

Sheep Business.

There is always danger in a boom on any article of purchase and sale, and this is just as true of live stock as of any other thing that goes to make up the business of the country, says Wool Markets and Sheep.

We do not need to go far back in the history of the sheep business in this country to find the place where the last boom collapsed. It is not necessary to even name the breed that was boomed. Every sheep man remembers how the excitement went up; how speculators bought and sold sheep at ever increasing prices, and how finally grades were bought, shipped to Texas, or the West or Northwest, and sold as pure-bred animals by unscrupulous swindlers.

It was good times for every man owning a sheep of the breed. Then came the end and it brought destruction in a way that threatened to put at least one breed of sheep out of business for a long time to come. Whole flocks were sacrificed at prices that were ridiculously below the cost and very much below the real value of the stock. It was the swing of the pendulum to the other extreme.

That which goes up rapidly comes down just as rapidly. This is an inexorable law of nature. Give anything an impulse that sends it high in air and it will come back at the same high speed. It is an example of the old saying, "Fly high and light low."

The sheep business is in good condition. It is on a money-making basis. Prices are fairly good and will no doubt be fairly well sustained. We have not enough sheep in this country to glut the market. There is room for hundreds of thousands more, and the demand for wool and mutton is an ever-increasing one. Our brethren yonder in Australia have seen their flocks die from lack of water and feed, while they looked helplessly to brazen skies and sun-baked plains, hoping for the relief that did not come, that has not yet come. The wool clip of Australia is diminishing on account of the years of drought, and the demand for wool is as insistent as ever. Argentina has had no misfortunes, but the flocks of that country can furnish no more than usual, and American sheep men have reason to look forward to good times and to reasonable returns from their investments.

The way to win in any business is to lay out a plan of campaign and stick to it. Three times within the memory of the writer there has been a boom in sheep, a wild scramble to buy stock, the rise in prices that comes from such competition, and in the end a collapse that worked disaster to thousands.

Our advice is to stick to the sheep through thick and thin. Let no fear of disaster cause any one to sell needlessly. If every one will do this, collapse cannot come. As a meat producing animal the sheep pays its way. The wool is an additional source of revenue. Sheep are better than cattle, because they give profits from two sources, better than hogs, because they not only give returns from meat and wool, but they are not so liable to deadly and wide-reaching epidemics; better than any other kind of farm stock, because they are easily kept within bounds, will consume with profit all kinds of farm crops, and at the same time enrich the land.

Stock Killed by Poisoned Air.

One of the most remarkable atmospheric depressions is reported from Oacoma, S. D. Following the hottest day ever experienced in the South Dakota town occurred an atmospheric condition, lasting only a few minutes, but fatal to livestock and greatly distressing to human beings.

During the day nearly every kitten less than 6 months old in the vicinity of Oacoma died, apparently from the effects of some gaseous matter in the air.

A bunch of eighteen head of cattle in one drove was seen coming down from the flats and eight of them fell to the ground. A farmer living near by ran to them and found six of the eight already dead, while the other two jumped up and ran frantically away.

John Marrin, a stockman living on White river, reports the loss of six head the same day. No losses have occurred since and none prior to that time, and it is generally believed that the copious rains which have fallen since have neutralized whatever poison to animal life may have been in the air. It was a phenomenon heretofore unknown there.

Hundreds Injured By X-Ray.

"Many hundred persons have been seriously injured by unskillful application of the X-ray in Chicago. About 500 X-ray machines are in use in the city. Of the practitioners using the X-ray not more than ten are competent to apply it to patients without danger."

This startling statement was made by Dr. I. Lange an X-ray expert, who was one of the pioneers in the use of the Roentgen ray in Chicago. It was apropos of the disastrous effects of X-rays upon Edison and his associates and some English physicians.

Dr. W. C. Fusch was one of the first physicians to use the X-ray in the United States. By means of it he has explored the interior, he declares, of most of Chicago's millionaires. He was called to Buffalo to locate the assassin's bullet which struck down President McKinley.

He has been associated with Edison in laboratory work and is an expert on X-ray practice. But for four years his hands have been covered with apparently incurable ulcers, produced by constant exposure to X-rays.

"X-rays are dangerous when used by those who do not understand their mysterious power," said Dr. Fusch, with an emphatic gesture of his bandaged hand. "The injurious effect of the rays upon human flesh is progressive. My hands have been exposed many times daily for long periods and injury was inevitable. I think accidents are falling off, because practitioners are learning to use brief exposures."

Pirate Band Harries New England Shore.

A novel and new plan of operation by organized thieves has come to light off the Connecticut shore.

Officials of Greenwich, Conn., are looking for a black auxiliary sloop yacht which has appeared off the shore at Sound beach and Belle Haven during the past few months, and whose appearance each time was followed by some robbery. It is believed that there is a gang of organized robbers abroad, such as were formerly called pirates. Not only have residence and hotels been entered and much of value stolen, but boats have been taken from the shores of all the resorts from New Rochelle to Shippan Point, Stamford, and tents and awnings carried away in the night.

At the Sound Beach inn a week ago more than \$1000 worth of jewelry was missing from the guests' rooms, and thought employees were searched no trace of the jewels could be found.

Constable Nedley and Policeman Schlechtwig of Stamford visited the Sound beach shore yesterday to locate the boat if possible. They were evidently seen by those on the sloop, which was anchored in the cove a half mile from shore, for when the officers jumped into a rowboat the sloop moved off.

Ban on Flirting For Trainman.

Trainmaster on the Terre Haute division of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois were much surprised to find bulletins posted at stations in which some of the men are accused of flirting. The bulletin is as follows:

"Complaint has been made that some of our trainmen especially those employed on the Terre Haute division locals, are in the habit of flirting with ladies residing near our tracks at West Montezuma and Hillsdale. The offenders are liable to get themselves into serious trouble if the practice is continued. A word to the wise is sufficient.

(Signed) S. HUFFMAN,
Trainmaster."

"The Conquest" a novel recently written by Miss Eva Emery Dye, of Oregon City, has been dramatized by her and will be put on the stage this fall by a company of Eastern people, the company being officially known as the Clement Keefer Dramatic Co.

Dr. Frankenfield, now of the weather bureau in Washington, but for a long time weather observer at St. Louis, is preparing a special report on the floods of the Missouri valley which created such havoc recently. The report has already progressed to a point where he is able to say that the property loss was in excess of \$7,000,000, making all due allowance for exaggerations and for the duplication of reports by the different agents engaged in the work.

A splendid example of the country's financial prosperity, says the Ashland Tidings, is given by the late furries in Wall street and the complete absence of any effect they had on the rest of the country. Stock quotations dropped to figures representing a billion of dollars of loss. But all the commotion caused thereby was what has been aptly characterized "a richman's panic." Stock speculators on the bull side saw their wealth melting away like ice under the fierce rays of an August sun. The whole line of prominent stocks slid down the quotation line like a toboggan. But when the bottom was reached, as seemed evident to magnates of Wall street, the latter came upon the scene and picked up stocks on the rising market because they were cheap.

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