

### WOOL EXPERT SEES FOLLY IN ADVANCED CONTRACTS ON CLIP

Practice Has Always Resulted in Losses, Says Matt Staff; Bright Future Looms.

Special to The Tribune.

Helena, Dec. 30.—In a recent statement issued to western wool growers and bankers, reviewing the present year and forecasting 1923 from the growers' standpoint, Matt Staff, formerly of Helena, president and general manager of the National Wool Warehouse & Storage Company, said in part: "Chicago—Owing to the conditions now prevailing in the wool markets of the world, it is highly probable that an active campaign will soon begin to contract next season's clip. Indeed, rumors are now current that offers are being made in certain early shearing sections of the west around 35 cents."

"The practice of contracting wool months in advance of shearing time has been discontinued in practically all the wool producing sections of the world. The principal exceptions being certain sections of the United States and South America. The growers of Australia and New Zealand have long since come to see the folly of this practice, and through the aid of the British government, other wool producing parts of the dominion have succeeded in greatly improving their system of marketing."

"This practice resulted again this year, as it nearly always does, in substantial losses to the wool growers of the United States. It is a matter of common knowledge that clips in considerable number were contracted during the early part of last winter and early spring at from 20 to 35 cents, which, if held until shearing time, would have brought around 40 cents, and if held for orderly distribution to milling requirements would have netted, later in the season, from 43 cents up."

"Would Have Cut Losses. "Very much the same situation existed in 1921, and had the growers been in position during that year to adopt a policy with reference to the disposition of their clips as conditions then prevailing seemed to justify, the additional returns would have gone far to compensate for the losses sustained in 1920."

"This company tried to do the best of its ability during many months prior to shearing to convey to the wool growers of the west such information as would enable them intelligently to estimate the future trend of the market. We are privileged at this time to note how nearly the conditions have developed in line with the forecasts then made, resulting in handsome profits to the many growers in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and elsewhere who shipped to this growers' selling agency in the face of seemingly tempting offers received at home at a time when cash was sorely needed, by themselves and their bankers. These growers will receive several cents, and many of them as much as 10 cents, in excess of such offers. Thus they have had the opportunity, without direct loss or expense to themselves, to benefit everyone engaged in the wool growing industry, in that through the orderly distribution of their wool, they have helped to maintain price levels at which the industry may hope to enjoy a reasonable degree of prosperity."

"Consumption Continuing. "While news articles may appear from week to week telling of temporary advances or recessions, the price now being paid for the wool will be paid for next season's clip and will continue to be governed entirely by world conditions which do not change overnight, says the statement. He pointed out the fact that as consumption is continuing at a highly satisfactory rate, it can readily be seen that the entire domestic clip of 1922 will be out of the way before the 1923 clip is ready for the market. All offerings at British auctions this year have been disposed of at steadily advancing prices principally to English, French, German, Belgian, Swiss and Japanese buyers, and it will be some time before the needs in those countries can be fully supplied."

"Prices of commodities are, of course, largely governed by the purchasing power of the consuming public," says Mr. Staff. "This purchasing power is now at a high level in practically every industry except that of agriculture, where unsatisfactory prices have retarded the return to prosperity. A healthy advance may, however, now be noted in prices of most agricultural products which will result in due course in establishing a more equitable balance between the several branches of industry."

### Bridge Breaks Away Under Heavy Weight of Cattle; 50 Lost

Billings, Dec. 30.—(By The Associated Press.)—The south span of the East bridge, the principal bridge across the Yellowstone river at this point, collapsed shortly before noon Saturday under the weight of a herd of cattle belonging to Frank Heinrichs and being driven from Billings to the Heinrich ranch on the Crow reservation. Many of the cattle were swept under the ice in the river and between 35 and 50 head were killed or so badly injured they had to be destroyed. The cause of the collapse has not been determined.

### Would Remove Widow From Estate Powers

Special to The Tribune. Lewistown, Dec. 30.—W. H. Grant, public administrator, has petitioned the district court to revoke the letters issued to Mrs. Myrtle Landon as administratrix of the estate of the late Dr. Leon Landon, alleging that she has not discharged her duties as required by law and that the estimate of the value of the estate is less than half its real value. He seeks to replace her. Hearing upon the petition has been set for Feb. 15. Dr. Landon, it will be recalled, was instantly killed in an automobile accident here this year. He installed the Weovna refinery at Winnett, making it a commercial success.

REMOVING FINGER PRINTS In a house where there are children finger prints are bound to appear on windows, woodwork and furniture. A piece of wet chamois skin, wrung out as dry as possible, will quickly remove such marks.

### Assemblyman Resigns Valley County Post; Is Named Postmaster

(Tribune's Helena Bureau.)

Helena, Dec. 30.—F. B. Gillette of Hinsdale, one of Valley county's representatives in the legislature, has resigned his office, according to information reaching Helena Friday, and if that county is to have its full representation in the coming assembly it will be necessary that a special election be called. Mr. Gillette's resignation is the result of his appointment to the postmastership at Hinsdale. He is a Republican and was member of the house of representatives during the 17th assembly, being re-elected last November.

### IDAHOANS CONTRACT TO PURCHASE LANDS IN MILK RIVER BELT

Thirty-seven Farmers Expected to Settle Next Spring on Irrigated Tracts.

Special to The Tribune. Harlem, Dec. 30.—Names and addresses of 37 Idaho farmers who have signed contracts for the purchase of lands in the Milk River valley have been provided the Commercial club by agricultural department of the Great Northern, which last year launched a campaign to bring about a more complete settlement of the irrigated tracts in this part of the state.

All of these Gem State settlers, who are said to be highly competent farmers of irrigated lands, will probably reach the Milk River valley next spring in a special train provided by the Great Northern. The arrival of these farmers will do much to break up the large land holdings and make possible the farming of a more intensive system of farming.

These prospective settlers are now farming high-priced land, but a period of deflation has caused many to operate at a loss. Milk River valley lands are very reasonable terms, largely because of the desire of the large land owners to break up their holdings so that every 80 or 100 acre plot will be home of a new family. Farming of large tracts, where hay and alfalfa are the chief products grown, has not proved successful.

It is not feared by promoters of the colonization plans that the new settlers will be dissatisfied with their new location. Farming land that is always productive when managed properly will be their lot and they will have in Harlem a city that is modern enough to meet every need of a prosperous farming community. The Harlem Commercial club is preparing to extend a welcome to the newcomers and to offer them any assistance in establishing their homes.

### Completion of Spur to Augusta Will Not Change Mail Service

(Tribune's Helena Bureau.)

Helena, Dec. 30.—Completion of the Great Northern extension into Augusta will not effect any change in the operation of mail service into that place, according to G. N. Fuller, chief clerk of railway mail service. As in the past the mails will be carried by stage between Augusta and Craig, none going over the Sun River branch of the Great Northern via Gilman. The matter of mail service over this recently completed line between Gilman and Augusta was taken up with the Great Northern by Mr. Fuller, who was advised by the officials that the extension was being put in merely as an industry spur for the purpose of switching carload freight in and out of Augusta and that it would be handled similarly to any spur leading to a factory, mine or lumber mill. Mr. Fuller was advised by the Great Northern that no station would be provided at Augusta, no agent would be installed there and no passenger or freight trains would be run in or out of the city. Accordingly, the company will not be in a position to handle mail into Augusta.

### Report Heavy Xmas Sales; Exceed 1921, View of Merchants

Williston, N. D., Dec. 30.—Williston merchants report a greatly increased holiday business as compared with last year, one merchant saying that his sales on Saturday before Christmas were \$100 greater than for the corresponding day a year ago. Produce dealers report a record-breaking business, the number of turkeys marketed being exceptionally large. The turkey, they find, is becoming one of the important products of the northwestern and on some farms the proceeds of poultry sales exceed those of wheat.

### PRINCIPAL TO HELP FRAME LEGISLATION FOR SCHOOLS

Bozeman, Dec. 30.—Prof. J. A. Woodard, principal of Gallatin county high school, has gone to Helena to attend a meeting of the legislative committee of the Montana State Teachers' association, to discuss legislative measures in which the association may be interested at the coming session.

Ralph E. Bodley, county agent for Gallatin county, has gone to San Diego, Calif., where he was summoned on account of the serious illness of his mother.

### ASK WRIT TO HALT STATE PROSECUTION OF MURDER CHARGE

Counsel for Whitefish Youth, Held as Slayer, Demands Withdrawal of Information.

(Tribune's Helena Bureau.)

Helena, Dec. 30.—An application for an alternative writ of prohibition to prevent any action in the district court of Flathead county in the case of Raymond Douglas, charged with the murder of Ben C. Ramey, was filed in the supreme court Saturday by Judge J. E. Erickson of Kalispell. The writ sought would be directed against the district court of the eleventh judicial district and C. W. Pomeroy, judge of the court. The affidavit sets forth that Douglas is under 18 years of age, being 17, and that on December 19, 1922, Dean King, county attorney of Flathead county, filed a petition in the juvenile court charging Douglas with murder and that he was placed in the custody of the sheriff and confined in the county jail. It sets forth that there has been no hearing on the petition and that it is still pending.

### Demurrer Overruled

On December 21, the petition shows, Judge Pomeroy ordered the county attorney to file an information in the district court charging Douglas with murder, and that after the filing, a demurrer was filed thereto upon the grounds, among others, that the court did not have jurisdiction over the defendant nor of the crime charged in the information and did not have jurisdiction to order or permit the filing of an information in the district court. However, the court assumed jurisdiction and overruled the demurrer.

Affiant asks a writ of prohibition commanding the court to desist from any proceedings in said action now pending in the said court.

Douglas is being held for the killing of Ben C. Ramey, in whose home he had lived since January, 1922. According to the testimony brought out at the coroner's inquest, Douglas was in love with Ramey's daughter, Mary. There apparently was some ill feeling between Ramey and the boy.

Told Several Stories. From the testimony given by Mrs. Ramey, her husband had been drinking for several days, and on the evening of December 1, 1922, had come home drunk and quarrelsome. She said she became afraid of him and went uptown to get some of his friends to take care of him. After her return home Ramey again came in and, she stated, threatened her and threw several articles at her, whereupon she ran to the police station for help.

Others testified that after Mrs. Ramey had left, Douglas shot Ramey, and Mrs. Ramey being the boy shot in self defense, to protect her. The boy stated that he was in fear of Ramey, and he told several conflicting stories. It was shown, however, that he had been in possession of the gun for 30 or 40 minutes prior to the shooting. After the shooting he helped to take care of Ramey, who was taken to a hospital, where he died December 10, 1922, pneumonia being a contributing cause.

### CANTATA TONIGHT

Hear the grand Cantata-Pagant by the Methodist church tonight at the Grand theater. Seats free. Come early for good seats.—Ad.

### Construction Starts on New Cut-off Spur of Milwaukee System

Special to The Tribune. Bozeman, Dec. 30.—Work has been started on the new cut-off of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul branch in Bozeman from the north end of Broadway to the Northern Pacific terminal. When this is completed, the tracks will be taken up on Bozeman avenue running through a portion of the business part of the city.

The poles and wires of the trolley line in the city are being taken down and the tracks on Main street, Church avenue, Grand avenue, Alderson street and Seventh avenue, where the single street car ran for so many years, will be removed as soon as the weather permits.

Ex-Kaiser Wilhelm's son, the former crown prince of Germany, is writing a book on war.

### If Grown People who are rundown in vitality and out of sorts, would but realize the strength-restoring power of rich, nourishing

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they would not dream of doing without its health-building benefits. Rich in vitamins, Scott's has helped thousands achieve strength of body.

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### Judge Greene Orders Injunction in Force in County Seat Case

Special to The Tribune.

Wolf Point, Dec. 30.—District Judge John Greene, in a ruling made late Friday night, ordered the continuance of the temporary restraining order forbidding the removal of county officers from Wolf Point and two in Bainville, where specific charges of illegal voting were made in the complaint. Popular contested the election of Wolf Point to the county seat on the grounds of alleged fraudulent voting and irregularities. The early days of the hearing simmered the allegations down to three precincts in Wolf Point and two in Bainville, where specific charges of illegal voting were made in the complaint.

### STATE SUES ROADS TO FORCE PAYMENT OF TAXES ON CARS

Pullman Company, Northern Pacific, and Burlington, Defendants in \$28,400 Suit.

(Tribune's Helena Bureau.) Helena, Dec. 30.—In suits filed by Wellington D. Rankin, attorney general against the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company and against the Northern Pacific Railroad company and the Pullman company in district court Saturday, collection of license taxes on sleeping cars operated in 1920 and 1921, aggregating \$28,400 is sought.

The attorney general alleges that the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy company and the Pullman company operated 50 sleeping cars in Montana in 1920 and 67 in 1921 and that defendants in the second suit named operated 79 cars in 1920 and 88 in 1921. The state license tax on such cars is \$100 each per year.

Similar suits were filed in district court here a week ago by Mr. Rankin against the Great Northern Railway company, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company and the Pullman company in which the tax asked aggregates \$51,000.

### SELECTS GERALDINE MAN AS SECRETARY; DIXON OUSTS AIKEN

O. A. Bergeson Becomes Right Hand Man of Governor; Assumes Duties, Jan. 1.

(Tribune's Helena Bureau.)

Helena, Dec. 30.—Confirming the forecast made a month ago, Governor Joseph M. Dixon announced Saturday, the appointment of O. A. Bergeson of Geraldine, as secretary to the governor. Mr. Bergeson arrived in the city Saturday noon, after an absence of about a week. He will take over the position next Monday, January 1, succeeding Will Aiken who has filed the position for the past 17 years, serving under Governors Jos. K. Toole, E. L. Norris, S. V. Stewart and Jos. M. Dixon.

Mr. Aiken, who was an experienced newspaperman prior to accepting the appointment under Governor Toole, will return to that business and during the coming legislative session will report the proceedings for the Billings Gazette and the Missoulian and may go to the Gazette staff at the close of the session.

O. A. Bergeson, the new secretary to the governor, was for a number of years in the mercantile business in Geraldine and was a member of the house of representatives during the 16th and 17th legislative assemblies from Chouteau county. During the recent political campaign he was secretary of the republican state central committee and prior to that secretary of the New Era club, the Dixon political organization.

### NILLES TRIMS MORAN

Paris, Dec. 30.—Marcel Nilles, the French pugilist, defeated Frank Moran, of Pittsburgh, Saturday night on points for the heavyweight championship of France.

### Glasses WE FIT THEM GRIND THEM REPAIR THEM

EVERYTHING OPTICAL. HOSSBEIN OPTOMETRIST. 36-37 Stanton Bank Building

### Listen, Dad and Mother

Does your boy have a good time at home or is he out, trying to catch a ride on street cars and autos?

Your Son will stay at home if you fix him up a work room in the basement or attic. Some Upon Board for lining the room will make it warm and comfortable. A work-bench, a few tools and a few boards will be all he will need for furniture. The total cost will be small in comparison to an auto or street car accident.

Every Boy has a creative mind. He likes to make things, such as radio sets, scooters, wagons and sleds. We are glad to sell him any little piece of lumber he wants. Boys are the most interesting customers we have.

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"Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight?"

### Potato Growers Plan to Join State Group

Special to The Tribune.

Kalispell, Dec. 30.—Wednesday was the opening of the three-day corn, fruit and potato show being held at the high school, the exhibit closing Friday, after a successful run. The greater part of the first day was devoted to entering and arranging exhibits and in the afternoon the annual meeting of the Flathead County Potato association was held. T. B. Haynes was elected chairman of the association, Nathan Scott vice chairman, and R. B. McKee secretary and treasurer. The association voted unanimously to affiliate with the state association.

F. M. Harrington, state horticulturist, spoke on the subject of potatoes.

### DRIVES ABOUT PARIS

A motorist in France can drive from Paris in any direction by 100 routes without encountering a bad road.

### MOTOR THEFTS LARGE

Motor theft losses in the United States are placed by an authority at \$300,000 every 24 hours.

### LOANS

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Great Falls Building and Loan Association. 201 Central Avenue

### Car Supply Is Short of Elevator Demand

Special to The Tribune.

Williston, N. D., Dec. 30.—Extreme difficulty has been experienced here in securing an adequate supply of grain cars and only the use of emergency storage capacity of elevators and mills has made it possible to handle the grain offered. Although all grain houses here are nearly full, the situation appears to have improved somewhat and grain buyers express the hope that enough cars will be furnished to prevent a grain blockade.

### Boy Burglars Loot Home of Valuables

Special to The Tribune. Butte, Dec. 30.—Six boys, charged with burglarizing a house here and stealing several hundred dollars worth of property, were caught Thursday by Chief Probation Officer O'Connor and

### Chief Deputy Sheriff John Duggan

Part of the plumbier was recovered at the homes of three of the boys and a set of harness which has been sold by one of them to a man for \$2.50 was also located.

Shipbuilding in Holland is now second to Great Britain in volume.

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All wool, camel's hair and prunellas, fancy plaids and plain, box and knife pleated; navy, black and tan combinations. Regular \$8.50. Special \$3.95

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Your Son will stay at home if you fix him up a work room in the basement or attic. Some Upon Board for lining the room will make it warm and comfortable. A work-bench, a few tools and a few boards will be all he will need for furniture. The total cost will be small in comparison to an auto or street car accident.

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