

What Kind of Wool is Best for Oregon Growers to Produce.

BY JOHN MINTO.

We have seen from the very copious extracts made from the Bulletin of the National Wool Manufacturers' Association that, viewed from the manufacturers' standpoint, the greatest demand at present is for,

1. A grade of wool such as a "cross between the full-blooded merino and the full-blooded South Down" would produce;

2. A grade of intermediary wool, which is described as between the common and fine, or more exactly between the fine and superfine— "differing from fine less in their diameter than in their length," the latter quality adapting them for very important purposes in the present state of clothing manufacture, as well as for combing purposes for certain kinds of fashionable goods.— These two styles are included under Mr. Hayes's first head of merino wool, and which he says is in greater demand than any other.

3. Combing wool of the long and lustrous kind, such as the English breeds of Leicester, Cotswold, Oxfordshire, and Lincoln's yield, is in pressing and growing demand.

4. A class of wools occupying a position between combing and clothing wools, or adapted to special fabrics of both worsted and cloth. This class of wools, represented, as Mr. Hayes says, by the Cheviot race of sheep, is also, I think, very well represented by the common sheep of Oregon, and, on account of its comparative unprofitableness, is (like the fleeces of the Mexican or old style of California sheep, the wool of which is Mr. Hayes's fourth class, or carpet wools) a point to breed away from towards a heavier fleece of more valuable wool, by those who seek the greatest profits from sheep-breeding.

Placing the growing of very fine merino wool, such as the Saxon, Silesian, and Australian, when bred in their purity, as being too light of fleece to yield the greatest income, I assume the question I am considering to be narrowed down to a choice between the heaviest-fleeced families of the merino and the best wool-bearing families of the English combing-wool breeds and a judicious crossing of these two races. I say the combing-wool breeds, because I think the history of breeding experiments proves Mr. Hayes to be correct when he says "the production of such wools [as a cross between a full-blooded merino and a full-blooded South Down] would be impractical as a system in our ordinary methods of sheep husbandry." The first cross between these races is generally very good, and has been found to be a profitable means of producing early lambs for city markets, but there is a large proportion of inferior animals that comes from a second and third cross.

Before discussing the mode of best producing these clothing wools, for which the demand is the greatest, it would perhaps be best to examine the conditions necessary to the permanent production of the best combing wool, the kind of wool which bears the highest price in the great markets.

Men who are just starting in wool growing in new countries are apt to think that the question of food cannot be an obstacle to their success when the whole country around them is covered with grass. I have now in mind two brothers who started six years ago in eastern Oregon, who have been measurably successful in conducting a profitable business. They started to breed toward the Cotswold. Now, though the grass is still plentiful, they are going toward the merino as fast as possible. They found their sheep too large to keep in large numbers with the best results. A Mr. Walworth, a practical wool-buyer on an extensive scale, and an earnest advocate of combing-wool, is quoted by Mr. Hayes as saying: "Now, although it may be most profitable to keep combing-wooled sheep, it will not do for every one to go into it indiscriminately.

Men who wish to have large flocks of sheep, say several thousand, or even a thousand in a flock, ought not to keep these sheep, but will do better with the merino. * * * I would not recommend the farmers of the far West, or in very new countries, to keep these sheep, for in such places the breed is apt to run out, and the wool becomes brushy and hairy and of very little value."— Mr. Dodge, head of the statistical portion of the Department of Agriculture, explains the cause of the last remark quoted, in an address he delivered some years ago to the New York Agricultural Society. He said:

"Few owners of long-wooled flocks in this country appear to understand practically the difference between fine wool and long-wool husbandry, forgetting that it is the destiny of the merino to be kept for wool, and holding the mutton sheep upon barely thriving rations for the purpose of shearing once in each year. The folly of such a course is like that of a beef-producer, who should let his animals run in the stock-range and expect the results of stall-feeding. The mutton breeds, like short-horn cattle, are simply machines for converting farm products into meats and fertilizers, the production depending upon the regularity and freedom from friction with which machinery runs—irregular feeding, an occasional scanty supply, undue exposure to cold or temperature uncomfortably high, reducing inevitably the amount of flesh produced by neutralizing the amount of nutritive power of a certain quantity of food. To make mutton with the greatest profit, every pound of hay, roots, or grain fed must yield a fair result in flesh gained. Thus, while wool-growing may be successful in the midst of primitive, almost barbaric, practices in culture, mutton production involves arts of husbandry the most advanced, and a knowledge of animal physiology the most enlightened."

To grade up a common coarse-wooled flock, Mr. Walworth, before quoted from, recommends the Cotswold or Leicester, but says, "I like the Leicester best." Mr. Dodge thinks "the Leicester too highly bred to escape deterioration under our careless practices." He mentions the Cotswolds as being liked by many, and speaks warmly of the Lincolns as modified by the breeding of the last few years. My own judgment is strongly in favor of the Leicester, not so much on account of my limited personal experience, as on account of the fact that the Leicester is not only the source of improvement to all the other long-wooled breeds, but seems to occupy the same places in the improvement of coarse or combing-wooled sheep for the last century, which the merino has occupied relative to the clothing-wooled breeds, and my experience leads me to look to a possible combination of these two superior breeds or races for improvements in sheep and wool yet to be made. In order to decide which of these kinds of wool is best for any given wool-grower to give his attention to, it is necessary to take into consideration the condition under which they can be best produced. All recorded experience on this point is thus condensed by Mr. Hayes: "The successful production of combing wools is limited to populous districts where there is a demand for mutton and to countries where there is an improved agriculture." He quotes the President of the National Wool-growers' Association as saying that "the Cotswold and Leicester are well adapted to profitable breeding for wool and mutton combined, in situations where the land is rich, not subject to drought, and adapted to root culture, and where good city markets are easily accessible," and being "great favorites with dairy farmers and grain growers who wish to keep but few sheep." Mr. Hayes observes:

"It is somewhat surprising to observe, in view of the importance of the combing-wool manufacture of England how little consideration appears to be given to the qualities or the quantities of the wool produced, the attention of agriculturists being principally directed to the fattening qualities of the animals. The reason is that the best quality of fibre is a necessary consequence of the highest culture of the animal. The early maturity and slaughtering give soundness to the staple, the wool from old sheep being brushy and rough, and the regular supply of artificial food, when pasturage is deficient, prevents that most objectionable feature in poorly-bred

wools—a long, spiry, coarse top, with a fine downy bottom."

The brushy and rough, the long, spiry, coarse top, with a fine downy bottom, the weak spot in the middle of the wool, all have their origin in the same cause—a short supply of food at some portion of the year. It matters little so far as the production of a first-class combing wool is concerned, how long or how short the period of short keep lasts; if it lasts long enough to contract the diameter of the fibre there is a weak spot; if it lasts through half of the year, there is the coarse top and finer bottom, which degrades the staple from the highest combing uses to a blanket or carpet wool.

The first question an Oregon sheep raiser should settle in his own mind is whether he intends to keep his sheep with a steady and abundant supply of food all the year round or not, whatever the season may be. Any man who can and will do that can have his choice of the different breeds, and will, I fancy, find himself best suited with the best of the long-wooled breeds. There is a large portion of the farmers of Oregon who have been breeding toward the long wools, who seem to think (if we may judge by their practice) that they can keep this breed of sheep, subject to the chances and vicissitudes of the seasons, letting them take the natural pasture as it shall be, green or dry, abundant or otherwise. The results generally show a gradual but decided decline in the good qualities of the wool and of the carcass also from the high-bred type of the imported stock. The observation of wool staplers bears testimony to this fact with reference to the wool, and any man of common observation can, if he tries, soon satisfy himself of the fact in relation to the carcass. I am far from believing that this degeneracy observable amongst the generality of long-wooled flocks in Oregon is an unavoidable necessity. I think all the difficulties in the way of the successful production of the best class of coarse combing wool can be and will be removed on at least half of the farms in western Oregon, but, to do so, farmers of our richest lands will have to turn their attention to fallow crops, instead of cultivating bare fallows for production of grain. I am acquainted with some gentlemen who are enthusiastic in the sheep business, who are looking to summer-sown winter wheat and winter oats to meet this difficulty, which undoubtedly will be better than gleaning the weeds from the bare fallow so far as the sheep are concerned, but will the land stand it? However, this is digressing. Assuming that some from careful calculation, and many from mere fancy, will cultivate the long-wooled breed, it may not be out of place to examine which of the prominent breeds offers the best prospect of giving satisfaction. On this point Mr. Hayes remarks:

"The value of the Leicester race for the production of a higher quality of long combing-wool, appears not to have been duly estimated in this country. The report of the Chamber of Commerce of Bradford on wool supply, issued for the purpose of instructing the British colonies and foreign dependencies in the production of worsted wools, is the most authoritative statement as to the most desirable race for the production of combing-wools. Speaking of the Canada wools the report says: 'The bulk of this wool appears to be a neglected Leicester, but is capable of improvement. There is a tendency in some parts to cross the native sheep with the United States merinos, but for the English market we recommend new Leicester rams, so as to impart length, lustre, and soundness to staple.' Speaking of the Turkish wools, it says: 'Crossing with Leicester rams would much improve these wools for this market' and, of the Wallachian, 'Very suitable for the carpet trade; could be considerably improved if crossed with Leicester rams.' Of the New Zealand wool: 'Large supplies of this wool now come to the English market, and very much in favor, especially the long-stapled wools, usually termed the Leicester breed, which, at the colonial sales in London, realize higher prices than much finer wools.' These extracts leave no doubt as to the blood which is in the highest esteem for wool production simply in the principal market for worsted wools in the world. To this it may be

added that the recent experiments of Mr. Lawes, at Rothamsted, established the fact that Leicester rank first in the production of the highest amount of wool per hundred pounds, live weight; after them, in order, are Cotswolds, cross-breeds of the two former, and Sussex, Downs, Hampshires, and full-blooded Sussex, Downs, and Hampshires.

(An English correspondent of the "Country Gentleman," under date of July 8th, writes,—The demand for Lincoln's is very great, one breeder alone having sold upwards of eighty rams already this season, though the trade seldom commences until August. They are mostly purchased for exportation to Australia, Buenos Ayres, River Plate, &c., and are used to cross upon the native and merino grades. It is said they answer the purpose better than any long-wool variety that has been tried, and a large trade has sprung up in consequence.)

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The funeral of the late Edwin Forrest will take place at Philadelphia on Monday next.

Professor Stowe, husband of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, is very ill.

The testimony in the Anderson case to-day resulted in a startling disclosure from Andrew Jackson, former clerk of Dr. Irish, who is accused of poisoning Mr. Anderson. He testifies to putting up, at the request of the Doctor, two packages of arsenic and also a quantity of Paris green, and subsequently the Doctor sent the witness to Buffalo to get him out of the way.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 13.—Yesterday forenoon, during a gale, five pilots left Smithville, thirty miles below here, in a pilot-boat to board three vessels in the offing. After getting well out to sea the pilot boat suddenly disappeared. Nothing has been heard of them since. Two of the three vessels reached the city last night, and reported that they had seen nothing of the pilots.

LATER—The United States revenue cutter Seward, a steam tug and a pilot-boat, after cruising off the Coast nearly all day in search of the missing boat, gave up the search as hopeless. There is no doubt that the five pilots perished.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The Herald published a card from Samuel Sinclair. He says there is no truth in the report that a wish to obtain Greeley's share in the Tribune stock is at bottom of his desire to see the provisions of the will of 1871 carried out. So far as he knows, all are working in harmony. Surrogate of Winchester county has appointed John F. Cleveland administrator of the ad litem estate of Greeley. Ida has deeded Gabrielle half the property left, reserving the right to superintend her education and property until she is of age.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 13.—The Judges of the Seventh and eighth District Courts have ordered their Courts to adjourn over from day to day without transacting further business, until the present political difficulties close. The Fusion Legislature adjourned until the regular session, unless sooner convened by the Governor. A joint committee has been appointed to accompany the Citizens' committee to Washington. The militia refusing to obey Longstreet were ordered to surrender their arms. A hundred metropolitan police attempted to disarm the militia, but finally withdrew. The militia offered to surrender to any Federal military officer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The bondsmen of Colonel Blood, in the criminal suit for libel, surrendered his bail. Blood was re-arrested and is now in the Eldridge-street police station.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Some of the lately arrived Italian immigrants appeared on Broadway to-day, and presented a most miserable spectacle. They were almost destitute of clothing, and looked starved. The city authorities are somewhat alarmed at the arrival of so many of them. The Italian Consul here says all of them have passports from their Government, and that there are no brigands among them.

The proprietors of the Fifth Avenue Hotel published a card saying that they will bear all the costs of the funeral of the victims of the late fire, and will reimburse the relatives of the girls for expenses incurred. The funeral took place this morning, from the Church of St. Francis Xavier. The remains were removed to Calvary Cemetery for interment.

A friend of the late Edwin Forrest says he left all his estate for the purpose of founding an actors' home in Philadelphia.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 14.—General W. H. Smith of the United States Army and Lieutenants Hays and King of General Emory's staff, this morning went to the State arsenal held by the militia, stating that they had instructions from Washington to take charge. The militia at once surrendered the property and vacated the premises. The officers retained their sidearms, which were their personal property.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—John G. Nicolay of Illinois, President Lincoln's Private Secretary, has been chosen by the Judges of the Supreme Court as Marshal in place of Parsons, resigned.

The President has received by tel-

graph a copy of the memorial of the memorial of the Citizen's Committee of New Orleans, setting forth grievances. The memorial was given to the Attorney-General. Information that the committee will start for Washington probably to-day, was received, but judging from what was said this morning by Attorney-General Williams, their mission will be futile, as the General Government will inflexibly support Pinchbeck. The Department of Justice is closely investigating the facts, and is satisfied with the course of the Administration.

General Emery last night telegraphed the President that danger existed of a collision between the police and militia, and asked for instructions. He was instructed in effect not to take sides with either party, but to be in readiness to preserve peace, and to interfere only for that purpose.

Patterson, Senator elect from South Carolina, will find objections to his entering the Senate, made by Republican Senators. The opinion is freely expressed to-day by prominent friends of the administration that the Senate will not admit him.

Attorney-General Ogden, of Louisiana, appeared before Attorney General Williams yesterday in the interest of the Warmouth faction, and in a written argument asked that the President suspend further action in Louisiana until thoroughly conversant with all the circumstances. Attorney General Williams courteously but firmly informed Ogden that all further argument would be useless, that the President had made up his mind to sustain the U. S. Courts, and that it was not likely he would change his opinion.

LOXDON, Dec. 14.—Marine disasters, attended by the loss of life, caused by the late gales, continue to be reported.

The steamer Charene, of the line between Hull and Dunkirk, was lost while en route to the latter port. Fourteen persons drowned.

The ship Rodney, from Quebec for Highbridge, became unmanageable and was abandoned. Seven persons were washed overboard and perished.

PARIS, Dec. 14.—Heavy rains in the northwest department have swollen the streams to an unusual height. Several of them overflowed, inundating the country. A part of the city of Lille is flooded. Many factories have been closed and several bridges entirely submerged. In parts of the country the crops are entirely destroyed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The prospects of the Australian subsidy are better in the Senate than they were last year. Webb, who is here, says the new opposition company organized at Sydney has purchased the steamer Syracuse, dispatched her to Australia to initiate a rival line from Sydney to San Francisco via the Fiji Islands and Honolulu, with £20,000 Australian subsidy.

General Howard has a letter from the Indian country which says that Cochise is using every possible means to acquaint the people of his tribe that he is now at peace, and he has notified other tribes that if any depredations are committed on his Reservation by Indians they shall be punished.

TO CLEAN PAINT.—Use but little water at first; keep it warm and clean by changing it often. A flannel cloth takes off fly specks better than cotton. Soap will remove the paint; so use but little of it. Cold tea is the best liquid for cleaning varnished paint, window panes and mirrors. A sharp piece of wood is indispensable for cleaning out corners. A saucer of sifted ashes should always be at hand to clean unvarnished paint that has become badly smoked; it is better than soap. Never put soap upon glass unless it can be thoroughly rinsed off, which can never be done to window glass. Wash off the specks with warm tea, and rub the panes dry; then make a paste of whiting and water, and put a little in the center of each pane. Take a dry cloth and rub it all over the glass, and then rub it off with chamolis skin or flannel, and your windows will shine like crystal.

SALIVA A CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.—Some one writes to the editor of the Medical Press and Circular that he has repeatedly cured himself of rheumatism by rubbing the affected part with his own saliva. As saliva is too common to become an article of traffic, the new treatment is not likely to become popular.—Proc. Med. Jour.

A New York paper contains this: "Rev. George H. Atkinson, D.D., pastor of the Congregational Church, in Portland, Oregon, has been appointed by the American Home Missionary Society as missionary at large for the State and adjacent Territories."

LEG BROKEN.—We learn that a day or two since, a young man named Cleaver had his leg broken, at Gervais, by the falling of a platform or staging, on which he was at work, moving wheat sacks.—Statesman.