AGRICULTURE AND STOCK.

[Communicated.]

Letter No. 10.

The following extract from the San Jose Times needs no apology for its insertion in this column. On the contrary it is so applicable that a careful perusal is its due.

THE BLACK WALNUT.

Some time ago business called us into a neighboring county, and while visiting a friend our attention was called to a number of black-walnut trees of the Eastern variety. One magnificent one we measured and found its branches covering a space of sixty-five feet in diameter. The tree was about 20 years old, had produced heavily every year for more than ten years, and its branches when we examined it were bending down with the load of fruit. The proprietor stated that trees of that size were much in demand by cabinet-makers, and that he could get from $50 to $75 per tree. This is suggestive. If trees of that age and size can be sold for such a price, why do not those owning hill lands too steep for ordinary cultivation set out this tree? Twenty-five trees could be set out to the acre. No county in the State is better adapted to the growth of this tree than Santa Clara. Even if the fruit was worth less, which it by no means is, a field planted out to this tree might become a mine of gold. To wait fifteen or twenty years seems to most farmers a long time, but if before that time the present generation should pass away the heirs would be in waiting to enjoy the results of the prudence of the fathers. The most thrifty parts of the world to-day are those where such provisions for the future have been taken.

GROWING THE CHESTNUT.

From time to time during the past few years attention has been called to the cultivation of the chestnut as offering a remunerative business. A. E. Gish, near Los Gatos, has an orchard of the Italian chestnut now coming into fair bearing. This year he will realize nearly $300 per acre. There is no fruit tree which requires less attention, nor is less subject to the ravages of the fruit pests. Whenever planted these trees do well, but the foothills seem peculiarly adapted to their growth. There are many varieties, but the one most commonly planted is the Italian. The American is considered by most people a finer flavored nut, bnt is much smaller. There is a Japanese variety, which, if it really possesses the fine qualities attributed to it, is unsurpassed, both as to size and flavor. The main objection urged against the chestnut, walnut and similar trees is the great length of time before they come into bearing. True, they take longer than some varieties of fruit trees, but then the trees continue to improve each year for a much greater time than ordinary varieties. Like the grape and the olive they last for centuries. A great part of our foothill land is too steep for cultivation for ordinary crops, but is well adapted to the growth of the chestnut, and would render handsome returns if set in this nut-bearing tree.

The Royal Anne pears, as regar ls variety to the cherry, what the Bartlett does to the pear. It needs no recommendation. Still some object to planting the trees on account of their liability to bleed; to my knowledge, there is only one way of saving the tree when they have once begun te bleed badly, and that is by either grafting in a sucker from the root to the body of the tree above the exudance of gum, or inserting a prong from the trunk near the root to the body of the tree. The writer of this has seen as many as three of these shoots on one tree. The plum can be successfully treated the same way when the trunk becomes deceased. The Black Heart and Black Republican divide honors in the dark cherries. There are many others as the catalogue of the nurseryman will show, but to my thinking the above are best, do not forget a sour cherry for putting up, as it comes in a relief to others. We have no competitor in the United States to contend with, not even California. A prominent nurseryman told the writer that a firm in S. F. sent him one order for a thousand cans of cherries, he, the cannery-man, had to refuse not being able to obtain the fruit. And mind you this was not a year of scarcity of cherries—rather the reverse.

* * * *

Something Wrong.

Not long ago two of our progressive men raised and put up in good order about 200 pounds of hops, which they shipped to a commission house in Portland. The best offer made for this lot was two cents a pound. At the same time hops were quoted in the market at 15 cts. to 22 cts. per pound. The only excuse offered for the low figure was that hops were inactive.

Not long ago some Portland merchants bought goods in San Francisco instead of Portland. In reply to this we would say where such has been the case our merchants have been driven to it by experiences similar to our hop growers and melon raisers. Our only way out of this snare lies in the completion of the O. & C. R. R. which will open up a better outlet for our produce and give our merchants a better market from which to purchase their goods.—[Monitor.

Subscribe for the Courier.

Mining Property Bonded.

The quartz ledge at the head of Wright's creek discovered and located by J. I. Patton a number of months ago has been bonded by Benjamin Eggleston, of this place who is preparing to prospect it. Mr. Patton had traced the ledge for about a thousand feet along the surface of the ridge, and had already begun superficial prospect work. Mr. Eggleston has a shaft down about ten feet and has found the ledge to be about five feet in thickness. Its trend is north and south and it pitches or dips to the east at an angle of about 45 deg., a little heavier angle than the steep mountain side near which it reaches the surface. The ledge is conceded by prospectors to be the best prospect discovered in this section, and Mr. Eggleston, who is experienced in quartz mining is confident that it will prove a bonanzo. The rock yields good prospects in free gold all along the surface wherever it has been uncovered, and a seam of dark reddish brown rock from 18 inches to two feet thick in the middle of the vein yields abundance of free fine gold when pulverized in a hand mortar.

The northern extension of the ledge, located by Wm. Patton, has been leased by Messrs. Hopkins & Moon, who are preparing to prospect it thoroughly this winter. The uniform richness of the rock so far as tested, and the size and extent of the ledge give promise of a big fortune for somebody.—[Ashland Tidings.

Half a Million Bonds.

Mr. Webb, State Treasurer-elect, received notice a few days ago from Governor Moody that and additional bond of $250,000 would be required. Mr. Webb had already filed the required bond of $250,000, and this additional security of an equal amount seems to come at rather a late day. If the notice had been given earlier, it would have been complied with easier. If the Governor hopes by this move to keep the Treasurer-elect from entering upon the duties of his office, he will be disappointed.—[Pendleton East Oregonian.

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18-tf]

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