



THE JURY QUESTIONS THE GOOD JUDGE AND GOES ITS WAY

SUPPLY OF LIVE STOCK INCREASES

For the first time in many years, information collected by the department of Agriculture shows that all classes of live stock in the United States are increasing in numbers. Thus the real facts contradict, absolutely, sensational reports that prices for meat and shoes would rise to unprecedented figures in the immediate future. It has even been said that a Government statistician predicted meat at 50 cents a pound and shoes at \$10 a pair within the next two years. Such a prediction, the real Government statisticians say, is quite unwarranted.

On January 1, for example, the number of beef cattle showed an increase of 3.4 per cent over the number a year ago, and an actual increase of 1,212,000 head. Hitherto the number of beef cattle in the United States has declined steadily since 1910. There are also more milch cows in the country than last year, the increase being 2.5 per cent, or in numbers 525,000. Swine, however, showed the greatest increase of all classes—9.6 per cent. On January 1, 1914, there were only 58,933,000 swine in the country; on January 1, 1915, 64,618,000. This is accounted for by the fact that the production of swine can be increased more rapidly than that of other classes of live stock and consequently an enlarged demand can be met more readily.

The prediction of 50-cent meat and \$10 shoes was accompanied by the declaration that France alone has taken from America nearly 300,000 horses within the last five months and that the other countries at war have drawn upon our resources in the same proportion. The facts are that more horses were on the farms of the United States on January 1, 1915, than there were a year before, the increase being 233,000 head or 1.1 per cent. So far from France alone having taken 300,000 horses from us, the total exports since the war began have certainly been much less than 100,000 and very likely not over 75,000. Since there are approximately 25,000,000 horses altogether in the United States, the drain on account of the war is scarcely alarming.

It is, in fact, pointed out by Government statisticians that the market value of farm horses has actually declined to such an extent that the average is now about \$6 a head less than a year ago. This decline is most noticeable in the cotton states and in those states which make a business of breeding horses for sale in other sections. Mules have declined even more than horses, their value being now \$11.50 per head less than a year ago. The explanation is to be found in the depression on account of the cotton situation in the South, which is the great market for mules. An improvement in this respect will do much to restore the demand for horses, so that Government

specialists, while ridiculing the notion of a horse famine, are convinced that farmers will find it profitable to use good work mares for breeding more stock.

As for hides, the situation is not quite so clear, but even here there has been much gross exaggeration. From two-fifths to less than one-half of the leather used in this country is imported, about 25 per cent of the foreign hides coming from Argentina, 15 per cent from Canada, 11 per cent from Mexico, 8½ per cent from European Russia, and 7½ per cent from France. Since the outbreak of the war importations have shown a certain falling off; those for September, 1914, for example, being only 34,000,000 pounds, instead of 45,000,000 pounds the year previous. There is, however, little reason to suppose that this decrease will be permanent or of sufficient importance to create any real scarcity. Since the great bulk of the imported hides comes from countries that are not at war, shipments are not interfered with in any way, and the only new factor to be considered is the possibility of an increased demand by the warring countries.

It is believed, however, that the United States is now in a better condition to face such a situation than for years past. The tide, it seems, has turned. Instead of live stock steadily decreasing year after year, this year for the first time, as has been said, all classes show an appreciable increase. Including horses, mules, milch cows, beef cattle, sheep, and swine, there were on January 1, 1915, 7,712,000 more farm animals in the United States than on January 1, 1914. The increase in the total value was \$78,024,000, or 1.3 per cent. It is quite true that this increase is not yet proportional to the increase in population, which is approximately 2 per cent; but the fact that there is an increase, that the tide seems definitely to have turned, is regarded as a sufficient answer to alarming exaggerations and misleading figures.

Silverton—A new Lutheran church to be built 40 x 90.

State Conservation Commission costing \$5,000 goes to wall as an "adjunct of Pinchotism."

Senator Moser has introduced a bill to regulate the manufacture of mattresses.

With a 20 day limit in force in the House and bills unfavorably reported immediately killed, the volume of new laws will be smaller than in 1913.

Dorenbecher Furniture Co., Portland, will enlarge plant with 6 story concrete factory.

An orphans' home is to be established at Ashland.

Continuing appropriations amounting to \$849,960 repealed in House.

More freak marriage laws will drive people away from Oregon.

Brownsville—Force of men is clearing ground for large building stone industry near here.

Between semesters the O. A. C. glee club members were given a trip by the railroad company in payment for concerts given for the company.

Trade Commission bill was defeated in the Senate.

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The Lane County News wants to add 300 subscribers to its list in Lane county, and as an inducement will receive NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS (not renewals) at \$1 a year, 104 issues, payable "two-bits" monthly if you wish

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FIVE IMPORTANT MEASURES PASSED

(Continued from Page 1.)

desire to make a record for economy. If this is persisted in, it will, in my opinion, do more to discredit this Legislature than anything else; especially, because the legislature has, in its own operations, set a new high water mark for extravagance in the hiring of clerical help. We have, at the middle of this legislative session, more clerks than were employed by the end of the session of 1913. I believe there is yet time for the legislature to show that there is no economy without efficiency and that if the legislature attempts to make a record for money saving without regards to the real needs of the state it will make the most serious error within its reach.

As I am writing this, the House has just had the good judgment to indefinitely postpone five constitutional amendments which it is proposed to put upon the next referendum ballot. So far but one measure has been submitted to the people by the legislature and that is the single item veto by the Governor and for which there is a genuine demand. I hope and believe that the House will not assist in loading up the ballot with bills and amendments for which there is no demand. The resolution drawing the most fire this morning was the one introduced by Mr. Schuebel, proposing to limit land owning to citizens of the United States. The House very sensibly refused to raise this issue at this time, thus showing a real consideration for the national administration and government.

The plan for consolidation of commissions which has been prepared by Senators Day and Barrett and which has been outlined several times in the Oregonian, undoubtedly, will be pre-

sented before the end of the session, but unless it is forthcoming soon it can hardly be expected that it will be passed by the Legislature, which already has much more than it can possibly do in the remaining days.

The greatest opportunity that the Legislature has is to segregate the important from the unimportant measures and concentrate upon the former in the hope of getting something important done. It will be apparent within a few days whether or not this opportunity will be embraced.

ALLEN EATON.

W. C. T. U. COLUMN.

The Arizona Situation.

The injunction asked for by the liquor interests, reinforced by the hotels, drug stores and the Catholic church, in their attack upon the prohibitory law of Arizona, was refused by the United States district courts of Arizona and Southern California, sitting together in Los Angeles. The judges ruled that the evidence was not sufficient to justify the granting of an injunction preventing enforcement of the law. The court also refused to grant a stay of execution until the Supreme Court could pass on the case. The wets have appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

The liquor men, the drug stores and the hotel men are assailing the constitutionality of the law upon the ground that it is confiscatory and that it exceeds the police power of the state; the Church upon the ground that it interferes with the religious liberty to use fermented wines for sacramental purposes.

Saloon Licenses on the Bargain Counter.

A saloon license in Chicago costs \$1,000, but the holder, in the palmy days of the liquor

traffic, has often sold one for \$2,500. There has come a slump, however, and licenses have depreciated in value forty per cent. The liquor interests of Chicago and of all Illinois feel themselves to be under the shadows of coming events. The W. C. T. U. of the state pertinently reminds them—speaking of last year's spring elections—that

"Mary had a little vote
Which roamed the State about
And everywhere that vote
got in
John Barleycorn got out!"

Reckless Livers.

Prof. Charles S. Carter, lecturing before a grammar school on the nature and effects of alcohol and pointing out particularly the result of its use upon the liver, thus summed up: "We perceive that alcohol destroys one of the most important organs. The reckless liver, in a word, winds up a liverless wreck."

The average tax rate in the 376 incorporated towns of Kansas, including state, county and city, is only \$9.97 per thousand assessed valuation. And Kansas towns don't stint on improvements!

We venture the statement that prohibition has many thousand

more friends in the United States today than it had before the fall elections of 1914 and the liquor traffic many thousand more foes even in—rather especially in—Ohio and California.

"Do more laboring men own their homes now than under the saloon regime?" This was one of sixteen questions sent to fifty cities and towns of Tennessee some time ago. The replies showed an increase of 48 per cent in the number owning their own homes since prohibition went into effect.

F. A. Taylor & Co., Seattle, building contractors, will erect a number of new dwellings at Bandon.



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