

FARMING IN MARION. The Countryman's Antipathy to the City.

DISCUSSED BY A FARMER.

Rotation of Crops--The Farmers and the Bridge--Local vs. Foreign Markets.

Some enthusiastic writer, whose veracity was more conspicuous than his judgment, has said that "to be a farmer is to be a king."

And yet there may be a grain of truth in the remark. Whether to be a farmer is to be a king "depends"--depends on the king he has in mind; and somewhat, also, on the particular farmer used in the comparison.

Not one man in a hundred ever succeeds as a farmer, unless he puts his own shoulder to the wheel, and pushes his business with energy and determination.

And the farmer who has for a number of years held his plow and made his own rails, built his own fences, and cut his own wood, educated his children, and supported his family, and then has, on the other hand, undergone and successfully withstood the physical torture of refraining from brainning the grocer who not only turns up his nose, but laughs with demagogical glee at the butter which his "gude wife" has patiently toiled to make, as an aid toward supporting the family, and who actually entertains doubts of his sanity when he requests him to buy five bushels of potatoes; and the miller who refuses to pay him within three to five cents of the actual market price of his wheat, and who won't let him have a sack of flour for less than its weight in gold, and seldom for that; and the merchant who charges him two prices for all the goods he buys, and who allows him only one-half as much for his produce as he charges his customers who buy it the same day;--I say the farmer who has done all this, and more, in the way of unrecompensed drudgery, and then fails in business, is entitled to the unfettered sympathy of human charity, and the merciful consideration of Divine Providence.

It is, indeed, doubtless true, that the life of a successful farmer furnishes a career fraught with less disappointment and business apprehension than can be found in any other branch of human employment.

But for the manifold natural advantages with which the recklessly extravagant hand of nature has surrounded him, the Oregon farmer would be the most pitiable and forlorn individual among the sons of men.

The Oregon farmer, however, is given no such opportunity as this. There appears to be, at present, no substitute for wheat as a staple article for production.

his farming, so he "seeded" this 100 acre field to grass, for his milch cows. I was in that field in the latter part of the summer of last year, and also of this year, and it is an absolute fact that there was not enough grass on the entire 100 acres to sustain life in a hungry goat for fifteen minutes.

Now, excluding the farmer's own labor, which doesn't count in estimates of this kind, (since employment is what he wants and must have) this can be set down as mostly net income. But in pasture, what did he realize? Practically nothing.

This statement may sound strangely to ears accustomed to hearing of the "bright, green, Willamette valley"; but I am not writing for mere fun; I am describing the situation as I see it every summer.

We are in exactly that condition where we are compelled to look to a foreign market for the absorption of our principal product, and it would be difficult to imagine a situation more undesirable.

The home market of the Oregon farmer is limited to the Willamette valley, and that is not a very large market. Just think of it! The Portland market is supplied by a few special gardeners living in its suburbs; indeed, I saw there last month enough vegetables in the "canyon gardens," in the heart of the city, to supply its markets for three months.

I like Salem splendidly. I like its people and its institutions, its parks and its drives, in fact, I seldom go there without forming an ineffaceable attachment to the very mud that adorns its streets like an incipient avalanche of mud.

But as I rode home on the day in question, I thought what a cheering prospect it was for the farming community, that Salem, the capital of Oregon, with the state house, the prison, and the asylum, the city of churches and the electric lights and the new bridge, had its demand for pork so nicely supplied that there was no possible room for more hogs.

Now, I desire to say before going further, that I do not blame any business man in Salem for this condition of things, however much other farmers may do so.

The farmer who refuses to encourage the upbuilding of cities and towns whenever it is possible to do so, ought, to be consistent, to refuse to sow any grain on his acres of land after he has prepared it for seeding, and he ought to urge, as a reason that he throws of raising it, is a direct waste of material.

a life-time grudge against his county town, or the metropolis of his state, and who looks with suspicion upon every effort made to promote their interests, ought to lead his farm produce to the market, and not to the city.

This reflection contains a sermon worthy to be remembered by every farmer, because every agriculturist is a business rival of every other man similarly employed.

A large proportion of Marion county farmers entertain a feeling of hostility toward Salem, of which they ought to be penitently ashamed.

It is an absolute waste of time to argue with men of such limited range of vision; but I was reminded of the old adage, which speaks of the possibility of "saving at the spigot, and wasting at the bung-hole."

Since Salem pays one-third of Marion county's taxes, it follows that the county government that only \$10,000 towards the bridge.

The building of this bridge I regard as one of the most sensible enterprises ever undertaken by Salem, and will be indirectly, perhaps, a constant contributor to the purse of every farmer in Marion county.

While a reduction of freight rates, and the prevention of unjust discrimination, are things greatly to be desired, it is not to be desired as a means of escaping from the boundaries of a local market, so that one can be, and would be, in one sense, one of the most fruitful agencies in stimulating local enterprises that would lead to a local demand for the products of a diversified system of farming, and this would lead to agricultural success.

Above any and all other considerations, this county needs a home market, and nothing else will ever furnish it.

Then let us, as farmers, go hand in hand with our best friends, the cities and towns, and encourage their growth, that ours may be assured also.

One of the forces which it is alleged is operating against the interest of the farmers of Oregon is our state law relating to assessment and taxation.

law because, and only because, men of capital are, as a class, presumed to be dishonest, and conscienceless perjurers.

The terms of the new law, as proposed by my friends of Sublimity, may be stated in the words of the Hon. C. C. Cook, as follows: "We have discovered by experience that you are a class of villainous perjurers, and since, under our present law, you will swear to a lie rather than pay your legal taxes, we will repeal the law requiring you to pay taxes, so you may not be perjurers."

That is one way to prevent perjury. And in order to make it still easier on the men of capital, these farmers go further, and say: "We are not only willing that your mortgages should go untaxed, but we will promise to pay taxes on property not our own, by agreeing to deprive ourselves of the privilege of deducting indebtedness from our assessable property."

From the unwise extreme of waging an injudicious warfare against capital which farmers often reach, this proposition goes as far the other way, and proposes an abject surrender to it, that would be both unjust and unnecessary.

Will any man say this is not a just theory incorporated in a just law? But it is claimed that, under the new law, credits not being taxed, capitalists will be more greatly disposed to make an honest return of their money to the assessor.

This might be true if money was always scarce, and not seeking investment; but the fact is, money is always looking for employment. Unemployed, it is as profitless as dirt, and for this reason it bears interest in different parts of the United States at rates ranging from ten to twenty-five per cent.

If, as the Oregonian asserts, money lenders always add the rate of taxation to the rate of interest, then they would all charge the same rate of interest, because the taxes on mortgages falls on them all alike.

In spite of all which, we all know that at times ocean freight rates are nearly double what they are at other times.

Fortunately the American people can see through these pet fallacies, and understand that if the demand for any given commodity is more than supplied, the price will go down, law or no law; and if the article is scarce, all the laws in Christendom can't make it cheap.

that could only more than double the present amount of its products.

Marion county is, in fact, an empire within itself. Bounded for nearly forty miles by the Willamette river, which is practically navigable nearly the entire length of its course, it is a "monopoly" of the railroad companies may undertake to exercise over the transportation question.

In the way of railroad facilities, this county is certainly superabundantly supplied, two lines of railway traversing its full length from north to south.

Considering all things from an impartial standpoint, Marion county farmers ought to be happy and prosperous, and to a great extent are. Our disadvantages are slight, while our advantages are named legion, and the cheerful bequest of a bountiful nature, the extent of whose gifts to wayward man is so often disproportionate to his sense of gratitude.

For salubrity of climate, productiveness of soil, variety of topography, abundance and excellence of water, natural and artificial accommodations for transportation, water powers for manufacturing purposes, matchless quantities of endless varieties of timber, uniformly located, efficient public schools, countless church houses, and organizations of all possible denominations, intelligent men, pretty women, and promising boys and girls, engaged and engaged, Marion county stands unexcelled, and even unequalled by any other county within the broad domain of Oregon.

It is the only extensive saw mill and planing mill establishment in this vicinity.

The company receives its logs from the fine choice timber tracts along the Luckiamute, in the Coast Range mountains, and the manufacture of articles cannot be excelled in any market of the state.

On October 8 last, E. S. Lamport purchased the harness stock of Jordan & Son, at 237 Commercial street.

This gentleman is a blacksmith of long experience, and one with whom the people of this county have been acquainted for a number of years.

D. J. FRY. The Druggist and Apothecary--An Entertaining Business Man.

It is with pleasure that this holiday issue of this paper notices the marked advancement made by D. J. Fry, Esq., in the drug and apothecary business, in which he is engaged at 225 Commercial street, in this city.

There is another feature here that has not been mentioned, but to which special attention should be called, because it is a great cause of success.

And we know of no one who stands higher as a pharmacist than Mr. Fry. He has an assistant in Mr. Herbert J. Fox, who ranks as one accomplished in this art of pharmacy.

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC. An Institution of Great Value to the City of Salem.

The Conservatory of Music of the Willamette University was organized six years ago, and it has since met with excellent success, and an annually increasing attendance.

Miss Jones, the principal of the piano department, has, besides having other excellent advantages, recently returned from a thorough course at the New England Conservatory, at Boston.

GEO. W. JOHNSON, Who Carries a fine Stock of Men's, Boys' and Youths' Clothing.

The gentleman whose name heads this is known to everybody in Marion county, having been in business in this county for the past twelve years, and a resident of the county since 1847.

As stated above, Mr. Johnson is well known throughout this county, and his personal qualities enter directly into his business relations with his customers.