

MEAT PRODUCTION IN FAR WEST

Washington, D. C., Aug. 22.—That hereafter there should be a slow increase in the output of beef and mutton in the range states of the West, but that this increase is likely to be accompanied by an increase in the cost of production, are the chief conclusions of a report on "Live Stock Production in the Eleven Far Western Range States" which the department of agriculture has just published. This report is one of the five sections of the exhaustive report on the meat situation in the United States, in the preparation of which the department specialists have been engaged for some time. It discusses the reasons for the long decline in meat production in the West and explains why there is reason to believe that this is now a thing of the past. In addition it includes detailed studies of the present cost of producing steers and lambs.

Between 1910 and 1914, the year in which the investigations on which the report is based were made, the numbers of live stock in the eleven states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, declined about 13 per cent. For this decline the report holds the settlement of public lands and the consequent reduction of the range primarily responsible. A number of other causes have contributed to the downward movement, but it is pointed out these have been more than offset by higher prices and therefore more profitable range animals, and the general agricultural development which have favored production by leading to a more widespread adoption of the practice of winter pasturing on alfalfa and cultivated crops.

The prediction that this decrease hereafter will give way to an increase is based upon the belief that the amount of livestock on farms and homesteads will be greater in the future than the stock ranges in the National Forests will continue to improve, that the carrying capacity of the stock ranges on the public domain may be increased by legal regulation, and finally that high prices of range animals and better methods will result in a more efficient utilization of the available forage, or, in other words, a greater production per unit of forage.

In 1914 it was estimated that no more than 30 per cent of the new settlers had more livestock than was necessary to supply them with work and milk animals. The situation in this respect, however, was changing even then, and the movement for the production of more livestock may be expected to continue because both market and agricultural conditions make this indispensable to really successful farming. The change will be gradual, it is said, and only a few head of stock will be added to a farm, but ultimately and in the aggregate the increase will be greater than that which is likely to be accomplished in any other way. The problem for the states and the national government, it is said, is to aid in the change by working out a system which will make such agriculture profitable.

In addition to this increase in the numbers of farm stock, there is little doubt that the carrying capacity of the existing ranges can be greatly enlarged. This has been demonstrated

in the national forests where improved methods and regulation have increased the capacity of many ranges from 15 to 30 per cent. This process should continue for at least ten years more and should result in building up the carrying capacity of the national forests as a whole by perhaps 15 per cent.

If similar control could be exercised over the public domain outside of the forests, it is estimated that the capacity of these ranges could be increased about 30 per cent. About half of this would result from the improvement in the range itself after overstocking and premature grazing were prevented and natural reseeding facilitated. The remainder would follow water development, the construction of fences and the introduction of methods of handling stock which are out of the question as long as the improvement of conditions on the range merely provides an incentive for new men to crowd in and undo by overstocking whatever good has been accomplished. The carrying capacity of these ranges has greatly diminished in the past and under the present system there is no reason for supposing that it will increase in the future.

Other factors, though of less importance, that should tend to increase the future production of livestock are greater economy in the use of forage both on the range and on the farm, the use of more and higher grade bulls and better management of the breeding animals through the year. The last two, it is said, offer the possibility of increasing the calf crop five or ten per cent and the average weight of a two-year-old steer perhaps thirty pounds.

Where winter feeding is practiced it is believed that a yearling steer will cost approximately \$30 and a "long" two-year-old \$45. In the range sections of the Southwest, on the other hand, the costs may be estimated at from \$15 to \$19 for a yearling and from \$20 to \$25 for a two-year-old. With sheep there is a similar variation. In California the cost of producing a lamb is placed at \$1.55 in the Southwest at \$1.71 and in the Northwest at \$1.82. In considering these figures it must be remembered that they all may be materially altered by increasing or diminishing the percentages of births in the herds and flocks. Better methods, it is pointed out, will almost certainly increase the calf and lamb crops and in this way reduce the cost of production per head.

In estimating these costs the investigators charged against the stock the market value, in the vicinity, of all the feed consumed. In this way the necessity of considering the money invested in land and equipment was eliminated but, on the other hand, allowing the stock owner a profit on the feed increases somewhat the estimated cost of producing animals. As the owner might not get his profit on the feed if he did not raise stock to utilize it, the actual profits in stock raising are probably somewhat greater than the difference between the market price of the animals and the report's estimates of the cost of production.

Our Want Ads bring results.

AERIAL NAVIGATION.

Rousseau Thought It Might Come, but the Problem Stumped Him.

A curious little book is an old, old treatise on aeronautics by Jean Jacques Rousseau, called "Le Nouveau Dedale."

Like Leonardo da Vinci and Cyrano de Bergerac, Rousseau was haunted by the dream of aerial navigation. We read in his treatise: "Men walk on the earth, they sail on the water and swim in it. Is not the air an element, like the others? What business have the birds to shut us out of their premises while we are made welcome in those of the fishes?"

Rousseau took no stock in any theories propounded by the Darius Greens of his day. He sifted the matter for himself and thought it involved two problems. First, to find a body lighter than air, so that it would rise. He imagined that sooner or later such a body might present itself. There was no telling.

But what stumped him was his second problem—how to make that obliging body stop rising and how in creation to make it come down. This was too tough a problem for Jean Jacques, and he wound up his book by admitting it.

For a long time "Le Nouveau Dedale" remained unpublished, appearing only in 1891.

BE FAIR WITH THE DOG.

Give It a Square Deal and It Will Repay You For Your Care.

Only muzzle a dog if it is absolutely necessary. The wearing of a muzzle tends to make dogs cross and snappish. It does not prove that a dog has rabies or is mad because it froths at the mouth. It may have a sore throat or a fit.

Clipping the ears is a cruel and barbarous practice, wholly unnecessary, depriving the animal of its natural comfort and beauty and injuring its hearing.

If you must tie up the dog have the end of the chain secured to a ring on a long wire so that it can have the run of at least twenty or thirty feet.

Don't blame the dog for showing no ambition if it is overfed on meats and sweets. Its health and spirits will be of the best if it is given simple but substantial food and allowed the freedom of outdoor life.

Train the dog with firmness and fairness. The animal is eager to learn what is wanted of it and when once it understands will follow instructions with almost human intelligence.—Our Dumb Animals.

"A Right and Lawful Road."

An example of the old rough and ready methods of arriving at a measurement is the Elizabethan way of getting the "feet." Falentin Leigh, who wrote on surveying, records that after service on Sunday sixteen men were stopped at the church door, just as they happened to come out, and drawn up in line, left foot to left foot. The length thus obtained was taken as "a right and lawful road" to measure and survey the land with, and a sixteenth part of it as "a right and lawful foot." Although big and little men were thus roughly averaged against each other, the results naturally varied to some extent. Hence it is, as Shaw Sparrow notes in treating of this "road" as the architectural "bay" which gives us the "bay window," that a bay is sometimes found to be rather less than sixteen feet of twelve inches.—London Chronicle.

Epictetus.

The "Discourses of Epictetus" were written not by the philosopher himself, but by his faithful pupil Arrian, afterward the historian of Alexander the Great. Arrian tells us that he took down the sayings of his master at the time they were delivered, and thus we may rely upon the substantial correctness of the discourses. Epictetus wrote nothing, and but for the thoughtfulness of his affectionate disciple we would have known nothing of his wonderful teachings—teachings which have inspired many of the greatest men who have lived during the past 2,000 years.

Satisfied With Little.

The Australian bushmen wish only a shelter from the rain, and if they can find a cave or overhanging rock that will shelter them they will build no house. If there is no such natural shelter they select a place where small trees or bushes grow together and weave the branches together and cover them with grass. This forms a roof to keep off the rain.—Pittsburgh Press.

Idle Talk.

"Gosh ding!"
"What happened?"
"I talked two hours trying to persuade that girl to give me a kiss."
"Well?"
"Just as she agreed her father came in and began to talk politics."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Hard to Whip.

"When you're whipped," said Mr. Dolan, "you ought to say you've had enough."
"If I have enough strength left to say I've had enough," replied Mr. Rafferty, "then I'm not whipped yet."—Washington Star.

His Share.

Kriess—What did you get out of your aunt's estate?
Kriess—After settling things up the lawyer blew me to a good dinner and loaned me \$5.—Brooklyn Life.

If you invite people's opinion you're no right to sneer at them because they don't say what you wanted.—David Graham Phillips.

Needs Many Bridges.

Baker county officials are receiving bids for a large number of steel bridges for various localities in the county. A total of fifteen new steel bridges are proposed.

Death Due to Pneumonia.

The death of Congressman Sinnott's little baby girl in New York this week was due to pneumonia.

Aged Aurora Doctor Dead.

Dr. Martin Gieff, an Oregon pioneer of 1855, died at his home in Aurora Monday at the age of 83.

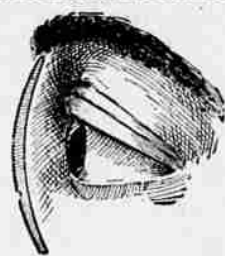
Poor Fishing at Astoria.

Fishermen were disappointed over the light run of fish in the Columbia Monday particularly after the closed period over Sunday. The take of fish was exceptionally light in all localities near Astoria.

\$100 Reward, \$100

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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fans are found in every station, in every trade and occupation; the able jurist and the baker, the boss of many a rolling acre, the butcher, as he sells his rasher, the banker and the haberdasher, the cattleman in far Laredo, all pin their faith to good Tuxedo. Walt Mason

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