

March, 12. Mr. Editor:—I send you a few items from this part of the wild woolly plains of the west, and by way of introduction would say that the Brownsville Informant, now Lebanon Express, is a welcome visitor, as I once lived twenty years in Utah county, near Brownsville, but shaking the dust off my wels (or rather the mud) some fourteen years since, I came to Spokane; but as we often sing, "there's no place like home," still I find the old folks in my bones to hear from the old home and its grand improvements in railroads and manufactures, and see the old names once so familiar to me. Old gray winter has loosened up his grip on us once more and the grass is getting green. The farmers are bringing in their plows and getting them repaired up ready for business. The old hen is singing Hail Columbia over her new born eggs and feed, in mounting up generally. Competition is so heavy that eggs are sold from 30 cts. down to 12 cts. per dozen, and still coming. We have had a much wilder winter than usual, the farmers having plowed and sowed up to Christmas. Snow fell January 1st to the depth of 3 inches and February 13th 6 inches more fell, making in all 9 inches. The coldest weather we had was from February 1st to the 4th, the thermometer marking 13° below zero. Stock of all kinds wintered well and with comparatively no loss. Stock horses came through in good fix without feed, and are doing every winter. Farmer, as a general rule, calculate to prepare two month's feed for cattle and sheep.

Emigrants from the east are steering their way for the Big Bend country to locate homes where there is to be found an abundance of government land to be taken up, and a fair prospect of a branch railroad from Cheney to that country this summer.

Medical Lake, the Silver of the new world, is situated about the central part of Spokane Co., eight miles from the N. P. R. R. Cheney, being the nearest point and 16 miles from Spokane Falls. The lake is 1 1/2 miles long and 1/2 miles wide and very deep, some parts of the bottom have never been discovered yet. There is no kind of fish, excepting a species resembling a cross between a water dog and a fish. They are from 4 to 8 inches long, have a head and gills like a fish, legs and claws on their sides, and their Latin name is *Azotoff*.

The bathing season begins about May 15th, and lasts until August or until cold weather comes. It is estimated that about five thousand persons visited the lake last season. This water has performed wonderful cures on some diseases. Unlike patent medicines it is not claimed to cure all diseases, but it is a dead shot on rheumatism, catarrh and all skin diseases, and many other ailments.

There is a heavy pine forest around the lake and it is a favorite place to hold camping. The Baptist Association of Eastern Washington Territory meet here each year, and during the summer season the shores are lined with camps. There are 3 general merchandise stores, 1 milliner store, 2 blacksmiths shops, 1 livery, 2 hotels, 1 restaurant, 2 meat markets, 1 shoe shop, three organized churches, Methodists, Baptist, and Congregationalist, and 2 Medical Lake salt works with a capacity of condensing two thousand gallons per day each. SPOKANE.

MOUNTAIN HOME.

March 27. Things are just as lively as ever in these parts. They say that Sam Hawkins dug his potatoes yesterday.

People are all busy making garden and putting in spring grain. School commenced Monday March 4, with Miss Mary Hay, from Harrisburg, teacher.

Rev. G. F. Mead delivered a very interesting and touching sermon last Sabbath.

We are sorry to say that E. S. Trine leaves us this week to look for a job at his trade.

Thyle had better not go to Brownsville any more if he can't come home without losing his shirt.

A young lady stopped at Mr. Henderson's last Saturday night, wanting to stay all summer with them, and as she was a pretty good looking girl, and not much of a talker, they thought they would let her stay awhile.

Mrs. Trine and son returned home last Saturday. We thought we could not touch Orry with a ten foot pole after he had been attending high school but I guess he is just as common as ever. We noticed he gave some of the Hill girls a sweet snile last Sunday, but he will now have to pull off his store clothes and put on his "jeans."

There was quite a large land slide occurred last winter on George Syster's place. It started upon the side of the butte above the Rock Hill road, sliding down across the road into his pasture, some 60 or 70 rods, taking trees, fence and everything with it, leaving a hole in the side of the butte about 5 rods wide, 18 rods long and 30 feet deep, and of an oblong shape. It is a very interesting scene.

FORKS OF THE SANTIAM.

Allen Kinder is on a bed of affliction caused by rheumatism.

Last week was energetically used by the farmers, as they are mostly going to be very late with their spring seeding.

The boys from Lebanon who are making ties for the O. P. R. R. are doing lots of good solid labor, and are having a fat time.

Farmers of this vicinity are complaining of being bothered with Chinese pheasants, and are thinking of devising some plan to rid themselves of these pests. They are a fine and beautiful bird and quite numerous in this part of the country. From the experience I have had of wing shooting, they fly just to my fancy.

We had a very pleasant little hop at "Uncle Bob's" not long ago. Every thing passed off agreeable and a good time was had in general. Two of the boys, that came quite a distance, got in rather late, and fed their horses out of the old gentleman's seed oats, but no signs of hostility was shown by the proprietor. "Uncle Bob" must look over their error as they took the temperance pledge the next morning for 50 years. Boys, stay with your pledge; it is cheered by many. A FOLKIST.

In a few days we will have on hand a fine stock of letter heads, billheads, envelopes colored paper for poster work, etc. etc. Give the EXPRESS office a call, when you want something in this line, at prices in proportion to the size of your usual skin, which, of course, at this time means very low.

FARM NOTES.

The Southdown has the strongest wool and the Merino the softest.

Never give a horse, which is usually fed oats, a full feed of corn or corn meal in place of the oats. Better let it go without.

When fowls are kept, let it be done in a place not too near the stable. Horses and cows may become lousy from hens, causing great vexation.

The sheep is the poor man's friend, says an exchange, and can winter on the stubble and straw that the farmer cannot sell, and at the worst requires but little grain.

The best soils for wool are also the best for mutton, and it is necessary that the land be dry, for damp soils are liable to such diseases as liver rot, fluke and foot rot.

To keep your hired men good natured while milking, call the milking a part of the day's work and not expect them to work in the field till dark and then milk a dozen cows in the night.

Even two or three feeds of cooked turnips or potatoes each week are better than to omit such food altogether. It is a variety that promotes health and keeps the stock in good condition.

With reference to the quality of wools, it is claimed that clay produces the best, sand second, and lime the most inferior quality. In cold climates wool has a finer texture and a superior quality.

Should spring open early, and the grass start, do not be tempted to allow the stock to graze on it, until it is well under growth. Trampling on young grass does more damage than grazing it closely.

It is said that when a horse strays off he is unusually found wandering in the direction the wind is blowing, thus turning his back to the wind, but with sheep the contrary is the case, as sheep face the storm.

Whenever it is noticed that the hogs eat gravel it is a sign that something is the matter with their teeth. A few pieces of coal, or charcoal, will probably be a cure, while the food should at the same time be varied.

When farmers generally provide for their cattle warm stables, well ventilated, they will find cost of keeping much reduced as compared with the old way that exposes the animals to extreme cold and debilitating storms.

Yankee advice: To cure a cow of the habit of sucking her calf, thoroughly wet her teats with mangeling and then liberally sprinkle with cayenne pepper. Repeat this as often as may be necessary. The same remedy is just the thing to cure a calf from sucking a cow.

If a farmer has only 100 loads of manure, he had better apply it to a small piece of land, and thus manure it well, than to a large piece, and thus manure it imperfectly, because in a former place, it will require less labor to produce a given amount of bushels than in the latter.

Straight backs, broad loins and round bodies indicate valuable qualities in sheep, but it is only by the use of rams of the nation breed that such can be obtained. By grading up annually it requires but a short time to entirely change a flock.

Mr. W. D. Gurn, Clintondale, N. Y., authority on cold storage, tells through the Orange County Farmer, that only the careful and painstaking can expect to realize a profit from the system: It will not ripen uripie fruit, nor heal a bruised or cracked berry, nor reinvigorate mildewed stores, nor prevent mould where juices exude.

As an addition to manure or compost heaps, soapuds are most excellent, containing as they do, not only the alkalies of potash, but also much effete and nitrogenous matter, so very fertilizing in their properties. It might safely be said that as fertilizers the average soapuds from the laundry are worth more than the soap from which they are produced.

The presence of two much water in the soil keeps it constantly cold, cutting the heat of the sun's rays, intended to warm the same, to be expended in evaporating the water, and thus the plants grow, thereon never receive that genial warmth about the roots so necessary to their full development. This shows the necessity of proper drainage.

Mixing lime with any kind of manure will cause decomposition quickly, but at the loss of the volatile matter. It will not be beneficial to use lime with manure, except when about to apply the manure to the land, for then the soil, which is usually damp, will arrest the escape of ammonia, especially if the manure be harrowed in or well incorporated with the soil.

If corn fodder be cut and crushed so as to be in the same condition as ordinary cut feed, and moistened, horses and cattle can be kept through the winter in good condition upon it, but a proportion of some kind of ground grain must be also allowed, as the corn fodder, though serving to supply bulky food, must be balanced by material of a more concentrated character.

An experienced poultryman thinks that the cause of failures in the many attempts to keep fowls in large numbers is due to a lack of care. A farmer will rise at 4 o'clock in the morning to feed and milk his cows, will carefully clean out the stalls and prepare beds for the cows, and his work does not end till late, but he will not do so much work for the hens. Yet the hen will pay five times as much profit, in proportion to labor and capital invested, as the cows.

Remonstrate.

The following taken from the *Bunchgrass Blade*, published at Lexington, Morrow county, this state, contains some facts which certainly is encouraging to the friends of prohibition:

The remonstrance against a whisky saloon being established in Lexington is being extensively signed by lovers of good order and good morals. It is to be hoped that no low den like that which, fortunately for the town, went up in smoke last fall, will be permitted to exist here. Since we are without a whisky shop Lexington has been quiet and orderly, and has gained the respect of good citizens at home and abroad. It is true that whisky has been brought here in bottles from Heppner by young men on a jamboree, but the supply soon gave out and they were compelled to sober up. It may be likewise true that whisky can be procured in Lexington occasionally, but this we cannot help, and liquor-guzzling is now a strictly private transaction, as it should be.

It is not against liquor-drinking itself that the *Bunchgrass Blade* protests exactly. It is against the opening up of the vile stuff publicly where idle men, who do not need the liquor, congregate and drink for sociability; c. telling smutty stories, gambling and spending their money which they ought to use in paying their debts or in supporting their families. Lexington is respected now. Keep these whisky traps nailed down tight, and it will continue so.

The president has appointed the following inter-state commissioners: T. M. Cooley, of Michigan, six years term; W. R. Morrison, of Illinois, five years; A. Schoonmaker, of New York, four years; A. F. Walker, of Vermont, three years, and W. S. Bragg, of Alabama, two years. In this case, like many others the president has ignominiously ignored the northwest.

The great corporations of the country are pooling their capital and forming powerful syndicates for self protection. The Knights of Labor movement is suggesting capital, and the issues coming upon the country will soon be strictly pronounced, capital on the defensive and labor on the offensive. What the outcome will be no one can forecast, but capital has the superior advantage.

An unusual occurrence is thus commented upon by the *New York Star*: The steamer *Illinois*, which arrived at this port yesterday, is the first American steamer that has entered this port from Europe within twenty years.

She is entirely American, sports a red, white and blue ensign, was constructed by American laborers, is sailed by a Yankee crew, and is owned and controlled by native Americans.

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