

Five Stock.

In an age of progression like this would it not be well for the beef grower of Montana to look out for some animal better suited to the country than any of our present improved breeds. Not that it is so important we have a better beef steer than the Shorthorn or Hereford, either of these are good enough so far as the flesh is concerned, but we need a better range animal, and this we believe can be produced. It is well known that few of our native buffalo ever die of the severity of the winter or of starvation, and an intermingling of this blood with the Short-horn, it is believed, would make a better grazer without impairing the beef qualities. The mountain bison lives the year round upon the very summit of the Rocky Mountains. An old mountaineer assures us that the herd of this species of buffalo which range between Boulder and Deer Lodge, on the very mountain tops, winter much better than the domestic cattle in the valleys on either side. Now by crossing those animals with the Short-horns the hardness of the latter would be greatly improved, and we doubt if the beef would not be at all injured. We would rather think that the flavor of the beef would be also improved. An animal of the Short-horn family with a quarter or eighth buffalo, either the mountain or plains species, would, we think, be an improvement upon the pure-blooded Short-horns, and would like to see some of our progressive breeders make the experiment. There is no trouble in securing the calves. Buffalo are thick in big bend of the Musselshell, and calves when separated from their mothers will follow a horseman anywhere. Our present cattle are good and profitable to handle, but this does not argue but what we may get a cross breed that will be better. Half and quarter bred buffalo have been had in the Territory but were killed on account of their proclivities for breaking fence, but on our frontier valleys there are no fences. It has been claimed by Nebraska farmers who have tried the cross that the dairy qualities of our domestic cattle are improved by the buffalo, but if the present standing of the Short-horn in beef and milk can be maintained and the stamina of the buffalo added we would have an animal worth striving for, and believing such to be within reach, we would recommend that some of our stockmen make the experiment.

WORDS ON WOOL.

We clip the following from the Wool-Growers' Bulletin:

WHY WOOL SHOULD NOT BE WASHED.
Of course we speak from the growers' standpoint. Manufacturers and handlers of wool can do as they please about washing and scouring. The reasons for not washing are many, and column after column has been filled with reasons against, but little has been said for. As to "brutality toward the sheep," while it seems unnatural to plunge a sheep into a pond of water, and few animals have a greater aversion to water than sheep, yet it is not harder on their constitutions probably than a cold, drenching rain. The great objection to washing, we think, lays from a moral point of view. The prayer of all prayer says, "Lead us not into temptation." We know this is violated by the flock-master every time he drives his sheep to wash. He is tempted to not wash them quite as clean as a great deal of care and time will do. There is "money in it" for him to be a little careless about it, and some are very careless about it. This matter is further aggravated by the careless manner in which wool is bought by local and other buyers who seem to make little or no difference in price whether wool has been well washed in a running stream of soft warm water, or merely driven through a turbid pond.

And right here is another strong point in favor of not washing. This practice of washing seems to have begun when there was plenty of pure, soft, warm, running water, yet even in the same neighborhood, on the "other side of the ridge," is a stream of "hard" water, which not only does not wash but actually injures the wool. Every careful buyer has discovered this.

We give these points in washing, and claim to speak by authority, that is from experience on both sides of the question. Yet we presume that few, if any, will change their custom of washing. Each one will be afraid of losing, just as so many are afraid of losing in sending wool to the Wool-Growers' exchange, at the same time acknowledging the principal to be correct—it "we would only do it." Well, somebody must begin, or no reforms will ever be accomplished in washing wool or anything else.

SHALL WE WASH OUR WOOL?

In nearly every agricultural paper we pick up is found something on "washing sheep,"

and we are often asked the above question by letters. With the experience we have had from the time, as a bare-footed boy, we drove the flock to the "sheep dam," then in shearing and in selling, and more recently in handling wool in a wool house, and being thus thrown among all classes of wool buyers, we should say to wool-growers, do not not wash your wool on the sheep's back. We are also asked the question, "Had I best wash my wool on the sheep's back, or tub-wash it?" We should answer to this, if you wash at all, was on the sheep's back. Wool cannot be well washed in a tub with cold water, and to wash with soap and warm water requires to be done by some one who understands it. There is danger of injuring the fibre by "tulling" or felting, and of "setting the grease" so that a manufacturer has more trouble in "scouring" than if it had not been washed at all. In fact the washing of the well by the grower does not relieve the manufacturer of any labor to speak of. The wool still has to be scoured. We should then say it is better for all concerned that the grower should not attempt to wash his wool.

WHY WASH WOOL?

The great reason or only reason that can be urged as we can see for washing wool, is that it has become a custom of the country, that is, of this section of the country. Buyers generally "dock" one-third for unwashed wool. Men who have heavy wool do not wash, they can afford to have this usual dockage, while those who have the average or lighter crops if they did not wash would be injured or unjustly discriminated against by this one-third dockage. So each individual farmer is afraid to break away from the old custom for fear it would be money out of his pocket, and this is why he washes his wool.

HOW TO SHEAR WOOL.

We have alluded to this before, but there are so many points in this connection that we might have an article in every number, and still not exhaust the subject at the end of the year.

To begin. Try to keep the fleece together as much as possible. This can be done and is done by some careful shearers, and at the same time some careful shearers, "skirt" the fleece as they go along by tearing off the neck, belly, legs, &c., off the fleece. When this fleece comes to be rolled up if any of these parts are omitted and go into another fleece, the buyer if he knows his business discovers that there is the wool from two fleeces rolled together, and he immediately suspects "stuffing;" does not know what else may be rolled in, and either begins an examination of the fleece or else walks off without saying a word.

As to what difference this makes, whether two fleeces or two parts of different fleeces are rolled together it would seem scarcely necessary to state, but there may be persons who do not take time to consider that one fleece may be XX and another No. 1, and when a buyer wants No. 1 wool he does not want several pounds of XX rolled up inside of his purchase and vice versa.

All produce and merchandise seems to be on the decline. Wool, while declining with the rest, still holds a comparatively strong position. Many persons blame the iron men for being the cause of all of this demoralization of the market in allowing iron to run up or rather putting it up to a point where they could not hold it, and being one of the great products of our country as well as entering largely into merchandise, dragged everything down with it. We are of those who think that wool is one of the articles that can stand upon its own feet, and as soon as it can recover from the general tumble, we may look out for reaction and a strengthening of prices. Put in the meantime enough farmers will be likely to get scared to afford food for the sharks that are hovering and noising about to catch the weak and unwary.

The Dairy.

CITY BUTTER.

Not all the butter we eat is manufactured by the ingenious city dealer, whose only and best cow is the pump, which furnishes the water to wash the dirty grease. The creameries furnish quite a limited quantity of really choice butter, and during most of the year our country friends send in liberal supplies. Much of the country butter is of excellent quality, and finds a ready market at high prices among the wealthier classes. A good portion of it though is poor stuff, which finds its way to market via country merchants, hucksters, and commission houses. The country merchant with an eye to business buys almost any kind of butter his customers offer. His best customers may be the poorest of butter makers, but to refuse to buy the sour, cheesy and fre-

quently dirty butter they bring would be to lose otherwise valuable customers. So the greasy compound, which has run the gauntlet of dirty, sweaty hands, filthy pails and pans, musty and noisome cellars, accumulating fresh odors, dirt and hair at every stage of its existence until its originality, excepting the hair of the cow, is totally lost, finds a ready purchaser in the genial merchant, who, with a full appreciation of its merits, pitches the nasty conglomeration, as likely as not, into an empty fish kit or soap box in proximity to rags, kerosene, tar and feathers. When the accumulations are sufficient the ancient and unsavory mass is shipped to the city, where after further mixing, working and coloring, it is placed on the market as creamy butter. Of course not all the butter the country merchant buys is of such detestable quality. Almost every locality is blessed with some choice butter makers, tidy housewives, under whose clever and cleanly manipulations, the thick yellow cream is transformed into delicious, crisp, golden butter. These customers are well known to the country merchant, and the butter they bring is carefully saved for his own table, or his village customers, the ubiquitous drummer and favorite train men. The supply of strictly choice butter very rarely exceeds the wants of these favored few, so only the refuse stuff at which any decent housewife, if aware of its true character, would elevate her nose in disdain, is left to ship to the unfortunate denizens of the large cities.—*Ex.*

It is estimated that the lift estate now owns about 39,000 head of cattle of all ages. It includes eight ranches, the principal range being 160 miles in length by 60 miles in width at the upper end, and tapering to a point at the other. It is situated between the Union Pacific railroad and the South Platte river, and reaches westward to the foot hills, including portions of Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. Within the past two years there have been added to the herd, by purchase, 17,300 cattle from Texas, while the calves branded within that time numbered about 8,000 head. Within the same period 25,021 have been marketed for beef, and 17,000 will be marketed this year. The value of the estate is estimated at \$1,500,000.—*National Livestock Journal.*

BREEDERS' DIRECTORY.
MAGNOLIA
STOCK AND FERRY RANCH.

CANADIAN GIANT.

This horse is a three-quarter blood Clydesdale, one-quarter Vermont Morgan; dapple brown, with black points, mane and tail; stands seventeen hands high, and weighs 1,700 pounds; was imported from Canada a yearling and brought to Montana last year by his present owner; he is now 7 years old. Price, for the season, \$25, with the privilege of returning all mares that miss next season, free.

LOUIS PHILIPPE, Jr.

This colt was sired by imported Norman Louis Philippe, dam an Oregon mare; iron gray, dark points, fifteen hands and one inch high, and weighs upwards of 1,200 pounds; very closely made and extra heavy boned; 3 years old. Price, the season, \$10, with the privilege of returning mares that miss next season, free.

RUBE and NED.

Dark bay and chestnut sorrel, Oregon stock; have proved themselves good breeders; both weigh over 1,200 pounds. Price, the season, \$5.

These horses will stand the coming season at what is known as Hedges' Ferry, and having a good pasture of upwards of 1,600 acres, mares from any distance are solicited. Pasturage free till end of the season in all cases. Mares taken on shares. Stock of any kind taken in payment for service. Owners of mares responsible for all accidents. Money due at end of the season. Having put the price down to bed-rock, and having a variety of stock, and as good and cheap a ferry as there is on the Missouri river, I respectfully invite the boys to give me a call.

NELSE BUMP.
P. O. Diamond City, M. T. 18-3m

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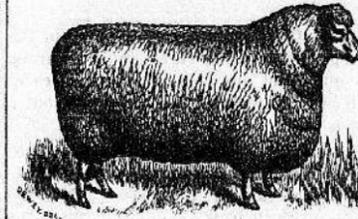
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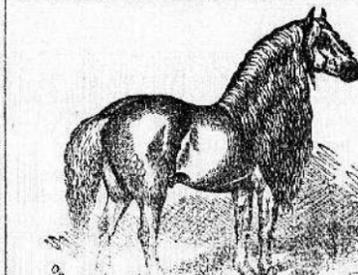
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Range—Upper Ruby valley, Madison county and the Sweet Grass and Yellowstone, Gallatin county.

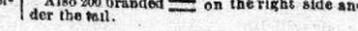
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JAMES J. MAYNE.

Range Missouri valley, vicinity of Canyon Ferry; also on Smith river valley.

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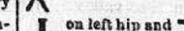
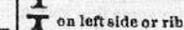
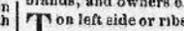
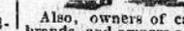
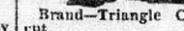
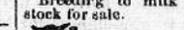
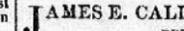
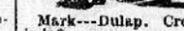
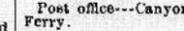
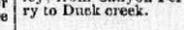
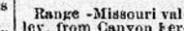
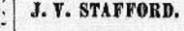
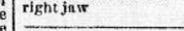
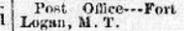
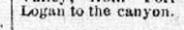
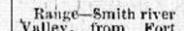
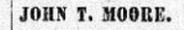
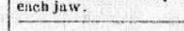
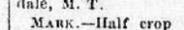
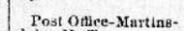
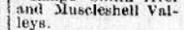
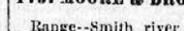
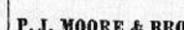
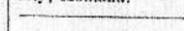
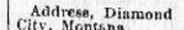
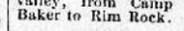
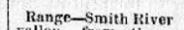
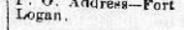
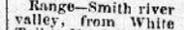
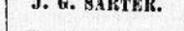
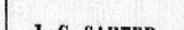
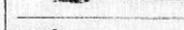
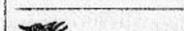
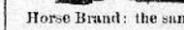
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