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EXCLUSIVE TELEGRAPHIC PRESS REPORT.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 13, 1896.

NO. 265

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A complete stock of lumber on hand in the rough or dressed. Flooring, run-ting, ceiling, and all kinds of finish; mouldings and shingles; also brackets work done to order. Terms reasonable and prices at bedrock. All orders promptly attended to. Office and yard at mill. H. F. L. LOGAN, Prop'r, Seaside, Oregon.

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GEO. NICOLL, Assistant.

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Land and Marine Engines, Boiler work, Steam-heat and Cannery Work a Specialty. Castings of All Descriptions Made to Order on Short Notice. John Fox...President and Superintendent A. L. Fox...Vice President O. B. Prall...Secretary First National Bank, Treasurer

PRACTICAL SIDE OF FLAX GROWING

Interesting Facts for the Farmers and Merchants of Clatsop.

WILL GROW IN EVERY SOIL

Oregon Certainly Meets All Requirements, but Great Care Necessary for Success.

The oldest of all books—the Bible—refers in numerous instances to flax cultivation and to the spinning and weaving of linen; and other ancient writings, and the still more remote testimony of ancient Egypt, in the monuments and tombs show, not only the degree of perfection the cultivation of the fibre had attained, but the skill with which it was worked up in the manufacture of fine linen for the clothing of priests and kings. But, to confine the subject to what immediately relates to the present time, further reference to ancient history must be omitted.

The proposition to establish in this county the growing and spinning of flax has led to some investigation upon the subject, the result of which can not fail to be of interest to every farmer and business man in the community. The great Stewart factories of Lisburn, Ireland, have sent some flax seed to Messrs. Foard & Stokes, of this city, for the purpose of having it planted in this and other counties in Oregon, with a view to ascertaining whether Oregon can grow flax. Should the experiment prove successful, Mr. Porter, the manager of the Stewart's institution, writes that they will put a branch establishment in Astoria.

The following most interesting facts have been re-printed from the Irish Textile Journal:

SUITABILITY OF SOIL.

There is probably no plant which grows and thrives so well under so many varying conditions and in so many countries as flax. The temperate zone is best suited to its growth as a fibre producer, but it may be almost regarded as indigenous from the equator to the 63rd degree of latitude in the northern hemisphere.

Speaking generally, flax will grow in a great variety of soils, but if the most suitable is pointed out and a word of warning given as to what should be avoided, and the grower realizes that the general principle, "the better the land the better the crop," is specially applicable here, it will be a sufficiently intelligent guide to anyone of average intelligence. Loamy soil, if deep and dry, is most excellent, and heavy land, when properly prepared, will give rich crops of flax; but a stiff clay subsoil is unsuitable and peaty, or sandy soil, with a poor bottom, will produce a very poor yield. Roots go deep down into the ground, and subsiding and draining must also be attended to, as both are essential to a good result. Water resting either on the ground or under it, particularly if stagnant, is fatal to a good crop. An old writer on the subject says: "Wet, swampy lands, or hot, scorched ground, will never yield a good crop of flax; but loamy or clayey ground—the latter needing more preparation—will yield a suitable one."

ROTATION.

Flax growing cannot be taken up at random. It required careful forethought, though not greater, perhaps, than should be bestowed upon the selection of ground for any particular crop, and flax is in this respect almost as accommodating as any other crop. It will succeed so many different kinds: According to the best authorities, it will follow potatoes, wheat, oats, rape, carrots and rye. In one instance abroad, it is noted as being put in after turnips (in very strong soil) which as a general rule, is very objectionable in this country, the most favorable positions being after potatoes, wheat or oats. But the practical farmer looks beyond one or two years' crops, and has others to think of as well as flax, and systematic attempts are made to utilize all the plant-sustaining constituents of the soil by putting in such crops in succession as will consume the one after the other, all the different plant-food elements contained in the earth; in other words, what one plant leaves in the soil this year is taken up by a plant of a different order next year, and the application of this principle in connection with the skillful manuring, plays a very important part in judicious farming.

We have not extended the rotation investigation to show how soon flax could be repeated in the same ground, and the intervening years most profitably occupied. We have simply exhibited a few of the crops which generally precede flax. Seven to ten years is the shortest time that should elapse between two crops of flax in the same field; and a safe rule is, the longer the interval, the better the chance for the second crop.

PREPARATION OF SOIL.

The preparation of the soil must be very carefully attended to, and the greatest trouble taken in this respect will be amply repaid. Weeds allowed to grow up with the flax greatly inter-

fer with the subsequent handling and weeding, and lower its value so that the duty of having the ground very clean, and free from weeds must be kept in view from the beginning, as well as at every stage of the preparation.

After potatoes or wheat, one plowing on light or medium lands will be sufficient, and this is recommended to be deferred till early spring; but in heavy soil two plowings are necessary—one, pretty deep, in the autumn, and the other—well, before sowing time comes around, but not so deep. Three plowings are seldom resorted to, though on stiff, heavy soil they may be required; but, as remarked before, no expense should be spared to secure the best results. Harrowing will be very essential, but independent of that, before sowing time it will be beneficial to have all the weeds removed (which can be done by children or adults where necessary) and the soil left perfectly clean. After the last harrowing rolling precedes the sowing; but there is some difference of opinion as to whether it is better to deposit the seed on a rolled surface or have it gently broken up to receive the seed. We are inclined to think that the rolled surface is the best and for this reason that there is less chance of seed getting buried or covered to a depth which might prevent vegetation: Much good seed of all kinds is often lost in this way, to the detriment of flax growing and the discredit of the seedman or vender, when the blame justly lies at the door of mismanagement. Both systems have doubtless succeeded, or they would not be recommended, and we would be slow to condemn either. Demoor, writing on this point, says: "In agriculture, as much if not more than in any other industry it is necessary to use a wise caution, and we ought also to break away from the dominion of prejudice or bias."

SEED.

A great deal has been written about selecting seed. We would say, select your seedman, for it is an open secret that in this age of many commercial shams, an old or inferior article can be made to look almost equal to new. Seed buying must be, to a great extent a matter of good faith, and the channel through which seed is procured, is of the chief importance. With very little ingenuity indeed, a very superior flax can be put upon the worthless article, and in addition to this really excellent seed as regards germinating quality, may have been saved from a very worthless stock. Everything considered it is advisable to pay the utmost attention to the quarter from which the seed reaches the hand of the sower. Less reliance than formally is placed on the nominal title of the various kinds as describing the country from which they are derived. The rule was—Dutch seed for heavy or heavy inclined soils, and Riga for light or medium. But for various reasons this rule is less adhered to than formerly, and it is to be feared that some of the practices abroad, as well as at home, render it practically inoperative. Riga seed one year in Holland is perhaps the most desirable strain for Irish soil; but it is asserted that a large portion of the seed is "run out" in Holland. Russian is frequently passed through Holland without ever touching the soil or seeing the light in that country, beyond being changed from one covering to another. In this way the name is made of little value unless the seed can be traced to a worthy source. Sound English seed has produced good crops. Too often the failure of a crop arises from the poor seed which has been bought on the penny wise and pound foolish policy; huckstering for a low priced article and taking chance of the result is courting failure. If the farmer would aim at obtaining the best results, he must find the best article in the market and be willing to pay the price it commands.

CLATSOP COUNTY'S WEALTH. Roll showing Taxable Property Compiled by Clerk Dunbar. County Clerk Dunbar has completed the work of compiling the assessment roll of 1896. A copy has been furnished Sheriff Hare and another has been forwarded to the secretary of state, for the use of the state board of equalization at its meeting in January. The difficult work of compiling this roll has been carefully done and reflects great credit upon Mr. Dunbar and his efficient assistants, Messrs. Wherity and Smith.

The taxable property in this county in 1895 was \$4,290,196, while this year it is but \$4,006,339, a decrease of \$283,757. The summary is as follows: Acres tillable land, 7674, 456,153; acres non-tillable land, 303,475, 4957,428; improvements on deeded lands, \$139,311; town and city lots, \$1,811,775; improvements on town and city lots, \$498,040; improvements on lands not deeded or patented, \$35,370; railroad bed, telegraph, telephone and electric lines, \$45,340; merchandise and implements, \$237,491; money, \$51,252; notes and accounts, \$1,940; shares of stock, \$52,000; household furniture, etc., \$96,118; horses and mules, \$74, 110,295; cattle, \$170, 428,285; sheep and goats, \$99, 5512; swine, 609, 4382; gross value of all property, \$4,116,930; exemptions, \$110,331; total taxable property as equalized by county board, \$4,006,339; number of polls, 774.

Meany is the leading tailor, and pays the highest cash price for fur skins.

COMPLEXION OF NEXT CONGRESS

Republicans Elected a Big Majority in the Recent Election.

M'KINLEY IS CONGRATULATED

Ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio, Wishes the Victor Well—Cabinet Talk Is Mere Conjecture.

Canton, Ohio, November 12.—Among the thousands of messages received by Major McKinley the most important among today's was one from Hon. J. W. Babcock, chairman of the national congressional committee, Washington, saying: "I have the congressional campaign wound up; the bills are all paid, and a little balance is left in the hands of the treasurer. We have elected 501 sound Money Republicans, two sound money Democrats, 145 Democrats and Populists and six free silver Republicans, with three districts in doubt, one from Wyoming and two from South Dakota."

Hon. James F. Campbell, ex-Democratic governor of Ohio, whom Major McKinley defeated in 1881, said: "Inasmuch as Chairman Jones gives it up, I presume a Democrat may not present his most cordial congratulations without fear of party discipline. Both Mrs. Campbell and myself join our many personal friends in wishing you a happy sojourn in the White House and long life and prosperity thereafter."

STILL VISITING MCKINLEY.

Canton, November 12.—Major McKinley had hundreds of callers today. The town was crowded with people. The postponement of the run to Cleveland until next week will not allow Major McKinley to be at the banquet tendered Chairman Hanna on Monday. Numerous reports which have been sent out from Canton about appointments to cabinet positions and secretaries are said to be entirely conjectural. It is not believed a single decisive step has been taken on any important matter of that nature.

THE WHEAT MARKETS.

Price Falls at the Opening, but Jumps at the Close. Chicago, November 12.—Wheat opened with much stronger prices than it was exhibiting at the close of the market yesterday and for more than an hour it kept edging upward. The better tone with which the market opened was in part because of the first Liverpool quotations showing no change in the face of the 1% decline which took place here yesterday. It was likewise due in part to small receipts of wheat here.

The start for December was rather irregular at from 78% to 79%, but principally at 78% yesterday's closing price. It gradually worked up to 79% and then got scared. Cablegrams from the Liverpool Corn Trade News estimated the Russian wheat crop at only 12,000,000 bushels more than the previous estimates, and had a decided effect, December sliding down to 78% in short order. Subsequently, however, the Boerboom estimate of the shortage of wheat in Russia, which differed materially from that of the Liverpool Corn Trade News, sent the price upward again, and once more it went to 79%.

In the afternoon the bull feeling was completely re-established. Liverpool closed 1% higher. New York reported three cargoes of wheat sold for export and Australian demand was more urgent than ever. The effect was soon seen in the rush of buyers into the pit and the animated competition for offerings which took December to 80% 5/8, the closing price being 80% bid.

THE MARKETS.

Liverpool, November 12.—Wheat—spot, steady; demand, poor; No. 2 red spring 75 1/4; No. 1 California, 75 3/4. Futures opened steady, 75 7/8. London, November 12.—Wheat, Pacific coast, 43 5/8. Portland, November 12.—Wheat—Walla Walla, 78 7/8; Valley, 81 3/4.

HORSELESS WAGONS.

Will Be Used in New York in the Post-office Department. New York, November 12.—It was announced today at the postoffice that in a week or two the first horseless mail wagons ever used in the United States will be put upon the streets of this city. They will be employed in the collection of mail from letter boxes about the city and the letters thus collected are to be sorted, stamped and sent to their proper railway station without going to the general or any branch postoffice.

KILLED BY FALLING TIMBERS.

Storm Does Much Damage in the Southern Portion of Oregon. Eugene, Or., November 12.—The stage driver from Lower Siuslaw who arrived last night reports that a heavy storm was raging along the coast when

he left, doing considerable damage to property. The wind and rain storm Saturday night was the most severe storm known for years and water was driven into the bay, flooding the adjacent low lands. At the mouth of Indian Creek Wm. Abbott, his wife and two children and his brother, with five children, took refuge in a vacant cabin for the night. At 4 o'clock Sunday morning the cabin collapsed, burying the entire party under the debris. Several timbers fell upon Mrs. Abbott, fracturing her skull, and she died almost instantly. The others of the family were more or less injured.

AMERICAN APPLES IN GERMANY.

First Shipment to Hamburg Brings an Extraordinarily High Price. Boston, November 12.—A private cablegram received in this city from Hamburg states that the first shipment of apples received there from Boston had just been disposed of and netted from \$2.50 to \$2.40 per barrel, according to quality. These are considered remarkably high prices, especially as there has been a determined effort in some quarters of Germany to keep out the American product by circulating absurd stories about the apples containing germs of disease.

JAPAN'S BOOM.

Plain Truths About Asiatic Labor in the Island Kingdom. Hon. John Barrett, United States minister to Siam, gives some plain truths about Asiatic labor in Japan in the North American Review. "There is a boom in Japan," he writes—"a boom in floating and establishing numberless varieties of manufacturing plants from Nagasaki to Hakodate. This may lead to overproduction and financial disaster. Let us hope not, for the proud little kingdom deserves a better fate. But some of Japan's ablest business men acknowledge the boom and fear the consequences. Coming right after the war with China, it bears some resemblance to the remarkable American industrial development following the civil war.

"The cheap and efforts to make large profits have resulted oftentimes in producing a poor quality of goods and the consequent loss of markets. The Japanese manufacturers, as a whole, have not yet learned to maintain a permanent high standard. It is claimed that they do not plan for the future. They think too much of the present. This is used as an argument against their competitive ability and may prove valid if a change is not accomplished, but it would seem that time would remedy the defect.

"The Japanese and Chinese home demand is today different from that of America and Europe, and it may be some time before Japan and China can provide goods, especially for the foreign market, which can compete with the home supply of those foreign countries. The visitor to Yokohama is continually reminded, moreover, that he should buy his clothing there, especially shirts, because prices are apparently so much less than in San Francisco or New York. If the enterprising traveler will go to half the trouble in America to read the advertisements in local papers he will find that he can obtain shirts of equal quality at the same or a less price. Perhaps a man can purchase a dress suit in Yokohama for \$20, gold, but he will get a \$20 fit, and the first evening he wears it at the club or theatre or at home will also be the last one. Nor can a Japanese tailor make an American laboring man's suit for \$10, gold, that can equal in wear what can be purchased for that sum in a hundred Chicago clothing stores. If large wholesale clothing manufacturing plants are established in place of the present small back rooms, it is possible that cheap clothing may be extensively exported."

DOG SAVES A FIREMAN.

Times-Herald. Captain Heany, of Engine Company No. 75, of the West Pullman, has a dog he prizes as he does his life. His name is Fanny and it saved its master's dwelling place from being destroyed by fire last Saturday night. During the absence of Captain and Mrs. Heany a kerosene lamp left burning on the table exploded and a rug near by was ignited. When Captain and Mrs. Heany returned home they found the house filled with smoke and the partly burned rug had been torn into shreds by the dog. The dog's mouth was badly burned, and Captain Heany does not doubt that the animal fought the blaze and extinguished it. Fanny is bred from a famous fire dog, reared and trained by Captain McCormick of Engine Company No. 2.

CHINESE RAILROADS.

Forty Million Taels Will Be Expended in the Construction. Peking, November 12.—The Tsung-Li-Yamen has received a secret edict appointing Sheng Taotai director-general of railways and granting him permission to construct the Hankow-Canton-Fouchow lines. It also authorizes him to borrow 20,000,000 taels. Altogether 40,000,000 taels (\$28,750,000) will be required for the construction of the lines. Native material must be employed as far as possible on the Hankow line, but foreign engineers may be engaged. It is rumored that the American syndicate tenders for this work have not been accepted.

Among the damage done by the wind last night was the blowing down of the railing and bill board just east of Engine House No. 2. The doors of the Estes-Conn Bond street drugstore and the Star saloon were blown open, and numerous signboards were demolished.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE