one thousand pounds of honey about two-thirds extracted, and now in our hives are not less than seven or eight hundred more pounds of honey in combs, this is surplus over what was needed for winter stores, this we propose to remove and utilize as feed for nuclei this spring. But the most gratifying thing is that late last season after people had a good taste of our honey we sold all we had at about three cents per pound for extracted and five cents per pound for box honey, more than any other offered in our markets. Our extracted netted us about eleven cents, and box twenty cents that is, late in the season when consumers learned what white clover honey was. But another point, our friend failed in his report to tell us how much he

had to feed winter before last. Rumor has it that it was several tons of California honey, was rumor wrong as oftentimes? Now we are free to say that we also fed, and result was a loss of twenty colonies out of twenty-five, all of the defunct being Blacks, we had five Italians they stood the racket all right.

Does not this go to show that the finer blood is harder and stands the winter better? Now we do not consider that feeding in our case was necessary. We were simply badly "cottoned" had used the honey extractor too freely the previous summer. Our own opinion is that the misfortunes of the mountaineers was not only the result of having nearly all Blacks, but also that their big simplicity hives did not sufficiently protect their occupants from excessive dampness; and this serves as a reminder, that a bee friend who lives in Yamhill, has requested an article upon foul brood, which he says is prevalent in that section of country. From personal experience we know nothing about either foul brood, or mouldy combs, never having had the slightest appearance of either, in our yard or those of our friends. It is our opinion that the remedy for both, will be found to be hives just large enough to hold the cluster, and winter stores, only enough. Honey attracts and retains moisture, making the hive damp and absorbs heat which the bees need. Over them should be an absorbent covering to keep them warm and dry during winter. To secure this result, the simplicity hive is to large requiring unhandy division boards too much room being also the cause of spring dwindling.

There is much in the strain of Italians. We have stock from three sources, viz one imported, one from California, and another from Ohio, one of the far famed dollar queens. Some people call any bee that has one, two, or three yellow bands Italian. We find that price is a fair test of quality, usually, and it may be laid down as true of bees as anything else, that a low price means poor stock. If we determine to have nothing but the best, we must pay a higher price for it. Care in breeding, careful selection of the best, means more work, more time expended consequently more money to pay for it. We have never yet been able to get a first class queen that cost less than five dollars, but when tried she has always proved satisfactory in every way. Cheap stock is always a vexation of spirit and unprofitable. The progeny of my dollar queen is of little more value than Blacks as honey gatherers, and are worse in disposition; they evidently are not pure stock though they show three yellow bands. The stock from my best queen is a pleasure to own and be proud of and in the future we will breed from no other. Last summer our bees worked freely on the red clover in the latter part of the summer, we carefully watched them, and know about it. One thing must however be remembered about the habits of bees, when several kinds of honey producing plants are in bloom at once they do not work on all alike, but select those that they like best and work on it exclusively discarding the rest, and the tubes of red being so deep it is more difficult for them to reach the honey so that even Italians only work freely on it when the supply from other and easier sources is limited or exhausted.

**JOHN KNIGHT, Blacksmithing and Horse-Shoeing.**

HAVING OPENED AT MY NEW QUARTERS, No. 306 Commercial street, I am prepared to do all kinds of repairing. All old patrons are invited to call and I will give their work my best care and attention. **43' I Make a Specialty of Horse-shoeing.**

**Handsomest Book Out**  
 Sent FREE on application.  
 SEND FOR  
 Deaver & Walker's  
 New Catalogue  
**FARM, DAIRY AND MILL MACHINERY,**  
 VEHICLES,  
 Binder Twine, Belting, Oils, and  
 Machine Supplies of all kinds.  
 NOS. 208, 210, 212 AND 214 FRONT STREET,  
 PORTLAND, OREGON.

**CHEMEKETE HOTEL I**

**DuBOIS BROS., Proprietors.**  
 SALEM, - - OREGON.  
 GENERAL STAGE OFFICE. Free coach to  
 and from the house. **See Sample Rooms**  
 for Commercial Travelers.

**FOR SALE. A Farm in Howell Prairie.**

Containing 100 Acres.  
 ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE of which is under plow; the balance in timber with dwelling, smoke and milk house; a new temporary barn; running water the year around. Apply on the premises to JAMES KOFFER (dec20/86)