

## HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

The Marion county, Or., fruit growers' union, with head office at Salem, was organized May 6. The capital is \$5,000, in 250 shares. Subscriptions of stock are limited to one share for each five acres of fruit trees, vines and berries owned, or fraction thereof.

Yamhill, Or., horticulturists will meet at McMinville May 25 to consider plans of co-operation in marketing the fruit of the county, which is rapidly becoming one of the principal products.

The fruit growers near Mount Tabor, Or., are making progress with their fruit shippers' association. H. C. Welch was elected president and A. Rosenthal secretary. It is expected to include all of Multnomah county and vicinity. Forty-seven signed the membership roll. Action is proposed to secure a market place in Portland where all the fruit could be brought. A graded scale of prices for strawberries was discussed. It was said that the price of strawberries had been regulated by the lowest grades offered, while the better grades received no better price. The association will try to fix the price paid for gathering fruit.

## CURIOSITIES OF HORTICULTURE.

TO THE EDITORS: Isn't it curious that you can graft a sweet apple on a sour apple and get sweet apples? Can you tell why this result? or can you tell why a scion of one kind of apple grafted on another kind of apple will dominate the root (or stock as it is called) so as to change its form—making the roots grow straight and compact like the roots of the parent scion rather than sprawling and fine like the parent of the stock?

It is said if you take two scions from different trees, say one sweet and one sour, and divide the scions lengthwise just alike and join them to a perfect point and use it as one scion, the fruit on that scion will be a combination of both kinds of fruit in size, color and taste. Can any of you Yakima chaps tell why? It is said also that a yearling apple tree bent over and its top well set in the ground, will take root and grow. Then cut off the tree at the butt and train it up, and when the tree bears the fruit will be without core. Do you believe this?

These things are no more to be wondered at than the pollenization of fruit flowers. Your readers can get a very full explanation of that process by reading Bulletin No. 5, division of pathology, issued by the United States department of agriculture, in regard to the pollenization of the pear, and apply it to the apple and other fruits.

The most practicable way to get the full benefit of these lessons is to plant different kinds of the same fruit, apples, pears and plums, near each other, and have plenty of bees about. Don't plant solid blocks of one kind, for they won't bear fruit.

H. L. BACK.

Kootenai County, Idaho.

## To Benefit Grain Growers.

A state convention of the grain growers of the northwest has been called by President Donnelly, of the Minnesota state farmers' alliance, to be held in Minneapolis. The call says: "All the farmers of Minnesota and the northwest are cordially invited to meet together at that time to take counsel how they can by co-operation relieve themselves from the grip of the great giant combinations which are now destroying their industry and pushing millions of them into bankruptcy. Members of the national alliance and of the farmers' alliance and industrial union will be cordially welcomed. We do not expect to put up the price of wheat to \$2 a bushel, or even to \$1 a bushel, but to get as much out of it as the world's market will justify, and to get clear of as many middlemen as possible. If we could put up the price 10 cents a bushel it will represent a saving of \$10,000,000 to the northwest." The object of the movement is to form a gigantic grain growers' association, which shall buy grain direct from the farmers and sell as found best.

## He Kept It at Seventy.

The Oshkosh and Fond du Lac, Wis., papers, are disputing over which city is responsible for the janitor of the following story:

When the fires were started in one of the public schools, the principal in charge placed in the hands of the janitor a thermometer, with the injunction to see that the mercury always registered 70 degrees. One day, during a recent cold snap, the temperature of the rooms became uncomfortably chilly, and the principal hunted up the janitor to find out the cause. "Didn't you understand that you were to keep the thermometer at 70 degrees?" he inquired of that gentleman. "I have kept it at 70," was the reply. "Where is it?" asked the principal, wishing to see if the janitor was correct. "There it is," replied the janitor; "that's the only place where it will stay at 70." It was standing on the hot air register.

Verily, verily, travelers have seen monstrous idols in many countries; but no human eyes have ever seen more daring, gross and shocking images of the Divine nature than we creatures of the dark make in our own likeness of our own bad passions.—Dickens.

## THE BEST THING IN LIFE.

There is nothing better than to be happy; joy is the real root of morality; no virtue is worth praising which does not spring from minds contented and convinced, and free of dread and gloom. No religion was ever divine which relied on terror instead of love; and no philosophy will bear any good fruit which propounds despair and deduces annihilation. This is where, by their own true instincts, the great poets have done so much more for mankind than most of its benefactors, delighting as they do in life, and preserving amid its deepest mysteries and hardest puzzles a divine serenity about its origin and purpose. Observe our English Shakespeare! How calm, how complacent! how assured his glorious genius always abides! A page of him taken almost anywhere—set beside a page of modern pessimism—is like the speech of a prince in his pleasure house compared with the moanings of a sick wretch in a Spital. All genuine poets, from Homer to Browning, are radically joyous. Keats writes:

They shall be accounted poet-kings  
Who simply tell the most heart-easing things.

And Hafiz says: "It is whispered of me in Shiraz that I was sad, but what had I to do with sadness?" Art in all its highest forms bears no message so imperative as to emphasize the beauty and maintain the dignity and delight of life, and you may judge first-class writers and painters as we may some day judge philosophers, by their fidelity to this wholesome message of joy.—Sir Edwin Arnold.

## How They Ran.

Michael Flaherty was in court as a witness, and with each succeeding question put to him his never brilliant mental powers became more and more confused. At last he was asked to tell about the situation of a certain flight of stairs:

"How do those stairs run?" asked the examining counsel, whose patience was well nigh exhausted by his efforts to elicit information from Michael.

"Phwat is it ye're askin' me now?" inquired that bewildered young man.

"I asked you how those stairs run?" repeated the counsel, with great distinctness of enunciation.

"Thim stairs!" muttered Michael, evidently in a slough of doubt. Suddenly his stupid face brightened. "Why, sorr," with his eyes fixed on the counsel, whose gaze he now felt sure would be approving, "if wan is at the fut o' thim stairs, they jist rin oop; but stand at the top av thim, and they rin down, sorr."

Two rolls of good butter pay for THE RANCH for a year.