

**THE ONTARIO ARGUS**

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**Australian Clip Short.**

The following editorial, reproduced from the Pastoral Review, published in Melbourne, Australia, under date of March 16, sets out conditions in that country which are of interest to sheep men of this country. The editorial follows:

"It is no use Australia burying its head in the sand any longer, and imagining, after the manner of the ostrich that its body cannot be seen. We are on the edge of a precipice, and steps must at once be taken to prevent us falling over. The drought which has been in evidence in South Australia, Victoria and Riverina for more than a year has now extended until practically nine-tenths of Australia is crying out for moisture. From progress returns of stock at end of last year we find that our losses have already been heavy, and no doubt Australia had at least eight million sheep less than she had the previous year, besides the loss of the natural increase; but things are even much more serious now. We are on the verge of winter; we have little or no feed anywhere; our lambing is practically a failure, and stock which are away on agistment on high lands must be removed or they will die also unless hand-fed. At no time was the outlook more menacing. Queensland, even, which has had a splendid run of years, has so far lost its monsoonal rains, and over a large area

is in for a most severe winter, with heavy losses.

"What should be done at once is for the government to take all possible steps to save what stock there is. They should allow fodder of every description to be imported duty free, without any red tape delay. The railway authorities should, when possible, convey starving stock and fodder absolutely free. Now is the time, if ever, for the railways to justify their state ownership. They should be run for a few months at least primarily in the interests of the starving stock. If it is not done, the next few years, and until the country is stocked up again, will be bad indeed; dairying, irrigation, fruit or agriculture are not going to keep the country going. The only good thing may be that perhaps the people will be taught that Australia depends (borrowed money excepted) almost entirely on its live stock for its high wages short hours and present prosperity."

**New Reason for the Vote.**

It may be thought by this time every argument for or against national women suffrage has been brought out and used over and over again. They are all, of course, mere details of the general proposition that women are people, and as such, in a country penetrated with the ideal of democracy, are entitled to equal rights with the other people dwelling therein. But the New York schoolma'am has introduced a new variation of the theme. Among resolutions recently adopted by societies of women teachers appears this:

"Whereas, Our influence as teachers in presenting to our pupils high civic and political ideals is weakened by the natural skepticism and distrust of our pupils as to the practicability of ideals and standards set forth by those whom the state has not enfranchised; therefore, be it resolved, that the Association of Women High School Teachers by unanimous vote indorses the amendment to the constitution which will enfranchise the women of the state of New York."

Pretty reasonable, too, isn't it, when one comes to think of it.

**Russian Market for Our Goods.**

The report that Russia has been placing contracts for millions of dollars worth of shrapnel and cars, things that could be used during the war and also things that can be used in peace, gives one an idea of the possibilities of a Russian market for Made-in-America goods even after the war.

A statement issued recently by Sergius Sazanoff, the Russian foreign minister, should open the eyes of American business men to the vast, undeveloped commercial field in the Russian Empire.

"It is the country which foresees the situation commercially in Russia that will reap the enormous benefits the Russian markets now offer," he says. "For America especially does Russia open opportunities for an industrial outlet such as can hardly be overestimated. We have an empire of 170,000,000 souls, and the \$300,000,000 we have been paying Germany yearly is but the beginning of a demand that will soon make Russia among the most desirable and valuable markets of the world."

There can be no question of the commercial harvest ripening in Russia and soon to be ready for the reaping. Naturally the hatred engendered against Germany by the war will create a blockade of prejudice against German goods when the channels of trade are reopened.

Our total trade with Russia last year, imports and exports combined, was only about \$27,000,000, less than our trade with Chile. In five years from now it should run into the hundreds of millions.

**The Nebraskan Incident.**

While the English admiralty is sure that the American vessel, the Nebraskan, was damaged by a German torpedo, indications are that Great Britain will have difficulty in proving this. Should it be proven the situation would be far more serious, from a technical standpoint, than even the Lusitania disaster for the Nebraskan flew the American flag and was on its way to a peaceful country, the United States, so it could not possibly be carrying contraband or war munitions.

America is going to keep its head about the incident. The Germans are using vigorous methods in their efforts to win but it is not believed

that they have become so crazed with the love of victory that they would stick their heads in a noose of trouble by torpedoing the Nebraskan when there would be nothing to gain and possibly much to lose.

**No Alliance for Us.**

Foreign nations do not seem to understand yet, after 125 years of proof, that the United States stands alone, pursuing its own policy, fighting its own battles when necessary, but neither fighting any other nation's battles nor pulling any diplomatic chestnuts out of the fire.

It is well that this should be clearly understood now, when many public men of the allied powers, especially in England and Canada, are frankly and complacently assuming that this country will enter the war as an active ally of Great Britain.

The great body of American citizens may have moral sympathy with Great Britain, as they have with Belgium; the present crisis has been precipitated by an act of aggression that fell with almost equal force on the United States and Great Britain; German aggression, if continued, may force us into the war; nevertheless, if we go to war, it will not be as a member of the Triple Alliance, nor as a member of a new British-American alliance, nor in alliance, real or nominal, with any power in the world.

If we are forced to fight, we will fight purely as Americans, with American ships and guns, under the American flag, for preservation of American rights and reparation for injuries done to American citizens, property and honor. We shall not assume any of Europe's quarrels nor ask Europe to assume any of ours, even though the fortunes of war should place our soldiers and ships side by side with those of European allies against a common enemy.

**A Lost Opportunity.**

The United Hatters of America seem to have lost an opportunity in deciding not to pay the \$252,000 court judgment against the 187 Danbury hatters. Perhaps the Federation of Labor has, too. Both of these bodies gave their moral support to the little Danbury union in its boycott; and whether the judgment is regarded as right or wrong, the national hatters and affiliated labor organizations would have gained more than the mere money's worth by being "good sports."

**ROLAND G. GARROS**



Roland G. Garros, the noted French aviator, who was brought down and captured by the Germans.

**RAYMOND SWOBODA**



Raymond Swoboda, who was accused by the French of having set fire to the steamship La Touraine at sea.

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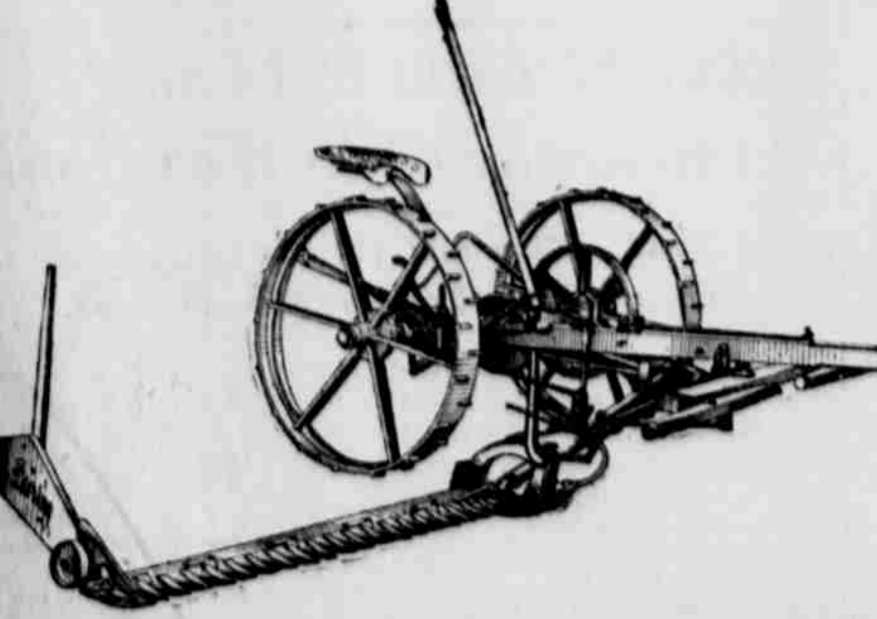
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