

MOHAIR MANUFACTURE.

Letter from W. M. Landrum.

WATSONVILLE, CAL., Jan. 6, 1875.

I send you by this mail contents of a letter from Hull & Turner, mohair manufacturers, which contains some points of vital importance to the farmers of Oregon. While we do not rely on this firm for a market for our mohair, we are none the less benefited by their practical suggestions, knowing them to be true. Owing to the identical difficulties mentioned in his letter, we find Philadelphia to be our best market for mohair; there they have different factories, that work any and all classes of mohair. For a small breeder to sort close and ship to different points, would make his shipments too small and cause too much trouble. We are negotiating our clip with a new firm in Philadelphia, which can use all grades. The following is an extract from one of their letters: "Yours of the 17th inst. is at hand, with samples, which I have examined, and find the 1-breed fleece sufficiently fine for the manufacture of Plushes, and I think that 2-breed fleece will be suitable for common grade plushes which are mostly used for car seats, etc. The kids' fleece will be used for making an imitation of seal skin; it is used for cloaks and walking jackets. When properly colored, it can scarcely be detected from the real fur. My patent loom is for weaving a pile fabric, and will make a pile of any height, and will weave fine plush or heavy carpets, and all I want to make a success of plush and seal skin is the MOHAIR, and if you can produce it like the samples sent me, in quantities, you can get a market and a good price, as there is a heavy duty on the imported article."

This firm is backed by the Corn Bank of Philadelphia, and proposes to work one thousand pounds per day after June next. They expect to import a large proportion of their mohair for the first season, but hope to get supplies at no distant day from the Pacific coast. We deem this the most successful move yet made for the consumption of American mohair. This firm can use very kempy mohair, and, as all grade goats are kempy until they are well bred up, American mohair must of necessity be kempy, or that portion that is shorn from low-grade goats. The breeders will observe in Mr. Turner's letter, the difficulty in working kempy fleece in to dress goods, and the sooner breeders understand how to judge mohair, the sooner we will breed out the kemp and be able to compete with Asia in the markets of the world.

One very encouraging phase in the Angora business on this coast is the fact that the heavy capitalists are buying up the goats. Poor men generally do the prospecting and experimenting, but wealthy men are always on hand to suck the game. E. R. Marsh, of San Francisco, has recently invested twenty-seven thousand dollars in Angora goats, also Wm. Hall, of San Jose, lately purchased a lot of eleven thousand four hundred and eighty dollars, and C. S. Abbott, Flint, Bixby & Co., and B. Boswell have bought up all the stock of the Guadalupe Island Co., except about three hundred shares, and the stock held by Landrum & Rodgers. These men represent several millions of dollars, and mean business, in goat-raising.

W. M. LANDRUM, JAMESTOWN ALPACA MILLS, N. Y., October 9, 1874.

Mr. W. M. Landrum—Dear Sir: Your samples of mohair are certainly very fine, but we suppose it to be of more than a single year's growth, in reply to your request for samples, we can only say we have as yet completed none. We have only secured one small lot and it is now under process of manufacture, when it is finished we will send you samples of it.

There are difficulties to overcome in California fleeces, I will state some of them frankly:—

1st. First all sorts are shipped together in the same bag. When the fleeces are sheared each grade should be put up by itself, the good cannot by any means be made to sell the poor, unless at a considerable loss—say sufficient, to pay the double transportation of the poor a long distance. You will find you say 10,000 to 20,000 pounds at Kitchings Bros. Yes, and we won't send an experienced sorter 500 miles to look his stock through for such as we can manufacture, for we can only use the best sort in our business. We must go in to his warehouse unsock it, at our expense, for Messrs. Kitchings Bros., have no one about them who understands anything about the article, so that by the time that we lay it down in our factory, it costs us more than Liverpool mohair, sent to us in bales, just exactly like samples sent previously.

2d. There is no established market for the Noils in this country, and for the same reason the Noils of one-half breeds are utterly worthless. The full breeds furnish a Noil that helps pay for the fleece, only a small mixture of one-half breed Noils destroys, or lessens, a suitable full breed Noil.

3d. There must be a better acquaintance between the breeders and the manufacturers. The breeder can only reap the full measure of success, when he is criticised by an intelligent, friendly manufacturer. There are so many little things that detract from the value of mohair, that a breeder can never find out for himself. Thus, if the kemp is shallow (short), it will comb out; if it is deep (long), it can only be picked out by hand, thus making two samples looking exactly alike—widely different in value.

4th. Not until within a month could we warp fine enough to weave them in be produced in this country. 1-1/2 now cost in this country \$2 per pound. We can import it and pay the duty for \$1 65 per pound. There is more hope now of the warp men than the breeders—that is, they respond quicker to our requests. We state these difficulties frankly, because you can, if you feel disposed, help us to remove them.

We propose to show the breeders what we

can do, which will be in four or five weeks and then rest until we see what they are disposed to do.

Mr. Turner has had an experience of thirteen years in the best mohair factories in Bradford, England, and has been in this country about one year and has never seen the face of a single breeder, we cannot spare him from the establishment to make long journeys, and they are slow about visiting him. Two hours with him would shorten the time between now and a perfect success by a considerable time.

Our success does not depend on mohair. We have, I assure you nice Orleans, Glans and Poplins, and can in these dull times sell all that we can make, it would not therefore be prudent for us to transfer our entire business to a new and untried line, without knowing whether we could make it a success or not. We will send you sample of goods made from Cotswold fleeces, which costs us here now from 55 to 80 cents per lbs.

Yours, respectfully, HALL & TURNER.

WHAT CAN OREGON EXHIBIT? No. 2.

Mr. Editor: In the several classifications for the coming Centennial Exhibition, department four comprises furniture and manufactures of general use in construction and dwelling. Group forty of this department consists of cabinet, drawing room, parlor and chamber suits, office and library furniture, etc. Group forty-five of the same department comprises sash, doors, blinds, wainscoting, ceilings, mantles, etc. Until recently it has not been supposed that Oregon produced any lumber fit for use in these departments, and almost all our fine furniture and ornamental cabinet work was imported or manufactured from material brought from the East. But in this, as in almost all other natural resources, it is being demonstrated that our State cannot only compare favorably, but is superior in native ornamental and valuable finishing wood to any other part of the world.

Perhaps this assertion will be deemed extravagant by some, but to such we would say: You have only to visit the office of Shindler & Lowenstein, of this city, to see specimens of cabinet work manufactured from the curl maple of Oregon as well as from a score of other ornamental woods of Oregon growth, superior in texture, density, variegated grain, and susceptible of receiving a higher finish than any mahogany, black walnut, rose or satin wood imported into the State.

Wm. McAllister, of Philadelphia, importer and manufacturer of fancy cases for parlor musical instruments, declared specimens of Oregon curl maple we presented him while in that city superior in every respect, for beauty of finish, to the celebrated ornamental wood from the black forests of Bades, which is imported at a cost of several hundred dollars per ton; and the same opinion was expressed by the late J. Edgar Thompson relative to using Oregon curl maple for panel work in the manufacture of the Pullman palace car.

If we still feel disposed to doubt the superiority of our Oregon finishing lumber we have only to visit the Palace hotel of San Francisco, where the best judgment and highest attainments in the art of construction has been employed without regard to cost or extravagant expenditure, to erect a building superior for beauty and elegance of finish to any hotel on the American continent; and there we shall find the doors, ceiling, castings, wainscoting, flooring and panel-work, tastily manufactured from Oregon lumber, shipped from our own wharves and cut at our own mills.

And shall we still hesitate and ask what can Oregon exhibit, while our forests abound with untold millions of timber, which, for finishing lumber and ship building purposes, would challenge the admiration of the whole world? While our curled maple and laurel, our myrtle and cedar, our ash and yew-wood, our dog-wood and oak, are capable of receiving a finish superior to variegated marble, and of being manufactured into specimens of furniture that might well be coveted by a king?

Even if our mosses, ferns and lichens were carefully selected and classified, scientifically arranged and exhibited in group 13 of department 1, they would do honor to the donor and be a credit to our State.

A. J. D., PORTLAND, Jan. 3, 1875. Commissioner.

FROM WASCO COUNTY.

Mr. Editor: Notwithstanding we are "out in the cold," it has not been so cold as to freeze our ink so solid but that we can thaw it out; neither has it frozen our pens so tight but what we can extract coin enough to pay for the WILLAMETTE FARMER. \* \* \*

Up to this time the winter has been very light so that stock has had no difficulty in getting plenty of grass in locations where the grass was not grazed off during the summer. The roads are in good condition and no difficulty is experienced in teaming to the Dalles. Our mail carrier makes his regular trips, and the world with us moves steadily on. The snow is so light on the summit between Oheoco and John Day's as not to embarrass travel in that direction; and I am inclined to think that there would be but little difficulty in traveling from here to Goose Lake. So you see we are not entirely shut out from the world. We are living in hopes that we will soon get an outlet to the East by means of a railroad from Eugene City to Winnemucca, and to this enterprise every live Oregonian should be wide awake, for his own interest and the State at large.

Yours, JERRY LUCKEY.

Clara Lee Duff, a Frenchman, died suddenly by the bursting of a blood vessel in Portland last Tuesday evening.

A SEASONABLE SONG.

Wherever you go lies the beautiful snow Its myriad crystals are blended together To give earth its mantle of true winter weather;

It humbles your pride and it makes you feel meek As it whirrs in your face so and buffets your cheek.

'Tis a sharp, stinging blow, deals the beautiful snow.

So bend yourself low while the frolicsome snow Whirls down and about in the winds fretful wrath,

Or falls at your feet to encumber your path; Clings to your garments in atoms as light As if wind-driven fingers were robbing you white,

For pure white you know is the still-falling snow.

Bright flowers are laid low, and sleep warm neath the snow.

Daisies and buttercups, pansies and clover Bloom and perfume those we love shall bend over;

Narcissus and jonquills, lilacs, lily and rose Mind not the snow fall or when the wind blows,

But promise to grow when the spring melts the snow.

On the streams frozen flow lies the unmelting snow.

Hal! Brooklet, it has thee all night in its clasp; It is bridging the river with crystalline grasp. The oaks bow their branches as trimmed by the sprite,

The hillsides are dressed in a bridal white, And with beauty the snow robes all things below.

Who then can know how and whence comes the snow?

The cold touch of frost making you and I shiver;

Drops its breath from the cloud, lays its hand on the river;

It waits 'til the sun in the far south hangs low,

Then sends us the ice and the wonderful snow,

And winter is dressed with the ice and the snow.

But never forget that the ice and the snow Bring sorrow and famine to homes of the poor,

We know not the misery such may endure, While we have warm hearths, be our hearts also warm

To shield other homes from the desolate harm That silently lurks in the deathly cold snow.

SALEM, January 13th, 1875.

IMPROVED MERINO SHEEP. The Past and Present.

Mr. Editor: Many long years ago men told me I was paying out too much money for high priced Merino sheep; a friend demonstrated when here on a visit, he said as I then had about 100 high priced ewes that I had better stop for I could not find a dozen of my neighbors to buy 1 ram each. To this I replied, this continent is large and that I did not care if any were sold in this country. Since then I have paid considerable money, during the last 15 years, my purchases having averaged some \$2,000 per annum and yet with this added to those I have bred, I have found a fair market. Each year brings me more and better customers. We think there is ample room for many more. All that I can breed will not add many to each county in these United States. Good Merinos seem to carry their good name to remote corners, for men come and send their orders from remote parts of distant States and Territories. During this long series of years, my flock has greatly improved, the sheep are larger and the fleeces more beautiful and are much heavier. There is a certain as it were about the business that we like beside the business pays and we like to see others building up their flocks, and why will men grow a \$2 sheep of some mongrel breed is a mystery to us—why not grow good Merinos that will produce \$3 to \$5 worth of wool annually—we have grown fleeces and sold them at from \$3 to over \$14 each, and in a few years we will have a still better report.

JOHN S. GOE, FAYETTE Co., Penn.

One of our contemporaries compliments one of his contemporaries because he is always ready to give "amateurs" a chance to be heard. Some minds—like the editor in question—never get farther than the embryo state of the "amateur," and words and ideas never develop, in them, beyond the sophomore era, when glib sentences and wide-stretched adjectives are fully ripe. The vigorous Saxon that best becomes a newspaper should never dwindle to the soft cadence of the "amateur," and flutter there like a moth about a candle, though it is well enough at times to let new fledgelings pump their wings, and always to encourage talent when found. Every newspaper that possesses power, wins it by terse, clear, common-sense writings. A spooney newspaper, or one that thinks more of "amateurs" than of subscribers and advertisers, is sure to have plenty of the former and very few of the latter.—There is no greater ass than the perennial "amateur."

Mr. Chris. Foster died in St. Mary's hospital last Tuesday evening.

THE IMMIGRATION COMMISSION.

TO THE PEOPLE OF OREGON:

Entrusted by the Legislature to take charge of immigrants arriving in the State, and of inducing immigration from foreign countries to Oregon, without funds to enable us to do so, we are compelled to rely on the generosity of the public and solicit subscriptions for the objects we have in view.

The many letters we have received from sister States and foreign countries satisfy us that by carefully disseminating information abroad as to Oregon, and selecting for that purpose honorary State Commissioners in these countries, a large immigration would result. Thousands in Europe and the United States are looking for a country with a combination of advantages, such as we possess, and who, if their attention was directed to Oregon, would come and settle amongst us. From Great Britain, we are informed by one of the gentlemen lately appointed an Emigration Commissioner, and who recently visited us, that many of the small farmers with means are desiring authentic information about Oregon, but cannot procure the same. Again, complaints are made that when emigrants do arrive amongst us, we give them neither attention, guidance information, and do not tell them where to get Government State or farm lands; and, as a natural consequence, they discourage their friends, who would have followed them, from coming here. In every overland train on the Pacific railway there are on board a number of emigrants destined for Oregon who are turned back in California for want of authentic information about our State. From New Zealand and Australia (Great Britain's colonies), we have also letters enquiring as to our country, it is to supply these wants and to attend to immigration generally that we, at the Governor's request, accept office as honorary Immigration Commissioners. But while we and the Committee of Immigration, appointed by the Board of Trade to assist us, do cheerfully give our services gratuitously, we cannot nevertheless carry on an immigration scheme for the benefit of this State without funds. Already we have had appointed Emigration Commissioners in a few foreign countries who are crying out for printed matter, statistics, pamphlets, etc. These we cannot supply without money, and seeing the Legislature has voted nothing towards the objects in view, we must appeal to the citizens of Oregon to contribute liberally.

We would especially ask contributions from Portland, Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene City, and other towns in the valley and Eastern Oregon. Immigrants come here as a rule, not to settle in Portland but in the country districts amongst the farmers, and consequently all the country towns are much benefited by immigration.

We would also recommend (1) that every country town would arrange a Committee of Immigration, to whose care we would forward immigrants for guidance and assistance; and (2) that the people of every county raise funds amongst themselves to print a small pamphlet descriptive of the county's local advantages for settlers and send the same to us for distribution abroad, on the steamers, and among immigrants when they arrive. The county so contributing funds toward giving immigrants information of its lands, etc., in this way secures entirely the benefit of its subscriptions. Another mode in which the people will materially aid our labors and benefit immigrants, is by informing us of all situations vacant, or where employment can be obtained in the different portions of the State. Many immigrants call upon us enquiring where labor may be obtained, who would for themselves thus be comfortably provided and would also be developing the State.

We have secured a favorable contract with one of the Atlantic Steamship Companies for European emigrants, and are negotiating with the various railroad companies for reduced emigrant passages to Oregon. All the railroad and steamship companies within the State have generously agreed to convey immigrants to all parts of the interior at half the usual rates.

There are other objects which we are carrying out, or have in view, relative to immigration, of which we will hereafter inform you; meantime, for the information of the people, the following is the organization we have adopted:

OBJECTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION.

- 1. To receive and take charge of immigrants arriving in the State; give them advice and guidance to settle, according to their occupations and circumstances.
2. To procure from the railroad and transportation companies for immigrants proceeding to the interior, cheap steamer and railroad fares.
3. To print authentic information as to the various counties of this State, for gratuitous circulation, and to be handed to immigrants on their arrival.
4. To travel abroad and in the other States, samples of the various grains, fruits, lumber and other products of this State.
5. To keep a record and maps, for use of immigrants, of the State, public and private lands and farms for sale; the Board in no way undertaking sales of such lands, but simply referring immigrants to the owners, or agents of owners.
6. To keep a Labor Record, where all employes wishing male or female servants and skilled labor may enroll their names and wants; which record shall be open to and be examined by immigrants wishing situations.
7. To distribute in the United States and foreign countries pamphlets, statistics and details of the State's resources, and also to forward same to the State's Immigration Commissioners in Europe and elsewhere.
8. To procure, at the request and expense

of any citizen desiring it, whatever agricultural or skilled labor he may wish from abroad, through the State's honorary commissioners, and forward to them conditions for settlement of small colonies wished by citizens.

To attend to all other immigration matters for the benefit of this State not herein embraced.

In carrying out these desirable objects we feel that we are not personally able to undertake all the duties required, and accordingly the Board of Trade of Portland have at our request appointed an immigration committee of six, who have generously agreed to give us their assistance and co-operate with us.

But, as already stated, the citizens must also now assist us. Every resident of Oregon will directly or indirectly be benefited by immigration, and hence one and all must cheerfully contribute to the best of their ability.

With that view the following gentlemen have been appointed to collect subscriptions:

Portland—E. J. Northrup, Jas. A. Strowbridge, upper ward; D. W. Williams, P. W. Gillette, middle ward; Capt. Ankeny, George V. James, Lower ward.

Salem—C. A. Reed, R. M. Wade, James Clark.

Albany—Thomas Monteith, W. P. Burkhardt, Geo. R. Helm.

Eugene City—J. B. Underwood. Signed, H. W. CORBETT, B. GOLDSMITH, WM. REID, Committee.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY. Elkton Grange, No. 149.

DOUGLAS Co., Jan. 15, 1875.

Mr. Editor: I send you herewith a list of officers elected at our last meeting in December, to serve the ensuing year. Master, J. M. Stark; Overseer, Henry Beckley; Lecturer, W. W. Wells; Steward, E. B. Smith; Assistant Steward, John S. Beckley; Chaplain, A. B. Haines; Treasurer, C. G. Henderson; Secretary, D. W. Stearns; Gate Keeper, Ansel Wetherly; Ceres, Miss Almira Stearns; Pomona, Mrs. Mary A. Stark; Flora, Mrs. Marietta Haines; Lady Assistant Steward, Mrs. Edward Henderson. Yours, J. M. S.

Fall Creek Grange, No. 146. BUTTS DISAPPOINTMENT, ORE., } January 4, 1874.

Mr. Editor: The annual election of Fall Creek Grange, No. 146, came off the 5th of December, 1874, with the following result:

M. L. Wilnot, Master; W. L. Wilnot, Overseer; S. Drury, Steward; D. Vaughan, Chaplain; C. O. Barber, Assistant Steward; Warren Lucky, Lecturer; Jno Drury, Treasurer; L. Warner, Gate Keeper; Mrs. H. Noble, Ceres; Mrs. E. A. Eaton, Pomona; Mrs. V. Drury, Flora; Mrs. M. M. Wilnot, Lady Assistant Steward; Wm. Eaton, Secretary.

Pleasant Hill Grange, No. 65. PLEASANT HILL, Jan. 10, 1875.

Mr. Editor: At a meeting of Pleasant Hill Grange, No. 65, P. of H., held January 9th, the following officers were installed for the present year: W. H. H. McClure, Master; James Parker, Overseer; O. Beckwith, Lecturer; Wm. Stewart, Steward; Albert Walker, Assistant Steward; Caleb Davis, Chaplain; R. M. Callison, Treasurer; C. M. Mulholland, Secretary; Alex. Matthews, Gate Keeper; Mrs. A. Beckwith, Ceres; Mrs. Tripheula Walker, Pomona; Mrs. M. J. Matthews, Flora; Mrs. Lizzie Walker, Lady Assistant Steward. The Grange donated \$20 for the relief of the Nebraska sufferers, and is in a prosperous condition. C. M. M.

WANTS INFORMATION.

Below we give a fair sample of the many letters we are receiving constantly from people in the States, hungry for particulars in regard to our magnificent State. Will some of our readers address Mr. Harvey and tell him that we have a few sewing machine and book agents even in this far off land.

STEWARTVILLE, Mo., } January 5, 1875.

DEAR SIR: As we are thinking of coming to your coast to settle, I am desirous of much information, in regard to the price of land, along the coast, the prices of country produce, stock, wagons, etc. Is there any government land along the coast, suitable for farming purposes? Are there many bees in the country? Are there any Italian bees kept upon the improved plans? We have 14 choice stocks of Italians, which we are thinking of moving there, if it would pay. Is there demand for labor at good wages? Are there plenty of sewing machine agents? What are weight and spring clocks worth? Would it be a good place to set up a clock manufactory?

Doubtless you will think this quite a variety of questions, but you will know how to make allowances, when you know they are from a Connecticut Yankee who has several trades. We have been here about five years, and times have been growing harder all the while, severe drouth, grasshoppers, chints bugs, and other things make the prospect dark, and nearly every one wants to sell.

Please send me a copy of your paper, and one of any other paper containing current prices and general news. We are anxious to know how near the railroad from Sacramento to Oregon is to completion, etc. Please oblige us with as many answers to questions as you can. We have been reading, Oregon as it is, by Hon. W. L. Adams and have learned something of the State from it. Yours truly, C. N. HARTY. Snow in Roseburg 15 inches and falling.