



State Board of Horticulture.
ED. JOURNAL: Your article with the above heading, in Thursday's issue, hit the nail square on the head that I am tempted to furnish some facts, as well as history, to aid the understanding of this subject.

Two years ago I was appointed by the State Horticultural society as one of its representatives to secure the passage of a law to create a state board of horticulture, and provide means for preventing or destroying fruit pests. I had not given much attention to the subject, but knew that insect pests caused immense damage in California and took for granted the assertion that they would be as detrimental to Oregon. Myself a fruit grower, and deeply interested personally, I entered zealously into the cause. After hard work the bill failed in the house, but the Oregonian, with which I was then connected, exposed our side, and published a scathing editorial that members had told me secured the reconsideration and passage of the bill. The passage of the bill has been credited greatly to my labors, and I certainly used every effort in its favor, and was delighted at its passage.

It remained to test its workings and I must confess that when the present state board of horticulture was appointed I looked for favorable results. Your remarks are just for the board of horticulture has experienced \$7000 and accomplished no reliable or valuable results. It has been a gross and lamentable failure.

"General" Varney has shown him self around the state, and looked wise, and talked wondrous wisely, but I am positive that he has done no good. The "bulletins" issued have all been borrowed, generally from text books on entomology, and often from the experience of California's scientific fruit growers.

As a fruit grower and journalist I say, plainly and without any cause for prejudice, save what the wholesale failure of our "board of horticulture" has made evident, that every dollar so far expended (\$7000 more or less) has been wasted. It may be possible that Mr. Whitman, of Jackson county, has explained some things peculiar to Southern Oregon, but all that has been told and retold concerning pests that attack horticulture in California.

When all is said and done the pests of our section are the "Codlin Moth" and the Plum and Peach Borer. Concerning these, I have repeatedly told the public, for years back, that the apple worm must be held in check by arsenic spraying, and the borer must be dug out and the trees painted with some offensive mixture they will not encounter.

Since the law went into operation (and I doubt it really did) I have had reason to regret the success of the only lobby work I ever engaged in. As you so well explain, no new thing has been told, and no good has been done. If there was ever anything to do, this board has not done it. If capable of any good, its action fails to prove it.

At the present time my interests are all in horticulture. I produce all the orchard fruits known here—cherries, peaches, plums, prunes, apples and pears—and depend entirely on my orchard for my success in earning a living. The only serious pests known here are those I have named, and those I have this season successfully combated and have no fears but I can always do so. Then, I say that all the talk of enlarging this commission is folly. Every member of it should resign because of realizing the utter incompetency of its career so far.

As to insect pests, leave them to the newspapers and the professors of the State Agricultural College. If these gentlemen are competent to do their work they will be far more efficient than any such commission could be. Let the legislature repeat the commission—the "in commission" committed by its predecessor—and, if necessary, let them create a chair in the Agricultural College and endow it, for the purposes of proper investigation of all entomological questions.

S. A. CLARKE.

Our Dakota Letter.
Special Correspondent to the Journal From Gusip, Dixie Co., N. Dakota.

Every body seems doomed to disappointment in this country. Grain will not average three bushels per acre. The situation is awful in this country, to know scores who will not get back their seed and that is mortgaged for full value, and men who had in a whole half section of land, 320 acres of wheat, who paid \$1.00 per acre for harvesting it and when they come to thresh received less than one hundred bushels and that would grade rejected. Many who got nothing, have all their real and personal property mortgaged to full value, and have neither provisions, money, feed for their stock nor fuel to keep warm by the coming winter, say nothing of what will stare them in the face before we can raise another crop.

The condition of the smaller farmers in this and adjoining counties is indeed pitiable.

One woman who lives in Dixie county, while her husband was away from home last week, was met by a deputy sheriff and a string of wagons to haul away her wheat by force. It being a Brown county deputy, he had no jurisdiction in Dixie county. The woman being aware of the facts and seeing they were going to take it anyway, said to the men: "I have hoed corn, I

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have hoed potatoes, and I can hoe wheat," whereupon she went at the depth with the hoe and Mr. D., instead of a load of wheat, had to be carried away. People will be that desperate in nine cases out of ten before spring.

Others had a threshing machine and a big gang of men all day long and when night comes would not have 100 bushels. Threshers have to be paid. Men who are following the machine are trying to earn a few dollars to bridge the chasm between now and next harvest and must be paid. The best wheat here does not weigh over 53 per bushel; oats are poorer than ever before, barley is merely nothing, and flax, what there is of it, is very good but yielding only from five bushels per acre.

Our whole democratic ticket is likely to be elected and all on account of the democratic candidates pledging themselves to take the offices for a salary of \$1000 a year, which is a saving of about \$6000 to the tax payers of Dixie county.

The men are all equally qualified and good responsible farmers so the farmers who will still vote the republican ticket in our county election toes it at a cost of about one-half of his taxes, which amounts to about \$20 on a raw quarter section.

NORTH PACIFIC NEWS NOTES.

OREGON.

Work was begun on the electric motor road at Astoria last Friday.

The bridge across the Yamhill at Dayton is finished and virtually accepted by the county court.

The Freeport Herald plant is to be moved to La Grande, and they will issue their first paper on the 25th.

A new postoffice has been established at Umatilla, Umatilla county, Dwitt C. Whiting, postmaster.

William Midgeley was arrested in Portland last Friday for robbing the U. S. mail.

The pilot commissioners have pursued the schooner San Jose to take the place of the Gov. Moody.

The postoffice at Natal has been suspended, its postmaster R. D. Cole having resigned. The salary of the office was not sufficient.

The average yield of wheat in Oregon according to the secretary of agriculture's report, was 15 bushels to the acre, or barely 25 bushels to the acre, of oats 30 bushels.

The other day we measured the circunference of an apple tree at Isaac Butler's place and found it forty-six inches, six feet from the ground. It was planted in 1850. Can you beat it?—Hillsboro Independent.

Yesterday we met Uncle John Nichols on the street. The old man is getting quite feeble and in a few days will be 82 years old. Of all the married men who came to this region in 1844, he, Uncle Carey Embree and David Johnson, of Independence, are alone left.—Polk County Itemizer.

Mrs. Henry Fletcher, of McMinnville, went out calling recently and left her husband unbroken. When she returned all her best dresses, besides a quantity of butter and pantry stores were gone. The Reporter thinks a search warrant could locate them.

The taxable valuation of Douglas county is as follows: Gross amount, \$4,383,835; net, \$1,284,355; exemptions, \$291,225; total taxable, \$2,808,475. This is an increase of \$29,775 over the net valuation last year.

Mine owners and prospectors of the Robinsonville district are coming into Baker City for winter quarters. The old town of Robinsonville has only one inhabitant, "Forty-nine Jimmy," and he will, as he has for the past twenty-three years, be the only sign of human life in that desolate and snow-bound camp, master of what was once a lively center.—Democrat.

Died—Peacefully and quietly on the 14th inst. the postoffice at Dotyville. A few days ago the resignation of Mr. Rucker as postmaster was accepted and nobody else in the neighborhood being willing to become the recipient of shucks for Uncle Sam, word went out officially from the Selco office that the office at Dotyville was no more.—Selco Press.

DIED.

BUDGET—At Lexington, Or., October 16, 1880. Lexington W. Budget, aged 107 weeks.

In order to escape the ignominy of becoming a floating abomination upon the rising tide of debt, it chose with bare bodkin to make its own end while yet it could pay for its own burial.—E. O.

The gross value of the taxable property of Benton county as shown by the tax books is \$5,086,875. The total indebtedness is \$1,007,245, and exemptions, \$241,704, leaving the total taxable property at \$3,777,927. The tax levy for county purposes,

is \$1,000,000, or \$27.10 per acre.

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