

The Angora Goat.

We have previously touched upon this subject many times, and would not again return to it were it not to notice the conflicting assertions current in the press.

The Cashmere and Angora goats are synonymous. We can but repeat what we recently said: "They have yet to be proved profitable."

We pass the error of nomenclature in the first line of this clipping—it is needless to state that there is no such goat as the "Cashmere."

It will be observed that while the Tribune speaks for the whole country, it has in view more especially the conditions of its own immediate locality.

And while in the Atlantic States goat raising on a large scale may be impracticable, in California, New Mexico and Arizona the climate very closely approximates that of the native home of the Angora goat.

We have no "vast flocks in existence in California," as yet, but we have seventy thousand Angora grades, and a few hundred pure breeds.

We are aware that to derive the greatest benefit from washing, that the fleece sheared be sorted into grades, and each grade kept by itself, to be tub-washed, in distinction from washing the wool upon the sheep before shearing.

First. They are less liable to be poisoned. They eat almost every species of vegetation with perfect impunity.

Second. They travel farther to water and back to feed than sheep; they will graze six miles from water and keep fat, while sheep will not do well over three miles from water.

Third. They increase more rapidly, generally bearing twins, and will lamb twice in a year on good feed, they go five lunar months in gestation, same as a sheep.

Fourth. They yield more than one-half as much wool as the best sheep in the world, and it brings double the price of wool in market.

Fifth. They live one-third longer than sheep under the same treatment.

Sixth. They fatten more readily, are more secure from drought, and will live on brush when grass gives out, thus being very reliable in dry years, when other stock are starving or costing more for feed than they are worth.

To which we may add the greater ability to protect themselves against attacks of animals, and freedom from panic.

Professor Flecker has completed an elaborate investigation in regard to the manner in which arsenic is disseminated by wall paper covered with pigments containing it.

A Market for Angora Fleece.

In this week's issue we comment upon an article from the N. Y. Tribune on the value of the Angora goat and its fleece in the United States.

As is customary when the assortment is ample, the inquiry has been for choice wool, and during the month the supply of such lots has been considerably reduced.

The principal difficulty seems to lie in the small quantity of fleece as yet sent forward. If manufacturers were confident of a full supply of mohair, they would adapt their machinery to its requirements.

Growers should not expect to obtain full prices for low grade, coarse hair, and we are not certain but it would have been better for them to have directed their efforts entirely to the growing of full or pure blood, with no admixture or crossing whatever with the common goat.

Mohair is one of those peculiar products which, to command any price at all above cost of production, must be of the best; no other will answer.

Tub-Washed Wool.

In directing the attention of our wool growers to the Circular of Walter Brown & Son, in our columns this week, we would especially invite their attention to the fact regarding the values of washed wools over the unwashed of the same grades.

Now we would suggest, in view of the great difference in value between washed and unwashed wools, and the high rates of freights ruling between this coast and the wool markets of the East, that a majority of all our smaller wool growers, adopt the plan of washing their wools previous to shipment or sale.

We are aware that to derive the greatest benefit from washing, that the fleece sheared be sorted into grades, and each grade kept by itself, to be tub-washed, in distinction from washing the wool upon the sheep before shearing.

FRUIT IN TIN CANS.—The Boston Journal of Chemistry says: The impression prevails among those who freely use fruits which are put up in tin cans that they are injured thereby, and this impression is in many cases correct.

Wool in New York.

From Walter Brown & Son's Monthly Wool Circular for August, brought down to Sept 1st, 1873, we extract the following:

The wool market for the past thirty days has been characterized by a steady demand from consumers, with values on all grades of the staple well maintained.

As is customary when the assortment is ample, the inquiry has been for choice wool, and during the month the supply of such lots has been considerably reduced.

The present condition of the wool and woolen interests, considering the apparent small available supplies of wool, would indicate a reasonable prospect for further advance in values, and it is evident that many of the speculative transactions which have occurred within the month, are based on this supposition.

Price current of wool at New York, Sept. 1, 1873:

Table with columns for California, Texas, and Tub-Washed Wool, listing various grades and prices.

New Great Premiums for Discoverers and Inventors.

Considering the fact that by the progressive wants of civilization the time must come when there will be no more coal or other fuel to spare to feed our steam engine, and also a great scarcity of nitrogenized matter to manufacture artificial fertilizers which agriculture can not dispense with, and considering that perhaps our grandchildren may already see such calamity that will arrest everything on earth if inventive genius does not come to our help, the Comte de Donbet made, before the session of the French National Assembly, on July 22d, 1873, the following proposition:

Two national premiums are decreed, one of 1,000,000 francs, and the second of 1,500,000, (respectively about \$200,000 and \$300,000.) The premium of 1,000,000 francs to be awarded to the inventor of one or more chemical nitrogenized products made directly and economically from the nitrogen of the atmosphere, being either cyanides, nitrates, or ammoniacal salts, so as to obtain an inexhaustible basis for nitrogenized fertilizers, independent of animal matter, and also realizing an economy of at least ten per cent. over the artificial fertilizers of the present day.

A million and a half of francs will be given to the inventor of the application of any motive power, dynamic electricity or whatever new motor, which may be expansion, circulation, or any other motion of fluid bodies, be adapted to mechanical and industrial progress, locomotion, or traction on rails or ordinary roads.

It is expected that the proposition will be accepted unanimously. The inventions required are very difficult, therefore the danger of having to pay the premiums is not very great; but even if the problems were solved and the premiums had to be paid, it is considered in France to be a very desirable investment, as it would double the fortunes of the country and enrich the whole human race generally, so much so as to reduce a few million francs to such a comparative trifle that a country possessing the inexhaustible resources of France, can easily afford to compensate the inventor with due liberality.

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Polar Regions.

The information developed by the investigation in connection with the loss of the Polar, abounds with facts of much scientific interest. In the first place the cold was not so extreme as had been anticipated.

Not the least interesting were the specimens of drift-wood, picked up in Polaris Bay, among which were recognized walnut, ash and pine. The dip of the needles amounted to 45 degrees; its deviation to 96 degrees.

During the summer the extent of both lowlands and elevations was bare of snow and ice, excepting patches here and there in the shade of the rocks. The soil during this period was covered with a more or less dense vegetation of moss, with which several Arctic plants were interspersed, some of them of considerable beauty, but entirely without scent, and many small willows, scarcely reaching the dignity of shrubs.

The rocks noticed were of a schistous or slate nature, and in some instances contained fossil plants, specimens of which were collected. Wolves, bears, foxes, musk oxen and other animals were repeatedly observed.

We may add that in all probability the results of the cruise of the unfortunate Polaris will not be lost, as it is supposed that all papers were carefully "cached" when the vessel was abandoned.

Crystallization of Wrought Iron.

It has been a question long in dispute, says the Mining Journal—conceded by one authority, and denied by another—that the continued wear on iron, (as in the use of rails), caused a crystallization of the atoms composing the metal, which would sooner or later make the iron brittle and rotten.

A writer in the Artisan agrees with us when he agrees as follows with another contributor to the Artisan: Practically there is no limit to the life of iron, and the crystallization notion is only a theory.

A Gas-Propelled Boat.

Mr. William A. Leggo, of Montreal, Canada, is the author of a novel method for propelling vessels, designed especially for canal boats, to overcome the difficulties of horse towage.

FREE ANALYSES.—The Paris School of Mines receives and analyses without charge mineral specimens of all kinds, from soils to metal works of art. In five years, from 1868 to 1872, the number of such analyses was 2,916, or an average of 583 each year.

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A LADY of Greeley, Colorado Territory, has abandoned the needle for the plow, and has done plain sowing to the extent of eighteen acres of wheat. She had formerly been accustomed to sewing tears.

A GREAT ENGINEERING FEAT ACCOMPLISHED IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.—The two center sections of the arch between the western abutment and the first of the bridge, each consisting of an upper and lower rib, were completed, September 18th, by the insertion of the key or center tubes, and that portion of the arch is now finished, demonstrating the feasibility of the original plans, and its success is regarded as one of the greatest triumphs of engineering skill the world has ever seen.

CARBOLIC soap and water is recommended to destroy mildew on roses, to be applied by sprinkling.

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BY OTHER AUTHORS.

The Quartz Operator's Hand-Book; by P. M. Hurdall, 1871. Revised and Enlarged Edition. Cloth bound, 175 pages. Price, \$2.

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