

Education in Oregon.

St. Helen's Hall and the Bishop Scott Grammar School.

Though one of the youngest States in the Union, Oregon is by no means behindhand in the matter of education.

St. Helen's Hall

Is one of the finest educational institutions north of San Francisco. It is on Fourth street, between Madison and Jefferson streets.

The institution has fine conchological and botanical collections, and in the latter special attention is paid to the botany of the coast.

The institution is entered from Fourth street, and the visitor is at once ushered into a spacious hall, which leads to the first of the large class-rooms.

Adjacent is a pleasant, well-lighted sitting-room, on the left of which, forming a kind of L, is the teachers' room, the view from which, looking out over the broad, placid Willamette, the youthful city, and the fertile valley that is finally seen to lose itself among the romantic mountains of the south, is peculiarly grand and imposing.

The faculty are as follows: Rector—The Right Rev. B. Wistar Morris; Principal—Miss Mary B. Rodney; Assistant Teachers—Miss Lydia Rodney, Miss Lydia H. Blackler, Mrs. Mary B. Clopton, Miss Catherine C. H. Burton, Miss S. E. Boyd, in charge of the Musical Department—Miss Clementina Rodney; Teacher of Music—Miss C. A. Yarnley.

Bishop Scott Grammar School.

Bishop Scott Grammar School is a boarding and day-school for boys, and as a preparatory institution for entering on a course of professional studies in its way, unrivalled. It has been established only quite recently, in 1870, but already gives promise of a great and prosperous future.

The grammar school has attained to such perfection that the scholars can now be advanced as far in their studies as they could be in the second or third years of a collegiate course.

The officers of the school are: Right Rev. B. Wistar Morris, Doctor of Divinity, Episcopal Bishop of Oregon and Washington, Rector; R. W. Laing, M. A., L. L. D., Head Master; Rev. D'Estain Jennings, M. A., Senior Master; W. M. Baker, B. A., Junior Master; Miss I. A. Bass, P. eceptress; Edward T. Coleman, Drawing Master; Richard T. Yarnley, Music Master; R. B. Anderson, Drill Master; Rev. D'Estain Jennings, M. A. Chaplain; Miss Maria Emery, Matron.

The Two Institutions.

These two institutions are representative in their character and are so efficiently conducted and so complete in their every department, as to cause some wonder, that a single religious denomination should be able to support them, and in so young a State, even though it be the vigorous and go ahead one of Oregon.

From the S. F. Pacific Rural Press.

Grapes—Best Varieties.

From the Rural Press.

EDITORS PRESS:—In your last issue we noticed an article under head of "Grape Cuttings," asking information as to the best varieties of grapes for raising, and the best early and late grapes for market.

THE SHEEP FOLD.

The Poetic and Prosaic Sides of Sheep Husbandry.

From the Pacific Rural Press.

EDITORS PRESS.—The wool growers of Los Angeles propose to deal directly with the wool manufacturer. Who that has read the *Bucolics* of Virgil, has not been charmed by the glimpses he gives us of a shepherd's life!

"Tityrus, you, recumbent beneath the shade of a spreading beech, meditate your rustic muse on a slender pipe; we abandon the boundaries of our country, and pleasant fields; we fly our country; you, O Tityrus, at ease in the shade, teach the woods to resound fair Amaryllis." Then the poet after painting this pas-

per cent. commissions are paid and only seven per cent. interest is charged on advances. This item alone, is worth annually many thousands of dollars to the wool producer.

We are now having a fine rain, and the farming prospects were never more flattering in this country. JOHN SHIRLEY WARD. Los Angeles, Jan. 17th, 1874.

Angora Goats in Oregon—Information Wanted.

EDITORS PRESS:—As I suppose there are more of the Angora goats and their grades in California than any other State in the Union, I propose, through your paper, to ask the breeders what is the matter with my goats and what is the remedy.

In Sept., 1873, I purchased of Thomas



ST. HELEN'S HALL, CORNER FOURTH AND MADISON STS., PORTLAND, OREGON.

Butterfield & Son, of California, thirty graded ewes and one thoroughbred buck. From twenty-nine ewes, last spring, I raised thirty-eight kids, saved ever kid that came, had no trouble with them at all, only to have the boys watch them one week to keep them from going off into the brush to browse their kids there.

Every goat owned her young and they all prospered finely, with the exception of two of the old ones, which the dogs killed soon after they had their kids. The kids began to come on the 9th of March last while grass was abundant.

How many persons have formed their ideals of

toral scene, spreads before us the bill of fare, which is so unlike that of the California shepherd, that we must quote it.

"Here, nevertheless, you can rest this night with me upon the verdant leaves. These are to us mellow apples, soft chestnuts and plenty of pressed milk."

In only one line does the poet hint that the life of a shepherd is not one of rural quiet and dreamy repose. He does say that "sheep are always an unhappy flock."

How many persons have formed their ideals of



BISHOP SCOTT GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PORTLAND, OREGON.

the shepherd's life from the pastorals of Virgil! We remember years ago, to have sat beneath the tall poplars of our boyhood's home, with a copy of Virgil in hand, while in the distance lambs gambled over the green, and all Nature, in her holiday attire, seemed to effervesce with poetry.

We are not certain that in those dreamy days of our life, we did not at times, like Virgil's shepherd Corydon, throw away to the mountains and woods our love songs to some fair Alexis over the hills. This was the poetic side of sheep husbandry, and it is the only side ever seen by those who have not learned from actual experience that there is a dark, very dark background to this picture.

The life of a real shepherd is one of loneliness and toil. It is a mistaken idea that a lay man can make a shepherd. To be a good shepherd he must be all activity and life; he must turn his back on society and live within himself; he must follow his flock amid the snows of winter or the burning heat of summer. When night comes, no voice of wife or prattling children greets his return from the fold. His horizon of thought is bounded by himself; his mind, removed from contact with the world, soon begins to prey upon itself, till, at last, in many instances, he has lost his reason, and finds a home in the insane asylum. He cannot recline under the "spreading beech" if he did, his flock would be scatt red, or, perchance, be corralled by some small farmer, who thinks he can make more by capturing a herd of sheep than his crop is worth. He cannot, like the ordinary laborer, have an occasional holiday, nor can he quit his flock on the Sabbath, though he might be near enough to hear the village church bell calling him to the house of God. These are some of the troubles of the shepherd's life. Yet, with all these self-denials, there is a fleece more golden than that of Colchis to every one who brings to the business energy, prudence and judgment.

The wool growers of Los Angeles county met on the 15th, to organize a Wool Growers' Protective Association. A temporary organization was effected, and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution, preparatory to a permanent organization on the 29th inst. The convention was largely attended and much interest was manifested in the object and aims of the meeting.

One of the main objects of this association is to do away with so many middle men between the wool grower and the manufacturer. Under the present system, San Francisco gets the richest part of every fleece. The wool producer pays his merchant in San Francisco 2 1/2 per cent. commission, and from 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 per cent. per month for any advances made upon his wool. This heavy tax can be obviated, by shipping direct to New York or Boston, where the wool has eventually to go, and where less than two

oil manufacturers in this city are willing to contract in advance for as much as the farmers of the State are likely to raise this year.

Thus, not only on account of the relative immunity of the seed from rotting, but also because of the promise of a certain market, flax is well worthy the attention of farmers.

Flax.

From the Pacific Rural Press.

The rains this season have been abundant—too much so, it would seem, in certain localities. Here and there we learn of farmers who have felt unwilling to put in wheat, on account of the sudden condition of the ground, which, it is feared, would rot the seed planted, and thus disappoint expectations of a good, or even moderate stand.

We have before alluded to flax as a remarkably sure crop, and even at this late hour repeat the suggestion that it is likely to do well on lands which are made by the weather unsuited to wheat growing, or where the result is dubious. In spite of the many well known difficulties and vexations of raising and marketing a wheat crop, this is still undoubtedly the leading article of produce in the State.

We, as Californians, have ever taken pride in the full, plump grains of our great cereal, and its recognized superiority abroad has been a source of great profit in years past and probably will be for years to come. But we must not lose sight of the danger and disadvantage of depending so largely upon a single staple. Even where the ground is in favorable condition for putting in wheat, there is always an open question as to the comparative superiority of some one other crop, and flax is certain to be a strong competitor for the favor of the farmers.

It has long been urged, not only in California but wherever agriculture is made a matter of study and systematic calculation, that where the soil, other conditions being similar, is equally adapted to the growing of many products, as great a variety should be raised as possible. Thus, if from any unforeseen cause, one crop should fail, others may succeed; or if it happens that the world's market for one staple is over supplied, others may bring fair returns.

Now as to flax. It is certain that there will be a constant and steady demand for flax seed, if not for the fiber, for some time to come. The farmers of the State are likely to raise this year. Thus, not only on account of the relative immunity of the seed from rotting, but also because of the promise of a certain market, flax is well worthy the attention of farmers.

Ramie.

The nursery of Mr. Finch at Haywood, Ala needs county, proves the complete adjustability of our climate to the growth of ramie.

The plants are now 7 feet high, in February, and it is the most severe winter we have had. On Twitchel Island in the San Joaquin river is a plantation of 20 acres, which last year yielded two cuttings. The weight of stocks to a cutting is astonishing; not less than 40 tons to the acre, salable at \$5 per ton. Two cuttings therefore bring \$400. But if the stalks be passed through a brake (now in use), when taken green from the field, the raw fiber commands 30 cents a pound. D. H. Craig of New York offers to buy all the raw fiber our State can supply, at a contract price to be fixed for 5 years. He will set up a machine wherever wanted, by which he reduces the raw fiber, so that what he buys at 30 cents becomes valued at \$4 per pound. This process reduces one ton of 30 cent fiber, to 80 pounds superfine. There remains a very large proportion for which uses are being found. After cordage, bagging, rope, etc., paper suggests a means of clearing up the remainder. The outer bark makes a beautiful fixed green dye, if one may judge by the impression on the hands of the workmen. The pith of the stalk contains a salad oil of peculiarly pleasant flavor; certainly those who have tried it pronounce it superior to olive oil, and predict for it a great demand. Further experience may modify this report.

The leaves of ramie make a great tonnage, and probably they may make paper-stock. If they do, the quality will most likely resemble Japanese paper in toughness and in silky texture.

There is yet a valuable and very interesting product, the first which the plant yields in the earliest spring-time. The young sprouts of ramie will vie with asparagus, as a delicious table vegetable.

We earnestly commend this textile plant to the consideration of agriculturalists on this coast. Rules for cultivation are usually found where the plants are for sale.

It is easy to keep a field of ramie in order, when once established. After the first year, the ground is so covered with the spread, that little attention is needed. The plant is perennial. If the soil has not a moist bottom, we imagine that irrigation will be indispensable after cutting, to give the second growth a fair start.

The acknowledged necessity for alternation of crops, will induce our farmers to examine the claims of this textile plant upon their attention. From the S. F. Rural Press.

WIND-MILLS AND HORSE-POWERS.—One of the best evidences of the growing demand abroad for articles of California manufacture, is exhibited in the fact that recent shipments of wind-mills have been made from one establishment in this city to Costa Rica, Central America, to the Sandwich Islands, and to Australia. At the same factory there is also in process of construction a large wind-mill, destined for some place in Mexico, while but a short time since wind-mills and horse-powers were forwarded from the same place in the opposite direction to Oregon and to Puget Sound, showing a wide range of territory looking to our mechanics for supplies. Mr. W. I. Tustin the builder of these mills, is no novice in this line, having pursued the business here and in this vicinity upwards of twenty years. His factory, at the corner of Beale and Market streets, presents a lively and business-like appearance, and is fitted up with ample facilities for finishing the work under his immediate supervision, having for the purpose the necessary machinery of his own. S. F. Rural Press.

MINES ON GOAT ISLAND.—A Washington special says: "A very singular petition has been presented in the Senate by M. C. Sprague, and referred. It was signed by E. C. Curtis, Mrs. Bebra, A. Lockwood, and Hattie J. French. They pray for permission to excavate to the depth of twenty feet, more or less, on Goat Island, in San Francisco bay, belonging to the Government, for the purpose of making mineralogical and geological investigations, and to use the language of memorialists—to remove therefrom some minerals supposed to be there deposited, of which we possess a description, to do this without molestation or outside influence, on condition that the earth therefrom removed shall all be again replaced. The island will be left as found, and no damage be really committed. Mr. Lockwood is an attorney at law in this city, but the names of the other two petitioners do not appear in the Washington Directory."

Tree Ferns from Sandwich Islands.

EDITORS PRESS:—In reference to a notice published in the PACIFIC RURAL PRESS a short time since, on the tree ferns and other useful and ornamental trees and plants, imported by us from the Sandwich Islands in large numbers, it may interest the readers of the RURAL to learn some interesting particulars in regard to the various plants, indigenous to those islands and adapted to our own country.

The tree ferns, which are found on the islands, consist chiefly of three varieties of pulu-ferns, the botanical names of which are *Cibotium glaucum*, *C. Chamissoi* and *C. Menziesii*. In general appearance they are not unlike the popular *Dicksonia*, to which they are closely allied. The pulu-fern furnishes the commercial pulu, a substance consisting of silky, fibrous hairs, growing about the base of the frond (leaf) stalks of these ferns, and is used for stuffing mattresses. Several tons of this pulu are annually exported from the islands, at a fair remuneration. These ferns grow upon sidehills at an elevation of about one thousand feet above the level of the sea, and they are hardy in our California climate. For ornament, nothing could be introduced into our gardens with a more pleasing effect; and if planted in quantities, they would also become useful in furnishing the pulu. The (leaves) fronds measure from 10 to 12 feet in length, and form a most striking object of beauty and grace. The pulu-fern trees, which we have received, are in size from six inches to four feet high, and are now developing their new fronds rapidly. All are doing well.

Several other tree-fern varieties are found upon the islands, such as *Alsophila decurrens*, *Cyathea medullaris* and *Debaria prolifera*, all of which are most desirable decorative plants and well adapted to our climate.

Three varieties of Skrow palms (*pandanus*) are found on the islands, also wild ginger, *Tara* (*Colocasia esculenta*), the roots of which furnish an excellent food for the inhabitants, while the leaves are used as a vegetable; this *Tara* could be grown with good success in our low lands, particularly along our rivers, creeks and springs; the Mango, "Native Apple" (so called), the Solomon Vine, the Tree Violet, the Banana, all are found in great luxuriance and contribute largely to the comfort and to the wants of the inhabitants.

It is our intention to introduce all the more desirable plants, trees and shrubs of these islands, comparatively little known to us, into California, and we are thoroughly convinced that some permanent good will come from our various importations. More of this hereafter. MILLER & SKYWAY, Nurserymen. From the S. F. Rural Press.

More Alfalfa Experience.

From the Pacific Rural Press.

EDITORS PRESS:—Although but a recent subscriber to your valuable paper, on reading an article in your issue of February 7th, by "C. O. A.," I felt as though I would like to say a word to him and others on alfalfa. Some may think the question is being "run into the ground." I wish it were so in fact; for small farmers there is nothing like it, especially those that have means of irrigating.

My experience is as follows: On the 12th of March, 1872, I sowed one and a half acres on ground which for eighteen years had been seeded to wheat. The surface soil is light loam, sub-soil adobe, surface water 20 to 25 feet. A good plant came, and not having it fenced, stock fed it to the ground, then horses "went" for the roots and pawed to a depth of four inches, which treatment killed about half the plants and left my patch looking like a young hog wallow. The following spring I went over it with a harrow to level the hillocks. I did not sow any seed, as I should have done, on the bare places. In the latter part of April, '73, I cut two tons of hay from the patch, notwithstanding the gophers harvested rather more than their share. During summer and fall, I kept two cows on it, but it seeded well this winter, and I find a good portion of the bare spots well planted. Some of the oldest roots, cut off by gophers, seem to have the vitality of the dock or horse radish. Though the gophers have been very bad, I expect to double the quantity of hay, and pasture a cow or two a month longer.

Many farmers in this valley object to alfalfa because it draws gophers and makes the land hard to plow. To the first I would say, use good oats and water. The second objection is, after a field of alfalfa is well set, it would be so profitable that no farmer would have it plowed up, especially small farmers, who I consider should diversify their operations by being able to produce probably a few cows, calves, sheep, hogs, poultry and hay, which I believe can be done by having small fields of alfalfa.

"C. O. A." wishes it were possible to get clear seed. There is plenty of it! I would refer him to D. Farnham, of Woodland, Yolo county, who will guaranty good and pure seed.

After reading "Hagar" on Chinese Labor, I would ask, why not have our Granges take up the question, and import house help from the Eastern and Southern States, where it is said there is plenty of it to be had, willing to work in California at from \$8 to \$15 per month? In that way it would improve their condition, help the Chinese question, and best of all, would save the health and life of many of the best women in California. A. R. W. Santa Clara, Feb. 9th, 1874.

The New Era in Farming.

The good old days, of which we hear so much, have passed away. It is questionable whether they are to be regretted; more than certain that they are not, so far as farming is concerned. The good old days of one-horse, happy-go-lucky agriculture are indeed over. There was a time when the motto would seem to be, to do as one's father had done, until by repeated experiment and multiplied failures one learned better; to receive on no account any information whatever, and to keep to oneself, as much as possible, any discovery made.

The tendency now is quite opposite, and as liberal and far-sighted in policy as the other was narrow-minded and retrogressive. It is the great object with farmers to facilitate intercommunication and exchange of useful knowledge, rather than to shut out the news and keep at home the improvements. No sensible farmer fears that by announcing to his neighbors methods of getting over certain difficulties or of accomplishing certain ends, he is thus encouraging a set of men, put upon his own plane, to compete with and injure him. He knows that for every single hint given out by him, in return he receives many; and that as he is benefited by others it is only fair to reciprocate so far as he is able. The truth is, that there is no class of men so cordially willing to impart information, so mutually helpful, so neighborly, as the farmers.

This state of feeling is in turn the cause and the result of the agricultural papers, the books, the Farmers' Clubs and the Granges. Without the generous instinct these instruments of progress could not exist, and it is itself fostered, finally, by its own offspring. From the S. F. Rural Press.