THE CALEDONIAN.

Farm, Garden and Kitchen.

Interesting Discussion on the Wool Question.

One of the most interesting exercises connected with the State Fair, was the discussion at the Farmer's meeting, on Thursday evening, upon the wool question.

E. H. Griswold of West Salsbury, was the first speaker. He alluded to the general depression in the wool market throughout the country, and said that the effect of this depression was more serious at the West than it is at the East. Probably three-fourths of the sheep in Ohio will be slaughtered during the present year. Any long continued depression in the wool market will drive hosts of farmers out of the business. He believed that so many men would drop wool raising throughout the country that it would cause the price of wool to advance ten or twenty cents per pound during the next year or two. The Vermont farmers ought to try and raise a good class of sheep, independently of the wool that they directly aim for. He could see no reason for any permanent discouragement in regard to wool growing. He believed that the trade in sheep would soon be as lively in Vermont as it had been, though the prices might not be as high as they were during the war.

Victor Wright of Middlebury, said that he was not discouraged as a wool grower and could see no reason for any wide spread discouragement. Low prices must be expected occasionally, and there was no sense in abandoning the wool growing business because the prices were temporarily depressed. He expected the farmers and wool growers of the State to do all in their power to retain the present tariff. For himself he would not knowingly vote for any man, for State Legislature even, who was not known to be decidedly in favor of a protective tariff.

There are now about 39,000,000 persons in the United States, and the annual consumption of wool is about 160,000,000 lbs. With so large a yield of wool as we now have, the question is how can the market be controlled and protected so far as to make the business remunerative. In Brazil wool can be grown at three cents per pound, and in Australia, the finest wool in the world can be grown for seven cents per pound. In view of these facts he regarded a duty of ten cts. a pound as none too high, and in fact, not high enough. The South American and Australian wools can be imported under that duty and sold at prices that will ruin Vermont wool-growers. It is of vital consequence that the present tariff be sustained and he knew that it was the design of the Massachusetts manufacturers to try and get Mr. David A. Wells' tariff through at the next session of Congress. He thought it would be useless for the wool growers to contend with the manufacturers, for the manufacturers have control of both the political and agricultural press. The manufacturers are the shrewdest men in the country, and they will spare no money and no pains to carry their point. The farmers are not organized for competition, and are not prepared to contend for their rights. He urged the importance of getting the press interested in behalf of the wool growers, and of having able and practical agents employed to watch Congress and see that the wool-growing interest gets its rights. He said that the reason why the woollen mills are not running more generally is not on account of the excessive importation of goods, but because there are more mills than are wanted to manufacture the cloth needed for use in the country.

Edward Hammond, of Middlebury, made some remarks in regard to the agreement made between the manufacturers and wool-growers. A great many of the manufacturers were always opposed to any union with the growers, and a great many of the manufacturers in Massachusetts and elswhere never became parties to that agreement. He believed that those of them who made an agreement to act in concert with the wool-growers upon the tariff question remained faithful to their agreement, and it was to be remembered that the present tariff upon wool, which was four cents per pound more than under the preceding duty, was obtained through the assistance of the manufacturers.

Henry Clark, of Rutland, defended the manufacturers from the accusations that had been made against them of acting in bad faith to the growers. The present tariff could never have been obtained without the aid of the manufacturers.

H. C. Merian of Boston, said that $100,000,000 was invested in wool growing in the United States, and it was of the first importance to all wool growers, and to all farmers who were not wool growers, that this department of American agriculture should be carefully attended to. The cutting off of the cotton supply during the war largely increased the demand for wool, as well as its production.

George Cambell of Westminster, said that he had lately been told by Buenos Ayres wool growers, that our present tariff was ruining their trade. He believed therefore, that the present tariff was a benefit to the wool growers: that it was obtained through the assistance of the manufacturers, and that the wool growers should cultivate a congenial feeling with the manufacturers.

A. D. Smith, of Danby, said that the wool growers were better off than cheese makers. Last year he sold his cheese for twenty-one cents per pound, and a few days ago he was offered only ten cts. per pound for the same dairy of cheese. He was in favor of supporting the wool-growers, and urged all farmers to join with the wool growers in keeping up the present rate of duty upon wool and cloth. People could better afford to pay high prices for the cloth they use than to have growing business abandoned by those farmers who are now engaged in it.

The discussion was quite spirited, and was well attended and listened to.

To Make Ghosts Visible. — The U. S. Patent Office recently refused to grant a patent for "an arrangement to make ghosts visible." It consisted of a room from which light and air was almost excluded, only air was admitted by a stopcock, which was opened from time to time and light was passed, in very small quantity, through a piece of dark blue or black glass, or fluid, so that when entering the room nothing was seen, but remaining in it any length of time a very faint view of the interior was obtained—the inventor asserting that the bodies of ghosts and spirits are so attenuated that common light passes straight through them and makes them visible. The ground on which the patent was refused was, that if several persons are inclosed in such a room, without sufficient air to breathe, they will not only see ghosts, but also give up their own ghosts.

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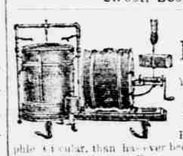

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