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SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1888.

THE DECLINE IN CATTLE.

The reduction in the price of wool is said to be due to the Mills bill; but how about the reduction in the price of cattle? They produce no wool that is to be affected by tariff revision. This economical problem is being discussed in several of our exchanges, most of which incline to the belief that this food staple is in the hands of a monopoly which affects prices by the use of capital. But we can go a little further back and find other causes. A few years ago cattle raising was a profitable industry. Our home markets consumed all the beef of fair quality that was offered, and the prime and heavy was shipped abroad. Under this stimulus outside capital was applied to stock raising, and all the pasture lands in Texas and the territories were leased at one or more cents per acre and fenced in for cattle ranches. Some of the wealthy corporations, with a sublime disregard for justice and the public interest, ran their barbed-wire fences over the public domain, taking in flowing streams, closing in traveled roads, and in Texas, it was reported, some of these free and easy gentlemen actually fenced in a county house. Neighboring settlers, hindered from free passage to and from their homes, would cut the wires, and then the cowboys would shoot; and thus many a tragedy was enacted over this residue of the cattle barons to take the earth.

At that time the cattle business was certainly an attractive enterprise. Millions of acres of pasture, the use of which cost next to nothing, fat cattle in active demand and bringing high prices, and the annual increase in calves being equal to half the herd. Nothing was easier than to purchase yearling and two-year-old calves in Texas, drive them to the Indian Territory, Wyoming or New Mexico, and then wait for the increase. But the best laid plans of mice and men are often foiled. The winters of '82 and '83 were unusual in their severity, and thousands of cattle, without food or shelter, succumbed to their icy blasts. A number of companies who had stocked their ranches with 5,000 or 10,000 "through" cattle were horrified at the spring round up to find only as many hundred surviving. These animals, poor and lank with a summer's drive, were not sufficiently recruited to stand the winter's exposure.

Political events also proved adverse. Grass leases on the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservation, in the Indian Territory, returned to those affiliated tribes \$60,000 a year, and led to the pasturing of immense herds on their lands. Suddenly there arose trouble between the agent and his "wards." The Indian department had been defrauded by the practice of these semi-sophisticated red men reporting the number of births, but never mentioning the deaths that occurred. By this means the table on which their rations and annuity goods were issued became inflated. Agent Dyer was ordered to enumerate them, which they resisted and the agent had to flee for his life. Gen. Sheridan was then sent with a regiment of cavalry, and this doughty chieftain soon brought them to terms. But his brother Miles, Col. M. V. Sheridan, had a grievance and left it a good time to fight it. The military secretary had been in the habit along with other army officers, of pasturing herds on the Indian lands, and no one had complained. But these cattle leases had broken up this industry, and the civilian cattle owners were not held in high esteem by the exalted gentility. Gen. Sheridan in his report to the war department attributed the Indian insurrection to the presence of the cowboys and

their herds, which had a demoralizing effect on the mind of poor Lo! This egregious nonsense imposed on President Cleveland, and by an executive order he revoked the leases, and ordered the herds removed in 90 days.

This unsettled the cattle industry in the entire territory, and the latest development came to the surface two or three days ago in the refusal of cattle owners to pay the Chickasaws \$14 a head grass money or to remove their herds. The chief had ordered them put off, and both sides were arming for the fray.

It is now agreed by cattle experts that the days of large herds are over. A better quality of cattle must be raised and more care devoted to their culture. Stock farms will take the place of ranche and range, and a good share of the land now devoted to cattle will be given up to settlers. This will arrest the shrinkage in beef values, and the raising of cattle will again become profitable and unaffected by any political complications.

THE EMPEROR DEAD.

The sad news that has so long been expected from Germany, came over the wires yesterday. The Emperor Frederic is dead! It has been evident for some time that his sickness was mortal, and it was a question of but a few days or weeks when it would get away with its uncomplaining victim. "Pale death," says the Roman poet, "with equal footstep invades the beggar's hovel and the palace of the king." And the like desolation attends the fell destroyer's approach. Beneath the robe of state beats a human heart, and the loss of husband and parent is as afflictive amid gold and blazonry as with sorid surroundings.

This emperor who has been vouchsafed so brief a period of rule, is an interesting character, and had he been allowed to retain empire, it is believed the world would have been better for his living. He had gained distinction as a soldier in several memorable wars, and will fill his niche in history as an illustrious prince. But, like our own Grant, he had no taste for the military art; he would rather contribute to the happiness of the race than afflict them with the scourge of war. He married a daughter of Victoria in his early manhood, who inherits the domestic qualities of her mother, and the amiable influence of this princess has no doubt softened and liberalized the early training of a Hohenzollern. Frederic's intention was, so political writers say, to grant a new constitution to the German people, so liberal in its provisions that the socialistic agitation in that country should be quelled. As a statesman he saw the folly and wickedness of the present armaments of Europe, every power watching its neighbor with jealousy and suspicion, and exhausting its resources and oppressing its people to maintain a force to resist invasion. There is something malevolently wrong in Christian nations living together like fortified brigades; and to this royal soul was ascribed the design of proposing disarmament to his brother kings and potentates in order that the nations of Europe might live together as neighbors. This great work he would have undertaken had health and strength permitted, and the science of government of the civilized nations would have been advanced from its present condition of jealousy and armed might, to a practice commendable with the presence which professes justice and brotherly love.

The empire descends to his son William, who is said to lack the liberal spirit of his father; but we can place trust in the wisdom of the ministers he may appoint, and rest our hope on the gracious influence of his English mother.

OREGON'S compliments to the democratic party, and legs have to present it with the first nail for Mr. Cleveland's political coffin.—New York Tribune.

Fifty Dollars

Jas. Patterson of St. Paul entered a plea of guilty of selling liquor to a minor in the circuit court to-day, and was fined \$50 which he paid.

Tax Rivers Bill

W. N. Cline was granted a divorce to-day from his wife, Hattie M. Cline, by Judge Boise. In the circuit court.

Prisoners

Burglaries cut by the latest bias system, at Mrs. A. H. Farrar's.

NEW TO-DAY.

Proposals for Supplies

The board of trustees of the Oregon State Insane Asylum hereby invite sealed proposals for furnishing at the asylum near Salem, Oregon, the following supplies for six months, the commencing July 1, 1888:

GROCERIES,

200 lbs Liverpool salt, fine.

300 lbs Soap, Kirk's sapon.

300 lbs Dried peaches, machine dried.

300 lbs Dried apricots, extra mess.

300 lbs Tea, U. S. brand, Ponchon.

300 lbs Tobacco, Rapidan brand.

300 lbs Glace sugar, Elementch Mfg. Co.

300 lbs Corn Starch, Devore's.

300 lbs Soap, extra fresh, Irish.

300 lbs Raisins, California Layers.

300 lbs Gums, Spain's, new process.

300 lbs Sugar, 750 lbs Golden C. 300 lbs Granulated.

300 lbs Coffee, C. 300 lbs Ground.

300 lbs Chicory, C. 300 lbs Chicory.

300 lbs Corn meal.

300 lbs Refined oil.

300 lbs Soda, coarse, round.

300 lbs Baking soda, 2 sifting, velvet top.

300 lbs Concentrated lime.

300 lbs Turkey droats, 14 inch.

COFFEE.

300 lbs Costa Rica, 1st grade.

300 lbs Government Java.

300 lbs Red Mocha.

300 lbs Chicory.

SPICES.

300 lbs Black pepper.

300 lbs Mace.

300 lbs Cinnamon.

300 lbs Ginger.

300 lbs Alephine.

300 lbs Sustard.

300 lbs Cloves. All standard ground.

FLUMLING.

300 lbs Jenkins valvets, 3 1/2 inch, 6 1/2 inch, 3 1/2 inch, 6 1/2 inch.

120 lbs pressure reducing valve.

120 lbs 1/2 inch, 2 inch, 2 1/2 inch.

120 lbs Tee, 1/2 inch, 2 inch, 2 1/2 inch.

120 lbs Stake, 1/2 inch, 2 1/2 inch, 3 1/2 inch.

120 lbs Flange, 1/2 inch, 2 1/2 inch.

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