

Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

LOSSES ON THE CATTLE RANGES.

A SPECIAL commissioner of the American Humane Association has just made a report of his investigations, extending over a year, into the condition of live stock on the ranges in the West. His report has been prepared for the purpose of "arousing the American people to the necessity for action to stop this wanton slaughter of thousands of domestic animals each year." Government reports are cited to show that for the year ending March 31, 1905, there was a loss of 2,687,027 cattle on the Western ranges, due largely to starvation and exposure. The commissioner asserts that the losses each year are at least 2,500,000 animals, representing an estimated value of \$24,000,000. The burden of the commissioner's conclusions is that cattle ranging is cruel and inhuman business and should be suppressed by law.

Without quarreling with the figures quoted, although most reports of stock losses on the ranges are greatly exaggerated, the Humane Association is apparently working on a false premise and starting a crusade against an evil that is rapidly curing itself. The crusade urged against stockmen is apparently based on the theory that there is malice and design back of his treatment of the stock on the ranges. The fact is that stockmen, while counting annually upon losses of cattle from various causes, do everything in their power to lessen the loss, just as men in other business take every possible precaution against losses.

The day of the ranger is fast passing. The meat supply of the future will be furnished by stock growers who keep smaller herds, and, by making proper provision for their care during the winter, reap larger returns than are possible under the range system.—Omaha Bee.

THE DEARTH OF TEACHERS.

ELEVEN HUNDRED vacancies existed in the teaching force in the schools of the city of New York last month, but there were only nine hundred eligible candidates. It is estimated that three thousand new teachers are needed in the schools of the city every year. The supply never equals the demand. A similar dearth of teachers is noted in other cities, and even in the smaller towns. Boards of education and school superintendents are struggling with the problem. It has been explained that the standard of qualifications has been made such that it is not easy for candidates to pass the necessary examinations, and that the pay offered is so low that it does not attract capable men and women to the profession.

The charge that teachers are underpaid is unfortunately true. A committee of the National Educational

Association reported, two years ago, that a woman principal in a certain city received only \$240 a year, and that a man teacher in another part of the country was paid only \$250. These are extreme cases, but there are many others almost as bad. In cities where living expenses are high, the salary of \$500 or \$600 paid to the lower-grade teachers is sometimes surpassed by the wages of street-sweepers or of city hall scrubwomen. The people of the cities are awake to the need of treating the teachers better, for efforts are making in some of them to find money to increase their pay.

As to the question of qualifications, it is surprising that so many thoroughly trained men and women are willing to work for the pay offered; but if it should appear that in any city appointment was denied to experienced teachers from other places, because of inability to pass technical examinations in subjects of which they need only a general knowledge, then the examination system ought to be revised.—Youth's Companion.

WAR ON RATS INTERNATIONAL.

WHETHER snakes or rats are the more detested by human kind is immaterial. Rats are just now a special object of attack. As carriers of disease a heavy indictment is brought against them. The bubonic plague was probably imported to California and other States of the coast by Oriental rats coming across the Pacific Ocean on ships. Mr. Morley, Secretary of State for India, in his recent address to his constituents at Arbroath, referred to the rats of India as the great distributors and reminded his hearers that the difficulties of the Indian government in checking the ravages of the disease were enormously increased by the virgulous objections of the Hindus to destroying animal life. Altogether the rat situation in India is remarkable, and the British government's problem of rat extermination promises to be a long time in reaching a solution.

Hitherto in the world's history these animals have been hunted and killed by man chiefly because of their depredations. Human beings also have an instinctive aversion to them, and "ratting" in former times was a sport in recognized standing. Nowadays we are more dignified and do not travel miles to see the rats killed when an old barn is torn down. It is, however, the modern discovery that rats carry disease that will renew the war with a thoroughness that never before was observed. Even if they perform some good service as scavengers, which must be greatly minimized and even extinguished in communities and abodes where modern sanitary ideas are understood and practiced, the evil they do far outweighs it. Rats and house flies should be granted no quarter—such is the decree of medical science. And from that decree there is evidently no appeal.—Springfield Republican.

RUIN FROM BANK FAILURE.



The illustration, by Max Cowper, pictures a scene in front of a suspended bank during the terror of financial panic which threatened New York. All ranks of society felt the imminence of the stringency, which meant ruin alike for the man of wealth and for those of humble means, who found themselves on the same dire level of poverty.

MILLIONS OF SLATE PENCILS.

Germany the Greatest Producer and Almost Supplies the World.

To supply the school children of this country with slate pencils a great many millions of those little writing instruments are made annually. In fact, in addition to the domestic output, no fewer than 20,000,000 imported ones are used up in a twelve-months, nearly all of them from Germany.

The slate used for pencils is a kind of schist, of so fine a grain that its particles are not visible to the naked eye. Occasionally impurities are accountable for "scratchy" slate pencils, which, instead of making a soft, delicate mark, are liable to score the smooth surface to which they are applied. This kind of stone is largely silica and its black color is due to the carbon it contains.

Germany supplies all the world with slate pencils, producing nearly 300,000,000 annually. They are obtained from quarries in the neighborhood of Steinach, in Meiningen. Nearly all the work is done by hand, and is so poorly paid that 12 marks (\$3.57) weekly is considered fair wages for a man, who, in order to earn this amount, must call upon his wife and children to help him.

Though wages are so much higher in the United States, slate pencils are manufactured here to compete with the imported article by the help of machinery. The rough stone is sawn into pieces of a certain size, each of which,

when run through a machine, yields six pencils of standard length—five and a half inches. They come out in cylindrical shape and are pointed by boys on emery wheels. Finally they are packed in cases of 10,000, selling for \$3.75, or about one-fifteenth of a cent each.

Most of the domestic slate pencils come from a quarry in Pennsylvania. From the same deposits which yield pencils, are obtained slabs for slates and school blackboards. Efforts have been made to find some composition suitable for blackboards and school slates, but nothing is equal to the natural product. There are a good many so-called slate pencils of soapstone, which is a kind of talc with a soapy "feel," but they are inferior in quality.

BEAR IN THE FARMS.

How West Virginia Stock Raisers Protect Their Sheep.

In the Williams river country of West Virginia the bears are greatly on the increase, according to Recreation, and there is a blue grass settlement about the extreme head of the river called Beaver Dam, which has all but been driven out of the sheep business by bears. This is a hardship to small landowners whose farms lie at too great an elevation to raise grain.

On the Black Mountain run one man claimed to have identified the signs of 117 bears in one day's hunt. That seems a good many bears, but I've

hunted and fished so long and told about my adventures at so many camps that I cannot consistently deny anything. Nevertheless, every now and then a hunter runs on to a bear and kills it. Premeditated killing of bears is rarely known, as this wisest of the forest animals knows well how to avoid men. A rabbit is courageous compared to a black bear. This shows the superior intelligence of Bruin.

About twenty years ago an unarmed fisherman killed a bear with a large stone at the Red Hole. He was resting at the top of a precipitous bank of Mauch Chunk shale when a bear, chased by dogs, came to the river and passed at the foot of the bank. The man cast a large stone down upon it and stunned it so that he was able to kill it. It was a two-year-old. The occurrence is well authenticated.

The sheepkillers are generally the biggest bears of them all, and are very wise. They never enter a field without first making a complete circuit to see if a man has crossed the fence. If he has, they "withdraw." One sheep raiser found that by hanging half a dozen lighted lanterns about his farm caused the bears to leave his flock severely alone.

What has become of the old-fashioned woman who used to say, "Well, if I'm crazy, I have lots of company!"

All people are not as busy as they imagine they are.

GRAIN CROPS SHORT, BUT WORTH FAR MORE.

Government Final Estimate Shows Great Decline in Cereal Production.

PRICES MAKE FARMERS HAPPY.

They Will Get Half a Billion of Dollars More This Year than Last.

The government report shows a shortage of 785,987,000 bushels in total crops as compared with the crops of 1904, which were the largest ever raised in this country, and a shortage of 377,287,000 bushels as compared with the yields of 1905, which were also very large.

The chief shortage is in the corn crop, with 335,000,000 bushels, oats with 211,000,000 bushels and wheat with 101,000,000 bushels.

There is something of an offset to the big losses in the feeding grains in the increase of 6,431,000 tons of hay as compared to that of 1904, and of 3,045,388 tons as compared to the crop of 1905.

Prominent features of the final revision of its crop estimates for the year by the Department of Agriculture were the increases made in the reports of area seeded to spring wheat, corn and oats. In each of these particulars as well as in the estimated weight of spring wheat and oats the official re-

UNCLE SAM A CAPITALIST.

As a Shipbuilder Outranks All Others in the United States.

The United States government maintains nine navy yards, representing a capitalization of more than \$60,000,000 and employing nearly 15,000 men, including officers. The total wages paid in the navy yards of the government is approximately \$10,000,000 annually, the cost of materials used being about \$7,000,000 annually and the value of the products, depending upon the number of vessels built, runs well up into the millions every year. In 1905 the output of the government yards was over \$17,000,000.

As a shipbuilder the government outranks all other ship owners in the United States. In 1904 the government launched 170,000 tons of battle ships of more than 1,000 tons burden each. While only 3.7 per cent of all vessels launched that year were the property of the nation, these vessels constituted 27.7 per cent of the total tonnage launched that year. These same vessels represented also more than half the value of all vessels over five tons launched, the contract value of the government ships being \$30,513,600. Despite its own facilities for building and repairing warships, only one government yard has been used in recent years for turning out a modern up-to-date battle ship.

All told, the government owns fifteen dry docks where vessels of the navy undergo most of their repairs. All but two of these are located on the Atlantic coast. Another dock is being completed on Puget sound, giving three on the Pacific coast. In addition to the naval dry docks there are thirty-eight in the United States owned by private corporations or individuals. Is time of war the navy should find no trouble in taking care of its smaller vessels, but the big battle ships would

RECALLED JAPANESE ENVOY.



JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, KOKI.



COUNTESS HATFIELD KOKI'S DAUGHTER.



VISCOUNTESS KOKI, WIFE OF JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

CROPS OF UNITED STATES FOR THREE YEARS.

	1907, bu.	1906, bu.	1905, bu.
Winter wheat	400,442,000	492,888,004	428,462,874
Spring wheat	224,645,000	242,372,998	264,516,634
Total wheat	624,087,000	735,260,970	692,979,488
Corn	2,592,320,000	2,927,416,091	2,707,993,544
Oats	754,443,000	964,904,522	953,216,177
Rye	31,566,000	33,374,833	27,616,042
Barley	153,317,000	178,916,484	136,851,922
Buckwheat	14,290,000	14,641,937	14,535,085
Flaxseed	25,851,000	25,576,146	28,477,734
Potatoes	297,942,000	308,038,382	269,741,404
Total	5,137,903,000	5,923,890,235	5,515,189,888
Hay, tons	63,577,000	57,145,959	60,531,612

ports ran more or less counter to the general impressions of speculators. In a few instances, such as the weight of oats, the figures given were at variance with all the experiences of the trade for the year to date.

Figures of the Report.

The report gave final estimates of acreage, production and value of farm crops, showing winter wheat acreage to be 28,132,000, production 400,442,000 bushels and value per bushel 88.2 cents.

Spring wheat acreage was 17,079,000, production 224,645,000 bushels and value 86 cents.

Corn acreage was 99,931,000, production 2,592,320,000 bushels and value 51.7 cents.

Oats acreage was 31,837,000, production 754,443,000 bushels and value 44.3 cents.

It was announced that the total value of the farm crops for 1907 was \$3,404,000,000, an increase of \$428,000,000 for 1906.

The farm value on Dec. 1 of the four crops already mentioned follows: Corn, \$1,340,446,000; winter wheat, \$361,217,000; spring wheat, \$193,220,000; oats, \$334,568,000.

The comparative prices for the grain crops for the past three years follow:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Wheat	81.7	66.7	74.8	92.4
Corn	51.7	39.9	41.2	44.1
Oats	44.3	31.7	23.1	31.5
Rye	73.1	68.9	60.7	68.8
Barley	44.3	41.5	40.8	42.0
Buckwheat	69.8	59.0	58.7	62.2
Flax	95.6	101.8	95.0	96.3
Potatoes	61.7	51.1	61.7	45.3
Hay	\$11.68	\$10.37	\$8.52	\$9.72

have long distances to travel on either coast, in event of injury, before finding adequate docking facilities.

HALF A MILLION A DAY.

That Is the Amount Which Chicago Puts Into Stimulants.

Chicago's consumption of stimulants is amazing, according to a correspondent. The money spent in saloons alone totals up between \$120,000,000 and \$130,000,000 annually. At least \$10,000,000 more is spent for stimulating drugs in the 900 drug stores in the city.

If tobacco can be classed as a stimulant it may be said that there are between 35,000 and 40,000 places in the city where cigars and tobacco are sold. Probably \$100,000 per day is not an exaggerated estimate for Chicago's smoking bill. At the lowest estimate, taking alcoholic beverages, tobaccos, and all manner of drugs into account, it is impossible to figure that Chicago spends less than \$500,000 per day on stimulants of various kinds, and the chances are the amount is considerably higher.

Of this enormous sum, how much does the worker spend? Fully 75 per cent, if all business men, officers of corporations and all men who work with hand or brain are included. But for the worker, the saloonkeepers themselves say, they would have to close up shop in a few days. The remaining 25 per cent of the \$500,000 must be set aside between women who lead domestic lives and non-workers of all kinds. Women perhaps are the heaviest of all users of drugs.



The Universalist general convention at Philadelphia listened with approval to the plea for closer fellowship between their denomination and the Unitarian, made by Rev. Lewis G. Wilson, secretary of the American Unitarian Association.

The Evangelical general conference, at its recent session at Milwaukee, took a decisive step toward the union of the Evangelical church and the United Evangelical church, adopting the report of the committee on revision, which recommended the appointment of a commission from each church to arrange details of the union. It was also decided to open negotiations with other Protestant churches, including the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Congregationalists, with a view to a federation on all lines of church work into which denominational differences do not enter.

Under the direction of Rev. Hugh Birkhead and his associates of St. George's Episcopal church, New York, a club has been started on lines similar to that maintained by Emmanuel church, Boston, and Christ Presbyterian church of New York, namely, its membership made up entirely of persons having incipient tuberculosis. Each member promises to care for his health, to give up all work, stop worrying, live an outdoor life and obey all the rules of the club. All are supplied with a tent attachment to be fastened to the window sills so that they may sleep with their heads in the open air. Weekly meetings are held, when all tell of their progress.

CAMPING IN THE PYRENEES.

Frenchmen Have Found a New Playground in the Mountains.

A party of ten young Frenchmen are preparing to spend next summer in the Pyrenees, according to the Boston Transcript. Some of them went through the experience this year and they consider themselves the discoverers of the Pyrenees as a playground. They go in with tents made of duck over light frames, which when set up are about six feet six square and five feet high, each of which shelters four or five men at night. They also take a collapsible boat. When the journey is left the first stages of the journey into the mountains are made by picking up some of the muleteers who cross the mountains from Spain taking sweet grapes to the French markets. These good fellows on their way home are only too glad to carry the camp equipment on the backs of their burros in consideration of a few polite phrases and a few francs.

At the close of a long day's tramp down the darkening side of the mountains the explorers will sometimes see a flame suddenly shoot up ahead of them. The guides and porters give an exclamation of pleasure and hurry toward it. They find it has been kindled to guide them by some herdsman, whose ear, used to the silence of the mountains, has caught the noise of their footsteps in the distance. He had no idea who they were. Most likely he thought they were smugglers plying between France and Spain.

Close by his hut the camp is set up. In one great soup pot there is an olla podrida of meat and barley. From another comes the fragrance of tea. A skin of red wine is broached and the Frenchmen produce such delicacies as smoked sausage and potted fowl or even pate de foie gras. The air and appetite born of the days' tramp make everything taste its best.

In the morning the party splits up for a day's sport. The cook and his aid start for some farm or village to buy provender. If there is water near the fishermen get the boat into commission. Small as it is, it is a staunch craft, with a belt of kapok or Javanese fiber about her which makes her practically unsinkable. This is essential, for the water in the mountain lakes—baths in the hollows of the hills—is so cold that even the best swimmer could keep afloat unaided only a few minutes. The young Frenchmen say that they want to make the most of their discovery before it gets noised abroad, because when the joys of roughing it in the Pyrenees are once revealed the region will be overrun by Englishmen and Americans until it becomes as commonplace as the Alps.

Burns Revised.

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us To see oursel's as ithers see us!"
"Oh, better still, make ither swells To see us as we see oursel's."
—Philadelphia Press.

A man may not see much economy in his home, but it is there all right; at least, he is always hearing about it. Some men go about looking for temptation to yield to.