SHEEP AND WOOL INDUSTRY

Hon. John Minto Reviews Progress From First Success With Alfalfa to the Present Time—Profit in the Business.

THE third period of the progress of sheep husbandry in Oregon, 1882 to 1902, begins with the first successful or third cutting of alfalfa hay in one season from the same land. This plant, wherever it can be irrigated, is to the entire range country very nearly what the corn plant is to the country east of the arid land belt of the United States. Its value as a pasture plant without irrigation is yet to be tried. From the lowest lying lands of the Columbia River, eastward, north and south, up the innumerable small valleys, reaching the moderate rain belt, producing pin timber at elevations between 3000 and 4000 feet, this plant is now, or is rapidly becoming, the chief support of family life relying on stock breeding and woolgrowing. It is one of the best feeds known for dairy purposes. Wherever irrigation can be had to produce three cuttings of alfalfa per season, all the temperate zone fruits can be grown to perfection; and woolgrowers in such valleys as Eagle, Pine and Lower Powder River, can feed their Jersey family cows from the same alfalfa meadows which feed their flocks in Winter and gather as by-product fine crops of honey from the bees that collect the nectar from the blossoms.

As an authentic means of impressing the value of this plant upon my readers I quote from the biennial report of the Oregon Board of Horticulture for 1897-98 a description of the honey crop of Eagle Valley, in Union County, a district of five by seven miles in extent. It has extensive orchards of fine fruits, after describing which the commissioner says: "As this is a wonderful valley for alfalfa, I find there are 1400 stands of bees. A number are making the industry a specialty; and out of this number there are 1000 working stands, and I am told by the best authority that 120 pounds to the stand is considered a Summer's work. This would make 120,000 pounds of marketable honey. This is inquired of as far East as the St. Louis market."

Previous to accepting the task of writing this paper, I had been reading and rereading descriptions of sheep husbandry, as pursued in Western Idaho and Eastern Oregon, by an observer sent out by the National Shepherds' Bulletin, of Boston. Knowing from personal acquaintance with life on these sheep farms that these descriptions are realistic, I shall endeavor to convey the general condition of this industry at the present time from the inquiries of this observer. The series of small valleys tributary to Snake River through the Weiser and Payette from Idaho, the Jordan, Malheur, Burnt River, Powder River, Pine and Eagle Creeks, seem ideal districts for sheepfarming. The elevation varies from 2000 to 3700 feet above the sea level. These inland valleys are so warm that with water for irrigation three and sometimes four cuttings of alfalfa hay can be made in one season, which means that the yield is from four to seven tons per acre annually. The provision of this hay for Winter feed in order to avoid loss varies from 80 to 125 tons per 1000 sheep for 100 days of feeding time. This hay value at cost on the farm is quoted at $3 50 to $4 per ton. One hundred to 1000 sheep is what most men state their provision to be, thus making a feed cost of $1000 for a flock of 2500 head. To judge what effect this has on the pursuit here, we may look in with our friend "Old Observer" at Cloverdale ranch, in Collateral Valley, Keating, Oregon. Here is a roomy mansion house, shaded by poplars, 100 feet high, planted by the present owner, E. P. Cranston, 25 years ago. He runs 6000 sheep, Wintering them at the ranch and Summers on the Granite Range of mountains, some 15 miles distant. He is provided with ample shelter for lambing, either Winter or Spring, having 136 feet of barn, 22 feet wide, and 260 feet of shed 40 feet wide. The permanency of the plant, the character of the homestead, its neighborhood of the alfalfa meadows, the rich by-product of the beestand, upon which he and his wife are leisurely reading, and from which his visitor says he will harvest 1500 pounds of honey on the morrow—all bear witness to the fact that sheep husbandry here is a permanent basis under ideal conditions. Others are following in the footsteps of this pioneer.

Alfalfa Better Than Wild Grasses.

There is still some difference of opinion as to the relative value of wild grasses and alfalfa hay, but the majority in favor of the latter is steadily gaining and some owners are so sure on the question that they are constructing their own reservoirs in order to save the Winter flow for Summer use. Men whose judgment is entitled to respect say that pasturage is improving under sheepgrazing on the highlands of Powder and Burnt Rivers, as the writer has no doubt it will do on the eastern slopes and summit levels of the Cascades and Blue Mountains, and it is not beyond the bounds of probability that alfalfa can be used as a pasture plant on the lower plain lands.

The progress of sheep husbandry all over Oregon may be said to be upward, both in a literal and figurative sense. Oregon is the mother of Montana as a wool-growing state. The first sheep taken nearly to the summit of the Rocky Mountains were driven from Oregon by Elias Cox, of Silverton, for sale as meat to the miners where Helena is now located. Such as were not sold before the setting in of Winter were suffered to shift for themselves with little expectation that they would live through. The general cause of their doing so was the winds which brought the snow often blew it off east and north declivities, and the genial chinook from Oregon cuts the snow off the face of the country from southwest to southeast, whistling over extensive districts fit for pasturage only—like the birds of the Wel-ipe country—so named by the native, from the note of the curlew, which breeds its young in the natural meadows of highest levels of the Cascades, Blue and Rocky Mountains, to the latter of which the Upper Nez Perces used to resort to gather kouse and camas roots in late Summer, and where they met Lewis and Clark's party in a famishing condition, 96 years ago. Now, at such a season in this eastern edge of the Oregon of long ago, a party going or coming would be likely to meet a royal welcome to the camp of the shepherd. Elevation has much to do with the health of sheep and the character of the fleece, and to her high pastures above the dust and trash of the sage plain. Montana, as a shepherdess, owes her first place among the states, Oregon being next, for the number of sheep and the quality of their wool, for in addition to health and cleanliness—the higher the pasture the sweeter the feed, which underlies the Swiss axiom, "the higher the pasture the richer the cream."

Cost of Raising Sheep.

As to measure of profit in this pursuit, it is something rare to find flock masters agreeing at all points. Indeed, they could not so agree because the charges they have to pay vary to such an extent by making their purchases and delivering the wool crop at different trade centers, as make a material difference. Where the elevation of the country ranged over is between 2000 and 4000 feet above sea-level, the estimate is very uniform that, as before said, 100 tons of hay is required to carry 1000 sheep through 100 days of a feeding season. Under such conditions R. B. Gibson, of Eagle Valley, says: "When those hard years of 1894 and 1895 came I did my own work, and by rigid economy not only lived, but managed to save something."

I will here give the views and items of expense of the only man who named 11 cents, to the seeker of information, the cost of growing wool. The flock-owner is Mr. Stowell, of the firm of Stowell & Weaver, near Mount Vernon, one of the most favored spots of the John Day Valley, where last Winter only 40 tons of hay was used to carry 1700 sheep over 31 days of feeding. Mr. Stowell said emphatically: "There would be nothing left to pay a man under 11 cents. The cost alone of tending and caring for 2500 would be $1600 ($500 for hay); then for range part of the year—every odd section being road land—we have to rent four sections at $60 each, $240; shearing costs $150; this foots up, $1990. Sacks and twine not less than $75; then the wool clip, suppose, 1 npounds, 20,000 pounds, will cost to be transported to Heppner, $150; warehousing, weighing, and incidental expenses, $40. All these expenses aggregate, $2300."

At 11 cents the wool brings $2200. But this is not all the cost even. There are taxes to pay; there is loss to be deducted; there is realty on which the hay is grown, and taxes on that. Land that can be counted on to produce 4 to 5 tons of alfalfa hay is rated by its owners here at $30 to $50 per acre. Say then, 160 acres at $29 per acre—$3200, with 2500 head of sheep, at $2 per head, $500; total investment, $3200. Interest on this at 6 per cent, $412, and taxes, $100. Mr. Stowell had just told his visitors they lambed 1000 ewes from a flock of 1700. It is presumed, and had 95 per cent increase.

The cost alone of tending and caring for 2500 would be (including $500 for hay)	$1600
We have to rent four odd sections of road land at $60 per section	240
Shearing costs	150
Sacks and twine, not less than	75
Hauling wood to Heppner	150
Warehousing, weighing and incidental expenses	40
The foregoing are Mr. Stowell's expenses, a total of	$2255
To this I add interest on $5000 invested in sheep	$ 300
Interest on 160 acres of land, at $20 per acre, at 6 per cent	192
Taxes	100
Salt	50
Loss of 100 sheep during year	200
Total cost	$3097
Income—	
From 20,000 pounds of wool, at 11 cents	$2200
By lambs from 1000 ewes, at 95 per cent increase, 1520 at $1 50	2280
By increased value of 800 lambs of previous year, at 50 cents per head	400
Gross income	$4880
Net income	$1783

Rent the Government Lands.

The land value assumed is in accord with a general estimate placed on all holdings on which alfalfa hay can be grown of $30 to $50 per acre. In the country where the foregoing values are made, land property Governmental department to let the public grazing lands so as to encourage family life thereon, under conditions that will limit holdings to that purpose and improve the pasturage where possible, and strife and heartburnings over the rights to range will disappear in favor of peace and good neighborhood.

A gentleman resident in the district has in years past vaunted that he and his neighbors were going to stop what he pleases to call foreign sheep coming into their section of the John Day country. It is not done yet, and why? The residents there are mainly Americans, influenced by regard for law, and will not organize to prevent others from herding on the public lands which they themselves have no other right to use than that which is legally common to any other stock owner. The question is a waiting one, perplexing to Senators and Representatives, because those living by the grazing interests have not heretofore been desirous of assuming control of all the land their stock fed on. But the day is near when that must be done in favor of the increase of family life in that country, and not for men of wealth or combinations of wealth.

Figures for Umatilla County.

I have cited the estimate of a moderate firm and recall attention to Mr. Stowell's statement of paying $240 rental for four alternate sections of road companies' land. Stowell & Weaver by this lease get the use of four other sections of public land. This makes their rent $30 per section. Would it not be good policy to encourage settlement by long lease of such lands, conditional in favor of improvement with privilege of purchase? The case mentioned is that of a location near the center of the John Day Valley.

By the kindness of Hon. Douglas Belts, president of the State Woolgrowers' Association, I am enabled to give his estimates of what woolgrowing costs in Umatilla County. Mr. Belts dwells particularly on the depreciation of market values of wool during the 20 years now under review and the increased cost of running sheep in Eastern Oregon, and claiming a pound of wool costs three times as much as then, and sells for half. I agree with him as to the fact that the value of wool is less to manufacturers from the use of cheaper material to mix with wool and skill by which the manufacturer is using as a means of successfully meeting competition in trade. Much of the increased cost of herding range sheep comes from increase of owners and decrease in the area of land used for pasturage only. It is the natural competition of increased human wants. Twenty-five years ago one herder, as Mr. Belts says, would easily take charge of 2500 sheep.

Herding one year for	$ 420
Ten tons of hay, at $8 per ton	80
Camp tender in Summer two days in two weeks	4
Total	$ 504

These are Mr. Belts' figures, from an evidently hastily written letter, and I venture to point out there would be 10 times two weeks in five months of the herding season, so the reading should be, as the cost of running 2500 sheep, $540.

Now, the average band is 1800.

Herder one year	$420
One hundred tons of hay at $5 per ton	600
Interest on four sections of Winter range, at $1600 per section, $6400, at 8 per cent	512
Camptender, with two pack and one saddle horse, for five months in Summer, at $50 per month	250
Board of camp tender, per month, at $10	50
Repairing fence around Winter range (including new material), per year	100
Interest on 160 acres purchased for Summer range, at $450, at 8 per cent	36
By loss of 100 head	200
This is a total of	$2168

Omit, as the writer says, the cost of salt, shearing, sacks and twine, which are about the same as 20 years ago. The letter was written in order to compare the past with the present as to what are now necessary investments. Conditions make it necessary for men situated as he is to own at least part of their Summer ranges. But President Belts is a public-spirited man, and so believing him I venture to point out that with his 100 tons of hay he is secure against such a loss as overtook the pioneer woolgrowing venture from Western Oregon in 1861, when, of a flock of 4500 choice ewes placed in a chosen portion of the Yakima Valley, the Spring of 1862 opened upon 45 living skeletons. With his more than 20 years of experience, his 100 tons of good hay and four sections of Winter range, he can and will, if the need occurs, carry his flock through 100 days of such weather as reduced another venture from Western to Eastern Oregon, near Rockville, in 1879, from 4800 to 1400. President Belts is simply near the line of inevitable progress between agriculture and the pastoral life that as late as 1877 held the country of which Pendleton is now the thriving trade center as range for cattle, sheep and ponies, the strife over which latter caused all, or nearly all, the murders of flock-owners and their herders under cover of the so-called Piute raid. Since then Umatilla, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Wasco Counties have been on the line of advance of wheat production against wool, which, as already indicated, is all over Oregon advancing to higher grounds with greater safety, because under more experienced and skillful management.

In order to show this industry as conducted under conditions very different from those surrounding Mr. Belts, I quote from another letter. It is from the pen of a coworker with him, however, though representing that portion of Oregon that, by elevation, has not as yet been benefited by alfalfa culture. The estimates apply to ranges on the slopes of the Cascades and arid plains south and west from Prineville. My friend says:

"It will cost at least 75 cents a head to run a mixed band of sheep a year. The principal cost would be as follows: Herder and board at $45 per month, $535; salt, $50; extra help lambing, $100; shearing and board at 9 cents per head. A reasonable figure for hay would be 40 tons to the band at $6 per ton, $240. Now these are the main expenses. It is safe to assert that, one year with another, it practically takes the wool to pay all expenses."

I read the estimate for hay to mean hay for 1000 sheep. The Summer range from this district is largely on the Cascade forest reserve and Paulina Mountains, and the Winter range is on the Crook County desert, where the domestic sheep have effectually superseded the "barren ground" or muledeer, which only 20 years ago were found in large numbers and ruthlessly slaughtered by white and red men for their pelts, then worth 45 cents per pound, dried, in Prineville. Sentimental people may mourn this change from the wild to tame. So do not I. It means progress, increase of the fittest to live, the expansion of law and order over waste places. The reader will note that my Crook County friend placed the wool crop as meeting the costs of keep and management. I hope he will note also that I inserted in Mr. Stowell's estimates what both of these experienced range stockmen omit—the increase of the flock and its meat production. This may be one object in keeping sheep is clean farming for grass and grain product, much more than half the money income from the flock is profit, credit being given for weeds destroyed and manure made from the straw piles of the flock. The cheapness and security to sheep folding that may be had by woven wire fences ought to aid in extending rape culture and clover onto every farm west of the Cascade Range. East of that range, in the wheat-raising districts, this same woven wire fence ought to aid the inland farmer to set a portion of his farm to alfalfa for the production of one cutting of hay and late Summer pasturage. The same conditions of Spring weather that will give wheat a good start would do the same for alfalfa, and once started the tap root of the plant goes down as fast and as far, apparently, as the stem grows up, and are as tenacious of life as asparagus plants, apparently.

Before leaving this subject of pasture plants I ask the low plain flock-owner: "Sir, have you ever tried getting a set of alfalfa on the home camping ground of your flock?" I quote the words of Lawrence Sweek, of Monument, as given by his friend "Old Observer," on September 3, 1901: "I began in 1884; I bought 3030 ewes for $3030. I culled and bred with care each year. I owed $5800, and the third year I paid up in full. I am running grade Delaines, lambed this Spring. Over 100 per cent went to the mountains. I have had to feed none the last two years. I have two years' hay on hand. Ordinarily I would figure on two months' feeding." (Safer to make three months', Friend Sweek, and keep the stock in good order.)

Old Oregonian readers will remember that in 1883 tinkering with the Morrill tariff began, and Hon. James H. Slater, United States Senator from Eastern Oregon, deemed it his duty to support a free trade policy. I mention this with all respect for Senator Slater acting up to his convictions. But it is historically true, I think, that the change in the Morrill tariff enabled Mr. Sweek to purchase 3030 ewes for as many dollars. With nothing but praise for the business courage of the action, I claim further as an historical fact that Harrison's election and policy helped all sheepowners in Oregon in that line of their business; and that the election of Cleveland and his free trade policy killed credit as to the sheep interest. The editorial columns of The Oregonian never told it more concisely than S. Haven (a flockowner of the John Day Valley): "There never was a time during which so much cash was paid for everything and obligations so promptly met as in the period to which you refer. The fact is no one could get any credit at that time." Now flockowners are all right.

JOHN MINTO.

Salem.

Interest in Sheep Husbandry Increasing.

The interest in sheep is increasing in Western Oregon and the profit of keeping them is nowhere less than half the annual income from wool and increase. This is proven by the usual terms of leasing a flock of sheep for a term of three years. It is half of the wool and half of the increase pays for the keep. Where good prices for the past five years, so that, notwithstanding the large extent of what was the best pasture land has been put to wheat production, the number of sheep kept has increased from 1891 from 1,159,822 to 1,458,098, valued for assessment at $2,206,874, to which may be added the beautiful fleece-bearing goats (the pioneers of sheep in clearing the brush-covered lands of Western Oregon). They number 50,165 and are assessed at $93,740.

In the past the oldest sheepraisers have shown a brave endurance of lawless, outrageous, injurious opposition to their having the common right to use the public lands in full measure with horsebreeders and cattleraisers; but the inexorable law of the survival of the fittest is gradually giving to sheep husbandry the control of grazing interests of entire arid and semi-arid country, of which nearly two-thirds of the area of Oregon is a highly favored part. It may be the end of the contest between the cattle interests, which offers greater seeming inducements to associated capital, and absentee ownership has not yet come. The latter interest will try hard to force a policy of range leasing of the public lands in large bodies. This will only prolong the contest. Private control of more land, either by freehold or lease, than is sufficient to support an orderly, industrious family life is against public policy under our form of government. The day is well-nigh past on which an investment of $5000 to $8000 in cattle, turned out to roam at will, can be counted on to support a family. I have shown that such can be done by caring for sheep, and no better conditions can be imagined in which to breed and rear defenders of home, country, law and order than the lands of Oregon which are too dry for general agriculture. This applies to the mountains and highlands of Western as well as Eastern Oregon, and more especially to the burned districts on the coast and near it, where a most reprehensible, careless use of camp fire has destroyed a once noble forest wealth almost beyond computation, and left in its stead a surface of burnt earth, on which little grass and few shrubs will grow, but what does grow feeds a mutton superior to any fed in any other part of Oregon; yet the whole state produces good mutton.

IDAHO PROMISES CORDIAL SUPPORT TO THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPOSITION

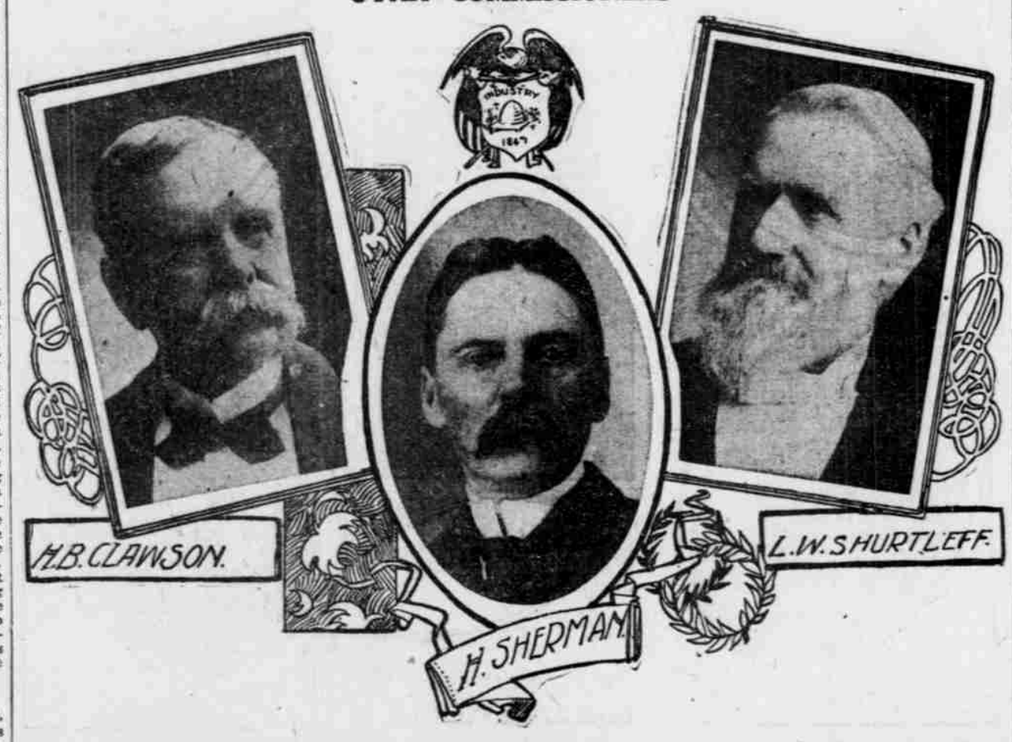
Portland can depend upon the full support of Idaho at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, which is to be held in that city in 1905. Idaho's interest in the great Exposition will be such that the people of Portland and, in fact, the whole world will have excellent cause to say that we did well. Our interests are the same as though it were held in our own state. We shall be enabled to far excel our efforts at the Pan-American Exposition, as it is so much closer to home.

We have our plans laid, and will show to the world what the "Gem of the Mountains" can do. Our resources are at our command. Our mining, agricultural, timber and manufacturing resources are practically unlimited, and, as our people are enterprising and industrious, Portland need have no fear of our failing to do our full duty.

THOS. KIRBY.

Peck, Idaho.

UTAH COMMISSIONERS



CORN GROWS TO PERFECTION

Success Lies in Adapting a Variety to the Climate and in Giving Intelligent Care to Cultivation and Harvesting.

PERHAPS the idea that "corn will not grow in Oregon," except to be gathered for "roasting ears" or cut green for fodder or for the silo, arose from the belief current in early days that any crop, cereal, fruit or vegetable, that would grow in Oregon at all, would, after the first planting or sewing, take care of itself from year to year for an indefinite period. Corn, not being a plant that thrives on neglect, flourishes on impoverished soil, or survives exposure to Winter weather, was ruled out of the fields in pioneer times, and preference was given to crops that required less care and cultivation. The "volunteer crop" was Oregon's boast, and, in a sense, its advertisement in early days presented an alluring picture to people who had by patient toil wrung scanty subsistence from reluctant soils. Corn was not and could not be included in this catalogue, and as a matter of fact most other agricultural products have long since dropped out of it, leaving behind the wholesome lesson that here, as elsewhere, man must work for what he gets from the soil, and, moreover, that he must work for it intelligently.

The fact that corn can be made to produce and mature a good crop in Oregon has been accepted for some years by persons well informed by experience upon the matter, but in a general way it is still said and believed that it is not profitable, and cannot be made so, to raise corn in the Willamette Valley, except for Summer table use, and perhaps to a limited extent for fodder. The experience, therefore, of T. L. Davidson, of Marion County, as a successful grower of corn for 30 years, will interest those who are still wont to insist that corn will not mature in Western Oregon. His experience demonstrates that intelligence in preparing the soil and selecting the seed, good judgment in regard to planting time, industry in cultivation and promptness in harvesting and curing the product, are essentials in raising good corn. These given, a good crop is assured, unless in an exceptional season. The only question now is, whether it pays to raise corn in Oregon for feeding purposes and to meet the demand of the home market for domestic consumption. Mr. Davidson says that it does, and furnishes the best evidence—actual experience—in support of his statement.

Mr. Davidson considers it profitable to raise corn to feed to horses, cows, hogs and chickens, and he puts in a good-sized crop every year. He advises farmers to use the corn crop at a substitute for Summer-fallowing, though he is raising corn year after year in the same field because he has only the one purpose in view. Mr. Davidson says he has adapted his corn to the climate. He started with a selected variety, a cross between New England Early White corn and the Huckleberry. He saved seed from his own fields and in a few years had a variety that is thoroughly acclimated and it never fails to yield a crop ranging from 100 to 160 bushels of ears to the acre. He always selects the most perfect ears for seed, plants it in season, cares for it well, and gathers it at the proper time, so that the corn improves in quality.

The land is plowed in March, after which it is harrowed and smoothed with the clod-crusher. The corn is planted during the first period of fair weather in April, which is not later than the 10th of the month. Mr. Davidson never has been troubled by frosts killing his corn in the Spring, though this is earlier than most farmers think it safe to plant. The corn makes but slow growth during the cool, wet weather, but it is all the time gathering strength which will make its growth the more vigorous when the warm weather comes. When the corn is up Mr. Davidson cultivates it after every good rain. This is for the purpose of keeping the soil loose and moist. He follows the cultivator with a clod-crusher, which makes the surface fine and smooth, so as to retain the moisture and prevent the ground from caking. It is necessary to repeat this process after every rain, in order to keep the ground from hardening. When the rains stop, cultivation stops. If weeds appear later in the season they are hoed out. The cultivator is run through the soil the last time about July 4.

Mr. Davidson makes it a point to gather his crop before the Fall rains begin, and it is only in unfavorable season, which are few and far between, that the corn is unfit for making corn bread. In every case it makes good feed for stock. If the corn could be cut about September 1 and left standing in the shock for about 10 days, it would be better, but Mr. Davidson does not like to run the chances of rain. He always takes the ears from the stalks, leaving the stalks standing with the husks on. As there is still some sap in the cob, he spreads the corn on elevated floors in the barn, where it dries. The floors are made of six-inch boards laid about an inch and a half apart. The corn is piled on these floors to a depth of 12 inches or more. The air circulating through the floors dries the corn satisfactorily. If the corn should be unusually damp it may be stored in a building where artificial heat may be used to dry it. Care must be used, however, not to dry the corn too rapidly, for overheating makes it bitter.

Since the corn is gathered when the bulk of it is ripe, there is some that is not mature. This is kept separate from the other and used for immediate feeding. In the Eastern States the corn stalks are killed by the frosts in the Fall, and the corn may be left to dry in the field, but in Oregon the stalks continue to grow and the corn must be removed to protect it from damage by rain. Mr. Davidson does not feed the corn stalks to his cattle, as he has plenty of other feed that he prefers. He gives the fodder away and it has proved very satisfactory for cattle. Once in four or five years Mr. Davidson gives his corn fields a dressing of manure, putting on about 15 loads to the acre.

The matter of diversified farming being now under careful consideration among the more energetic and progressive farmers of the Willamette Valley, the methods whereby Mr. Davidson has succeeded in raising corn profitably cannot fail to attract attention, as well as impress the newcomer to whom the advice is gratuitously given that Oregon cannot raise corn. Of course, Oregon never will become a "corn state" in the commercial sense of the term as applied to Iowa and other states of the Middle West. But the time is at hand wherein Oregon farmers who seek to diversify their crops on the intelligent basis of "always something to sell" will add with a reasonable certainty of profitable returns for their endeavor a corn field to their cultivated lands.

VAST DEPOSITS OF COPPER

Southern Oregon District Is Coming In for Great Attention.

The copper resources of Southern Oregon, and particularly in the vicinity of the Siskiyou Mountains, are being investigated as never before, and with every promise that they will be extensively exploited in the near future. The tremendous success of the copper-mining industry in some of the Northern California counties, particularly Shasta, has, during the past few months, caused miners to turn to the Siskiyou belt, and with a success that has already opened their eyes to the wonderful possibilities of the immense field. The recent discoveries on Joe Creek and Elliott Creek have directed the attention of capitalists to the region, and representatives of a number of prominent mining magnates have been scouring the Siskiyous in the vicinity of the boundary line during the past few months in search of properties. A representative of Captain Delamar, the many times millionaire owner of the Mercury and other famous mines, who has recently invested largely in Northern California copper mines, has been looking over the McVey copper mine, on Elliott Creek, and he finds it to be one of the best prospects on the coast. This property is situated at an altitude of 4200 to 5100 feet, the boundary line of Oregon and California running through it. It was first discovered three years ago, and is now owned by Messrs. W. H. Hamilton, S. McVey, L. F. Cooper and G. B. Adams, of Crescent City. It is located on the head of Joe Creek, a tributary of Elliott Creek. Last Summer, an enormous ledge of sulphide ore was uncovered at this mine, and now the owners find themselves rich men.

F. M. Anderson, the field geologist for Northern California for the State Mining Bureau, says the whole region for 60 miles, and from the Ashland Butte to Sterling Mountain, contains vast deposits of rich copper ore. The locality is one of mountains, canyons, creeks and rivers, cliffs, peaks and forests, mainly untouched. Roads are comparatively few, and rugged trails afford the only communication, the nearest points of egress being Ashland, Jacksonville and Grant's Pass. Owing to the topography of the country, the copper riches of this section are inaccessible from California.

Eastern Oregon Would Profit.

The rush for oil lands in the Malheur district means a great deal to Eastern Oregon if the search proves successful. It will mean more to the railroad interest than anything else, because it will furnish a cheap and convenient fuel for use on the locomotives, the same as is now being made use of in California. The prospective oil fields are all a considerable distance from the railroad, and in case oil is found it will be necessary to provide cheap and convenient transportation to the main lines of road at once, else the oil will be of little or no value. To build a railroad into the oil fields means the development of the country through which the road passes, and in this instance the section between Baker City and the oil fields is rich in mineral and agricultural lands.