

## SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1884.

## AN ADDRESS :

## Delivered by J. Minto, Esq., before the Colum bia River Wool Growers and Sheep Raisers Association, Dalles, Or.

Mr. President, and Members of the Columbia River Wool Growers and Sheep Breeders Association :

The plan of your Association by cov ering the great valley of the Columbia in effect takes in the small valleys to the south and to north of it, to the Califor-nia line on the one side and Paget Sound ering the great valley of the Columbia nia line on the one side and Puget Sound on the other; and therefore covers what was forty years ago known as Oregon.

This immense district is yet in its infancy as a field for the production of fancy as a field for the production of wool and mutton. The wool crop from it last year (1883) was perhaps over 16,-000,000 pounds. The crop of wether mutton I estimate at 350,000 head, a built of the use of local taxes to pay. Each married man connected with the business who has a family, wishes it proverse of the use of the use of the taxes of the taxes of the business who has a family. large portion of which are kept for wool growing after of age for mutton. For the general health of sheep it is doubtful whether there is an equal area of the (or may be to some extent) contending earths surface more favorable. For the production of an even, sound staple of clothing wool, the same may be said of it. Climatic conditions, marks the most of it, as pre-enimently and permanently a wool growing country. Climatic and other conditions (amongst which are water powers in abundance which never are all permitted by government neglect; dry up in summer and rarely freeze up in winter) mark the western portion of it as the future scat of woolen manufacturing interests, proportionate to its graze these lands, and what they can le capacity to produce the raw material for gally obtain being insufficient in quan such manufactories and the food supply tity, it is manifestly impossible that their of a manufacturing population. Believ-ing in this; what I now have to say to grow wool as the Australian can. you has reference to the future and yet undeveloped interests allutled to, as well as present and pressing questions con

is not so favorable for that pursuit on a large scale by few owners as are the pas-ture lands of the Australian groupe of British colonies. There are differences of climate in their favor in that respect, but still more are the difference in gov-remmental policies in the disposal of land for grazing purposes, the cost of money, and the cost of labor. The name of one family closely identified with the development of wool growing in Austra-lia may be used to illustrate the difference.

ence of the two systems. Capt. John Macather was the son of a Scotch Laird, and a personal friend of King George III, when his efforts to introduce merino into England gave manowth in his own dominions. Capt. some 70,000,000 used in manufactures in these colonies, produced at a cost (asys the New York Times of April 16,) of 13 cents per pound. Giving these facts the same paper proceeds to may : "The lesson for us from all this is that we have an equally valuable and exten-sive territory in our Western country for wool-growing as there is in Australia, and could easily compete with that coun-try if we were as persevering and per-sistent. But the American passion for change prevents it, and after a few years' change prevents it, and after a few years' playing at sheep keeping, cattle herding is taken up, or wheat farming, or mineral prospecting, and the flocks are scattered because they have no shepherd." No notice is taken by this most influ-ential of free trade journals of differences of conditions between us and the Austra-

of British society) who receive from gov ernment all the land they want at low (almost nominal) rates of annual rent. Their capital if not their own, is generally had from Britain at current rates of interest there. They are protected in grazing rights by strict laws efficiently enforced. They have an abundant sup-ply of reliable, efficient and cheap labor;

(generally from above the middle rank

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body. If more is secured, it is generally at more toan four times the valuation upon which the Australian is only re-quired to pay a low rate of interest. For the use of money the American pays gally obtain being insufficient in quan-tity, it is manifestly impossible that their Under their system, with tens of thousands (in some cases hundreds of thou-sands) of sheep under one ownership, This inviting field for wool production is not so favorable for that pursuit on a wools; thousands may be spent to keep Australian wool growers have homes in Britain, and see to the sale of their own wool.

Under this system thus pursued Aus tralia gave English manufacturers the power to break down or take the lead of troduce merino into England gave man-ifestations of failure. A supply of merino wool being an imperative necessity to English manufactures and trade; it be-came a hobby with the King (probably the wisest one he ever had) to plant its growth in his own dominions. Capt. she can use, unle s she can brea Macather was appointed land agent for production and manufactures in the the Crown in New South Wales and introduced six merinos from the King's ket which would be open to her. Her flock of Negrettis. Of course Capt. Ma- only reasonable ground for hope to do nock of Negrettis. Of course Capt. Ma-cather had all the land he wanted on his own terms, and he and his sons thus be-came pioneers and representatives of a system which has expanded from the shipment of one bale of wool of 167 pounds in 1810 to an export of 330.-would be held subject to the trade inter-would be held subject to the trade inter-would be held subject to the trade inter-would be held subject to the trade interbounds in 1810 in 1883. It is shorn from 90,000,000 of sheep, almost wholly of merino blood. In addition to the amount exported there is supposed to be man's political party (Sir Robert Peel), Peims dinister of England, when the ests of Great Britain he cared little man's political party (Sir Robert Peel), Prime Minister of England, when the boundary line was settled, said : "It was the destiny of America (the United States) to feed Great Britain, and it was the destiny of Great Britain to clothe America." To guard sgainst such re-sults is an allsufficient reason for such the field and mode and so the such tariff on wool and woolen goods as will constitute protection while necessary, not al interest of those engaged in the special interest of those engaged in these industries, but in the interest of national independence, general thrift and prosperity. That protection has been necessary has been the almost uniform opinion of prospecting, and the locks are scattered because they have no shepherd." No notice is taken by this most infla-minal of free trade journals of differences of conditions between us and the Austra-tians. I remark in connection with free trade papers, the Oregonian of April 26, (the ablest free trade journal on the Pa-iffer coast) advocates, as more needed than an increase of the tariff on wool, a state bounty for the destruction of wild animals injurious to flocks. The thanks of your Association are due the Orego-nian for a supter fixed to many districts fare no so much concession is a protec-tive policy. A costly experience justi-streate than from wild animals. We need legislation are a defense from body heres of loss. But protection from both these sources of loss is not sufficient to equalize our advantages with men all American statesmen who were desir-ous that American labor should have a

States, Canada and Australia ; (the three strongest and wisest of Britain's colonial cnildren, who are to-day alike resolute in protecting themselves against the selfishness of her trade power). As late as April, 1882, when American manufac-turers under protection had reduced the

statistics, in detail, but will give only the rates (per cent.) of increase from 1800 to 1880:

"Increase of Population, United States, 60; Value of farms, 212; Wheat pro-duced, bushele, 188; Wheat exported, bushels, 3,603; Corn produced, bushels, 105; Corn exported, bushels, 2,862; Wool produced, 286; Cotton, 65; Oats, 136; Barley, 170; Butter, 413; Cheese, 722; Petroleum, 8,817; Pig iron, 367; Rwils, 613; Hogs packed, 106; Mer-chandise imports, 89; Merchandise ex-ports, 150; Gold and silver produced, 63; ditto, export, 25; ditto, import, 988; Railroads, miles, 188. It is the production of iron and steel "Increase of Population, United States,

are especially interested in the produc-tion of wool. I therefore follow the results of 40 years of its history-divided into equal periods of 20 years, each of diverse policies.

From 1840 to 1860, except a short oreak under Tylers administration which ment. During this period, the rate of increase in population in the United government of a nation with boundless undeveloped wealth; without an army; without arms; without the raw material to make clothing for her volunteer solmake a flag! A government in need of all things except the devotion of a liberty loving citizenship which rallied to its

and Mr. M. Wilkins of Engene City, re-ceived awards for excellent samples of combing and worsted wools. But my purpose is here with the Merino. This proves to my mind that even in the Willamotte values that grade of wool can Willamette valley that grade of wool can be grown, and leaves no doubt that turers under protection had reduced the price of steel in her own home market from 17 cents per pound to 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents per pound, the Englishman, while sel-ling in his home market at 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents per pound offered and sold in our market at 9 3-10 cents per pound. To illustrate the results of diverse lines of policy I read part of a speech by Hon. Warner Miller. U. S. Senator from New York, delivered March 24, 1882. I do not need to read the body of the statistics, in detail, but will give only that is production. I know, also, that it needs only the assurance of a settled policy, giving Oregon wool growers the amount of protection to equalize their advantages with the Aus-tradian wool growers to enable them to produce all the finest grades of wool one-half of the columbia valley would feed. Yet that is not one-fourth of the area of statistics, in detail, but will give only what is becoming known as the pasturwhat is becoming known as the pastur-age States and Territories ; the most of which is pre-eminently adapted to fine wools, and to which the rising value of lands, the necessity of more meat production and other causes, in States east of the Mississippi, is fast driving fine wool production. In much of the country west of the Cascades, a medium wooled sheep like the Southdown and Shropshire find congenial conditions. In many sections, by adopting some-thing like the English method of treatment, an excellent article of combing wool can be produced from the Leicester, Cotswold, and New Oxfordshire. But Railroads, miles, 188. It is the production of iron and steel and manufacture therefrom, the produc-tion of cotton and wool and their man-ufacture, which constitutes the United States the most formidable rival of British trade power in those lines. You are commencement is made with good blood of the states is a steady touchery of the production of good lustre combing wools by a measure of effort not yet used by the average Oregon farmer, consequently, after a commencement is made with good blood of this kind, there is a steady tendency to dryness and lightness of fleece, leggyness and lightness of carcass; to restless feeding habits and fence jumping (when kept on farms) and roving and breaking from the flock under the herding system. Keeping sheep under that system, I find was not given the test of time until changed under Polk to a free trade pol-icy; that policy dominated the govern-kares-keep a mongrel bred sheep, givshares—keep a mongrel bred sheep, giv-ing about six pounds of wool below medium in grade. Such owners gener-ally claim that as the safest sheep to keep at least cost of care and herding. States was gaining over the rate of in-crease in wool production 221 per cent. The end of 1860 found an empty nation-al treasury (a natural result of such a policy) and the civil war broke upon the down the average grade of wool and its general estimate in the markets. To induce permanency and persevering care in wool growing in the extensive coundiers; without even a piece of bunting of home manufacture out of which to a part, only requires a change of method a part, only requires a change of method by government in the disposition of lands suitable for grazing, and not suited to general agriculture, so that persons to general agriculture, so that persons adopting wool growing as permanent pursuit can secure a foundation for their business. Such a change would not be inconsistent with the spirit of our pres-ent land laws, which gives to the landless 160 acres of supposed arable land. Sup-

change as here suggested the aid of the change as here suggested the ad of the Department of Agriculture may prop-erly be required. Three years ago Congress appropriated \$5,000 to ena-ble the Commissioner of Agriculture "to procure and publish data touching agricultural needs of that portion of the United States lying west of the Rocky Mountains-New Mexico-with special reference to grapes, wines with special reference to grapes, wines and raisin production was made the object of a commission to collect such data, consisting of one gentleman from Cali-fornia, one from Nebraska and one from Ohio. (Agricultural Report 1881-2, pp. 13.) I have never seen any report from it. Think destrable in regard to a subject of vastly greater importance than grapes, wines or raisins.

Your Association has all the rights of citizens whose interests are closely iden-tified with a great national interest to ask such assistance. I am aware that at first sight many of you will see objec-tions to these suggestions. Yet know-ing that you all perceive as plainly as I can, that you have no means of keeping things as they now are. That new ac-cessions to your grazing population will come until the country is fully occupied; therefore, I think upon reflection you will come to agree with me: that the best way to permanency and peace is to secure control of your respective ranges by laws of lease or purchase.

After the delivery of the address the ollowing resolutions were adopted :

WHEREAS, The Columbia river valley a very extensive and inviting region

for investments in grazing pursuits; And, whereas, Its conformation, soils and situation in reference to prevailing winds and mountain ranges is such as cause great diversity of conditions af-fecting the life of domestic animals and such animal products as wool ; therefore Resolved, We ask the aid of our Sena-

tors and Representative in Congress to procure the survey of this great valley and adjoining country up to the California line on the south and British Columbia on the north, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, to col-lect and publish data relative thereto as regards the suitability of particular districts to particular breeds of domestic animals. 1st. For wool production. 2d. For meat production (beef as well at mut-For meat production (beef as well at mut-ton). 3d. For dairy. 4th. For horse breeding. 5th. In regard to the best grasses and forage plants (native and exotic) for use. 6th. Those districts and their extent suitable for grazing pursuits only and not suited by climate, not and iteration to grazing instructures soil and situation to general agriculture, and through the Department of Agriculture to recommend such modifications of our homestead laws as will encourage grazing as a permanent pursuit on such

call your attention to the fact that the ratio of increase in wool production was (instead of 221 per cent. below the rate of increase of population as in the free trade 20 years) 226 per cent. above the increase of population in the 20 years of protective policy. From a carefully written paper read by Henry Lane be-fore the Vermont Agricultural Society in 1881-2, I extract the relative prices of wool during the two periods : From 1840 to 1860 the average price

was 391 cents per pound. From 1860 to 1880 the average price

was 47<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents per pound. For the wool classed as medium Ohio,

which I believe grades very nearly with the finest half of Oregon wool. It also means fleece washed wool. The facts given here are an all sufficient answer to Senator Slater's letter declining to represent the interests of his constituency Taking amongst other positions that more fine wool was needed to enhance the value of our coarser wools. This was serving the Australian, whose in-terest in the United States, as a market, may be judged from the fact that no less than 75 first class awards were made to wools from those colonies at our Cen-tennial exhibition in 1876. The number

posed to be, and in the corn and wheat growing districts it is, enough to enable an energetic, industrious man to support a family by its cultivation. To dispose of grazing lands in compact bodies of sufficient size to meet the same object, would, in my mind, be the surest way to world, in my mind, be the stress way to enlist persistent, persevering men in wool growing as a life business, and the surest way to secure from our own citi-zenship all the kinds of wool our home manufacturers need. No permanency can reasonably be expected so long as the profits of a pursuit are the foot-ball of partisan strife in Congress, in which men will disregard the interest of their men will disregard the interest of their constituents and falsify their public pledges, and even refuse to obey the re-

pledges, and even refuse to obey the re-quests of Legislative Assembles of the commonwealth they misrepresent. Neither, I think, can permanency be expected where ownership of sufficient land on which to base the pursuit can-not be had at less cost than our present law permits. A change can be made in these laws which, by giving American citizenship an approach to equalized ad-vantages with Australian wool growers will tend to greater permanency, not by giving our fine wool growing industry into the hands of a few hundred owner-ships, employing 50,000 herders who

Picnic and Bally in Washington County.

SCHOLLS FERRY, May 5, 1844. Editor Willamette Farmer :

We would like to have you give notice that on May 20, 1884, at 10 o'clock sharp, the Grangers and farmers of Washington county will have a grand ralley and a picnic dinner. Everybody is invited, and be sure to fetch your lunch basket. We expect to have a splendid time.

Speakers-Judge R. P. Boise, H. E. Hayes, S. A. Clarke, D. Hair and others. The place of meeting will be six miles south of Hillsboro and one mile east of Farmington, on the camp ground.

S. P. INGRAM.

## Fearful Wreck in Mid Ocean.

QUEBEC, May 7 .- The steamship Titania, from Glasgow, passed inward this morning. She has on board twenty-four of the crew of the steamship State of Florida, that yessel having been sunk by a collision with a bark in mid ocean. Out of 167 persons on the State of Florida, Out of 167 persons on the State of Florida, only forty-four were saved, and of the bark's crew only the captain and two men were rescued. One hundred and twenty-three souls went down with the steamer, and twelve with the bark, making a total loss of 135. The sur-vivors will probably be landed at Quebec.

B. F. Weightman and Geo. Manches-ter were building wire fence and tight-ening by horse power when the wire broke and wrapping around the two men caused terrible injuries to Wightman and elicitate to the other and slighter to the other.

Promising quartz veins are discovered near Heron, on the line of the N. P. road in Montana. It is believed that that untry will prove rich in gold, silver and copper ores.