

OREGON FORGING TO FRONT AS LIVESTOCK STATE

Although the Open Range of the Interior Is Being Taken Up, Animal Industry There Will Continue to Grow in Importance

By O. B. Hardy.

WITH the railroads rapidly approaching the vast expanse of territory in Central Oregon, the doom of the open range in that country seems inevitable. This section is rapidly becoming settled and a much more intensive system of farming is being practiced than has heretofore been in vogue. The range is being fenced in new places and it is only a question of a short time until the extremely large flocks and herds now common in the country will be a thing of the past.

Central Oregon has long been famous as a stock country and, indeed, the fame has not been wrongly placed, because it is from this section of our state that some of the finest range stuff to be found anywhere has been sent. The climate of the territory—as a rule, mild and dry—is such as is highly favorable to the raising of livestock and for diversified farming. The winters are generally not severe and stock does well with very little attention aside from feeding for a short period at the close of each year.

That Central Oregon is a stock country is shown by the fame which it retains at the present time. It was here that the early settlers found one of the most ideal horse countries obtainable, and for many years the horses from Central Oregon, particularly North Central Oregon, were famous in all parts of the United States, and they were indeed a very high class of range animal. But with the passage of 1883 the horse industry was ruined. The prices were so low that many were forced out of the business, and as only the very best of horses could be sold at any price, breeders had a lot of inferior stuff on their hands. These horses were promptly turned on the range and the result is—no more than anyone could have expected had they given it a thought—a lot of small, wild, inbred, almost useless cayuses when compared to what would have resulted had foresight been exercised.

Quickly following this blow to the horse industry in the north section, came the invasion of the wheat farmer, and the range was destroyed. Farther south the departure of the buckaroo was followed by the invasion of the cowboy and cattle baron. Many of the former horsemen also went into the cattle business at this time.

The cattle of the pioneers were good and, though there was little pure-bred stuff in large herds, animals of comparatively good breeding could be found without much difficulty, as the practice of breeding was more or less popular and good bulls were used. Because of these practices, the cattle of today are a pretty good lot, the Hereford grades being perhaps the most common, though there are to be found in this territory characteristic representatives of all the breeds of cattle. There are also in the country several herds of pure-bred cattle. The Bonnieview Stock Farm in Crook County, owned by J. H. Gray & Son, of Prineville, has a notable herd of 200 pure-bred Herefords. The Willowdale Stock Farm, owned by M. B. Biggs, of Prineville, has a herd of more than 50 pure-bred Shorthorns, headed by the bull Rapton Royal.

H. D. Dunham, William Congleton and S. S. Stearns, in the Prineville country, are building up large herds of Herefords, and the Hay Creek Ranch, Mitchell Bros., and F. S. Hamilton are raising Shorthorns. In North Central Oregon, near Heppner, is located the Mountain Valley Stock Farm, where W. O. Minor has an unexcelled herd of Shorthorns, headed by the bull Golden Goods, the \$300 son of Chico Goods and Golden Abbott. Mr. Minor's herd won \$2494 in cash premiums at

three fairs in 1909. In Sherman County Barnum Bros. have a large herd of pure-bred Herefords.

The breeding of pure-bred stock cattle is being forwarded with the passing of the sway of the range cattle. Some progressive sheepmen have also gone into the country and have found the abundant feed and dry, mild climate very favorable for the raising of fine-wool sheep.

They can drive their flocks long distances to grass and Poland China hogs began to increase throughout the country until today flocks of 10,000 to 40,000 sheep may be found in nearly any part of Central Oregon. The most valuable flock of sheep is that of the Baldwin Sheep & Lard Company on the Hay Creek ranch in Crook County. This company has the largest flock of pure-bred Merinos in America, if not in the world. It is today running 12,000 pure-bred ewes and doing a large exporting business of fancy stock. The James Rice Company is also handling several thousand pure-bred sheep in the same locality. T. S. Hamilton is a large breeder of pure-bred Delaine sheep and T. H. Lafollette is breeding pure-bred Hampshire, J. N. Williams, former Congressman, is an extensive grower of mutton sheep, using pure-bred Cotswold rams and native sheep, the cross producing a very fine lamb for feeding out.

Hogs, though only tried in a few instances up to the present time, have on these occasions done well in Central Oregon. The country is peculiarly adapted to the raising of hogs of the bacon type. They are fed on alfalfa except for a short period previous to marketing. The method commonly in use is to arrange a series of pastures and turn the hogs from one to the other as the feed is eaten off. Then by feeding grain for a time before killing a superior grade of meat is produced. Pure-bred Poland China hogs are now being grown by W. O. Minor, at Heppner, and by G. Springer, C. M. Elkins, T. H. Lafollette, in the Prineville country, and by numerous others throughout Central Oregon.

The breeding of better grades of horses is also showing rapid advancement in handling imported Shire horses; German Coach and Clydesdale horses are found on the Bonnieview ranch; road horses are being bred extensively at the Willowdale ranch and by John Schmeer, of Prineville; G. Springer is devoting considerable attention to draft horses and C. M. Elkins to Percheron, Barnum brothers, in Sherman County, have a good number of blooded horses and pure-bred stallions are found in nearly every locality.

The fact that the open range is being taken up is found to be no reason why the livestock industry should be neglected in Central Oregon. As has been stated it is a country where stock does well and therefore the diversified farmer will in time fall back to his stock as a main source of revenue. The aggregate production will thus be greater though the individual production will not be so great. It has repeatedly been demonstrated that the farmer must look ahead and cannot afford continually to crop his land without putting something back into the soil, and what better means are to be had than through livestock?

There are in Central Oregon other advantages for stockraising than those mentioned. There still will remain in this territory something over 15,000,000 acres of grazing land (according to the report of the Oregon Conservative Commission for 1908), besides the forest reserves where stock may be "run" in the summer on the payment of a nominal fee. This pasture land is so scattered that it is easily accessible from all parts of the country. On the other hand the irrigating of a large part of the country will work water out onto



AFTER THE ROUND UP ON A CENTRAL OREGON RANGH.



BEST READY FOR MARKET



CENTRAL OREGON'S WOOL OUT PUT IS WORTH MILLIONS

SCRUB STOCK IS BEING REPLACED IN OREGON HERDS BY THOROUGHBREDS

Pure-bred Cattle, Horses, Hogs and Sheep, Which Are Now the Rule, Are Attracting Wide Attention and Winning Many Blue Ribbons in This State.

By G. A. Westgate, Secretary Portland Fair and Livestock Association.

I hope the time will come when, with a smile of peace on his face and a unit of contentment in his tail, the American hog may go untrammelled through the markets of the world—without the perils of a speech by J. P. Dooliver.

THE Spanish occupation left in the West a race of long-horned cattle of much meanness and little beef, also a breed of horses tough and white-eyed, with all sorts of bad habits, both rather negative assets to owner or community. When the range was free and wide, stockraisers of this sort found their half-wild occupation productive of a living, feed being omitted from the expense account. But, in time, the gospel of better livestock took to the Pacific States. Earnest men gathered about them pure-bred herds and flocks, with the best American and foreign foundation, until the stockyards arrival of today usually shows something of blood in an improved form, for the scrub, bovine, equine or human, is a heavy consumer and a light producer, and there is no room for him any more.

The pioneers of the Northwest viewed coldly the prune and asparagus diet. To them, bacon was real "vitalls," and a breakfast resolved into a progressive breakfast, they believed, like Secretary Wilson, that meat-eating nations would always rule the world, as they always have. So as soon as Oregon commenced to be the livestock industry came to the front. Even then, the Superintendent saw the end of the scrub, and introduced pure-bred horses and cattle as progenitors of a better race.

The Broadmead farm was a conspicuous example of these early efforts. There the draft horse and the Shorthorn flourished under Superintendent's care, and it was in the plan to make there a great and permanent breeding establishment. For it had become evident that conditions of soil, climate and vegetation were favorable in Oregon to the horse, the cow and the sheep. The western valleys and the eastern ranges all seemed by nature intended

for livestock production. Later, the Oregon Experiment Station taught the uses of clover, alfalfa, vetches and kale, and that they could be successfully grown and profitably fed in these parts. In the dairies, selling crops and the silo supplemented the hay and feed bin, and gained an important place in the routine of the rational livestock man.

A few years passed, livestock of high class came to Oregon by birth or purchase. The Oregon State Fair had grown to be worthy of the name, and Oregon breeders gained confidence in the show ring. To the St. Louis Exposition went Frank Brown with Shorthorns that won championships in a world's competition, and F. E. McElDowney, with the Ladd Jerseys, which included the grand champion, Loretta D. Oregon sheep at that show also won honors. This opened the eyes of the Nation to the quality of Oregon livestock and the possibilities of the state in the livestock line. Afterward came professors and authorities, all wise men from the East, to marvel at local conditions and to express the view that Oregon is destined to become a nursery for pure-bred stock quite as famous as the Channel Islands, England, France or the Low Countries.

At the Lewis and Clark Exposition, home breeders took a large share of the blue ribbons. Oregon beef breeds, Jersey, sheep and swine held their own. Oregon horses maintained their usual high place. But that modest man, the careful breeder, P. A. Frakes, of Scappoose, took grand honors with cow and bull in the hot Holstein competition of breeders who were not accustomed to defeat met their match. At Seaside last year the big entries from Oregon were the Bonaday Farm standard-bred horses, the Ruby drafters, and the Shorthorns of W. O. Minor's Mountain Valley herd. All of these breeders brought back enough blue ribbons and championship banners to make an indefinite number of quilts.

Of course the show ring is but a phase of the game, and every breeder cannot have pedigreed stock, while at the shambles the scales are more than

those sections of the country which are now almost worthless—because of no water—and much of this land will then produce an abundance of grass and forage.

The railroad will be a great benefit to the stock industry in that an outlet for the production will be afforded without the long drives which are now necessary. Moreover the ever increasing local, as well as export, trade and the stock markets and packing houses in Portland will insure a place for the disposal of all marketable stock.

These favorable conditions for the raising and handling of livestock in Central Oregon and the past performance of the country should act as an incentive to those who seek a livelihood by the production of stock. This industry should soon become as solid a business under the new conditions as it was under the old. Such will undoubtedly be the case, and diversified farming stock is an important factor and must receive attention.

lineage. But the educational value of the show ring cannot be overestimated, for good judges bring out excellence as well as fault of form, and the general trend is toward knowledge of that supreme aim of every breeder, perfection. It is matter of congratulation to all interested that wealthy men have gone into pure-bred livestock as recreation, and brought together great herds and flocks; but the practical fact of more importance in this state is that men have commenced at the very beginning, with small means but much enthusiasm and energy, and carved out a competence and a place through the pure-bred livestock industry. The field is still sufficient to be attractive to others along the same way. The producer of beef needs pure-bred sires. The draft-horse farmer requires access to the best sires. Sheep and swine husbandmen have constant need of good blood, and here the pure-bred breeder finds his market.

Butter is high, beef is scarce, hogs are bringing turkey prices. The killers are constantly bringing in supplies from other states, not half so well fitted to produce them as Oregon and Washington. The call has been for broader markets. Meanwhile home trade and that of Alaska and the Orient are growing. Come the Swifts to establish packing plants of large capacity and modern economical methods. Come also a system of improved stockyards, with D. O. Lively as their prophet. The need is greater than ever now. The need is greater production of better stock, that the first-cost money may be paid out at home. Lively wants more stock to supply the market. Does he preach digging up the orchards and turning in the hogs, or abandoning the garden to the hen? Not so. The orchards will garden and cultivated fields will broaden in extent even while their owners are carrying more livestock. For the livestock breeder returns something of the elements of fertility to the soil. Dairying is especially fruitful in this respect. But the present call seems to be to the horseman, the cattle-breeder, the sheepman and the hog-grower, with a good outlook before him.

Portland is doing its part as a dis-

tributing market, and a number of Portland business men have established the Portland Fair and Livestock Exposition, which represents an outlay of \$200,000, and is intended to make an annual livestock show of National character. Some years ago, annual breeders' sales of horses were established in Portland, and last year in the sale were nine carloads of fancy horses from other states, as far east as Indiana and the bluegrass. No business man can afford to be indifferent to the livestock industry, which has made Kansas City and Chicago, as well

as other industrial centers of America. With natural conditions present, with established markets, livestock shows and sales, is it unreasonable to expect the livestock industry of the Northwest to become the dominant phase of agriculture?

The producer of any commodity is in lamentable condition when there is little or no market for the fruits of his effort. The livestock business has not flourished in the Pacific Northwest as compared with other industries, due largely to the fact that the feeder and shipper have had to depend on the will

of traveling buyers in order that they might dispose of their animals. There has been little or no incentive for raising more and better hogs, cattle and sheep for market purposes for the reason that there has not heretofore been an open and competitive market at which the demand is always in excess of the supply. That condition has changed now and all of the packers and butchers of this country are looking to Portland for a part or all of their needs for animals to kill. Natural conditions for the raising and feeding and fattening of livestock are better in the country tributary to Portland than in almost any other section of the United States, and to the newcomer who understands this business there is open a wonderful field of success.

The country is setting up rapidly and the new people are demanding better quality. Every packer and butcher is met daily with the request for better cuts of beef and better-mutton chops and better pork roasts and there is

labeled "PORKERS" ARE FATTENED ON GRAIN STUBBLE FOR PORTLAND MARKETS.

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PORTLAND IS CENTRAL STOCK MARKET

Animals Are Being Sold in Local Stockyards at Rate of \$8,100,000 Annually, and the Amount Will Be Greatly Exceeded When Packing Industry Is Established in New Plant.

By D. O. Lively, General Agent Portland Union Stockyards.

THE observer who keeps in touch with the progress of the Pacific Northwest realizes that the rulers in the financial field at this time, such as lumber and wheat and the dairy industry, will gradually have to step aside for the young and vigorously growing monarch, livestock. The population of a country must be fed and the means of meeting the demand which the demand is always in excess of the supply. That condition has changed now and all of the packers and butchers of this country are looking to Portland for a part or all of their needs for animals to kill. Natural conditions for the raising and feeding and fattening of livestock are better in the country tributary to Portland than in almost any other section of the United States, and to the newcomer who understands this business there is open a wonderful field of success.

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little or nothing said about the price. These people are accustomed to paying good prices for good meat, and the farmer or stockman who prepares himself to supply this increasing demand in the matter of quality as well as quantity will be displaying sound business judgment.

It is claimed that the Portland livestock market pays better prices than any other place in the United States. Packers have not had the opportunity of bidding on corn-fed quality cattle, but the statement is made that the grass animals which sell at prices paid at Portland would bring less money at Chicago. At the time this is written, hogs are selling on the Portland market at \$8.60 per 100 pounds and fat sheep are so scarce that almost any price could be procured. The value of the livestock sold on the Portland market last month approximated \$45,000, but it is confidently expected that by this time next year, at least three times that amount in money will be paid out each month. It is certain that at this time there is not enough livestock produced in this country to supply the local demand and it is somewhat of a reflection on the business acumen of our farmers that it is found necessary to go to the Missouri River for a greater part of the late Winter and early Spring supplies of market animals. It is expected that this condition will change and that instead of carrying coals to Newcastle, this country, so well adapted to livestock production, will in the future have a surplus to offer to the less favored section East.

The farmer who has livestock to sell every month in the year is manifestly in better condition than he who markets the result of his year's work at one given period when every other producer is offering his production for sale. Livestock is a source of greater revenue to the farmers of the United States than corn or wheat or dairy products, and taken as a whole, is greater than any one single line of commercial activity. Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are at this time behind the procession in the production and sale of this important part of the country's food, but like in every other particular, supply and demand will meet on common ground.

It may be well to consider what the location and maintenance of a livestock market means to Portland. In Chicago the commercial supremacy of which is due chiefly to the fact that it maintains the biggest livestock market in the United States, there was paid out in 1908, in the case of livestock for livestock sold across the scales of the Chicago Union Stockyards Company \$396,900,000. More than 60,000 laborers find employment every business day of the year in converting the cattle, sheep and hogs covered by the above wonderful expenditure into meat, lard, shoes, gloves, snuff, fertilizer, about 60 chemicals, into collars, buttons, knife handles, hair for plaster, ammonia and other things too numerous to mention. The opportunity came to the writer, when in Chicago, to demonstrate to the newspaper men of that great city the fact that covering the railroad tonnage in and out, the making of boxes for packing-house products, the cooperation necessary for barreled lard and pork and the various activities connected with the livestock industry, fully 25 per cent of Chicago's entire population derives its support from the meat business and that in tonnage, in dollars and cents, the people employed it was greater than the grain, the lumber and the dry goods trades, the three next biggest branches of commerce of the city by the lake.

The Portland Union Stockyards Company opened for business on September 15 and while yet in its swaddling clothes, Oregonian readers will be surprised at the magnitude of the business now being done. About 30 regular and occasional buyers got part or all of their supplies of livestock from this market and for the month of November, there was paid out for cattle, sheep, hogs and hares an approximate total of \$675,000. Without anything increasing, this would show an annual business of \$8,100,000, not counting the value of the manufactured products or of the money expended in preparing same for market. This livestock was hauled into Portland in 457 cars and it requires a car for every 1500 gift to expect the receipts at the Portland Union Stockyards to total more than 200 cars a day.

The practical advantage that accrues to a city where a livestock market is located is that shipments of cattle, hogs, horses and sheep are always accompanied by either the owner or his representative and it invariably follows that when he receives his cash in exchange for his livestock, he leaves part of it in the city. A large part of what he takes home finds its way back in exchange for dry goods, shoes, machinery and the various branches of the city's commerce. The location of the livestock market means for the country tributary thereto prosperity in the fact that every business day of the year there is a competitive demand at the ruling market prices for all of the animals which the husbandman can prepare for sale. It means that instead of waiting until harvest time that he can have a part of the products of his farm and ranch ready for sale any time of the year and certainly the man or firm who can do business on a cash basis is better off than he who carries a mortgage to be paid when his grain crop is garnered.

Citizens of Portland and Oregon can make no mistake in encouraging the growth of the stockyards and packing-house industries—it means more for the town and the state than anything that has come her way. Here is the location; there is established and being added a series of railroads coming down hill from a magnificent empire of stock-raising and feeding possibilities. We have a consuming population that is large now and is constantly increasing. There is much to be done. The campaign of education for better ways, more in the better feeding of cattle, sheep and hogs already instituted must be maintained with increasing vigor and every man who believes in the Aladdin-like future that will come to Portland, will lend every assistance within his power to the up-building of the livestock business, secure in the knowledge that it means more for Portland's greatness than anything that has been bestowed upon the place where land and water and sky have conspired to the end that a great city shall grow and endure with less effort and less striving than in any other spot on earth.