



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1899-01-02

Letter from C[harles] S[prague] Sargent to John Muir, 1899 Jan 2.

Charles Sprague Sargent

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Jamaica Plain, Mass., January 2, 1899.

My dear Muir:

I am mailing you, at the request of General Abbot, a copy of The Engineering Magazine, published in England, which contains an article on Pacific coast trees, etc. To my mind it has no value, but I am only too glad to comply with any request or suggestion of the General's.

I suppose you have read Eliot's article in the last Atlantic. You see that even he gives some countenance to the pasturage of sheep, probably by the talk of Bliss's agents. I think it would be a pretty good idea if you would write him and call him down on this point. I thought of doing it but a letter from you would have more influence. In the first place, as you know, only a small part of Washington and Oregon enjoy a humid climate, while the principal sheep-herding is confined to the drier portions of these states, like the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains and the Blue Mountains. The greatest injury I have seen from pasturage I think was on the north side of Mt. Hood. And then the more humid the region the more temptation there is to shepherds to set fires to clear off the undergrowth which interferes with the grasses. I am glad we are rid of Bliss with his dry goods' methods, but I fear the new man is no better and that there is nothing

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to be hoped for until there is a change of administration.

2° below zero here this morning and good sleighing. Poor Mrs. Sargent has been shut up now for three weeks with the grippe and I do not see much prospect of her being out for a week or two more. It is an insidious, treacherous and altogether miserable affair.

Faithfully yours,

C. S. Sargent

John Muir, Esq.
Martinez, Cal.

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