

FACTS AND FIGURES ON SOME MONTANA INDUSTRIES

Growing of Sheep Easily Stands Among the Foremost Occupations of the Treasure State and Our Wool Output Is Second to None in the World—Facts and Figures on the Herds on the Ranges and Something of the Wool Output, With Remarks on Its Treatment and the Profits Accruing Annually—Lumber Industry Is Also Booming at This Time.

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN.
HELENA, Dec. 31.—With its position as first of the states of the union as a producer of wool, Montana's fame is worldwide through the fleeces taken from the backs of her sheep. The raising of sheep for wool and for the market is one of the principal industries of the state. It represents investments of millions of dollars and an annual income of several millions.

In thirty years the industry has grown to such an extent that where there were but a couple of thousand animals there are now nearly five million. The rate of increase among Montana sheep is great. In recent years some of the flocks have increased in one season 100 per cent. The average rate of increase is about 90 per cent.

WE WILL BE CALLED UPON TO SUPPLY MARKET

Failures in raising sheep and the killing of thousands by bad weather in other countries means that Montana will be called upon to supply a large part of the markets of the world. This means higher prices and an increasing demand. Already the growers are certain of great increases in prices next year.

Sheep were first raised in Montana in 1870, when there were 2,024 animals in the state. In 1880 a great increase was shown, there being at that time 279,277. Still greater increase was shown ten years later, when there were 2,352,886. In 1902 the grand total of sheep in the state was placed at 4,719,516. Of these 4,103,318 are for stocking purposes. All of the sheep are valued at \$70,869,886.

Feeding of sheep has been taken up in the state on an experimental scale, the raisers knowing that they, like the cattlemen, must eventually adopt this system of raising their stock. All realizing that a change must soon be made; the question arose as to which direction the growers must turn.

VALUABLE EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS ARRIVED AT

It became not a question of new range, because that in this state is the best in the world, but one of either leaving the business or making the needed improvements on the home ranches. Feeding was the natural solution of the problem, and

resulting in permanent investments and improvements and limiting to a great extent the drifting of nomadic bands from other states, brought here for grazing. The vast quantity, as well as the grade, of the Montana wool crop, makes it compulsory upon the buyers to handle it, and with the changes in methods which are being brought about through natural causes, Montana stockmen will remain in the vanguard of a permanent and fairly successful business.

"The disasters which have overtaken the flockmasters in New Zealand, and which operated to such material benefit to Amer-

fortune, her flocks have attained this enviable distinction, and their fleece is now a factor in the wool production of the world. The early history began with the advent of civilization.

"Through all the trials and privations of early years, with their fluctuations of success and failure, there were those who persevered in their efforts to advance the interests of the state and to extend the boundaries of the livestock industry, and to these, more than to others, is due Montana's proud position as a wool producer.

"It was in the '60s that the first sheep were brought into the state from Cali-

the assessors do not return any sheep from the various Indian reservations.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE WOOL IN MONTANA

"The shrinkage in scouring is given again as 63 per cent, leaving 13,159,700 pounds of scoured wool worth 47 cents a pound, or \$6,185,100, showing a loss in value to the state of \$2,205,720, equal to 11 per cent on the total value of all the fleeces."

Wool growers are keeping pace with the rest of the world in improved methods.

Shearing plants have been found a great success. Each does in a few hours what would require the combined labors of many men for days. The work is done better and the speed is, of course, a large factor. Many growers still shear their animals by hand and this method will of necessity remain in vogue for many years, because of the widely scattered flocks.

MACHINE SHEARING HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS

Great success has attended the innovation of machine shearing. Forty men em-

condition of the fleece," says the report of the bureau of agriculture, labor and industry. "With the hand shears, in the hurry of piece work, very grievous injury is often inflicted upon the sheep, frequently of such a nature as to interfere with further breeding and always to the detriment of the wool-bearing qualities, while the clippers are so constructed that this danger is reduced to the minimum, and at the same time there is no cutting through the wool staple, which materially reduces its value.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON MACHINES

"Many improvements have been made upon the machines since they were first introduced, and they are now giving satisfaction, although, aside from the above advantages, they have not been successful in reducing to any great extent the cost of shearing, the efforts to reduce the price per head having not only resulted in strikes, but operated to keep the old hands out of the district. The rate of reduction was proposed at one cent a head, the shearers to pay their board.

"There is estimated to be about 30,000 men in the United States who follow shearing as a business, and these go from state to state during the season, returning to their homes at its close. Their earnings average about \$7 a day, though there are experts who are said to earn as much as \$25 a day."

Lumbering has always been an important industry in Montana. It is so still, and there is a supply of timber that will furnish materials for the mills for many years. According to Commissioner J. A. Ferguson, in the annual report of the bureau of agriculture, labor and industry, there is in the state 15,886,800,000 feet of lumber. This is sufficient for 70 years at the rate of consumption of the last year.

In making this estimate the commissioner figures only the timber on government and state lands. Millions of feet are on railroad land and on that owned by mining companies and other private concerns. There is no means of estimating this supply, however, and the figures are given for only that on other lands. Of the total, 14,974,800 feet of timber is on government land and the state owns 912,000,000 feet.

DOUBLE THE QUANTITY OF WOOD WAS SAWED

Figures from the sawmills of the state show that almost double the quantity of timber was converted into lumber during the last year than any other previous period. This increase is largely accounted for by the fact that previous investigations were incomplete and probably not nearly all of the returns were obtained.

"During the year there was produced in rough lumber, 210,647,000 feet. This product is valued at \$1,298,724. Of this sum \$1,093,328 was paid for labor. Sixty mills reported an average operation of 20 weeks. Missoula county produced 41 per cent of the total, Flathead 37 per cent, and Ravalli 16 per cent, the balance of the production being divided among the other counties.

Adding to the figures officially correct, an estimate of the output upon which there was no report, the commissioner places the gross product at 230,000,000 feet. Some of the mills in the state are very large, according to the report. One of these produced about 40,000,000 feet, another 35,000,000, another 21,000,000 feet, while many produced more than a million feet.



COMING IN FROM THE RANGE

A GREAT FLOCK OF MONTANA SHEEP ON THEIR WAY TO THE MARKET.

ican wool-growers, cannot be recovered from in many years. The removal from the markets of the world of Australian wool has had a wonderful effect upon the woolen industry, forcing the manufacturers into the use of substitutes to so great an extent as to create a demand for relief through national legislation, and wise action upon this subject will doubtless have a powerful effect upon the future of the sheep industry.

BITTER ENMITY DOES NOT EXIST IN MONTANA

In Montana the bitter enmity which has ended in bloodshed, a result of the antagonism between cattlemen and sheepmen over the use of the range, has not existed to the extent made evident by frequent clashes in other states. There have been some disputes, but the trouble has never been as serious as in other sections of the stock-raising country.

No state in the union produces more wool than Montana. The annual crop in this state is not even approached in quantity by that of any other state. In quality the wool from this state is also unsurpassed by that of any other state. In quality the wool from this state is also unsurpassed, and the buyers in all the markets of the world look upon Montana wool as of the best. Prices are constantly advancing and the output increasing.

Men and women in all parts of the world wear garments made of wool grown upon the backs of Montana sheep. In all the wool markets this product is quoted. It goes everywhere and in each place is in great demand. The forthcoming report of the bureau of agriculture, labor and industry will contain a comprehensive review of this industry. Some of the comment is as follows:

MONTANA STANDS FIRST IN PRODUCTION OF WOOL

"In the production of this great staple Montana stands first of all the states in the union. From small beginnings, through many vicissitudes and varying

fornia, mostly merinos, and in a few years these had increased to many thousands. In 1879 Senator Gibson became interested in sheep growing and he soon decided that, while the merino was a good breed, it could and should be improved. He therefore imported a number of Delaine sheep, which were crossed with the merino with wonderful success.

EARLY MARKET AT OLD FORT BENTON

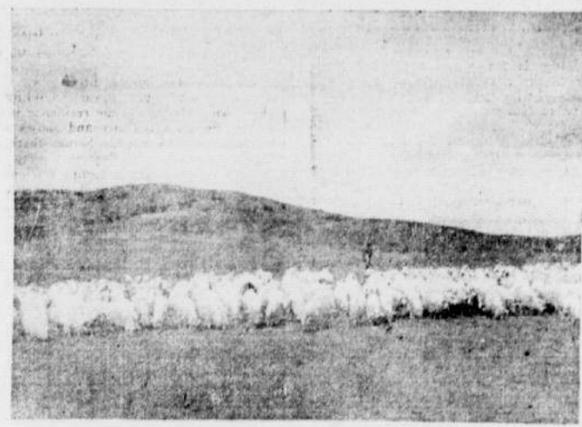
"The market in early days was a primitive affair at Fort Benton, where all the wool was assembled for shipment on the river. This continued until the advent of the railroads, when the principal market for the wools of Northern Montana was transferred to Great Falls. The cities and towns where wool markets are maintained at present are: Billings, Miles City, Big Timber, Glendive, Great Falls, Fort Benton, Chinook, Dillon, Terry, Big Sandy, Harten, Havre and Missoula.

"The total production for the state for 1901 was given as 30,523,090 pounds of unwashed wool, which was sold at about an average price of 14 cents, and produced, when scoured, 13,104,976 pounds of clean wool. For 1902 the crop was estimated to be 35,567,000 pounds of unwashed wool, which sold for prices ranging from 10 to 17 cents a pound, averaging 14 cents, or a total of \$4,970,380. The Annual Wool Review estimates the number of sheep in the state as 5,081,000, or 361,390 more than the returns of the assessors, but the discrepancy is explained by the fact that

Sheep are now sheared by machines in many sections of the state and new plants for this important part of the sheep industry are projected in many other sections. Formerly it was necessary to shear each sheep by hand, a tedious and laborious as well as costly process.

ployed in one plant will care for 3,000 to 4,500 sheep a day, only half of these being employed in the shearing, the others caring for the sheep and sacking the wool.

"The principal advantage of this method are less injury to the animals and a very appreciative improvement in the



MONTANA SHEEP ON THE RANGE.

Montana Needs More Manufacturers to Invest in the State

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN.
Helena, Dec. 31.—Montana needs manufactures.

This is one of the pertinent statements in the biennial report of J. A. Ferguson, commissioner of agriculture and industry. "Montana is not a manufacturing state," says Mr. Ferguson. "But very few of the commodities of life are produced here and a large percentage of the hay, grain, fruit and vegetables consumed are shipped in from other states.

"Lack of water is the only limit to the possibilities in agricultural pursuits and there is no limit to all the openings in manufacturing enterprises. The success of every industry of this kind that has been backed by sufficient capital and business energy, was speedy and sure.

"The people we need are those possessed of at least a few thousand dollars, or its equivalent in machinery, and the practical experience necessary for managing a plan when started. There is but little chance for employment, except in mining, lumbering or farming, and laborers in the first two are always plentiful.

ARE NO FACTORY TOWNS IN THE TREASURE STATE

"There are no factory towns and we have our proportion of idle men at all times. We have all the workmen we need, except in the matter of farm hands and domestic servants, but the field for small manufacturing plants without local competition and in the best-priced markets in the world, is practically unlimited.

"In manufactured articles it is probable that more home-made lumber, brick, flour and beer is sold than in any other line, but these commodities are all shipped in by carloads to supply the demand. Thousands of barrels of Eastern beer are sold every year, and in some parts of the state the different brands of North Dakota flour are the only ones offered for sale. The quality of barley and wheat grown in the state being unsurpassed, irrigation extension will increase the acreage."

Scores of instances of opportunities in all lines of manufacture are cited by the commissioner. These comprise openings for the profitable operation of plants in almost every line of industry. The commissioner remarks that Montana is the best market in the world for any manufactured article; that it produces the raw materials for all kinds of finished product, yet there are practically no plants. Commenting on these conditions, Mr. Ferguson says that the absence of manu-

facturing plants means a great loss to the state every year. Raw material is sold almost exclusively, and the man who buys it does so with the idea of making a profit. To make this profit the finished product is shipped back to the state and sold.

MEANS GREAT LOSS TO US EVERY SINGLE YEAR

One of the instances given in the report is that covering copper. The commissioner says that Montana produces 61 per cent of this metal, yet not a pound

is made into an article ready for market. All is shipped to other portions of the country, the commissioner making the comment that this means an irretrievable loss to the state.

To substantiate his assertions of manufacturing possibilities in Montana, the commissioner comments on the enormous natural resources. These, he says, are of such a range in variety that almost any kind of finished article can be produced.

Abundant water power is also cited as an inducement to manufacturers. With

H. J. HANSEN



Manager of the Central Pharmacy of Dillon, the Leading Drug Store of Beaverhead County. An Interesting Account of This Enterprising Business House Will Be Found on Page 2, Part Two.

this summing up of the situation, capitalists are invited to investigate the Montana field.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN THE TREASURE STATE

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN.
Helena, Dec. 31.—Municipal ownership is a question that interests every city and citizen of Montana. This method of conducting enterprises commonly called public utilities has not been tried to a great extent in the state, but the report of the bureau of agriculture, labor and industry contains a carefully compiled statement of the results of the experiments to date.

In Montana the principal efforts at effecting municipal ownership have been with waterworks. Several cities have tried the plan of conducting their own plants. The annual report shows that in every case the people are well satisfied with the results and that but few could be found who were willing to restore the business to the former owners.

Fort Benton was the first city in Montana to effect municipal ownership of a water plant. At present Bozeman, Miles City, Great Falls and Red Lodge own their systems, and White Sulphur Springs is building a plant of sufficient size to supply the city with water for a long time.

Deputy Commissioner Benedict made a personal investigation of the subject of municipal ownership. To obtain information of value he carefully inspected the books at Great Falls, those of the city and those of the company which operated the plant before the city took hold.

These books, so his report says, show that the saving to the city is great. Men with whom he talked on the subject agreed that municipal ownership was a success, and expressed themselves as unwilling to return to the old conditions.

Balfour's Unpopularity.

[New York Tribune.]
 A story is told of Arthur Balfour's experience as secretary for Ireland which illustrates both his unpopularity and the wit of the celebrated Father Healey. Balfour asked the priest on one occasion: "Do the Irish really hate me as much as the newspapers say?"

"My dear sir," was Father Healey's answer, "if they only hated the devil half as much as they hate you, my occupation would be gone."



SENATOR PARIS GIBSON

Who Aided Largely in the Development of the Wool Industry in Montana.

It has been taken up in every section of the state.

"The results of these experiments," says Commissioner Ferguson, "which cover a number of years, are instructive and valuable and seem to point unerringly the direction in which the future of this great industry lies. Hundreds of thousands of sheep were fed during the winter of 1901-2 with unsparing success, and of the losses noted from storm and exposure none were recorded among the bands so provided for.

"It is also believed that this method was responsible, in some degree at least, for the lamb crop of the spring of 1902, which was above the average.

"Many letters were received by the bureau, indicating satisfactory results in almost every case.

"As to the general conditions prevailing in the sheep-raising business, opinions vary among the growers, but there seems to be a prevailing sentiment that a marked change in methods is impending. The causes which will operate in this direction are chiefly the advance in cost of plant through the raise in price of land and the curtailing of available range areas, necessitating the labor and expense of erecting miles of fence, which could only be done on land that was under private ownership.

BUSINESS HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY THUS FAR

"Notwithstanding these so-called drawbacks, the business has been satisfactory in the main, even the adverse conditions re-

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