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SOUTH OF THE CALIPOOIAS

There is no denying the fact that the garden spot of the Western Valleys lies south of the Willamette; it is a region blessed with warmer suns and less abundant rains. While this valley possesses great attractions and has an extent far greater than other valleys contain, it is limited in its production by its northern aspect, and occasionally the winter rains come down with a vehemence that is uncomfortable. The Southern valleys—especially that of Rogue River—are partakers of the best qualities and characteristics belonging to both Oregon and California, having the rainy season in less excess than the Willamette Valley, and enjoying, by its southern location, the warm sun that heightens the fertility of California. Of the immigration that has come here by the overland route within the year 1886, a great proportion came with the determination to locate in Southern Oregon, and hundreds, if not thousands, must have been added to the population of the counties south of the Calipooia mountains.

From the Coast to the Cascade range there lies, through what we call Southern Oregon, a wide stretch of territory that is exceedingly diversified. Along the coast there is little farming land, as the ocean and the mountains often go side by side. But the mountains are not so heavily timbered as they are farther north, and in Curry county afford considerable range. They have an advantage by proximity to the sea that is favorable to stock, as ocean influences temper the winter and ward off the occasional severity that we feel farther inland and north. What the future of that coast region will be, we cannot judge, but it has resources of coal, iron and copper that will be appreciated in due time, while its agricultural capacity will be decided as it becomes gradually understood. Those who live here a quarter of a century from now will find a great part of the Coast range occupied by mountaineers who know the value of such land, and the foothills of both ranges will be made valuable and productive. There is not much demand for ordinary farming, more than is necessary for home use, south of the Calipooias. The home demand will keep the farmer at work, for he must have hay and oats for his own stock; bread and seed will require the planting of some wheat and other grain. Stock raising will be a great business in the hills and outskirts of the Umpqua Valley, and the same in Rogue River, but there is excellent soil, and locations suitable for much of the fruits grown in California, and time will make fruit-growing more profitable than gold-mining in Jackson, Josephine and perhaps in Douglas. Years ago Jesse Applegate set out a vineyard at Yoncalla that was abandoned just when it was able to make returns for labor, but it was said to demonstrate the ability to produce excellent grapes in the Umpqua hills. Of the hills in Rogue River Valley there can be no doubt that grapes and peaches and apricots will grow there in perfection. With so much of the world east of us ready to purchase the fruit of that section, there can be no question as to the future of production there.

Fruit growing is a concentration of labor on land, for when the wheat-

grower has to be satisfied if he produces a crop worth \$15 an acre, a fruit-grower can count on returns ten or twenty times as great if he uses judgment in selections. Thus one man will be well off with 40 to 60 acres of land, half in fruit and half for other uses and to grow his bread and feed. One man can tend 20 acres in fruit and also raise what he actually needs of other things, and by handling his fruit well can secure large returns. The best part of Rogue River Valley should be divided into small fruit farms and made to produce very prosperous returns. All the soil there is not so suited, and mixed farming will go on largely. There is much more hill land than prairie there, and we may expect when the advantages of that hill land are fully known it will be taken and cleared and converted into many fruit-farms. There is a pleasure in studying the resources of our State, and showing what different sections are capable of.

WINTER CARE OF STOCK

There are many old-timers who remember that thirty years ago, or less, the ranges were open and the native grasses kept stock alive through the winter. But now, in all well settled parts, the land is generally fenced in, and stock cannot range far and wide with safety. The true policy is to keep only good stock that it will pay to care for, and then provide shelter and food for them during the winter season. Even this leaves us at great advantage over those who live east of the Rocky mountains, because there they have to feed for months, while here it is only for a few weeks. We are supposed to be improving our stock and breeding them up to better grades. All such effort will be useless if we let them be exposed to winter's cold and snow and rain, with insufficient feed. Look at the matter in a practical way, and you will see that it is true economy to keep your stock so it will improve and not retrograde. A simple sum in arithmetic will give you the worth of animals tolerably cared for, fed and sheltered during the worst weather, as against those neglected and allowed to starve on the cold and bitter range. The rule should be to keep what you can take good care of, only. Your colts will grow and make better, stronger and healthier horses; your steers will make beef on the first spring growth of grass; your heifers will make better cows, and your sheep will pay you back when shearing time comes in heavier and better fleeces.

There is no economy in starving stock or letting them be exposed to bad weather. Shelter saves food and secures warmth. It is policy and economy to keep animals that you can afford to take care of, and then be sure and take care of them.

BOOK TABLE

Wide Awake.—The time for new subscriptions is at hand. Wide Awake comes first on the list; it is published by Lathrop & Co., Boston; it is a book for youth, and it is most brightly illustrated. The November number is very excellent. Send for a specimen copy and you are sure to subscribe.

The Century comes as welcome as flowers in May. The best writers in the East. Mr. Howell's story, "The Ministers Charge," continues, and is one of the best stories that has been written for a long time; there is any amount of human nature shown in that minister. The war series are interesting to some; we are a little tired of them, but there is enough else to read.

Grammar School.—A magazine for young people comes to us called Grammar School, also two other little magazines from the same house, intended for very small children. The first is a rich treat even for older readers—full of good things. Mrs. Hubbell's Live Stock is fine. It is published at 30 Franklin street, Boston. Send and get a copy, at least.

Harper's Magazine.—What would one do without Harper; it is the magazine for the people; that it has lived and flourished so long indicates the place it holds among all classes. The weekly is chiefly an illustrated paper, but has many first-class articles in it. The Bazar is devoted to dress and styles; it is an autoerast among papers.

The Brooklyn Magazine is published in New York, No. 7 Murray street, at two dollars a year. The first or larger portion of the book is devoted to miscellaneous pieces, all of solid substantial information. A portion is devoted to sermons from distinguished divines, Beecher and others. It is an entertaining and interesting magazine calculated to elevate the mind.

Port's poisoned wheat is the boss.

FRUIT GROWING.

NO. XI.

THE STRAWBERRY.

Early in the spring, when we have exhausted the winter supplies and have only begun to taste the garden products of another year, the strawberry comes with its delicate, delicious and healthy flavor, the rarest contribution of kind Nature to alleviate the wants and gratify the tastes of man. Nothing that grows on the face of the earth can compare with the exquisite taste of the strawberry and it is to be had almost for the asking. Every farmer should have a nice bed of them and he can easily spare land enough to have several beds of different kinds and can find a market at the nearest town for any surplus they may have.

The strawberry should be planted early in the spring on ground well prepared. Some say plant in the fall but if frost comes and heaves out the plant you are ruined for that year and it is safest to plant in early spring. There are old and tried varieties that are proved for excellence and also for their ability to stand transportation while others are so tender they cannot be shipped with safety. If you only wish to pick and eat them you can consult your taste in selection, but the safer way is to plant a berry that will find sale if you have any to spare.

The old and tried kinds are Wilson's Albany, Sharpless, Jocunda and Monarch of the West. There are many new kinds highly spoken of and you can consult your nurseryman or his catalogue as to them. If your neighbor has a bud of good fruit most likely you can get them of him and be at no charge. In respect to such matters neighbors should accommodate one another and exchange favors. In this way they could keep up their stock without much expense.

RASPBERRIES.

Here is another early fruit, that comes just as the strawberry leaves. We recommend you to see what your neighbors have for if they have vines of raspberry and blackberry there will be more sprouts than they will care to have so they can supply you without loss. If you wish to make a new start and be sure of choice fruit go to some nurseryman who has the enterprise to advertise in the FARMER and make known your wants. We unhesitatingly say that we have at this time a number of advertisers who are at the head of their profession as nurserymen and can send your orders to them in perfect confidence that they are honest and competent.

BLACKBERRIES.

The three varieties best known and commonly grown are the Lawton, Kittatiny and Evergreen. Of these we recommend the Kittatiny as best because the Lawton, unless grown under very favorable circumstances is apt to be seedy and unpalatable, whereas the Kittatiny's seeds are not so large and numerous and the berry is sweet and delicious. The Evergreen is a berry that sends up immense vines and bears late, but its fruit is not as good flavored. The Kittatiny is the choicest and if grown where it can be irrigated and manured will produce berries of superior quality.

GOOSEBERRIES AND CURRANTS.

Among gooseberries the Oregon Champion takes a high stand, as it originated, I think, with H. W. Prettyman and has come to be the standard variety in all this region. It is large, does not mold, and is very hardy as well as excellent flavor. We have a row of them grown from cuttings, or trimmings that were thrown away by some one and we saved them and planted them very late in the spring, but they grew from these slips and did well.

The currant is a healthy fruit and indispensable to good housekeeping. It is delicious mixed with raspberries and covered with powdered sugar and then just smothered with cream. There are varieties of different colors, red, white and yellow, all large. The cherry currant is largest and is a healthy plant and good berry. The other varieties are perhaps as good, but if you get the cherry you have a good fruit. You can get other colors from your nurseryman. They look finely when mixed in a glass dish and you can afford room for them in your garden if you will hear to what wife and family say.

In conclusion we will say that these small fruits commence to bear in May or June early and continue until fall brings other fruits to use for sauce. If you have these fruits and take good care of them to make them produce, you enjoy a great luxury and means of health.

Best drugs at lowest prices at Port's drug store, 100 State street.

EAST OF THE CASCADES.

When the FARMER was young in the newspaper age, the Willamette Valley was Oregon and the region east of the mountains was considered unfit for cultivation and only used for a stock range. Gradually and slowly the truth dawned upon the public mind, and little by little it appreciated the fact that, the world over, no better farming land could be found than was open to location in the upper country. First, the region south of Snake river, beginning at Walla Walla, was taken up as farming lands; then the Palouse country was partially settled. The beautiful and fertile lands of Umatilla county came in turn, and after a while settlement followed the building of the Northern Pacific railroad into the Spokane country. Last of all it was discovered that the stock interest monopolized a magnificent stretch of fertile land south of the Columbia, in Wasco county, and now good crops are grown in the arid district stretching from Dalles City to the Umatilla river. To be sure it is arid, and so is a great portion of that eastern territory, but time has demonstrated that water is attainable, and that its not appearing on the surface is not a proof of worthless soil.

When traveling that country during its period of earliest evolution, when we supposed that we possessed some correct idea of its resources, we have been always and unflinchingly astonished to see everywhere good soil and plenteous production. Every portion of Eastern Oregon and Washington possesses a large proportion of good farming land, and after visiting in the spring what then seemed the outskirts of settlement, we have returned in the fall to find settlers in every vacant section and practical farmers displacing the once arrogant stockman. There was no limit to good farming soil unless you reached some mountain barrier. We do not say that all the prairie and upland was good for farming, for there is scab-land and gravelly spots where production is impossible, but among these are found rich alluvial districts. It will be no exaggeration to claim that two-thirds of the whole eastern area, not mountainous, is fit for agriculture, and the greater part of it can be so used without resorting to irrigation. It is a peculiarity of each locality, as has been demonstrated by chemical tests in the Government laboratories at Washington, that the driest soils are naturally adapted to resist drouth. This was proved by the examination of samples of soil taken from the mouth of Snake river, extending from the base of the Coeur d'Alene mountains, in Idaho, to the Columbia river, and including the worst of the seeming desert between Aine-worth and Ritzville. Experiments at farming made along the Columbia show that the sandy and sage-brush stretch is capable of producing most delicious fruits, vegetables and melons. Another generation, according to Philip Ritz, may see these sandy and sage-brush areas of desert and drouth converted into productive gardens and orchards.

We look to see the immense herds and droves of cattle and horses and flocks of sheep that have monopolized these districts in the past, give way to agriculture and be replaced by practical farmers who will have a splendid opportunity to also become stock men to utilize the range adjacent to their farming lands. That will be a happy solution of the question and will draw from that region its greatest capacity for varied production. The value of all that eastern country is but partially understood, even by its owners. They do little besides skin the soil to grow wheat or barley whereas it will produce fruits and vegetables equally well. The fruit demand is growing as the mining regions of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado grow, and also rich mining ground opens up much nearer home. All the valleys of the rivers offer the finest opportunity to grow grapes, peaches, apricots, nectarines, etc. Near Lewiston and near there, at Alpawai, and Almota, we have seen as luxuriant orchards as the world owns and they grow there the finest grapes grown in California.

Fruit growing is a beautiful and attractive occupation but needs ordinary care and skill, that can be acquired by some reading and some observation. Its rewards are usually much greater than any returns to be expected from ordinary farming.

A great question in that Upper Country is this: What grasses should we grow for meadow and pastures? There are districts where oats will not make a good crop; some where timothy will not thrive; there is a prevailing belief that the bunch grass will be eaten and trodden out. As to the pasture, we have

the word of some reliable stock men that the native grasses improve and carry more stock now than at first. The demand for pasture grass comes oftenest in this shape: Is there not some grass that we can sow that will produce more feed than the bunch-grasses give?

Of course there is much to learn and much to do to thoroughly develop that whole region East of the Cascades, and no great improvement of the pastures can be made until the land is owned in smaller parcels and fenced. Then its owners will do their best to improve it.

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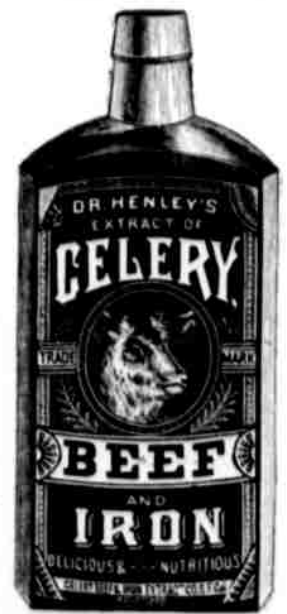
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HENRY OLSCHLAGER.
Dec 2nd, 1886 (12)