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THIS PAPER MAY BE FOUND ON FILE AT GEO. P. HOWELL & CO'S Newspaper Advertising Bureau (10 SPRUCE STREET), WHICH ADVERTISEMENTS CONTRACTS MAY BE MADE FOR IN **NEW YORK**.

THE McMinnville Reporter is growing over the fact that an order for seventy car loads of lumber has been ordered by a Denver man, from the mills of McMinnville.

PASTURES are very fine in all the Pacific Northwest, and meadows are far more luxuriant than last year. Hay now bears a high price because of scarcity, but that will hardly be the complaint next spring unless California is our customer.

CLEAR WEATHER is assured us now. Probably many do not believe in the maxim that if it rains on Easter Sunday that it will rain for the next seven Sundays following. Well, it has been proven so this year, at any rate. But now the seven wet Sundays are past, and we look for good weather.

GRAIN FIELDS everywhere look most promising, and there is reason to hope for a great harvest. Abundant rains have fallen all through Eastern Oregon and Washington, and crops there never looked as well. There is increase of acres in grain, and the output from the Columbia river for 1887 must exceed anything known in the past.

WE regret to announce that Mr. Geo. D. Goodhue, who for the past two years has contributed much to this paper as editor of the poultry department, will not be able to longer have charge of that interesting department. Fine poultry is very dull sale these times, and Mr. Goodhue does not feel that he can spare the time necessary to run the department favorably.

IF THE FRUIT crop escapes the tribulations of climate and season in the future as well as it has weathered the storms of early May, it will form an important factor in the production of 1887 and will make our State well known in Eastern trade. We only need to be able to supply enough of canned and cured products—fruits and vegetables—to be worth the world's attention, to make the desirableness of our goods known, and cause a demand far in excess of our producing capacity at present, that will stimulate further production.

HON. JOHN MINTO, who is in attendance on the National Sheep-growers' convention at St. Louis, Mo., has been elected as one of the Vice-Presidents; and we also note the fact that he has had something to say about sheep, and we venture to say that he has told them a thing or two that made them open their eyes. Mr. Minto has taken this trip at his own expense, and we venture to say that his visits and talks while away will do more to call attention to the subject than any dozen previous attempts. We shall soon be enabled to present our readers with some of John Minto's thoughts and observations on what he saw while East. They can be counted upon as containing many interesting ideas.

THE Washington Farmer, issued at Yakima, is a live paper, and the people up there are up and doing—with what we should consider less natural advantages—they are booming Eastern Oregon. The Farmer tells of a fine importation of Holstein-Frisian cattle by Thorpe—who is also starting a creamery—the same issue, notices the starting of a Broom Factory. A lot of broom corn already on hand to use and the product of Washington Territory, too. The Farmer has no patent inside or outside. With regard to newspapers—few papers in any State are ahead of the Post-Intelligencer, another Washington Territory paper of Seattle, it would do credit to any Atlantic city.

It is believed by the old settlers and mountain men, that the flood which is sure to come in June, will be disastrous, there being unusually deep snow now

on the mountains and high ranges all along the Snake and Columbia rivers. There is deep snow all through the Blue mountain range. The weather has been so cold all along, that less than the usual amount of water has yet come from the winters snow. The old saying that a "wet Easter is a rainy spring" holds good and we may look for much loss of stock and property if not anticipated. The Portland merchants on the river front, have all made preparations to meet the worst contingencies—we hope all the readers of the FARMER, who are subject to flood will bear this in mind.

GOOD WEATHER AT LAST.

About the 23d of April there was a warm, beautiful day that seemed to announce that spring had finally come to us, but this was the precursor of continued storms that lasted for weeks, so that we had, in the earlier part of the present month, ten days that for cold and blustering rain and storms was not exceeded by any ten days of the preceding winter. There were several hail storms, and altogether it was as discouraging a spell of weather as we ever remember to have known. About last Monday week, on the 9th instant, the weather cleared up, and on Tuesday and Wednesday sharp frosts occurred along the whole Pacific coast valleys. It must be that in this moist climate frosts do not hurt vegetation as much as they do in dryer districts. Within two or three miles of Salem, in the Red Hills, no damage resulted of consequence, but further back from the Willamette we hear it said that those frosty mornings killed nearly all the cherries, and caused great injury to plums and prunes, as well as other fruit that is later. We find very few strawberries in the hills where they abounded last year. It is very probable that small fruits have been seriously damaged by these frosts, as ice froze an eighth of an inch in thickness on those mornings, wherever there was standing water. At half-past seven on Thursday morning we found ice in the streets of Salem.

On that day Dr. Cardwell said that cherries were very light at his orchard, four miles from Portland, at Summit station. Other varieties were somewhat light bearing there. Messrs. Staver & Walker had a letter Wednesday evening from Mr. Winston, of Roseburg, who is a practical fruit man, saying plums and prunes are a light crop at Roseburg. From what we gather that seems reliable, it seems probable that these frosts may have caused considerable injury to fruit and gardens. All tender vegetation suffered, and early potatoes were severely bitten.

These same morning frost devastated the vineyards of Napa Valley and other valleys of California. The young grapes were all killed in many localities. The injury done was so great that before night, as the news reached the wine-makers of California, the price of wine went up 25 per cent. owing to the certainty that the product of 1887 would not equal the demands of the trade. Sonoma, Glen Ellen, St. Helena, Calistoga and Santa Rosa Valleys are among the badly injured, while San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Stockton and Sonoma reports say the damage there is light. If the vineyards suffered so much, the orchards could hardly have escaped free of harm.

It is probable that some injury occurred in all parts of Oregon and Washington, but do not expect to hear that fruit, as a fact, is a short crop. The probability is that California and Oregon will this year test the world's capacity to market a greater amount of fruit, when ripe, as well as canned and evaporated, than was ever produced here in the past.

Going through a field of wheat a few days ago, we passed between that sowed in the fall and that sowed in the spring. The former was badly "fired," looked rusty, and half the leaves were brown, while the spring grain was a vigorous dark green. Such we understand is the fact with regard to all winter grain. The season was not favorable, for while there is a heavy stand, the quality is seriously damaged. Wheat that is fired cannot regain its strength and vigor, and the heads will not fill well. East of the Cascades the wheat crop will be immense; greater acreage and greater yield than ever was known. Western Oregon cannot compare with Eastern this year, though we shall not have a poor crop, and far from any failure.

The Salem wood pumps have a reputation that is not equaled by any wooden pump made. We have one on our place that has done good service and which never fails to bring water in two strokes of the handle and that too often having stood unused for a week. Call and see them.

RECENT CATTLE IMPORTATIONS.

The Yakima Signal notes the arrival into that section of a car load of Holsteins, numbering thirteen head. They are from New York State, and are all registered. It is a fact that much new blood is being brought into the cattle-grazing sections of the Inland Empire. Even in the Willamette Valley we note many recent importations. It is a wise plan to keep up the purity of the strains by constant change. But breeders cannot be too careful of the blood they bring. It will never do to import cheap animals to this country now, for in after years it will work great hardship on this great industry to find that the foundation stock in our herds was cheap and undesirable. We hope importers will keep this point well in view, and see to it that we start on a solid, substantial basis for the formation of our vast herds. We expect to see in the years to come many breeders of all the leading kinds of live stock. Western and Eastern Oregon and Washington are peculiarly adapted to the growth and raising of fine stock, and while this is true, we expect to see the Willamette Valley the nucleus from which the immense herds on the grazing lands east of the Cascades shall draw their supply of "blood-infusers." This is so even now to a great extent.

Among the recent importations made to the Willamette Valley we note that Mr. W. R. Carey has brought in some "blacks." The last importation of Jerseys brought in by W. C. Meyer, of Ashland, we are informed, is the choicest ever brought here. A leading breeder of this stock informs us that he intends getting a young bull of this importation, and seems to think he will get some exceptionally good milk strains thereby. We have one thing to say for Mr. Meyer, and that is, that what he imports is always of the best, and he never considers the price so much as the quality.

THE INTER-STATE LAW'S WORKING.

The railroads undertook to make the long and short haul section of the law odious to business men, and they have very generally succeeded in disgusting the business men of our section. Knowing of the coming change in rates, due to the Inter-State Commerce law, our merchants went East, and prior to its coming into operation, they purchased and shipped great stocks of goods to carry them through the spring and summer. The Commissioners, having suspended this section for the Pacific Coast, their action was unnecessary, and they have their warehouses full of goods they do not need, and see that the trans-continental roads have again returned to low freight rates. Had the law been sustained, they would have richly profited by their enterprise; but as it is, they are considerably involved by having such great stocks in store. Many of them sell goods at low prices, and folks who are blessed with cash in hand can make bargains.

It is not easy to foretell the nature of times to come, but there are some reasons to hope that the near future will bring more of practical prosperity to our region than has been realized for four years back. Previous to the summer of 1883 we had all the excitement which attends the building of great railroad enterprises, and the genius of Henry Villard did much for this country over and above the prosperity that attended the outlay of many millions under his management. He realized that to make his enterprise prosper, the people of the countries they developed must be prosperous, and he sought in all things to study and advance the condition of the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.

When the financial crash came in the fall of 1883, railroad work almost entirely ceased; many of the rich among us were heavy losers—to the extent of several millions, it is known—by the decline in value of the securities he had created. By this the country lost the flush of good times it enjoyed, and capitalists and merchants were cramped so that they could not carry out the plans already projected. To make the matter worse, India became our most formidable competitor in producing wheat, and the price of our two greatest staples—wheat and wool—declined 25 to 40 per cent. in the very midst of our most trying vicissitudes. Still more trials were in store. The flow of immigration hither from the Northwestern States almost entirely ceased, for hard times seized upon those States, and people could not sell property or raise the means to remove to the Pacific.

But we have gradually grown stronger and more capable to manage. Our people, by industry and economy, are more independent than they were, and have quit the credit system of trade. Every-

where times have improved and business is more prosperous. We hear that California realizes improvement and immigration that results in permanent settlement, such as was never known there before. The Western States are prosperous, and there is a march of "booming" prosperity towards us from the East and South. Certainly, Oregon is unsurpassed in its qualities, and not often equalled, and as our climate makes our region desirable, we may look for great increase of population so soon as the world can afford means to get here.

While it is not positive that the wheat market will equal our hopes, there is good reason to believe that breadstuffs have got to the lowest point—and the same is true of wool—and must take an upward turn.

MULES FOR FARM WORK.

A year ago we had horses at work, and by accident and disease buried three good animals, leaving only a young mare and her yearling filly. These were good animals, and by advertising a wish to exchange we traded off the two for a good pair of mules, in their prime. They were not large, but were low built and fair size and could haul a cord of wood or do any ordinary farm work. It was a good trade for us, as it proved, and an excellent one for the Polk county farmer who wished to quit plowing for wheat and raise stock. He now has three choice animals, all females, and soon his mules will result in a band of good stock, rapidly increasing. Another year there should be two colts, making five head in all, and wheat growing would not yield him the increase he will have from the mare and filly.

But our point now is as to value of mules as a team for farm work. In many years we have never had work done as satisfactorily as since these low-built mules have been passing under the limbs of the orchard trees. They work single, as well, and though not near the size of the horses we lost, one of them manages to pull a 14 inch plow, set to go about ten inches, and we plow up to the tree so that the unplowed strip is only ten to twelve inches wide. Not only have they proved useful as workers but they have been economical feeders. It certainly has not cost much if any more than one-half to feed these mules that it did to feed the horses we used to have. Another fact is their hardness and endurance. On much less feed—and few much less oats—a mule will outwalk a horse and he cannot well be overworked—because he won't be. Pull a heavy load on a hill, or a plow in the furrow, and when the mule wants to stop, and knows he ought to rest, he will have his rest whether or no. That is a good quality, for the best horse we had died of overwork, but history does not tell when a mule ever did. Take the mule, in all shapes and conditions, and he is basely slandered. Our mules never offer to kick and are as gentle as need be. They are tough on the bit and start when they get ready,

but when they do start they keep going and are really a fast plowing team. We would not trade these little mules, for orchard work, and ordinary farm work, for the finest team in Oregon. It is true that the mule's ears are sizable and his idea of vocal effort is apt to be parodied by the small bay, and at times by the humorous bray of older growth. When we occasionally ride Barney through the streets of our capital city, or drive him in the cart on some business trip, our friends and their small boys make fraudulent attempts at riot, flapping their hands above their heads for ears and are seized with a desire to imitate Barney's guffaw talents. We follow his example and ignore these efforts, for we find the mule usually more dignified than his imitators.

Really and truly, leaving the question of beauty and vocal performance out of the question, we wonder why people don't raise more mules for work teams. They are more long-lived than horses; less subject to disease; cost less to keep and are more tractable and serviceable. We see a few teams of mules, but not one where there should be a hundred. They command a fair price and deserve to be well appreciated, because you can let a reckless hand, who might ruin the temper and habits of a spirited horse, drive your mules in perfect confidence that they will hold their own. There are, truly, many hired men who impose on animals, and it is some comfort to let such have a team that cannot well be imposed on. The mule deserves good treatment, of course, as does every animal that works for man, but the mule can get along with abusive teamsters far more comfortably than can a high spirited horse that an ill-tempered man would soon goad to frenzy or make sullen and balky. Mules are neglected here in Oregon, and in this whole region, and we commend the fact to attention of breeders as well as those needing teams, that in all matters of utility and economy, long life and endurance, the mule is the animal for the farmers' or teamsters' work, and especially the poor man's friend.

Fits positively cured by Dr. Stryker, who has opened a private dispensary at 266 Commercial street, Salem, Oregon, where he will successfully treat all curable cases of chronic and private diseases, such as consumption its first stages, piles, scrofula, and diseases of women, etc. Correspondence solicited. Electric belts and appliances for sale. mar-25-m

Letter from Douglas County.

OAKLAND, OR., April 2, 1887.
 Editor Willamette Farmer:
 We have been having lots of rain this spring, and the Umpqua has been real high, but now it is falling. Geo. W. McElroy is talking of building a steamer to run on the Umpqua, and it will be a great help to all living on this river. The LaChance brothers have four young dogs that are only four months old, and they run deer into the river. They are half breed bloodhounds and one of them has not returned yet. They are good dogs, and will run deer better than any other breed. P. L.A.C.

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