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SMALL HERDS MUST REPLACE BIG ONES

The day of raising great herds of cattle on the free and open ranges of the Northwest has passed. Cattle kings, prompted by high prices of beef have "cashed in," leaving this section of the country in the midst of a cattle famine. Normal conditions will return only in the end of a period of transition when the farmer, with a small herd scientifically raised, will have taken the place of the stockmen whose thousands of cattle roamed the ranges and merely grew.

These are contentions advanced by Randall N. Howard in the leading article of the September number of The Gentleman, entitled "Getting Ahead of a Meat Famine." The suggestion of the article is "An opportunity for the Small Stockman and Farmer."

So scarce is feeding stock today, according to Mr. Howard, that buyers are scouring the Texas Panhandle and Southwest, practically begging stockmen of that territory for an opportunity to purchase cattle to ship to Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, so that the Northwestern ranchers may have a profitable opportunity of using the hay they have grown. And the success which these buyers are meeting is aptly described by an interview which Mr. Howard had with an official of one of the biggest cattle loan and feeder companies of the Northwest. He quotes the interview as follows:

"But what are you going to do? Where are you going to get feeders to use up the hay in the Northwest—this year? I asked.

"We're sitting on a tack," he replied, meaning the bank official. We can't get feeders. They're being held too high, down in Mexico and Texas. They ask \$62.50 for cows and calves. They want \$62 for two year-old steers that can't be handled here for less than \$7 more, and that won't be worth more than \$75 after the farmer feeds them for four months. So we're sitting on a tack."

"What are the hay ranchers of the Northwest doing?"

"Some of them are getting pinched."

The history of cattle raising in the West is briefly traced in the article from the time when cattle were not raised but "grew," when the stockmen began to raise hay, when the ranges became crowded and cattle and sheepmen were at war, when Uncle Sam assumed control of thousands of acres of National Forests and the coming of the irrigation age, when the cattleman was driven still further back to seek grazing land for his stock. All these stages of development were merely steps toward the inevitable passing of the cattle king, and the coming of the time when cattle in the West must be raised as they are in the East—in comparatively small herds by the farmer. Quoting from Mr. Howard's article, the natural results of the influx of settlers and development of Northwestern lands has brought about the transition period of the West, and Mr. Howard describes its effect as follows:

"The cattle kings have been largely forced out of business. The small stockmen have been drifting under pressure of decreasing range and the recent high prices have persuaded most of them to 'cash in.' Yet—the orchard land boomers to the contrary notwithstanding—the Northwest is primarily and most naturally a stockraising country. And the Northwest must turn about and recover its lost livestock prestige if it is to put to the highest economical use its dry farming grain fields and its irrigated alfalfa lands. The day of the big cattle herd on the free open range is practically over. The day of the small cattle herd on the farm is just beginning."

Mr. Howard then takes up, as an example, the history of the hog raising industry in the Northwest. He tells of its rise and its sudden decline. The revival came with the establishment of the Union Stockyards in Portland, and the subsequent campaign of education among farmers by agricultural colleges, packers and the Oregon State Bankers' association. Even the school children were taught the significance of the stock raising revival. Portland livestock and marketing interests imported carloads of select hogs, distributing them among farmers at cost price. Special trains bearing experts went among the farmers and spread the gospel of the back-to-the-livestock movement. The results are strikingly apparent. The receipts at the Portland stockyards tell the story best in figures. It is no longer necessary to bring hogs here from Nebraska. The Northwest is supplying its own pork.

A movement similar to the "back-to-the-hog" campaign is on foot to reestablish the Northwest as a cattle raising country. Because the returns are neither as prompt nor as promising as in pig business, the movement of necessity is progressing more slowly. One reason for the slowness, according to Mr. Howard, is the practice of selling calves. Mr. Howard writes:

"It is estimated that in Tillamook County, Oregon—the premier dairying

county of the Northwest—a total of 10,000 calves are "knocked in the head every year."

The excuse of the dairyman is that it is cheaper to sell the calves, as the profits on milk and cream are about \$90 a year for each cow. To realize that much on a calf it would be necessary to feed it for about three years.

The present conditions in the Northwest are described as a change from one stage of progress to another and higher one. The hog-raising propaganda has already had its effects, as not a single live hog has been imported to Oregon from Nebraska since August, 1912. In 1911 83,789 came from Nebraska, representing about 40 per cent of all the hogs that passed over the scales. The campaign of education among the farmers will also restore the cattle industry to a normal basis in the Northwest, according to Mr. Howard, who concludes his article as follows:

"The 'wheat miner' is being taught that his safest market and his largest profits are secured by keeping his produce on the farm until it is converted into self transportable meat products. The many open range stockmen who have 'cashed in' their herds and moved to town or city during the past 10 years are being replaced by more contented small stockmen and farmers. The states of the Pacific Northwest are being stocked up largely with high grade cattle and hogs. And perhaps not least, science is being injected into the stock-raising revival.

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In addition to the above, the undersigned offers on the same condition \$500.00 for all horses branded horse-shoe bar on both or either jaw. Brand recorded in eight counties, to-wit: Harney, Lake and Crook counties. Horses branded when sold.

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