

article to future immigrants, and that is to start early! Whatever else you do, or omit to do, do not fail to heed this advice. If you start early you will be quite sure to get through, though you should have much ill luck. But if you start late you will have ill luck, and perhaps not get through at all! Or if you do, without your stock—your teams and wagons—destitute, dejected; sick, worn out and discouraged! And in this condition you will be forced to seek a home, employment and bread, in a new country and a land of strangers! If, therefore, you can cross the Missouri river as early as the middle of April, do so. If you cannot cross before the middle of May do not come at all. But go into one of the cabins, in the vicinity of Kanesville, recently deserted by the Mormons, and go to work and raise a crop. You will then be on hand to start with fresh teams, early in the spring. Be assured that the journey is too long to be made in one season, unless it be commenced very early in the season.

In the meantime, those who read what I have written, may be anxious to know how I am pleased with Oregon. For the gratification of all such I will here simply add that I do not, as yet, regret starting to Oregon. I am at present satisfied that I came. How the case may stand with me years hence, I cannot, of course, now tell. But I perceive no reason now to induce the supposition that I shall ever regret having come to this new Pacific home.

But I can exclaim, with thousands, that had I the overland journey to this country again to perform, I should know how to come! As very much depends upon the possession of this knowledge, I have no other motive than the good of those who may succeed me, in undertaking to write upon this subject.

I am truly
Your friend,
DELAZON SMITH.

AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS IN 1879

One of the greatest political and economic problems of this country just now, if indeed not the greatest altogether, is to restore to trade a commercial balance. In other words, the most necessary thing to do in reviving business and bringing back prosperity is to find a sale and a ready market for our overplus of products. A market with good prices for our western produce is the first thing.—*Iowa State Register*, January 11, 1879. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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