

# FARMERS PROSPERED GREATLY DURING THE YEAR 1903

Hay and forage	7,384,000
Animals sold and slaughtered	3,500,000
Wheat	2,300,000
Dairy products	2,200,000
Wool	2,000,000
Poultry and eggs	1,900,000
Potatoes	948,000
Sugar beets	800,000
Richard products	800,000
Oats	777,000
Miscellaneous vegetables	400,000
Livestock seed	215,900
Barley	182,000
Nursery products	150,000
Honey and wax	125,000
Other	100,000
Miscellaneous	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,546,000</b>

BY PROFESSOR JAMES DRYDEN.  
THE PAST year has been a most favorable one for the farmers of the state. On the whole, the showing is a good one. In sections, crops have suffered from one cause or another, but it is always thus. Drouth made dry farming unprofitable in places; unseasonable frosts caused injury in certain localities; grasshoppers destroyed several fortunes; a half-million sheep and lambs were lost from exposure to the weather, representing a loss of \$1,000,000 or thereabouts; the codling moth has wasted more of the farmer's money than the Agricultural college; the drop in prices of cattle represents a serious loss to the cattle growers.

Nevertheless, the past year has been the best in our history. The snows-kept a-melting in the mountains and our irrigated farms produced abundantly. There was an increased acreage under farm crops, as well as an increase in yields and in prices. The reports show that for all the cereals, as well as for hay, potatoes and sugar beets, the yields were greater than last year. With the better prices prevailing for nearly all farm products, the losses indicated have been more than made good, and the farm wealth of the state is greater today than at any previous date in its history.

It is not possible at this time to procure complete returns of all farm products for the year. This is particularly true of the livestock products and of fruits. The estimates given herewith are largely based upon official reports of the United States department of agriculture.

### Great Profit in Hay.

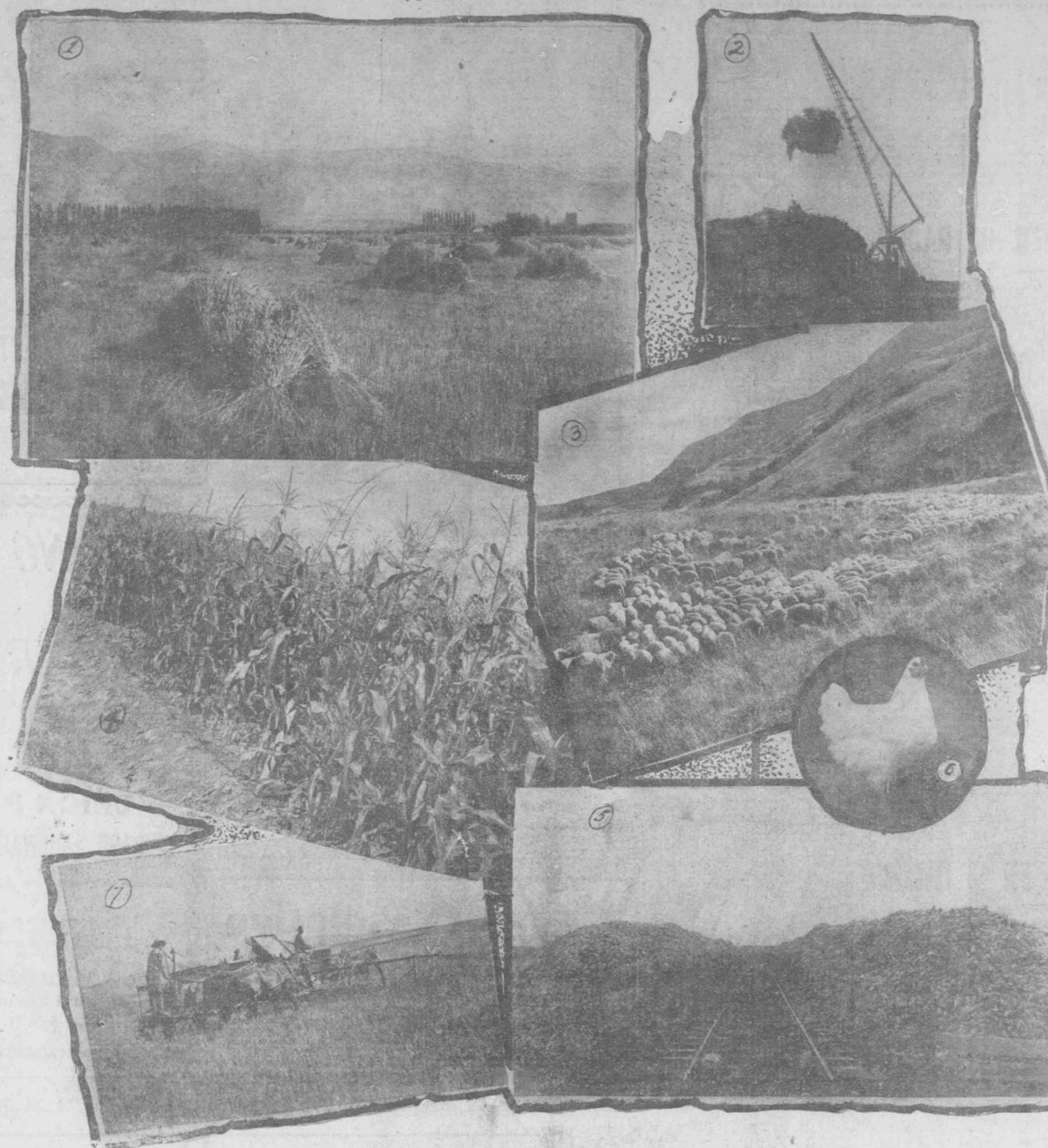
Many good eastern farmers have never heard of alfalfa; nevertheless alfalfa ranks first in money value among Utah farm products. The value of the crop has been increasing rapidly each year; in fact, the statistics can scarcely keep pace with it. It is the foundation of Utah farming. At present prices it is a profitable crop to grow. In spite of the increase in production, there has also been a great increase in price per ton. More of it is being fed on the farms to cattle and sheep and dairy stock, and this is a promising sign. It shows that the farmers are becoming alive to the importance of converting the raw products of the farm into more concentrated forms of beef, mutton, pork and butter and cheese, poultry and eggs, etc. This, after all, is the great secret of successful farming—the skill of converting the raw products into finished products in the most economical manner. The yield per acre of hay in Utah is just double the average of all the states.

### Great Crop of Potatoes.

The potato crop surpassed all records in Utah during the year, both in quantity and value. It is getting to be a very profitable crop. No other farm crop in Utah has yielded better returns in money per acre than potatoes; the average for the state was about \$50 per acre in 1903. Sugar beets, which also rank high in acre value, averaged about \$50 per acre. Potatoes growing in an industry that will grow. Our soil is peculiarly adapted to potato growing. The average yield the past year of all the states was 84.7 bushels per acre; that of Utah was 177 bushels per acre. Not only that, Utah potatoes are superior in quality, being richer in starch than eastern potatoes. There is no reason why our potato growers should limit themselves to a yield less than 200 bushels per acre. With better methods of culture, the yield could be easily increased, and with our irrigation system assuring a crop every year, to say nothing of the potato bugs that give Utah a wide berth, we are in a position to hold outside markets year after year when once they are established. Were larger quantities grown in sections there would be opportunities for starch factories. Starch factories work up the small and unsalable potatoes and convert them into starch. The starch is then graded, the best being shipped to market, there would be enough small potatoes to profitably employ a starch factory, and the surplus could be sold at a much better price for those that were shipped.

### Wheat Acreage Increased.

The acreage under wheat was slightly increased, and the yield per acre was 22.6 bushels, against 21.2 in 1902. The price per bushel was higher than during the previous year. So that we have an increased acreage, an increased yield and an increased value. The yield of wheat today is about double what it was a few years ago. During the hard times of 1893 the yield in Utah was 9.8 bushels per acre, and in the United States 11.4. The price in Utah that year was 60 cents a bushel against



SOME OF THE SOURCES OF WEALTH FOR THE UTAH FARMER.

- 1-An Irrigated Farm in Gache Valley.
- 2-Modern Way of Handling Alfalfa.
- 3-Sheep on the Mountain Side.
- 4-Corn Will Grow in Utah.
- 5-Some of the \$900,000 Worth of Beets Raised This Year.
- 6-The Hen, Worth \$1,000,000 a Year to Utah.
- 7-Header in Operation on Dry Farm.

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Oats also show an increase, in acreage, yield and value. The yield was 36.4 bushels per acre, against 35.5 the previous year, and a ten-year average of 34.5. The United States yield was 28.4 in 1903, against a ten-year average of 27.8. Oats and wheat show practically the same acre value. With oats yielding 36.4 bushels per acre and selling for 47 cents per bushel, the returns

just about equal those from wheat yielding 22.6 bushels per acre and selling for 77 cents, or about \$17 per acre. Barley was a good crop. The yield per acre was 27.5, against 32.1 in 1902, and an average of 33.2 for ten years. At 60 cents per bushel the acre value of barley was \$22.50 in 1903, which is

greater than that of any of the other cereals. Corn shows an increase in acreage and yield, which is as it should be. The yield per acre is low. It is less than the average of the United States. There are only a few sections in Utah where corn may be grown successfully, but in those sections, with better cultivation, the yield should be much greater.

More corn should be fed. It is a mistake to feed wheat and oats when corn may be purchased at less per pound.

### Lucern Seed.

A promising crop of alfalfa seed was seriously damaged by an early frost in September. The quality was also damaged somewhat. The price, however, has been high, the cleaned seed selling for 12 cents per pound, against 8 cents last year. The practice is to cut a crop of hay and let the second crop go to seed. The yield runs about four or five bushels per acre, so it is seen that at such prices it is most profitable. W. C. A. Smurthwaite of Ogden informs me that "the demand for this article does not diminish, but increases. Farmers can make no mistake in going more extensively into the culture of lucern seed." The seed brought over \$200,000 cash into the state in 1903.

### Sugar Beets.

The sugar beet industry has scored another advance during the year. Another new factory—that in Bear River valley—is now finishing its first run. The farmers derived a revenue of about \$1,000,000 the past season from the different factories, with great possibilities in the future.

### Value of Products.

The value of products shows an increase of \$3,000,000, in round numbers, over 1902. Had last year's prices of livestock and wool been maintained the increase would have been very much greater. It should be borne in mind that the total of \$24,546,000 is not actual, because some of the crops are fed to livestock on the farm and are therefore counted twice. The value would probably approximate \$19,000,000.

### United States Crops.

Taking the country over, there were beautiful crops in 1903. There is little prospect of financial breakers if a generous harvest can prevent them. The yields have been somewhat above the average, though somewhat below the phenomenal yields of 1902. The corn crop was short of that of the previous year by 200,000,000 bushels, but that is a decrease of only 8 per cent. Before harvest, reports were published broadcast that the corn crop had been ruined by frosts. These reports turned out to be largely false, and the crop of corn amounts to considerably over 2,000,000,000 bushels; besides, there were 100,000,000 bushels of the old crop carried over till this year. According to latest reports, the wheat crop was about equal to 1902. With the exception of cattle and hogs, the prices of farm products have been well sustained.

### Acreage of Farms.

The following table gives the acreage of farm crops for the two years 1902 and 1903:

Wheat	1902	1903
Oats	44,970	45,429
Barley	5,465	8,359
Corn	9,339	11,164
Rye	3,452	3,231
Hay	3,577	37,882
Potatoes	99,608	117,000

### The Yields (in Bushels).

Wheat	1902	1903
Oats	37,639	418,000
Corn	27,451	238,200
Barley	47,120	118,450
Rye	42,310	60,100
Potatoes	1,955,612	3,381,475
Hay (tons)	84,853	1,628,232

### Utah and Other States.

The following is a comparative statement of the yields per acre in Utah and the average for the United States for 1903, also a ten-year average for the same.

	1903	Av. for 10 yrs.
Corn	31.4	23.9
Wheat (sp. gr.)	14.4	22.6
Oats	28.4	27.8
Hay (tons)	15.2	12.9
Potatoes	34.7	35.5

Average Yield of Wheat for 11 Years	
	Utah
1892	12.8
1893	11.4
1894	12.1
1895	12.7
1896	12.4
1897	13.2
1898	13.3
1899	12.3
1900	12.4
1901	15.0
1902	14.5
1903	14.1

### Value Per Acre.

The average farm value of wheat per acre in the United States was \$2.14 in 1902; in Utah it was \$16.11. The price per bushel in the United States was 63 cents; in Utah 77 cents.

### Farm Animals in Utah.

	Number.	Price per head.	Value.
Milk cows	68,808	\$2.82	\$193,838
Other cattle	104,208	2.59	269,899
Horses	19,208	27.09	520,000
Mules	2,294	45.54	104,380
Swine	3,200	2.80	8,960
Sheep	58,573	9.15	534,981
Pounds wool, washed and unwashed	16,800,000	scoured, 5.55/100	

# LIVE STOCK CONDITIONS WERE NOT SO FAVORABLE

The reviewer of current conditions in the world of livestock who succeeds in presenting a favorable outlook for that great industry, at any time soon will stand off every ordinary winter trial; those who follow it for a calling, as well as that other numerous class who take an occasional sly at it for speculative purposes. The situation is not so optimistic for the requisite cheer, rather than the facts and figures men in the business will furnish at the close of this most disagreeable year. On the contrary, it has been a bad one, from almost any viewpoint, and so much worse than any of the surface indications hinted at a year ago, that cow men in particular are simply dazed over the demoralization in prices and are utterly unable to make a clear statement of their woes or cite an inquirer to the probable cause of shrinkage in the value of their holdings.

Aside from the fact that corn was pretty high in the states where that article induces the heavy feeding of meat animals, and a light hay crop in the range states made the people who prepare beef and mutton for the block in the western country a little more uncertain as to the outcome of their operations, there were no preliminary signs in the air a year ago of the subsequent successive disasters. Western stock went into winter quarters in good shape physically to withstand the rigors of an ordinary winter, and if there were any difference in the supply of range grass over previous years, the comparison is to the outcome of their operations. The feeling was accordingly hopeful, and especially so in Utah, not only that sheep and cattle would ride through in their customary good condition until spring grass out in an appearance, but that the cattle, which were on full feed for the butchers, would bring advanced prices to fully compensate for the higher priced rations they were consuming from day to day.

### Hopes Were Blasted.

As the season advanced these hopes waned, for the winter was unusually protracted and it increased in severity as the tail-end of it, long looked for by men who were feeding high-priced corn

and hay, put in an appearance. Destructive in its effect upon the range stuff which was trying to rustle a living on the deserts, it was tremendously costly in its duration to the meat makers also, as it delayed the finishing of the sheep and cattle they had up in the pens, and the later people were doomed to further disappointment by the failure of the market to respond with an advance of prices which would offset the increased cost of making the meat. The first named hindrances were felt by the western men more particularly, and the losses in range herds were heavy; while the feature of value, or rather selling prices, was generally of greater force than the quantity in the vicinity of the big markets. Few if any of the latter stockmen made any money on their last winter's operations in cattle. On the contrary, losses averaged probably \$7.50 on every steer fed, the range of loss extending from \$1 on a critter to as high as \$30 on strings in some fed lots. Deals as destructive as the latter were of course not numerous, but the advertised failures among the old-timers back in that country during the summer and fall months show pretty conclusively that the average cow man is too disgruntled by the market papers reported at the time the feeding deals were closed up and shipped had taken the punishment handed them by the packers at the big selling places.

### The Cattle Business.

Speaking of the year in cattle, separately, it has been so surprising in the changes which have taken place in the matter of values that, as before stated, the average cow man is too disgruntled over the situation to tell what he suspects as the cause of his diminished fortune. Eighteen months ago the business looked like a cinch to him for all time to come. Anything in the horns line was sought for as soon as it had passed the weaning age, and at values that insured profits to warm the cockles of the old-timers' hearts. Twelve months later, here in the west, there was no demand for the ordinary seasonal output and there was no trading on the ranges. A few cow men who were obliged to make sales for one reason or another, threw some of their cattle together and went east with them. As experiments these shipments

were very infrequently repeated. Some ranchers, as stated, were obliged to continue turning off to eastern ranges, cut down holdings to the size of their haystacks, or make payments on notes or overdrafts at their bankers. The experiences of these shippers to the big markets were paralyzing to the local movement, where selling was not absolutely necessary, and, except further, in the case of supplies for the home killers. Early "account sales" from the river selling places disclosed that stockers and feeders were only salable at figures fully 40 per cent lower than they brought the year before, and the same returns indicated that a greater decline had taken place in the values of the fat sort of range stuff. As early as August some shippers from the northern part of this state and in Idaho were at Omaha with mixed shipments of well-bred and well-conditioned cattle which included some yearlings of both sexes. The heifers out of one of these consignments netted the shipper \$7.15 per head, while the thrifty youngsters of the opposite persuasion crossed the scales at prices that brought their owners \$1.50 more to the good. It is needless to state that there were no mixed or straight yearlings forwarded from that section to the open market during that season.

### Tendency Downward.

The range value of yearlings at the time these shipments went forward was held to be fully \$15 and \$20 for heifers and steers of this quality, respectively, and the ranchers were not inclined to stand for such a horizontal slash at their net proceeds on short notice. They have been undergoing some preparation for the trimming suggested, however, in subsequent experiences upon eastern markets with other offerings since those early sales, for the tendency of prices has been continuous downward until cattle sold before the range shipping season closed at values lower than have prevailed for twenty years or more. That is, the bulk in numbers of the daily and weekly offerings. Throughout the fall months and while the range stuff was heaviest at all the markets, thousands and thousands of cows sold at the river for less than two cents per pound, while the bulk of steers crossed the same scales at figures ranging from 3 cents down-

ward. Of course during all of this time there was a fancy "send" to the offerings that brought much better money—the few leads which enabled the market reporters to quote a "top" that concealed the actual situation. And, while the matured steers were running from the northwest and other sections of the range favorable to their production, they were not pounded by the buyers as venomously as the single purpose offerings to which the above alludes. The packers were the large users of the latter sort, and while they were the principal buyers of the former also, the country people, and in cases the shippers, made legitimate competition on such offerings which to an extent protected these values. The good ones caught a share of the punishment, however, and it is probably safe to say that the wintered and double wintered steers marketed during the season have declined 30 per cent in value over those sold in a similar time in the previous year.

### Decline of One-third.

In fact, cattle values of every kind are much to the bad, actually and prospectively. This applies to the thoroughbreds. A well known writer who is somewhat of an authority on the subject, John Clay of Chicago, in a recent newspaper article, estimates the size of the decline in all sorts of cattle values for a period dating back about a year at 33 1/2 per cent. It is under rather than over the actual decline. All sorts of causes are assigned for the slump, chiefly by people who have not been in on it, and occasionally by one who has—on the right side. At this distance from the big centers of supply of cattle, corn and money, it would seem that cowmen themselves are to an extent responsible for their grief. Their failure to sell their holdings to the northern men at the lower prices which they offered last spring curtailed that movement measurably and filled up pastures with thin easy reach of the market, thereby increasing the visible and available supply. Pasture stuff is always shifting stuff. It's sure to go on the market once in the season, and it sometimes hits such selling places several times. When it's sold to go on the market once in the season, it's a single or double wintered in the range, it passes wide of these centers, direct to the places where the cattle

grow up and grow fat, and no reckoning is made of its passage.

### Smaller Demand.

Of course there has been a big let-up in the demand for beef. Armies have been reduced and disbanded. The governments are liberal users of fresh meats when the troops are in the field. They also cleaned up the stuffs to the last can of the beef supply while our own and other recent wars were on, and while the packers expect continuous future demand for such products, they have probably figured that a renewal of hostilities anywhere on earth is too remote a contingency to warrant the speedy replenishment of these supplies except at a substantial discount for carrying charges. The latter are steep (for other than high explosives) cowmen think, but the packers are the only buyers of the earning variety of cattle, and there are only a few packers in the trade—the same ones on all the markets. Therefore, canners are extremely low and about everything but prime stuff has come under that classification.

Of course the corn situation, which was uncertain at all times during the summer and fall of the year closing, and only fairly satisfactory when the crop was made, cut a big figure in the year's trading. It affected the big money always required to operate with, and it made the operator who had the money of his own to work with timid and slow to formulate his plans. It also cut down the size of his operations when he did take hold, and more than any one other thing it kept feeding deals on the short, or get-from-under order, resulting in the reshipping and reselling of stuff over and over again.

### Outlook Uncertain.

The prospect has not cleared up any to the western outlook. Cowmen themselves do not know what to expect from the coming year in the way of prices. If young stuff sells between now and spring, as it usually does, to northern men, or speculators who fill their orders, ranchmen will be obliged to cut their figures pretty considerably from their recent selling lists. They are not inclined to do this yet, and an occasional sale of calves is reported at \$14. The eastern markets have not justified any such figure for eight months,

and it is probable that yearling steers to change hands very freely on the spring's market will have to sell for \$16 and under, with two of good quality, bringing \$4 per head more money.

### Utah's Output of Cattle.

The total output of cattle from Utah during the year was under 40,000 head, or about 35 per cent less than it was in 1902. The bulk of the turn-off went to ranges in other states and the decline in price realized was therefore less than the average market decline. The sales realized a trifle over \$100 probably. The consumption within the state increased considerably during the year. In addition to the special construction workers which contributed to this increased use of the home-killed supplies, people of the cities and the towns have continued to indulge their beef appetite, notwithstanding high prices. The combined consumption, has used up fully 60,000 cattle during the year. These represent a value of about \$190,000. The loss was somewhat above normal, probably 2,000 head.

The cattle in the feed lots, which will be marketed to the local killers between now and the time grass comes, promise to bring fair prices. Cows are now selling for 2 1/2 cents where they have sold for a quarter less, and down to even money for two or three months; and fat steers are bringing from "three and a half" to "six bits" an advance of a "quarter" and more from the low time. These figures will probably appreciate a "quarter" to a "half" when Christmas supplies are exhausted, provided the eastern packers are not favored with rates that enable them to bump local killers. The eastern supplies haven't been in evidence in the home trade considerably lately, and feeders are hopeful that the railways will not let them in this year while the margin on which they are working is so very slender. They want to sell their stuff at home now, and their desire will run that way considerably stronger when the return transportation for livestock shippers is cut out by the railways. The latter move has been definitely determined upon by the transportation companies, and a circular to that effect has been issued by the various lines, effective after the 31st

of December. On top of their other troubles this additional burden is going to weigh heavy; and many a livestock association met soon in annual session there is sure to be something said about this last move by the magnates.

### Heavy Sheep Losses.

There were heavy losses in the Utah flocks last spring late, and more materially throughout the winter preceding it than commonly attends the winter carrying of herds in this country. Flockmasters felt some apprehensions for a safe emergence from the yearly risk when they put their flocks on the desert over a year ago, because they were not up to the average in flesh to stand off every ordinary winter trial; but the "biddies" did so well until some time after the holidays that this feeling gave way to one of hope that they would pull through in good shape. And then came fierce weather—heavy snows succeeded by long spells of intensely low temperature, and repetitions into the late springtime, which indicated the endurance of thousands upon thousands of the old sisters and many of the breeding young ones.

The hardships they had undergone affected everything in the sheep-line to an extent that made their movement from the winter ranges slow and further exhausting. Thousands of their carcasses lined the trails over which they were shifted to the summer ranges, and when the poor creatures landed on those lambing grounds they were again pelted with delayed storms, wet, chilling and of several days' duration, which was the finish of many. The loss was heavy both in the old sheep and the lambs, due and arriving at the time the sheep struck the lambing places in the northern part of the state. In several cases owners lost entire flocks. Again, flockmasters escaped with normal mortality. In every instance, however, breeders sustained punishment on the increase. The loss of lambs was tremendous. The average mortality, not including lambs, was probably in the neighborhood of 20 per cent.

### Shrinkage in Wool Clip.

When sheep do well physically the (Continued on Page 1.)