

SHORT STAPLE.

During the past week forty thousand pounds of wool, nearly all from Lake County, were shipped to San Francisco from Calistoga.

Sheep-feed is plenty in the mountains, but water is becoming scarce. Small bands have no difficulty in securing a supply, but the pools are so low that a large band drains them dry before all have been satisfied. This is a season of unusual water-scarcity.—*Oakland Tribune.*

The Texas Wool-grower advocates keeping the mowing-machines hard at work at this season, as insurance for the sheep. Texas has had the credit of having the largest percentage of dead sheep of any State in the Union. California has had too many in most years, and many of our stockmasters have seen the time when they would pay big prices for forage.

"We do not believe that wool manufacturers are desirous of having the price of wool any lower than will enable them to compete successfully with foreign manufacturers in the American markets. Both wool and goods must be protected on the same basis, or protection on wool would amount to nothing." These are the views of a manufacturing company of Connecticut. If all wool manufacturers were of the same mind, wool-growers would feel that they could pull together.—*Texas Wool-Grower.*

A very pretty way of training sheep by gentle treatment is found in the columns of the *Rural World*. It says: "Take a ewe lamb to the house and make a pet of it. Use nothing but kindness, and give it a name, teaching it to come at the call. Whenever the lamb obeys, give it something as a reward, such as a grain of corn, piece of bread or anything that is acceptable, but never give it a blow. When the lamb is grown, place it in the flock, and you will need only to say to one sheep, 'follow all the others will follow.' As sheep follow their leader, the training of one is the training of all, and it is a saving of time and labor to do so."—*Texas Wool-Grower.*

On June 29th we mentioned a fine flock of ewes sold to Halin & Levi of Tom Green county, Texas, by Hutton Bros. of Los Angeles. In the last issue of the Tom Green Times we had the following mention of this flock: "Mr. Leon Halin has just returned from a trip to California, where he purchased 2000 head of fine wool ewes for his firm, Halin & Levi. He shipped the ewes by rail to Murphysville, in Presidio county, from which point they will be driven to the firm's ranch on Main Concho, where the 4000 head brought from California by Mr. Halin last year are already located." Mr. Halin says that he had a very pleasant time—in fact, that he enjoyed the trip immensely. He also reports that sheep are held at much higher prices in California this year than last.

Scouring Wools.

Several experiments have been made of late in this city to determine what saving could be made in freights by scouring Texas wools, and it was found that on a light shrinkage, medium wool, allowing for high rates of transportation after scouring, a saving of \$19 00 could be made on one thousand pounds, out of which would be paid the expenses of scouring, the calculation being based upon Eastern quotations for the wool in the dirt and after it was cleaned. It would appear that there is room to be made by scouring wool here, and as scoured wools can be baled to advantage, it is possible that an additional saving could be made by that process. In this connection, however, we notice that in California, where the wools shrink more than in Texas, and where the distance to Eastern points is many fold, and consequently a greater proportionate saving could be made, many of the scouring establishments of San Francisco are idle, and California wools are still going forward in the

dirt and grease. Before going further into this matter, which is of such great moment to all wool-growers at a distance from market, we would like to learn from our California exchanges and correspondents, how is it that they are still shipping dirt and wool? Are the scouring advantages not material in actual operation? Do the wool scourers not act fairly with the wool-growers? Or are the California wool-growers deaf and blind to their own interests? Let us talk this thing over and find out why wool-growers pay for hauling wool and grease when they have scouring mills at their doors to prevent it.—*Texas Wool-Grower.*

A new invention is a door lock that has no key. Married men who are in the habit of carrying a night key will kick against its introduction. It would be rather inconvenient to take the door off its hinges and lug it about with them until midnight or later. What is wanted is a lock with a key-hole that can be opened by simply walking at it when the key is in the hand of the house owner. Some and finds that incorrigible apertures making 900 revolutions a minute.—*Vorris-town Herald.*

WOOL MARKET.

The Boston market is quiet, with more steadiness in price. Manufacturers are buying very cautiously the low prices of the raw material being offset by a feeling of uncertainty as to the effect of the impending opening of the new fabrics, are not tempted to purchase with their usual freedom. Ohio and Michigan wools have been sold, but at concessions in the prices asked at the beginning of the month. The stocks are increasing slowly, and this deprives the market of any increased strength, even at the lower figures. Some Texas wools have changed hands. The stock of California wools in the East is not large for the season.

Pulled wools range from 25-44 for extra, but the principal business has been between 35-44 and 38, California pulled wools seem more in demand than California fleece.

The latest telegrams report Ohio and Pennsylvania extra 37-40; Michigan fleece, 34-35; Combing and spinning coarse 38-43; Unwashed wool, 23-28.

Philadelphia reports show a steady market at unchanged prices. Foreign wools show a neglected and is held by local merchants for better prices, while Eastern Oregon is being shipped to San Francisco seeking buyers.

There has been more appearances of San Francisco life in our wool market during the past week, but what business has been done in wool is chiefly Eastern and Eastern Oregon. A reason given for the neglect of Valley and Superior Wools is that Cotswold, Southdown, Leicester and other breeds of wools are produced in the United States in excess of manufacturers' requirements, and that under the new tariff English grown wools of the same class are landed in Boston in unlimited quantities at from 46 to 48c per pound, which is a heavy discount for San Francisco for the choice selected wools of the valley.

There have been four Eastern buyers in the city this week, and it is believed that San Francisco is also local operator buying for Eastern connections has also done considerable business, probably the largest. The Northern California goods to Chicago and Eastern Oregon have been looked at.

The George Stearns, with 3400 bales of wool in grease is ready for sea, and the Semmes and Crockett will get away by the end of the month with about 1200 bales, making about 5000,000 pounds for the three vessels. This will leave the stock in warehouse here about 9,000,000 pounds. These shipments are all California, Northern and Eastern Oregon, except about 600,000 pounds of choice San Jose wools.

Attention, Sheep-Breeders!

MR. CERMAIN PELLISSIER

Has a few of his unexcelled Thoroughbred French Merino Yearling Rams for sale. Breeders of fine stock will do well to call or write to the

HUTTON BROS

7 & 10 Ducommun Block, Los Angeles, who will take pleasure in exhibiting and giving information with regard to the stock.

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THAT FRESNO BEETLE.

This beetle is attracting considerable attention, especially in some Fresno vineyards, where its presence in such extraordinary quantities and the rapid visible destruction of vegetation in the vineyards at the same time has caused much alarm. The beetle, as we said last week, is a black, hard shell insect, varying in length from 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches. He is well known in California as the variety that stands on his head when attacked or alarmed and emits a very offensive odor. He is the skunk of the insect creation. He has hitherto been generally described and classed as a vegetarian, and the rapid destruction of the leaves and young stalks of the vines on which he is found seems to justify this classification. A specimen, however, has been sent to Matthew Cooke of Sacramento, late Chief Horticultural officer of California, and Mr. Cooke insists that he does not feed on the vine, but climbs on it in search of a much smaller insect which is the real destroyer, and on which he preys. This smaller insect is unknown, and the matter is being investigated. Mr. Minturn, one of the sufferers, feels confident that the beetle is the vine-destroyer. Mr. Cooke adheres to it, that if it could be proved that the beetle fed on any vegetation it would be a new discovery. Meantime the beetles are dying by the million, covering the ground and bottoms of the irrigation ditches, and causing a very sensible and offensive odor over acres and acres of vineyards in Fresno county and vicinity.

THE GRAPE BLIGHT.

EDITOR MERCHANT: As the season advances it becomes more apparent that the grape crop of the State has been severely blighted. The fruit has been caused to drop off in a great measure before well formed; in some cases the young berries have been apparently cooked on the vines. Our advices are not yet well enough digested to warrant an exact description of the trouble; hence speculation as to the cause is premature. The Pasadena people complain that their Muscats are not setting well. Near Folsom the young berries were cooked on some varieties. Near St. Helena the ordinary features of the disease known in France as *Coulure* are more particularly described. What causes this disease and how to remedy are matters not well understood yet. It is certain, however, that certain varieties of vines are less subject to it than others, and some are practically free from it. The important thing for vine-growers now to do, is to observe carefully and with strict regard to truth note down the circumstances as they appear, without intermingling them with theory. After this has been done, we may digest the facts and discover a true theory, or suggest one for discussion. Let it be noted if possible:

1st. The climatic conditions preceding and during the progress of the disease.

2d. The physical conditions of the soil and the topography of the land.

3d. The varieties of vines affected and unaffected.

4th. Varying appearances of the disease during its progress.

The physical condition and manner of development of the vine during and preceding the disease.

I could suggest some of the theories that have been advanced on this subject, but it would be better to discuss them after we have obtained our facts. It would be interesting to observe whether such vines as the Mataro and Folle Blanche, which are said to be free from the disease in France, are affected here, and whether the Muscat, Cabernet, Malbec, Carignan, Ponslart, etc., vines said to be affected by it in France are particularly affected here this year.

If our local resident inspectors and vine-growers generally will take notes on these points and contribute them to my office, I shall be glad to make as good use of them in my next report together with a discussion of the physical conditions. It would be interesting to observe whether in any particular vineyard, where conditions of climate, soil and exposure have been the same, certain vines of one variety have been affected differently from others of the same variety, and in such cases to note any peculiarities of growth, age, pruning, etc., that may also distinguish the same vines.

CHAS. A. WETMORE,

Board of State Viticultural Commissioners, III Leidesdorf street, San Francisco.

The St. Helena Vine-Growers' Damage Crop.

At the meeting of the St. Helena Association last Sunday there was a very full attendance, President Krug in the chair. The railroad question went over in the absence of Mr. Schaffer, who had the matter in charge. We condense the following from the report published by the St. Helena Star:

The further consideration of the injury to the grape crop by heat was then taken up, with the following result:

Mr. Crane reported that he was damaged some; portions of his vineyard would bear imperfectly.

Mr. Metzner (of Conn Valley) said his Malvoises were hurt most; Zinfandels some, not so bad; Franken Rislings not at all.

Mr. Lenthall said Black Malvoises were no account, one-third of a crop; Zinfandels fair, with heavy second crop; Upright Burgundy or Maturo were the best. Gray Rislings were tolerably good.

R. M. Wheeler's grapes were injured considerably, Malvoises worst, Zinfandel tolerable, but good second crop. Frankeu and Johannisberg Reising bad—saw no difference; Black Port not hurt—good crop; Crab's Burgundy badly injured, heavily set but dropped off.

Mr. Amesbury—Malvoises half a crop; Zinfandels and white grapes fair, also Golden Chassais; there were a few Gray Rislings.

Mr. Sawyer—Zinfandels fair, some little ones; Upright Burgundy good.

Mr. Wade had no addition to make to his former report except that his vineyard looked worse every time he went through it. They were chiefly Malvoise. Of 10,000 vines 6,000 were Malvoises; there were some grapes, not imperfect, small berries. Maybe there would be half a crop. The Zinfandels were not much better. Burgers were a little better, but not perfect. They were all hurt some. There was no one variety but what was hurt. Had thought before that this crop was the third short now was convinced that he would not have over half of last year's crop. The Malvoises were as good as any in the vineyard.

R. M. Wheeler thought the small berries would ripen; they did last year.

Chas. A. Bradford, of Brundage's, Lake County, being present, was called upon for the situation there. Vineyards looked pretty well as far as he had examined; thought the weather had not been so hot as here; the Malvoises had not borne well for three years, but laid it to their being in the shade of the orchard; they were nice grapes, but thin—few on a bunch; all other varieties, of which he had ten or twelve, were splendid.

Mr. Adamson—Black Malvoises pretty

