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The Future of the Grain Market.

There is something more or less alarming to Americans in the fact that at the present time the great nations of Europe, on whom we depend for a market for our surplus breadstuffs are considering, very seriously, the depressed condition of agriculture among their own people, and debating the necessity of discarding the free trade system with regard to breadstuffs, that has so long prevailed, and adopting protective duties to encourage home agriculture. We allude to England, France and Germany.

What is especially true of England is true of the others in perhaps a less degree. The English farmer is brought face to face with a rapidly increasing American competition that has made prices drop so that he cannot pay his rents and make a living at farming. The surplus from America has increased and must rapidly increase in the future.

Heretofore England has welcomed our grain because she needed it, and her home market was still good and prices well sustained, but the profit of farming fresh fields has caused an over-production in America, and we now realize that a low price follows. This to-day causes depression in Oregon, and we look forward to next harvest with the almost certainty that there will be immense crops in our own country, and most probably average yield in all foreign countries. It is true that we hear that the depressed condition of the grain trade has lessened the acreage of wheat in cultivation in England, and there is possibility that the crops may not turn out as well as is hoped, but we can hardly expect any contingency to arise where the American supply will not banish all fears of scarcity.

It remains to be seen what the effect will be if the countries named adopt a system of protection, and so discriminate against American products. They will certainly do so if they deem it necessary to protect their own industries. They cannot prosper unless the farming interests are on a satisfactory basis, and they owe no consideration to us that should prevent any restriction in their favor. Such a course must produce temporary demoralization in the United States, and if the effect shall be to stimulate increased production of grain in those countries, our agriculture must suffer. It is more than possible that we shall have to meet this contingency, and if so we may in our turn experience a greater depression than that from which we are just recovering.

Hitherto our surplus products have gone abroad to feed the artisans and working classes of Europe, but we shall be more than independent of them if we can transfer to our own shores the manufacture of all the goods we need ourselves, and can also extend our export of such wares as rapidly as has been the case of late years. American energy and enterprise will not lightly yield to circumstances, but will create circumstances. There is a growing market for the products of more civilized countries in the new fields of Asia, Japan, the Islands, Africa and South America. Our merchants are determined to push their trade into the remote regions, and create a market wherever trade is possible. Such a course will attract to our country skilled labor, and develop all the labor capacity we have at home, and time will solve the problems in our favor, though the first effect may be to prostrate our agricultural industries.

One thing is certain: the great nations of Europe find all their industries depressed, and believe that their agriculture suffers from unrestricted American competition, and they are considering how they can guard themselves in that and all other respects against our aggrandizing efforts. Of late we have become prosperous at their expense, and if they can help themselves and secure prosperity by adopting protection, they will most assuredly do so, without any consideration of what the consequence may be to others. The conditions of trade throughout the world show a process of transition. What we call progress in the world means change. There is a greater struggle for commercial power now going on than was ever known, and in all respects our own continent is claiming so great a share as to disturb the equilibrium of trade throughout the world.

Interesting Facts About Wool.

Mr. W. J. Herren, of Salem, has lately made a visit to California, chiefly, as we understand, to acquire facts with regard to the wool market. He there met with many farmers and grangers from that State, and also experts from the East, who represent wool buyers and manufacturers there, and had just reached San Francisco, and were inspecting samples in the Wool Exchange with a view of learning the conditions and quality of the clip, to be prepared to buy upon receipt of orders from their principals.

The Wool Exchange represents all there is of the wool trade, and inspection of samples from different parts of the State gives accurate knowledge of the product of each section. Much of this wool—representing 4,000 bales, stored, and as yet finding no purchaser—was sheared last fall. A great deal of it is very dirty, and full of the clover burr, that is such a pest. When we hear of burry wool selling at a very low price, we expect to find a very coarse and inferior wool, but Mr. Herren was surprised that California wool growers have generally bred better than we have in Oregon. Much of the burry wool is of exceedingly fine fibre, and low price is caused by the fact that burrs and dirt compose at least 70 per cent. of the actual weight, and add to expense of freight and cleaning.

California flocks are bred up to a high grade of merino, not yet having been bred so long as to produce an undue amount of yolk or grease. The wool is of a quality that is desirable, when the flocks are thus well bred. The finest lot of wool he saw was brought down by a Mr. Stewart, brother of the late B. E. Stewart, of North Yamhill, whose sons are famous breeders of short-horns, and among our most enterprising and intelligent farmers. Their California uncle sustains the family reputation there, and Mr. Herren thinks his wool as desirable, and in as good order as any he ever saw.

Mr. Herren has, as we were aware, always been prejudiced somewhat against Merino wool, that is, against breeding for wool that should prove too heavy in grease to be available. His conversation with Eastern experts, and acquaintance with California wool growing, recently acquired, has made him more than heretofore an advocate of the Merino. The Eastern buyer explains that the Eastern and Middle States have to breed their flocks for the double purpose of supplying a steady demand for first-class mutton, as well as for the fleece. This has led to flocks that have weighty bodies, acquired by an admixture of larger breeds of long-wooled sheep, and the resulting fleece proves to be a combing wool. It is a sharp question, then, if the demand for combing wools will not be fully supplied in the older States, where the conditions of sheep husbandry are based on mutton as well as wool, especially as these same conditions prevail in the British Islands and the nations of Europe. The tendency at the East being to produce combing wools, leaves open a market for the finer clothing wools that must be supplied from outside regions that do not produce sheep for mutton, and depend chiefly on the wool clip for a revenue. Such conditions demand a sheep that will be small-bodied, hardy, not a gross feeder though not over particular in its feed, which will yield a heavy fleece of fine clothing wool. The Merino is, then, the animal that exactly fits these conditions, and will answer to breed upon common stock until so high bred as to yield wool overweighted with grease or yolk.

Mr. Herren believes the present season will see a demand for fine clothing wool in preference to any other. Such was the demonstration of the Eastern experts he met at the Wool Exchange in San Francisco, and such are the indications from all the advices we receive, from whatever source. Coarse wools, for carpets and blankets, will be in small demand, and that argues ill for those who have bred their flocks of late to Cotswolds.

In this connection we have lately taken some pains to ascertain what good results have followed the introduction of Cotswold and Leicester into this State without much success. The crossing with Merino flocks and common stock seems to have produced an undesirable fleece, and a less hardy animal. We shall be pleased to hear from any who have made the introduction of such successful, for we have no prejudice to gratify, and desire to be fair to all.

If any marked success has attended long-wooled flocks, it seems to have been attained in connection with New Oxfordshires, that are a small or medium animal, very hardy, and yield a paying fleece. When Merino flocks need an infusion of some element to keep the fleeces dryer, it seems to us that in point of hardiness and quality of wool, the crossing with Oxfordshires may be of advantage to produce a fleece of the finest combing wool, if not of texture for choicest clothing wools. This is a point that should call out an ex-

pression from our old friend Wilkins, of Lane County, the most successful breeder of New Oxfordshires.

From what Mr. Herren tells us (which we hastily reproduce from memory, because so busy a man as he may not find time to write out his experience and impressions, which would be far better), the Merino sheep promises the most favorable returns to Oregon flock owners. It is an important subject, and one we have taken especial interest in, and if our crude remarks shall call out a full expression from the different experienced sheep breeders in the region east and west of the mountains, we shall give them all a hearing with the greatest pleasure.

Explanatory.

We have lately been sending out postal cards inviting those who are commencing a new year's subscription to remit \$2.50, and pay up for the current year. Some of our subscribers write back, a little indignantly, that they do not owe us for a year. They think that we claim that they are a year behindhand, whereas, it reads like this:

"Dear Sir—Your subscription to the WILLAMETTE FARMER for the current year commenced Jan. 1, 1879. A remittance of \$2.50 will pay your subscription one year from that time, and much oblige, yours truly."

Instead of Jan. 1, we fill in the actual date when the year begins in each case, and we cannot see that the notice gives any person a right to be indignant, or should be misunderstood.

Our terms are \$2.50 in advance, and \$3.00 after six months. We prefer to get it in advance, and if not paid within the time, shall certainly charge the other half-dollar.

To those who owed us over a year we have sent explicit accounts, and to those who are on a new year we send postal cards reminding them of the fact. If they will be kind enough to remit us \$2.50, we shall be glad to give them due credit.

After next fall we shall have done forever with the credit system, and regret very much that we have not for two years back exacted pay in advance for subscriptions. It is the only way that first-class papers are made. We propose to make a first-class paper, and we shall have to adopt the only plan that will enable us to do it.

A Misstatement Corrected.

The papers of the State have lately, many of them, severely criticized the conduct of the West Side Railroad Co. in discharging white men from their employ and substituting Chinese laborers, and it was also charged that the men lost 25 cents on the dollar in getting vouchers cashed for their services. The facts in the case, plainly stated, are that the company did not employ these men or discharge them, or have any responsibility for their pay. The work was done, it seems, by a contractor, as all railroad work is done. This contractor claims to have found white labor unreliable, though he tried to secure a good force. He says he found it impossible to calculate certainly, and when he thought he had a good force at work they struck for higher wages, and then he concluded to get hands that he could depend on, and took on a gang of Chinese. But we merely give a report of what the contractor says, as rumor, for what it is worth, knowing that it is liable to be true. We have official authority for our statement with regard to the railroad company, and feel like correcting public information in that respect. The managers of the company deplore the exclusion of white laborers, and have no sympathy with the Chinese, yet in the prosecution of great enterprises contractors have to secure themselves from loss the best they can, and cannot be expected to yield to unreasonable demands when cheap Chinese labor is to be had. The people of Oregon have no reason to find fault with the capitalists who have done so much to develop the resources of our State, and whose enterprises contemplate further railroad constructions, even to the extent of affording us connection with the East, and their management has so far given no occasion for charges of extortion, or disregard of the best interests of our country.

Loss of the Republic.

Since the Great Republic has stranded and gone to pieces, it is asserted that her frame work was rotten, and that she was unworthy. It may be considered a mercy that instead of meeting disaster so easily, she did not founder at sea in some terrible gale, and leave no sign to tell the fate of her eleven hundred passengers. It is to be said, in favor of the Oregon Steamship Company, that they have discarded all the worthless hulks they purchased of Ben Holladay, and substituted the best class of iron steamers, so that they are as safe as they possibly can be. If the Elder or Oregon had grounded as the Republic did, neither of them would have gone to pieces as she did. It is believed, and was

perhaps true, that the Central Pacific Railroad Company, of California, furnished the money to buy this old but magnificent ship, to run opposition and break down the Oregon Company, and this with no favorable design towards the people of Oregon. It is well enough for people to remember that there is a mutual interest between our railroad companies and the steamship company, and that they are better used than they could expect to be if those franchises were controlled by the California railroad Kings, whose course in California has not conciliated the people, or shown much regard for the public welfare.

Pleasant Words.

It looks egotistical to publish flattering comments of friends, but we are pleased to say that we constantly receive very kind assurances of appreciation. A friend from Umatilla County sends his subscription for "a trial trip," and avows himself a subscriber "as long as you practice what you preached in answer to the wheat ring." He promises to do all he can for us by showing papers to his neighbors, etc., and we take pleasure in acknowledging his kindness. He resides in a region that might also appreciate our constant advocacy of its interests, for the FARMER is reliably and disinterestedly a friend and advocate of the upper country, laboring for the free navigation of the Columbia River, and for all its best interests so far as lies within our power. We ask no favor of corporations or rings, and believe in the people, and with their support we shall not lack success. All the success we have attained in the seven years we have conducted the FARMER is based on the fact that we have worked for the people and not for rings or corporations, and the people have faith that we will continue to do so.

KENNEDY'S SHEEP DIP.

THE BEST-KNOWN DIP FOR CURING THE SCAB IN SHEEP.

To WOOL-GROWERS: I have for a number of years been manufacturing, selling and using Sheep Dip, with a view of getting an article that will be acceptable to sheep men as a remedy for the disease known as Scab in sheep. Objections have been made to the use of my Hemlock Dip, on the ground that it was poisonous, and in some cases it produced death when the dip was swallowed, or taken into the stomach by the sheep when dipping; this of course was one objection, and in the hands of inexperienced parties and rude workmen, a sufficient amount of care in using the dip was not observed, and notwithstanding its efficacy as a remedy for the skin disease, parties were constrained to abandon its use through fear of handling it. I have removed the only objection made to the use of my Dip by making and placing on the market Non-Poisonous and Tobacco Sheep Dips, and I confidentially recommend them as the cheapest and most effectual remedies ever made, and by their use you can eradicate the disease from your flock. Try it, it is safe to use at any degree of strength, and is a remedy diluted 100 or 150 parts water.

P. S.—Order either of my Sheep Dips, via: Concentrated Extract of Tobacco, Hemlock Sheep Dip (poisonous), also Non-Poisonous Sheep Dip.

PRICE PER GALLON:
Tobacco Dip, \$2.75; Hemlock Dip, \$2.25;
Non-Poisonous Dip, \$2.25.

Yours truly,
S. H. KENNEDY,
Omaha, Neb.

OFFICE OF STEBBINS, POST & Co.,
BANKERS,
CHRYMNER, W. T., April 19, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: I have known the bearer, S. H. Kennedy, Esq., for over three years. I have also used the sheep dip manufactured by him during that time, and I know from experience that it cures scab, as I have eradicated the disease from my own flock by the use of his dip, when all other remedies tried had failed. I confidentially recommend his Non-Poisonous and Tobacco Dips as the best and cheapest dips in use.

Very respectfully,
M. E. POSE.

Mr. George Ruble, wholesale dealer in saddlery hardware, leather and findings, Denver, Col., under date of April 11, 1879, in ordering some 60 gallons of dip, says:

"I believe you have struck the thing now on which I will eventually succeed in making big sales. It works to perfection so far, and all those that have used it are much pleased with its operations. Will send you a few testimonials soon. I have no fear but we shall come out on top eventually."

Yours truly,
GEORGE RUBLE.

Mr. Kennedy will be in Portland for some time, and anyone wishing to see him will find him at J. McCracken & Co's, Front Street.

Crops in Marion County.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Everybody is busy. Fall wheat looks fine. Prospect never better for a good crop. Health of the community splendid.

Yours,
E. REVE.

OCCASIONALLY some of our subscribers return their copy of the FARMER, or write to us and fail to give their P. O. address. As our list is quite large, we do not know personally each one.

Sore Teats of Cows.

MONMOUTH, Or., May 5, 1879.
Editor Willamette Farmer:

In the last issue of the FARMER appeared a note asking for information about a cure for sore teats of cows. The cause, as I think, is the saliva of the calf's mouth acting upon the skin of the teat, and as it were, digests and destroys the inner skin (cutis vera), thus rendering it sore, and what is called cancered. It may be cured in a few days by the use of a salve made by the following formula: take one-half pound bitter-sweet, and boil in a new tin pan, not iron or rusty; strain and evaporate to one gill; put in eight ounces of rosin, eight ounces clean tallow, and four ounces of linseed oil. Then evaporate till the water is all out. Great care must be taken to prevent burning or boiling over. It can be done on a stove with a brick between the stove and pan. When done remove from the stove, and when nearly cold stir in a table spoonful of camolene. Allow the calf to suck before milking, then wash the teats clean with water and a little castile soap. When dry anoint them with the salve either before or after milking, and a cure will speedily follow. The bitter-sweet can be bought at almost any drug store at about 50 cents per pound. If you cannot get it make the salve without it by melting the rosin and tallow, and adding the camolene and linseed oil. When made with the bitter-sweet there is nothing that can excel it for any kind of sores and indolent ulcers, and for the cow's teats. Great relief will follow the first application, and a continuation will effect a permanent cure.

The bitter-sweet may be got by mail from the principal drug stores at Portland, the postage on a pound being 16 cents, or I will furnish the salve at what will barely cover cost and postage.

W. WATERHOUSE.

To Clackamas County Patrons.

The Clackamas County Pomona Grange will meet at the new hall of Tualatin Grange, No. 111, on Friday, June 6th, at 10 o'clock A. M. Lectures will be delivered by the following brothers: Hon. C. F. Batey, subject, Education; Hon. J. A. Person, subject, Stock-Raising, Breeds, etc.; A. W. Steers, subject, Geo. Culture; also, short addresses from other brothers and sisters.

It is the desire that there be a full attendance of fourth and fifth degree members from all parts of the county and adjoining counties. All are requested to come prepared to lay some subject before the Grange whereby we can make our meetings not only interesting but useful. We have a vast field in which to labor for the culture and elevation of the husbandman. We have abundant ability to handle any subject that may be suggested for the good of the order. In our Grange is the place to make our wants known, and we can have able and trusty counsel and be well rewarded for all our time and trouble by the elevation of our minds and those of our children. And future generations will say "Well done, good and faithful sires."

H. E. HAYES, Master.

Weather Report for April, 1879.

During April, 1879, there were 10 days during which rain fell, with an aggregate of 2.66 inches of water; seven clear days and 13 cloudy days other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 51.35°; highest daily mean temperature, 59° on the 1st and 30th; lowest daily mean, 42° on the 15th; mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 58.66°; highest thermometer for the month, 75° at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 1st; lowest thermometer, 32° at 7 A. M. on the 11th.

Frosts occurred on the 11th, 15th, 21st and 22d. The prevailing winds for the month were from the north during 19 days; south, seven days; south west, four days.

During April, 1878, there were eight rainy days, and 1.14 in. of water, eight clear and 14 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month, 48.83°; highest daily mean temperature for the month, 63° on the 3d; lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 40° on the 12th.

EOLA, May 1, 1879. T. FRACK.

Suislaw Items.

SCIBLAW, Or., April 28, 1879.
Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have been requested to furnish you with a few items from here. At our Grange meeting on the 26th of this month, the members unanimously adopted a resolution favoring Cape Foulweather as a harbor of refuge. Our Grange is wide awake. We have made a call for the people of this section to meet the second Saturday of May, at the Grange Hall, to organize a Fair to be held some time this fall.

On the 19th inst. the farmers in the upper part of the valley met and organized to build a road over the mountains to Cottage Grove, a distance of twelve miles. This will give them a shipping point on the railroad.

Seeding is pretty well through with in this valley. Fall wheat looks well. Winter oats freeze out, and had to be re-sown this spring.

F. M. NIGHSWANDER,
Secretary Suislaw Grange.

Pure Bred vs. The Common Fowl.

Many persons not acquainted with the extra good qualities of the improved breed of fowls, ask: In what way do they differ from the common barn-yard fowl? What better qualities have they? In answer, I feel safe in saying that my opinion will be vouched for by any person who has had experience with both kinds of fowls: that the pure bred excel the common fowl in every particular. There is as much difference between them as there is between thoroughbred and common stock of any kind.

1. A Brahma or Cochon fowl will dress for market or the table as heavy as three of the common, and as a table fowl they are superior, their meat being juicy and tender.

2. They will lay a larger and more richly flavored egg; and will lay twice the number during the year; and with very little care will lay all winter; while your common fowls are eating their heads off without giving you an egg during those months.

3. It costs no more to keep good fowls than poor ones. After getting a good start, a few good pure bred fowls will pay for themselves three times over in one year, by the extra number of eggs they will give you.

The agricultural interest owes much to poultry fanciers. Those who devote their attention to the improved breeds of poultry, are too often misunderstood. As in many other cases, when people devote themselves to some special pursuit, the poultry fanciers are looked upon as mere enthusiasts, who simply amuse themselves without conferring any benefit upon the public. This is an error which does great injustice to them. In many farmers' yards may be seen either some pure bred or crossed fowls, that are much better than the dung-hill fowl. Some of these common ones may be got by mail from the principal drug stores at Portland, the postage on a pound being 16 cents, or I will furnish the salve at what will barely cover cost and postage.

W. WATERHOUSE.

The Afghans.

Some old Indian officers call them "niggers," or "demi-savages." Yet most of them have fine features and a splendid physique. They are said to call themselves "Bani-Israel," and to trace their descent from King Saul. Their Hebrew physiognomy, the division into tribes bearing the familiar appellations of Israel, Judah and Benjamin, their custom of avenging blood, and of changing their possessions every fortieth year (a possible corruption of the jubilee), make the hypothesis at least interesting. The hill tribes, who inhabit the borders, are people whose hand is against every man, and though some of them are nominally subject to the Ameer, there is no real suzerain and no common national feeling, unless it be the universal hostility to the "feringhee," or foreigner. These "Pathans," as they are usually called, speak the Pushto language, while the name of Afghan includes all the inhabitants. Their religion is of the kind which, while rendering to Allah the prayers, ablutions and fasts supposed to be his due, leaves them free to indulge their natural instincts. The women, who are usually pretty, are mere household drudges. They are often, however, the occasion of a relentless blood feud, the prosecution of which through long years is looked upon as a religious duty. — [Macmillan's Magazine.]

From the Upper Country.

HANCOCK'S CREEK, April 15, 1879.
Editor Willamette Farmer:

The spring is backward, and crops will be late this year. Grass is splendid, and stock is doing well. But few cattle or horses have been lost in this section this winter and spring, and in every case a good shelter and a little feed would have prevented it.

Emigrants are coming in very fast now, and soon the most of the "Garden of the West" will be one waving wheat field. There is a bright future for us, we think. As soon as the iron horse gives his first puff on his through trip to the Sound, then we can compete with the farmers of the Willamette, for we will not have to pay postage, towage, insurance or pilotage over the Columbia bar.

We think the danger of an Indian war this summer is at an end, and the probabilities are that before another year there will be too many whites up here for the red men to think of successfully contending against them. We want more grist-mills and saw-mills, and men of capital. I am satisfied, after passing through the hard winter, that this is a stock country, especially for horses and cattle, and sheep if they have good sheds during deep snow and cold, freezing weather. There never was a better place to raise feed, especially roots.

Respectfully,
P. GILBERT.

MR. M. WILKINS, President of the Oregon State Agricultural Society was in Portland the other day. He was down in the interests of that Society. Through his influence Mr. Kohler donated the use of a car to take a load of shingles from Canby to the Fair ground. The shingles will be used in roofing the new pavilion.