

The result of this investigation, when obtained, will be at once published for the benefit of the farmers, and it is believed it will be of so convincing a nature as to cause a very large increase of their flocks.

Farmers have experienced much difficulty the past season in procuring laborers, and this has been but partially met by immigration, which, however, has been larger than in preceding years.

The number of emigrants arriving at New York in the year ending

September 30, 1864, was.....	177, 823
Arriving at Boston.....	5, 204
Arriving at Philadelphia.....	4, 483
Arriving at Baltimore.....	2, 203
	189, 713

Eleven months, ending November 30, 1863, gave.....	146, 519
And the year 1862.....	76, 306

It is certainly gratifying to notice this vast increase under what were supposed to be disadvantageous circumstances.

My annual report for 1863 is but just issued; the great delay is owing, as I am informed, to a want of paper at the government printing office, and an absolute impossibility of supplying it.

I believe the volume will be found equal in interest and value to the preceding one.

The balance of the appropriation for the service of this Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, remaining unexpended on the 1st of December, 1863, was \$51,758 81. A special appropriation was granted March 14, 1864, to supply various deficiencies, amounting to \$4,770.

The following amounts were appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, viz: per act of June 25, 1864, \$143,100; per act of July 2, 1864, \$3,704 05, to enable the Commissioner of Agriculture to pay a debt incurred by the Commissioner of Patents in preparing the agricultural report for 1861, &c., and \$300 to restore the salary of the chief messenger; and per act of July 4, 1864, \$3,500, to pay the rent of additional rooms for the use of the department, making a total of \$150,604 05.

There has been expended from December 1, 1863, to November 30, 1864, inclusive, \$111,233 35, leaving an unexpended balance of \$95,899 51.

Of the special appropriation of \$20,000 "to test the practicability of preparing flax and hemp as a substitute for cotton," there has been expended \$4,939 60, leaving a balance of \$15,060 40.

In conclusion, I beg most respectfully to suggest that there never was a time in the history of this country when its agriculture was so important to its development, and so essential to its continued progress; or when the government should so freely and generously extend to it every possible aid and encouragement. In the full measure of its limited means, this department is doing every-

thing which earnest endeavor and assiduous labor can accomplish; and it has, I trust, so far commended itself to the confidence of the people that their honored representatives will continue to afford the liberal aid and encouragement it has heretofore received at their hands.

The continuance of the war has imposed upon this great interest of our country a twofold obligation. It has first withdrawn from agriculture its effective force of men and animals, converting them, moreover, into non-producing consumers; and it has then required it to support this vast body of non-producing consumers, in addition to the largely increased demands of our growing manufacturing, of the mines, and of the cities, whose teeming millions must be fed, as well as the immense immigration, the increasing tide of which is flowing rapidly to our shores.

Nor are these the only claims upon our agricultural interests which it has successfully met. Commerce looks to it as its main support. It must not be forgotten that our surplus grain—that which is grown in excess of home consumption—freights our merchant ships, and is the chief commodity with which, at present, we discharge the obligations necessarily incurred abroad.

And it is not improper to notice in this connexion the gratifying fact that a beneficent Providence, amid the terrible calamity with which our country has been visited, has still grown such abundance in our fields and granaries that we can feed the hungry of other nations, having enough and to spare for our increased necessity.

Let us remember that it is the love of agriculture, and those who develop and teach it, which distinguishes the civilized from the uncivilized nations of the earth.

As a great and Christian people, whose beneficence heretofore has brought upon us the blessings of those who were ready to perish, we may well strain every nerve that again, if need be, we may become the Almighty's almoners to the nations of the earth.

I venture to hope that the next annual report of this department will embrace the agricultural statistics of the whole United States, to be forever and uninterruptedly thereafter "one and inseparable," prosperous and free.

Respectfully,

ISAAC NEWTON,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN, *President.*

family in our State had a spinning-wheel among its household gods, the effect would soon become visible, not only on our foreign trade, but in securing us that independence which is so comforting an element in our being. From all this, learn the profit of sheep-husbandry. Let us grow our own wool; let us manufacture it for our own use; let us become independent of foreign governments and sister States, and we add at once to our power, wealth, and comfort.

LEGISLATION.

The great sheep-growing interest received no special protection by law in the early history of the State. To be sure, a law was enacted paying a bounty for the scalp of certain harmful wild animals, as the wolf, lynx, &c., which, being numerous, committed depredations upon the flocks and domestic animals of the pioneer. A law of similar character is still on the statute-book. In 1861, however, a very stringent law was enacted against the importation and sale of diseased sheep. It provides that any person who should import, or suffer to run at large on any common, highway, or unenclosed lands, or should sell or dispose of any diseased sheep, should be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars. This act was deemed necessary because at that time many persons were beginning to realize the adaptability of this State to sheep-raising; and some unprincipled parties from other States, taking advantage of the desire of our people to purchase, and presuming something, perhaps, on their want of enlightenment on the subject, attempted, and in several instances are said to have succeeded, in selling flocks of diseased animals. These flocks were not merely a loss to the purchaser, but to the neighborhood, by the spread of the contagion. No prosecution has taken place under this law; but so great is the interest connected with the whole question of sheep, that an offender would meet with summary punishment at the hands of the authorities and people. It is believed that the prompt enactment of the law put an effectual stop to any future attempt to perpetrate so great an outrage and swindle as the sale of sheep affected with contagious disease. In 1859 many persons petitioned for a law to protect sheep from the ravages of dogs; but the bill was ridiculed beyond measure, made sport of, and finally defeated. Soon after the close of the eighth general assembly, the State Agricultural Society distributed throughout the State blank forms of petitions to the legislature to enact a law against the worthless curs that infested the country. A circular was also issued, under the same auspices, setting forth that a bill had been presented to the previous legislature; that it had been made the butt of brainless lawyers, and had been literally laughed out of the house; and calling upon the farmers to rise in their majesty, overwhelm the legislature with petitions, and compel them to protect this growing interest from the ravages of dogs. The petitions fell thick and fast upon the ninth general assembly, representing fifty-three counties, thirteen agricultural associations, and over three thousand people. Upon no other subject were so numerous petitions presented, and, in obedience to the apparently expressed will of the farmers, a law was enacted, of which the following are the principal features: To register every dog before May 15, 1862, with the township clerk; to pay one dollar for every male, and three dollars for every female dog; to post up a list of registered dogs in each township; to put a leathern or metallic collar on every dog, with the number; all dogs without such collar, a nuisance; fine not exceeding fifty dollars to maliciously kill or entice away any collared dog; lawful for any person, and made the duty of every police officer, constable, &c., to kill any dog not registered; lawful to kill any dog worrying any sheep or other domestic animal; fine any officer neglecting to enforce the law, ten dollars; all funds accruing to be set apart as a school fund, to be paid to the township district treasury; took effect by publication, being deemed of immediate importance.

The petitions out of which grew this enactment, as already intimated, set forth that hordes of worthless curs infested the country, to the serious detriment of the wool-grower, and prayed for a law to protect sheep against them. The dog-law, while it does not mention sheep, would undoubtedly have proved an immense protection to them, if executed. The tendency of the law was to diminish the number of dogs, and the less the number of dogs, the less the injury to sheep by dogs. During the few months the law was in force, many an uncollared dog met an untimely death; and school districts that were short of funds became suddenly plethoric in their treasury. The towns and cities did not hesitate to enforce the law; while the agricultural districts, for which the law was especially made, treated it with magnificent scorn and indifference. In 1862 a special session of the legislature was called, for the express purpose of enacting a law to enable our brave soldiers in the field to vote, and to adopt measures that would strengthen their hands and hearts, and give moral and material support to the government. It is humiliating to record, that the very first thing done when that body was convened was to introduce a bill to repeal the dog-law. And the law was repealed.

The history of this legislation is a remarkably curious and a very ludicrous and amusing one; and these few facts are detailed now, because the day is not distant when our farmers will again become clamorous for some such protection or will be a "law unto themselves" and will kill every dog that is found ten feet away from home. The following are some of the more potent objections to the law as expressed by many persons: it did not provide a fund to indemnify the owners of sheep from losses by the ravages of dogs; it was humiliating that our children should be educated by a dog-tax; it was unconstitutional, depriving a man of property without due process of law; if dogs were killed off, the wolves would so increase upon us that no domestic animals could be reared; it did not allow every farmer to have *one* dog free of taxation—and much more of that kind.

In Ohio, in 1863, there were 174,404 dogs. Sheep killed by dogs, 36,778; injured, 24,972. Value of sheep killed and injured, \$136,347 28. The whole number of sheep 4,448,227, valued at \$7,339,041. The entire population of the State, in 1860, 2,302,838—say, in round numbers, in 1864, 2,500,000. This would allow one dog to every 14 persons, and less than two sheep to the individual. Proportion of dogs to sheep as 1 to 26. The population of Iowa, in 1863, is 702,162; and taking the same ratio as obtains in Ohio, it will give a grand aggregate of 50,155 dogs in Iowa. There are not less than 900,000 sheep, or a little more than one sheep to the individual; and the proportion of dogs to sheep foots up the alarming ratio of 1 to 18. In Ohio each dog was nearly 80 cents damage to the flocks of the State; taking the same proportion, our losses in the past year will reach \$40,124. In the absence of statistics, this may be considered a fair approximation. Scarcely a week passes but a newspaper paragraph gives intelligence of loss to sheep, by dogs, in some part of the State; and not a hundredth part of these ravages finds its way to the press. Says Colonel Johnson, secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, (Trans. 1862, page 710,) "We have received, for the first time, the number of sheep killed by dogs—5,503 sheep in twenty-two counties, as reported, and from the remaining districts in those counties not returned would have increased the number to at least 8,000, and for the whole State probably 50,000; valued at present prices for sheep would make for the whole State at least \$175,000. We ask the farmers of the State if they can afford to supply with choice mutton (sheep) these worthless curs roving over their fields every year."

From this showing it is evident that there was, and still remains, a necessity for legislation on this subject; and how much opposed soever the farmers, as a class, may be to the taxation of dogs, or to their destruction, the fact is patent that their losses are annually very great from this cause. Should a legislature

officers, and it is now in the full tide of successful operation. It numbers among its members many of the prominent wool-growers of the State, and bids fair to accomplish much good. The specific object of the organization was to petition Congress to protect the American wool-grower by fixing a tariff on all foreign wools imported. This object being achieved, it is the design to meet at convenient times and places, and by lectures, addresses, and discussions, to develop the wool-growing interest, and give it permanency and importance. These efforts cannot fail of producing good fruit. Mind will be brought into contact with mind, experience compared with experience, and the association will be a centre of light and knowledge.

A greatly condensed statement of replies of correspondents in 1863 will exhibit, with much clearness, the actual condition of sheep-raising at that date. It would occupy too much space to compare them with notes of the year previous. Let it be said, in general terms, that those statements are generally not adverse to the idea that sheep are a profitable stock, or are receiving special attention.

Audubon county.—There is a lack of interest on the part of farmers in sheep-raising.

Adair.—No very large flocks; farmers working into them as fast as their means will admit. Sheep do unusually well, are healthy, and with proper care little loss need be anticipated.

Blackhawk.—Increased 200 per cent.

Cedar Valley, (a large district.)—Sheep do well; imported over 40,000. Two years ago shipped from Cedar Falls 1,000 pounds of wool, last year 32,000.

Central Iowa district.—Much attention being paid.

Clinton.—Large numbers being brought from eastern States; business yet in its infancy.

Des Moines.—A decided improvement over previous years.

Dubuque.—Are engaging attention of agriculturists; 20,000 in the county; fleeces average 4 pounds.

Fayette.—Our wants partially supplied by importation of fine-wooled sheep.

Floyd.—Sheep have been sadly neglected; of late, number has been largely augmented.

Harrison.—Farmers who have had capital have turned their attention to wool-growing, regardless of price, paying \$5 per head.

Jackson.—Have been introduced in large numbers the past two years; considered good paying stock.

Jasper.—Farmers are turning attention to sheep; county well adapted to sheep-grazing.

Jefferson.—Exported 219 mutton sheep.

Lee.—Numbers at the fair fully demonstrated the interest in wool-growing.

Mahaska.—Sheep increased sixteen-tenths, with a vigorous effort to increase both in numbers and quality.

Marshall.—Large importations of sheep; sheep-raising cannot fail of being a great source of profit.

Muscatine.—Just beginning to receive the attention that properly belongs to them.

Page.—Sheep-raising daily growing in favor.

Polk.—Becoming more and more satisfied, every year, that this climate is well adapted to wool-growing; raising of sheep becoming a prominent branch of agriculture.

Pottawatomie.—Generally improving the stock and increasing the numbers.

Scott.—Many large flocks of sheep have been introduced the past year, and the profits arising therefrom pay the entire outlay in a very short time; a new woollen mill lately started.

Union Agricultural Society, (a district.)—Sheep are beginning to be introduced by the more wealthy and enterprising.

Union, (a district.)—Sheep business has assumed huge dimensions.

Washington.—Wool-growing is fast becoming an important branch of husbandry.

Wayne.—Majority of the farmers have sheep sufficient to raise wool for the use of their families.

These brief notes indicate that though the interest is a new one, our farmers have taken advanced ground in this important branch of husbandry.

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.

While the evidences are abundant that Iowa can produce sheep and wool, it is not less clear that she possesses every facility for manufacturing purposes. Thirty millions of acres of uncultivated lands at prices ranging from \$2 to \$5 per acre; a healthy, salubrious climate; a soil unsurpassed for richness and fertility, and the variety of its productions; free schools, with a school fund amply sufficient to educate every child in the State; energy in projecting and completing railroads; agriculture receiving the patronage of the State; founding an agricultural college that promises the most important results; unflinching and unconquerable loyalty to the union of these States against all treason and rebellion—these invite hundreds to forsake the sterile fields of the country and seek home and employment in our midst. Particularly at this time is there room for the capitalist to invest in manufacturing woollen goods. Under a very large portion of the State lie inexhaustible beds of coal that afford a cheap and convenient fuel. Each year develops more and more this important element of wealth. In 1862 there were raised 901,858 tons of coal, which, at a fair estimate, will be doubled in 1864. The further these mines are worked, the better improved the machinery and appliances for mining, the more profitable does the business become. The supply of wood is by no means exhausted, and situations upon streams would be surrounded with a supply for many years to come. Streams of water likewise afford good water-power sites in almost every county; and upon the prairies water is abundant, and can be readily obtained by digging. Enterprising business men could, at this time, secure a monopoly in every neighborhood. In 1860 the whole number of manufacturing establishments producing over \$500 was 1,790, and number employed 6,587. The State census of 1862 gives the value of general manufactures of all kinds at \$2,950,805. We need one or two woollen mills and carding factories in every county of Iowa, of five thousand inhabitants. Here is a field for investment that will yield a handsome profit to the enterprising and intelligent capitalist—an investment that will pay a better percentage than any kind of stocks now for sale. Two millions of dollars would not establish mills and factories enough to work up the raw material produced on our soil. Our mills do not at present supply a sufficient amount of woollen yarn to make our stockings. We must commence the manufacture of woollen goods, or must continue to export wool to the east. And what is the result? We pay the transportation to the seaboard; pay the wages in part of the hands employed in the factories; pay the expense of freight back in the shape of cloths or goods in exchange; pay the jobber and dealer; and assist all these to amass a fortune at our cost. Were factories established here we would save all this vast expenditure; we would secure a better article of clothing; we would add to our wealth by giving employment to hundreds of operatives; the hum of business would resound gratefully to our ears; and above all, we would have a never-failing market for our wool at our own price, independent of dictation by the seaboard, and independent, too, of those damaging fluctuations that have been so remarkable in the history of the wool trade. Industry, skill, thrift, are the certain elements of success. Put these in active operation, assisted by capital judiciously invested and economically controlled,