

# RECLAIMING SALINE OR ALKALINE LANDS.

SPANISH FORK CITY,  
January 30th, 1872.

To the President and Members of the Spanish Fork Gardeners' Club:

Gentlemen, I deem it my duty to give you my views on reclaiming waste land, or land strongly impregnated with salt, saleratus, or other minerals, for it is a subject of vast importance to us as a people.

What we, in this neighborhood, are most acquainted with, are the black salt and saleratus. To get rid of them I scrape the high places into the lowest parts of my field, until I think I have got it so that I can run the water over every foot of it. My main irrigation ditch runs due north, my land has a gradual fall to the west of about one foot in sixty. I make ditches thirty feet apart, running west, to carry off the impregnated water into the waste water ditches on the west side of the field. I then throw up a levy every sixty feet west, forming plots thirty feet by sixty. The sides of the ditches that run west also form levees.

I turn on the water and run it into the first plot east, until the whole surface of the plot is under water; then I let it off into the second ditch, running west. I use the first ditch running west to carry fresh water into every plot on the first tier, until I have flooded all the plots on that tier. I then use the second ditch for fresh water for the second tier of plots, and flood all of them, running the impregnated water into the third ditch northward, and so on until I have gone over the whole field.

When the ground is dry enough to plow, I turn over the soil about six inches deep, (plowing down the levees first into the place from whence I got the dirt to make them) and let it remain for a short time unharrowed, to see if the saleratus makes its appearance. If it shows very little, I sow oats for the first crop, putting a little over two bushels to the acre, and harrow it down smooth. I have raised three crops in succession (of oats) then a crop of wheat, then other crops.

If I think there is any danger of the mineral injuring the tender blades as they come up through the ground, I spread a thin coating of chaff or short straw immediately after harrowing in the seed, and find it very beneficial as a mulch, in keeping the surface damp and protecting the young plants until the crop shades the ground from the rays of the sun.

You are well aware that thousands of acres of our best land in the north and west fields, have been rendered comparatively useless through carelessness and lack of judgment in using the water, in some, by being flooded too much, the water washing away the soil and cutting it into gullies; and in some, by the water ditches not being properly located, causing but a partial watering, merely washing the mineral off one part of the land and depositing it on another. But I have no hesitation in saying that by proper management of the water, and understanding where to locate the ditches and levees, it can all be made very productive. I bought the improvements on a farm of forty acres for one hundred dollars, the land being supposed to be useless. I can now raise on the same land good crops of all kinds. My wheat crop in 1871 averaged forty-five bushels to the acre. Barley and oats not so much, being badly damaged by grasshoppers.

Yours, &c. SAMUEL PATERSON.

## WESTERN NOTES.

The Gold Hill News and the Territorial Enterprise are at loggerheads.

All the mills along Carson River are now busy crushing Comstock ore.

It is reported that Joe Lane will stump Oregon for Greeley.

Miss Edith O'Gorman, has "escaped" to Nevada. She was expected to lecture at Virginia, Sept. 24.

Apples are said to be scarcer in the Willamette Valley than in any former season for several years.

In lieu of the goods usually bestowed on the Indians at Payallup by the Superintendent, that official was requested by a chief the other day to give him two horses and a buggy, that he might drive around among the Indians like a white gentleman and trade with the natives.

A correspondent of the Inyo Independent, writing from Lida, Nevada, says: The strike at Gold Mountain is said to excel anything ever seen in the

United States of America for richness and size. The ledge is said to be nine feet thick, and worth sixty-four thousand dollars per ton.

It is estimated that the total wheat crop of Oregon the present season will fall but little short of 4,000,000 bushels. The crop has generally turned out rather better than was expected before the beginning of harvest, and the question with farmers now is, "What shall we do with our surplus wheat, and how much shall we get for it?"

A few days ago Daniel Chapman, United States Land Officer, and a competent engineer, left La Grande, with the proper assistants, to make a preliminary survey in the Blue Mountains with the intention, if possible, of finding a better route from the summit of the mountains north than that known as the Hudnutt route for the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake railroad.

The machinery of the late Dalles Woolen Mill will be taken to Dayton, Washington Territory, set up and put in operation in time to work on the next Spring's wool clip. The Dayton Woolen Manufacturing Company has been incorporated under the laws of the Territory with a capital of \$40,000. Over half of it has already been subscribed. The trustees are A. H. Reynolds, Jesse N. Day and F. G. Frary.

On Saturday night two sons of the Emerald Isle imbibed too freely of ardent spirits, and in consequence were not able to navigate their way home. Some of the boys, who are always ready for a little fun, procured two boxes, placed one of the sons in each box, carried them to the graveyard, put them in two holes, placed rocks and dirt on the covers of the boxes, and left them to enjoy a good night's rest. About 9 o'clock in the morning some of the citizens, who were walking near the graveyard, discovered the men coming out of their boxes, and immediately rushed to town wild with excitement, stating that they had seen two ghosts in the graveyard. In a short time everybody was excited; when the matter was finally solved by their arrival—that they were nothing more than live ghosts.—White Pine News.

For two days past, says the Carson Appeal of September 23, a large fire has been raging in the mountains west of town. The locality seems to be little above and west of the old Ash Mill. It presented a beautiful sight on Saturday night. Apparently about a mile square on the side of the mountains was a solid mass of rolling fire, mounting aloft in deep red drifting flames, painting strange, fantastic shapes and fancies on the dark clouds and black smoke above. These fires in the mountains at this season are very dangerous, and often ruin large tracts of timber that will take Nature centuries to replace. Thus far, we learn, it has done no damage, being confined to the brush, chips and debris left by the wood cutters of last year. We hope it may not reach the cord wood further up, for there is no conjecture where it might not go if once fairly started.

## MONTANA NOTES.

Twenty-pound cauliflowers and thirty-pound cabbages have been brought to Deer Lodge.

Coal of superior quality has been discovered a few miles from the mouth of Gold Creek.

The Avant Courier says Mr. Staab, a German, insane, hung himself, Sept. 13, at White Tail Deer Creek. Verdict accordingly.

The railroad surveyors have found the Dog Creek route impracticable. They are now surveying a route up Peterson Creek to the head of Boulder.

The Deer Lodge Independent says the lightest wheat crop in that section will average 25 bushels to the acre and the heaviest 75 or 80 bushels.

Crops in the Bitter Root and Missoula valleys never were better, and farmers have been busy harvesting for several weeks. The impression seems to prevail that the supply of grain this year will be greater than the demand and that prices of farmers' products will be correspondingly low.

On the 7th of October the Directors of the Eastern Montana Agricultural, Mineral and Mechanical Association will hold their First Annual Fair. The managers are making every effort to have an exhibition of produce, stock, etc., that shall be a credit to that region.

Montana Rye.—We have in our office a splendid specimen of Montana rye, from the crop of that cereal raised on the ranch of J. H. Harper, the cham-

plon farmer of Gallatin valley, about a mile and a half from Bozeman, three grains of which would make a good square meal for any man of ordinary appetite. Gallatin can beat the world for grain.—Bozeman Avant Courier.

We were shown, the other day, some very fine specimens of domestic white currants which were raised this summer on H. N. Maguire's ranch about five miles south of Bozeman. They were large, ripe and luscious; equal, in fact, to any we ever saw. Mack has engaged extensively in the business of fruit culture and we are pleased to hear that his experiments in this line have proved successful. He has also some very fine tame gooseberries on the ranch, as well as about twenty of the choicest varieties of strawberries, all of which are looking fine, and, ere long, he will have one of the finest fruit gardens in the Territory. This vicinity is becoming celebrated for the excellence and variety of fruit produced, and we would suggest to our people that they add a fruit garden to the attractions of their homesteads. It will pay.—Bozeman Avant Courier.

An explanation needed.—Inasmuch as the North Pacific Railroad failed to accomplish its object in the late attempted survey of a proper route down the valley of the Yellowstone, it has become a subject of considerable surprise and regret to the citizens of this Territory as well as to all others interested in the early completion of this important enterprise. That an expedition so well supplied, and accompanied by an apparently ample military force, should only have been able to have made surveys but about a score of miles beyond the point reached last year, would seem, to the distant observer, that some one in authority must be at fault in the matter. That this virtual retreat of the Expeditionary Corps will delay the completion of the road and encourage the savages in further efforts to forcibly stay its progress, there can be no doubt; besides causing large expense to both the Railroad Company and the Government in fitting out another expedition next year to accomplish that which the present one failed to do. Grave reports of official errors and incompetency in connection with the skirmish with the Indians and the subsequent retreat, are in circulation, and the public is anxiously awaiting for a reliable explanation of the reason and causes which led to the retrograde movement of the expedition.—Helena Gazette, Sept. 22

## EASTERN NOTES.

An Evansville, Ind., man left \$500,000 to start a spiritual seminary.

A fastidious Alabama boy shot his father because the latter didn't purchase him as good a pair of boots as he wanted.

Some citizens of Concordia, Mo., watching for the comet, thought it was upon them tail and all, as a boy's kite floated over the scene.

Mrs. Hillard, of Rockport, Ill., recently horsewhipped a Baptist minister named Archer, who had aimed at her the poisonous shaft of calumny.

In 1865 Sen. O. P. Morton said: "Negro suffrage would justly provoke a war of races, in which either the blacks or whites of the South would be driven out, and in such a contest my sympathies would be with the whites."

From the official reports of the P. O. Department, it appears that the money order business is rapidly increasing, the amount issued during the last fiscal year in domestic orders being, in round numbers, \$48,500,000; foreign orders \$1,000,000 more, being an increase of nearly \$8,000,000 over the previous year, and yielding a clear profit to the government of \$120,000.

In some parts of the country whole orchards of peaches are said to be dying of an incurable disease called the "yellows." The symptoms are premature ripening, higher coloring, the skin appearing spotted, and great redness about the pit; wiry shoots also sprout up from the trunk and branches; the leaves turn yellow and the tree dies. Wherever the symptoms appear the recommendation is to at once root out and burn up the infected trees.

A terrific runaway occurred in the early part of the present month at Albany, N. Y. An alarm of fire was given, and while steam fire engine No. 6 was on the way to the fire, the horses became unmanageable. The engineer jumped off to try to get at their heads to stop them, but leaving him behind, on they went, and finally over the dock into the basin. Horses, engine

and driver were buried in water fifteen feet deep. The driver, being able to swim, saved himself, but the horses, valued at \$1200, were drowned. The engine was damaged to the extent of \$200 to \$300.

Rhode Island must be awarded the championship for superstition; if you doubt it, read and believe. A man named Rose, a resident of that State, was lying recently very low of consumption, several of his brothers and sisters having previously fallen victims to that disease. The invalid had heard of an old superstition, to the effect that the bodies of those who have died of consumption draw post mortem sustenance from living relatives, and that this process will go on until the heart and liver of the dead are destroyed. Impressed with faith in this folly, he induced his father and a neighbor to go to the graveyard, at midnight, to exhume one of his dead relatives and take therefrom the parts mentioned and burn them. The parties first opened the grave of a brother who had died twelve years before, but they found bones only. The grave of a sister, seven years dead, was then opened, and from her body the heart and liver were taken and buried in a fire kindled near the grave.

## FOREIGN NOTES.

In a bicycle race against time at Douglass, Isle of Man, Peter Hana-worth rode a bicycle half a mile and return in 3 minutes 21 seconds.

The Livingstone-Stanley mystery has taken a new phase. The doubting Thomases of the English press, and of the Royal Geographical Society, have so badgered the great discoverer of the great explorer, that he (Stanley) has declared open war against his adversaries, and in a savage letter to the London Telegraph states his opinion in no very complimentary terms that the Royal Geographical Society are far less interested in aiding and succoring Livingstone than in getting his geographical discoveries in advance, in order to manipulate them to suit their own theories.

Narrow gauge railroads are exciting great attention in Great Britain, and Mr. Robert F. Fairlie has just published in London a pamphlet entitled, "Railways or no Railways, or the Battle of the Gauges Renewed in 1872." The pamphlet comments severely on the English reviews of the report of Gen. Buell in favor of a three feet six inch gauge for the Texas Pacific railway, and arrives at the conclusion that broad gauge means "costliness with extravagance," and narrow gauge means "economy with efficiency."

Italy, where but a few years ago, no son of Abraham was safe from persecution, now admits Jews as teachers to the highest institutions of learning. Recently, says the Jewish Times, "Leone Ottolengi, a Jew, was appointed Professor of Latin and Greek at the Lyceum of Casale; Moses Levi, son of the Rabbi of Cuneo, was appointed Professor of History and Geography at the Polytechnical Institute at Fossano; and Tobias Latio, of Patigliana, the only Jew among a number of applicants, as teacher in the Normal School of Pisa."

French correspondents who have settled on Mount St. Bernard complain that they do not find the dogs of that locality so discerning as fame has reported. They object to being rescued by quadrupeds in the snow when they seek it for the express purpose of keeping cool. They have some difficulty in making the animals understand that they don't want to be saved or violently dragged by their clothes to the good fathers who have a way of rubbing them over with spirits when heat is the very thing they are trying to avoid.

The British nation ought to be satisfied with its iron-clad fleet. These vessels cost each about half a million of pounds sterling, without mentioning a few tens of thousands yearly for disordered machinery, started plates and other casualties which are constantly recorded in the English naval journals. Now it appears that the whole fleet must soon go to the bottom. "Several of the ships," say the United Service Gazette, "are showing signs of weakness below their water-line plating, consequent, as it is supposed, on the working of their enormous heavy armor-plated topsides on a comparatively weak bottom framework. The collapse of heavy iron-clads built as ocean cruisers on this principle appears to be a question of time only, and that not of long duration."