



SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

The following communication on sheep husbandry was handed to us for publication, by Bishop Hunter, President of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, to whom it was addressed. Mr. Harker is an experienced shepherd, and his observations and suggestions are entitled to consideration by those engaged in sheep raising and wool growing in this Territory.

The producing of wool in this isolated country is a matter of much importance, second to none connected with the manufacturing interests of the Territory, as without material the fabrics necessary for use, and which must be had, cannot be produced here and will have to be imported at ruinous rates as heretofore.

The number of sheep in this part of the Territory has greatly increased within the last few years, but the increase has not been as great as it would have been, if sheep owners had taken proper care of their flocks, which may not be expected to be done, till the subject is better understood than it is at present:

WEST JORDAN, G. S. L. COUNTY, }
February 11, 1861. }

BISHOP HUNTER:

SIR:—As you wished me to write upon the principle and quality of wool, I gladly embrace the opportunity to do so, and give my views of what is the best for this Territory. The Cotswold is the heaviest and strongest wool. The merino is the finest, and if they were mixed together and worked into cloth it would do well. The South Down is the next finest wool; but the sheep will not cut more than two-thirds as much wool as the Cotswold or the Leicester. If I was to take either alone I should prefer the Leicester for wool, as the wool is fine and more in quantity or weight. If, to cross the blood for wool and mutton, I should prefer the Leicester and the South down.

It is a common thing in this Territory to make grey cloth. Let me here say, that the black sheep have coarser wool as a general thing than the white; it draws the heat of the sun more and it is not so durable; the white wool will more than pay for the coloring. I must here remark that wool, like all other things wants its regular growth. If the sheep begin to fall away for the want of feed, or if they lay in a wet, dirty pen, or the cold chilling winds or snows of winter without any shade, the wool will stop its growth; and when it starts again it leaves a joint in the wool that is tender, and it will break in the joint.

The greatest difficulty we have to contend with in our wool and sheep, is the scab, that continues from year to year in our flocks of sheep without being thoroughly cured of that disease.

We have from three to four thousand sheep in this Ward, that have got the scab more or less. I have heard a great many different opinions about the scab on sheep; some suppose that it is caused by sheep being fat and broad on the back which causes the dirt to gather and the scab to form; others suppose it is caused by poverty and wet dirty pens; the latter may lead to it, when the blood is out of order, but the former is no proof at all, as the wool keeps growing and carries the scurf up with it; but let me here say, that the scab is a catching disease, and one scabby sheep will besmear a thousand, either fat or poor ones, if it is permitted to run with them without being dressed, and it injures the wool, I might say one-third in both quantity and quality where the sheep are permitted to run with the scab, besides the loss of old sheep, and the failure of increase.

To cure the scab it requires a thorough application with every sheep with such dressing as will cleanse the blood, as well as the body. I will here give a receipt to make an ointment that I never knew to fail to cure, when it was rightly applied, viz:—

Take one pound of quicksilver, one pound of Venice turpentine, four ounces of spirits of turpentine, work them together in a mortar, or iron pot with the head of a king bolt of a wagon, a few minutes every hour of the day, for three days, until the quicksilver is thoroughly subdued, then take four pounds of lard, new milk warm, add it to the mixture and keep it stirring until it is cold. Two ounces of this ointment to each sheep, will cure the worst scab that exists.

The best time to use this ointment is in October, the first of November or the last of February. The wool wants parting with the hand, and a thorough application made upon the body.

I have lengthened out my remarks upon the scab, because it is the greatest injury we have in our wool; but, in short, to judge a sheep for wool, it wants to be thick set upon the body, a long staple and should feel almost as soft as silk.

Yours, etc.,

JOSEPH HARKER.

A GOOD DIALOGUE.

Mr. Smith. How is it, neighbor Jones, that your potatoes are so large and fine, while just over the fence, on similar soil, mine are as small as pullet's eggs, and precious few at that?

Mr. Jones. I manured this field with brains.

S. Pshaw. All the Cincinnati hog-killers couldn't supply brains enough for this ten-acre field.

J. I use human brains, of which there are plenty.

S. Nonsense; now don't make fun of me because I'm unlucky, and Providence has sent you a good crop.

J. Providence helps those that help themselves. I used my own brains on the field.

S. So did I mine, and they are as good as anybody's.

J. Ah! there's the trouble. You know it all yourself: I don't, and I get all the outside help I can. I've been collecting other men's brains for my land for twenty years, and you see one result in this crop.

S. Yes I see the result, but I don't understand it.

J. Well, when we began here 20 years ago, I thought myself a good farmer, but I believed others had good ideas, too, and I made it my business to get at their thoughts—some I found in agricultural books and papers, others I picked up at County Fairs, by asking how the big things were raised, and often I've got a good hint from a neighbor.

S. I've always been down on this "book-farming," but your crops stagger me, they are real knock down arguments. I'm sick of the poor show I get for all my work, and am desperate enough to try anything for improvement.

J. I'll give you my experience; it may aid you. About nineteen years ago I heard that some men who had been brought up on farms had clubbed together, and one of them was going to publish a paper, which should consist mainly of accounts of how different farmers cultivated various crops, and such like matters. I sent for the paper and have done so every year since, and now I have nineteen large volumes, every page of which I have read, a little at a time and the whole has not cost the produce of a single acre. Why I am astonished when I think over the ten thousand thoughts, and hints, and suggestions I have thus gathered. What a blank would be left in my head if these thoughts were taken away.

S. But does the practice of farmers on other kinds of soil and with a different climate, suit your wants?

J. Why no, not exactly, perhaps? But then, every thought I get from another, starts a new thought in my own mind, and thus I am constantly improving my own skill and practice. You see, I get all the brains I can from other men's heads and compost them well in my own head with a mixture of common sense, and then make the application to my fields. In that way, I have manured this crop of potatoes with plenty of brains. The editor called here last week on his Western tour among farmers, and seeing my good crops, he asked me to write out just how I have treated this field for years past, and I promised to do it as soon as my crops are gathered. He will print it, as he constantly prints all such practical matters, and perhaps a hundred thousand persons will read it; and though nobody else may do just as I do, many will get a new hint, and improve upon it. You may read it if you will.

S. I would like to borrow your paper.

J. Better take it yourself, for then you will be more likely to read it. You will find hundreds of plain talks about various kind of crops, during a single year. One hint gave five bushels of corn on each acre of a large field in a single year.

S. I can't afford to take it this year.

J. You would think nothing of spending two cents a week for extra tobacco, or a cigar, or candy, and that's all the paper will cost. How little it costs to supply yourself and family with a large amount of information through any good paper.

S. What are the politics of that paper?

J. It doesn't touch politics. It is devoted to such subjects as Field and Garden crops, Animals, etc., and has besides a good deal about Women's Work, which wife says is worth more than ten times the few pounds of butter it costs to pay for the paper. Then there is also a department for the young folks, containing many things which please the children—not mere trashy stuff, such as is often printed for them, but information that will have a good influence on them. I would sell a dozen bushels of wheat to have my young people get the good reading in that paper, but the average price of one bushel will pay for it a year. My John says he can pay for it easy with the eggs from two or three hens. If I was a mechanic or merchant and had only a little garden, I should take the paper to tell me how to make use of the little plot, and if I had not a foot of land I should still want it for my wife and children.

S. Does the editor know anything about farming?

J. The editor who owns and publishes the paper was brought up on a farm, where he learned to work. He has studied all the books on farming, and experimented for years in the laboratory, and has besides, traveled all over the country to see what was doing. Then he has several associates—Farmers, Gardeners, and Housekeepers, who know what they write about and among them all they do gather up a wonderful lot of information every year. The language, too, is so plain, so like talking

with you, that I enjoy reading it. Then too, every paper has engravings, which show one exactly how animals, and plants, and household furniture look, much better than words could describe them. Among these are plans of buildings, that help one to plan others; and also many very fine pictures, which are worth more than the cost of a whole volume.

S. I suppose those engravings and descriptions are partly to help the editor sell implements or fertilizers.

J. Not at all. The editor keeps nothing of the sort to sell, so that he may be perfectly free to praise or condemn anything, according as it may be valuable or worthless to his readers. You would laugh to see how he comes down on poor inventions, patent manures, and all kinds of humbugs.

S. Is the paper adapted to our part of the country?

J. Exactly. Soils and crops and climates differ, but the general principles of cultivation are the same everywhere, and here is the benefit of a paper published for the whole country. Every reader gets new ideas by what is done somewhere else; and further, I find that the paper has letters from every part of the country, and one or more of associate editors in different sections so that we get information from many regions and our own too. One thing I must mention particularly. The editor is constantly warning his readers against humbugs, telling how sharpers take the advantage of people. Why, I was just going to send a dollar for an article advertised in glowing colors, when I found it shown up as a humbug in this paper. But I can't stop to talk now—I have such a lot of potatoes to harvest.

S. I wish I had. I must try that paper a year, and see what there is in it. I can manage to save two cents a week.

J. Never fear; if you don't find it pays I'll buy your copies at cost, for my boys to keep.

S. What did you say the paper is called?

J. *The American Agriculturist*. It is published in New York City. The editor, though one of our country farmers, and living in the country, finds he can publish it cheaper there, where printing, and mailing facilities are all convenient.

S. How shall I get it?

J. Simply inclose a dollar in a letter, giving your name, Post Office, and County, plainly, and direct to the agent in this City. See his advertisement.

[The last two lines are ours. Ed. News.]

Crops without Manure.

Already we are spending £4,000,000 a year in foreign manures, says the *London News*, and to have to increase this expenditure will be a counterpoise to any economy of grass at home. As if to meet this anxiety, agricultural art is now showing that the greater part of this outlay for foreign manures is worthless. When the agricultural knowledge which is now enriching the few has extended to the many, it will be a subject of surprise and vexation that we should have thrown away millions of money and years of disputation with the Peruvian and other governments on foreign manures, which have been for the most part unnecessary.

It is to the application of geological and chemical science that we owe the discovery of the waste we have been making. As an illustration take the case of the Lois Weedon husbandry, now at last exciting the attention which it should have obtained a dozen years ago. At Lois Weedon an agriculturist has for seventeen years raised wheat crops on the same soil—crops now amounting to from thirty-six to forty bushels per acre—without the application of any manure at all. This gentleman, the Rev. S. Smith, understood the composition of our clay lands—the great expanse of wheat land which we have as yet hardly begun to develop. It was clear to him that the mineral elements requisite for wheat production had never been either developed or husbanded as they might be by our traditional methods of tillage; and he has proved, by a continued success of seventeen years, that he judged rightly.

It is enough to say here that he has turned up an increasing depth to the air, and by that method half the soil is left fallow each year alternately. He sows his wheat in tripple rows with the space of a foot between them, and leaves an interval of three feet—the stubbles each season being the fallow of the next. The unequalled quality of the straw thus airily grown, and the excellence of the grain it bears, are undisputed; and there can be no question as to the productiveness when, in fact, the moiety of each acre produces the quantity we have sated, on soil which was at first of only average quality.

The economy of manure is even carried further. Light soils, unsuitable for wheat, are manured with clay merely, and thus raised to a wheat bearing quality. Improvements of a kind like this, open wide prospects of economy and fertility at once, and should raise our spirits more than any bad weather should depress them; and when we see that seventeen years may be required to teach us how to use our own soil for the production of our daily food, we may well question whether our occasional difficulties from untoward seasons are not evils which we may expect to outgrow.

The improved husbandry is a sufficient answer to the apprehensions expressed by some melancholy men who calculate the number of years that the guano and other special manures will hold out, and conclude that then we must starve.

Farming and Gardening Operations.

The time for commencing agricultural and horticultural operations in this part of the Territory is fast approaching, and those whose occupation it is to till the earth should be making the necessary preparations, that when the season for preparing their fields and gardens for planting or sowing shall arrive they may be in readiness to commence without delay.

In the Southern part of the Territory agriculturists generally plow and sow more or less before this season of the year, and we presume they have been sowing wheat for weeks in Washington county, and even in Draperville Precinct, in the Southern part of Great Salt Lake county, before the last snow storm, the farmers were engaged in plowing their fields, sowing wheat, planting potatoes and other kinds of seeds, all of which operations were of course suspended by the late storm and the cold which followed, but will be resumed again in a few days, or as soon as the weather shall moderate a little.

In this and adjoining counties, there was much land plowed last fall, intended for wheat this season, which will be in condition for seeding shortly after the snow shall have disappeared, and that at farthest will be within a few days. Land plowed last fall will be dry enough for seeding, before other lands will be in a proper condition for plowing, especially in wet localities; and those who improved the fine weather with which they were blest before the setting in of winter, in plowing their fields will find a material benefit resulting therefrom, not only in the amount of grain produced, but in being enabled to get their seeding done in good season in the spring and before the ground becomes so dry that it will need irrigating, either before or after the seed is sown to cause it to germinate, which is often the case on bench lands when sowed late in the season.

It is very probable that in consequence of so many teams being sent to the Missouri river this year, to assist those wishing to emigrate to these valleys, who have not the means with which to procure an outfit, there will not be a sufficiency of teams left in the country to perform all the work necessary to be done to carry out the extensive farming operations resolved upon by agriculturists, unless good care is taken to have it done as soon and as expeditiously as possible on the opening of spring. If all things are in readiness for successful operations, as soon as the weather will permit, farmers can do their work in season with less team than if they have to wait for implements after the time for seed sowing shall arrive.

So far as we have seen and heard, there appears to be a determination on the part of those who follow farming or gardening either in city or county to be ready to commence their operations as soon as possible, and in the course of a few weeks, fields and gardens may be expected to present a very different appearance from what they do at present; as they are now covered with snow, then they will be undergoing the necessary process to cause them to produce the necessities of life.

Time of Harvesting Wheat.—An Illinois farmer, incited by a statement of the advantages of early cutting, tried the experiment on a field of fifty acres, last season. The bulk of the crop first cut, weighed sixty-two and a half pounds to the measured bushel. The part of the field left until fully ripe before cutting, gave wheat weighing but fifty-eight pounds per bushel, making a difference of nearly one hundred bushels on the whole field in favor of early cutting—from ten to fourteen days before maturity. This is anticipating the usual season a longer time than we have ever before known to be tried; it having been well authenticated over and over again in this vicinity. —[Exchange.]

Influence of Extreme Cold upon Seeds.—Some experiments have been made this year, by Professor Eli Wartmann, of Geneva, Switzerland; on the influence of extreme cold upon the seeds of plants. Nine varieties of seeds, some of them tropical, were selected. They were placed in hermetically sealed tubes, and submitted to a cold as severe as science can produce. Some remained 15 days in a mixture of snow and salt; some were plunged into a bath of liquid sulphuric acid, made extremely cold by artificial means. On the 6th of April they were all sown in pots, and placed in the open air. They all germinated, and those which had undergone the rigors of frigidty produced plants as robust as those which had not been submitted to this test.

Keep Hogs Clean.—Hogs kept all the time wallowing in their own filth, can neither be healthy nor make good nutritious pork. The stench of the pen permeates the tissues of the animal through the medium of the lungs. So says the *Ohio Farmer*.