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It is hardly possible that stock has not suffered severely east of the mountains this winter, but it seems, as far as reliable news can be had, that the loss is much less than has been reported.

THE ICE blockade on the O. R. & N. Co.'s track above the Cascades lasted exactly three weeks, or at least that time was passed before trains could get through.

THIS WINTER is certain to justify all we have ever said in favor of raising cattle and producing excellent meats for city markets.

DURING THE LATE SNOW STORM the birds of the forest suffered and many died, but they who became domesticated around the homes of farms generally found food given to them and wintered nicely.

trying to monopolize everything in their own craws. The little snow birds were too lively for them and managed to pick up crumbs and dodge away before the clumsy Blue Jays could help themselves.

IF ANY ONE had foretold that the railroad up the Columbia would be blocked for three weeks and a train would be blockaded for most of that time in a locality remote and hardly accessible, it would have been received with many doubts, but we have had a taste of genuine winter and the banks of the Columbia through the mountains have been impassable.

THE WAY to care for sheep in the winter is to have plenty of roots for them to eat. They don't care for dry hay and are dainty about eating grain, but turnips suit their fancy and they thrive well on them.

THROUGH THE Yakima county and in the Big Bend of the Columbia, and all north of Snake river, the severity of winter is felt more acutely than in Middle and Southern Oregon.

THE PACIFIC STATES AT NEW ORLEANS.

The S. F. Chronicle gives correspondence relating to the exhibit made by California at the World's Fair at New Orleans.

The Oregon exhibit is unassuming, and yet a good one. It is almost entirely agricultural, and is confined to staples and orchard products.

The report that 700 out of a band of 900 cattle in Umatilla county, had died, is incorrect. The loss of stock is not as great as was feared.

We have commenced a new year under circumstances somewhat discouraging. During a hundred years, since our grandfathers were on the busy stage of action and before they could have handled the lever that moves the world, breadstuffs have not been as low as now.

There were great financial crisis in 1837, 1857, and 1873 that stand as precedents in business annals. In all these antecedent times of financial panic our country has been for many years importing vastly more goods from abroad than we exported our products.

At one time we owed abroad a thousand million of dollars and paid large interest. We have reduced this foreign debt the nation owed, and if the United States now owes, it is not over half what it was twenty years ago.

We have been wonderfully prospered, as a nation, and are now caught by the same whirlwind that affects other nations. The world cannot afford to pay a fair price for our breadstuffs.

Of course, such a state of things must mend. The economical family corrects troubles of finance by contracting expenses. That is what we are doing as a nation, and we certainly must soon see the result of the curtailment of outlay that has taken place.

But the world suffers also from the terrible and great unforeseen. Great earthquakes have taken place and destroyed lives and property.

The present crisis is formidable and calculated to make many weak who were supposed to be strong.

FENCE AND NO FENCE.

The question of legislating for or against fences is already argued in the papers in view of the near approach of the legislative session.

costs more than any other item of farm expenses. If that inland region is to be left open it will be necessary that a law shall prevent free pasturage.

The present law for some eastern counties restrains hogs and sheep from going at large but permits cattle and horses. It is true the latter can be easier fenced against but to fence at all is what the advocate of a no fence law objects to.

One matter that deserves consideration is what constitutes a legal fence. It is not so difficult to build fences as it is to build "legal" fences, to exclude all stock.

Place another wire at the bottom, not to cost over \$20 a mile and you have a fence that will turn sheep or hogs, say a wire eight inches from the ground, and another ten inches above that.

We were surprised recently, when traveling East to find in New York State and through much of New England that barbed wire was replacing old time fences.

To make a fir post last longer than you can live to test it, dip the butt end in a mixture of linseed oil and powdered charcoal dust, or put it on with a brush, giving two good coats, and you will have a fence as enduring as a life time.

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succeed with the combined header and thresher and be able to pay up all his little obligations, as no doubt he will if he succeeds.

Just after we had written the above Mr. Charles Jory happened in on business and mentioned that he was going soon to leave Oregon and remove to Stockton, Cal., where he was offered a position in the factory of Mr. Gaines, so we read him our item and learn from him father that the machine owned by Parrish & Gaines, was sold to other parties who own the patent right, and Mr. Gaines has invented another machine that he owns personally.

It was a singular coincidence that Mr. Jory should call exactly at the time we were writing the above item.

WHAT WILL THE EFFECT BE.

If this winter proves as serious in loss as we have reason to expect, there will be only a small proportion of all the stock left to people the best pastures of the Inland Empire.

New Years Number.

The Daily Oregonian for January 1, contains an immense amount of facts, consisting of a review of all the business of the Columbia river for 1884.

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