

Coquille City Herald.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY.
J. A. DEAN, Editor and Proprietor
Devoted to the interests of the Coquille River particularly, and of the County generally.
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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1885.

The Harvest Outlook.

As times in Oregon are based on the harvest prospect of California, the following from the San Francisco Chronicle may be of interest:

The merchants of San Francisco, and especially the jobbers, are down on their marrow-bones beseeching Jupiter Pluvius to open the flood-gates of heaven and favor this section with a beautiful rain. The large majority, basing their judgment on advices received from their country correspondents, maintain that without rain within the next week or ten days the coming harvest will be very slim, and that business in consequence will undergo a serious depression. The old-timers, however, maintain that there is no occasion for the prevailing alarm, although they admit that the situation is far from satisfactory.

Mr. Briggs, the manager of the immigration Society, stated that he has received advice from all parts of the State, and that he cannot see any occasion for the prevailing alarm as to the coming harvest, or any serious necessity for immediate rain. Even without a drop of rain our coast counties will have a large crop of fruits. Where rain is most needed is in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, and in those great wheat belts a good rain ought to come before the month is out. In Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Lassen, Sonoma and Napa counties the crops are in fine condition and the ground is full of moisture.

H. L. Dodge one of the oldest and most conservative merchants in the city, says that he has lately received advice from all sections of the State. While there is a general cry for rain, especially in the southern country, he is satisfied that the harvest will, taking the State in its entirety, be a satisfactory one if we have rain inside of the next thirty days.

One of the most prominent merchants of the city, whose modesty would be shocked should his name appear in print, predicted that we would have plenty of rain after Monday next, when an annular eclipse of the sun will occur. He had kept a close study and noticed that a rain always followed one of these heavenly phenomena. He had conversed with farmers from all parts of the State and was satisfied that there was plenty of moisture in the earth. The trouble was that the dry winds from the north, prevailing for many days past, had dried the surface, and thus had caused unnecessary alarm. Should we have a good rain within the next fifteen days the harvest will be most bountiful, and even without rain we are sure to have fully two-thirds of a large crop. The natural fog, or morning dew, will keep sufficient moisture in the ground.

Baker & Hamilton received a gloomy letter from one of their correspondents in Los Angeles county: In it he says: "Unless we have rains on or before the 20th of this month the crops will be a partial, if not a total, failure. At present, the outlook is very discouraging. I have just been through all parts of the county and have seen a large portion of the grain already beginning to curl and turn black. Pray for rain." On the contrary, one of the firm's traveling agents, who has just returned from a trip down the coast, reports that in the counties of Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura the outlook for good crops is very satisfactory, although the farmers and country dealers are holding back their orders, waiting for a good rain.

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Guinea Grass.

In many parts of the south a forage plant called by the above title has been grown for many years. There seem to be two varieties, called indiscriminately by the same name. One of these is annual, and is a most excellent stock food, producing large crops, but its requiring to be replanted yearly is of course a great drawback. The other variety is of perennial growth and is a member of the sorghum family. It is adapted to both cold and hot climates, doing well in Mexico and in localities as far north as where the ground freezes from two to three feet in depth. It seems especially adapted to withstand drought, though where irrigation can be applied largely enhanced crops are harvested, as high as twenty tons to the acre having been cut in one season. On dry ground three or four cuttings are made in the season, but in Mexico and other warm climates seven or eight may be made. In Texas, where it has been raised by the help of irrigation, nine crops were cut in one season, each crop averaging four feet in height. The plant is recommended by the Agricultural Department at Washington and reliable sources of information show it to be all that it is represented to be. It should be sown much the same as alfalfa, requiring about a bushel to the acre of clean seed. So far as known no experiments have been made with it in this State, but no doubt as good or better results could be obtained from its culture here as in the South. The botanical name is Sorghum halepense, and no trouble should be experienced in procuring a supply of the seed by any one wishing to make the experiment of its adaptability to this coast.

Rough on Rats.

Philadelphia Ledger: A Water street man is said to have got rid effectually of rats that he did not want to use arsenic on, in this way: "He mixed two parts of sweetened flour with one part of plaster of paris, placed the cake in a dish, and a basin of water beside it. The rats eat, darnk and were merry. The plaster of paris set in their stomachs and intestines, and they ate no more. It was a way of plugging up, not the rat holes, but the rats themselves. A fortnight afterward you saw the poor, starved rats creeping about. You could knock them down with a stick. It was cruel, but effective."

To Make Trees Bear.

Henry Waymire of the Montgomery county Farmers' Club, in Fruit Recorder says: "I experimented in my orchard, and have profited by it. My trees have not borne for ten or fifteen years, except little knotty fruit, until four or five years ago. After a hard winter I determined to cut them down. I advised with my wife about it, then thought I would spare the trees for one year more. I dug around the trees for six or eight feet out, and round four of them spread manure, and leaving two others without fertilizer. The next spring all bloomed out alike, and apples began to show on all, but the fruit soon began to drop from the two I had neglected; but the others were loaded down with fine bellflowers so that one split in two and was ruined. Since then I fed them manure every year, turn the hogs in until the fruit begins to get good, and I have plenty of apples every year, and this year I have as fine a crop in quality and quantity as I ever had. I am satisfied that there are hundreds of these orchards starving to death. A man adjoining me bought a farm with a pear orchard on it. The trees looked bad and blighted. He replaced the old with new soil, fertilized, and in one season he has increased the yield and improved the looks of his orchard. Another had fifteen acres in orchard that blue grass has starved out, so he has not an apple to-day as big as a hen's egg, while I have more than I want, and am getting \$1 a bushel for what I will sell right at home. It's just like the pigs. Neglect them and they do not flourish; care for them and feed them and they fatten."

Rise in Prices.

Our dispatches from Liverpool announce an upward tendency in the price of wheat, which is regarded by business men as a substantial sign of a general improvement in industrial and commercial affairs. The fundamental principle upon which this renewed confidence rests is of course the increased demand for our cereals in the British market as a result of the Egyptian war, and foreign complications generally. For several months past the farmers have either withheld their grain from market or sold it at ruinous rates to meet the bare necessities of the day. Under such circumstances it followed, as a matter of course, that they were unable to buy goods in any quantity or even meet their debts to merchants and manufacturers. Merchants in the west and middle states, as a result of this condition of affairs, were compelled to contract their orders for goods and ask for extensions from the wholesale men. The city merchants were, therefore, equally embarrassed by slow collections and diminished sales. The break down of the farmers' power of purchase or payment is felt injuriously by every class of townspeople, and has been the chief cause of the gloom and stagnation which for nearly six months have pervaded business life. All the trouble can be traced to a common source, and relief for the farmer means relief all along the line. The principle has been so thoroughly demonstrated that improved prices of wheat and other farm products are recognized immediately as a promise of increased prosperity, and a buoyant feeling will be likely to take the place of the universal dejection which prevailed a month ago. A ready demand for wheat and corn abroad starts into activity every business agency. It is estimated that the farmers of the northwest and Pacific coast hold 40 per cent of last year's crops in their own hands. The marketing of their stocks at better prices will increase their purchasing power for city goods beyond anything they have recently anticipated, and they will distribute their prosperity broadcast by the natural centrifugal forces of political economy. Every business man and every laboring man will enjoy his share of the general improvement. There is also good reason to believe that this rise in prices has come to stay and progress. The war in the eastern hemisphere, which is the immediate cause, is likely to be of long continuance. New complications are hourly threatened, and it is not improbable that at least three of the great continental powers will be engaged in conflict before the spring fairly wanes. If this be true, the United States must of necessity, in a large measure become the granary of both continents.—S. F. Examiner.

Wasted Sweetness.

Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson, in the Rural New Yorker, says: "There is, probably, enough honey that goes to waste for want of bees to gather it, to sweeten all the pies, cakes and cookies that are baked. Upon nearly every eighty-acre farm there is enough honey secreted by the flowers each year to furnish its owner with sweetening power from honey-harvest to honey-harvest. It is admitted by our best apiarists that a few colonies in a place give better results than a large number; therefore, if the bees were scattered about, a few colonies at each farm, there would not be so much sweetness wasted. To be sure, there are, and probably always will be, people who make a specialty of bee-keeping, owning their hundreds of colonies; and that is all right; it is to such persons as these that we are indebted for the improvements that have made bee culture the safe, pleasant and profitable pursuit it is; but this need not deter any farmer from keeping a few colonies of bees that will supply his table with that most delicious and healthful of sweets, pure honey. They will probably find bee-keeping to be one of the most fascinating occupations in which they were ever engaged."

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v n33

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v2n48f

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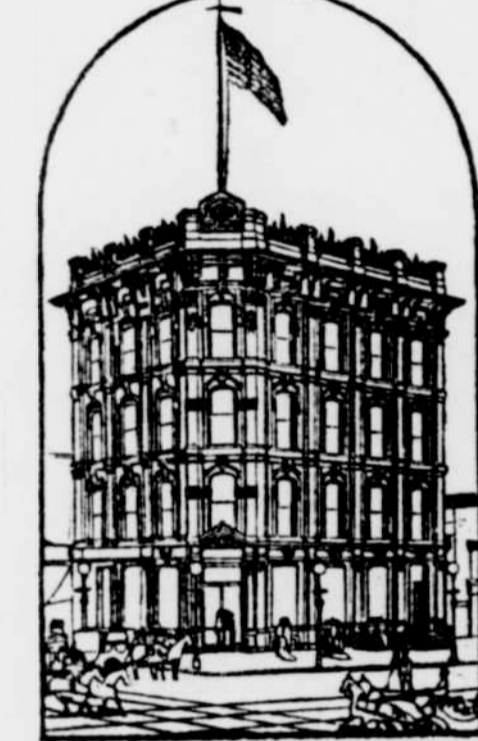
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