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CHANGE IN STOCK-RAISING METHODS.

(From The Portland Oregonian.)

Men representing the livestock interests of the great range districts foresee in the near future a radical change in stock-growing methods. While the free-range system, under conditions of sparse settlement, has been immensely profitable to a few, it is held, with reason, that the restricted range, under conditions of intelligent fencing, a protected pasture and forage crops grown under irrigation, will be equally profitable to the many. The difference will lie in a wider distribution of wealth through the medium of the stock industry, carried on by those who are known to the trade as "small stock-growers."

The great ranges have been repeatedly overstocked by Eastern capital, with a result in many instances of enormous loss to investors. If the effect of this overstocking had stopped here, it would not have been serious, but the worst effect of this policy (or of method, which lacked intelligent policy) was the keeping out of small stockmen and farmers. Nothing of permanent value was left to the country by the old process. On the contrary, the effect was to drain a vast region of its chief asset by utterly exhausting its wealth of pasture and leaving it more specifically a "wilderness" than it was before.

Following this destructive policy, cattle-raising on a smaller scale has been introduced. The aggregate output has not suffered, but the industry has yielded its profits to a much larger number of men. Pastures have been fenced and protected by the "rest system" required in plant life as well as in animate nature; alfalfa and other forage crops have been grown for winter feeding; and, best of all, homes have sprung up over wide areas where, under the old system, the shanty of the herder and the corral at the shipping point were the only signs of human habitation.

At a late convention of the stock-growers' Association in Miles City, Mont., a case in evidence of the success of the new method of fencing and forage over the "free range," against which hot contention still exists in portions of our own state, was cited, wherein a well-known sheep-raiser was running 30,000 sheep on the same ground upon which his predecessors failed with 4000. In explanation the speaker simply said "alfalfa and management did it."

Of course "management" without "alfalfa" would not be able to score a success of this kind, and alfalfa becomes a possibility upon the semi-arid lands only through irrigation. Hence the stockman's hope under the changed conditions that are pressing upon his business is in irrigation and in personal holdings of land, the grazing of which he can control.

The homebuilding spirit will press forward—indeed is pressing forward—in support of this hope and plan. The time will no doubt come when the small stockraisers will be to the livestock industry what the small farmer is to agriculture. The term "small" in this connection is, of course, a relative term, but it means the springing up of homes and schoolhouses over a wide region that has heretofore been given over

to herds and flocks and their homeless, half-savage caretakers. It means also a diffusion instead of a concentration of wealth through the stock industry, and eventually an end to the disgraceful warfare waged between rival elements upon the open ranges.

How About the Races.

There has been so little said about the races since the paper for subscriptions was circulated, that we fear the people have lost all interest in Lakeview's future welfare. When the paper was presented to some of the people they did not seem to be very enthusiastic, and some of them even complained. Their principal grievance seemed to be the failure to give satisfaction last year in the relay race. Because there was disappointment in the Relay race last year the people should not wish to quash everything in the future. Admitting that that one race was badly managed, still there is no just cause for complaint and the fact does not justify anyone from withholding their support of amusements for Lakeview in the future.

The Agricultural Association will give a sum equal to what is raised by subscription. There has been \$500 subscribed; that with an equal amount would provide for \$1000 in purses. Of course it would be better if \$1,500 could be raised. Last year we had five days races on \$1,500, and this year we might have four days, no doubt a little more money could be raised to ensure good purses to induce good horses to come and a big crowd.

Better get together on some kind of arrangement and have a good race meet for Fourth of July week.

School Out in Two Weeks.

Only two more weeks of school in Lakeview. We have only had 8 months of school this term. This does not seem compatible with the general prosperity of the town. We should have 10 months, 9 months at the least. If there is not sufficient funds in the treasury to hold a 9 month school wouldn't it be better to levy a tax of a few mills to prolong the school? No one ought to object to paying a little more tax for school purposes.

We are informed by Prof. Blough that the attendance is better than ever before at this time of the year; the average attendance being 97 per cent. This shows an interest on the part of the pupils and patrons of the school, and the taxpayers should show a like interest by supplying funds for a maximum term. A town can show no better proof of its progressiveness than to maintain good schools.

Demand for Sheep.

G. M. Grimshaw of Sacramento is here to buy 3000 head of mutton. Mr. Larime and Mr. Heldrix are also here from Reno representing Flannigan & Dunn of Reno. They too want to buy heavily. Mr. Kitchen, the Wyoming sheep buyer who was in Lakeview a few weeks ago returned from Steins Mountain first of the week, where he went to look for sheep, but stated that the sheep out there were poor and scabby, so he did not buy any there. He wants anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 yearlings.

Buyers complain that Lake county sheepmen are holding too high. They admit that the sheep are fat and large, but they cannot afford to pay the price. No sales have been made yet.

HAMMERSLEY HAS A "PIPE DREAM."

The town was astir Tuesday morning when the western stage arrived, the driver bringing the startling news that three men, two cattle men and one sheep man, had been killed at the Edler sheep camp in Klamath county. When interviewed by an Examiner reporter the stage driver told the following story:

"Bill Hammersley rode with me last night on my out trip from Newell's in Drews valley, to Hammersley's ranch in Quartz valley. He told me that a stranger stopped over night at his place the night before, (that would be Sunday night) and said that he had come from McKendree's sheep camp near Horseshoe valley that day. Some time previous to his departure from the camp a man came to McKendree's camp from Edler's camp, a short distance, and reported that three men had been killed there in a shooting scrape between cattlemen and sheepmen, and that he wanted help from the McKen irecamp. The stranger, so stated Hammersley, said he had not lost any trouble, and struck out the other way. He also said they had heard shooting a short time before in the direction of Edler's camp. The stranger was coming toward Lakeview." The driver was then asked by our reporter what he found out about the matter at Bly, to which he replied:

"They didn't know anything about it at Bly. They phoned to Bonanza, but the people there knew nothing of it, but stated that a horse had come to Bonanza that day with a rig on and no rider."

From the interview the shooting should have taken place as early as Sunday. Monday night nothing was known of it at Bonanza.

We also received a letter from C. H. McKendree mailed at Bonanza on Monday, and nothing in the letter hinted that any such tragedy had occurred.

Later—in an interview with the driver the next morning (Wednesday) he stated: "I learned that the whole story was made up by 'Bill' Hammersley, presumably from a dream."

The Development League.

At the last meeting of the Lake county Development League a committee was appointed to ascertain the amount of land susceptible of irrigation on the West Side, or at least that which could be irrigated by the waters of Cottonwood and Thomas creeks. Dr. B. Daly, Daniel Boone and J. N. Watson were appointed on this committee. They have filed their report with the secretary of the League. There was also a committee appointed to go over on the West Side and get together all of the farmers who were interested in the irrigation of their lands and organize a branch league and make application to the government to irrigate those lands. Also the League requested branch leagues to be organized, one at Paisley and one at Silver Lake.

It is only a little more than a week now till the regular meeting night of the League, and there will be crowded into that meeting so much regular business that little time can be devoted to special work. A special meeting might be called, however, and a great deal of the work, such as committee reports, etc., disposed of without interfering with the regular work on the regular meeting night. This is only a sugges-

tion, however.

Following is the report of the committee appointed to secure data as to the irrigable lands on Cottonwood:

Lakeview, Oregon, April 17, 1905.

Mr. President:

Your committee to whom was referred the matter of ascertaining the number of acres of land susceptible of being irrigated by the waters of Cottonwood and Thomas creeks, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and respectfully report that we find about 40,000 acres of rich and productive land lying adjacent to and susceptible of being irrigated, by the waters flowing through said creeks. We also find that the storing of the surplus waters of Cottonwood and Thomas creeks is not only feasible, but that the same can be done at a cost of not exceeding \$5 00 per acre.

B. DALY,

Chairman of Committee.

Shearing Delayed.

The machinery for the steam shearing plant arrived last Sunday and C. Thruston's threshing engine was brought up from down the valley Monday to furnish power. It was expected to have the plant ready for operation by Tuesday, but a piece of the machinery was missing, which caused an indefinite delay. The missing part was wired for and no doubt will be forwarded at the earliest possible moment. Thousands of sheep are now in the valley waiting for the plant to be started. About 25 machines will be put to work. Shearers are busy with the old process, turning out several hundred sheep a day.

J. J. Monroe Sells Store.

Mr. J. J. Monroe, who for the past ten years has conducted a merchandise business at Adel, in Warner, last week sold out his business to two gentlemen of Antelope, in Crook county, by the name of C. F. Powne and E. A. Priday. These gentlemen were in Lakeview last week, and we understand they will put in a \$10,000 stock of general merchandise.

The new firm takes possession June first. They ought, and no doubt will, do a good business, as they have a good field to work in.

\$150,000 Between Them.

The board of government engineers and the owners of the Klamath canal had a meeting at Klamath Falls last week and tried to come to terms on the sale of the canal to the government. The canal people held out for \$250,000 while the governments best offer was \$100,000. The Canal Co. were restrained from diverting water from the lake, and the owners aver they will go into the courts with their case and will fight hard for their rights.

Assessor Gets Salary.

A law passed at the legislature at its last session gives the assessor a salary of \$1,000, instead of the old law under which they were paid by the day. Formerly the assessor received for his services about \$800 a year, thus he is benefitted about \$200 by the new law. This year, being a year to take census, he will have considerable more work to perform, as the duty is his to take the census.

All Oregon butter made and sold in the state after May 18th, must bear a mark designating it as Oregon butter. This is according to the law passed at the last legislature.—Ashland Tidings.

WESTERN PACIFIC WILL BE BUILT.

A special dispatch from New York to the Oregonian of April 20th says: Plans were completed in Wall street today by which funds for the construction of the Western Pacific Railroad are absolutely assured. A syndicate of Wall-street banking houses has agreed to sell \$50,000,000 of bonds of this company, the proceeds of which will complete a line from Salt Lake, Utah, to Oakland, Cal. Three important banking-houses, it is understood, will participate in the bond issue.

The Western Pacific Railroad will become a part of the Gould system, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. When the new line is completed, the combined system will be the first railroad in the United States, under one control, with terminals on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

It is believed that the Western Pacific will open up a portion of the now isolated territory, comprising part of Nevada, Northern California and Southeastern Oregon, to the world. There are millions of acres of good agricultural lands in these three states that is absolutely cut off from railroad transportation that have heretofore been exclusively devoted to stockraising, but with transportation facilities would form an important part of the fertile Northwest.

The route taken by this road through Northern California and Southeastern Nevada, almost ensures the tapping of Southeastern Oregon. It is understood that the Western Pacific will take up the N-C-O road, and in the event such a merger is effected, the promoters of the new line could hardly overlook the importance of the rich territory which formed the future of the N-C-O. The late prediction that the latter road would extend from its present terminus, at Madeline, north through Modoc county, California, through Lake county, Oregon and Harney county, Oregon, thence in an easterly direction, affords grounds for the belief that the road will be made a part of the Western Pacific system.

Mrs. H. Barnes Dead.

The many friends of Mrs. H. Barnes, formerly of New Pine Creek, were shocked to learn of her death in San Francisco on the 17th of this month. Mr. Barnes went to California last Fall for the benefit of his wife's health. They lived at Point Richmond all winter and, we understand, a few weeks ago Mrs. Barnes was taken to a hospital in San Francisco for treatment, and died there.

Mrs. Barnes was the daughter of Mr. Pleasants of Willow Ranch, and a step-sister of Mrs. J. J. Monroe, of Adel. She has resided in this country nearly all her life, and was loved by all who knew her. A husband and two small children are left to mourn the loss of a wife and mother, and a host of acquaintances who are saddened at the taking away so early in life of a true friend.

The remains of Mrs. Pearl Barnes were brought to Willow Ranch for interment, and were laid to rest last Sunday. Rev. H. Smith preached the funeral at Bethel Church.

Several members of the D. of H. Lodge of Lakeview, of which order Mrs. Barnes was a member, attended the funeral.