

Statistics Wanted.

We notice that some of the California prints, aided by the San Francisco Board of Trade, are already engaged in speculations as to the future grain crop. Statistics are well if properly applied. It has been a matter that has been too much neglected in this part of the country. It is gratifying to note that the people are anxious for correct knowledge regarding the various pursuits and occupations in which they are engaged. The spread of such information through the instrumentality of organized societies throughout the United States during the last fifteen years, has been the direct means of raising the "first occupation of man" to a standard unknown or unthought of by the people of other nations. We contend that to-day, notwithstanding the claims of Great Britain to great practical achievement in the art of agriculture, the United States by far excels all other countries in the general branches of husbandry. England's great superiority over us must be acknowledged, however, in respect to her statistics. In America this matter is sadly neglected. In the State of Oregon there is nothing pertaining to the nature of an association or society for the compilation of statistical information. We are actually losing ground on account of it. See what the Historical Society of St. Paul have done for Minnesota. Societies and clubs should be formed in every part of the country, with competent and efficient officers, whose interest would be subserved by collecting information needed by the people. The great aim should be to reach practical attainments in a practical way, but this cannot be done if we have no organizations for the purpose. Whenever the greatest amount of general intelligence prevails, it is universally found that the people enjoy more comfort and more wealth, than marks the condition of those who are ignorant and shiftless. Agricultural societies can do considerable toward filling the want in Oregon, if they are properly managed. Through the influence of agricultural and horticultural societies, organized in different States and counties, much valuable information has reached farmers and gardeners, which it would have been impossible for them to procure through any other channel. The state of perfection which some of the New England States have arrived at in the culture of certain fruits, is almost wholly due to the influence of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society; a society, which in point of pomological intelligence, is not excelled in the world. Nature, in an agricultural point of view, has done but little for that section of the Union; yet the annual results of the skillful labor applied in the various branches of husbandry by the people, are actually wonderful. The benefits resulting to the people of other States, from the teachings of such men as Wilder and Hovey, who for many years were among the principal pillars in the Massachusetts Horticultural organization, have been, almost incalculable. In the history of American horticulture, the name of Downing will be recorded as a benefactor of his race. He has probably accomplished more for the benefit of the horticulturist in America than any other man, having devoted his life to the dissemination of knowledge of American fruits, and labored earnestly and faithfully, with great force and effect, in encouraging the organization of societies, as a means of gathering information and spreading facts before the people. From the different agricultural societies and farmers' clubs, organized throughout the United States, and from persons who are in a great measure indebted to these organizations for the knowledge they possess of agricultural matters, the Department of Agriculture principally receives the data from which the valuable annual reports of the Commissioner of Agriculture are made up, and which are of inestimable benefit to the country. The Commissioner, in one of his reports, says, "that the secretaries of the various agricultural societies and farmers' clubs are the proper persons to furnish themselves or by others, the department with the desired facts. In many cases they have done this faithfully and earnestly; others having neglected it, intelligent and active farmers and business men of all professions were prompted to supply the deficiencies." We never see Oregon mentioned in the agricultural reports, and we think it is quite time that some organization was perfected here, to furnish the desired information monthly, or annually.

Mistaken Pride.

Mr. Webb, the eminent ship-builder, gives it as his opinion that one of the reasons for the decline in American ship-building is the difficulty of inducing boys to apprentice themselves to the business and learn it thoroughly. There is a want of skilled and educated laborers in this department of industry, because boys spend their time in some occupation deemed more respectable than manual labor, says the New York Sun. This is an error that does not apply to ship-building alone. In almost every branch of industry there is a distaste in the mind of the American boy for anything like manual work. There is an ambition, altogether false and very prejudicial to the boy's future success, to escape all rudimentary work and occupy at once a position where a living can be made in the easiest and most respectable manner. This is contrary to all democratic teachings as to the dignity of labor, but it is, unfortunately, true. Young men in this country are ashamed of toil. They are even ashamed of the toil of their fathers before them. They forget how large a proportion of men in all countries have attained wealth and eminence through the avenues of manual labor. Men who have thus risen are often anxious that their own sons shall be brought up to some profession in which it is hoped they will attain more rapid distinction. It seems to be forgotten that skill and intellect will tell just as surely in many other ways as they will in law or any of the profession. There are triumphs to be gained in the material world, and this country, above all others, presents a broad and promising field for the exercise of mind in the subjugation of nature to man's dominion and use. This field is full of honor and profit, but it must be reached by toil, and those who would explore it successfully must begin at the foundation by making themselves personally familiar with the manual labor they expect ultimately to control. The renown of England's great engineers will outlive that of many of her distinguished politicians and statesmen; and the greatest of her engineers were once mechanics in the humblest sense. In America it is specially true that talent will show itself wherever it may be, and men will pay it willing homage. Why, then, are young men ashamed to step on the lower rungs of a ladder that reaches so high? It is because parents and others give them false and foolish notions of the superior respectability of calling in which they may spend ten years without gaining a single idea or enlarging their education one iota. Some petty clerkship is preferred to honest, manly, enabling toil, though it dwarfs mind and body, and yields not half the profit. Our boys should, in a measure, prepare for the practical occupations of life. The Colleges of the country should have departments solely for education in the branches pertaining to mechanical pursuits, embracing the application of the sciences to every-day affairs, and their profitable employment in the various handicrafts of life.

Eastern Oregon Wool.

Mr. John Minto, of Marion county, writes as follows: I notice a slight error in your issue of March 23. I had not thought of changing my present business of breeding thorough-bred merinos, and my hope in Marion for any other pursuit or any other location. My design is to visit Eastern Oregon, in order to form an opinion as to what proportion those "alkali flats" bear to the good sound grazing grounds of the region east of the Cascades. I take some stock sheep and some mutton sheep in order to make the trip something more than one of mere curiosity. This question of "alkali" have long considered one of very great importance to the general interests of this country, and especially so to the woolen manufacturing interests and raising of good wool bearing stock sheep. For if this alkali is so generally present, and so inimical to the sheep, it would be to the detriment of its action on the fibre of wool raised east of the Cascades, as some newspaper items I have read would seem to imply; then, the Willamette river is not the Merimac, and Oregon City is not destined to be our Lowell. For with three woolen factories already in operation and a prospect of three more being shortly built in the upper Willamette, with Umpqua and Rogue river valleys each making their own wool crops into cloth, the surplusage of wool which is destined to make Oregon City the great centre of woolen manufactures on this coast, will be small. This is what is to bring Oregon City orders on the wings of lightning for the manufacture of wool, which is destined to Columbia, to the fishing and lumbering stations of the northwest coast, yes, even to countries drained by the Amoor and other rivers now being settled on the Asiatic side of the Pacific by the friendly power of Russia.

OREGON

Rev. Mr. Earle is of Boston, Mass., a Protestant clergyman, now in the employ of the Young Men's Christian Association. He has been laboring with marked success in San Francisco, Maryland, and other places in California. He does not come as a sectarian, but desires the united and hearty co-operation of all evangelized Protestants in the great work of personal and vital Christianity. His labors have been crowned with success in the East, and surely, "the field is already white to harvest in Oregon." The coming week he will preach in Oregon City.

Married.

At the residence of the brides' parents in Oregon City, April 4th, 1867, by Rev. P. S. Knight, Mr. ROBERT H. DUNCAN and Miss EMMA COMSTOCK. Compliments received.

New Advertisements.

Professor A. J. Rutjes, TEACHER OF MUSIC. Will be glad to receive a number of Pupils at his MUSIC ROOM AT THE CLIFF HOUSE, OREGON CITY. He will also continue to give instructions at private residences. No charge for the use of the piano. My pupils will please give me notice when ready to commence.

A large section at the bottom of the page containing various advertisements, notices, and short news items. Includes 'WALLA WALLA', 'CONCRETE FLOORS', and 'LOUISVILLE, KY.'.