

LOSS IS MILLIONS

LARGE BUSINESS PORTION OF TORONTO DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Damage Placed at \$12,000,000 With \$8,300,000 Insurance—City Acts for Sufferers—All Public Buildings are Placed at Their Disposal—Erection of Temporary Structures Permitted.

Toronto, Ont., April 22.—The total loss by the fire which destroyed the wholesale district of Toronto last night will, according to the most conservative estimate, reach \$12,000,000, the total insurance \$8,300,000.

The area swept by the fire embraces 14 acres, and 9,000 to 10,000 persons are thrown out of employment. The work of tearing down the dangerous walls was continued until this afternoon.

The city council this afternoon placed all public buildings and the exhibition grounds at the disposal of the fire sufferers, amended the fire regulations to allow the erection of temporary structures, and appointed a committee to wait on the legislature and secure an act ordering all wires under ground.

The principal warehouses of the city were reduced to ashes and nearly 250 firms were put out of business. The area covered by the fire is three blocks in length and varies from half a block to two blocks in width. Every building on Bay street, from Melinda street southward to the waterfront, was wiped out and the fire spread on Wellington and Front streets, along the waterfront from this section and the Esplanade along the waterfront from this section with Bay street for a boundary for a few hundred feet to a whole block.

From the time the fire started on the north side of Wellington street, a short distance east of Bay street, in the E. & S. Currie manufacturing plant, till it burned itself out at daybreak, there was not a moment when a shift of the wind to the northward would not have resulted in the destruction of the greater part of the city.

At a meeting of the Toronto legislature tonight, the premier and the leader of the opposition expressed sympathy with the fire sufferers, and it was decided to place a sum of money in the supplementary estimates for the benefit of the firemen's fund.

It is probable that the prorogation of the legislature, will be indefinitely delayed because of the fire. The burning of the Warwick brothers and Rutter building delays the government printing for this year.

The total number of buildings destroyed is 122; the number of firms affected is 222.

IRRIGATION WORKS FOR IDAHO.

Government Decides to Take in the Payette Valley Project.

Washington, April 22.—The government has finally decided to take up the Payette irrigation project, in Idaho, which contemplates the reclamation of 140,000 acres of land in Boise and Payette valleys, by diverting the waters of Boise river. Examinations of this project have been under way for several years, and the department is now convinced the project is feasible and can be carried out at a reasonable cost.

During the coming summer, final surveys will be made for canals and other works, and it is expected that contracts for the construction can be prepared and let by the end of the season.

The board of consulting engineers will consist of H. N. Savage, J. H. Quinton and W. H. Sanders which will soon examine the Umatilla and Malheur irrigation projects in Eastern Oregon to determine which of the two is the better adapted for government construction. The report of this board is likely to lead to the formal adoption of one or the other of these projects.

Blizzard Rages in St. Louis.

St. Louis, April 22.—A severe storm raged here today, at times assuming the proportions of a blizzard. The storm began with a sleet storm, followed by a fall of 20 degrees of temperature. Following there was a snowfall of five inches. Street traffic was impeded and trains were late. The snow prevented the game between the St. Louis and Chicago national league teams, and St. Louis and Cleveland American league teams, scheduled for today. Five to seven inches of snow fell within radius of 150 miles of St. Louis.

Flew the British Flag.

Paris, April 22.—A dispatch to the Temps from St. Petersburg says the Russian fleet, while making a reconnaissance just previous to the last attempt to blockade the entrance to the harbor at Port Arthur, sighted four ships off the Malo Tao islands flying the British flag. After the warships and the forts had sunk the vessels used by the Japanese, the Russians identified the sunken hulks as the same British ships previously seen off the islands.

Trainrobbers Get \$50,000.

Tiflis, April 22.—A train on the Trans-Caucasian railway was held up between Novosenkai and Abasha by four armed men, who entered the mail car and, after binding the officials, escaped with registered letters and valuables worth \$50,000.

FIND EXCLUSION TOO SEVERE.

Senate Committee Objects to Hitt Bill Regarding Chinese.

Washington, April 23.—The general deficiency bill reported by the senate committee on appropriations carries \$11,342,146, an increase as it passed the house of \$940,525. It contains an amendment the Hitt Chinese exclusion bill, which was accepted by the house before the bill was passed. The Hitt bill was introduced in the senate by Penrose and referred to the committee on foreign relations. In this committee the discovery, it is said, has been made that the bill will affect the introduction of Chinese coolie labor into the Panama canal zone, and to a considerable extent affect the immigration to this country of Koreans and Filipinos and the deportation from the United States, Hawaii, Porto Rico and any territory, "subject to the jurisdiction of the United States of any person held to come within the definition of the words 'Chinese persons,'" and objection has been made to the far reaching effects of the bill.

When the senate committee on foreign relations began consideration today of the Chinese bill it was suggested that the bill might be of wider scope than was at first thought. Sections defining the words "Chinese person" were called to notice, and it was suggested that these might be held to relate to Filipinos, Koreans and others not intended to be included, and that the purpose of the bill might be in conflict with the existing treaties. It was late when the discovery was made, and finally the members of the committee concluded that no action should be taken on the Penrose bill in view of the fact that the Hitt amendment was reported in the deficiency bill, but that the matter might be discussed in open senate. It is understood an attempt will be made to amend the measure before the deficiency bill passes the senate.

FLEE FROM JAPANESE.

Russians are Rapidly Crossing the Yalu—Many are Drowned.

Niu Chwang, April 23.—A messenger from the Yalu river reports that the Japanese outposts are near the Russian entrenchments with large bodies of troops five miles distant. He also states the Russians are fleeing north across the river in overcrowded boats, losing hundreds by drowning. The messenger himself met only a few of the Japanese, but they were reported to have shown themselves in force on various occasions, afterward quickly disappearing.

The newspaper correspondents accredited to the Russian forces have left for Mukden. They bind themselves not to divulge news respecting the results of engagements, or give any information which may awaken public uneasiness.

The Russians have issued placards in Chinese explaining away the Japanese victories, detailing Russian successes, magnifying the Russian strength, and prophesying victory for Russia. The Chinese are not misled, but still believe the Japanese will conquer in Manchuria.

RUSSIA HOLDS IT BACK.

Extent of Disasters to Her Arms Cannot Be Sent Out.

Paris, April 22.—The Yinkow correspondent of the Paris Journal says he has tried repeatedly to ascertain the extent of the recent disasters to the Russian arms, and he has failed to do so because of the perfectly-organized secrecy of the Russians. In his concluding statement, he says:

"The people of France will be obliged to be satisfied with notices marked 'official' or semi-official statements sent from Harbin or Mukden many miles removed from the actual scene of war. I am close to Port Arthur, and might give the true version of many incidents, the news of which, as published, has been mere conjecture, but the Russians strictly forbid all communications of land or sea events. At the moment of sending this message, grave happenings are proceeding on the peninsula; in fact, I am told that another battle is being fiercely contested in the neighborhood of Port Arthur."

Boitish Sympathy Much Appreciated.

St. Petersburg, April 23.—While accepting gratefully the world-wide expressions of sympathy which Russia has received at the death of Vice Admiral Makaroff and the Petropavlovsk disaster, the papers seem especially impressed with the sympathy shown by the British press, several using the text to argue on the opportuneness of the decision in favor of a Russo-British treaty. The Novsky says: "A sincere approach with Great Britain would guarantee our future development."

Skyrdloff Given Full Power.

Paris, April 23.—The correspondent of the Echo de Paris at St. Petersburg says that in the course of the audience between the emperor and Vice Admiral Skyrdloff, his majesty conferred upon the admiral full power to act at Port Arthur in accordance with the necessities of the moment. The rumor that \$10,000,000 in cash went down with the battleship Petropavlovsk, the correspondent also says, is declared to be unfounded.

Kourapatkin Waits for More Troops.

Paris, April 23.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Journal says friend of General Kourapatkin has received a letter from him in which the general says he intends to await the arrival of another 100,000 men before risk a battle with the Japanese.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

SCHOOL MONEY LENT.

Four Million Dollars Are Now Drawing Interest at 6 Per Cent.

Salem.—The state of Oregon now has \$4,000,000 of school funds drawing interest at an average of 6 per cent. This is the largest sum the state ever had drawing interest and it represents the limit of the irreducible school fund, for a number of years hence, at least. The revenue from this fund will be about \$240,000 per year, and from this the expenses of running the state land department must be paid, amounting to less than \$10,000 per year, leaving about \$230,000 to be distributed annually among the counties of the state upon the basis of school population. The apportionment this year will be reduced somewhat by reason of repayments of interest received from purchasers of land where the title failed.

Of this total of \$4,000,000, about \$3,500,000 is in the form of loans and \$500,000 is in the form of deferred payments on sales of school land. Of the loans, \$3,250,000 is out on real estate mortgage securities paying 6 per cent interest. The other \$250,000 is invested in school district bonds bearing 5 per cent interest. The \$500,000 due on sales of land is drawing interest at 6 and 7 per cent. An average rate of interest on the whole \$4,000,000, is 6 per cent.

Less than a year ago the state treasury contained \$725,000 of idle money in the school fund. There was then little prospect that this money would soon be put out at interest, but several circumstances have combined to create a demand for the school funds.

It will be the policy of the board to favor small borrowers, as the money will benefit more people in this way. In all the loans that have been made the board has been careful to accept only gilt edge security, and it is believed there is not a loan outstanding that would show a loss even if hard times should bring about a decline in real estate values.

Incorporation Articles Filed.

Salem — Articles of incorporation were filed in the office of Secretary of State Dunbar last week as follows:

Plaindealer Publishing company, Roseburg, \$5,000.
Northwest Viavi company, Portland, \$20,000.
Upton Gold Mining company, Portland, \$5,000.
W. W. Telephone company, Willamette, \$10,000.
Enterprise-Imnaha Telephone company, Enterprise, \$2,500.
Hood River Baseball club, Hood River, \$3,000.
Oregon Land & Trust company, Portland, \$5,000.
Finis Irrigation company, Milton, \$500.
Ashland Improvement company, Ashland, \$15,000.
Ashland Ice & Storage company, Ashland, \$20,000.
Lytle Electric Light & Water company, Lytle Creek county, \$10,000.
Cow Creek Placer Gold Mining company, Baker City, \$10,000.
Blodgett company, limited, Grand Rapids, Mich., \$3,000,000.

SALMON GREW VERY SLOWLY.

Experiment With Small Fry in the Big Astoria Reservoir.

Astoria — During September, 1902, Fish Warden Van Dusen secured a number of small salmon that had been kept in fresh water for several months and placed them in the Astoria reservoir. Recently the reservoir was emptied for the purpose of cleaning it and the fish were taken out by Deputy Webster. The largest of the fish was only about 15 inches in length, showing conclusively that the salmon need salt water to develop them.

The effect of this experiment will be to overthrow the theory that the salmon fry should be kept in fresh water as long as possible before being turned out and permitted to make their way to sea.

Planting of Sugar Beets.

La Grande.—F. S. Braund, field superintendent of the La Grande sugar factory, states that the present prospects for a large acreage of sugar beets are very flattering. The total beet acreage last year was 1,800 acres, and this year 2,800 acres are assured. The company itself is seeding 1,800 acres this year. Experiments are also being made in several sections of Umatilla county in the matter of growing sugar beets. Seeding is in progress in every section of the county, although foothill ranchers are a little behind.

School Loans Approved.

Salem.—The state land board has approved applications for loans from the school fund to the amount of \$100,000. These are the applications that were pending when it was announced recently that the idle surplus will soon be placed out at interest. Even when the surplus has been lent, there will be funds available from time to time as those who have borrowed in the past make repayment or purchasers of school land pay their annual installments.

Cannerys to Use Oil for Fuel.

Astoria.—Several of the cannerys and cold storage men have decided to use crude oil in place of wood for fuel in their plants. Contracts have been made for oil at 90 cents a barrel, with the guarantee that 2½ barrels of oil will equal a cord of the best fir wood. As the latter now sells at \$4.25 per cord, the change will effect quite a saving in the fuel bills.

OREGON CREAM STANDS TEST.

Condensed Product Adapted to Oriental and Alaskan Use.

Hillsboro.—The directors of the Oregon Condensed Milk company, of this city, and who manufacture the Oregon Grape brand of evaporated cream, have received word from the Kelly-Clark company, exporters of evaporated creams to Alaska and the Orient, that the recent test by the Holman refrigerator company, subjecting this cream to extreme heat and cold, has been very successful.

The cream, in cans, was subjected to a heat ranging from 118 to 160 degrees, and several cans were frozen in a solid block of ice for 10 days. After the tests were made the cans were opened and there was no separation whatever, proving that the Oregon Grape cream is excellent for Alaska and Oriental shipment.

This is naturally of great interest to shippers, as both these fields draw heavily from Oregon for export cream. The Hillsboro factory is the largest west of the Mississippi river, and was the first established in Oregon, and this recent test establishes the manufacture of evaporated cream as a successful and permanent enterprise.

Warehouses are Nearly Empty.

Pendleton.—About a quarter of a million bushels of last year's wheat crop in this county remains unsold, and nearly all the sold portion has been moved, leaving the Umatilla warehouses comparatively empty. The wheat still held is principally in small lots, 10,000 to 15,000 bushels being about the largest. Most of it is residue of crops already partly sold. The market is quite inactive, quotations being made only on request. From 65 to 66 cents has been the ruling price on club for several days.

Fair Has the Funds.

Portland.—An official document attesting that the Lewis and Clark exposition has \$600,000 available funds has been dispatched to Washington. The document, bearing the signature of President H. W. Scott and Secretary Henry Reed, is required by a provision of the appropriation bill, and must be presented to the treasury department before the \$450,000 covered by the government's appropriation may be touched.

Division of Wade Property.

Pendleton.—A report of the sale of C. B. Wade's portion of the Wade blooded herd has been filed with Referee in Bankruptcy Fitzgerald. The proceeds of Wade's interest amount to \$3,912.53. This brings the total amount derived from the sale of personal property up to \$18,581.28, which is over \$3,000 above the appraised value. The first dividends will be declared in behalf of creditors this week.

Beginning to Make Proof.

Alba.—Members of the co-operative colony, which holds 15 or 20 homesteads and which was originally composed of Umatilla county teachers, are beginning to make commutation proof. The colonists have their united holdings leased to cattlemen. Most of them will reside on their filings this summer.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 73@74c; blue-stem, 81c; valley, 81@83c.
Barley—Feed, \$13.50 per ton; rolled, \$24.50@25.
Flour—Valley, \$3.90@4.05 per barrel; hard wheat straights, \$4@4.25; clears, \$3.85@4.10; hard wheat patents, \$4.40@4.70; graham, \$3.50@4.40; whole wheat, \$4@4.25; rye flour, \$4.50.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.17@1.20; gray, \$1.12@1.15 per cental.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$19@20 per ton; middlings, \$25.50@27; shorts, \$20@21; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.
Hay—Timothy, \$15@16 per ton; clover, \$10@11; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.

Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 2½c; red cabbage, 2c; lettuce, head, 25@40c per doz; parsley, 25c; cauliflower, \$2 per box; celery, 65@75c per doz; squash, 2c per pound; cucumbers, \$1.75 per doz; asparagus, 7@8½c; peas, 5½@6c per pound; rhubarb, 7@9c; beans, 10c; onions, Yellow Danvers, \$2@2.50 per sack.
Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.
Potatoes — Fancy, \$1.25@1.50 per cental; common, 75c@81; new potatoes, 3½@4c per pound; sweets, 5c.
Fruits — Strawberries, \$3.25 per crate; apples, fancy Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.50; cooking, 75c@81.

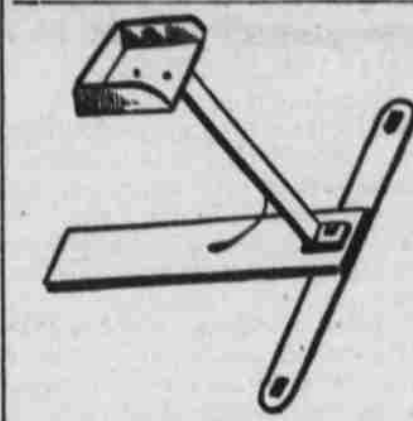
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18@19c.
Butter—Sweet cream butter, 25@27½c per pound; fancy creamery, 22½c; store creamery, 20@21c; dairy and cheese, nominal.
Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 26c; sour cream, 24c.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 13@13½c per pound; springs, small, 20c; hens, 13½@14c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; dressed, 18@20c; ducks, 8@9 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12@13c; Young America, 14@15c.
Hope—1903 crop, 23@25c per pound.
Wool — Valley, 16@17c; Eastern Oregon, 10@12½c; mohair, 30@32c per pound for choice.
Beef—Dressed, 6@7½c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 6@7½c per pound; spring lambs, 8c.
Veal—Dressed, 6@7½c.
Pork—Dressed, 7@8c.



Adjustable Wagon Seat.

The illustration shows a handy wagon seat which is comparatively easy to construct. Take a two-inch board six inches wide, round the ends and cut slots in each end as shown, so that it will go between the stakes of the wagon. Fasten a board a foot wide and three feet long in the center of the first board as shown in the cut. Then take an old seat, from some old machine, of form one if you are handy with tools and fasten it as shown.

A good home-made seat could be formed of inch boards mounted to a place of tough hickory and bolted to the boards, as shown, with a brace of iron at the back. Such a seat would



AN ADJUSTABLE WAGON SEAT.

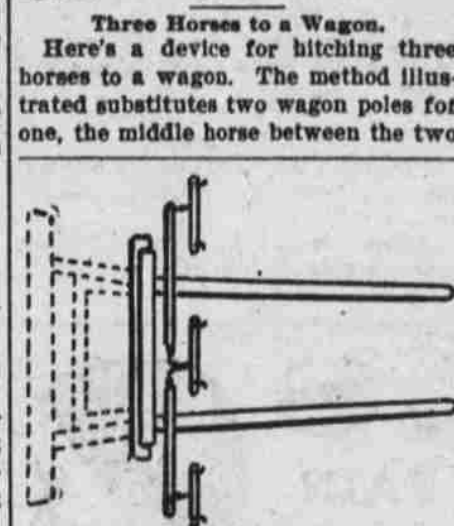
be very handy to use when doing rough hauling, while it might not be sufficiently attractive to use on the road. It is comfortable, which is the main point to be considered.

Making Draft Horses.

There is one thing that the man who is trying to raise big horses should not overlook—and that is plenty of food for the colts. A draft-bred colt that has not enough to eat will not make a draft horse—he will be a chunk of some grade, not heavy enough for a draft horse. Some people claim that draft colts will not require any more feed than colts of a lighter breed. That is an error. They do require more, but not so much in proportion to their size as does the light horse, because they are of a quiet disposition and put more of their feed into growth and less into exercise or nervous fretting than the light horse. But no big horse will be produced if the feed is lacking. Give the colts enough to keep them growing, and they will pay a good price for all they eat when the time comes to sell them. At a sale in Ohio last week draft geldings coming 4 years old sold to feeders at \$200 to \$285 a head. When feeders can afford to pay such prices for horses to fatten for market there is nothing wrong with his draft horse business. But there were no stunted colts in the bunch that sold for these figures.

Three Horses to a Wagon.

Here's a device for hitching three horses to a wagon. The method illustrated substitutes two wagon poles for one, the middle horse between the two



THREE-HORSE DEVICE.

poles or shafts. There are two neck-yokes and a triple evener. The middle horse has one-third of each double-tree, making two-thirds of both, while each outside horse has two-thirds of the evener he is hitched to.

Sanitary Straw Hog House.

The best hoghouse on earth is made by setting two rows of fence posts one foot in ground and four feet apart one way, and one post length apart, the other way, so posts may be used for stringers on top. Put cord wood crosswise on top of stringers and build straw pile over all, leaving hole in one end big enough for a hog to enter. They will all follow in and complete interior arrangement of house to suit their hogish artistic taste.

This house will always be dry and comfortable and will save many a heated argument with the hired man about cleaning out and bedding the hogs. Hogs can be fed out of doors, or a board feeding room may be built at one end of stack with door between. In summer, pull out posts and burn straw hoghouse, haul out refuse and build new each year. Then you will have healthy hogs, avoid mange and many other parasites. I winter 80 hogs every year in this kind of a house.—A. A. Andrews, North Dakota.

Uses of Canned Eggs.

The use of refrigerator eggs has become so widespread as to cover a greater part of the habitable earth. There has been a great trade in canned eggs recently. Large quantities of canned eggs are bought by confectioners, and they are also used in the manufacture of linen. Several countries supply eggs for such purposes, but the supply is not equal to the demand. Large importations of canned eggs come from Russia, Germany and

Denmark. These usually arrive in large packages and are packed in some unknown preservative and are hermetically sealed. The air is excluded in some manner, as it will not do to heat them as in canning fruit, as that would destroy the value of the product. Science is still doing wonders, and we may be able to have full control of the egg trade of the whole world in the near future. Great strides have already been taken, but there is room for more improvement.

Feeding Oats in the Sheaf.

One of the first things I learned when a boy was that feeding sheaf oats to horses was wasteful. However, I had to do it last fall and I now wish I had saved a portion of my thrashing bill that way. Several years ago I read of a certain farmer condemning a cow because she leaked her milk, while he had other cows that did not leak their milk, although they did not leak their milk, while the first cow paid well in spite of her leakage. Now, in the case of my horses, I have known them to pass oats with their manure in so perfect a state that they would grow, and no scheme of driving nails in the bottom of their feed boxes, putting in stones or having their teeth flatted by a horse doctor had any effect on them. But, lo! when I fed them sheaf oats, not the first vestige of an oat could be seen in their manure. Now, what difference does it make where or how the oats are wasted? And if a few pigs could have access to the stable when the horses were out in the field, it seems to me that sheaf oats would have the best end of the argument.—Farm, Stock and Home.

Removing Warts from Horses.

Take about four leaves of strong cured tobacco, place them in a vessel, pour about one-half gallon of water over them, place on the fire, letting it boil down to a strong juice, and apply to the wart. Always pick the wart so as to make it bleed before the application, that it may strike into the fungus growth. A few applications will soon do the work; gradually the enlargement will decrease and disappear as if by magic. As an evidence of its efficacy, some years ago a horse that we drove had a bleeding wart on his back that the lines kept continually bleeding. It was about the size of a walnut, with a neck about the size of one's index finger. I would occasionally sprinkle a few crumbs of tobacco on it from my pocket, and the wart went away. I have removed warts as large as a pint cup from horses' legs by taking the tobacco leaves, dipping them in hot water and binding them to the affected part. Try it and you will be rewarded for your trouble.—Exchange.

Geese on Lowlands.

Geese are extremely hardy and long lived. They thrive on low-lying lands which would not be suitable for fowls. Old pasture is best suited to their requirements, as they crop the grass very short, and would likely destroy the roots of newly sown grass. They must be afforded liberty and lots of grassy range. They are very coarse feeders and will eat nearly anything in the shape of green food. Although it is desirable to hatch early, it is not always advisable, as it depends upon the climate and location. Goslings need grass, and do not thrive unless green food is supplied when they cannot get range.

Importance of the Hens.

It is estimated that the production of chickens in the United States last year reached 3,350,000,000, and of eggs thirteen billion. The total value was \$290,000,000. The true importance of the poultry business will, however, be better appreciated by the following comparisons: Our annual wool clip is about \$28,000,000; sheep, \$65,000,000; swine, \$180,000,000; cotton, \$250,000,000; wheat, \$227,000,000; tobacco, \$43,000,000; potatoes, \$80,000,000; barley, \$30,000,000; oats, \$200,000,000.

Our Butter States.

The manufacture and consumption of butter in the United States is constantly growing. In 1870 we made 515,000,000 pounds, while thirty years later, in 1900, we made nearly three times as much—1,492,000,000 pounds. Of the great butter-producing States Iowa comes first, New York second, and the others in the following order: Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Kansas, Indiana.

Farm Notes.

An important item in stock feeding is regularity.

Long feet are frequently the cause of lameness in horses.

It is a waste of feed to give more than an animal can digest.

With all stock, food may be wasted by giving too much or too little.

Sheep, when being fattened, should have protection from wet and cold.

With all stock, there is no single feed that possesses only good qualities.

Early pampering should be avoided if mature and healthy development is desired.

The sheep raiser who is not progressive cannot expect to attain perfection in his calling.

Labor, even on the farm, is most effective when directed by intelligence and thought.

To injudicious feeding may be credited a large amount of the fatality among hogs.

The brood sow should have plenty of nourishing food such as will cause a healthy growth without too much fat.

Variety of live stock on a farm quite as much as variety of cropping is a source of wealth accumulation in the holding.