

Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

R. N. SUTHERLIN, Editor.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1877.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

By the Governor—A Proclamation.

Another year speeds into the eternal past. It has been to Montana one of prosperity. Toil has had recompense, and plenty fills the land. Neither pestilence, nor want, nor calamity have shadowed our hearts, and although dangers menaced and the evil day seemed nigh when our valleys would be the scene of desolation, the Father, who doeth all things well, wonderfully protected our homes and people, and gave our enemies unto destruction. It is eminently fitting that we who remain the living witnesses of God's goodness to us as a people should again assemble, give thanks to the Great Ruler who has so sheltered us, and invoke His continued care and guidance. In conformity to the day designated by the President of the United States, I do therefore recommend that Thursday, the 29th day of November, 1877, be observed by the people of Montana as a day of thanksgiving, prayer and rest, and that, putting aside their business labors and pursuits, they assemble in their respective places of worship and make grateful acknowledgment to Almighty God.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Territory to be affixed.

Done at Helena, the Capital, this sixth day of November, in the Year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-seven, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and second.

B. F. POTTS, Governor.

ANOTHER year has sped away to join the departed ages, and we enter to-day upon our pleasant task of compiling the third volume of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN. Time garners years as the husbandman gathers the golden harvest; so thick and fast do they come and hurry on, mature and drop away, that though to us every moment hour, day, week and month is so drawn out in single file, like the path of the frontiersman over the mountains wild or the pilgrimage of the Arab on Sahara's parching sands, and so crowded with duties, we take no thought of their going until the grand round is made, and we pause to nerve ourselves anew ere we start on our toilsome way once more.

The year which the Great Harvester has just locked in the eternal past has been to us a year of incessant toil and anxiety. The first year's existence of the HUSBANDMAN was an experimental one. We knew that a paper of its class was needed, and that a journal for the farm and fireside, the herdsman and shepherd, would find a liberal support in Montana, but whether the HUSBANDMAN was to be accepted as such remained to be seen. Would it stand the test? was it what the country demanded, and what the people expected? were some of the trying questions to be settled, and we are proud to be say that the retention of our former list of subscribers, with but a few exceptions—persons who never read any paper—and an increased patronage, have answered these questions in the affirmative. Yet, while we are proud of this unqualified endorsement, coming, as it does, from every valley and neighborhood in Montana where the soil is tilled or the highlands pastured, we confess that the paper is not what we design to make it in the near future. But it approaches as near to our ideal of perfection as the present support will justify. But as our country grows in wealth and population, and our basis becomes more secure, we propose to enlarge and improve it materially in every department.

The volume just closed has contained much that is of interest, equaling in point of originality that of any other journal in the land. Our Home department has contained many gems of literature from good authors, prepared especially for our columns; our Agricultural, Live Stock, Dairy, Poultry, Floral and Household departments have been filled with the best information that could be gathered from an exceedingly wide range, while our News department has been fully up to the standard of journals of its class. Our correspondents have roamed over the Black Hills country, explored the region of the Big Horn, traversed the valleys of the Yellowstone, and followed the scenes of our Indian wars throughout the Territory. Besides these, our associate has been through the Territory, visiting and giving a full account of nearly every home and herd in our

principal valleys, and will continue until the remotest farm house and stock ranch in the Territory has been visited and described. He has also given a full description of many of the mines.

We have made the HUSBANDMAN a Territorial paper, devoting its columns alike to the interests of every section, and though published at a wayside mountain town we are surrounded by a fine agricultural and grazing region, and are near the centre of the Territory, and it accomplishes its purposes as well as would be possible in any other locality. Our local patronage has greatly increased during the past year. Though to-day our friends and patrons are few in number compared to the population of the county, yet they represent its entire wealth and intelligence. They are not only subscribers but earnest well wishers, and by their deeds attest the faith that is in them. Having cast our lines in their midst, we will stay by them, laboring in their interests as best we may.

It was our hope to have gained a sufficient patronage by this date to warrant an enlargement of our paper, but we find it impracticable to do this. We hope, however, that the time is not far distant when our list will be sufficient to sustain an enlargement to the size of the largest of the Territorial papers. Meanwhile the interest of the several departments will be kept fully up to the former status, and as we gain increased encouragement so shall each department be improved.

The HUSBANDMAN enters upon its third volume with bright hopes of a long and useful career. The course marked out in the beginning shall be faithfully pursued. We promise a more earnest effort, if possible, in behalf of the people, dealing fairly with all men, fearlessly chronicling passing events, faithfully adhering to facts, zealously demonstrating all that is useful and good, without a word or line to mar the love and beauty of the home and fireside; free and independent, unbridled by capital, untrammeled by politics, relying solely upon merit, knowing no law but justice, and bowing to no shrine but duty.

The following which we publish on account of its practicability, is one of many letters of inquiry received at this office.

EDITOR HUSBANDMAN:

Please send me the ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN for a few months. I want to get some information in regard to the agricultural resources of Montana. Please to give me an idea of the thermometrical record of one of your average winters; also state how the record at Missoula compares with yours. I wish to ascertain whether some of the best land there may yet be pre-empted. And if land may be purchased from settlers who have received U. S. A. patents, and some general idea of the rates. How much damage do the grasshoppers usually do? Is it done before, or after they fly, or both?

Another thing, if it would not be of too much trouble; I would like to be able to form some idea of the fitness of your mountain regions for bees. Do flowers prevail for any length of time in the spring? If you know of bees being kept successfully, you will confer a great favor by giving us some information on that subject. If you can conveniently, please give me the average for each of the coldest months, if a thermometrical record has been kept. In New York we have for the coldest months, from 28 to 30 degrees for the daily average in winter. I have been told that your winters are not so severe as they are in Illinois. I have spent winters in Maine, Iowa, California and Mexico, so you can by comparison, give me some good idea of the matter. I hear the land is very good on the upper branches of the Missouri, but that irrigation is sometimes necessary. Also that stock do well with a little help. By dropping me a few lines you will greatly oblige your obedient servant.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 31, 1877.

There are thousands of acres of the best agricultural lands in Montana yet unclaimed, and can be pre-empted and homesteaded. In nearly every section of the country some irrigation is necessary, but the manner in which it is done is not considered a drawback to farming here. It is considered an advantage to the soil, and the seasons are thereby made much more perfect than in

countries where the farmer must depend upon the fickle and uncertain skies. The lands now occupied are those locations where the water for irrigation can be brought out with the least labor; but there are hundreds of acres yet unclaimed which can be watered by simply shoveling a few rods of ditch from the creek bank, and plowing the remainder of the distance. As yet there has been but little done in the way of building fine dwellings by the farmers, and as the price of land here is governed mainly by the value of the improvements, it remains quite low. The land itself is rated usually at government prices, \$1.25 per acre, and the value of improvements added thereto, and good farms can be bought in most every settlement at from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per acre. In most localities timber for building and fencing is plentiful, and pine lumber can be had at two cents per foot.

The 'hoppers do damage to crops both before and after they fly. This season nearly one-third of the oat crop in eastern and central Montana was destroyed. Wheat was but slightly injured and the harvest was bountiful. In a great many instances the wheat yielded over 40 bushels to the acre. The farmers here are becoming so accustomed to the 'hoppers that they do not dread them so much as formerly. In spring they guard their fields by filling their irrigating ditches with water, keeping the young pests on the outside, or causing their death by drowning in the attempt to cross over, and trust to luck in being overlooked by the immigrant 'hoppers.

There has not been an effort made to keep bees in Montana, but I believe the country is eminently fitted for them. A great quantity and variety of wild flowers bloom upon our mountains from early spring until the fall season, and, though they have not been tried here, I feel confident that they would do well. In Utah, three hundred miles south of here, and in a climate much the same as ours, the business is carried on profitably. Buckwheat, which is excellent for bees, grows and matures here as well as other cereals. The flour made from buckwheat grown here, is as fine a quality as is to be had in any country.

But little has been done in the way of fruit-growing, but we are satisfied from the favorable results, that a great variety of small fruits can be successfully grown here. There is not an agricultural valley but what has some favored localities in which tomatoes and other tender plants are grown and mature well. As yet, however, the Missoula and Bitter Root valleys have taken the lead in the culture of small fruits, but we think those valleys no more favored for that business than many other localities in the higher altitudes.

As a stock country, Montana has no equal. Horses, sheep and cattle live the year round without any other feed than that which they get from our grassy hills. The bunchgrass here seem to contain a superior nutriment, and is far ahead of the timothy of the Western States, or the mesquite grass of Texas and New Mexico. It grows to a good length in summer and dries up in the winter, but retains its strength and does not kill out. The beeves that are slaughtered in our markets are driven in from the herds on the range and are as fat and tender as could be desired, and equal to if not superior to the stall-fed cattle in your New York markets. The country is cut up with high mountain ranges, and upon the highest the snowfall is usually quite deep in winter, but upon the hills and valleys between it is comparatively light. In some of the most favored localities it seldom lasts more than three days. The snow that does fall is dry and light, and is driven away by the winds, so that stock have no trouble in procuring their daily food.

The general thermometrical temperature of our winters we are unable to state correctly, not having kept a record, but the atmosphere is remarkably pure and dry, and, though at times the thermometer gets down to 30 degrees below, the cold does not appear to be so severe to our traveling as at a temperature of two degrees below in central Illinois. The cold spells are short and often the chinook or sea winds which find their way through our valleys in winter and add so much to the genialty of our climate, continues to blow constantly two weeks. We have been in every State named by our correspondent, and like the climate

of Montana best. We could write many pages of truths about this country and the advantages that lie open to the home seeker, but as our correspondent is now a subscriber to the HUSBANDMAN, he will have an opportunity of learning, from time to time, more of the important facts. Our correspondent should come to Montana if he would engage in agricultural or mining pursuits, for certainly there is not a more inviting field for the capitalist or home seeker in the known world.

MADISON VALLEY.

EDITOR HUSBANDMAN:

Thinking a few lines from this part of Montana might be of interest to some of your many readers, I will try and see what I can do.

Farmers here are fast closing up their summer work, and preparing for winter. Threshing of grain is about through with. Crops are turning out well; there are about 30,000 bushels of grain on the east side of the river, mostly oats, which is held at 2c. at the granaries.

Stock is looking fine. O. B. Varney has found all of his horses; there were none stolen by the Indians, as was reported.

A petition is being circulated on this valley, and also in Southern and Eastern Montana, asking for the establishment of a military Post on the upper Madison, near Reynolds' Pass. Southern Montana is very much exposed to hostile Indians, from the east, south and west, and in fact Reynolds' Pass is about the only Pass in the Rocky Mountain range that is not guarded, and it is one of the favorite passes or trails traveled by the Indians, and is the one that the Nez Perces took this summer. We all hope here that our petition will be granted.

Madison Grange, No. 22, is yet alive, and looking forward hopefully for better times. We are pleased to see that a Lecturer has been appointed who will take the field in earnest, and I assure him that Madison Grange bids him welcome, and will anxiously await his coming. U. No.

TIMBER SEIZURE.

A great deal of feeling was manifested by the people of Helena yesterday when it was ascertained that the United States Marshal had seized all the fire wood stocked in the city and vicinity. This was an unlooked for proceeding, and falls with peculiar severity upon the people, as this was their only source of obtaining fuel. Most of them have but a few days supply on hand, and they must suffer severely unless some compromise can be speedily effected between the wood dealers and the government. Winter is now upon us, and intense cold is liable to prevail at any moment. Happening at this time is particularly severe upon our people as it is too late to procure coal stoves, and even if they were procurable there is not one-tenth the amount of coal necessary to keep the people from freezing to death. We sincerely trust that Delegate Maginnis will do all in his power to extricate our people from the predicament in which they are now placed. Wood they must have. Some people attach all the blame to District Attorney Anderson. This is wrong. His instructions from the Attorney General of the United States are imperative, leaving him no discretion in the matter, and an appeal to Washington is the only recourse. As there may be many persons who are not familiar with the timber act of Congress, we append herewith an extract from section 2,461 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, applicable to the case and under which proceedings are now being instituted. The law was originally designed to cover reserved lands for the navy, but it will be seen that it applies to all timber land:

"If any person shall cut, or cause, or procure to be cut, or aid, or assist, or be employed in cutting any live oak, or red cedar trees, or other timber, on, or shall remove, or cause, or procure to be removed, or aid, or assist, or be employed in removing any live oak or red cedar trees, or other timber, from, any of the lands of the United States, acquired, or hereafter to be acquired, with intent to export, dispose of, use, or employ the same in any manner whatsoever, other than for the use of the navy of the United States; every such person shall pay a fine not less than triple the value of the trees or timber so cut, destroyed, or removed, and shall be imprisoned, not exceeding twelve months." "The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to mitigate, in whole or in part, on such terms as he may deem proper, by an order in writing, any fine, penalty, or forfeiture so incurred."—Independent.