IMPROVEMENT IN LIVESTOCK SEEN

A trip through Eastern Oregon shows that the winter just ended has been the most favorable in many years for live stock. The overhead which was so ruinous a year ago, has been cut to practically one-fourth the costs of the winter of 1919-20. Cheap feed and mild weather have been in part responsible for this, material reduction has taken place in labor costs. Ranch employes have been cut from \$85 a month to something like \$50. Sheep herders are now working for from \$60 to \$75 a month which represents a cut of 40 percent. Sheep shearers are asking 12½ cents largely because this price was established by the Utah Sheep Shearers' Union, who voluntarily cut from 17½ cents to 12½. The growers are talking ten cents and will have no trouble in filling the jobs at this price.

The heavy fall rains produced a luxuriant growth of grass and all stock taken up in the fall were in prime condition. This was responsible for an early maturing of all feed-lot stuff. Practically everything got fat this year. As a result there has been an early marketing of pen-fed animals and a fine growth of wool and a bumper lamb, calf and colt crop will be insured.

Stockmen are optimistic. They have been able to get along without much money and have by means of trading amongst themselves and in some instances giving their help an interest in the stock, been able to squeeze through. They have been successful in cutting the overhead. Labor has objected but little, knowing that this was absolutely necessary. A peculiar situation is present in respect to cattle. Feeders are selling at market points for practically as much per pound as killers, indicating confidence in the future of the beef industry.

The horse market is improving. There is considerable demand for stock to take the place of trucks and tractors. A number of mares will be bred this spring. Farmers feel the need of raising sufficient colts to replace the older horses, worn out or sold to avoid depreciation. Several years ago, horse raising enabled the Central Eastern Oregon wheat farmers to pull thru several short-crop seasons. The present price for grains and hay bring horse expense per year below \$100. Small tractors cost at least \$600 (covering operation, depreciation and repairs) annually, hence more than six head of horses will have to be replaced in order to pay out under present conditions.

The University of Illinois recently made a tractor and horse survey. It was found that 72% of horse maintenance constitutes feed costs and that the grains used would be approximately 25½ bushels of barley, 37.8 bushels of oats and 2 tons of hay and 170 days access to outside pasture. One hundred tractor users were interviewed and the farm work was put into three divisions "Tractor Work," "Doubtful Tractor Work," and "Non-Tractor Work." Approximately 75% of the work on the average farm was in the horse and doubtful-tractor column. None of the one hundred farmers using tractors gave increased yields as an advantage for the tractor. One may conclude that the average farm must be larger than 240 acres before tractors can be successfully substituted for horses, then only for part of the work.

Eastern Oregon stock growers are determined to pull through the present period of depression. Bankers state that there has been enough money saved during the past six months to recoup much of the loss that has been sustained because of growers not selling at top prices. Stockmen realize that the only way in the long run that one can lose in the stock game is to lose the stock. This year there has been no disease loss, neither has there been a storm loss, nor has there been any considerable amount of loss from forced liquidation. If there ever have been losses in the stock industry, either the stockmen or the banker have been at fault, the stockman, perhaps, because he has given up, the banker because he has lost faith. Any stockman that has stood off failure until now is surely through the worst of it. The banker who has helped him is now well able to see the fruits of his good judgment.

Federal reports show that there are ten million less domestic animals in the United States than a year ago. Breeding stock is sure to be in much demand. There are good reasons for believing that the end of the present decline has now been reached and that the upward trend that the market is showing is to be permanent.

The last legislature passed what is known as the "Purebred Dairy Bull Replacement Law." This law requires that dairy bulls sold in the future must be of pure blooded breeding and must be enrolled with the dairy husbandry department of the Oregon Agricultural College; Prof. Brandt will be one of the authorities who will administer the law. The College dairy officials are naturally interested in dairy husbandry and are in the best position to administer the law. They have all the necessary pedigree registry books and have a staff that will be able to take the work over with little additional cost. Placing the administration of the law in this department insures that it will be carried out in a broad minded manner and that no hardships will be unnecessarily worked upon anyone. A registration fee of \$1.00 will be charged for the registering of dairy bulls before they will be permitted to be sold. Certain rules and regulations will necessarily have to be issued before the work can be carried out. The new law will not go into effect before May 25, 1921. Full information will be available before that time as to the necessary procedure of those desiring to buy or sell dairy bulls.

No change was made in the coyote bounty laws of the state. Some one hundred thousand dollars was appropriated for the payment of bounties for the years 1921-22 and to cover a deficiency of some \$36,000 that had accumulated. \$4 is allowed for female coyotes and \$2.50 each for males and coyote pups. The pelts are marked as they have been in the past.

A hunter fund of \$15,000 was allowed by the ways and means committee. \$7,500 of this will be used for predatory animal eradication and \$7,500 for rodent control work. The predatory animal control work will be carried out through cooperation of the rodent control work division of the bureau of Biological survey and the Oregon Agricultural College.

FORMER INDEPENDENCE MAN MARRIES AT VANCOUVER

Vancouver—Mrs. Emma Winifree, 24-year- divorcee, who about a year ago leaped into the limelight when she was arrested on a charge of stealing \$6500 from the Aurora State bank, appeared in the marriage records here April 2nd when a license was issued for her marriage to Joseph Curtis Garber, 29, of Oregon City, Or.

Mrs. Winifree was twice married to and twice divorced from P. W. Winifree. She has two children.

The bride-elect met Joseph Curtis Garber in Oregon City, where he was employed by the Southern Pacific railroad. Mr. Garber is an ex-service man and served 14 months overseas. He returned to Oregon about a year ago, having enlisted at Independence, Or., where he was working for the Southern Pacific railroad.

Mrs. Winifree was arrested on March 11, 1920, on a charge of stealing \$6500 from the Aurora bank, where she was employed temporarily. Her ex-husband, to whom she had given most of the money, was arrested in Portland the same day. He had hidden \$1500 and paid another \$1500 on a small farm near Bull Run.

Mrs. Winifree told the authorities she had taken the money so that she and her ex-husband could remarry and buy a farm. The charge was dropped on the restoration of the money.

Mr. and Mrs. Winifree did remarry on April 19. She sued for a second divorce July 21 in Oregon City, alleging cruel and inhuman treatment. On September 21 she obtained the divorce, with the custody of one small child and \$12 a month alimony.

BRANCH SAVINGS BANKS IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

San Francisco—B. C. Forbes, noted New York financial writer, in an article recently contributed to the San Francisco Examiner says that the savings banks of New York state, through their association aind with the approval of the state bank super intendent, are getting together with employers to install branch banks in industrial plants to help the employers to install branch banks in industrial plants to help the employes ployes save. He says:

"The nation that doesn't save doesn't progress.

"America used to borrow hundreds of millions—yes, thousands of millions—from the saving people of Europe. Now European nations, instead of being able to lend to us, find it necessary to borrow from us.

"If we are to develop our resources and thus provide full time employment for every worker in the United States, more saving must be done in future than was done by Americans in the past."

Theodore Hardee, director of the government savings organization for the twelfth federal reserve district, commenting upon the action of the New York bankers as outlined by Forbes, said:

"Here in the west, to be more exact, the Twelfth federal reserve district, we have been carrying on an active campaign for some time to interest the heads of industrial and commercial establishments to adopt the government's saving plan for the benefit of their employes. Through this plan the employe signs a card requesting his employer to invest a certain amount of his wages each week in \$1 treasury savings stamps. A man in the office, assigned to the work, keeps track of the amounts and pastes the stamps in a certificate blank bearing the employe's name, or the stamps are put in the employe's pay envelope.

"The \$1 treasury savings stamp," said Director Hardee, "is a new government security, issued for the first time this year, and designed to put government savings on a \$1 basis. The stamps pay no interest but are exchangeable for the \$5 war savings stamp, or the \$25, \$100 and \$1000 treasury savings certificates, all of which pay 4 percent interest, compounded quarterly. These are securities of the United States government, guaranteed to increase in value each month from the date of purchase until the maturity of their life of five years."