NORTHWEST TIMBER

Special Report of the Geological Survey.

OREGON HAS GREATEST AMOUNT

Distribution of Lumber Forests of the State—Heavy Inroads Have Been Made in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—A special report of the geological survey, prepared by Henry Gannett, just issued on the forests of the Western states, and particularly of the Pacific coast, while mainly statistical, contains a number of statements which are of more than ordinary interest at this time, because of the great interest that is now being manifested in the question of forests. This paper shows that the timber in the state of Oregon reaches the enormous total of 224,653,000,000 feet, board measure. This timber is found mainly in the Coast range, and on the west slope of the Cascade range. Lane county has more timber than any other in the state, with a total of 28,800,000,000 board feet, while Douglas county comes in a close second, with 23,854,000,000 feet; Clatsop, with 15,476,000,000 feet, follows, and from that it runs down to but 470,000,000 feet in Morrow county, and none in Sherman.

The amount of timber in the various sections of Oregon is estimated as follows:

LOCATION.	Stand per acre.	Timbered area, sq. miles.	Amt. timber, million feet (B. M.).
Coast ranges	16,000	10,000	102,108
West slope Cascades	14,000	8,900	87,082
East slope Cascades	6,000	7,100	27,534
Eastern Oregon	1,500	18,441	17,928
Total			224,652

The following table gives the estimates of Oregon timber by counties:

COUNTY.	Area, sq. miles.	Timbered area, sq. m.	Av'ge timber contents, feet B. M., per acre.	Total am't timber, million feet B. M.
Baker	2,160	1,200	1,500	1,200
Benton	684	180	15,000	1,728
Clackamas	1,856	1,020	15,700	10,328
Clatsop	815	651	38,800	15,476
Columbia	690	552	27,700	9,682
Coos	1,620	1,295	15,600	12,926
Crook	8,252	2,750	2,200	7,200
Curry	1,440	1,080	11,400	8,000
Douglas	4,752	2,600	10,400	23,854
Gilliam	1,728	400	1,500	400
Grant	5,416	4,700	1,500	4,700
Harney	9,482	1,150	1,500	1,150
Jackson	2,376	1,620	11,600	12,000
Josephine	1,764	1,514	6,000	5,800
Klamath	6,200	2,420	6,500	15,634
Lake	8,000	2,000	1,500	2,000
Lane	4,356	2,420	13,600	28,800
Lincoln	1,000	612	25,000	9,800
Linn	2,208	1,620	17,600	18,300
Malheur	9,828	1,000	1,500	1,000
Marion	1,224	570	12,600	4,645
Morrow	2,070	470	1,500	470
Multnomah	440	90	21,400	1,300
Polk	684	600	13,000	3,228
Sherman				
Tillamook	1,116	864	26,000	14,490
Umatilla	2,808	1,300	1,500	1,300
Union	3,312	1,200	1,500	2,300
Wallowa	3,096	2,800	1,500	2,968
Washington	684	350	20,000	4,500
Wasco	3,200	1,116	10,000	7,100
Yamhill	720	167	11,400	1,223
Total				224,653

An interesting statement in the report is that of W. T. Griswold, made in 1896, which is as follows:

"The following estimate of the timber of the state of Oregon is made from personal observation during the past five years, and a vast amount of valuable information from cruisers' reports, loggers and manufacturers of lumber in different parts of the state. In such areas as I have reliable information I have made a summary of the estimate of timber by townships, finding them to run from 50,000,000 to 800,000,000 feet to the township, board measure, and finding from these results that a generally good-timbered area will give an average of 12,000,000 feet for a section. I have completed my summary for those areas in which I know the limits, but have no information as to the quality and amount of timber.

"We get a result of 290,000,000,000 feet of standing timber in the state, distributed as follows:

	Feet.
Clatsop and Columbia counties, coming onto the Columbia river	8,000,000,000
Nehalem river	11,000,000,000
Tillamook bay	6,000,000,000
Tillamook bay to Smith river	5,000,000,000
Smith river and the Lower Umpqua	4,500,000,000
Coos bay and Coquille river	18,000,000,000
Bull Run reserve, coming into the Columbia via Sandy river	7,000,000,000
Clackamas and Santiam rivers	29,000,000,000
McKenzie and waters of Willamette	28,000,000,000
Umpqua in the Cascades	26,000,000,000
Rogue river in the Cascades	22,000,000,000
Scattering small bodies over the state	2,500,000,000
Pine in Blue mountains	4,000,000,000

Timber of Washington.

In speaking of the Washington forests, the report states:

"With the exception of the redwoods of California, the forests of Washington are the densest, heaviest and most continuous in the United States. Except for a few prairie openings, and except where removed by fire or the ax, they cover the country as a thick mantle from high up on the Cascade range westward to the shores of the Pacific.

"The amount of standing timber in this region has long been a matter of interest, and many wild guesses have been hazarded, but in most cases they are too high. From the best information obtainable, it has been estimated that the total amount of standing timber in the state is in the neighborhood of 314,773,000,000 feet, board measure. More than six-sevenths of this amount is west of the Cascades, the remainder being on the eastern slope. If the timber of the state should be cut under the practice which prevails at present, the estimate given above would prove about correct, but a much larger amount will ultimately be realized for several reasons. The standard is sure to be lowered, so that instead of using one-third of the tree, double that will be utilized, and many small trees now destroyed by fire in the culled areas will be cut. Again, some species not now in use will come into the market; areas now inaccessible, will some day serve as sources of supply, and the new growth on cut and burned areas will reach merchantable size long before the old growth is exhausted.

"Out of the 15,816 square miles of the state formerly covered with merchantable timber, 25 per cent has been destroyed by fire, 22½ per cent has been cut, and the remainder, 57½ per cent, is still covered by standing timber. The present supply, as it now stands, is sufficient to supply the sawmills of the United States for four years, under the present rate of cutting. Assuming that the timber on the logged areas was as thick as is still standing in other areas, there have been cut in the neighborhood of 35,000,000,000 feet, board measure. Making the same assumption regarding the burned area, it appears that there has been destroyed by fire the enormous amount of 40,000,000,000 feet, board measure, of lumber. Assuming that the timber thus destroyed had a value of 75 cents per 1000 feet, not less than $30,000,000 worth has gone up in smoke."

Following is the estimate of the merchantable timber in the state of Washington, by counties (board measure):

	Feet.
Asotin	81,000,000
Chehalis	18,579,000,000
Clallam	9,072,000,000
Clark	2,342,000,000
Columbia	243,000,000
Cowlitz	5,315,000,000
Douglas	21,000,000
Ferry	1,667,000,000
Garfield	170,000,000
Island	420,000,000
Jefferson	4,220,000,000
King	7,644,000,000
Kitsap	1,141,000,000
Kittitas	1,260,000,000
Klickitat	742,000,000
Lewis	8,580,000,000
Lincoln	14,000,000
Mason	2,081,000,000
Okanogan	2,665,000,000
Pacific	7,613,000,000
Pierce	6,520,000,000
Skagit	10,362,000,000
Skamania	4,661,000,000
Snohomish	7,209,000,000
Spokane	768,000,000
Stevens	2,702,000,000
Thurston	2,737,000,000
Wahkiakum	2,974,000,000
Walla Walla	5,000,000
Whatcom	1,346,000,000
Whitman	35,000,000
Yakima	883,000,000

The counties omitted contain no merchantable timber.

The average stand of timber (board measure) per acre on timbered areas is given as follows:

Counties—	Feet.
Chehalis	21,300,000,000
Clallam	15,700,000,000
Clark	19,000,000,000
Cowlitz	20,400,000,000
Jefferson	15,300,000,000
King	20,500,000,000
Kitsap	9,000,000,000
Lewis	16,500,000,000
Mason	5,800,000,000
Pacific	16,300,000,000
Pierce	18,000,000,000
Skagit	28,000,000,000
Skamania	17,000,000,000
Snohomish	19,000,000,000
Thurston	11,450,000,000
Wahkiakum	27,000,000,000
Whatcom	24,000,000,000

PORTLAND LETTER LIST.

Persons calling for these letters will please state date on which they were advertised. February 12. They will be charged for at the rate of 1 cent each.

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Anderson, Mrs Johanna
Anderson, Miss Delia L
Anderson, Mrs Belle
Anderson, Miss Sophia
Baxton, Mrs
Backman, Miss O J
Beaton, Mrs Jno-2
Berthelf, Rolette
Barry, Mrs T H
Blum, Mrs B
Borreh, Mrs Addie R
Bowman, Miss May
Brodley, Miss J J
Brown, Miss Frances
Brown, Mrs M E
Butler, Miss Fotian
Caisins, Miss Rosaltha
Carnichael, Mrs L A
Carothers, Mrs Rosa-2
Clark, Mrs Cora R
Clark, Miss Theresa
Cook, Mrs M B
Cogswell, Mrs Thomas
Croft, Mrs Melissa
Darrow, Mrs James
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Dewey, Henrietta
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Fowler, Miss Daisy
Ford, Miss Polly
Frazer, Lizzie
French, Mrs Ellen
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Gorf, Mrs J
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Harrack, Miss Kate
Hast, Miss Clara
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Hotson, Mrs Marry
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Jumetz, Ventura
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Keller, Mrs Janey
Keller, Mrs C W
Kinkade, Edna
Knapp, Mrs W
La Grange, Mrs Marry
Landen, Miss Bernice
Leisure, Mrs Florence
Long, Babe
McClellan, Mrs C M
McCarthy, Miss H
McFarland, Mrs I B
McHaley, Miss Annie
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Melburn, Miss Carey F
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Miller, Miss Ida
Moore, Mrs Ella
Nystrom, Miss Lydia
Owings, Miss Olive
Packwood, Mrs Emma-2
Palmblad, Miss Amanda
Rayrer, Miss Caroline
Palle, Mrs Margarite
Road, Mrs Angie
Rickert, Mrs Eva
Richard, Arcadia-2
Richards, Mrs Mattie
Robbins, Mrs K S
Rond, Miss Clara
Roberts, Mrs A E
Sargent, Miss Detta
See, Miss
Shaw, Miss E F
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Sodrin, Miss
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Spencer, Miss Nettie
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Stolz, Mrs Ida
Stock, Miss Myrtle
Storch, Miss M G
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Taylor, Miss Retta
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Thorne, Mrs Ethel
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Thompson, Mrs Ida-2
Thompson, Mrs J B
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Williams, Miss Ella
Williams, Miss
Wilson, Mrs Edith
Wilson, Mrs
Winston, Mrs L W
Winchester, Miss Nellie
Wright, Mrs L P

MEN'S LIST.

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Bates, J W
Beighle, George
Belcher, W A
Bertelson, Kaise
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Cheeley, Harry
Clayton, E H
Clark, W P
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Dorbek, Will
Dorbin, W
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Ellinwed, C M
Ericsson, J E
Estes, J W
Farragut, C H
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Freeman, D C
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Fuller, C P
Gager, Harry
George, Fred
Gilson, Joe
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Griffith, B Frank
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Hamlin, L D
Hamer, Chas
Hamilton, Jastur J
Hansen, M
Heeman, Emil
Hills, Albert H
Hock, Joseph
Hodgson, Dr A J-2
Howe, Charles
Howard, J R T-2
Hohle, Jack
Hurbert, G W
Hurlbut, Robe P, jr
Iverson, O
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James, W S
Jackson, Tom
Jenkins, Arthur
Jensen, Emanuel
Johnson, Eli
Johnson, W J R
Kupp, Frank
Klein, Jake
Keith, J A
Keating, M
Kelley, Lester
Kliger, Fred
Lain, G B
Lawrence, Edward
Lenoir, Monsieur A
Limebaugh, Dr J A
Lalliden, Victor
Linke, H L
Lovell, Warren
Love, Burt
Ludwick, D
McIntosh, William
McLaughlin, Jas
Materne, Scott
Matzloff, H
Mead, James
Mercer, Leonard
Mitchell, Francis E
Montague, Kirke
Monte Ross, Louis G
Mentjo, Daniel
Morgan, Walter
Morgan, F B
Morris, Charley
Muller, Ed
Nelson, Charley T
Nichols, E E
Nickerson, Allen B
Oregon Stock Exchange, the president
Owen, Dick
O'Daniel, Ernest
Pantall, J W
Parmer, James
Pelland, Fred
Peters, Fred M
Powerton, R M
Pulliam, A
Putman, James
Read, Geo Rus
Reiorp, E M
Reynolds, A H
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Richarcsen, Fred
Roberts, James
Roberts, Z C
Robinson, E B
Rood, Ingal
Rosenthal, Lewis
Scoggin, A N
Sharkey, Lloyd
Smith, Benjamin E
Smith, Fred
Smith, H J
Smith, J O
Smith, Jno H
Smith, Will
Springer, August
Stewart, Geo E
Stewart, H L
Storp, H H
Stravens, Rev W H
Thomas, W L
Trowbridge, J Raymond
Turner, Tom
Valce, W E
Wagner, D M
Walgamot, F A-2
Walker, John L
Wells, T H
Welker, W M
Whittier, A D
White, H W
Wigle, J E
Williams, Pierce
Williams, Dr Wm D
Wilson, Tom
Wilson, James
Winter, Jack
Woodward, Geo C

PACKAGES.

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Miller, J C

A. B. CROASMAN, P. M.

Seals Are Plentiful.

The seal herds are still vanishing beneath the hatches of the Canadian sealers. This year the schooners are making pretty close to record catches off the Oregon and California coast. The barkentine Tam O'Shanter, which arrived in San Francisco a short time ago, reports having spoken the sealing schooner Ocean Belle on January 22, in latitude 38:27 north, longitude 125:18 west. She had on board 300 skins. The Vera also has 300 skins. E. B. Marvin & Co. has received a telegram from Monterey, stating that the Vera arrived there on the 5th, with 306 skins.

It Is a Comedy.

PORTLAND, Feb. 10.—(To the Editor.)—To settle a dispute, please let me know, through your valuable paper, if "The Winter's Tale" is a comedy or not? L. H.

Pianos—Organs. Wiley P Allen Co.

DIVERSITY IN FARMING

THAT'S WHAT WILL MAKE AGRICULTURE PAY.

Oregon Can Learn From Experience of Minnesota—The Codlin Moth —Grasses and Grazing.

COLFAX, Wash., Feb. 10.—The farmers' institute closed a two days' meeting here tonight, in which there was much interest. The topics presented had practical bearing on farming and horticulture in the Palouse country.

The farmers' institute yesterday was attended by only a small number of farmers, owing to lack of previous advertisement. Those attending showed in every possible way their intense interest.

Professor Doane opened the exercises with a talk on "Orchard Pests." He considered the codlin moth the worst of the orchard pests, compared with it the San Jose scale being much easier handled. The codlin moth an orchardist must fight continuously. In the Palouse country five years ago little complaint was heard from the codlin moth. Since then it has been increasing, and more care must be taken if we want to raise apples fit for the market. He told of the habits and growth of the codlin moth, described it and showed the audience from his sample why they were often mistaken between the codlin moth and other pests.

The codlin moth appears about the time the tree is in bloom. The eggs are laid usually on the leaves, but not always. The egg looks like a minute drop of milk. In two weeks the larva hatches from this, and the first effort of the larva is to seek the apple itself. Sometimes they are laid on the tree, sometimes on the apple. If they are laid on the apple, in 20 or 30 days it becomes full-grown. As soon as hatched they seek the trunk of the tree. When they find a rough place on the trunk, they hide away, and then they spin their cocoons, bringing the second generation. There may be as high as six generations on one tree, according to the climate and length of season. On Snake river there are four to six, and not so many on the higher lands of the Palouse country—probably two generations.

The codlin moth has peculiar habits; it flies at dusk or in the night, principally at dusk, and not in the day time, when it stays hid on the tree. It is practically the same color as the bark on the tree, and hard to detect. In the night time it flies about, and scatters its eggs over the tree. It is not attracted by light, as a cut-worm is.

When apples are put in the cellar in the fall which are affected, one will find in the spring larvae or cocoons at the bottom of the bins. They live through the winter, and fly out in the orchard in the spring, full-grown codlin moths. The remedy is, when storing away in the fall, or at some time during the winter, see that all windows and doors, and other openings of the cellar or storing place, have screens, so that the full-grown moth cannot escape into the orchard in the spring. This is about the only thing that can be done with an adult codlin moth. The eggs cannot be destroyed by spraying, because any wash strong enough to destroy the eggs would destroy the tree.

The proper time for a first spraying is when the petals fall. Then take one pound of paris green, two or three pounds of lime, 160 to 200 gallons of water, a small amount of glue to make the paris green stick, make a fine mist over the tree, but do not spray long enough to allow it to run in drops from the leaves. Ten days or two weeks later, spray again. It is very doubtful if any further spraying is of value. The value of the first spraying is based on the fact that when the petals fall the calyx cup stands upright, and the spraying mixture fills it full. Then the calyx cup closes up, and the second spraying is largely precautionary. It is estimated that the first spraying will kill 75 per cent of the eggs and the larvae. When this has been done all has been done that can be in combatting the codlin moth.

Professor Doane recommended that all of the old and rough bark on the trunk of the tree be scraped off; that a gunnysack or some similar rough substance be bound around the tree. The codlin moth larvae seek this. Every two weeks the orchard should be gone over and these gunnysack bands should be taken off and the larvae destroyed, either by burning the band or by dipping it in hot water. If the orchardist is too busy in the summer time to do this work, at least these bands should be put on the trees in August and be left all winter. In this way all the fall and winter larvae will be disposed of. Apples that drop during the growing season are affected, and they should be destroyed, which can probably be best done by turning the hogs loose in the orchard. White arsenic is coming into general use in place of paris green as a sprayer.

Diversified Farming.

Professor C. L. Smith, of Minnesota, who is in the country on invitation of the O. R. & N. Co., spoke on "What Dairying Has Done for Minnesota."

He opened with the statement that a single crop system always ends in disaster. The railroads have been the first to realize that they could not, for a term of years, successfully operate lines through country depending upon one crop alone. It is uncertain, and subject to disaster. Eighteen years ago the Minneapolis and St. Paul people interested Eastern capitalists in two railways from those cities into contiguous country where farmers were producing but one crop—wheat. In less than 10 years these two roads went bankrupt, and the management was changed per force.

The new management quickly decided that something must be done to induce farmers to change their system. The first thing done was to invite farmers to visit the state experiment station, giving them free transportation. Numbers of them did so. They were surprised, delighted and interested at the work being done. Returning home, they held farmers' meetings, as we are doing here. Within three years the traffic along this line was more than doubled.

One station on this line, the officers tell me, under the old regime never had a shipment of anything except wheat, and but little of that. In 1899 the freights paid there on incoming merchandise exceeded by several hundred dollars the receipts on outgoing wheat. The railway simply used common sense in assisting to better conditions.

The speaker said the Minnesotans were probably worse off than we here in the Palouse country, because they had been farming on the wheat growing states in the United States, however well adapted to grain raising, showed that continual cropping deteriorates both quantity and quality. This is the history of the wheat-growing industry in Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and other states, including Minnesota. But it took our people a long time to learn that to raise wheat exclusively was only another way of extendin a pressing invitation for failure to abide with them. It is hoped that you farmers of the Palouse country will not take so long to learn your lesson. The changes in Minnesota once this lesson was learned were wonderful. The farmers have quit abusing the money loaner and high rates of interest, the times are now so hard there that the farmers cannot get even 2 per cent on their money deposited in the banks. The banks will not pay interest because there is no demand for money, or at least not sufficient demand to provide use for the surplus funds of the farming population. New farmhouses are being built, old ones painted and repaired, and grassy lawns laid in front. Land sells at from $50 to $75 an acre, if one finds any one who will sell. There is none for sale. I talked to the register of deeds of Fillmore county two years ago. There had been eight transfers of farms in that year, six of them being necessary to settle estates where the owner had died.

I do not consider that dairying has alone brought about this change, but it was certainly an important factor—the main spoke in the wheel—in producing a change from extreme poverty among farmers to a satisfactory condition. It is the central and important factor. Steele county, one of the smallest of the state, consisting of 12 townships, during the days of wheatraising, fell far below the average in its yield of grain. Today there are 30 co-operative creameries paying $650,000 a year for cream alone. Not only this, they sold more wheat last year than they ever did before. The average yield was better because of the fertilization of the ground from the stock. Not a straw stack was burned; no screenings were shipped, but saved and fed to the chickens; more hogs were sold than ever before; more beef was shipped; more dressed poultry was shipped than ever before. Sixty cars of eggs were shipped from one station alone. They sold clover seed, beans, potatoes, horses and any number of other things. The aggregate of all other things besides dairy products was probably three times the value of the cream.

A banker in this county told me that he was expecting to change his location, unless something then unforseen happened. He said that when he first came to the country the farmers growled at him constantly because he would not loan his money on no or insufficient security, and when he did loan it demanded such high interest. Now there is a continual dingdong for him to allow 1 or 2 per cent on the $400,000 of farmers' money on deposit in his bank.

The objections that were raised in Minnesota against diversified farming are now being raised in the Palouse country. When the legislature passed a law appropriating $7500 a year to maintain farmers' institutes, the only votes against the law were by farmer members. All the city legislators were heartily in favor of the appropriation. I advise the farmer to obtain the bulletins as they are issued by the experiment station at Pullman, as they contain much of value—the latest and best scientific information.

Grasses for Pasture.

A. B. Leckenby, of Tacoma, assistant agrostologist for the Pacific coast of the United States department of agriculture, delivered an interesting lecture on grasses. Speaking of the destruction of the range in the West, and the efforts of the department of agriculture to preserve these ranges, and how cattlemen at their recent convention had passed resolutions and petitioned congress to lease large bodies of government land for pasture in order that it might be fenced and the grass preserved he declared that the native grass of this country, commonly called bunchgrass, can be resown, and will then afford better pasture than it did originally. He explained how to do this so as to obtain the best results, and urged that the pastures be renewed in this manner and the ranges thus preserved. Alluding to the Russian brome grass, which has attracted so much attention of late, the speaker said it was one of the best pasture and forage grasses that could be obtained for this country. He also considered Italian rye grass equally good in most localities, while in some places this latter grass is altogether the best possible grass than can be grown. Next in importance was the Canadian blue grass, which does well on cold, black and rich soil, and also on the warm, light and sandy places, and stock of all kinds eat it with avidity, and do well on it. Telling of the best grasses for different kinds of stock, the speaker said:

"If a farmer intends to go into the cattle business he should ascertain the best grasses for cows, and should he desire to go into the sheep business (and a farmer should engage in both industries), he should learn what kinds of grass the sheep like and thrive on best. Canadian blue grass is almost equally good for both cattle and sheep."

Professor Spillman, of the agricultural college, here interrupted the speaker, and said that each of these grasses was the choice of the cow and the sheep whenever such a choice was left to the animals, and told how he discovered this fact. This was when some cows and several sheep at the college farms broke out of the pasture into the field where he had 200 grass plots growing. Both sheep and cows confined their attention to the two plots planted to Italian rye grass and the Canadian blue grass, which they ate out clean, leaving the other 198 plots untouched.

In answer to questions, Mr. Leckenby said that the Italian rye grass is one of the best-known hog grasses, while the Canadian blue grass is not a good hog feed. Red alfalfa and the Italian rye do splendidly together, as each takes opposite substances from the soil. He advocated sowing vacant spots in alfalfa fields to Italian rye grass, and said it should be harrowed in, the process of harrowing being a decided benefit to the alfalfa. The speaker said that Italian rye grass will grow on stronger alkaline ground than almost any other grass or grain. He found it would thrive on alkali spots where alfalfa will not grow. In answer to a question, the speaker said he found Russian brome grass does not do well on wet lands. He described it as "sunshine grass," which does well in warm ground and on upland.

FIGHTING NATURAL LAWS.

Singular Obtuseness Coming to Light in New York State.

Chicago Tribune.

There is under consideration in the New York legislature a bill for the exemption of real estate from taxation for state purposes. To make good this loss of revenue it is proposed, among other things, to impose a tax of one-half of 1 per cent on mortgages, which are to pay no local taxes. This is no concession, as they do not now.

The opponents of this tax say it will fall on mortgages in the form of higher interest rates. The friends of the scheme say the effect will be to lower interest rates. They argue that while taxes are paid on few mortgages, except those whose ownership is revealed in the probate court, yet they are all liable to pay a tax of about 2 per cent, and that a knowledge of this keeps up interest rates above the point at which they would be if it was known that the tax on mortgages could not exceed one-half of 1 per cent. It is alleged that this is what happened in Maryland when a stringent law for the taxation of mortgages at a low rate was put into force.

The truth of this last statement is denied on good authority. Whether it is correct or not, it is interesting to notice that lenders on real estate security in New York city are insisting that a clause shall be inserted in new mortgages, by which the mortgagor agrees to pay the one-half of 1 per cent if the bill becomes a law. It appears that about 75 per cent of the property in the county of New York is mortgaged. About 10 per cent of the mortgages are overdue, and payment would be called for at once if the bill which has been mentioned should become a law. In 1888 a similar bill was introduced and its passage strongly urged. As a consequence many of the mortgages made since then have a provision that principal and accrued interest shall become due at once if a mortgage-taxing law is enacted. So the passage of such a measure would be injurious to the majority of real estate owners.

It is singular what a long lease of life this notion of taxing mortgages for the alleged benefit of mortgagors has. Wherever it has been tried it has harmed them. Some states which have tried the experiment have abandoned it. Others will do so when they are more intelligent. Yet this exploded project is brought forward again in a state like New York.

Arrival of Turkish Minister.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Ali Ferdi Bey, the Turkish minister to the United States, arrived on La Gascogne today, and left at once for Washington. Minister Ferdi was accompanied by his wife and sister-in-law.

HOW RICH WE'VE GROWN

OUR TRADE AND OUR MONEY PASS TWO BILLION-DOLLAR LINE.

Money in Circulation Now 33 Per Cent More Than in 1897—Two-Thirds the Increase Is Gold.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Every year's developments seem to justify the assertion that this is a "billion-dollar country." The year 1899 brought our foreign commerce, for the first time, past the $2,000,000,000 line, and the month of February, 1900, shows our money in circulation for the first time as more than $2,000,000,000. Thus, by a curious coincidence, the announcement of $2,000,000,000 of foreign commerce and $2,000,000,000 of money in circulation are made within a single month, the totals indicating that the $2,000,000,000 line had been crossed in our commerce for 1899, having been only completed by the treasury bureau of statistics on January 14, while the treasury bureau of loans and currency, on February 1, announced that the total money in circulation had also crossed the $2,000,000,000 line, while gold and gold certificates alone had crossed the $900,000,000 line. The total foreign commerce for the year 1899 was $2,074,345,262, while the total money in circulation, on February 1, was $2,008,149,355. The use of 10 figures with which to show the business conditions of the country is, indeed, becoming surprisingly frequent. The tables of the December summary of commerce and finance show, for instance, the total resources of national banks at $4,475,343,924; the latest report of the controller of the currency shows the deposits in savings banks to be $2,220,366,954; the total resources of all banks in the United States are given by the same report as $5,196,177,381, and the latest number of the summary of commerce and finance shows the December clearing-house returns of all cities outside of New York, at $3,012,896,144, and those of the city of New York at $3,348,285,867.

The announcement that the money in circulation in the United States has, for the first time, crossed the $2,000,000,000 line, also calls attention to the fact that the amount of money for each individual is greater today than ever before. The treasury bureau of loans and currency publishes, each month, a statement of the amount of money in circulation, and by combining with this the actuary's estimate of population, presents a monthly statement of the amount of money in circulation per capita. This statement puts the population, on February 1, 1900, at 77,116,000, the money in circulation at $2,008,149,355, and the circulation per capita at $25 98. This gives a larger per capita than in any earlier month in the history of the country. On February 1, 1899, it was $25 42; on February 1, 1898, $23 42; on February 1, 1897, $23 05, and on February 1, 1896, $22 47.

No period in our financial history has shown a more rapid growth in the amount of money in circulation than that covered by the past three or four years. The total money in circulation today is 33 per cent greater than at the beginning of the fiscal year, 1897, and the gold and gold certificates in circulation, 61 per cent greater than at that time, the actual increase in money in circulation during that period being $493,424,155, and of gold and gold certificates, $305,888,000, practically two-thirds of the increase, therefore, having been in gold.

The following table shows the amount of gold and total money in circulation at the beginning of each quarter of the fiscal year, from July 1, 1896, to date:

Date—	Gold coin and certificates in circulat'n.	Total money in circulat'n.
1896—July 1	$498,449,342	$1,509,725,200
Oct. 1	517,508,129	1,582,302,289
1897—Jan. 1	555,639,668	1,650,223,468
Apr. 1	554,582,686	1,669,000,694
July 1	556,432,594	1,646,628,246
Oct. 1	564,997,312	1,678,840,538
1898—Jan. 1	584,126,049	1,721,100,649
Apr. 1	618,448,941	1,756,028,645
July 1	696,769,519	1,843,435,749
Oct. 1	658,043,721	1,816,596,792
1899—Jan. 1	732,980,132	1,897,301,412
Apr. 1	727,748,591	1,927,846,942
July 1	724,716,728	1,932,484,239
Oct. 1	745,234,744	1,948,709,186
1900—Jan. 1	770,100,627	1,980,268,170
Feb. 1	804,330,065	2,008,149,355

SUBSIDY CAUSE WEAK.

As Efforts to Amend the Bill Plainly Show.

Baltimore Sun.

The modifications made in the original draft of the shipping subsidy bill show that it is not so strong as its advocates would have us believe. To get votes for it its supporters have had to let in various interests, so that it is no longer a bill to promote American shipbuilding exclusively, but will offer bounties to companies that have bought their ships abroad within a certain period. The total amount of subsidy payable has been limited to $9,000,000, at the request of congressmen from states that have no seacoast, with the effect that the bill is a puny effort to accomplish a result that requires hundreds of millions. Only two or three existing companies can hope to profit by the monopoly the subsidies will create.

The conservative commercial press of the Union is upon the whole incredulous as to the advantages promised by the subsidy jobbers, taking the view that we tried subsidies years ago without success, and other nations, notably France, have failed wholly to get results from the subsidy system. English and German subsidies are spoken of, but the subsidized lines of these countries form but a small fraction of their merchant marine. "It ought to be evident by this time," says the Iron Age, "that the country which eventually is to be supreme in the shipping trade of the world will not become so on account of the payment of subsidies. The American people have been able to develop an unparalleled transportation system on land by means of private enterprise and the employment of private capital. Why should it be more necessary to depend upon government aid in the building of ships? This question is pertinent in view of the success of the American shipping trade before the period when railway building began to absorb to so large an extent the capital of the country."

This directs attention to the real cause of the decline of American shipping engaged in the foreign trade—the fact that investments in developing the resources of the interior of the country have paid much better than shipowning. In the last 40 years we have built thousands of cities and towns, opened innumerable profitable mines, established furnaces and factories and added 100,000 miles of railway, to say nothing of the street railways, coast shipping, telegraphs, telephones and farms we have been investing in. These were more profitable than shipping, which pays only 4 or 5 per cent. We let the foreigner take a business we did not care for except as a matter of sentiment. As soon as our investments ashore pay us no more than we can get at sea we shall go to sea and compete with the English, Norwegians, Germans and Italians for the precarious and narrow profits of shipowning.

The World's Navies.

The German naval bill, which recently passed the federal council and is now pending in the reichstag, provides for 38 ships of the line, six cruisers and a large number of torpedo-boats and gunboats, the construction of which is spread over the next 20 years. Germany now has 18 battle-ships, 27 cruisers of all kinds, 11 coast-defense vessels, 113 torpedo-boats and one torpedo-boat destroyer. Its ultimate navy, as contemplated by this bill, omitting coast defense and small vessels, is 159 war vessels of the battle-ship and cruiser class.

This seem a powerful navy upon paper, but the real effectiveness of the German navy, as compared with other European navies, is better ascertained from the vessels that government now has afloat and is building. These comprise 63 battle-ships and cruisers. Great Britain has 53 completed battle-ships, 17 armored cruisers, 167 protected and 15 unprotected cruisers, and is building 17 battle-ships, 14 armored cruisers and nine protected cruisers, or a total of 292, as against Germany's 63. France has 123 vessels of these classes, and Russia 50. In battle-ships and cruisers afloat, Great Britain has 193 and France, Germany and Russia combined, 172. The great navy contemplated by the German naval bill will take many years to construct, and involves an immense outlay of money, but even when the work is done Great Britain's preponderance on the ocean will be proportionately as formidable as it is now. If this increase of strength on Germany's part has been inspired by the desire to contest England's supremacy on the ocean, it will fall short of its purpose. It will have a formidable navy 25 years from now if the present schemes are carried out, but not formidable enough to justify a hostile attitude to Great Britain.

Another Operatic Tale of Woe.

Chicago Tribune.

A familiar tale of woe is beginning to come from New York, and Mr. Grau is busy listening to it. Notwithstanding the stories of financial profit, the backers of the grand opera are anxious as to the future. They have discovered that the public is growing tired of Mr. Grau's annual offering, and that opera-goers never before have shown so little interest in what is going on in front of them. The details of the complaints have an old, familiar sound. Van Dyck was not able to sing for several weeks. Saleza has only sung twice, Ternina only once, and Dippel is overworked. With a few exceptions "the scenery is old and shabby and incorrect, the costumes are dirty, tawdry and sloppy, and the stage management is chiefly noticed by its absence." There is the eternal round of "Faust," "Romeo and Juliet," "Lohengrin," "Tannhauser" and "Die Walkure." Lack of rehearsals has always been a feature of this company, and this year there do not appear to be any. The brilliant revivals which were promised in the prospectus have been postponed indefinitely. This is what ails the opera in New York, and it is what ailed it here. The difference between Chicago, however, is this: Chicago rose in revolt and declined to go. New York has endured it another season, not because opera-goers wished to see the opera, but because they wished to see each other. Now that they have begun to growl and to demand a change of methods it is evident they are tiring of seeing each other. Mrs. Smith's gowns and Mrs. Brown's tiara after a time grow monotonous and tiresome. No wonder the promoters are thinking seriously about their future policy.

Just Like the Suez Canal.

New York Times.

The idea of the