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LUPINE POISONING AND ITS EFFECT ON SHEEP

By W. B. Barratt, President of the Oregon Woolgrowers Association.

The recent demonstration of the effect of Lupine poisoning on sheep, at the Woolgrowers' meeting in Heppner, Dec. 15-16, has been conducive of great good to the sheep industry, thereby demonstrating to a dead certainty, that this plant under certain conditions and in certain localities is a deadly poison to sheep when arriving from the mountains onto our dry winter ranges, after being driven long distances without sufficient feed or water, and if sheepman will profit by their experience and loss of many valuable sheep this fall, many thousands of dollars can be saved by a little effort on their part in the future. The nature of this plant, is to come up from the root in the spring, about the beginning of April in the form of a plant somewhat resembling the peon, only green in color, grow to the size of a well matured potato plant, produce a long spiral blue blossom, mature and produce seed which is in reality a small pink bean, which if conditions are normal, should dry up and fall out about the time wheat is harvested. After this, the plant dries up and becomes more or less harmless, which accounts for no loss of sheep in years when normal conditions prevail but on the other hand as has been the case this year, when we have the late rains and heavy thunder storms during the summer, this plant takes a second growth, the same as alfalfa, produces seed the same as the first stems and keeps green the entire summer, and is in its most deadly stage about the time the sheep come from the mountains.

While the Lupine-plant grows in the mountains and along the foothill ranges to the extent of 15 to 20 miles from timber line, it does not seem to be harmful to stock of any kind. This has caused such a diversity of opinion among the sheepman as to its poisonous nature. The only reasonable theory that can be advanced on this head, is that the nature of the soil changes the nature of the plant, for it is a fact that the soil in the mountains and along the foothills is to a large extent free from alkalies and mineral salts, it being black loam, while on the middle and lower ranges, the soil is volcanic ash and mixed with alkaloids and other mineral salts and the Lupine-plant being deeprooted, like alfalfa, absorbs more of these minerals which accounts for it being more poisonous in these localities. While the loss is not so pronounced in the spring of the year, yet I am convinced that many sheep, especially yearlings, are lost from eating this same plant, especially when the grass has begun to dry up, or if the sheep have been kept up in corrals, for the purpose of marketing, shearing or branding so as to cause them to become hungry enough to grab the first thing that looks good or green to them, bad results will follow and while no remedy for this poison has been used to any degree of success, this fall I have had marked success with Per-manganate of Potassium, for the last 10 years on sheep being poisoned, presumably from this same plant in the spring of the year, which shows, either that the plant is not deadly or that the stomach of the sheep, though being fed on green grass and other nutritious weeds, is in a stronger condition to resist it, for the recent demonstration has shown, by the two sheep brought in by Mr. Minor, that had been running on alfalfa pasture all summer. And although fed some of the same stuff that was fed the two big range weathers furnished by V. Gentry, and seemed to eat it greedily, were immune and are alive today, while the two big weathers that came off of dry feed died within forty-eight hours from the time it was fed to them.

If the two sheep that Mr. Minor brought in had been the only ones tested, the whole experiment would have been a failure and some of us might have gone on for the next forty years without knowing what was killing our sheep. While there is no doubt that many sheep die from alkalies and other poisons, I fully believe that 90 per cent of this periodical loss among sheep after coming from the mountains is caused from Lupine and the reason that it is hard for some to believe as I do, is the fact that it takes from six to forty-eight hours before death takes place after the plant has been eaten, which has been demonstrated by the recent experiment, so that a band of sheep could be driven ten or twelve miles before showing signs of getting sick and if they happen to be near water before getting sick, then alkali is blamed for it, because we are prone to believe that whenever or wherever a sheep is taken sick, on that spot is where they got the poison. So far there is no remedy for this loss among sheep except prevention and as prevention is better than cure, we can, by following a few simple rules save many thousands of sheep in the future. In the first place, any man can tell within ten days before his sheep come out whether any precaution is needed or not, for if we have early fall rains and green grass for the sheep to eat there will be no loss

ONE BREVETIES CROWDED OUT LAST WEEK

Dr. Albert Hennig and wife returned from their honeymoon trip to Portland on Sunday.

Mat Halvorsen made a shipment of a mixed load of cattle and hogs to the Portland market Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Knappenberg departed on Sunday for Buffalo, N. Y., where they will spend a month visiting at the old home of Mr. Knappenberg.

F. M. Griffin visited in town yesterday. He is enjoying this fine Spring-like weather and sates that he looks for quite a spell of good weather during this month.

Floyd Fraser is home from a visit of a month with his relatives in California. He is more than ever convinced that Morrow county is the best country on earth.

Pastor Reynolds, of the Christian church, has accepted a call to the South Berkeley church, Berkeley, Cal. His work will end with the church here at the end of this month.

Claus Johnson was in from his farm in Democrat Gulch Wednesday. He is now having a well bored on his place, S. L. Beck, of Ione doing the work. The well is just about completed, with the prospect of an abundant flow of water.

The warm days the past week is having the effect of starting the weeds in the fields and the farmers are making plans to go to plowing. Should the present open spell last for a few weeks a lot of plowing will be done.

The wheat market opened up here on Tuesday, and there has been pretty lively selling the past couple of days. No large lots were disposed of, but quite a number of small holdings were transferred to the hands of the shippers. Prices paid ranged from \$1.50 for club to \$1.55 for bluestem.

The old skating rink has been leased by the Ione school and will be used hereafter by that institution as a sort of gym. By passing around a paper the first of the week sufficient funds were raised to cover the south side of the building with new shingles. The paper roofing was fast wearing off and the roof was leaking badly and causing damage to the hardwood floor. The school will now have a place where they can care for their indoor sports, and they will also install their picture machine there and give movie entertainments at regular intervals each week.

Locust Chapter, No. 119, O. E. S., held its annual installation of officers on Tuesday evening. There was a goodly attendance of members, and following the installation ceremonies a delicious lunch was served. The following officers were installed: Ruth Mason, Matron; T. B. Buffington, Patron; Beulah Buffington, Associate Matron; Grace Chick, Conduetress; Ida Moore, Associate Conduetress; Cynthia Walker, Secretary; Frank Christensen, Treasurer; Lovie Warfield, Ada; Maude Wakefield, Ruth; Mrs. W. H. Cronk, Esther; Fannie Goodall, Martha; Mrs. J. H. Whit, Electa; Mrs. R. W. Beckett, Chaplain; Mrs. W. T. McNabb, Warden; O. B. Barlow, Sentinel; Mrs. L. A. Doak, Organist.

For Sale—Nice winter apples at \$1.00 per sack at the C. P. Bowman ranch on Butter creek.

Choice cuts of fresh meats. See the Old Reliable Dutchman at The People's Cash Market.

Your friends can buy any thing you can give them—except your photograph. Sigsbee Stud's.

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among them, if we have the same season as the one just past, we should begin to clear a portion of our range at least, and as most of our range is about half facing the South where very little of the Lupine grows, it can be cleared off much cheaper, then either feeding the sheep or losing them, when driving on trails through affected districts, avoid dodging into pastures with heavy growths of grass for it is there that the Lupine flourishes and while it is hard for sheepmen to pass by what looks like good feed for hungry sheep, it is better to have a sheep that is poor of flesh than a dead one.

Never put hungry sheep on your best grass, neither when they come home from the mountains or when you have been working them in the corrals in the spring of the year. Put them on your south hillsides and fill them up gradually, for I have found that loss results from putting hungry sheep on good feed, after being worked in corrals in shearing time, than any other thing. And while I do not wish to appear as a monitor for sheepmen, or knowing any more about running sheep than my neighbor, I do claim to have given the matter of Lupine poisoning for the past ten years, more study than most men, and by following these rules as far as the ordinary shepherd will permit, have not lost one sheep, where in former years I used to lose one hundred.

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announces the addition of a dress-making and designing department to her millinery establishment, after January 1st.

This department will be in charge of Miss Phillips, a professional dress-maker and a thoroughly competent designer.

Your Patronage Solicited

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