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Correspondence.

Grasses

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Editor Willamette Farmer:

We read in the Scriptures that "all flesh is as grass." Metaphorically, this is so. The herbivora eat grass and we eat them. Even the carnivora may be said to eat grass, for, the animals they eat are herbivorous. Man is an archont, and is omnivorous, eating both vegetables and flesh as food. Without grass the herbivora could not live, and, without the herbivora the carnivora would die.

The deep importance of grass rests here: Our horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and in a great measure swine and poultry eat vegetable food. Hence, these domestic animals could not live; and, consequently we would be deprived of their use. Civilization would cease without these quadrupeds. Even the quadrumania and bipeds, nay, even the fish of the deep sea, and of the fresh waters of our rivers and lakes would all die without vegetable food.

The farmer all over the world is dependent upon the flora, grass and hay. These uphold the world. The best grasses for our soil and climate, so far as my experience goes, are the following:

Timothy. For hay this has few equals. Cut at the right time—just before it is blooming—and well cured and put under cover, it keeps sweet for a long time and even improves with age. If rats and mice are kept out of it, and a floor above the ground, it will keep good for three, four or even five years. It is a rich, strong and lasting feed; but if fed too freely is costive, and said to be feverish. Whether we will ever get a better grass for hay, is doubtful. It requires a moist, rich soil to do its best. It does no good on high, rocky, dry land. Timothy is not a pasture grass; it is true that all stock are fond of timothy while it is young; but if you pasture it much it will not make good hay. Scattered through the woods in openings, it makes good early pastures. Stock are very fond of it.

Wheat: Few people are aware of the fact that whilst sown on rich land and thick, cut early, and well cured for, makes one of the very best of hays. It is rich, sweet and very healthy. All kinds of stock are passionately fond of it. I am surprised that more wheat is not sown, especially for hay. In our dry climate, fine hay may be made of wheat, oats, barley, rye—cut early—corn sown thick, makes excellent feed, but is of no value here for it molds and actually stinks in the mow in our damp winters. I have grown three tons of good, sweet hay, per acre.

Meadow Grass: This a good pasture grass on rich, moist land. It is worthless on poor, dry land.

Blue Grass: On very rich, if possible, lime-stone soil, or granite, is best. Dry land here is worthless for blue grass. It is unproductive for hay, unless on very rich, moist land. It is not here, properly, a hay grass. Its turf is hard to eradicate. I do not recommend it at all.

Red top: On very rich, moist soil, makes a moderately fair hay. I have never succeeded with it only on land almost wet. I do not recommend it.

Italian Grass. I have been trying to grow it for ten or twelve years, but here I'll have to give it up.

Lincoln Grass: I have had no personal experience with it. My neighbors grow it and like it both for hay and pasture. It will grow on poor, dryer land than most other grasses. Hence is valuable for dry, high, hill lands.

Orchard Grass: I have grown this grass for thirty years. For early pasture it is good. The hay is only second rate. It is a very hardy, vigorous grass, and will grow well on any good land

not too wet. It ripens too early, right in our early summer rains; the crop being often lost by rain. It is better for early pasture than anything else.

I wish here to state, any kind of hay may be preserved and kept sweet and rich, by using salt water, sprinkling the hay over as you mow it away. Still better, molasses, salt and water mixed and sprinkled well as put in the barn, not only preserves your hay and makes stock eat it better, but will keep away all rats and mice from running through it. The mixture $\frac{1}{2}$ earth, $\frac{1}{2}$ molasses, $\frac{1}{2}$ water. This we used to preserve our prairie hay with, in Illinois and Iowa. The salt and molasses makes stock very fond of the hay. The molasses may be left out, save for poor hay.

This being a very important subject—grasses—we will say something more in another article, and will speak of alfalfa, clover and wild oats. Wild oats, you'll say? Yes. Wild oats are adapted to our dry climate, they make fine hay pasture, and are green when everything else is parched up.

Alfalfa: I will say in advance, I think, at least with me, that, except in a few places, is a failure in our valley.

But of clover, and especially wild oats, they are a grand success. I'll show you.

A few more words on grasses. In a world like ours it is necessary to view things as they are as near as may be. The constitution and order of nature, as viewed from the farmers' standpoint, may be worth our attention.

All the forces around seem to have, each in its particular sphere, an office to perform and an object in view. Light radiates from the sun for a purpose and an end. Light plays upon plants and enables them to analyze oxygen, hydrogen, a small per cent of nitrogen, carbon, ammonia, and convert these into food. Light plays on the leaves and there too, as both stomach and lungs. Heat gives life, warms and sets up with attraction and repulsion, it separates the useful from the non-useful, and by the aid of magnetism circulates the prepared fluids—the blood of the plants—through the cells, and thus builds an organism which we term a plant. This affords all the inorganic elements necessary to build the framework of this little organism, as well as, in some degree, affords organic elements. These are absorbed by the spring-les and around through the capillary attraction, up to the leaves. This is the undigested sap. The leaves, through the aid of light, heat, electricity and magnetism, convert into digested sap, with which the vital force builds the cells and tissues of our little plant. See the little petals, stamens, pistils, anthers, stigmas, building up, purifying and perfecting the development of "this little thing of life." Here is life. The little plant is worthy of our notice. This little thing, tiny, indeed, has within it the deep down principles of organized life. This tiny little one is a number of the great floral world. Upon the floral world rests the journal. See then of what vast importance, to us, is a knowledge of plant growth. Plants existed ages before animals; for, no animal could live prior to plants. Upon plants animals live. Hence the use and beauty of plants or grass.

The herbivorous, carnivorous, mutilates, and quadrupeds as well as bipeds, etc., all depend directly or indirectly upon the floral kingdom for food. The horninidae, to which man may be said to belong, is pre-eminently related to the vegetable kingdom. Clearly, then, we may say with the inspired man: "All flesh is as grass." So well thus far:

Clover: Clover requires a deep, rich, calcareous soil and plenty of rain during its growth. Now, our valley is not a calcareous one, nor do rains fall here all the growing season. Hence it is not a first-rate clover country. Clover, when properly grown, and properly cured, makes good hay; but in our damp win-

ters molds more or less. The large, red clover is by far the best for pasture and hay. It is not as good hay as timothy or wheat hay. Nor do I think it will save in a few places, succeed in our soil and climate. I have often tried alfalfa but it universally fails. In heavily timbered lands, when cleared, clover does reasonably well, and is fine pasture. In Iowa, in Illinois and portions of Missouri clover grew magnificently. We used to get two crops, and from two to three tons per acre. Clover is difficult to save. Clover is a great renovator of land. Its roots run deep and its large leaves draw heavily from the air. Besides its large roots, in rotting, leave the soil open and porous as well as rich. Wheat, or indeed any crop, does well after clover. I think if clover was drilled two feet or more apart, and cultivated, it would do far better in our dry summers and yield double. If this was done, after the first crop was out, it would make a grand pasture. I never saw clover baled; unless very dry it would spoil, perhaps. When very dry, it does not weigh as heavily as wheat hay or timothy.

One grandure for clover is manural qualities. Here: In Illinois we kept up two milk cows, stabled, curried and bedded them. We mowed clover of mornings and fed the cows with it in the evening along with chopped corn, oats, barley and wheat. The clover they honestly ate during the night. The cows had all the pure, cool well water they desired, and a small lot to run in during the day. In the lot was several large shade trees. Under these trees the cows quietly layed and chewed their cuds. What was the result? They poured down the milk. We made 12 and 14 pounds of milk per week from those two cows. They were the common scrub cattle at that.

Now, we saved the urine and manure mixed with the stems and litter from the clover fed. On the ground we mowed, we applied, from the manure tank, the manure made by these two cows, scattering it well among the clover bunches. The rain—for it rained in Illinois in summer—washed down manure to the roots of the clover and "made it just naturally sweet."

There was only an acre of the clover, but it kept the cows "in clover" the entire growing season. If ours was a limestone soil, and it rained during the growing season we could grow clover, too, too. But—yes, but I would prefer wheat hay to clover, every time, in this country. Wild oats—We all have to "sow our wild oats." But there is not much use in sowing 'em here! for they are all ready sown and grow and spread finely. They are hardly, vigorous, rich as a grass, for hay, if cut early. A hard freeze kills them root and branch; but they so thoroughly seed the ground that the mere cold of our valley does but little harm to them generally. Our soil and climate suits wild oats. It's no trick for 'em to grow. We don't have to sow 'em either, they are already "thar." Some folks call 'em a pest, and some folks curse 'em. No wonder! The oats are everywhere. In your garden your potatoes, your tame oats, your wheat, barley, rye, buckwheat, orchard, etc.

Wild oats have cost us millions. The way we manage them they only increase. Can they be killed out? Yes. You can mow them to death. You can get a good crop of hay off them and then pasture them, never letting them go to seed. Summer fallow does not kill them. The ground is full of seed, and as long as the seed is in the ground when the conditions are favorable, they will come up and grow. Yes, they'll grow, for that's their business, their nature. Yes, like a "gal," she loves, will love, bound to love or "bust." They can't help it, it's so natural! They will love, and oats will grow.

Now, wild oats are not like other pests. We can make good use of them; I have

said they make good hay, and they do. I have said they afford fine pasture, and they do. They don't kill the soil like sorrel, nor poison it up like many other seeds. We can utilize them, or we can mow them to death. What! Shall it be said that we can not kill out sorrel, nor thistle, nor French pink, nor wild oats. Shame!" I tell you we can kill them, we must kill them or they'll kill us. Oats can utilize and kill, the others we can only kill.

What! In a country like ours. One of the grandest on earth. Grand in climate, grand in soil, grand in snow-capped peaks, grand in vast mountain ranges, laved by the grandest of oceans, lined by the mightiest of rivers surrounded by immeasurable forests, dark and darkly green—and yet let a few weeds ruin us. "Up! and at 'em." Use them as grass or hay or kill 'em or they will kill you. Choose, choose boldly.

A. F. DAVIDSON.

Justice to Pioneers.

When two prominent stockholders in the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company visited Oregon last summer, they dined at the summit of the Cascade, at or near where the line of the Oregon Pacific railroad is now laid. Amongst the after dinner exercises, that of giving new names to points of interest in the vicinity so engaged their attention, that it is understood they left but one notable object in the locality, to go by its former name. That one is the comparatively low peak, nearest the pass, on the South Mount, Washington. They refrained from filching from the Father of his country.

Big Lake, on the west of the mountains, so named by the first owners and builders of the W. V. & C. N. (Lebanon) wagon road, they named Blair Lake. Haystack Butte was named Hoggs Mountain, and the pass which is a narrow divide between it and a similar rocky butte north of it, they called Hoggs' Pass. The remarkable cathedral like mountain, with its more than forty rocky pinnacles, called locally, "Three Fingred Jack, they gave a new name. It may be conceded that the last name mentioned as well as the first, could be bettered with no damage to anyone, but it must also be said that the men of more action than ideas, who first found it necessary to apply names to these places or things, had the best right to name them. In so far as the discovery of that particular portion of the true summit of the cascade range, as a low point in such summit is to honor anyone by its naming that honor, should be credited to Hon. John B. Waldo. It was he who first made such a critical observation of the summit ridge there, as to form the opinion that it was lower than the old Minto Pass, which is some eight or nine miles to the north. The search for this passway through the Cascade range, has been pursued so long and by so many different persons that even a very big notice of these now would make quite a

History: When the white people first began to settle in the Willamette valley there was a tradition afloat amongst the Indians of a trail through the Santiam valley, once in common use by their people, but which had fallen into disuse and been abandoned as the result of a bloody battle. This battle had the effect of permanently dividing the people who fought it into two distinct tribes, the Mollalas who thereafter held the west side of the Cascade range and the Cayuses who took possession of the west side of the Blue mountains south of the Umatilla. This is Rev. J. L. Parrish's version of the tradition gathered while learning the Indian language as a missionary 47 years ago. At that date there was a trail used by trappers settled in the Willamette valley and traders of the Hudson Bay Company, by Labish, they left what is now called King's Prairie

and passed the range in two days march on horseback. Undoubtedly it was the eastern outgo of this trail that was noted by Lieut. Fremont as coming out of the mountains into the plain of the Des-Chutes near Black Butte as he passed that point in 1843, although it is probable that the trail so noted was the east out go of another which led westward into Fish Lake valley and thence across Iron Mountain into the South Santiam valley which later became known as the Wiley trail.

This paper is the beginning of an exact history of the causes which led to the discovery and adoption of what is likely (in the near future) to be the most important channel of commerce through the State of Oregon and will be continued at the option of the new owners of this paper.

From Wool to Cloth's.

The total amount of wool produced in the United States last year was estimated to be 322,000,000 lbs. in round numbers. In addition thereto, 117,840,000 lbs. of foreign wool were imported into this country, making the total supply available for domestic consumption about 440,000,000 lbs. in round numbers. The greater portion of this great quantity of wool, representing the fleeces of more than 70,000,000 sheep, was produced with the direct object of supplying existing requirements. That is to say, wool is not, like hides, an offal by-product of another industry. The wholesale clothiers, the tailors, the cloak-makers and dress-makers, and shirt-makers, and carpet dealers are called upon by the public to furnish the various products of the woolen mills in a completed form, ready for use. These manufacturers and dealers, in their turn, call upon the mills for the products of the loom, and the owners of the mills go to the wool merchant, and purchase such fleeces as will produce the goods which they have sold or expect to sell. It is to meet these complex requirements that the farmer or ranchman raises sheep and shears their wool.

Hence the condition of the clothing and carpet and dry goods trades, and the status of the domestic woolen industry, are all important factors in determining what the supply of wool should be. If the wholesale clothing and carpet and dry goods trades are depressed because many people are out of employment and unable to buy goods, or if the woolen industry is suffering through a misconstruction of the tariff which permits large importations of foreign woolsens, the result appears in a reduced demand for wool. This lessened demand is followed by a reduction of price, and when the price falls so low that it is no longer remunerative to the farmer or ranchman he kills his sheep, and thus lessens his supply of wool for another season.

The wool grower, therefore, is greatly interested in prompting such a condition of the wholesale clothing and carpet and dry goods and woolen manufacturing industries, as will insure a demand for his fleeces; for it is only through a prosperous condition of the industries alluded to that a buoyant and active wool market can be obtained. The shoe and leather industry is a large and important one, but the hides which constitute its raw material are a mere by-product of the process of producing butter, cheese, and beef. Nobody in the United States produces cattle for the sake of their hides. Cattle are raised for dairy purposes or for beef, and the sales of their hides is merely accidental. Hence comparisons between the tariff status of wool and hides, or between the relations of leather and woolen cloth to their respective raw materials are unwarranted.

Most of the sheep in the United States are bred and raised for the sake of their fleeces, and when the demand for wool diminishes the farmer reduces his flock. Our domestic wool industry, in its completeness, comprises the wholesale clothing trade, the dry goods interests, the carpet and woolen manufacturing industries and the wool growing industries. The wool grower cannot be prosperous unless the consuming branches of industry are in a satisfactory condition.—American Wool Reporter.

We would appreciate it very much if arrearages are promptly paid!