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OFFICE OF WISLAMETE PARTER, Folimary 28, 1885.

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THE IMMIGRATION overland continues to be steady and many settlers are locating claims all through the country. The winter is so mild that people can find their way about in comfort and easily locate themselves. Nearly all of Northern Wasco county is taken up and hundreds of new farms are being opened. The same is true of all the Upper Country and also through Western Washington and Oregon, We may look for a heavy immigration in the spring and a good crop next summer

grain looks well and grows rapidly The mild weather encourages fruit buds to swell and may cause damage again temperaries for very nice notices of the by inducing premature fruiting, as was WILLAMETTE FARMER. They accord us the case last year. So far as looks can the credit of working for the farmers of say the orchards promise great productihe country.faithfully, of understanding tion and without some mishaps there their needs and supplying the journal will be a big yield. This is to be the the country needs. We certainly have more desired because we have such an this object at heart and do all that is extensive market for all we can raise in possible to forward the welfare of prothe northern country between here and ducers. The FARMER was started just St. Paul, and, indeed, at St. Paul itself.

Concerning time wheat market it is not easy to say much, concerning its future matters look very uncertain. Our exporters have their minds very anxious over their shipments sent off since harvest as their correspondents demand heavy margins for carrying them, being fearful that prices will drop and leave them losers. That being the condition of exporters it is evident that matters are very uncertain as to wheat prospects. The stocks on hand in Europe, and also in America, are larger than usual. I there is any deficiency or even a shortness of supply it should appear soon, but the indications are not in that direction. So far our wheat growers have had the bast price they could expect and exporters say larger than they could really afford We do not expect any decided improvement before February and are not so sanguine as we have been that it will scome then.

Oxr or the most unique publications good average. we have ever seen is the holiday number | WE HAVE received from Senator Slater | keep up high duties. He says the revelering places are being rapidly taken from have heretofore been used for wood growof the Northwestern Miller, published at a package of seeds as distributed by the enne must be cut down and wood grow-Minneapolis. This is a class paper des Department of Agriculture. They com, ers can ask no exception in the opera- at present purchase them and will, I ward and southward onto lands more voted to the milling business, so we did price Early Blood turbip, Salamander from of just principles. All we have to think, force either a change of man- distant from the Columbia river and not expect to find it, what it is, the really bettuce. American Savoy leaved spinnach, say is that Mr. Slater is acting consist agenciat or a change of location railroad lines, and upon which it seems most beautiful and appropriate Christ Jersey Mountain sprout water melon, ently with his views as a free trade Dem. Some who are able to buy up deeded to me grain production for export cannot mas publication we have received. The and the red speckled valentine bean perint and sustains his position, with lands, it e lands to which U. S. patents be a pursuit. The great proportion of

being frosted over with snow a There is a great deal to study in this before we open the book Many of the armong financiers and to all appearances . 2 250 by "Bob" Burdette of the Hawkeye. railroad that connects Portland, Oregon, The Miller is really a fine publication and Puget Sound, with the great lakes and gives a monthly review of the milthey have not already done so, should take and read the Northwestern Miller.

WE MET a good friend of the FARMER misrepresenting our position among his the FARMER was in favor of monopoly control of railroads and opposed the way land grants were made and that we tirely correct in his statements. We are With the present low rate at which to money being taxed we believe the enforced on all who try to evade the law. There is nothing new in this for the files of the FARMER will show that we have always stood right there. We expressed our views on land grants years ago when Mr. Mitchell was in the Senate.

THE COUR D'ALENE mines seem to promise very great success to those who may be fortunate, though mining does not reward the greater number of those who attempt it. There seems no doubt Roland, Jefferson. All of whom do it that the mines are extensive and rich. Every mining region has its own peculiar formation. Good miners have been through those mountains prospecting, but the indications did not correspond with what they were used to so they did not attempt even to prospect. It is now found that gold, silver, and lead all exist in the same quartz lead, and the placer mines are rich in gold. The mining territory is very extensive and will afford result of the great downfall in Villard work for thousands of men. In the stocks. spring there will be a great rush thither, but many who go will be disappointed. The man who has good occupation can not afford to leave it to go to any mines gut should stay at home and attend to his regular business. In the early times we know many who went to the mineswent there ourself-and only a very few ever got even on it. We have seen many come back to their farms that will encourage settlement more rapidly had been rented for a term of years -to find everything gone to wreck and them-THE UNUSUAL mildness of the winter selves poorer by thousands than when is favorable for wheat fields and word they went to the mines. Let those who

> WE ARE indebted to some of our confifteen years ago and has most of that time been under the present management. Long acquaintance with the country and familiarity with its methods and capabilities enable us to do justice to the cause we serve and we hope to merit the commendation the Yakima Signal and other friendly newspapers accord us. It is no trivial matter to make a journal suited to a great region's agriculture, but we do the best we can and depend greatly on the assistance of other journals. The first issue we received of the Yakima Signal, called out the assertion that it was edited with un usual ability and furnished much information concerning that region, and so it does still. Yakima county is formnate in baying ably conducted journals. Take the Pacific Northwest at large and it will show one hundred local journals through its length and breadth that cannot be excelled in any similar region.

HENRY VILLARD. Mr. Henry Villard was lately a prince

advertisements are gotten up richly for bad a position that was invincible this especial number and the book con- against any who might choose to be his tains Christmas and other stories not enemies. He came here, a few months usual to it. Opening the number we ago, as a princely host entertaining men find page after page of interesting and of American and European celebrity charming matter and illustrations. The He was proud, evidently that he had stories are by favorite authors, one being accomplished so great a work as the and the Atlantic ocean. It was justifialing business to which it is devoted. All | ble pride and he exercised it in no arbi who are interested in that business, if trary or improper spirit. The few weeks that have passed since then have been eventful and one result has been to pull down the fame of Villard and scatter the other day, who said people were his pride and his millions to the winds No such tremendous collapse has ever neighbors. When he tried to get up a occurred in American finance, it even club among them they said they heard surpasses the wild panic of 1873, caused by the Northern Pacific collapse when and opposed to taxing mortgages. He the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., aston corner paper exactly when their time will explice and assured them he had read this paper for lished the financial world. Mr. Villard Another important point: ALL COMMUNICATIONS many years and endorsed our position by his success, had created confidence in AND LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE on most subjects fully, that we had himself, that he evidently shared. He always advocated National and State believed all his enterprises deserved success and confidently expected to realize it. He advised his friends to invest with favored taxing money as much as other him and when the crisis came he sank a THIS PAPER WILL CONSIDER IT AN property was taxed. Our friend was en- million dollars to save others from the common ruin. The world never saw a as bitterly opposed to railroad monop- fortune built up so rapidly to melt away oly and undue taxation by corporations so suddenly. The man who three as is possible and if we had the framing months ago stood unquestioned as the of the law to corporation would ever head of six great corporations that conhandle an acre of the public lands. As trolled nearly two hundred millions of capital, now sets dethroned and broken strictest law should govern assessors to spirited, prostrate in purse, in mind and get a proper return of money and its in body. As he looks around he sees representatives and severe penalties be his friends bewailing their losses by millions. The allies of his enterprises in Portland have sunk several millions of dollars. Where he was known and believed in, through New England, hundreds are almost beggered by their losses in what were known as "Villard 115 in number. The lamb crop of 1878 stocks," and ruin actually stares many nearly doubled his flock. He has since in the face. They placed their fortunes on "margins," those margins are swept away, the stocks are sold to make the broker good, and their tens of thousands have melted. This general ruin and disaster, extending across a continent from ocean to ocean, has prostrated thousands and crippled the trade of a great region. . There are consequences, too, that effect many because this collapse temporarily stops a great deal of work and throws thousands out of employment. There are many up all the hay he can in stacks judiin Oregon who indirectly suffer as a

> All this Mr. Villard sees and grieves over. He was no doubt honest and sincere in his confidence; all the trouble is that he is a few years in advance of the time. If he could have carried his affairs along without loss of confidence he would have realized all he expected. Now that he is deposed and probably ruined in fortune, we can afford to do him justice. We believe he was thoroughly honest, from his standpoint, and his conduct while in power showed him first because artificial shelter can be conto be liberal and desirous of being just. He sacrificed himself for his friends in can be secured in many places—which respects him. He had unbounded faith in Oregon and the Pacific far West and from the winter range during the sumhas done so much for our section that we can ill-afford to unnecessarily blame him. He gave us railroad connection with the East and only for him there is no telling when it could have been accomplished. If we compare his life and character with that of any other railroad magnate we find that he was broader in mind and had more sympathy with mankind. We fully believe that our State lost a good friend when he lost power, and hope that he will collect enough from the wreck of his fortune to make him an independence. Gambling in Wall street is as evil as any other gambling and far more ruinous. The truth is that our railroad building is only gambling on a large scale and the man who is engaged in it according to the methods of Wall street, may be honest from his standpoint, but it is not an honest standpoint. Railroads are built on credit and the whole credit system is evil. and that continually

THE WOOL TARIFF.

Ne wool-growers convention that met at The Dalles in October passed a resolution in which it demanded of our Congressmen that they should use their ply of water. These natural watering There is much land on which hay mak-Slater answers through the Standard and Its newspapers correspond with its gen-eral progress and development and are a lowest. He positively declines to attempt be a sure means of caraing a living wheat on the bunch-grass lands now be has been highest the duties have been wheat farming on these lands prove to One of the first effects of farming for what he calls "the folly" of trying to from the hard or not, these natural wat- ing taken up for that purpose, and which

STOCK RAISING AND GRAIN FARMING An Interesting Letter on the Wool Industry

of Eastern Gregon-How to Combine Wood and Grain Growing East of the Cascades it is a Merino wool growing country so extensive that Eastern Oregon, though a large country is not perhaps one-third of it. Yet the growing wool cheaply and with little risk. Yet different districts differ in that respect, and in none would I advise to depend entirely on grazing alone to carry sheep through all winters. There are some who do so and with great success so far. I made the acquaintance of a gentleman of over sixty years who went nto the eastern portion of Wasco county about 50 miles south of the Columbia river, seven years ago with 1,500 head of sheep. Three of his sons went with him or followed him; the family now own 7,500 sheep and they don't attempt to put up feed for anything but their saddle horsest. During the very seven weather of three 'years ago the lathers counsel to the sons was: "Now is your time to rustle, scatter your sheep along the steep breaks of the canyons. The coyotes will kill some every day, but that is nothing to what you will lose if you keep on herding them." This was done, and they got through with a small proportionate loss. The location they live in is most favorable to this method and I suppose was chosen for that reason. Very different from the foregoing is the method of David H. Smith, formerly

into that country with 205 head of sheep from the Willamette. Ninety - five of which were stout bodied coarse wooled ewes. During that summer, in addition to tending his little flock, he purchased by his labor fifty head of yearlings and two-year-old ewes, making his breeders sold 600 besides taking all the mutton he has used at his house and sheep camp and occasionally killed for neighbors, He has spent in four years for the best Spanish merino bucks he could get an aggregate of \$900. He has now a flock of 1,700 head, 1,000 of which he thinks will average 10 pounds per head of high grade Merino fleece. His place is a sheltered valley near the timber line of the Blue mountains and as security for his business against bad weather he puts ciously distributed on his land so as to give his stock the most shelter possible yet get the greatest possible advantage to the land from feeding the crop upon it. For the fact must not be lost sight of that there does come storms occasionally under which all the attention and all the feed which can be given, without shelter, will not prevent heavy loss. For winter ranch, for wool growing purposes, is a point of the very first consideration. With shelter water is also a point of first importance. I regard it as the very structed with more certainty than water growing. The system of herding away mer months is generally followed. Most flock owners preferring to drive to the mountains nearest their home place. So general has this practice become that ranges in the Blue mountains within convenient reach from bunch grass plains of Wasco and Umatilla counties are sometimes overcrowded. It was so much so last summer in the vicinity of Lone Rock and Fossil, that owners told me the sheep that had been grazing on bunch grass were in better condition than those which had been summered in the mountains. This is not so much a sign that that district is fully stocked with sheep (it is my judgement it is not half stocked) as that there are changes these bunch grass plains that will force a change in the methods of sheep husbandry. Now a man owning perhaps not more than 160 acres of land owns from 1,000 to 5,000 sheep, some indeed mack above the highest figures given, om Oregon in which grain raising will Such owners have been in the habit of not come into the calculations of the claiming from one to four sheep camps wool grower except in the shape of near their homes for winter range. These wheat, outs or rye hay, as a means of se camps are so claimed because of a sup-curity against spells of bad weather efforts to restore the tariff on wook. Mr. places are being anxiously sought after, ing grasses of any kind yet known in eagerly taken as homestead sites for Oregon cannot be grown, that will yield quotes statistics to prove that when wool wheat forms. It mathers not whether a fair crop of wheat, out or rye hav.

which I will say in passing, I have much the seed sown in much of the bunch erative crops, acknowledge themselves surprised at results attained last year. four years ago were held as sheep camps stock raisers or their owners will join of these localities, like the plains beof Marion county, now near Fossil, in Wasco county. Early in 1877 he went ment is located, the cultivation of the land may become the prevailing occupaof Eastern Oregon, over the most of feed can be raised to give reasonable security to stock raising as a main pur suit. At present those who have stock and are scarce of winter feed are beginning to calculate what they can afford to pay for the stacks of straw left in the year and to some of them the privilege of herding a partion of the summer or winter from these wheat farming home- good common sense and pluck enough steads is also becoming a subject for calculation. This being so between par- he locates. There are men in Eastern ties who are pursuing the diverse lines of Oregon who never go in sight of their wheat raising and stock grazing, seems sheep except to have them counted, who to me to point plainly to practicability are making money by letting out sheep of joining the two together under one to keep on shares to men who know the ownership, whether it be individual or general conditions of the locality where company ownership. In regard to this latter form of application of labor and found often careless as to their line of capital it seems to me the situation in breeding. They seem to regard their Eastern Oregon is peculiarly suitable investments as only being temporarily in for joining stock with wheat growing. wool growing. Those who seem to have Take for instance the Blalock company, adopted that as a permanent business this reason the location of the home or they have a large body of land inclosed almost uniformly breed steadily to the on which last season near 200 car loads heaviest fleece merinos they can get. of wheat was produced. The wheat land The largest number of new beginners was scattered within the enclosure. The follow in the same line. From the great grain was cut with headers leaving I scarcity of fencing material on these expresume considerable low grain standing tensive grazing lands the means of givin the stubbles. The straw piles left by ing the best cure to good bucks are ex the threshing machines were a rich ceptional and as a result they are often comes from all quarters that fall sown have nothing else to do go to the Cour the last effort and for that the world give these are very favorable for wool mine of winter food for any kind of the first sheep lost in a bad spell of winstock and to feed that on the ground to ter weather; this added to natural causes sheep, letting them at the same time makes a steady demand for that kind of gather all they could from the stubbles sheep. An active demand for mutton and unbroken grass lands within the en- unsettles some wool growers and they closure, would give a winter income from temporarily turn to some of the English this land equal to the summer grain breeds and then grade to meet this decrop in value. It seems to me a division mand, but I believe always with loss so fence across that body of land in altern- far as wool growing is the principal ate sides of which the grain crop should source of profit, and from the nature of be raised in alternate years with sheep the climate, I think the east side of the to utilize the straw piles and convert it Cascades is not only a merino country into manure would give more than a so far as wool growing is concerned but double return of money from the land, also that the merino and its grades will Some may think these rich uplands make a greater proportion of good mut-(which are aluviums deposited by the ton profitably from these ranges than winds instead of waters) will never wear any other breed. For this reason I deem out, but at the very beginning of their cuitivation it has been demonstrated as inviting a field for a permanent in that an old sheep camp or lambing vestment as can be found in the United going on in regard to the ownership of ground is the best foundation for a wheat field. The two main requirements for joining sheep and wheat husbandry on the uplands are water for the

stock and lumber for shelter and fencing. There is a very large extent of East title page is a representation of winter. We tender Senator Slater our thanks for scenes, the very letters of the name the same. will not be apt to agree with him. . or pre-emption laws; which cover natural | Southeastern Oregon points to that as a

permanent wool growing country. Much watering facilities, and some are moveing their flocks into new districts. Both of it has not yet been touched with doof these methods will go on and other mesticated sheep, and is yet grazed by cattle and horses. The measure of relachanges be added until the valley of the Columbia will be stocked with ten times tive profits between the three kinds of the sheep it now has. I fully believe this stock is found to be so much in favor of is possible; allowing that the most san-sheep that the latter are gradually taking guine expectations yet indulged as rethe ranges from the others. Of course best south of the California line for the suitability of the land, for there can be no precise statement of wheat production will be fulfilled, of profits of the business made as there are hardly two men who pursue the business doubt. It will be remembered by some alike, and localities differ as much as of the readers of the FARMER that two systems of management, for which reayears ago I could not recommend wheat son you can find many instances of men raising in that country as a sole depend- who had been used to the successful ance. Since then two barvest seasons care of sheep all their lives in other conhave passed, one of which did not return ditions make a complete failure in Eastern Oregon in the near neighborhood of grass lands, and the other giving a better men who were entirely new to the busicrop than was expected, it is true but ness. Three years ago one of my own yet nothing to become excited about sons, in company with two other young The opinion here expressed is not so Oregonians, had got safely through three much the result of my own observations years out of five they had given themas of information gathered from resi-selves to "make a raise." They had a dents of that country, who have much good supply of accumulated feed (straw) better means of forming a correct esti- and their past season hay and grain crop mate. While many, who then strongly with which to go into the fourth winter doubted of their lands yielding remun- In spite of exertions that drew admiration of their neighbors, their loss was over 67 per cent, of a flock of 4,300 head. Still they think many places that two or A man utterly without experience bought out the remainder of their flock and by flock owners who herded on them a cleared by reselling within the time their few months only of each year, will in five five years would have expired nine thouor six years to come either be for sale to sand dollars. Near their locations were parties who claimed to be able to teach stock raising to wheat farming as a others how to run sheep profitably who means of living. In some of the richest were "cleaned out" by that storm, never to attempt wool growing again. On the tween the Deschutes and John Day, in other hand another neighbor new to the the midst of which the Rollins settle- business lost 65 per cent., but with the remnant kept on and in three years that remnant of 500 increased to 1,500 head tion : but such localities in extent bear a of an enhanced value. From this it will be very small proportion to the entire area seen the way to succe-sful wool growing east of the Cascades cannot be taught on which it will be difficult to get enough paper; that even previous success in arable land on which sufficient winter other countries and conditions is not a

Under favorable conditions the annual gross earnings of a flock of 1,000 to 2,000 ewes is fully 100 per cent. Under like favorable conditions the wool alone will pay running expenses and often interest fields of those who farmed for wheat last on the investment besides. As these conditions cannot be taught, the beginner should have in addition to his flock to adapt himself to the locality in which they herd. These flock owners I have States at this time. J. MINTO.

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