

PRICES OF MOHAIR IN OREGON NO CRITERION DECLARES AN EXPERT

Oregonian's Article Misleading and Wrong in Conclusions, Says Writer.

FACTS ARE SUBMITTED

Law of Supply and Demand Affects Conditions; Better Prices Are Predicted for the Near Future.

To the Editor of The Journal—In the Oregonian of Saturday, September 26, is an editorial, entitled "The Goat as a Tariff Victim."

This article is so misleading and so wrong in its conclusions that I am asking for space in which to answer it. In this article I note the following:

Specimen sales of mohair in Oregon have been as follows:

Table with columns: Year, Location, Pounds, Cents. Includes data for Carlton, Brownsville, Eddyville, etc.

In 1912 the duty was reduced to 10 per cent ad valorem (about 5 or 6 cents).

Is or is there not any significance in the fact that the price of mohair in Oregon ranges from 6 to 7 cents, or approximately the reduction in tariff duty?

I particularly refer to the last paragraph in which it is asked:

"Is or is there not any significance in the fact that the price of mohair in Oregon ranges from 6 to 7 cents, or approximately the reduction in tariff duty?"

Paper's Contentions Denied. I am secretary of the Northwest Angora Goat association, a member of the executive board of the National Mohair Growers' association, and also an officer in the American Angora Goat Breeders' association, and I wish to say that there is no significance in the fact that the price of mohair in Oregon ranges from 6 to 7 cents because of a reduction in duty on mohair.

Had the gentleman who got together the foregoing table gone back a little bit farther he would have found that only a few years ago mohair was selling for 18 and 20 cents per pound.

There have been times when it went as low as 18 cents, and this was under the Payne tariff law, which existed until the past year.

Unfortunately the price of mohair is subject to fashion and taxes in wearing apparel, and in 1914, the demand for mohair for ladies' dress goods slackened for the reason that styles changed from mohair to woolen goods.

Try to Control Market. In addition to this, in 1912 and 1913 certain buyers in the northwest, for the purpose of controlling the market, bid to such an extent that current prices in the northwest were higher than those in Boston, Mass., and Bradford, England.

The fact of the matter is that prices in the northwest in 1912 and 1913 were higher than prices in Boston and Bradford.

It is a fact that in 1912 and 1913 the Payne tariff law carried a 12 cent duty on mohair, but every mohair grower knows that the Payne tariff law did not enable him to get his share of this 12 cent duty, for the fact that only a short time ago we were receiving 18 cents and 20 cent for our mohair, while only last year we got from 20 cents to 24 cents per pound proves this contention.

While mohair carried a duty of 12 cents per pound, wool carried a duty of 11 cents, and today wool is bringing from 18 cents to 25 cents per pound, and it must be remembered that wool is on the free list, while mohair carries a 15 per cent ad valorem.

If, then, wool has increased in price on a free tariff basis, why has not mohair, with the 15 per cent ad valorem, increased also?

Market Laws Apply. The question is answered by the fact that the law of supply and demand regulates the price on all commodities, and it is for this reason that mohair prices took a slump the past season.

In addition to this, mohair buyers took advantage of the war in Europe for further cuts in prices.

I wish to add further that we have in the Northwest Angora Goat association and the National Mohair Growers' association, the latter of which has members in every state in the Union, such as Arizona, that there is no necessity for us to sell this year unless we wish to, and while sales were made this year at Eddyville, Cottage Grove and Junction City of a small portion of the mohair produced in the northwest, they were precipitate in their actions, for had they waited until we have our national sales they would have received far more for their mohair than what they did, for it is reasonable to conclude that since importations are now cut off, American mills will have to depend upon our American products.

Better Prices Expected. There are excellent reasons for us to believe that we will eventually get prices as large as we did in 1913 and 1914. For this reason I wish to emphasize the fact that prices quoted at Eddyville, Cottage Grove and Junction City are in no way a criterion of the price we will receive for our mohair, for we will receive for the National Mohair Growers' association will sell.

While it is my bounden duty to get as much for our growers as is possible, I can state with every degree of confidence that when the sales for this season are made it will be found that we have received as much in 1914 as we averaged in the past two years.

The fact that the war in Europe occasioned a curtailment of importation leads us to believe that we will receive a price for our mohair far greater than in previous prices received.

The article, "The Goat as a Tariff Victim," was so misleading that I have deemed it necessary to write these few lines. ALVA L. McDONALD, Secretary Northwest Angora Goat Association.

Fund for Universal Peace. Copenhagen, Sept. 28.—Professor Asaf of Christiania university proposed that the Nobel prize money for the best work during each year in the cause of peace, in physics, science, etc., be concentrated in a fund to organize an international agitation for universal peace.

German Prisoners Held at Hongkong

Mighty Kaiser's Men Made Prisoners, Says Letter of American Vice-Consul to Officials Here.

That there are 80 German prisoners of the English at Hongkong, was the war information from the orient received in a letter from John B. Sawyer, American vice-consul at Hongkong and formerly Chinese inspector of the government immigration service here, by Henry McConnell, chief clerk to United States Attorney Reames, Saturday. The letter in part said:

"The C. P. R. liner that brought your letter is the last to cross the Pacific ocean until the war is over. She is now painted slate color and sent out to make trouble. We do not look for a bombardment of Hongkong. The 'extras' are now saying that Japan declared war on Germany. Even without Japan entering the conflict, England's strength in the orient exceeded Germany's."

"Nearly all the Germans have left the colony and there used to be a good many. Those that remain are prisoners on an island in the harbor, or in case they are women, in a hospital on the Peak, or else have signed an undertaking not to commit any hostile act, go outside of certain bounds or spread rumors regarding the fortunes of war. I think the German prisoners number 80 now, most of whom have been taken from vessels calling here. The British have treated the Germans very well so far."

CONNECTING LINK FOR ROAD TO MOUNT HOOD IS URGED BY HOLMAN

Completion of 12 Mile Piece All That Is Needed, Says County Commissioner.

SCENIC BEAUTY PRAISED

Route Would Include Proposed Road, Columbia Highway, Barlow Road; Grade Would Be Easy.

Should a suggestion made by County Commissioner Rufus C. Holman receive support, there is a possibility that one may be able some day to leave Portland by the proposed road to Mount Hood, skirt the base of the mountain, travel down the beautiful Hood River valley and return to Portland by way of the Columbia River highway or vice versa.

Commissioner Holman has spent the past few days at Hood River and last Friday rode horseback 25 miles along the proposed Mount Hood road and across the 12-mile stretch which will form a part of the Mount Hood road, from the county road through the Hood River valley.

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Stepped on a Match. San Francisco, Sept. 28.—Mrs. Mary Walker, 86, accidentally stepped on a match which set fire to her clothing, burning her so badly that it was believed she would die.

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Kelso Will Fight For County Seat

Voters Sign Petition to Have Commissioners Call Election to Decide Question.

Kelso, Wash., Sept. 28.—Because they maintain Kelso has a more favorable location for the great majority of the citizens of the county, is the largest town and is the center of population of the county, many of the people of the county want the county seat moved to Kelso from Kalama. In the past week more than 1500 voters in the county have signed petitions asking that an election be called to decide the question and these petitions will be filed with the board of county commissioners Monday. It is probable the commissioners will set the date for the election on November 3 with the general election.

Kelso citizens and business men are enthusiastic over their prospects in the coming fight and believe that they will win out, although a three-fifths majority is needed to carry the question. Kelso is basing its fight on business reasons.

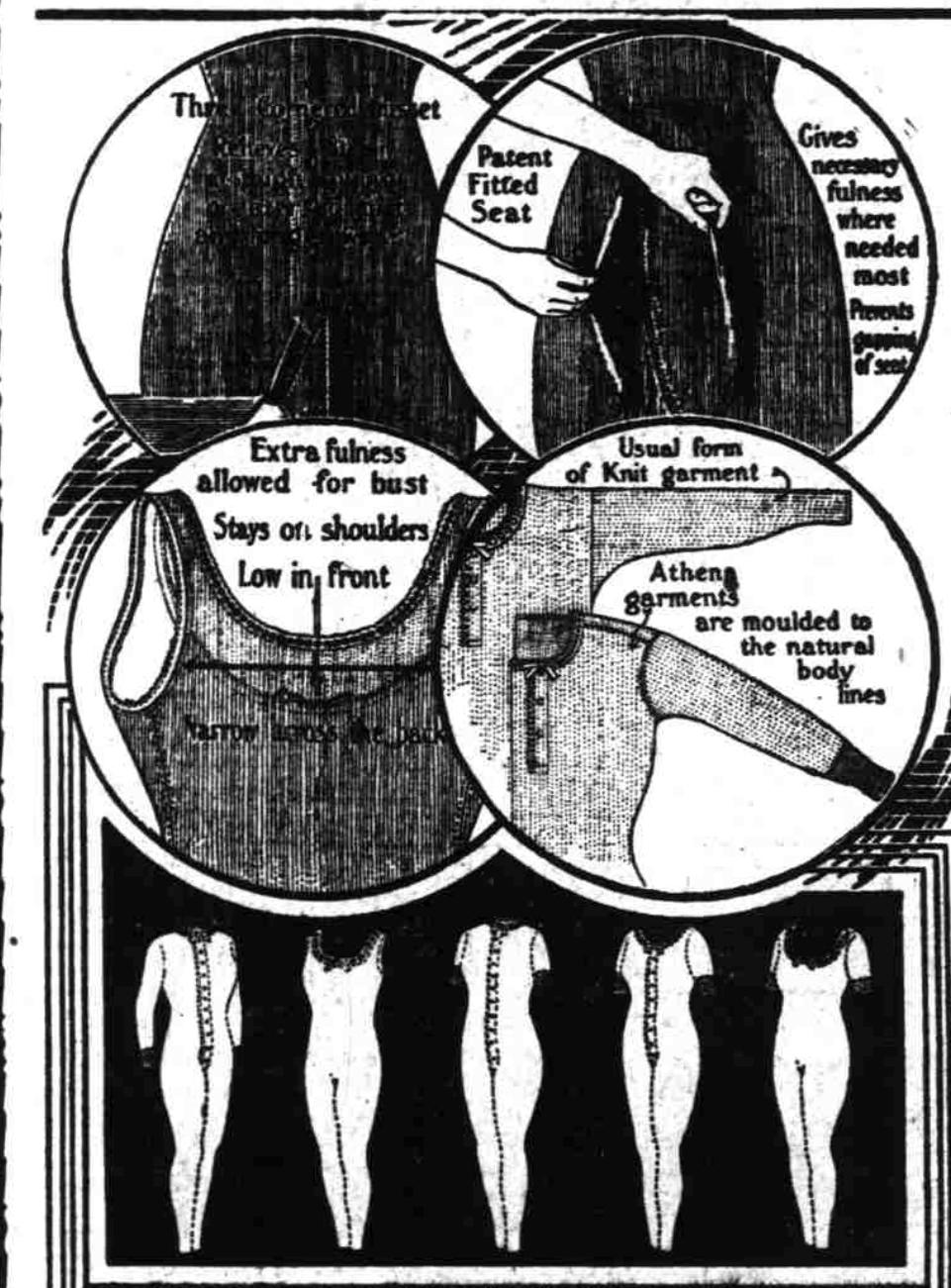
Australia Supports England. Melbourne, Sept. 28.—Unhesitating support for England was pledged on behalf of Australia by Premier Fisher in a speech at a meeting of leading men of Australia.

The premier said he was sure the people of Australia would rather be dead than under the domination of any other nation than England and would send as many men as might be necessary to insure victory.

Charge Purchases Tomorrow and Balance of Month Go On October Accounts Payable November First

Remarkable Sale Athena Underwear for Women & Children

---for Five Days at Meier & Frank's



Athena No. 6200—Merino Pants and Vests—\$1.75 regular sizes reduced to, garment \$1.60 \$2.00 extra sizes reduced to, garment . \$1.80

Prices Are Reduced on Our Complete Fall Showing of Athena Underwear for Women and Children—Perfect-Fitting Garments in Desirable Weights. Athena No. 4850—Women's Silk-and-Wool Union Suits—Regular sizes priced at, the garment \$6.50

These Are Happy BABY DAYS At Meier & Frank's Second Floor, 6th Street Building

Have You Weighed the Baby Lately?—If not here's your opportunity during our Baby Weighing Contest. All babies two years or less are eligible to enter the lists for prizes in this unique contest, nine prizes to be given, for the heaviest, the lightest and average weight babies, in three classes divided according to ages.

Vanta Baby Garments—made without pins or buttons, that insure comfort and health to the tiny baby. Vanta Pinless Diaper—Paper pattern and directions for making, free to every mother this week.

Tailored Suits for Women Exemplars of Style and Extreme Economy at \$19.50 Each

A moderate-priced Tailored Suit—but one combining style and goodness of material—is what hundreds of our patrons request daily. And to satisfy this demand is one of our greatest desires.

15% Discount on Umbrella Covering FOR FIVE DAYS, COMMENCING TOMORROW Is your Umbrella in readiness for the winter rains?

Japanese Lunch Cloths and Napkins Are Most Popular. Lunch Sets made of the pretty, washable Japanese Toweling are extremely effective for use at afternoon teas, card parties, or for breakfast table use.

"Acorn" Ranges and Heaters Are Sold Exclusively in Portland at Meier & Frank's

"Smile" Heaters, for Wood Only. Airtight Stoves, with cast-iron tops and bottoms and solid cast-iron linings. Fitted with large swing top and feed door. Smooth nickel foot rail and top ornaments.



Order Ham Tomorrow, Price Reduced

FINE SUGAR-CURED HAM—Closely trimmed Eastern 21c Ham, weighing 12 to 14 pounds. Roll 67c

Meier & Frank Co. THE QUALITY STORE OF PORTLAND

The Aurora "Acorn" Steel Range--In 3 Sizes Substantially built for best service. Perfect bakers. Popular leg-base style. Large firebox for burning coal and special grate for burning wood.