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Oregon Wool and Its Improvement.

Mr. Editor: I see in the FARMER of July 24th that some of the California papers have found, or think they have found, that the present year's clip of Oregon wool shows deterioration as compared with former years. This is not the first time that California papers have made note of such tendency on the part of our wools, and I wish I could say that I thought the charges are baseless now as they have been on some former occasions; but without desiring to be understood that I believe the wools we produce now show a general deterioration, I think there are too many causes at work to produce such a result in many instances and in localities of sufficient extent to make it noticeable. It will be remembered by those who have watched the changes of popular favor, in regard to the best breeds of sheep to rear for wool growing, that some eight years ago the general preference set very decidedly in favor of the long-wools, mainly Cotswolds and their grades, and that class of sheep were very generally used to improve(?) the common sheep that formed the basis of operations in wool growing then commencing on the east side of the Cascades.

I wish I could say that it was only amongst inexperienced new beginners in Eastern Oregon that such was not the case. There were too many flock owners west of the Cascades who became infected with the long-wool fever, and some of these infused that blood into flocks which had made considerable advances toward the fine-wools, by the use of good Merino bucks. But most of those who did so were men who owned but few sheep, took little interest in their permanent improvement, and from having formerly used poor grade Merino bucks, which they could get for \$5@10, or perhaps in exchange for a wether, and thought they were improving when they dropped the shabby looking small and thin Merino grade and put the longest-legged, longest-framed, long-wooled grade in the place in their flock. To all these classes of wool growers, with but few exceptions, the results have been deterioration of their wool, and generally of the animals bearing it. The wool grower east of the Cascades, who thought his pasturage was so abundant that his sheep could not be too large, as well as the less considerate scrub stock growers on this side, have each found their mistake.

The farmer has found that succulence as well as abundance is necessary to keep the long-wooled sheep up to a good standard of fleece. That to take sheep of this kind of first quality (and many such have been tried) and place them in large flocks to feed on dry, wiry grass, the tendency is constantly and certainly towards dryness and harshness in the wool, and to legginess in the animal, with the yield steadily diminishing in weight of fleece from the first (which is the best) and getting lighter and more open on the ewes, until at five or six years old, after a dry summer, and having a lamb in mid-winter, she loses much of her wool and frequently her life.

I do not mean to be understood here as saying anything against the growing of combing wool; here the wool grower understands and can give requirements of its successful production; but do mean to say that many who have tried that class of sheep in Oregon during the past six or eight years have failed, for the reason that most of them have not the conditions of a constant supply of succulent feed at command, and when to the lack of this is added the untimely production of lambs, bringing the ewe to the lowest condition of existence in mid-winter, we have all the cause of deterioration, both of the wool and the sheep, that we need to make wool growing unsatisfactory.

A young gentleman who has just visited my flock for the purpose of selecting some bucks for next season's use, furnishes a good illustration, by his experience, of both the causes of deterioration I have mentioned. He started four years ago with four hundred head of common ewes, and bought the largest grade long-wooled bucks he could get cheap. He has farmed his sheep out on shares, placing them in lots of 100 head in a place, as near as he could. His flock numbers now but little more than 600; and this past season the loss by death of ewes by having lambs in winter has been such that his flock has not increased, and half of the wool came to but \$300. The young man seems perfectly satisfied of the causes of his failure, and is now starting towards the Merino, choosing vigorous, stocky bucks to counteract the leggy tendency of his ewes; and is binding the parties to whom he lets his sheep to keep the bucks apart from the ewes until the proper season, fully believing that if they will do so, all

parties concerned—the flock owner, the sheep farmer and the wool buyer, will have greater profits from their investments, of which I have not the slightest doubt. J. MINTO.

FROM JACKSON COUNTY.

A Citizen makes a few Suggestions upon the School, College, and Swamp Land Subject—Etc., Etc.

JACKSONVILLE, July 30th, 1874.

MR. EDITOR: I have been requested to write a communication on the land question, and as I am not very well posted outside of Jackson county I hardly know where to begin.

I will say in the first place that our county has a large amount of school, college, and swamp lands, possibly more than any other three counties in the State. A branch office at Jacksonville for Jackson and Josephine counties is badly needed, such an office can be made self supporting as the fees that the land purchasers would have to pay, would stand off the cost of sending moneys to Salem, and a purchaser would much sooner pay a few dollars in the shape of fees, than to pay an attorney to write out his papers and send them to Salem. It would be much cheaper for the land purchaser and would cost the State nothing extra.

I further am under the impression that there should be another office at Portland for the counties of Multnomah, Washington, Tillamook, Columbia and Clatsop, and the counties of Wasco, Grant and Umatilla might be added to the La Grande district and it would be well to move the office to the Columbia river (the Dalles) making all these offices self supporting.

Leaving the middle counties to the clerk of the board, who would have time to have all deeds promptly signed, sent from the different officers, and returned to the several registers, he receiving a small salary if the matter could be fixed in that way or it could also be supported by a small fee. At all events, expenses should be curtailed as much as possible. MOREAN.

Agricultural Society of Union County.

A meeting of this Society was held, as we learn from a La Grande paper, on the 18th. Present, J. L. Caviness, President; J. T. McComas, D. A. McAllister, Directors; E. S. McComas, Secretary. Being the Annual Meeting, the Society proceeded to election of officers for the ensuing year. J. L. Caviness was unanimously re-elected President. The best way to harmonize local interests and quiet sectional jealousy was discussed. J. A. Childers and D. A. McAllister were elected Directors; John Bertman, Secretary; C. Goodenough, Treasurer. The Directors were instructed to make the necessary arrangements for holding a County Fair during the latter part of September.

The following Committee was chosen by the vote of the stockholders to prepare a list of premiums and prepare the necessary printing for the next County Fair: F. Shoemaker, B. S. Hally, E. S. McComas, T. H. B. Green, H. J. Gear, and said committee ordered to meet Saturday, August 1st, at 10 o'clock A.M. to report.

The utmost good feeling seemed to prevail and it was determined apparently by all hands to make the coming Fair a complete success.

Weather Record for July.

Thomas Pearce, of Eola, furnishes us with a complete weather record for the past month from which we collate the following facts: During all the month there was only one slight sprinkle of rain, which occurred on the 3d, but made no perceptible mark upon the rain gauge. On the 2d, 3d, 6th, 7th, 20th, 21st and 24th the prevailing winds came from the south; there were 8 cloudy and 23 clear days during the month; the mean of temperature ranged from 60° on the 3d to 75° on the 24th, averaging 67° 7' for the entire month. July, 1873, had 4 rainy days and a rain fall of .55 inches, it possessed 24 clear days, 3 cloudy days, 4 rainy days; mean temperature for that month was 62°, against 67° 7' the present year, the lowest 51° on the 15th, the highest 72° on the 28th. July, 1874, seems to have been the warmest and driest of the two.

Testimonial of Respect.

CANYON CITY GRANGE, P. OF H., GOOD TEMPLARS' HALL, CANYON CITY, July 18, 1874.

WHEREAS, It has pleased an All-Wise Providence to remove by death our Worthy Chaplain, Bro. Thomas Hardy; therefore be it Resolved, That in the death of our Worthy Chaplain, Bro. Thos. Hardy, this Grange has lost an efficient officer and worthy member; and while we deeply mourn our loss, we would offer our heart-felt sympathy to our bereaved Sister and the fatherless children. Throwing around them all the protection in our power; bowing ourselves in humble submission to the will of the Great Master of all.

WILLIAM HALL,
E. S. PENFIELD,
Committee.

The Next Legislature.

We have compiled from the official returns in the office of the Secretary of State the lists which follow of members elect to the Senate and House of Representatives in the next Legislature. With the aid of the Secretary, Hon. S. F. Chadwick, and Hon. B. H. Giltry, we have made a classification of the members to show their political standing, but the delegation from Multnomah is partly Independent, without being so in the same degree as the Independents elected from other counties. They were Independent candidates as opposed to the regular Republican ticket.

This is the first correct Legislative directory yet published.

STATE SENATE.

Baker County—J. W. Wisdom D.
Benton—J. B. Lee R.
Clackamas—John Myers D., Jas. W. O'Field D.
Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook—S. H. Smith R.
Cooks and Curry—G. Webster R.
Douglas—J. F. Watson R., W. F. Owens I.
Grant—W. H. Clark D.
Josephine—E. N. Tolon D.
Jackson—J. S. Herren D.
Lane—W. W. Bristow I., R. B. Cochran D.
Linn—S. D. Haley D., Thomas Munkers D., T. P. Goodman I.
Marion—M. L. Savage D., Joseph Eggle R., J. A. Richardson R.
Multnomah—J. N. Dolph R., J. S. Van Cleave I., Sol. Hirsch R.
Polk—R. S. Crystal I.
Union—Sam Hanna R.
Umatilla—C. L. Jewell I.
Washington—T. R. Cornelious R.
Wasco—E. Barnes I.
Yamhill—Wm. Townsend D., J. C. Brady D.
Benton and Polk—A. M. Witham R.

Democrats are Wisdom of Baker, Myers and O'Field of Clackamas, Tolon of Josephine, Herren of Jackson, Cochran of Lane, Haley and Munkers of Linn, Savage of Marion, Townsend and Brady of Yamhill, W. H. Clark of Grant.—12.

Republicans are Lee of Benton, Smith of Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook, Webster of Cooks and Curry, Watson of Douglas, Engle and Richardson of Marion, Dolph and Hirsch of Multnomah, Hanna of Union, Cornelious of Washington, Witham of Benton and Polk.—11.

Independents are Owens of Douglas, Bristow of Lane, Goodman of Linn, Van Cleave of Multnomah, Crystal of Polk, Jewell of Umatilla, Barnes of Wasco.—7.

The hold over members of the Senate are Myers of Clackamas, Webster of Cooks and Curry, Watson of Douglas, Tolon of Josephine, Bristow of Lane, Dolph of Multnomah, Hanna of Union, Cornelious of Washington. Only 8 hold over and 22 were elected last Spring.

In Washington county P. G. Buford was voted for as a candidate for State Senator, and received 589 votes and it is understood that he will contest the election of T. R. Cornelious, who holds over and was elected to represent Washington, Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook, and holds over, specifically, by the act which created Washington into a separate district. Cornelious' seat seems secure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Baker—J. C. Wilson D., G. C. Chandler D.
Benton—James Bruce I., James Chambers R., W. J. Kelly R.
Clackamas—Henry McGugin D., J. M. Reed D., P. N. Noyer D., S. P. Lee R.
Columbia—J. S. Ryness I.
Cooks—J. D. Dully R.
Cooks and Curry—H. Blake R.
Douglas—Geo. Riddle I., J. C. Drain I., D. W. Stearns I., Thomas Ledgerwood I.
Grant—Bart Curl I.
Jackson—J. P. Van Riper D., W. J. Plymale D., Thomas Wright D.
Josephine—W. W. Fisher D.
Lane—A. J. Doak D., Richard Hays D., J. D. Matlock D., John McClung R.
Linn—Henry Shelton D., A. W. Stannard D., G. F. Crawford D., Frank Shedd I., Joseph Lane I., Jonathan Wasson I.
Marion—F. X. Mathieu D., David Simpson R., William Darr R., C. A. Reed R., W. Cranston R., A. N. Gilbert R.
Multnomah—Jacob Johnson I., R. S. Jewett I., Raleigh Stott I., William Cornell R., J. M. Gearin I., R. P. Kelly R., J. M. Scott R.
Polk—W. C. Brown I., S. L. Butler I., David Stump I.
Clatsop and Tillamook—W. Dean R.
Union—D. Wright D., W. W. Ross R.
Umatilla—W. M. Steen I., J. A. Florence I.
Washington—James Partlow I., U. Jackson I., Thomas Roe I.

Wasco—Robert Mays I., E. R. Dufur I.
Yamhill—William Galloway D., E. C. Bradshaw D., Lee Langhlin R.

Clatsop county voted for Joseph Jetter believing they were entitled to separate representation, but this claim cannot stand, as the constitution limits the number of representatives to sixty, and that number is full already.

The complexion of the House is as follows: Democrats—Wilson and Chandler of Baker, McGugin, Reed and Noyer of Clackamas, Van Riper, Plymale and Wright of Jackson, Pidler of Josephine, Doak, Hays and Matlock of Lane, Shelton, Stannard and Crawford of Linn, Mathieu of Marion, Galloway and Bradshaw of Yamhill, Wright of Union, 19.

Republicans—Kelly and Chambers of Benton, Lee of Clackamas, Dully of Cooks and Curry, McClung of Lane, Simpson, Darr, Reed, Cranston and Gilbert of Marion, Cornell, Kelly and Scott of Multnomah, Dean of Clatsop and Tillamook, Ross of Union, Langhlin of Yamhill, 17.

Independents—Lane, Shedd and Wasson of Linn, Johnson, Jewett, Stott and Gearin of Multnomah, Brown, Butler and Stump of Polk, Steen and Florence of Umatilla, Partlow, Jackson and Roe of Washington, Mays and Dufur of Wasco, Bruce of Benton, Ryness of Columbia, Riddle, Drain, Stearns and Ledgerwood of Douglas, Curl of Grant, 21.

We learn that the seat of Bart Curl, of Grant county, will be contested by George Reynolds, the Democratic candidate. The vote stood Curl 212, Reynolds 199, and Curl's seat will be contested on the ground that he is ineligible under the clause of the constitution that requires one year previous residence in the county as qualification for membership of the Legislature.

Australian and California Wools.

Calling at the Woolen Mills the other day, the Agent, John F. Miller, gave us permission to read and make extracts from letters just received from the California agent of the mills, to whom they had written making inquiry about Australian wool. We quote from his interesting statement the following particulars:

"The latest quotation here for Australian wool is 40c per lb, laid down here, duty paid, for the best greasy wools, good staple, not entirely free from burr, and would shrink not less than 55 to 60 per cent, and as high as 65 per cent. The crop begins to reach market in October and lasts until February.

In 1872, when California wool was 50c P. B., the Mission Mills sent an agent to Australia and made large purchases. A portion of which they worked in their mills here, and the balance of which they shipped to New York, and on which they made a considerable loss. The portion kept here they were a long time in using, only putting into the finest and choicest goods they made, and working with fine California wools. In 1873 and 1874 the receipts here of Australian wool were very inconsiderable. The experience of the Mission Mills was not such as to induce them to continue their importations. The shrinkage of the Australian wool is quite as much as on our fine California wools. The staple of the finer descriptions of California wool is sufficient for the best grades of goods now being made by our local mills and they cost much less than the Australian."

A Boston wool retailer, of July 18, just received at the mills here state that the prospects were for a firm price for wools, as the bulk of the stocks are already in the hands of manufacturers, and holders are confident that a good price will be realized for what is left. The balance of the clip in the west is held for extreme prices and talk of concessions was useless.

COUNTY COURT.

MONDAY, August 3d.

Applications to sell real estate belonging to minor heirs of William L. Mascher deceased. Citation ordered to next of kin and all persons interested to appear before the Court at one o'clock P. M., Monday, September 7th, to show cause why leave should not be granted.

TUESDAY, August 7.

In the matter of the guardianship of Alice and J. E. Malone, minors, M. B. Magors, guardian: Citation ordered, requiring said guardian to appear before the Court on Wednesday, August 5th, 1874, at 11 o'clock A. M., to report his doings and proceedings in connection with said guardianship, and make settlement with said Alice Malone, arrived at her majority.

The first issue was printed 410 years ago this day.

Shall the River be Improved?

C. P. Burkhart, representing a committee of citizens appointed by the Linn County Business Council, P. of H., and the city of Albany, is now on a visit to our city to ascertain what the citizens of Marion and Polk counties will do toward securing immediate improvement of the difficult places in the channel of the river, to make it navigable, at least as far as Albany. Mr. Burkhart is well known as an old settler and successful farmer. He is President of the State Agricultural Society, and is a man of energy and enterprise. In this matter he represents the great county of Linn, which is always ready to forward important enterprises of a public nature, and has already inflated this work of improving river navigation by paying for such a survey of the river as shows the possibility of effecting the improvement to navigation at a comparatively small figure of cost.—It is estimated by Capt. Smith that less than \$20,000 will suffice to do the work of clearing and improving the channel as high up as Albany. He superintended the very heavy work done on the Canal and Locks, is conversant and experienced in regard to river improvements, and is ready to take immediate hold of the work if the money can be secured to pay for it. The amount is small when divided among the million bushels, or more, of wheat that can be thus benefited, and, if assessed on 1,000,000 bushels, would amount to but two cents per bushel, and would save at least three times that amount.

The way in which this fund is to be raised is for farmers to sign an agreement that on or before the first day of October next they will deliver, at some place specified, a certain amount of wheat, to be sold by said Committee, and the proceeds thereof be appropriated for the purpose aforesaid.

This committee consists of C. P. Burkhart, W. F. Alexander, and R. A. Irvine, on the part of the Patrons of Husbandry, and J. H. Mackleman and Thoms Monteth of the City of Albany. These gentlemen are all well known and fully deserve the confidence of their fellow citizens everywhere, and the farmers of Linn, Benton, Polk, and Marion can well afford to contribute the small sum required to carry on this work. "The Lord helps those who help themselves," is a worthy proverb we can all heed to advantage. Our farmers and merchants and millers, as well as the transportation companies on the river, can divide the required amount between them and secure the desired end. We can thus ascertain if river improvement can be made to permanent advantage, and determine the best course to pursue in the future. We cannot afford to let the enterprise go untried when Linn county has already done so much and stands ready to do so much more.

Some idea of the saving of expense can be gathered by the fact that the W. R. T. Co. is willing to contract that if the navigation is improved to Albany, its boats and barges will transport wheat from Albany to Astoria, direct, for 11 cents per bushel, and store it free of charge for three months, if the shipper cannot sell to advantage sooner. No freight bill will be presented until the wheat is sold or shipped. It costs 14 cents per bushel to ship by railroad from Albany to Portland. The man who ships from Salem can save five cents a bushel or \$50 on a thousand bushels, and every man interested can afford to give his reasonable share, especially when the present terms are proposed.

We understand that Mr. Minto will assist Mr. Burkhart by visiting the various Grades of Polk to arrange for a canvass of that county, and Mr. T. L. Davidson will operate on a like plan in Marion county. The intention is to raise the tax on by Saturday, the 15th inst., and then arrange with Capt. Smith to immediately commence the work.