

The River Press.

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BEEF AND MUTTON PRICES.

Present high prices for meats, and particularly beef, are due to perfectly natural conditions, in the belief of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, and his views are shared by nearly all who are familiar with the livestock situation. American prosperity and the fact that the country has in recent years grown faster than the production of livestock are reasons for the high prices, in the opinion of the secretary, and he further believes that prices will go still higher.

"Prices of meats have gone up, just as the prices of everything else have gone up, and they will go higher," says Mr. Wilson. Last year, he says, there were more than a million immigrants, and this year there will be several hundred thousand new settlers in the United States. They get work soon over here, and, earning more money than in their home country, they want to live well, and they eat meat. Constantly growing home consumption, together with the big volume of meats which is exported, keeps the prices high, and livestock men agree with Secretary Wilson that they will continue to go higher as long as consumption grows.

Despite the increased demands for meats production of livestock has not been much increased and the country is constantly facing a shortage of really good grades of livestock. Cattle and sheep particularly have been in comparatively small supply in recent years and sheep prices have reached the highest level on record, while in late weeks steers have sold at the highest average prices since 1902. These conditions have been brought about naturally, just as Secretary Wilson says, and those who may believe that the prices will go much lower in the next year or two are pessimists indeed.

Mr. Wilson says it costs more to raise livestock nowadays, and everybody will agree to this. Grains are high in price and farm labor commands higher pay than ever before. Many farmers, the secretary says, can make more money raising grain or hay or other crops which can be harvested with labor-saving machinery than they can raising and fattening livestock. This, he believes, tends to hold down production of livestock, and thus the farmers who raise cattle, hogs and sheep are reaping good profits because there are not too many of them engaged in the business.

This country is growing too fast and the production of livestock is not great enough to warrant belief in anything but high prices by either Secretary Wilson or any one else. While the country is prosperous livestock is bound to continue high in price, merely in sympathy with all other commodities. —Drovers Journal.

THE HUNTLEY PROJECT.

The opening of the Huntley project on June 26, 1907, will be recorded as a memorable event in the history of federal irrigation work in Montana. It is the first government irrigation project in Montana to be completed, and the lands to which it will supply water were placed at the disposal of settlers, by the lottery plan, on the date above mentioned. The drawing took place at Billings with appropriate exercises in which many prominent federal officials participated.

The Huntley project, which was started only two years ago, will reclaim 32,000 acres divided into 633 farms, situated on the Yellowstone river and along the junction point of two great continental railway systems, the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroads. The first steps were taken in 1905, and works of a most complete and permanent nature have been constructed under the supervision of government engineers, at an expense approximately of \$1,000,000. The irrigation system has been constructed so that water can be delivered practically to every farm on the project. The main canal is 23 1/2 miles long, and when circumstances justify the expense, it can be extended eight miles further, so as to reclaim more land. There are three tunnels, aggregating 2,650 feet in length, and also culverts, waste gates, syphons, bridges and headgates of concrete and steel construction. Like every public work constructed by the government, every detail is of the most solid description.

There will be 633 farms, 40 acres having been decided upon as the most advantageous farm unit, although a great many of these parcels carry, in addition to the 40-acre farm, a quantity of pasture land, which cannot be irrigated at present, for which the price will be only the cost of the purchase price paid to the Crow Indians, about \$4 per acre. The price of the reclaimed land will be as follows, as fixed by the regulations of the land department: Four dollars for the price paid to the Crow Indians, and \$30 an acre for the cost of building the irrigation system.

The time for payment of these farms

is extended over a long period. These payments must be made as follows: At the time of entry each applicant must pay to the receiver of the Billings, Montana, land office the usual fees and commissions and \$1 of the Indian purchase price for each acre entered, and in addition thereto the following: Three dollars on account of the building charge and 60 cents as operating and maintenance charge for each irrigable acre embraced in his entry, and thereafter he must pay on the Indian purchase 75 cents annually for four years, beginning with the end of the second year, for each acre embraced in his entry, and in addition thereto he must in accordance with notices issued by the secretary of the interior pay annually for each irrigable acre embraced in his entry not less than \$3 on account of the building charge and such sum as may from time to time be fixed as charges for operation and maintenance. The building charge of \$30 an acre may be paid in not less than four nor more than nine annual installments in addition to the payment made at the time of entry.

About 160 acres of land has been set aside and reserved from settlement for two demonstration farms, to be operated by experts under the supervision of officers of the state agricultural college at Bozeman, so that settlers upon the lands may have the benefit of skilled and experienced farmers for examples, and learn the practical methods of raising and handling the ordinary crops that are adapted to the soils and conditions as they exist. Settlers may get their houses and fences built this fall and the land broken and leveled, ready for the crop in the spring of 1908, and water will be delivered free this fall for plowing, etc.

The department has also reserved land for eight townsites, at about five mile intervals, so that no farm will be more than three miles from a shipping point. Each of these townsites is on either of the two transcontinental railroads above mentioned, and two of them are on both of these lines. Lots in these townsites will be appraised and sold at auction.

MORE FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS.

Among the laws enacted by the tenth legislative assembly is one which will provide a larger amount of funds for the support of common schools. The tax levy heretofore for this purpose was two mills, but the new law provides for a levy of four mills, the funds collected under this levy to be divided among the several school districts upon a per capita basis. The substance of the new law is given in these sections:

In addition to the provisions for the support of common schools, hereinbefore provided, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners of each county in the state to levy an annual tax of four mills on the dollar of the assessed value of all taxable property, real and personal, within the county, which levy shall be made at the time and in the manner provided by law for the levying of taxes for county purposes, which tax shall be collected by the county treasurer at the same time and in the same manner as state and county taxes are collected. For the further support of the common schools, there shall also be set apart by the county treasurer all moneys paid into the county treasury arising from all fines or violations of law, unless otherwise specified by law. Such money shall be forthwith paid into the county treasury by the officer receiving the same, and be added to the yearly school fund raised by taxing each county and dividing in the same manner.

On or before the day designated by law for the commissioners of each county to levy the requisite taxes for the ensuing year, the school board in school district shall certify to the county commissioners the number of mills per dollar which it is necessary to levy on the taxable property of the district, not to exceed ten mills, to raise a special fund to maintain the schools of said districts, to furnish additional school facilities therefor, and to furnish such appliances and apparatus as may be needed, and, in districts of the first and second class, the trustees thereof must make such special levy, or so much thereof as may be necessary to maintain a school term of at least nine months in each year, and the county commissioners shall cause the same to be levied at the same time that other taxes are levied, and the amount of such special tax shall be assessed to each taxpayer of such district.

What a Man Contains.

German scientists have found that the material for a man weighing 150 pounds can be found in the whites and yolks of 1,500 hens' eggs. The average man reduced to fluid would yield 88 cubic feet of illuminating gas and hydrogen enough to fill a balloon capable of lifting 155 pounds. The normal human body has enough iron in it to make seven large nails, the fat for 14 candles, carbon for 64 gross of crayons and phosphorus enough for 250,000 matches. Out of the body may be obtained besides twenty teaspoons of salt, 25 lumps of sugar and forty lumps of water.

Coins and Faces on Them.

Coins of most of the nations bear upon them the faces of their rulers. In the United States each coin has an emblem of Liberty, says the Chicago Chronicle.

The first coins struck after the formation of the federal union bore the face of George Washington. General Washington disapproved of the custom and it was dropped. It has never been revived.

Portraits of prominent Americans appear on postage stamps, internal revenue stamps and paper money, but never on coins. And it has been the custom to use no portraits of living men even on the currency and the stamps.

In England, as soon as King Edward succeeded Queen Victoria, the queen's face gave way to that of Edward on all the coins and stamps in the British empire. The accession of a new ruler in most monarchies means an instant change in the designs of the coins.

But there is an exception to the rule of no portraits on American coins. The emblem of Liberty on the one cent coin is the goddess in an American Indian headdress, but the face shows no characteristics of the North American aborigine.

It is the face of a little girl, Sarah Longacre Keen, upon whose head was placed the feathered ornament of a Sioux Indian. Her father was an engraver and he placed his daughter's head on the coin.

Sarah Longacre Keen died in Philadelphia not long after, having served 38 years as the secretary of her city's branch of the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary society.

Origin of Barbed Wire.

"The luckiest invention in history," said a patent official, "was that of barbed wire. It came about by accident."

Isaac L. Ellwood was the inventor of barbed wire. In his youth he lived in De Kalb, Ill., and having a neighbor whose pigs trespassed in his garden, he put up one day a wire fence of his own make. This fence had barbs and points on it: it was queer and ugly; but it kept out the pigs.

"It was a real barbed wire fence, the first in the world, and there was millions of money in it, but young Ellwood and his friends laughed at its freak appearance."

"One day two strangers saw this fence, perceived how well it kept out the pigs, realized how cheap it was, realized, in a word, its value, and ordered several tons of it from Ellwood. Furthermore, they contracted to sell for a term of years all the barbed wire he could produce."

"Ellwood borrowed \$1,000 and set up a little factory. A few years later on he had paid back that loan, and was worth a small matter of \$15,000,000 besides."

Pointed Paragraphs.

What women say causes more trouble than what men think.

People who sit down to consult calendars are not up to date.

To the woman who carries her age well life isn't much of a burden.

Falling in love is easy, but climbing out—well, that's different.

The less confidence other people have in a man the more his wife has.

A man is apt to put his thinking cap on when his wife expresses a desire for a new bonnet.

Government Brings Suit.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., June 25.—As a result of the interstate commerce commission hearing in this city and Salt Lake and the subsequent investigation by the department of justice of the United States, a suit in equity was filed in the United States circuit court here by the United States government against the Union Pacific Railroad company, Wm. D. Cornish of New Jersey, vice president of the Union Pacific Railroad company, and Dyer O. Clark, vice president and general manager of the Union Pacific Coal company, and of the Superior Coal company.

The charges specify that twenty-nine entries of coal land have been fraudulently made by individuals named for the use and in the interest of the defendants. This land is alleged to be worth about \$600,000, and the bill in equity asks that the patents on the lands be cancelled, that an injunction be issued restraining the further working of this land by the defendants and that they be compelled to give an accounting of all the coal mined, produced or sold upon this land.

Planned To Steal Millions.

VICTORIA, B. C., June 25.—Advises received yesterday by the steamer Empress, state a plot to steal \$50,000,000 from the Russian government office at Tschita, where the money was kept for enterprises in Siberia, has been discovered. Thirty Russians were arrested. They had made a tunnel 120 yards long from a hotel to the safe and when the plot was ripe, it was disclosed, almost all of the plotters being captured.

TO DISCREDIT ORCHARD.

Witnesses For Defense Deny Story Told By Murderer.

BOISE, June 25.—Counsel for William D. Heywood devoted the early part of this morning's session of court to the completion of the basis for Harry Orchard's impeachment, and then, calling the first witness, entered upon a showing of relationship at Cripple Creek prior to the independence station explosion between Orchard and K. C. Sterling, then chief detective for the Mineowners' association.

The impeachment of Orchard relates almost entirely to the proposition that he repeatedly professed that he had been wronged by Governor Steunenberg, and that when he talked of his wrongs he invariably threatened to kill Steunenberg.

When the court reconvened today Orchard was brought into court to identify Bill Altman, T. C. Foster and others who are going to take the stand to impeach his evidence.

Orchard denied having a conversation with Max Malich in the Windsor Turkish baths in Denver, June 15, wherein he told Malich he would kill Steunenberg if it was his last act, because Steunenberg had made him a pauper.

He also denied telling John D. Elliott, a railway man, that he had been employed two years by the Mineowners' association.

He also denied telling Elliott that it was fully decided by the Mineowners' association to put the officers of the federation out of the way by having them arrested for a crime they didn't commit. He denied intimating that Steunenberg would be killed.

In a conversation alleged to have taken place November 28, 1905, with D. C. Copley he denied telling him that Bradley got what he deserved and that Steunenberg would get his when the opportunity arrived, although he admitted that Steunenberg's name was mentioned.

It is intimated that the surprises in this case are not at an end, but that if the defense brings in witnesses to prove the claims made by counsel in the opening statements, the case for the state will be materially strengthened. A number of important witnesses for the state will be here within the next week and will be called in rebuttal.

These will include possibly Governor Peabody, and certainly General Bulkeley Wells, the adjutant-general of Colorado during the Cripple Creek troubles, who dug up the Goddard bomb.

Captain McPartland of the Pinkerton detective agency may also be a witness in rebuttal. It has not yet been decided when Heywood, the defendant, will go on the stand to make his statement as to the affairs of the Western Federation. Counsel for the defense are non-committal as to the placing of Moyer, president of the Western Federation, as a witness. It was quite evident from the statements made by Mr. Darrow that the defense proposes to admit the connection between Orchard and Heywood and they admit that Orchard was at one time employed by Moyer.

But it is claimed that all these connections were perfectly legitimate and had nothing to do with a conspiracy; that Orchard was a traitor and that he sought employment and connection with the officers of the Western Federation under the guise of a union workman and a member of the Masonic fraternity, all the time being a detective employed by the mineowners and their detectives.

A Railroad Weed Burner.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 25.—Keeping the right-of-way on dirt-ballasted tracks free from weeds is a problem that has vexed railroad officials for years. To keep the weeds down with scythes and shovels requires a large force of men at work all during the weed-growing season.

The Union Pacific railroad has built a gasoline weed burner, which is doing the work successfully at a moderate cost. The gasoline weed burner is in reality an automobile mounted on railroad car wheels and equipped with the weed burning apparatus. The car carries the fuel for the burners as well as for its own power, and its operation is so simple that it is a comparatively easy job for one man to handle the machine. In fact, in nice weather a trip through the country on the weed burner is a very pleasant ride.

Attached to the car are a number of tanks carrying the supply of gasoline sufficient for the day's run on the road. This gasoline is forced into a system of burners carried on the back of the car, making a very hot flame close to the ground and extending out several feet on either side. This kills the weeds.

The machine is capable of burning from 20 to 25 miles a day, running about three to four miles an hour. Three men compose the "crew" of the car, which is handled on the road under orders as a regular train.

Where weeds are cut by hand it requires approximately sixteen men to cut one mile of track a day, hence the machine does the work of about 300 men.

Will Raise Freight Rates.

CHICAGO, June 27.—With the withdrawal of all passenger rates of less than 2 cents a mile, except commutation suburban rates and special rates for railroad employes, in the states of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska and Arkansas, comes the announcement of the withdrawal of all less than carload commodity freight rates in Illinois and preparations in all the states named to advance the minimum carload weight on more than 90 per cent of the articles named in the western freight classification, and also the abolition of several commodity tariffs and the restoration of articles to the classification.

Railroad statisticians who have been at work figuring up the loss of revenue that will be sustained by the railroads from the passage of 2-cent passenger fare laws by so many of the states during the last year have announced that revenues derived from passenger traffic constitute 27.58 per cent of their total income, and that their losses will be 26 per cent on that proportion of their business in the states where these laws have been passed.

Defense Costs a Fortune.

DENVER, June 25.—Some interesting figures are being shown up in the reports at the Denver meeting of the Western Federation of Miners. The Western Federation of Miners

has expended \$73,135.25 to date in the defense of the imprisoned officers charged with the murder of former Gov. Steunenberg in Idaho. In addition \$377.25 was spent in the defense of Vincent St. John on his trial for the murder of Arthur Collins in Colorado.

These figures are sent out in the annual report of James Kirwan, acting secretary of the federation, and presented to the convention of miners in session at Odd Fellows' hall.

Of the money paid out for the defense the attorneys have received \$54,695.87 to April 1, 1907.

Clarence Darrow's share was \$14,500. John F. Nugent received \$22,700.

No mention is made of the numerous other attorneys, and it is taken that they are being paid by the leading counsel out of fees received by them.

The report shows that Heywood and Moyer have been paid their respective salaries, amounting to \$150 per month each, during their confinement in the Boise jail.

Notice to Contractors.

Sealed proposals will be received by the county clerk of Chouteau county, Montana up to the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. July 15, 1907, for a steam heating plant for the court house and jail, or for court house and jail separately; also chimneys necessary for said plant with privilege of thirty days trial before accepting plant. Bids should be addressed to the county clerk and marked on the outside to indicate their nature. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. By order of the board of county commissioners. W. R. LEET, County Clerk. Fort Benton, Montana, June 11, 1907.

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