

**East Oregonian**

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1888.

A SHEEP MAN'S IDEA.

HEPPNER, Morrow Co., April 8, 1888.  
To the Editor of the Wallowa County Sun.

Experience is the great teacher and worth all the theories and sophistries contained in all the books or newspaper articles that were ever printed. Investigation in the light of a little hard experience is all that is necessary to convince any man that protectionist writers are either dishonest or ignorant. As a wool grower of fifteen years, I have, like thousands more, accepted without question the protection theory and teachings as true—as a positive benefit financially to wool growers, and as an absolute necessary adjunct; and I further admit that I have no patience with any sentiment expressed controveting protection to the American wool grower.

But a lesson from selling my 1887 clip of wool has set me to studying this subject, and I confess, I am open for the first time to a candid reception of the true inwardness of this complicated subject. My 1887 clip of wool, with a neighbor's, was shipped to Boston for sale, consigned to a house whose reputation for wealth, experience and honest square dealing is beyond question. Our clips were sold there at 10½ per pound two months ago. We doubted the honesty of the transaction, but investigation conclusively proved, and we believe full value for the clips were realized. Considering that we were protected by a 10 per cent. tariff we had then this puzzling question to solve. Take off the ten per cent. duty and have free trade, would our wools be discounted another ten cents and therefore be worth nothing and indeed be at an expense of three and a half cents for freight commission, etc., and be a dead loss, besides giving our wool away? Would we be expected to invest our time and capital and pay necessary help for herding, shearing and the hundred other expenses, and get nothing for it? I necessarily look around and inquire where else I can sell my wool and get something for it. I am told London, England, is the great wool market of the world and that it makes prices for the world. Sending samples of my wool there, I am informed that similar wools are worth 4½ to 5 cents or 9 to 10 cents per pound. It appears then immediately that the only real protection I have against competing wool are the importers' profits, expenses, freight, etc., from London to Boston, for where I say we will get back the 2 or 3 cents taken off in 1883 and that is the cause of the depreciation. The manufacturer smiles and says, "I don't care if you make it 30 per cent., there is plenty of your class of wool, more than we can use, and I can get it wherever I like, if you don't want 10½ cents per pound you can keep it." I have been inquiring further to see what disadvantages I am under in competing with such wools raised in other countries, and find them numerous and important. Other wool growers as in South America and Australia are not taxed as I am on the necessary articles required in the business. I find everything required is heavily increased in price to me as a buyer and consumer, by this same protective tariff. If I mark my sheep it adds to the cost on the lamp black, 25 per cent.; resin, 10 per cent.; turpentine, 20 cents per gallon; tar, 10 per cent.; oil, 25 cents per gallon. If I require to dip for scab, lime 10 per cent.; sulphur, \$20 per ton; any patent dip, 50 per cent. My wool sacks and twines cost me 40 per cent. more, the needle to sew with, 25 per cent.; my shears for clipping, 35 per cent.; a grindstone to sharpen them, 40 per cent. If I want to build a corral the hammar costs 2½ cents per pound, the nails 1½ cents per pound, hand saw, 40 per cent.; fence wire, 1½ cents per pound. There is not a thing possible to mention in the house, or out of it, required in the business that is not similarly taxed and steadily draining our hard-earned money out of our pockets. If this is protection I want none of it. It makes me sick to think that we farmers have been coaxed into supporting the most stupendous, and infamous swindle that was ever invented, and henceforth shall use my influence and vote to destroy the tariff on these absolute necessities in my business, while my product, by the law of supply and demand is as low as the cheapest of any wools raised in the world. A. B. C.

A Veto by the President.

The President has vetoed the bill for the relief of Major Daniel N. Bash, paymaster of the U. S. Army. The object of the bill is to release Paymaster Bash from all liability to the government for the loss by theft of \$7,300, which was intrusted to him for payment of U. S. troops at various posts, one of which was Fort McKinney, Wyoming Territory.

In his message the President says: "I am thoroughly convinced that the interests of the public would be better protected if fewer private bills were passed relieving officials, on slight and sentimental grounds, from pecuniary responsibility, and the readiness with which army officers join in applications for condonation of negligence on the part of their army comrades does not tend in my opinion to maintain that regard for discipline and that scrupulous observance of duty which should characterize those belonging to their honorable profession. I cannot satisfy myself that negligence made apparent in such cases should be overlooked."

Cleveland's Marriage Certificate.

It has been customary during past administrations to have the printing for private work of the President done at the government printing office, and in accordance with the practice President Cleveland's marriage certificate was without his knowledge bound at the government's expense. When the fact was discovered, several months afterward, he ordered the practice of doing the President's private work by the government discontinued.

Mrs. Faling, who shot her husband in San Francisco a few days ago, has not yet secured bail.

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