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IN ADVANCE!

THE TONNAGE QUESTION.

Those who are trying to manipulate the wheat market, and have done it rather successfully so far, are publishing to the world that there will be a great scarcity of shipping all the season. This may be true, but we very much doubt it.

The very fact that those most interested take such pains to convey impressions in their own favor indicates anxiety on their part. One motive is this: if wheat speculators make unreasonable profits the country is no better off.

Since the above was written we have received the San Francisco Bulletin of November 25th and take the following from its commercial article, which shows that vessels are in sight to more than answer all California demands, and we believe many of them will have to look to Oregon for cargoes.

More than half of the surplus has gone forward at good rates, and most of the remainder is in strong hands and warehoused for the season. If the export trade cannot be maintained on the present basis of the cost of wheat and ships, shippers will have to give way first.

THE ENGLISH WHEAT MARKET.

The latest facts and figures concerning the bread crop and market of Great Britain show the deficiency there to be greater than ever before. The average yield used to be about 30 bushels to the acre and last harvest it was only 18, besides which the quality was quite inferior.

It is thought the British demand will be for about 140,000,000 bushels, or about 25,000,000 more bushels than in 1878.

It is also true that crops through the wheat fields of the European countries were generally below the average and inferior to 1878. The average price of wheat in Great Britain, for five years, has been 53s 7d per quarter of 480 lbs, and as it is not above that to-day, we have the singular fact that, while this is a year of greater scarcity than has ever been known in modern times, the price remains at about the average of former years.

Putting all these facts together we form the conclusion that when stocks wear down and the deficiency becomes more apparent these causes may naturally result in a considerable advance in price.

The revival of business in the United States and the improvement of trade generally is assured, constituting generally better times, and will have a tendency to strengthen the market for breadstuffs all over the world.

The FARMER only costs \$2.00 a year in advance.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

In his annual message to Congress President Hayes speaks first of the success of resumption of specie payment and general success of national financial measures.

He recommends more comprehensive and more searching measures be adopted for preventing and punishing polygamy. He urges the necessity of obedience to the laws and protection of suffrage equally, in all parts of the United States.

Reformation of the civil service is urged and the example of Great Britain is quoted to show that it can be effected, as all the evils complained of here have existed and been corrected there.

China is willing to consider the subject of emigration of Chinese to the United States, and negotiations on that subject will be pressed with diligence.

The provision of a suitable government for Alaska is recommended. The surplus revenue for the year ending July 1, 1879, was \$6,879,300, and the surplus for the next year is estimated at \$24,000,000.

The army and navy are referred to and various recommendations made for preserving the efficiency of each branch of the service.

The Indian question, with all its difficulties, is fully treated. He urges that the facilities of the department of agriculture shall be increased.

There is an old saying: "What is one man's meat is another man's poison," which simply means that we differ in our aims, views and strivings, and what one admires or encourages another thinks is objectionable.

We have before us a letter from a gentleman over in Washington Territory who very kindly expresses his liking for the FARMER and his desire and intention to sustain it, which comes in the most approved shape, for he remitted for all back dues and for a year in advance.

The other-day a man came into the office, paid up and ordered his paper stopped because there was "too much grange in it."

He wasn't a granger and didn't want any grange in his'n. That was another whim of humanity that we have to offset against the radical minded granger who wants more grange reading than we can give.

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der, publish its notices and doings as news, and if this paper has any influence it is in behalf of a noble and liberal policy on the part of the grange organization that will benefit all farmers.

All things considered we have reason to be satisfied with our success in catering to the public tastes and laboring for the public interests. The encouragement comes in the shape of new subscribers. The general expression is more than kindly, it is earnest, and we simply have to assure all that we labor in a wide field and cannot suit individual tastes in every respect but have to consult the wishes of the majority.

Walla Walla Races.

The Fall meeting commenced November 10th. The first race, 2:35 class, in which three horses started, Goldfoil, Billy Nelson and Pedro; purse, \$200; Goldfoil won in three straight heats, Nelson second, Pedro third.

The second day was a running race, best three in five, free for all, purse \$400, in which three horses started, Winters, Georgia A and Sidney Burbridge. Winters taking the first heat, Georgia A second; Georgia A won the second heat, Winters second, Sidney Burbridge distanced; Winters took the other two heats, which gave him the race. Time—1:54; 1:53; 1:54; 1:55; track bad and raining.

The next race came off on Saturday, which was a trotting race for horses that had never beaten 2:40, for \$20 each, and the proprietor added a hundred dollars, in which four horses started, Billy Glasford, Black Bass, Belle Foster and Billy Lemp. Glasford was a hot favorite before the start; Billy Lemp won the first heat, Black Bass second, Belle Foster third, Glasford last. Now Lemp was the favorite. Belle Foster won the next three heats. It was the closest and prettiest race ever trotted on the track; everybody was pleased. Time—2:43; 2:42; 2:43; 2:45.

The races were then postponed till the 20th, and then came the free for all trot, purse \$400; three horses started, Lady Faustina, Bellflower and Goldfoil; Lady Faustina won three straight heats, the fastest time ever made on the track. Time—2:34; 2:31; 2:29.

Next came the running race, two miles and a quarter, free for all, in which three horses started, Winters, Trade Dollars and Georgia A. Trade Dollar running in the lead for the first mile, when Winters passed her and he never was headed again. It was a fine and fast race, Georgia A closes up all the way; the first mile was made in 1:48; the two miles and a quarter in 4:12.

The next was a match between Bellflower and Faustina, mile and repeat, Faustina to win; she won in straight heats. Time—2:33 and 3:36. This ended the Fall meeting. I remain yours truly, H. S. HOGBOOM.

Buckwheat as a Crop.

STANTON, Nov. 24, 1879.

Not long ago I noticed an inquiry in your valuable paper, of which I am a subscriber, if buckwheat was a profitable crop to raise. It is the best crop we have for foul land. It is sown after all other grain is in. By its rapid growth it gets a start of everything else, soon shades the ground and prevents weeds from growing. The land on which it is sown is equal to a summer fallow and ready to receive Fall wheat. From one bushel and a half of seed sown in June I raised and threshed 175 bushels of clean seed. I lost considerably by a heavy wind which scattered it around at a furious rate. At least 25 bushels were wasted. At the present price it is a profitable crop for market, as well as for cleaning land. If any of the readers of the WILLAMETTE FARMER want to know more about buckwheat, as to quantity and quality of seed per acre I shall be glad to give my experience.

Yours, respectfully, O. B. PHELPS.

[We hope Mr. Phelps will write out his experience, as it is a matter of more than ordinary importance.]

IMPORTANT TO WOOL GROWERS.

The Advantages of Oregon American Merino Sheep.

A FAMOUS PASTURAGE PLANT. Interesting Correspondence from Hon. John Minto.

Editor Willamette Farmer: As the subjects mentioned in the following letter are matters of interest to very many of your readers I take the liberty to ask its insertion in your columns, hoping it will command itself to the attention of those who can give and those who desire to receive information of the best kind of sheep for wool growing and the best variety of grasses to sow for pasturage.

ELLENBURG, Or., Oct. 30, 1879. HON. JOHN MINTO, Salem—Sir: At the request of several wool growers, as well as for my own interests, I drop you these lines to make inquiry in relation to American merino wools. We have Spanish here, but no American, and we are desirous of introducing the latter next season from the most economical point. What will you charge, delivered at Roseburg, for thorough-bred American merino sheep? What for graded? Have you any half-breeds with Leicester crosses? If so, what price for them? I say that so far, in our wild coast climate, the Leicester crossed with our Spanish merino has done much better than the Cotswold, so that there is now no demand for Cotswold bucks. (1)

Will you please inform us, approximately, what you consider the difference between the Spanish and American merinos generally, especially as to wool, mutton, hardiness, etc. (2)

What we want here is the best sheep for wool—mutton being hardly an object with us. I send you herein a little of our musquit or musket grass seed. Do you raise it in your vicinity? We are sowing it by the thousands of acres, and would not give it for all the other kinds. It is a most prolific grower—does well on all kinds of soil, and grows all the time, while the other grasses are "taking a rest." Its chief excellence are developed on a "burn." We never harrow, nor brush it in, but let the rain beat it in. There is no crop raised on a farm so easily harvested or threshed as musquit. One acre yields a thousand pounds of seed, which has been sold in large quantities here and along the coast of Northern California at from 12 to 20 cents per pound. I have 500 acres, sown a year ago, and am now daily sowing more, so are all our wool men and stock raisers. We sow five to ten pounds to the acre. You will observe that the seed is very fine and light, and is never separated from the chaff for market. If you wish to try what I send you, burn a small piece of brush, and I will send you the ashes are cold.

Trusting you are not wearied with this green-grassy digression, which slipped from my pen with premeditation, and that I will receive an early answer, I remain, respectfully yours, FRANK A. STEWART.

REMARKS.—(1) The results of the experience of Mr. Stewart and his neighbors accord precisely with my own, and the early volleys of the FARMER contain many passages that I have advised that kind of crosses, where it was thought desirable to have recourse to any of the English long-wools to mix with the merino. I bred a high-grade Leicester flock many years to meet a want indicated in that letter; indeed my last remaining lots of such grade was sold by my agent in Eastern Oregon, only two months ago, for \$7 a head (at two years old), they having been a year in that market. Seven dollars a head will not pay a breeder of merinos for breeding cross-breeds of any kind, but it might well pay some careful farmer to take it as a specialty. Mr. Sylvanus Condit, of Aumsville, in this county, is the only party I know who keeps a flock of good grade Leicesters.

The wool-growers of Eastern Oregon, where 95 per cent of the bucks I have bred during the past three years have been sold, are breeding more and more towards the merino, for wool as the prime object.

(2) The American merino, as recognized in Oregon, is a cross or combination of two or more families of pure merino; as that of the so-called Spanish and French, or Spanish and Australian, or French, Spanish and Australian. It so happened that the first lot merino ewes brought to Oregon (in 1835) were twenty head of Mother's Australians, a small-boned, finely formed sheep, carrying wool much finer and nearer to the true Spanish merino type than the heavier-bodied, heavier and coarser-wooled "Improved American merino of Vermont," introduced two years later. The French sheep introduced at the same time, (1860) were a shorter-jointed, thicker-wooled and drier-wooled sheep than those of the same blood subsequently introduced by John D. Patterson, and later by Mrs. Blacow, which were the highest-bred,

finest-fed, finest-looking and most artificial-kept sheep perhaps in the world.

Those different styles of French sheep had two points of excellence over the Spanish, viz: density of fleece and hardiness of the lamb. The fleeces covered the sheep better and yeared more as well as stronger lambs. My experience with the small-boned Australian, warrants me in saying that they also were more prolific and grew stronger lambs than the Vermont sheep, but in their case the fleece was not only finer but freer from yolk and gum and consequently much lighter than the American-bred sheep. Those were the materials the first Oregon breeders had to form what is here called the American merino. Some of them, like the late T. G. Naylor, never had the Australian, I believe, but sought to secure the best qualities of the two families, French and Spanish, by crossing them. Others, who had the Australians, bred towards, and ranged them into so-called Spanish merino, which was so easily done that indications of Australian blood soon disappeared, its presence only being discernible by a finer and more uniform and in many instances a longer-stapled fleece.

Many who have had these different families had not attempted to establish an intermediate family, but have bred, in most cases, to the so-called Spanish merino. When the attempt has been made to form an intermediate style of sheep the French and Spanish families have been used, and with very encouraging results.

In my own case, the best sheep that I have bred, according to my own judgment, were of this combination, and my judgment of what constitutes the best style of merino sheep has been almost uniformly supported by my experience in selling rams, as, whenever I have permitted a buyer to select for himself from a lot containing sheep of both French and Spanish, and a combination of them, the intermediate sheep were almost uniformly the first chosen.

Lately the fashion has strongly set towards the Spanish merino, so-called, but which is more properly named by those who understand the history of the sheep, "The Improved American Merino," but as the names are now used by the most of wool-growers, the darkest, oiliest and most gummy and wrinkly ram, with the largest horns, is most generally understood to be the present Spanish merino; but, while this is so, sheep breeders are encouraged by the rapid growth amongst wool growers of a knowledge of the difference between a dense-fleeced sheep, with sufficient natural oil, for crossing purposes, and one made up of two-thirds of gum, wrinkles and horns.

The writer of the above letter is evidently of the class that appreciate the difference between a fleece of good, sound, even-stapled wool, and a mixture of coarse and fine, in the same fleece, and I therefore have given a brief outline of the history of the (Oregon) American merino, in order to show him and his neighbors that in ordering that class of sheep they stand more than an even chance of getting a sheep they cannot easily distinguish from the sheep they call Spanish merino.

If, as I have indicated, the breeding has been between the French and Spanish families, the fleece though it may weigh no heavier in the unwashed state, will generally be found to contain more scoured wool. I have no means of knowing with certainty how much unscoured wool one hundred head of such sheep would yield than the same number of Spanish merinos, but I should at least expect a hundred pounds more.

My views about crossing a flock that has already greatly advanced towards the Spanish merino, would be to use rams with a French infusion, with short legs and round forms as possible, always avoiding the long-legged, flat-sided specimens of French blood, and when pure merinos cannot be had I should prefer rams from a flock of grade Spanish and French that have a dash of Leicester in them, to the use of pure Leicester, Cotswold, or other long-wools, where wool is the first object. Where early mutton is wanted, the Leicester is the best sheep to use, and next to that new Oxfordshire. If, on the other hand, the production of early lambs was the object, to breed Southdown rams to grade merino ewes has been proven one of the best crosses.

In regard to the grass Mr. Stewart mentions (the soft, meadow velvet grass I think is its proper English name,) I have twelve years acquaintance with it. It is being rapidly spread along the coast range of the North Pacific, and is obtaining a footing in the slopes of the Cascade mountains. It is a good to stay green under a moist atmosphere and for self-propagation in the open woods, that it is bound to lead the way for richer pasture plants like white clover, bluegrass, the narrow plantain, and such other additions to good pasturage.

JOHN MINTO.

TO VICTIMS OF RUST.

The past year has been very hard on some—indeed on many who have lost entire crops by rust, and even the newspaper bill worries them, but they will be all right in the future. In such cases we feel inclined to make easy terms for the past and allow them to commence anew by paying \$2 for the year 1880. We need all that is due us, but in case any person has lost a crop and is embarrassed, our proposition is that they go to our agent, give a due-bill for what portion they cannot meet just now, and pay \$2 in advance for 1880. Some owe for several years but have been struck by rust, and we leave it to their honor to do fairly by us. We want to keep all our old friends and give them all needed favors if they happen to be temporarily out of luck.

To the Citizens of Junction and Vicinity.

Having purchased the business of Smith, Broadfield & Co., in Junction City, and desiring to reduce the old stock, preparatory to laying in the new, I wish to announce that I will offer goods at cost for the next sixty days. All persons wishing to secure bargains will do well to call on me at the old stand of S. B. & Co.

I hope, by fair and honorable dealing, to merit and receive the patronage of the former patrons of this old established house and of the public generally. The store will be open on Saturday, November 15, when I will be pleased to see all who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to get good goods at a low figure. Respectfully yours, W. H. BABER.

Referring to and confirming the above sale, we take pleasure in recommending Mr. Baber as a honorable and thorough business man, and hope all our old customers will continue their trade at the old stand, corner Front and Seventh streets. Thanking our patrons and the public generally for the very liberal patronage and kindness shown us during the years of business in this place, and soliciting a continuance of the same for our successor, we are, friends, Very truly yours, S. B. & Co.

Messrs. S. B. & Co. have for many years past acted as agents of the WILLAMETTE FARMER at Junction and have laid us under many obligations by their kindness in looking after our interests. We wish them all prosperity wherever they may go, and commend Mr. Baber, who succeeds them, to the good will of the friends of the FARMER, as he kindly consents to act as our agent in the future.

Willamette Medical College.

Lectures at the Medical College at Portland will be resumed on the 8th of December for the winter season. The faculty, consisting of Professors Payton, Sharples, Watkins, Gleason, Harvey, Plummer, Saylor, Rex and Judge Deady, has been strengthened by the addition of Doctors S. E. Joseph, E. P. Frazer and H. R. Wilson, all of whom are well known as men of ability. Arrangements have been consummated by which the best facilities for chemical instruction will be afforded. The session will cover twenty weeks of time, with six lectures daily, aggregating over six hundred lectures. This will indeed involve a vast amount of labor upon the part of the faculty, yet their hearts are fully given to the work of elevating the standard of their profession. The opportunity thus offered to students to prepare themselves to enter upon the active duties of the medical profession should be eagerly embraced.

Letter from West Chehalis.

WEST CHEHALIS, Nov. 26, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer: I am at present improving this fine weather in plowing; there is more grain sown in this part of the country than ever before. The rust has hurt several farmers here and they will try and sow more Fall grain and less Spring grain.

I saw a piece in your last paper upon finding a man in a well on Wapato lake. That was the report, but the neighbors cleaned the well out and there was nothing in it. It is the general supposition that the remains of the old cart man are somewhere far from where the cart was found, and that he was murdered, but it has been so long ago that it is of little use to search now. If he is ever found it will be an accident. JAS. M. COLEMAN.

BREWER-WILKINS.—The Eugene State Journal gives the following account of an important event lately transpiring in the family of our old friend, Hon. M. Wilkins, Willamette Falls, Lane county: "Miss Lida Wilkins, of this county, was married on Thursday to Mr. A. Bentley, of Monmouth, at the residence of the bride's parents in this county, Mr. S. C. Prater performing the ceremony. Only relatives and a few intimate friends of the family were present to witness the nuptial and partake of the splendid dinner prepared for the occasion."