

THOSE DREADFUL DOGS.

The reports of the department of agriculture are intended to be entirely serious and specially instructive; hence when we detect in them an occasional touch of humor and a thinly veiled effort to mislead we are and have a right to be surprised. An example of a departure from the established rule of seriousness and public enlightenment is seen in connection with a recent report showing the great falling-off in the value of sheep in this country, and an explanatory footnote setting forth the cause. The value placed upon sheep for the past six years is as follows: For 1889, \$30,640,369; 1890, \$100,650,761; 1891, \$108,397,497; 1892, \$116,151,290; 1893, \$125,909,264; 1894, \$89,186,110.

The footnote refers to the tremendous drop in values shown by the estimate of 1893, and reads: "Sheep have suffered rather an abrupt decline in numbers, price, and, of course, in aggregate value, since January, 1893. The ravages of dogs are generally referred to by correspondents as one of the checks upon the progress of this valuable industry." No other cause of this tremendous decline in this "valuable industry" is given; hence we are forced to conclude that the department of agriculture places the great weight of responsibility in the premises upon those dreadful dogs. What a multitude of these voracious creatures there must be in the sheep-raising sections, and how quickly they must have sprung into existence to make a shrinkage in values in this fiercely assailed industry of \$35,723,154 in a single year! What a monstrous appetite for mutton to have been developed so quickly! Sheepowners and herders must have been paralyzed by the suddenness and ferocity of the onslaught, as a still further decline of the sheep industry for 1895 shows that the dogs feasted throughout the year on mutton with daily increasing appetite.

This arraignment of dogs, with the suggestions of their bloodthirstiness, voracity and great numbers, is appalling. At the rate at which their devastations are now going on, mutton will soon be scarce. Their insatiable appetites must, of course, be appeased; what valuable domestic animal will they next set upon? Is it not high time for the honorable secretary of agriculture to sound a note of warning to the legislatures of Pennsylvania, Ohio and other states in which dogs have developed the keenest appetite for mutton, urging the passage of a law providing a bounty for dog scalps? Such a warning would serve to enlighten the prejudiced partisans of those states, who have all along attributed the tremendous decline in the sheep industry to the cause in the Wilson tariff law which puts wool on the free list. It is high time the public intelligence was brought face to face with the fact that the predatory dog, and not the democratic tariff, is the actual sheepkiller.—Oregonian.

HEAR ALL SIDES, THEN DECIDE.

In Saturday's PLAINDEALER we gave place, at solicitation of interested parties, to a declaration of the principles of the A. P. A., just as we did two years ago to a declaration of the principles of the populist party. The PLAINDEALER is republican, "dyed in the wool," believing that the principles of the party which stood the shocks of war, and the malignity of democracy ever since, is based upon principles that are destined to repose firm and unshaken, coexistent with the American Union, and that the Stars and Stripes will float over it in triumph when all opposition has been relegated to oblivion. We are not afraid of investigation. Our motto is, Hear all sides, then decide. It is error that shuns investigation. Jefferson said: "Any error of opinion may safely be tolerated when reason is left free to combat it."

We gave place to the A. P. A. declaration of principles so that our readers might know what they are, by authority of the A. P. A.'s themselves. If any democrat, republican, prohibitionist or even a mugwump Clevelandite, can show their falacy in a candid and logical manner, the columns of the PLAINDEALER are at his service. The PLAINDEALER does not fear error when submitted to the light of reason, neither does it fear the A. P. A., nor even the Review or its clackers.

The Review calls the A. P. A. column in the PLAINDEALER "nonsensical rot." We fancy the democrats (many of whom are A. P. A.'s) who shall read that morsel of information in the Review will feel highly edified by this exegesis of their declaration of principles, and, doubtless will rush to the Review office for copies of Monday's issue, pat the editor on the back and say, "We thank thee, Charles, for those words, 'nonsensical rot.'"

From dispatches from South Africa it appears the Boers have got the best of the English under Dr. Jamieson, and driven them back with considerable loss to his forces. The latest from Cuba shows that the insurgents still maintain their ground against the Spanish. Generals Gomez and Macero are concentrating their forces for an advance upon Havana. The Cubans are determined, and recent checks upon the Spanish have emboldened the Cubans and they are raising almost en masse to drive the invaders from Cuba.

The ratio of representation in the house of representatives in congress is 123,901 as declared upon the census of 1890. The first ratio of 1789 to 1792 was 30,000. It has been increased every decade since, except that of 1809, which stood the same as 1790, viz., 33,000.

There have been only eight presidents who have held office two terms, viz: Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Lincoln, Grant and Cleveland.

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NOTES OF INTEREST.

New goods at Caro Bros. Now is the time to subscribe. Caro Bros. are the boss merchants. Ask your grocers for the Gilvin soap. School books at Marsters' drug store. Go to the Roseleaf for the best cigar. Good goods at the lowest prices at Salzman's.

For a good 5-cent cigar call on Mrs. N. Boyd.

Wool taken on subscription at this office.

Solid silver tea and table spoons at Salzman's.

Pure fresh candles, fruits and nuts at the Roseleaf.

Go to Martin's and get the best flour in the market.

A good farm to trade for city property. Inquire at this office.

D. S. West does insurance. Office opposite the post office.

Plows.—Go to Hunter & Hume for your plows and harrows.

For Sale.—Old papers, at this office, at 25 cents per hundred.

Bring your clocks and watches to Slow Jerry the reliable jeweler for repairs.

Oranges, lemons, apples, sweet potatoes, onions and potatoes at H. Easton's.

Candies, nuts, dried fruits of all kinds and of the best quality. Call at H. Easton's.

Largest stock of fancy chairs at Alexander & Strong's, ever brought to Roseburg and at prices lower than ever.

For a good hat, stylish and cheap, call on Wollenberg & Abraham, whose stock embraces all grades of head gear.

Call and examine the new goods at the Variety store, one block east of the depot, corner of Fine and Lane Streets.

Subscribe for the Daily PLAINDEALER. It is the only live paper in Southern Oregon. It furnishes the latest news up to date.

Bring your job work to the PLAINDEALER office. We are prepared to do the cheapest and best work south of Portland.

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A Salzman, the reliable jeweler.

Go to A. C. Marsters & Co. for school books.

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Clarke seedling strawberry plants for sale at McCall's farm.

Hunter & Hume, at the depot, keep the best plows and harrows.

Remember the People's grocery is on corner of Cass and Pine street.

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C. A. SEIBERDE.

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N. Rice, one of our enterprising furniture dealers has now on sale a fine lot of furniture of the latest style and finish. Give him a call before purchasing elsewhere.

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Mrs. J. W. Sacry-Mullen has returned from Portland and has opened her dress-making rooms at 420 Stephens street, where she is prepared to do first-class dressmaking.

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Mrs. G. W. Rapp, the accommodating proprietor of the People's grocery, which she will sell at a bargain. Give her a trial and be convinced.

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Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that I have appointed D. W. Stearns of Calapooia precinct Deputy Inspector of Stock for said precinct postoffice address, Oakland; also A. J. Chapman of Wilbur, and Ralph Smith, at Roseburg, to act during my absence, and others will be added as parties inspected make their desire known to me.

Roseburg, May 4th, 1897. THOS. SMITH,
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