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NUMBER 6.

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**MORE ABOUT FLAX.**

**Col. Parker Makes Suggestions on the Subject.**

**LETTER FROM SCOTLAND**

**Concerning Planting and Harvesting of Flax.**

Frank J. Parker, editor of the Walla Walla Statesman, furnished the Sunday Oregonian with following article on flax culture, which may be of interest to our farmer friends:

WALLA WALLA, Jan. 30.—[To the Editor.]—In view of the interest now being taken in flax culture for fiber, as well as seed, I enclose you an article I received some years ago, which is more pertinent than ever. On several occasions I have gone to the expense of importing flaxseed for fiber from California and distributed it among the farmers east of the Cascades, but with the exception of one man who informed me it made first-rate pulps that was all the returns made me. The honorable exception from Puget Sound was the late George Shannon, of Olympia, who consistently raised all I sent him in 1888 I exhibited it in his name at the Portland exhibition that year, and he received a silver medal. I sent samples of this flax, fully four feet high, to Belfast and Dundee for examination. They replied there was a market there for hundreds of thousands of acres of such flax, for "it was superior to that raised in the best French and German districts."

My idea on the subject is that while the average farmer will raise anything he can get a price for, he cannot be expected, and will not take the trouble to prepare it for a market because he has not had the experience. The alternative, therefore, is a small company with the machinery mentioned in the article to whom the small farmer or experimenter can send his flax after "rippling," for then he can save the bolls for his own use for stock, etc. It should be understood that the flax as commonly grown for seed alone is not the best; but seed for fiber is easily obtained in California at about the price of the common variety.

As I have known scores of promising enterprises in this country fail for want of proper management, let me impress upon every one who would like to take a hand in creating an industry that will bring comfort to thousands eventually, not to allow any trio to undertake the management, but to employ a man who has had the necessary experience. Also, when it is started, pay the producer such prices that will encourage him and his neighbors to keep going ahead and raise more every succeeding year.

The article referred to by Col. Parker is as follows. It is in the form of a letter from Dundee, Scotland, and is signed "David H. Saunders."

DUNDEE, Scotland, Sept. 2, 1887.—Dear Sir.—You ask me about flax culture. I am now engaged in conducting an experiment from Messrs. Carmichael & Dalghish. They are the largest flaxspinners in Britain. In days gone by every small farmer in Scotland grew a little flax. When wheat rose to 70s a quarter and our farmers here displaced, the most of our flax was imported from Russia. The very great prosperity of the jute trade here also led the flaxspinners to develop that industry. But now, when owing to the very low price of silver, a rupee is purchased for 15s, instead of 2s or 2s 1d, India gives us wheat at prices which has forced down the prices to 28s to 30s a quarter for wheat. It may be interesting to your farmers to show exactly how this operates. A man wishes to buy wheat in India. First of all he buys silver. Now if 17 pence gold can buy a silver rupee while before it took 24d to buy as much silver, and if this silver rupee still buys as much wheat as ever in India, it follows that from this one cause there is a vast fall in the price of wheat in London. Add to this the fact that the transport has been made very easy and that day by day India is opening up, it follows that the American farmers has no to compete against the Indian grower. The British consumer gains, for he can now buy twice as much wheat for the same money as he gave before. Nor is it the quantity that come from India which is so important. It is the fact that it is offered which

compels the American producer to lower his price. He has now, therefore, to sell his products at the price which the Indian grower will sell, and to buy all he needs in the dearest market in the world. When all clothing, tools and furnishings are absurdly raised in price for the enrichment of small classes, and this at the cost of the farmers, who are shut out from buying in the cheap markets, in which, however, they are compelled to sell their wheat.

For these and other reasons it would seem of the utmost importance to the Scotch farmer, as well as to the American, that new trades should be encouraged, against which India cannot so readily compete. Flax is precisely suited to your country. It grows it now, only the most valuable part of the crop is wasted. I will as shortly as I can show the whole process, and it is so simple that, like sunshine, it is really difficult to describe:

In Scotland, then, we choose clean land in good health. Peas, oats, then flax does best. We keep the land as free from weeds as possible, as the weeding of flax is costly. Land in river bottoms, land moist and dampish, land which grows good, long grass is best for flax. The land should be fine mold, and, after being ploughed and harrowed, should be rolled flat to obliterate all trace of the drills. The flax should be sown in April, just a little after oats. The seed should be carefully tested, 100 should be counted, sown upon a wet, moist rag, and if 75 per cent germinate 24 bushels will be required for an acre; if 85 per cent the two bushels or a little more is sufficient. The flax should be sown broadcast on the rolled field, then slightly harrowed. It will show thick on the ground, and in Scotland, we weed it. But good farmers are able to have their land in such condition that they do not require to spend much on weeding. When flax is ripe it will show yellow half way up the stalk. It should not be allowed to be dead ripe. Note well that the flax should not be in drills, but should stand close together, so that the stems may be tall like a rod, with the flowers in a clusture on the top. The flax should not branch out like a tree in a park; but rather like tall trees in a forest, free from branch till they reach the top. The flax may be either pulled or cut. If cut it would be difficult to handle, as the bolls interlace, and then a good many valuable inches are lost. The flax should be pulled and tied up in small sheaves with its own strand, and set up in stocks. Then it must be rippled. Let the farmer get an iron comb, only of iron wire, the prongs 14 inches long and 1/2 of an inch apart: fit this in a frame on a log; let two men sit astride, face to face as on horseback, the comb sitting between them. The flax is now lifted in handfuls and drawn through the comb; the bolls will start off and should be allowed to fall on a big sheet or on the warm floor. Now, the bolls are of great value. Note well, the husk or pod is of much value as the seed, for feeding and the seed should not be used without the husk. The husk has many valuable properties. It insures the complete digestion of the oily seeds; it compels cattle to chew the cud; and it gives a tonic, bitter, astringent quality to the food. The bolls must, therefore, not be flung away as chaff. The best methods of preparation is to dry them with care, and use them in cooked food with a little salt, say seven pounds of barley to one pound of bolls. They go splendidly, crushed with Indian corn, in the same proportion. The farmer will find that poultry, milch cows, horses and cattle, all grow glossy and beautiful when fed with a mixture of, say, one pound of bolls to five or seven pounds of corn. Or the bolls can be crushed or ground and then heated, and pressed in bags. The oil sprinkled on dry hay is a great boon to cattle, where there is no turnips. Always have salt, however, and plenty of pure water for cattle.

The remains of the crushed seeds are "oil cake," which today sells at as much per pound as wheat, so highly do Scottish farmers value "oil cake." In a country where cattle are raised, flax should be grown on every farm, at least a few acres. So much for the bolls. Then as to the straw. The moment the bolls are off, the straw should be again tied up in small bundles, square and neat at the root end. If possible, the farmer should have a pond or ditch full of water which is soft and which had the rays of sun pouring into it for some weeks. Into this pond pack the flax, end downwards, like herings in a box. Cover with old planks and stones. Let it lay ten days. Take a few of the stalks, and if it is ready, the heart will

break over as if rotten, and the fibers slide off the stalk. Spread the flax now all out on a stubble field. There let it be very dry and tie in big bundles. Here the farmer's care should end. Indeed, in our opinion, a small company should be formed to take the straw at a price per ton, from the farmer, the moment it is rippled, and to save him the labor of steeping the flax. Now, when the flax is dry, it is taken to the scutching mill. This is a simple affair, and can, for £100 to £120 be bought complete. It consists of fluted rollers. The flax is passed through these, and so the woody stem is broken into little lengths and the case split to let them dry out. There is now a shaft revolving quickly; on it are fixed wooden swords; these strike the wax quickly. The operative holds the strike of flax firmly over a rest and the swords begin at the point, and, by quick strokes, beat out the wood, and a glossy, beautiful bunch, called a strike of flax, remains. This flax is in great demand in America and Europe. The flax you can grow is fit for the finest linen, sewing twines, and the like. I value a good crop as better than wheat at present prices, and very useful indeed to the farmers. An acre should give you quite two tons of straw and 15 cwt. of bolls. The straw I value at £4, £8; 15 cwt. bolls, £10, £7.10; total £15.10. I would expect you to have from the two tons of straw 5 cwt. of flax at 40s, £10; cost, £8; for labor and steeping, £2. But the flax might be worth £60, but even at £40, it would pay you. I assume the crop to be like the flax I saw from Oregon, as Russian flax is not worth as much. I dare say, the bolls are not worth as much to you as to us, for beef here is 50s to 55s for 112 pounds. We import 7,000,000 pounds worth of seed for feeding. This shows the value British farmers put on "oil cake," for the seeds are mostly used in this form. I ought to say water in which the flax is steeped is liquid manure, and is of great value, and should, if possible, be made to run over waste land and so enrich it. Connected with prison life, I see the greatest possible advantage in putting the prisoners to work the flax after it is rippled. In the open air they would work at it. It is a healthy occupation and would suit them exactly. Besides, in the scutching, they might be made to turn a wheel, to drive the scutcher. Hopeful work, with joy and human intercourse, is the remedy for the moral disease of the criminal, especially work which will fix him for honest labor afterwards.

The flax industry will grow with the growth of civilization. Every good housewife likes a kind of linen. America, almost everywhere, can grow flax. The manure from cattle fed with a proportion of flax bolls enriches the soil.

**A Ghastly Picture.**  
The Spokane Chronicle gives out the following warning to the miner and prospector of the northwest:

"Twenty-four dead men lying on slabs in the morgue at Cripple Creek, victims of hunger, exposure, pneumonia and suicide—eighteen of them buried unidentified!" An attractive picture, isn't it—calculated to make one want to join the army of men who are rushing with the distant idea of making a fortune somehow, someway, out of nothing. Cripple Creek is all right no doubt, and will turn out lots of gold this year; but there are plenty of men there now. The man who runs away from the mining districts of the northwest just at this stage of the game to join the Colorado stampede will come to grief.

**Throw Away His Case.**  
Mr. D. Wiley, ex-postmaster, Black Creek, N. Y., was so badly afflicted with rheumatism that he was only able to hobble around with cane, and even then it caused him great pain. After using Chamberlain's Pain Balm he was so much improved that he threw away his cane. He says this liniment did him more good than all other medicines and treatment put together. For sale at 50 cents per bottle by Osburn.

**Again Pilot Rock.**  
Again the Pilot Rock postoffice has been broken into, although, this time, nothing of value was taken, and all that the robbers accomplished was to place themselves on the list of eligibles for the United States penitentiary at Detroit, Mich. But there appears to be small danger of the robbers being caught, as no clues are known of and the frozen ground left no tracks to be followed in trailing them.

To restore gray hair to its natural color as in youth, causes it to grow abundant and strong, there is no better preparation than Hall's Hair Renewer.

**COURT AT UNION.**

**Important Case to Be Tried Before Lowell.**

**SENTIMENT IS CHANGING**

**Keeley Cure is Eclipsed by the Potato Remedy.**

The term of circuit court convening at Union will be a very long and important one. Judge Lowell of this district, will preside, Eakin being occupied at present on the bench at Pendleton. The term will probably continue for three weeks.

The most important case to be heard is that of Kelsay Porter, who is charged with the murder of the three members of the Mache family in Pine valley, on New Year's day. For the purpose of throwing light on the tragedy, the bodies of the victims were exhumed last week and an examination was made. According to the evidence gathered by the deputy district attorney, who is to prosecute the case, it appears that Porter expected the coming of the Maches by the road passing near a shed. Armed with a Winchester rifle with magazine loaded full, he got on the shed and awaited their approach. When near by he opened fire on young Mache, who was riding a horse, a bullet hitting him and causing him to fall from the horse dead a short distance away. Porter then followed the old people, who were in a sleigh, and shot at them, firing 16 shots at the mother and son previous to killing the father. The post mortem on the body of the elder Mache showed that his skull was fractured, and it is thought that after firing all the shells in the magazine, Porter hit him with the gun and then reloaded it and fired two or three shots into the body.

The Union Republican says the officials are determined to investigate this last killing in the "panhandle" of the county and make the perpetrator suffer if the circumstances justify punishment. During the past murders have been committed in the locality where the last tragedy occurred, and the perpetrators allowed to go scot free on perjured testimony or otherwise. This state of things has come to the point where the better class of citizens deem it their duty to take a hand for the sake of the good name of the community. Such a crime as Porter's calls for rigid investigation.

Porter continues to keep silent so far as making any statement for the benefit of the public is concerned.

The case against him seems to grow stronger as the time of his trial approaches, and while there is much sympathy for him in the east end of the county, the sentiment in other sections is very strong and even bitter against him.

A public meeting was held in Pine valley last week by the friends of Porter, to raise money to assist in the defense. J. M. Carroll and Charles E. Cochran have been retained as his attorneys, and every effort will be made to create a reasonable doubt in the minds of the jurors to prevent a verdict of murder in the first degree. The state will be represented by the prosecuting attorney, assisted by T. H. Crawford of Union. Rev. G. L. Marvin, a well-to-do M. E. minister of Montana, arrived at Union Thursday night. He is a nephew of Mrs. Mache, the murdered woman, and will endeavor to see that the murderer of his aunt is properly prosecuted.

**A NEW DISCOVERY.**

The Keeley Cure is Eclipsed by the Potato Treatment.

According to the Buffalo Courier the Dr. Keeley cure is eclipsed by a "potato cure," and states that are now discussing the passage of laws compelling drunkards to take the Keeley cure at a cost in each case to the state of \$100, many save that amount by compelling drunkards to take the potato cure, about which there is no secret, as all there is needed, "is a bowl of ice-water and a raw potato peeled. By dipping the potato into the ice-water and sucking it whenever the desire for drink becomes uncontrollable, a perfect cure is said to be effected. Potatoes are cheap and plentiful, ice-water can be easily obtained, and a combination of the two is destined to do away with all need of temperance organizations.

To encourage its trial the Courier

relates the following experience of a prominent citizen of Dunkirk: "One day, two months after I had signed the temperance pledge, I had a craving for a drink of liquor so strong that I could see nothing else but drinks about me and I felt as if I must have at least one drink. I told a friend of my state of mind. He said, 'You need not drink. I can tell you of a substitute that will stop your discomfort. Get a bowl of ice-water and a raw potato, peel it and cut down one end of it to a size convenient to take in the mouth. Dip the potato in the ice-water and suck it every time you think you must have the whiskey.'"

"I did as he advised. I took the bowl of ice-water and the potato and placed on a table at the head of my bed and would dip the potato in the ice-water and place it between my lips every few minutes till I went to sleep. I awoke free from any desire to drink whiskey, and have been free from it ever since. That one treatment eradicated my craving for whiskey for all the time that has since elapsed."

**BEN HAGEN ARRESTED.**

Charged With Larceny of Money From an Indian.

Ben Hagen, a young man well known to many Athena people, was arrested in Pendleton Monday, on a charge of larceny of \$21.50 from Sekewen, an Indian, says the Tribune. The crime is alleged to have been committed on Saturday night. Sekewen was drinking in the Last Chance saloon, and drew out a \$20 piece to pay the bartender. Hagen, in is claimed, took the coin from him and refused to return it. Subsequently, Hagen and the Indian met at the depot, and the latter demanded the money. The defendant agreed to give it to him on condition that he receive \$1.50. The Indian handed him the amount asked, and he pocketed that also.

Hagen had an examination before Justice Bishop. His attorney was A. D. Stillman and District attorney Lawrey represented the state. Hagen asserted he had sold a watch chain to the Indian for \$20 and he took the coin in payment for the jewelry. Mr. Stillman claimed that an act committed so openly and notoriously was not larceny within the meaning of the law, but the justice nevertheless remanded the defendant to the grand jury with bonds fixed at \$500.

Hagen promptly furnished the bonds.

The little daughter of Mr. Fred Webber, Holland, Mass., had a very bad cold and cough which he had not been able to cure with any thing. I gave him a 25 cent bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says W. P. Holden, merchant and postmaster at West Brimfield, and the next time I saw him he said it worked like a charm. This remedy is intended especially for acute throat and lung diseases such as colds, croup and whooping cough, and it is famous for its cures. There is no danger in giving it to children for it contains nothing injurious. For sale by Osburn.

**Inman Held to Answer.**

Justice Parks rendered a decision Monday morning in the case against Dr. L. F. Inman, holding the defendant to answer before the grand jury and fixing his bonds at \$1500. Inman was released, Max Baer and Dr. R. B. Beatie remaining on his bond.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is known by its works. The experience of half a century proves that no other preparation of the kind stops coughing and allays irritation of the throat and bronchial tubes so promptly and effectually as this.

**Dissolution of Partnership.**

John M. Bentley and M. A. Ferguson, who have been engaged in the insurance business under the firm name of Bentley & Ferguson, at Pendleton, have dissolved partnership. Mr. Ferguson retires from the business to take charge of Teal Springs. Mr. Bentley continues.

**The Farmer's Institute.**

The Farmer's Institute which was held in Milton last week, under the auspices of the state agricultural college, was a very enjoyable and instructive affair, reports the Eagle. Those present from abroad were Prof. Cordley, president of the college, Prof. French, chemist, Prof. Shaw, entomologist.

Prof. G. M. Irwin, state superintendent of public instruction was also present and delivered an address on education.

The meeting was organized Wednesday evening by electing Hon. G. A. Hobbs chairman, and S. A. Miller, secretary. Mayor Richey delivered an address welcoming the visitors to the city and this was responded to in a happy manner by Prof. French on behalf of the faculty of the college and others from abroad.

**A Note of Milton, 1896.**

"Milton, Feb. 7, 1896. Mr. Tom Mellor has been citizens of this town are disgusted at the way you are treating your family and will not put up with it any longer, and will not allow you to stay in the city longer than 24 hours, if you do you will have to abide the consequences we have put up with you too long already."

The above note of warning was recently received by Thos. Mellor, a citizen of Milton, but who is now confined in the county jail, where he was taken in default of \$200 bail to appear before the circuit court on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. Mellor is of the opinion that P. B. McAlexander, of Milton, had something to do with the above note. The other day the men met and had words, with the result that Mellor drew a gun. The bottom of the trouble seems to be family jars over religious and other matters in the Mellor family.

Our people are growing more and more in the habit of looking to the Pioneer Drug Store for the latest and best of everything in the drug line. They sell Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, famous for its cures of bad colds, croup and whooping cough. When in need of such a medicine give this remedy a trial and you will be more than pleased with the result.

**Two Are Gone.**

In Pendleton two husbands are mourning the loss of run away wives. They are L. Greenwald and Frank Day. The latter's better-half was the mother of three small children, and was a member of the salvation army. Mrs. Greenwald, so her husband asserts, allowed her affections to flow out in unrestrained quantities, to C. J. Fraker, an ex-deputy sheriff.

The best regulator to regulate a people, in Simmons Liver Regulator. It regulates the liver and the liver regulates the person. If the liver is regular then health is good, but if sluggish or diseased then there is constant biliousness, indigestion, headache and all the disorders of the stomach that no one hears of. Try Simmons Liver Regulator and prove this.

Simon S. Hartman, of Tunnelton, West Va., has been subject to attacks of colic about once a year, and would have to call a doctor and then suffer for about twelve hours as much as some do when they die. He was taken recently just the same as at other times, and concluded to try Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. He says: "I took one dose of it and it gave me relief in five minutes. That is more than anything else has ever done for me."

For sale by Osburn.

**FREE.**

The Northern Pacific Farmer, Published at Portland Oregon, now in its twenty-first year, is the best and in fact the only truly weekly agricultural paper published in the Northwest. It is edited by Frank Lee, the granger editor, assisted by scores of correspondents, and contains from 16 to 32 pages weekly, of agricultural, horticultural, stock, poultry, Western market reports, childrens, household, and other items of interest that no one who has any interest in the farm or the Northwest can afford to be without. At \$1 cash in advance per year for this large weekly makes it the best and cheapest paper in the United States. To all new subscribers who will pay one years subscription to THE PRESS in advance, and all old subscribers who will pay their back subscription and one years subscription in advance to THE PRESS will receive this great Northwest journal free for one year. No one can afford to be without it.

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

**Royal Baking Powder**

ABSOLUTELY PURE