

NEW VOLUME.

With this issue we close volume eighteen of the WILLAMETTE FARMER. A greater portion of that time the present editor has been in charge and has literally grown old in the harness. We defy any one to say that his work has not been faithfully and correctly done. During the last few years the business has been in younger hands, but the master hand still retains a firm grasp upon the helm. During all these years, whether it has been stormy or pleasant, whether in sickness or death, the FARMER has been regularly issued from the publication office. Have you, dear reader been as prompt? We have lost much by contact with men who have failed to pay us our just dues; but that occurs in any business.

Our list has not been greatly increased during the past few years, but has held its own, and so far we should be satisfied, but we are not. Our paper should have a circulation of 5,000 copies per week—and we hope before our twenty-first birthday to see a circulation of at least 10,000—We believe it will be done.

We ask only our dues, and those who can, will do us a favor by sending us a birthday present of at least one new subscriber, and those who owe us on subscription account must send us the amount due at an early date.

THE FALLS OF THE WILLAMETTE.

A company of private capitalists have purchased the property at the falls of the Willamette, and also hold eight hundred acres of land adjacent, on the west side of the river, intending to utilize this magnificent water power for factories. This is a very important matter, for Oregon needs manufactories, and this water power has heretofore been in such a condition as to ownership that it could not be made use of. Now, the legal knots that tied the property have been untied, and the property is owned by a private corporation that wishes to see it used for manufacturing purposes. A bill is before the Legislature to purchase the canal and locks for \$400,000, and make them free to the public. This is a question that in our opinion turns upon the actual holder of the property. The State has the right to purchase in 1893 at the actual value of the property. The farmers of this valley have a hard time, and their condition deserves some consideration. To make the locks free, will reduce freight on the river, and will add so much to the value of products. It is intimated that when a new apportionment bill passes, the balance of power will leave Western Oregon, or at least will leave this valley, and it may not be so easy to find, under that apportionment, a Legislature that will make the purchase. While we do not wish to take any "snap judgment" on matters of such importance, we believe there are strong arguments in favor of buying the canal and locks at a fair valuation. We have already taken a position in favor of the State constructing a ship railway at The Dalles. That will be doing well by Eastern Oregon, and this will be of value to Western Oregon. It is time our State showed some energy and enterprise in building up its great interests.

We urged on the members from Eastern Oregon that such a law will double emigration; that people will come here to settle when they learn that they can immediately commence farming and not have to spend a year first on expense, fencing land they wish to sow to crops. It seemed that this ought to be a great inducement to the whole upper country to favor such a law and we confidently approached one member after another, to find that all of them were stock men or were manipulated in that interest.

In short; so long as the wheat growers and producers of the Eastern country, who compose seven eighths at least of the population, allow the stock men—who have little or no permanent interest in the country, and whose herds run on the land farmers cannot afford to fence—to control politics and shape legislation for their own ends. So long they deserve to be made to fence against stock and give the grass of their own homesteads for the use of stock owners.

It looks strange enough for such a condition of things to exist, but it does, and the producers of the upper country go along year after year, allowing the owners of stock to grow richer at their expense, and the permanent interests of their country to be hindered as a consequence. A man may own thousands of head of cattle and not have land capable of pasturing fifty head. His cattle run on the public domain and on land that settlers legally claim and hold, and while he and his kind dominate and manage affairs, the farmer will not only give this grass to pasture their herds on, but must work hard and keep themselves poor building fences against this same stock. That is a plain statement of a true case.

TOO GREAT EXPECTATIONS FROM FRUIT GROWING.

It is not necessary to exaggerate the reasonable profit of fruit culture to make out a case in favor of it. Of course there is a difference of varieties, and some localities will not support some kinds of fruit. The Italian prune, for instance, is not a tree to plant everywhere, as it will not do well in the Waldo Hills, or at least in many parts of that section. A writer in the Silverton Appeal quotes a story that C. B. Comstock, living near Portland, has an orchard of 500 Italians that is "like a gold mine," as indeed it must be, if 500 trees nine years old paid him \$5,000 in two years. This story is simply absurd, and we have no hesitation in denying its truth. At 10 cents per pound, and earning \$2,500 a year, that orchard would have brought him a crop of three or four bushels to the tree, and last year prunes were a failure as a crop, and no orchard that we know of produced even half its ordinary yield.

There is enough in prunes with ten year old trees averaging a bushel each. Then, with 200 to the acre, it would average 3,000 pounds of fruit per acre, worth \$250 to \$300. There are exceptional years, when trees bear heavily, but it is easy for them to overbear. As a consequence of overbearing they will not be apt to do well and not bear well the succeeding year. The advantage of the Italian is its tendency to thin off its own surplus product, and only bear what the tree can comfortably support.

Any man who desires to vary the monotony of farm life by engaging in fruit culture, should study his situation and understand his condition before he plants a tree. If his land cannot grow one fruit, it may be good for another. The best varieties of winter pears must be in demand before we can grow them, and to plant them is to secure a long-lived and profitable orchard. It is well enough to plant trees 14 feet apart, and have every other tree a peach or plum or prune. Then, in time, when your pears or apples need the room, the other trees will have paid their way well.

THERE is a proverb that on the first of February the badger or ground hog leaves his hole to take a look at the world outside, after his long months of hibernating. If he sees his shadow he concludes that spring is not far off and makes ready for business. If no shadow falls he goes back into his hole for another six weeks of winter. February first we had snow, and more snow. There were glimpses of sun shine—a few—but they were very brief and followed by heavy snow falls. If the old proverb is worth noticing we can put the construction on it that our winter has only just commenced. Last Tuesday the 1st of February, was the wintriest day of all the winter, so far, and brought our first snow fall. But we can put up with such weather far better than to have abnormally warm days in mid winter that will disturb the economies of nature and make a premature spring time.

Advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation within the isothermal limits represented by the climate of the several stations and their vicinity; the analysis of soils and water; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds; the adaptation and value of grasses and forage plants; the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals; the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese.

These stations are to be under the directions and control of the trustees of the college, and they appoint a director and such assistants as are deemed necessary.

In conclusion he says: "I deem it my duty as a representative of the people of Oregon to stand firmly by this bill, and to support it and vote for it in all its trials and opposition. I believe its friends will triumph even at this short session, and that we shall make it a law before we adjourn, and in this opinion its distinguished mover, Mr. Hatch, concurs with me."

FRUIT OVER THE UNION PACIFIC

The Portland News has had an interview with Mr. P. P. Shelly, assistant general traffic manager of the Union Pacific rail road, regarding that company and its intentions toward Oregon. Our readers will remember that this is the trans continental line that now seeks admission to our very doors by leasing the O. R. & N. Company's road. Among other things the reporter asked him about the transportation of fruit. He replied as follows: "It may not be generally known, but it is a fact that the States and Territories west of the Missouri River are not adapted to fruit raising, and they must look to Oregon for their supply." This State has a well merited reputation for raising the very best of fruit. At present we are hauling fruit from California to Missouri River points at 1 1/2 cents per pound. This amount we have to divide with the Central Pacific. There would be considerable advantage to the Oregon fruit raiser if the lease was in force, as there would be no sharing of profits then between two companies. The time schedule could be arranged better and the result of the Union Pacific taking an interest in creating a market could not help but be beneficial to the fruit interests.

The fruit growers of California have reaped great returns from the use of refrigerator cars in shipping fruit, and we understand it is the intention of the Union Pacific people to place upon its lines here, just such cars as are used by the Central Pacific in California; this will be a great help to our Willamette fruit growers—we confidently expect to see the whole Willamette valley one large fruit producing country—its bound to come; in fact cannot help it.

IMPROVING THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

Senator Dolph is making a hard contest for appropriations to open the Columbia, by removing or overcoming the obstructions at different points. In response to the charge that he is the worst beggar in the Senate for such objects for his own State, he has shown the extent of our country, its value and importance, and then shows that the money needed for improving the Columbia is small, in consideration of the importance of the work and object to be acquired. It will need five millions to complete the work at the Cascades as now designed, and construct ship railways at The Dalles, and at all points above on Snake and Upper Columbia. To construct canals and locks at all points would require twenty millions, but ship railways can be built at one-eighth of this cost. Certainly this nation is about to do this work, and the good to be attained is sufficient to justify the outlay. One reason why we wish the State to take hold is that it would make Congress feel shame that it has driven a young State to secure its own development.

THE FENCE LAW.

J. W. Jory writes the Oregonian concerning the fence law and proves his case, in favor of compelling those who have stock to fence them in by graphically stating that one breachy old cow will cause the neighbors to make \$500 worth of fence. That is moderate, as \$500 will only build four miles of fence, supposing the timber to have no value.

We have favored a no fence law always, and two years ago tried to introduce a bill giving all counties an optional vote. If they voted "no fence," then stock men fence in or herd their stock and not require farmers to fence against men who have great herds and yet have no land of their own to graze them on.

THE HATCH BILL IN CONGRESS.

A measure known as the Hatch bill is pending before Congress that proposes an annual appropriation of \$15,000 to establish experiment stations in agricultural colleges of every State and Territory of the Union.

Last week we showed the use our own college at Corvallis could be to the farming interests of our State if it was equipped so as to experiment with grasses and crops, and analyze our soils. If this bill can pass Congress—and no doubt it can, at some time if not now—it will endow our college with the means necessary to carry out its object and fill the views we have taken.

There is no State in the Union and other territory of equal area on the globe, that possesses so varied and differing interests as we find in our own State.

Along the coast, from the Pacific ocean to the summit of the Coast Range we have a long line of shore, with different width and changing as we go south from the entrance of the Columbia. Besides the ordinary ocean influences, this coast line is tempered by the Asiatic current and regular trade winds of summer and winter. It is often heavily timbered, with rich valleys, and toward the south it has a width of twenty miles, made up of rolling hills, covered with brush and timber. One-fifth of this is rich bottom land and the greater part is hilly. The time will come when it will be occupied by farms and ranches, the hills being calculated for grazing and the bottoms a deep loam. This section now repels settlers because it must be cleared, but in time it will be occupied, and with its ports and harbors, saw mills and coal mines, will possess a greater population than we have now in the farming counties east of the Coast Range.

Another change of soil and climate occurs in the Willamette, and the country south of the Columbia—as far south as Calippooia mountains.

The Umpqua and Rogue River Valleys have yet another change of soil and climate, the temperature is warmer, the products earlier, and in many respects differ from the Willamette. East of the mountains may seem a single climate and similar soil, but there are not the same conditions for any great distance. Along the Columbia and the foot hills of the Blue mountains we find a rich farming region; along Snake river, from Grand Ronde to the Owyhee is a long stretch of valuable country. The Blue mountains themselves will in due time offer homes for thousands to farm and raise stock. The middle country is high upland and back from the Columbia and including the Malheur and Harney Lake country, it possesses similar traits. Southern and South-eastern Oregon, east of the Cascades, differs again from all other parts of our State.

Here we have classed eight different regions, included in a State three hundred miles square. It is easy enough to see that a well equipped State institution could be of immense value in determining the producing capacity of every section and in inducing settlement and cultivation of each.

The difficulty to be met will be to do justice to the regions described and in determining the producing value of each. This however can be met at the time the means can be commanded for the purpose. The State is apt to overlook the needs of agriculture, and legislatures and congress seem to think that any one can plow and sow and reap. It will be the province of an agricultural college and experiment stations to go to work in a practical way to aid farming interests and educate farmers as a class by making results known through a farm journal. The FARMER has tried to work with the State Agricultural Society and the Agricultural College for results that would be of use to all, but there was wanting a financial basis to sustain such an effort. Since the State has helped the State Agricultural Society, that has been put on a paying basis, and with \$1,500 a year, as proposed by the Lynch bill, to make the college valuable to agriculture, we can see that there will be some ground for a farm journal to occupy to advantage if the Lynch bill becomes a law and the money is at hand to secure desired results.

Since the above was written we have in Tuesdays Oregonian a letter from representative Herman giving the full particulars of the Hatch bill, from which we take as follows:

The object of these experiment stations is to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the disease to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the compar-

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11,000 DOLLARS. We are compelled to pay demands made upon us that will fall due during February and they amount to \$1,000 and the only way we can do so will be to collect money from persons who owe us on subscription account. We have sent to all statements of what they owe us, and we MUST INSIST upon a response to our just claims.

Do not delay but attend to this matter at once; if not promptly paid the accounts will be given to a collection agency that have full facilities for forcing collections.

The United States must be a good country, when there is a surplus in the treasury of \$500,000,000, and they don't know what to do with it. Congress finds this question hard to legislate on.

The Post-Intelligencer, of Seattle, W. T., a large and influential paper, comes out with a plain assertion that said paper is not for woman's suffrage. The recent vote in Congress on this question gave the editor an opportunity to show his colors.

The WEATHER for the past week has been decidedly stormy. On Monday evening there was a light fall of snow and it has continued to snow almost all the time since. But with all the snow fall it will hardly equal a foot in depth. An Oregon snow storm is different from any other, inasmuch that it is so fine; then it is necessary that the sun shall come out every once-in-a-while to cheer up the citizens.

We believe Washington Territory to be the first to give suffrage to women, and through this fact has been better thrown into notice. Few even of our own people realize how large a tract of country is embraced in Washington. There is as much land in that territory as is contained in all the New England States. There are over thirty counties, some as large as a State. There is said to be 90,000 square miles within its boundaries. A dozen Indian reservations take up over 4,000,000 acres. Uncle Sam has some land left yet.

DR. FLINT'S HEART REMEDY. Advertisement for a heart remedy, including a small illustration of a heart.

HAMBURG FIGS. Advertisement for Hamburg figs, including a small illustration of a fig.

FERRY'S SEEDS. Advertisement for Ferry's seeds, including a large illustration of a seed pod.