

The Wool Industry.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, March 1, 1874.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I trust you will pardon a stranger at such a distance for offering an expression of views for the consideration of your readers upon a matter of your local interest. A sincere desire to stimulate what I believe a most important branch of your industry must be my apology for the liberty taken.

I notice in the Supplement to the FARMER of the 7th of February an interesting article on "Manufactures," in which was intelligently discussed the industrial policy of your State. And the impulse was strong with me to add evidence to the ground taken by the writer of the article on the value of your wool crop as an important element in your industrial economy.

Having spent many years in the manufacture of wool into broadcloths, cassimeres, flannels, shawls, blankets, and many varieties of mixed goods as well as plain fabrics, as have my family for a generation before me, using the wools of the Middle States, of Australia, and the Cape of Good Hope, of Mexico, Spain, and Silesia, as well as the wools of your Western coast, we do not hesitate to give preference to the wool of Oregon for a large portion of the American demand. Its uniformity of length and strength of staple, with less loss in fiber while manipulating in the various processes of manufacture, the direct influence of a climate not subject to extreme variations of heat and cold and those great droughts which in many countries so materially arrest the sound, vigorous, and continuous growth of animal fiber and tissue. The thoughtful person at once recognizes the fact when stated that a long dry season which subjects sheep to insufficient feed for many weeks when they cannot be shifted to higher lands and new pastures, must necessarily affect the character of the fleece and consequently its value, much as we observe in the Cape and Mexico wools. I can not say too much in favor of this important natural point which you have, and its direct influence upon the character of the wool upon your coast, more particularly in Oregon. I well remember the character of blankets which were exhibited at the World's Fair in Paris in the years of 1866 and 1867 which were manufactured from the wool of your coast, and although very finely made, yet they possessed an elastic, flexible softness yet firmness, which evidenced a natural qualification of the greatest value in the formation of woollen fabrics. I met only yesterday a very successful manufacturer of this region, with whom I used to be associated in the manufacture of cassimeres, and while discussing business prospects, I referred to the class of wools on the market, and spoke of wishing to visit Oregon and become acquainted with their wool culture; he at once said, "It is the best wool I find, and the most profitable purchase I make, and I propose to look for it first hereafter." I cannot but feel that Oregon is destined to make her production of wool not only of greatest importance as a raw product, but as the concentration of natural products into the manufactured article, it is an element in overcoming the drawback of transportation which draws from the profits in moving to the great trade centers; so manufacturing, using your own water power, and feeding a large population, in effecting this concentration upon your own soil, is destined to assist in overcoming the great drawback to which I have referred. I cannot urge too strongly, even upon your wonderful soil, the business of sheep husbandry, and the production of wool, the fine character of which is one inducement, but still of most importance, the keeping thereby the constituents of your soil intact, while the shipment of wheat and grains will in the end leave most assuredly its gloomy mark. No matter how bountifully the natural bank is supplied, constant checking, as the constant shipment of your grains to foreign countries, with no return or renewal of the soil, will bring to your notice the incontrovertible law of compensation which governs the universe. And could your readers go with me through many portions of the old country where their products have been shipped to France and England instead of a moiety being returned to the soil, and then go through Belgium and Holland, where law compels an ample return by feeding and burning upon the soil, they would be convinced of the value of an early caution.

Yours truly, THOS. S. LANG.

Cold Weather in the Klamath Basin.

We take the following letter from the Jacksonville Sentinel:

TULE LAKE, MARCH 3, 1874.

The end is not yet of the stock suffering and mortality in this region; in fact it has just begun to assume huge proportions. I have been conversing with some cattle men and they estimate the loss will reach fully forty per cent. of the cattle in this part of the country. Almost all of the five thousand sheep which were driven in here last Fall are already in a state of untrobbled rest. From Linkville down to the South end of Tule Lake, a distance of about 45 miles, there still remains about 15,000 head of sheep which were in good condition at the beginning of winter. These

will get through with a loss of not more than two to five per cent. Just think of the difference it makes in commencing the winter with fat and lean sheep. From sad experience I know something of the difference, and I expect that Uncle Jesse Applegate does too, as I hear that he has lost 1,800 head already.

There have been some very cold and disagreeable snow storms lately, the wind changing from one point to another with surprising ease and rapidity. The distressing lowering of the starving cattle as they pass from one hill to another, seeking shelter from the cutting winds and drifting snows, mingled with the mournful croakings of the ravens as they fly around the dead carcasses, presents a death scene from which I long to escape, and I shall start for your beautiful and peaceful valley in a day or two.

If people think they can take sheep into Eastern Oregon and see them multiply and fatten without any exertion on their part, and that money will thus flow into their pockets while they roll in the shade of the junipers, they will find it a romance as false as it is fair; but if they will use energy and skill in selecting good browsing ranches for winter quarters there can and will be millions of dollars made in Southeastern Oregon on wool and mutton.

Yours truly, FELIX SCOTT.

The same paper, March 14, says:

Quite a number of citizens of the Klamath Basin have been in attendance on Court. They report the trip a rough one in the extreme, there being eight feet of snow on the Cascade mountains and the weather cold. They bring only confirmation of previous reports concerning the distress of cattle and sheep men in that region. Nearly all will lose more or less of their stock, and in cases whole bands will perish. They bring the report also that Jesse Applegate, after freezing hands and feet in attempts to save his stock, had finally been compelled to abandon the herd to their fate. The Applegates will doubtless be heavy losers. No word reaches us from Goose Lake Valley. We have no doubt, however, the storms prevail there also, and much loss in stock will also be suffered in that locality.

Our Duty as Farmers.

A Lecture read before Umpqua Grange, by Thomas Smith.

When we look around among the different avocations of life, we find every trade and profession has its organ or journal to promulgate its principles and to give information respecting its advancement and improvements so that all may be benefited thereby. There is no merchant, trader or business man that attempts to carry on business without his journal to acquaint him with the rise and fall of the article with which he deals, so that he may know just when to sell or buy to the best advantage. You do not see on the merchant's table or in his counting room any works on Agriculture, neither do we on the lawyer's, doctors or divine's, but you go to the houses of four farmers out of five, and you will find—if any reading matter at all, and the most of them read more or less—one or two political newspapers on the table, and books in his library on this subject and that, but not a paper or book on the business he has followed for a livelihood. Talk to him about taking an Agricultural paper, and he will tell you he cannot afford to take one, and if he did he had no time to read it; yet he can afford to take one, two, or more political papers, and find time to read them, and to stand at the corners of the streets and the public houses and talk politics. Brethren, this is not right. Is farming so simple that the farmer needs no instruction? Is it so perfect that there is no improvement to chronicle? Is there no improvement in stock, in our cereals, in our fruits, in our modes of cultivating the different kinds of soil, in our Agricultural implements?

As to the simplicity of farming, Judge Buell, one of the earliest and ablest American writers on Agriculture, said it required as much talent to become a successful farmer as it did to be a successful lawyer, doctor, or divine; and I am well satisfied that it is so. If a young man starts out with the intention of learning a trade or studying a profession, he turns all his mind and energy on the one subject, if he expects to be come perfect in it. But how different is the life of a farmer! He has a vast variety of subjects to study, more especially if starting on an unimproved farm. In the first place, the proper selection for his dwelling house, barn and out buildings, so that the location may be the most convenient for the purposes of the farm. Then, again, there are the different kinds of soil to be studied and experimented with, so as to ascertain what kinds of seeds to sow thereon with the surest prospect of obtaining a remunerating crop therefrom.

What is the reason there is so little correspondence from actual practical farmers in our agricultural papers? Is it because the farmers are not doing any practical work in trying experiments, &c.? Or is it because the farmers, as a class, do not feel themselves qualified to note their experience and put it in such shape that it is fit for publication? I fear the latter is the cause, and it will continue to be the cause as long as our brightest and most talented young men are selected by their parents to fill the learned professions. Why not teach them good, thorough, practical farming? Agriculture is a set, practical and the most ennobling of all sciences, and the very foundation of all other sciences. Suppose Agriculture from some cause or other should fail for one year, what would become of the principal portion of the inhabitants of the earth? They would die of starvation. Then, if agriculture is so essential in the economy of the world, why not educate our sons and daughters to fill the most

Independent stations allotted to man?

The fact is, Brethren, if we expect to cope with politicians, we will have to educate ourselves by reading and studying. We all have more or less time wherein we can gain knowledge of the world as well as of our business. As I have stated above, agriculture is a science, and the time is coming when the science will have to be studied the same as other sciences, if any pecuniary gains are made thereby. It is the duty of every farmer to take at least one agricultural paper; we cannot afford to do without it. Our wives want it, our children want it, and we need it ourselves. The paper published the nearest to our place of residence is, generally speaking, the best adapted to our wants, owing to the climate and soil being more nearly the same; therefore, I would urge upon every Granger in this hall, and, if I could reach them, every farmer in the State that does not already take it, to take the WILLAMETTE FARMER. By so doing, you will aid the publishers, so that they can get up a better paper at the same cost, and you will help yourselves more. Owing to the present spirit of the times, there is no man that can afford to bring his children up in ignorance, and if we have to educate them, why not educate them both practically and theoretically in the very business that three-fourths of them will have to follow for a living? We have had too much politics; the country is nearly ruined by it. Let us, in the future, study our own and the country's interest, and let the politicians take of themselves.

The following resolution was offered by W. W. Brooks at the late meeting of Rock Point Farmers' Club, and was adopted, but was mislaid by the Secretary:

Resolved, That, as the offices of Sheriff and Clerk are the bone of political contention among the wire-workers of this county, we hereby pledge ourselves to the support of competent and trustworthy men who will obligate themselves to faithfully discharge the duties of said offices for a consideration not to exceed three thousand dollars each per annum, the excess of which to be given to the County School Fund.

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ERRORS CORRECTED.—All subscribers are requested to carefully notice the dates on the tags, and, in case of errors, please notify this office, and we will cheerfully rectify the same.

If we at any time send statements of account which are not correct, we desire to know it.

Willamette Farmer.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY, BY CLARKE & CRAIG, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS, S. A. CLARKE, D. W. CRAIG.

Terms of Subscription.—All subscribers are requested to carefully notice the dates on the tags, and, in case of errors, please notify this office, and we will cheerfully rectify the same.

THE MARKETS.

San Francisco Market. San Francisco, March 18.—Flour—Superfine, \$5.25 25 for shipping lots; extra; \$6.25 for jobbing. Wheat—Scarcely anything doing. Barley—Feed, \$1.50; malt, \$1.60; coast brewing \$1.60; bay brewing, \$1.60. Oats—Medium to choice feed descriptions, \$1.50. Wheat in Liverpool—Average California, 12s 5/8; Club, 12s 1/2.

SALEM MARKET.

MONETARY. LEGAL TENDERS, buying, 98c; selling, 91c. FLOUR, GRAIN &c. Wheat, best white, \$5.00; extra, \$5.25; No. 1, \$5.00; No. 2, \$4.75; No. 3, \$4.50; No. 4, \$4.25; No. 5, \$4.00; No. 6, \$3.75; No. 7, \$3.50; No. 8, \$3.25; No. 9, \$3.00; No. 10, \$2.75; No. 11, \$2.50; No. 12, \$2.25; No. 13, \$2.00; No. 14, \$1.75; No. 15, \$1.50; No. 16, \$1.25; No. 17, \$1.00; No. 18, \$0.75; No. 19, \$0.50; No. 20, \$0.25.

GROCERIES. Sugar, San Francisco refined, \$12.00; Island, \$10.00; crushed, \$10.00; powdered, \$10.00; granulated, \$10.00. Tea, Japan, \$10.00; Imperial, \$10.00. Coffee, Costa Rica, \$10.00; Rio, \$10.00; Santos, \$10.00; Java, \$10.00. Salt, Carmel Island, per cwt., \$1.00; Liverpool, coarse, \$1.00; Bay, \$1.00.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, &c. Apples, green, \$5.00; dried, \$5.00. Peaches, dried, \$5.00. Plums, \$5.00. Beans, \$5.00. Potatoes, \$5.00. Onions, \$5.00. Cabbage, \$5.00. Carrots, \$5.00.

BUTTER, EGGS, &c. Butter, fresh rolls, \$5.00; packed, \$5.00. Eggs, \$5.00. Cheese, Oregon prime, \$5.00; Land, \$5.00.

OILS, &c. Lined Oil, bottled, \$5.00; raw, \$5.00. Lard Oil, \$5.00. Coal Oil, \$5.00. Nantucket Oil, \$5.00. Tallow, \$5.00.

WOOL, HIDES, &c. Wheat Sacks, Liverpool burlap, extra, \$5.00; seamless, \$5.00. Hides, dry, each, \$5.00. Deer Skins, dressed, \$5.00. Sheep Skins, wool on, each, \$5.00.

LEATHER, &c. [Corrected by J. W. Gilbert, dealer, Salem.] Harness Leather, \$5.00; Saddle Leather, \$5.00; Bridle Leather, \$5.00; French Calf, \$5.00; Cal. and Oregon Calf, \$5.00; Kip, \$5.00; Santa Cruz Sole, \$5.00; Hides, dry, \$5.00; Deer Skins, dry, \$5.00.

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J. C. SHELTON, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, SALEM, Oregon. Office, front room on second floor of the N. O. Parish brick, Commercial street. Residence, northeast corner Front and Division streets. Being a graduate of the Physio-Medical, or Currie College, Cincinnati, Ohio, we are purely reform in our practice, discarding alike both mineral and vegetable poisons.

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