Retrospective Glance at the Merino Breeding Interest.

MR. EDITOR: I suppose it is always pleasant to a person who fore-casts the future in any given case, to find that circumstances justifies prediction and establishes as a fact what is foretold. It is with some degree of satisfaction that the writer pow looks back at the history of the introduction of the Meripo race of sheep into Oregon; and while I occupy the space for a brief review of that history, I will here disclaim any desire to awaken any of the "feeling" that manifested itself against the breed in days past, when I thought I saw the certainty of their proving very generally adapted to Oregon. According to a certificate in my possession, on the 31st of March, 2560, Rollins J. Jones and S. B. Rockwell, of Addison county, Vermont, sold to Joseph Holman and J. L. Parrish, of Salem, seven head of thoroughbred Merinos for \$1,700; at the then, to us, unheard of prices of \$500 for a buck, \$275 for mature, and \$100 for yearling ing ewes. There had been Merino sheep imported previously-some as early as 1851from Ohio, as I others from Lustralia (1858); but it was the Jones & Rockwell importation that opened the war of opposition to them as a breed, and for a year or more the controversy over the subject was decidedly hot.

During its centinuance we had the speciacle in more than one instance of those who knew literally nothing about cheep themseives, attempting to show who did, how egregiously they were being elicated, when spending their money for such sheep. It mattered not to such men, even if they had known, that the breed of sheap they were writing down, had been for centuries hold as a monoroly against the commerce of the world by one of the most jealous and powerful of netions in it; that kings and rulers had used all the arterof diplomacy to become possessed of these golder florced sheep, taking great part in the acquisition, without much regard to the money cost: that its imreduction had built up nations and was, as it yet is, the chief source of the growth and prosperities to large communities occupying extensive countries.

The close of the war caused a very general depression of wool growing interests, and the Merinos, as bearers of the best clothing wools, felt the depression in the greatest proportion. Added to that was the rise and rapid growth of combing wool manufactures in the United States, enhancing the rising popularity of the combing wooled breeds of sheep, which, for awhile, took the lead in the amount of attention given to them by breeders. Pure blooded Merinos receded in price, a'most down to the level of common sheep in many districts of the Atlantic slope, and even in Oregon they were offered at as low as \$10 per head, in selected lots without fluding buyers. Since that thing (4867-8-8) wool growing interests have returned to their normal conditions, and the Merino race still keeping the power within itself "to improve the wool of every race of sheep with which it is crossed," is decidedly in the ascendant again, and that without any special excitation of warmth of advocacy by its friend a but seemingly by the experimental proof of its good qualities congisering its apposers, amany who were such formerly now being amongst its friends. portion. Added to that was the rise and

State Printer's Compensation.

Our Legislature seems sensitive on the point of paying our Supreme Judges sclaries which every tax-payer in the State thinks just and reasonable, and has gone to work to deprive those officers of part of their income. This may be right, I do not propose to argue the point at this time; but it does seem strange that the Legislature should make a dive at the salary of the Supreme Court Judges, and make no move whatever toward the reduction of the compensation of State Printer-the most glaring and deliberate swindle on the tax-payer of any law on our Statutes.

I say the law as it now stands is a deliberate swindle, because when the Legislature enacts that the people shall pay from two to five times as much to one person for the performance of a mechanical or any other kind of job for the State as the same aind of work can be done for by private parties, it becomes undoubtedly a swindle upon the tax payer. When the present law was passed, wages for printers were just what they are now-off cents per 1000 ems, or \$1.00 per day. The Legislature knew it, and anything which was allowed the State Printer over and above the foregoing figures, save a reasocable profit on the work performed, was deliberately swinding the tax payer out of just so much money rightfully belonging to him.

That the outrage perpetrated by this law may be more easily seen, I will make this assertion: That if Mr. Walte, or any other practical printer, had had the State Printing from the time the present law was a depted (1850) until now, he could pay for the completion of our new State flouse, fence in the block, ornament the grounds-all from the profits on State Printing, and still have enough left to pay him a handsome profit on the work performed by kim.

I know that job printers in this State are taking contracts to print pamphlets and simliar work at the rate of 50 cents per 1,000 ems, and seldom do they bid higher than to cente, relying for profit by hiring their hands by the day instead of the thousand. Now if the relying for profit by hiring their hands by
the day instead of the thousand. Now if the
bill printing of the Legislature were let over
to the lowest responsible bidder, the State
would have to pay not to exceed 20 cents per
1,000 ems, 60 cents per token for press work,
and about \$3 per ream for paper. The bill
work is notoriously fat, and a printer could
make good wages at the above figures. By
letting the contrat, a similar saving would
take place in folding, stitching and binding.
If the Legislature proposes to continue the
office of State Printer, let them fix the compensation of the officers at not to exceed 75
cents per 1000 cms, 75 cents per token for
press work, and paper a fair profit on its
cost—rule work, figure work, and rule and
figure work, to be in proportion to the above
rate for composition.

1 cannot believe that the present Legislalature, being composed largely of men who
have the interests of the tax-payers at heart,
and who have been elected on reform platform, will allow this State Printing bungbole remain open.

The School System.

The intellectual and moral should keep pace with the physical developments of the State. This can not be done without a system complete in all its parts and perfect as a whole. We can not find such a system made to our hand, for the reason that our surroundings are not identical with those of any other State. We must work into a system suited to our circumstances. This can not be done without a governing head, a man whose futy it is to watch and examine the p: actical workings of the system in each county separately in the State, to test its merits, note its defects and suggest from time to time, needed improvements. A Superintendent of Public Instruction is, therefore, a necessity to the full development and success of our common school system.

No officer in the State can render more valuable aid and service to the people. nor earn his salary with more profitable labor. An immense work lies before him, a work not to be accomplished in a single term. He must make himself familiar with the condition of the schools, the wants of the people and the details of the present system; he must collect data from the field in person entering the schools, counseling with the entering the schools, counseling with the teachers and conferring with the parents, before he can hope to master the grand problem of educating the people. In this progressive age moving at lightning speed we are apt to become dissatisfied with an effort which does not reach the proposed end at a single bound. This fact perhaps, more than anything else, has given rise to some restlessness in reference to the statute separating the office of Superintendent from that of Governor; and yet the proper estimate of the magnitude and importance of the work of a Superintendent would show that it is impossible for the Governor to give to it the requisite time. The Governor's office is already to much encumbered with too many special services relating to other departments to permit him to give truch attention to this most important interest of the people. The Superintente of our schools should employ the best talents and command the most active, energetic efforts of the best men in the State. And one such should devote his time to it. Norstate in the Union has been able to make a common school system a success without a State Superintendent. Oregon is not likely to prove an exception to the rule. It is to be hoped the time may never some when such an experiment may be tried.

A VOICE FROM PORE COUNTY. teachers and conferring with the parents, be-

LARGE CONTRACT .- Mr. J. B. Forsyth, of the Capital Mill Lumbering Company, returned home from San Francisco last Wednesday, and reports the demand for hardwood lumber in that city good. He contracted with the Palace Hotel Company for 250,-000 feet of oak, the same amount of ash and of maple. He also made several smaller 62 pieces All Wool French Merino, 70c contracts to turnish hardwood lumber for cabinet making. The mill commenced vesterday meening to saw oak, and the first shipment on the new contract will be made next 22 pieces French Silks, from \$1.30 pr yd Soab, aveek. As soon as the river raises sufficiently to float logs, the mill will probably run night and day.

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN. -- Mr. James Eendershott informs us that S. M. Black an old and much esteemed resident of La Grande, Union county—and former County 2,220 yards Blk Alpacas, from 25c pryd. Parasites that infest Sheep Cerk of that county-died at that place on the 22d inst., and was buried by the Masonic Praternity on the following day. Squire Black once lived in Marion county, near Mctteville, if we are not missaken, and will be well remembered by old residents. He perioved to La Grande in 1882.

d 1KD,-One of Mr. Wm. J. Herren's sons received last evening a dispatch from him sisted at the Cascades, stating that he was on his way home with the remains of his infant daughter Ella. Mr. and Mrs. Herrin left been a few weeks since to visit their sons in Destills county and are now hastening some with their deceased child. The are apected to-day.

Sprious Accessor. Yesterday afternoon Rev.al. L. Parrish met with a serious accid wit. He was standing upon the platform of DOUBLE WIDTH SHEETING a 'run tadder, when the ladder gave way pr seip tating him to the ground. In falling his left side and small of the back came in constact with the edge of the platform and altitude in bones were broken, it is feared that he is seriously injured internally.

10-4 lb. Gray Blankets,

ACPSC NYMENTS .- Governor Graver ap poin ted as Notaries Public yesterday Mr. T. C. Il ydeof Baker City for Baker county and

Markets

There is little that is new is regard to comn orcial affairs.

We have beard it said by one who under- Large Stocks of stands himself very well, "the price of wheat is knocked down now because the farmers have put up freighs." In other words the farmers have concluded to sell for what they can get, which creates a demand for tonnage and makes freight charges higher than they need to. Just so much as freights go over HATS AND CAPS, ETC., all or all he, the price of wheat goes down. That is a problem the farmers can furnish s solution for, as they please.

Saleer mills pay 65 cents now for what wheat they buy, and the reliable quotations at Portland are \$1 40 per cental equal to 90 cents saoked and charges paid there.

In stanta groceries we note a rise in syrup; quotations now range in Salem 85 to 90 cents per gallon.

Coffee has declined to 24 to 26 cents for Costa Rica.

Vegetables and fruits are abundant at low figures. Apples 25@371/2c, potatoes 35@40c, tomatoes bookitse, onions 75621 00.



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English Bankrupt Stock.

450 Reversible Ottoman Shawls, \$2 50.

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\$10 dozen All Linen Towels, 81 per dozen English Bankrupt Stock.

220 dozen All Linen Napkins, Si per dozen English Bankrupt Stock.

70 pieces Unbl. Table Linen, 35c per yard English Bankrupt Stock.

84 pieces Bl'ch'd Table Linen, 60c per yard English Bankrupt Stock. 800 pieces Mi Linen Crash, 10c pryd

English Bankrupt Stock. 73 pieces Real Welsh Flannels

English Bankrupt Stock. 600 English Toilet Spreads

English Bankrupt Stock. 340 Colored Reversible Spreads.

English Bankrupt Stock.

English Bankrupt Stock. 120 dez Iron Frame Hose, \$2 pr doz.

English Bankrupt Stock. 60 doz. White & Gray Corsets, 50c each. English Bankrupt Stock.

45 pieces Scotch Tweeds, 75c pr yard. English Bankrupt Stock. 30 pieces West of England Broadcloth.

English Bankrupt Stock. 75 pieces All Wool Fine Empress Cloth, 50c per yard.

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English Bankrupt Stock. 320 French Felt Skirts.

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English Bankrupt Stock. 3,800 yds Fancy Dress Goods, 25c pr yd.

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18 CASES BEST AMERICAN PRINTS, By the Piece, at 9c per yard.

14 Bales Cabot A.

By the piece, at 101 cents per yard.

3 CASES

By the piece, at 22½c per yard.

70 PATRS (\$3 50 per pair.

45 PAIRS

T. G. Owen of Marshueld for Coos-county. 11-4 MISSION BLANKETS, \$5 per pair.

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sold to have enabled as to have a large drawing on the
illet July, but a short postponement was considered
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