

MANY CATTLE KILLED BY LARKSPUR

RAVAGES OF A POISONOUS PLANT THAT GROWS ON COLORADO RANGES.

ROOTS ARE THE MOST DEADLY

Government is Taking Steps to Eradicate the Plant, and Finds That Timothy is Likely to Kill it Out by Smothering it.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—The losses to the cattle men in the western states from larkspur poisoning every year have been so serious that the Government is making a vigorous effort to find an antidote for the poison, as well as to eradicate the plant itself.

In the Gunnison National Forest, Colorado, the losses to the stockmen last season from larkspur were conservatively estimated to equal almost five per cent of the total number of cattle grazed upon that Forest.

Its effects are almost immediate. Death follows the eating of the plant within a few hours. For this reason remedies are of little avail because the animals are generally dead before they are discovered.

Experts from the Bureau of Plant Industry, in cooperation with the Forest Service, have made careful and painstaking investigations in the field, with a view of lessening the losses as far as possible, while several different plans have been tried in hopes of completely destroying the plant.

Larkspur grows very luxuriously in the early spring. On the Gunnison Forest in June, 1908, the Forest officers counted more than 1300 plants in blossom upon a single square rod. The plant seems to be more poisonous in hot, damp weather than in dry seasons, and it has been observed that when the ground is hard and dry, so that in eating it the stems break off, leaving the roots in the ground, it is not so deadly in its effects.

Since certain areas are well known to be badly infested with larkspur, the stockmen have been in the habit of herding their cattle from such places. As far as possible, these areas will be fenced by the Forest Service. On other areas where it is not so plentiful the plants will be dug out by the Forest rangers, and also mowed off to prevent seeding again.

It has also been found that the plant will not hold its own against certain kinds of grasses, such as timothy. A few acres, sowed in timothy, are being carefully watched and it is believed that it is crowding the larkspur out. It seems probable that by sowing timothy on the mountain meadows the larkspur could be gradually smothered and replaced by a valuable forage plant.

If this plan is supported by good evidence this season, timothy will be extensively sowed later on. Meanwhile upon this, as well as several other National Forests where the losses from this plant are very serious, the building of fences to keep the cattle off the most dangerous areas is being pushed by the Forest Service, and will be continued as fast as funds are available for the purpose.

Mr. J. C. Thomas of Crawford, Colorado, made an experiment in feeding the larkspur some years ago to determine, if possible, just what part of the plant contained the poisonous properties. A yearling steer was fed a large quantity of the leaves, with no injurious results. A few days later, the same animal was fed a quantity of the roots and within ten hours it was dead, thus justifying the suspicion that the poisonous matter was contained in the root.

SAYS MULAI HAFID.

LONDON, Aug. 26.—The Tangier correspondent of the Times says that Mulai Hafid authorizes the statement that he will abide by the Algeiras act and will accept responsibility for the Moroccan foreign board's debts but will demand investigation of the private debts of Abd-El-Aziz before agreeing to pay them.

OUTLAW ESCAPES.

LIVINGSTONE, Mont., Aug. 26.—The chase after "Kid" Royal, the outlaw, has been abandoned after a pursuit by posses for more than 300 miles. The trail of the bandit was lost at Two Dot, where Royal is believed to have crossed into the snowy mountains.

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NEGRO SHOTS WHITE. A New Phase of the Race War in Springfield Troubles.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26.—A dispatch to the Record Herald from Springfield, Ill., says:

Andrew J. Gordon, negro, former member of the St. Louis Detective Department, was arrested yesterday by deputies on a charge of shooting William Bowe, chief deputy to County Treasurer James A. Hall, during the recent riot in Springfield. Bowe is a patient in St. John's hospital and probably will recover. The arrest of Gordon followed an investigation that has extended over a week. Gordon denied his guilt.

Bowe was returning to his home on the night of the riot when he was held up by a mob of negroes and robbed of his diamond ring and \$25.

Afterward an attempt was made to hang Bowe, but William Farmer a negro, made a plea and the man's life was spared. Gordon is said to have fired a shot in Bowe's body as the man was on the ground. When the deputies went to arrest Gordon many white residents assembled. They were soon dispersed, although Gordon was taken to the county jail where the case will be probed by the special grand jury.

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NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF the stockholders of the Odd Fellows' Land & Building Association will be held Thursday, August 27, 1908, at 2:00 p. m., at Odd Fellows' hall, by order of president. JOHN HAHN, Secretary.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given to the public that no bills will be paid by the Fourteenth Annual Regatta Committee unless such bill is accompanied by a voucher duly signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Regatta Committee. HERMAN WISE, Chairman, JOHN H. WHYTE, Secretary.

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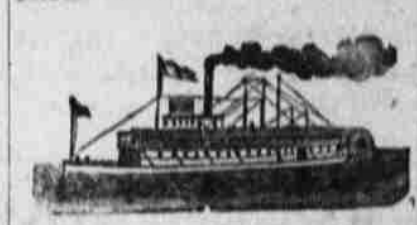
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