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Stock Interests of Oregon.

The Pacific Northwest contains a great variety of country and climate, and with its eastern plains and western valleys offers suitable homes to all the domestic animals. Farming in the Willamette region is agreeably diversified with stock raising. Through this valley can be found some excellent specimens of the best breeds of horses that are known to the world, ranging from the perfect thoroughbred to the best families of trotters, and including draft stock of all grades, even to the mighty Percherons and Clydesdales. The Umpqua and Rogue River valleys are famous pasture grounds, and are destined to see not only improved breeds of cattle upon their thousand hills, but all other stock, and especially flocks of sheep that show superiority to all others grown on this coast. Along the foot-hills of the circling mountains of all the western valleys exists a region naturally adapted to stock, and the future includes in its certainties the existence of many breeding farms for the production of all varieties of domestic animals. In those mountain pastures and on the ocean side of the coast range, especially, dairying will claim a fair share of attention, and we may expect within another generation, to see this business assume much greater perfection and proportions than in the present. Stock men have freely anticipated the value of beef cattle by the introduction of Short-horns and Devons of the best families, and the best of them raised on our soil, are for sale cheaper than similar animals can be bought at the East. Less attention has been paid to dairy stock, but the time is close at hand when more interest will be taken in milk cows. We have a few fine specimens of Jerseys, Alderneys and Holsteins among us, and it is strange that intelligent dairymen, and others have not paid more attention to production of good dairy stock.

But the unimproved pasture lands of the Pacific States and Territories lie east of the Cascades. Eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho offer facilities for stock growing that cannot be excelled. Herds and flocks there are numbered by hundreds and thousands. The finest breeds of horses, cattle and sheep have been imported in great numbers, or else purchased of Willamette breeders, and the stock interests of that wide region are paramount to all others. It will be matter for regret if those famous bunch-grass ranges are to be eaten out by inferior stock. The time has come when our own State affords the means to improve all the herds and flocks that exist here, and though stock breeders do not show much liberality in advertising their business in the WILLAMETTE FARMER, we have reason to know that our State possesses much improved stock, and it is the simplest possible rule of common sense to recognize that stockmen cannot succeed, in the end, unless they use all reasonable effort to improve. There is not an animal among the domesticated brutes, from the dunghill fowl to the noble horse, that does not need care and judgment in the reproduction. We depend upon stock growing for success, and that success can be at least doubled if improvement is sought after.

It costs as much to grow and develop a scrub horse, as it does to raise a noble animal worth twice to ten times the money. It takes as much time and care to gentle and train the one as the other. A good cow of the best breeds pays best, and a sheep that will yield twice the wool far more than doubles the profits.

For all that we have made such improvement in stock, and that enterprising men have brought such fine animals to our State, it must be acknowledged that too few among producers and stock owners appreciate the value of further improvement that can and should make. As we travel through the State we see too many scrubs. Too many sheep and cattle and horses that cannot possibly pay to raise and keep. If there is any subject that comes up for consideration as of first importance, it is this of the improvement of all kinds of stock, and it includes the renovation of pastures and determination of what varieties of grasses are most necessary for our use. Every intelligent stock grower should feel the deepest interest in these questions; and it seems to us as if no man interested as a producer could otherwise than feel a pride in competing in the raising of fine animals. There is pleasure as well as profit, in recognizing that the animals born on your place are beautiful and perfect of their kind. A whole family can be delighted by such possession and ownership.

A SCOTCH FARMER.—Mr. Smith, of Smithfield Farm, near Eagle Creek, Clackamas County, finished sowing grain yesterday, 24th inst., the first we heard of this season. Three years ago Mr. Smith was considered one of the leading agriculturalists in Forfarshire, Scotland, and by all appearances he is to be the same in Oregon.

Have You Paid Up?

We are sending out hundreds of notices to subscribers whose time has commenced upon an unpaid year, notifying them of that fact, and requesting them to remit. We know that these are hard times, and money is not abundant, but it takes money to run a newspaper, and the only way to do it comfortably is to receive money in advance. We shall adopt that plan next fall, and from this date no name goes on our books that is not paid for; but we shall give old friends time to realize.

It being a season of money scarcity, makes it all the more necessary for us to receive fair consideration from our patrons. We are making a great newspaper, and it cannot be done without the money. We are tired of humiliating ourselves to tell this to our readers, and after January 1, 1880, eight months from now, we pledge ourselves to avoid all such annoyance by refusing to send a paper to any person, under any consideration, that is not paid for. We should to-day have \$10,000 in hand if we were thus paid up, and we have not the least doubt that when we adopt this system strictly, we shall be able to make the paper a great deal better newspaper, and shall have many more subscribers.

In the meantime, we request every man who can raise the pittance of \$2.50 (and very few of you will confess that you cannot), to send it to us, for the paper will otherwise cost you \$3.00 next fall, and you can save money for yourselves, while you make times easier for us.

There ought not to be any future punishment for a man who publishes a newspaper on credit, especially if he follows it up for years. It is enough to demoralize a saint, and while our day of probation in that line is going to be short (as we shall infallibly claim cash in advance next year), we request our friends to make it as easy as they can for us in the interval—which means, pay us up, and give us all the show you can.

English Farmers.

At the present time 2,000 persons own over half the land in the United Kingdom, and the farmers are almost universally mere tenants. American production is ruining the farmers of all England, few of them being able to make anything, and many of them being in debt. They pay too much rent for land to leave any margin for profit. American production will be apt to increase, not decrease, and the result must be that things in England will revolutionize to accommodate themselves to the situation. There is a monopoly of land in England that keeps the people poor. If land doesn't pay, as heretofore, we may look to see much of it sold, and if the English farmer can own his small farm, as the French farmer often does, there will be a great improvement in that respect, and the English nation will be stronger for the change. It is a curse to any country and to all people to have land held in large tracts. If every English farmer, or Scotch farmer, or Irish farmer, can own his own land, there will be more general prosperity, more ambition to excel, more intelligence, and the British Government will be stronger therefor. It is coming to that, and the sooner it comes to it the better for the English people and the world. Even in our own State, there would be more prosperity if land was divided into smaller farms, and cultivated as well as it ought to be. The present situation over the water is a threat of ruin and bankruptcy to many of the landed aristocracy who are in debt, and their lands heavily mortgaged. This would be disastrous to families, but might produce beneficial results to compensate. All aristocracies are doomed, and when the world gets shook down to a healthy working level, there will be better times for all.

Sheep Husbandry in the United States.

The Department of Agriculture, in response to a resolution of the Senate, has issued a pamphlet giving information in respect to sheep-raising in the South, which incidentally treats of the same topic with reference to the whole United States. It is interesting and exhaustive, apparently, and combines much historical and statistical information, as well as technical, dealing in particular with the Southern States, their varieties of soil and climate, and their adaptability for that branch of industry.

It shows how sheep husbandry has been revolutionized by the necessity of breeding flocks to secure product both of wool and meat, giving the means by which this has been accomplished, by which alone, in many countries, and parts of our own, sheep husbandry has been made profitable, the value of sheep for enriching and sustaining the soil being an additional inducement for the keeping. The importance of this last will be appreciated more fully with us as soon as farmers discover that some systematized method must be adopted to keep up the fertility of

their fields, and that the presence of sheep and a careful culture of the best meat and wool-producing breeds is consistent with profitable and successful farming. We shall take pains to present to our readers some of the facts that we find demonstrated in this report, pertaining, as they do, to one of the most important of our productive industries.

Give Them All a Show.

By the wreck of the Republic a thousand persons were left at the threshold of our State, and while all lost their baggage and personal effects, many of them were thereby left more or less destitute and embarrassed. There has been no step taken to provide organized assistance for those unfortunate, and yet we cannot doubt that many need assistance and are deserving of sympathy shown in a substantial form. We commend to the farmers of Oregon the necessity of extending a kind hand to all worthy people who come among us, and especially to any who have been victimized by this disaster, and whenever possible, to offer employment to newcomers who ask for it, and show ability and willingness to labor.

When we look this shipwreck of the Republic in the face, we have to accuse some one of blame. It was unreasonable rivalry that led them to attempt to come in the night over the bar. There was no use for such recklessness, and it jeopardized a thousand lives and caused eleven deaths, and also left a thousand people more or less destitute. When the passengers were taken away it seems as if their baggage could also have been saved, and the neglect to attend to it has caused great wretchedness. This disaster reflects discredit upon Oregon, and the history of it goes back East to deter many from coming to Oregon. The carelessness, or rather recklessness of those who had charge of the great vessel, causes injury to the State at large, as well as hardship and unnecessary loss to her thousand passengers.

Crop Prospects.

It may be considered true that so far the spring has not been favorable to fall sown grain, the weather since the first of April having been cool, and much of the time cloudy, with enough rain, but too little sunshine to give the growing wheat fields good growth and good color. The first of April the fields had a dark green, thrifty look, that has given place, in many districts, to an unhealthy yellow look. How this will operate with regard to the producing qualities of fall wheat we cannot say, and much depends upon the weather we shall have in May and June, but it may safely be assumed that we would have reason to expect a better yield if April had furnished us more warm, growing weather. The outlook for spring sown grain, so far, is not unfavorable, and if we have reasonable weather in May, with enough rain to keep up growth, without any excessively hot days such as were known a year ago, we may expect good returns from all grain well put in, despite the unfavorable weather of April. There is no reason to anticipate short crops, but observation, for many years, has shown that much depends on the spring weather. The trip of the Idaho showed the prevalence of very strong winds from the north, and such winds have always damaged California crops very much, and may indicate that we cannot expect very abundant rainfalls within the near future.

Case of Abduction.

A strange story is told in the Portland Zoo of an attempt by a man named Logan, who some time since married the divorced wife of Joaquin Miller, and Maud Miller, a young girl, daughter of Joaquin Miller, to abduct a little girl named Alice McDonald, 12 years old. They dressed her in boy's clothes, cut her hair off short, and told her they were going to send her to San Francisco, but became alarmed and sent her home with a made-up story that she was to tell her mother, under threat that they would kill her if she "gave them away." She told the made-up story at first, but finding she was safe, she finally told the truth. Logan and Miss Maud were arrested.

DEATH OF MRS. CONSER.—The funeral of Mrs. Nancy Conser took place at Jefferson last Thursday. The services were conducted by Rev. P. S. Knight, and the attendance was very large. Mrs. Conser was born in Richmond County, Ohio, July 31st, 1822; moved with her parents to Illinois in 1830, immigrated with her husband to Oregon in 1848, and died at the residence of her sister in Walla Walla, April 18, 1879, with an abscess on the lungs. Her death was very sudden, being without a moment's warning. She was aged 56 years, eight months and 26 days. She was married Feb. 28, 1839, and shortly afterwards joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she has ever since been a faithful member.

Reciprocity of Growth and Manufacture of Wool.

From a late report, issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, relative to sheep husbandry in the United States, and especially in the South, we take the following:

In this country, rapid growth of the manufacture of wool has been concurrent in point of time with the principal development of such industry in the mother country; and considering the fact that this maternal ancestor attempted to strangle the infant industry—and nearly succeeded in accomplishing the intention after the war of 1812—and the additional fact that hostile legislation at home, as well as frequent changes of such legislation, has at times crippled its energies and retarded its progress, the growth of wool manufacturing in America is a greater wonder than its progress in Britain. During ten years prior to the war with that country there was no industrial interest so prominent in the public eye as this manufacture. Domestic manufacturers in the family by the hand-loom began to give place to the associated effort and improved machinery of the factory. The fame of the new merinos flew from farm to farm, and as flocks grew heavier and prices advanced, the finest rams of this stock commanded in some cases a thousand dollars each; factories were built and surplus labor was diverted to the mill, raising the price of rural labor, making a market for superabundant produce and inspiring hope and confidence, resulting in 1810 in a product of wool manufactures of the value of \$25,000,788. After the war, in a gush of conciliation, the laws of the customs were let down, importations became excessive, prices were prostrated, and the mills were stopped, and this magnificent beginning was quenched in failure, so that the product of 1820, years after, had become only \$4,413,093. Its rate of increase has since been variable as tariff legislation has favored wool. The figures for 1830 are \$14,528,165; for 1840, \$20,696,999; 1850, \$43,307,545; 1860, \$61,894,986. Then comes a period of magnificent progress. In seventeen years twofold more was accomplished than in sixty preceding, whether in value of product, quantity of wool used, or increase in skill in manufacture and variety of fabric. An advance was made that rendered possible the magnificent display of native wools at the Centennial Exhibition, which astonished our European competitors, and opened the eyes of thousands in our own country to an advance in skill in workmanship and excellence of goods of which few had any conception.

This progress is indicated in part by the census returns of 1870, showing a product of woolen goods of \$155,403,355, and of wools of a total of \$22,090,331. In 1860 these totals were respectively \$61,894,986 and \$3,701,373. The increase in quantity of wool used for woolen goods was from 83,608,468 to 154,769,095 pounds domestic and 17,311,824 pounds foreign; for worsteds, 3,000,000 pounds domestic in 1869 to 13,317,319 domestic and 3,830,932 foreign in 1870. The product of carpets was \$7,857,636 in 1860, and \$11,761,573, with an increase in woolen goods of \$4,903,937 to 25,139,999 pounds. The value of hosiery was \$7,280,266 in 1860 and \$18,411,561 in 1870, with an increase in pounds of wool from 2,927,626 to 5,304,655. Since 1870 the increase has been about 25 per cent. We now manufacture about five times as much as in 1840, and more than three times as much as in 1860. Our recent importations of wool are less than 50,000,000 pounds per annum, and our home production four times as much. In brief, we manufacture four-fifths of all goods made of wool which enter into consumption, and what is better, we use home-grown wools for four-fifths of that manufacture.

Instead of increasing the cost of clothing and carpets, by the national policy of producing them at home, prices are lower than in 1860. Instead of wearing the shoddy of cast-off European clothing, our goods are firmer and stronger and more durable than foreign importations. Had our factories no existence, the extra demand of 46,000,000 of wool-wearing people would advance the price of clothing throughout the world. Had they no existence, wool-growing would likewise have no status, as the history of this industry, the tendencies of our rural economy, and the genius of our people all show that the success of wool-raising and wool-manufacturing is correlative and inseparable. If manufacturing declines in this country, wool-growing will retrograde; if wool-growing recedes, the prosperity of manufactures will be impaired. There never will be an export of wool from this country under any probable circumstances.

The superiority of American wools, in soundness, strength, and length of staple, gives our manufactures an advantage of great value. The inventive genius of our people has already obviated much of the competition of European rates of labor. Our factories are rapidly acquiring the secrets of peculiar and popular foreign styles and fabrics, and even improving upon them and inventing new processes and textures.

Fancy cassimeres were until recently entirely of foreign production. Now world-famous establishments of Sedan and Elbouf are equaled or distanced. A bit of E. Boujeon's goods, taken from the inside of a collar of an overcoat worn by a gentleman from Paris, was the inspiration of the Crampton loom, on which fancy cassimeres are now woven, not only in the United States but also in several countries of Europe. These goods were at the Centennial Exhibition, and the Swedish judge, Mr. Carl Amberg, a practical wool manufacturer, was compelled in his

admiration to say to Mr. Hayes, the secretary of the Wool Manufacturers' Association, "You know that the best fancy cassimeres in the world have been made at Sedan and Elbouf in France. If these goods were placed by the side of the Elbouf cassimeres, you could not tell one from the other, and the goods could not be bought at Elbouf for the prices marked here." These goods were made from American wool.

The worsted coatings, differing from the fancy cassimeres in being made from combed instead of carded wool, are a recent triumph of our manufacturing skill. These goods obtained notoriety in the Paris Exhibition of 1867, and have since been produced successfully here; and as an incidental result another industry has been created, the combing and spinning of worsted yarns, of which an exhibition was made at Philadelphia by companies representing \$1,500,000 of annual production, which obtained an award showing them to be superior to yarns from the best Australian wools, being "kinder, more elastic, and stronger."

Inventions for producing felt fabrics, by two Americans, Williams and Wells, after reported failures of the French in the same direction, are used on both continents for almost innumerable forms of goods. In fannels, America has already surpassed Europe, making goods of a better quality, because as well made of better wool. For twenty years European fannels have been driven from our markets, and we now export them to Canada, and may soon be able to make a market for them in Europe. The yarns from these fannels are more closely twisted, the goods shrink less, and are more highly finished and smoother in face. Even the opera fannels are now made here, from American wools, which produce a softer fabric than Australian fleeces.

Commendable progress has been made in competition with France in the finer styles of ladies' dress goods, such as delaines, serges, and merinos. There is a single corporation—the Pacific Mills—in Massachusetts with a flooring area larger than a forty-acre farm, with facilities for manufacturing a million yards of these goods per annum, giving employment to more than five thousand laborers, largely women and children, with a monthly payroll of \$100,000.

But the greatest of American inventions and progress in the manufacture of wools is in the production of carpets. Even Brussels, Wilton, and Axminster, of home production, are taking the place of foreign goods. The imports of carpets in 1875 amounted to but \$2,643,932, while the production of mills of the United States during that year amounted to \$32,316,168—the monthly manufacture equal to the yearly importation.

A few years more of success will perfect processes, reduce prices of manufactured goods, and open the markets of the world to the surplus of manufactures, without reducing either the value of labor or of wool to the level of foreign rates, or to the point of abandonment as unprofitable in competition with other labor. As the manufacture has advanced or declined, so has the production of wool. If prices have fallen rapidly, as in 1868, when in consequence of decline and panic in the markets of the world, and the sale of an av-ouché of military goods, our markets were glutted, the immediate result has been a sacrifice of sheep by millions, not less than four millions in the year named, mainly for hide and tallow. It may have been unwise, but the American people are impulsive, and prone to change a business at whatever loss that does not assure a present profit. There are a few wiser operators who act on the principle of buying when others are selling out.

After the first era of rapid increase, from 1802 to 1812, succeeded the fall of manufactures, and as a result the destruction of sheep-husbandry. Slowly recuperation began the retrieving of this national loss, until in 1836 there may have been seventeen millions of sheep in the country, mostly in the Northern States.

In 1836 the imports of wool slightly exceeded 12,000,000 pounds. Numbers of sheep had increased in 1840, according to the census return, to 19,311,374; in 1850, to 21,723,220; in 1860 to 22,163,103. These figures were not quite up to the actual numbers, as is now known, but much nearer the reality than the returns of wool, which were quite too low, averaging but 1.85 pounds per head in 1840, 2.42 in 1850, and 2.72 in 1860. In 1870 the census returned 18,477,951 upon farms; while the estimates of this department for all sheep in the country was 31,854,000, and their aggregate value \$74,935,837. The present numbers, assumed to be about 36,000,000, exhibit wonderful improvement in quality and quantity of wool by a strong infusion of blood of the American Merinos, aided in a very limited degree by breeding from the best English and Scotch breeds.

Taking into account with the fleece wool of annual shearing the wool of the yearly increasing numbers of lambs killed and sheep butchered for mutton, the supply of United States wools approximates 200,000,000 pounds. It has not been estimated annually in this department, but the commercial estimates, possibly a little high, do not greatly exaggerate the quantity. While the prices of fine wools have declined all over the world, those of coarse and long wools have appreciated, and the great increase of weight makes a much higher average value per fleece and gives a better profit to the farmer than could the former style and price of wool.

Douglas County Convention.

Editor Willamette Farmer: The Douglas County Convention of P. of H. met in Grange Hall in Roseburg April 5th, D. S. K. Buck, Chairman, W. F. Owona, Secretary. Bro. James T. Cooper and Sister Cooper were elected as Representatives to the State Grange. J. F. DUNCAN.

The well-known photograph gallery of Davidson Bros. is receiving the patronage it deserves.

From Turner.

TURNER, Or., April 20, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer: My attention has been called to a statement in a Canada paper that "a Mr. Ross, near Hullsville, clipped 564 pounds of wool from three Cotswold sheep. One of them was a ram, two years old, from which was taken 214 pounds, the others were yearling ewes, yielding respectively 18 and 17 pounds. Can Oregon beat that?" And I was not prepared to say that it could, but didn't like to admit that it couldn't, as I believe that Oregon can beat the Canadas raising wheat, wool, fruit, babes, or anything else—almost.

Flouring mills are, as a matter of course, necessary and important adjuncts to the industrial interests of a wheat-growing country like Oregon, and the new mill of Messrs. M. Cockerline & Co., at this place, is now running and turning the golden grain into a superior quality of flour. I visited the mill yesterday and was shown through the building by the industrious and urbane proprietor, and took a puzzled look at the wilderness of elevator spouts, fan chutes, whirling wheels, past traveling belts, quivering shakers and humming smutters, and watched the pouring, dancing wheat as it traveled through the devious windings of the cleaning machinery, on its way to the burrs, and thence through another series of elevators, conveyors, screens and spouts, until it is ready to be packed as flour. Not being versed in mill-lore, I shall not attempt to describe any of this internal machinery, but I accept the statement of the owner and millwright, that it is first-class.

The mill-house is 40x50 feet, 44 stories high, well and strongly built, and well finished. It is near the railroad switch, to which it has a platform extended, thus giving the best of facilities for shipping by rail. The approaches by wagon are also good, and an excellent feature is a shelter to drive under while loading or unloading, this being a great convenience in stormy as in warm weather. Three run of four-foot burrs are already in place, and the mill is arranged for three run more, together with the necessary conveying, bolting, storing and packing accessories. The present machinery is run by one 48-inch Turbine, but two or three more wheels can be added if necessary. The water is conveyed from Mill Creek in a ditch, and the fall is ten feet. The supply of water is ample at all seasons, perfectly under control; no back-water or danger from freshets, and is altogether one of the most desirably located water-powers in the State. This mill will add much to the already thriving industries of our new village.

Another item of importance to this place (to Marion County and indeed to Oregon generally), now on the taps, is the building of the "Minto Pass Road." This being the point where travel over that route touches the railroad, makes it quite an item for our burg. Yet some citizens here are backward about lending their aid to that enterprise. But as the matter is more thoroughly discussed, and more information gained regarding the organization and laws of the company, this hesitancy will no doubt disappear, and Turner will not be behind other points in backing up an enterprise so vital to her own prosperity.

A dramatic and literary society is in process of organization here, which will be chartered and an effort be made to maintain it among the permanent institutions of the place.

Crops are looking well, and stock on range is improving notwithstanding the cold and rainy weather, which is putting back the spring work on low land.

Mrs. S. D. Knight of this place died last night at 10 o'clock, and we mourn the loss of a most estimable lady. She lingered long in her illness, and complained very little, and is now passed to her eternal rest.

Proposals are advertised here for the construction of the Marion and Wasco Stock and Wagon Road through the Minto Pass. The company appears to mean business. S.

Plant Food of Ashes.

PHILOMATH, Or., April 21, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer: For the information of your correspondent Phoenix, and others, in reference to the plant food in ashes, I would say that wheat straw ashes do not contain as such essential elements of plant food as wood ashes. The former has a large portion of silica. Wood ashes contains potash and phosphoric acid, which have a wonderful influence upon the wheat plant, and is used by the eastern farmers as a fertilizer for wheat, rye and grass. I have applied leached ashes to small fruit, and it improves the size and quality, especially the gooseberry, currant and strawberry. Ashes dissolves slowly, and its effects are visible for four or five years. J. S. S. POWELL.

FRANK ABELL is always ready take photographs of any size or style.