

Received This Week

New  
1920 Model

**MAXWELLS**

**\$985**  
f.o.b. factory

**NEDRELOE-MORGAN MOTOR COMPANY**

**STEWART WRITES ABOUT HIDE AND FUR SITUATION**

Minot Hide Dealer Reads Interesting Paper at Recent Meeting of The Rotary—Full of Information You Ought to Know.

B. E. Stewart of the Minot Hide & Tanning Co., read the following article at a recent meeting of the Minot Rotary Club, giving a great deal of interesting and valuable information concerning the present hide and fur situation:

**The Hide and Leather Industry.**  
I have been quite surprised in collecting data for this paper to find the many uses hides have been put to and it makes me feel that I am in a bigger business than I thought I was. Of course, I know I was not in the diamond or oil business, and I think if any of you have had occasion to call upon me on a hot summer's day, you have had good reason to believe the statement, for the business of hides in a raw state is a very disagreeable piece of work at the best, and when the hide is not properly salted after removing it from its producer, it will soon spoil, for it is only a piece of raw meat and nearly every person knows how quickly fresh meat will become tainted in warm weather, and can imagine the condition that some of these hides would be in when shipped by a careless farmer by freight, especially with the present railroad service. This accounts for the bad odor around a hide house, no matter how hard we try to confine it, this odor will be in prominence from 10 to 20 hours after the hide is placed in pickle to cure.

But if it is not a pleasant business to operate, it is a business that the people of today could hardly get along without, and it makes me feel proud to know that I am so much needed in the daily use of every person on earth; for without the leather industry, there would be no leather belts to turn the wheels of the world's machinery to produce every known article that is used from the pin to the largest machine; without them we could not have fine flour or any of the delicacies that are served today. Without leather there would be no leather harnesses for the farmer to fasten upon the backs and shoulders of more leather-bearing producers and till the soil, harvest the grain and haul it to market to be ground by the leather belt into necessities of life; and were it not for the leather, we might all be wearing wooden shoes instead of being allowed to enter one of our up-to-date shoe stores and carry out the latest thing in style, beauty and durability, merely by leaving with the genial proprietor fifteen or eighteen dollars extracted from the leather wallet, which you would not have only for the leather manufacturers and dealers like myself.

Right here let me explain to you why you are paying fifteen or eighteen dollars for shoes, instead of four or five, and also why you will be paying more in a very short time:  
I entered in the hide business in July, 1918, and on September 29th, we sold a car of hides for which we received nine and three-quarters cents per pound; now note the gradual advance in price, and these are all taken from actual sales made by us in, or near, the month of October of each year:  
Sept. 29th, 1910, 9 3-4 cents for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 21st, 1911, 12c for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 10th, 1912, 13 5-8 cents for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 29th, 1912, 15 cents for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 17th, 1914, 15 1-8 cents for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 20th, 1915, 17 1-4 cents for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 23rd, 1916, 19.425 for No. 1 Hides.  
Oct. 15th, 1917, 21.65 for No. 1 Hides.

On March 1st, 1918, the government took charge of the hide market and set the price, which, to the great surprise of all dealers, was much lower, and on November 20th, 1918, we sold a car for 19 1-2 cents and these are the ones that have been made into shoes, etc., which you are wearing today. Now, on January 1st, 1919, hides were released from government control and on July 7th of this year, we sold for thirty-six and one-half cents, or an increase of sixteen cents per pound or more than eighty per cent, over the price eight months ago. This, together with the advance in the cost of labor and all material, and the increase in profits which dealers must make to carry a stock of such high-priced goods, is bound to see us either going barefooted or paying twenty-five dollars per pair for common shoes inside of six months; and I don't think many of us will be going barefooted in January unless by an attempt at excess profit evading income tax, or some other cause we are sent to a warmer climate.

Later I will attempt to show some of the profit, or supposed profit, in the shoe business, which, by the way, seems to be in line with all other businesses of today; and which is absolutely necessary to pay the other fellow for the things he produces or sells.  
Now, what I don't know about the tanning business would make a book larger than the old family Bible mother used to have, and about all I do know, or have been able to dig up, will be written in these few pages, but I am in hopes it will be of interest to some of you.

I will first attempt to prove to you that leather has been made and used for various purposes for many years before Christ, for David slew Goliath with a stone hurled from a leather sling. Probably the original process of curing skins was that of simply cleaning and drying. Then the use of smoke, sour milk, various oils and the brains of the animals themselves was found to improve the texture of the leather. Later it was discovered that certain astringent barks and vegetables afforded permanent changes in the texture of skins and stopped the decay. This knowledge was possessed by the ancient Egyptians, for engravings on their tombs depict the process of tanning. In China specimens of leather have been discovered in company with other relics that prove them to be over three thousand years old. The Romans used leather which they tanned with oil, alum and bark. The earliest explorers of America found the Indians wearing skins prepared with buffalo dung, oil and clay. No improvement in the general methods of preparing leather took place from the most primitive times until about 1790 when the use of lime to loosen the hair was introduced. By 1825 English tanners were attempting to introduce new methods by which the tanning process could be shortened, one of the pioneers in these experiments was John Burridge, the inventor of the barkometer, an instrument for determining the strength of tanning liquors.

The first tannery in America was built in Virginia in 1630. A few years later a second one was established in Lynn, Mass., for it is recorded that no fewer than fifty-one tanners had come over to the new Colony before 1650, and Lynn today, undoubtedly, manufactures and consumes more leather than any other city in the United States, as will be shown in the following letter, from the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, in reply to an inquiry from me regarding the early history of Lynn. It reads as follows:

Lynn Chamber of Commerce,  
Lynn, Mass., July 1st, 1919.  
Mr. B. E. Stewart, Mgr.,  
Minot Hide & Tanning Co.,  
Minot, N. Dak.

Dear Sir:  
In reply to your letter of June 24th, I am writing to say that the history of tanning in Lynn is as old as the city itself.

Lynn was settled in 1629 by Edward and Francis Ingalls. The records show: "Francis was a tanner, seeking running water, oak forests and a place where hunting Indian could conveniently trade his hides for beads and wampum. These things he found on Humphrey's Brook and there he built his rude tannery. Rude, perhaps, but very strong; for that little, one-man tannery was to be the seed out of which has sprung the greatest shoe and leather center in the whole world. One branch after another of the leather trades has been grafted onto that trunk until, in the due course of nature, the original tannery having fallen into decay, and even its ruins have disappeared, we have the great industry of which it was the first seed."  
In 1800 William Rose erected a tan-

nery in Lynn and began the manufacture of morocco, much demanded for upper leather for shoes. This was the beginning of the morocco industry in this vicinity.

Boots and shoes have been made in Lynn since the early days of the colony. In 1810 it had grown into an important industry and after a careful computation it was estimated that a million pairs were manufactured here in that year, valued at about \$800,000. The value of manufactured products during the past ten years is as follows:

Year	Lynn	State
1909	\$5,093,927	\$40,002,079
1912	4,524,083	51,987,789
1913	3,054,000	46,674,470
1914	3,848,671	45,265,334
1915	2,992,725	45,383,398
1916	7,521,154	73,858,509
1917	9,374,941	75,976,998

Year	Lynn	State
1909	\$34,020,670	\$187,045,767
1912	35,511,992	209,489,937
1913	33,077,000	216,667,911
1914	30,066,815	200,529,858
1915	27,090,080	204,042,623
1916	36,107,556	269,263,600
1917	33,847,766	307,195,759

These are the only figures obtain-

able that are in the least authentic. We estimate the total value of shoes and allied products for 1918 as \$75,000,000. I can give you no information regarding the increase in cost and selling price of these commodities.

Respectfully yours,  
FRED W. SEAVEY.

There was great demand for the laborers of the Lynn colony, for skins accumulated so rapidly that in 1640 it was found necessary to pass a law "that every hide and skin should be dried before it corrupts, and sent where they may be tanned and dressed." The tanning industry was also encouraged throughout the colonies by many laws forbidding the exportation of untanned leather. Tanneries flourished everywhere and by 1810 the annual output was \$20,000,000. The hides of commerce are brought to the tanneries in four different forms: either they are simply green or fresh hides direct from the slaughter-houses, or in case they have been shipped from a long distance as in the case with hides coming to the United States from South America or to England from India, Australia and Africa, as well as South America, they are wet-salted, dry-salted or simply dried.

The preliminary process of preparing the hides for tanning differs somewhat with the condition in which they are received, salted and dried hides requiring much more thorough cleansing and softening than green hides. The process also differs somewhat in preparing sole leather, harness leather and dressed leather. The first step is to soak the skins or hides in water to soften them, after which every vestige of adherent flesh is scraped from the inside. They are then laid in heaps for a short time, and afterward hung in a heated room by which means a slight putrefactive decomposition is started and the hair becomes so loose as to be easily detached. This process of unhairing, called "sweating" is mostly followed in America for making sole leathers, while the process of liming, or loosening the roots by the milk or lime is used for dressed leathers; but in Great Britain milk or lime is used for depilation of all leathers. The process may be hastened by the use of sulphuric or other acid. Hides or skins intended for dressed purposes, as for shoes, upholstery, harness or book-binding, after the hair is taken off by the lime, have to be submitted to a process called "bating" for the pur-

pose of reducing the swelling or thickening occasioned by the introduction of the lime, and for cleansing the skin from grease and other impurities. This is effected by working the skin in a decoction of pigeon's or dog's dung, and warm water. This process does something more than cleanse the leather; it effects a marked change in its texture, reducing it to an extremely flaccid condition. If the old method is followed, the hides, after unhairing, are placed in the tan pits with layers of oak bark or other tanning materials between them, and when as many layers of hides and bark are arranged as the pit will hold, water is let in and the hides are allowed to remain for an indefinite period to be acted on by the tanning material. Various methods for shortening this process have been devised, such as forcing the tanning liquor through the skin by pressure, sewing the skins together into a bag in which the liquor is suspended and simply substituting for the dray bark which was formerly used, liquid infusions or extracts of tanning materials which are gradually increased in concentration as the process advances. The last method, though the slowest, is found to produce the best leather and the pro-

# AUCTION SALE!

HAVING DECIDED TO QUIT FARMING, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT MY FARM IN VANG TOWNSHIP, 16 MILES SOUTH OF DES LACS, ONE MILE SOUTH AND 1/2 MILE WEST OF THE OLD GRELLAND POSTOFFICE, 2 MILES NORTH AND 1 MILE WEST OF RICE LAKE, 12 MILES NORTHEAST OF RYDER, ON N. E. QUARTER, SECTION 27-158-85, ON

## Tuesday, Aug. 26, 1919

FREE LUNCH AT 11 O'CLOCK

SALE TO START IMMEDIATELY AFTER

### Twelve Head of Horses

- One Gray Horse, 5 years old, weight 1400
- One Gray Horse, 8 years old, weight 1400
- One Black Mare, 5 years old, weight 1450
- One Black Mare, 11 years old, weight 1450 (Both Mares have colts at side)
- One Roan Saddle Pony, 3 years old, weight 1000
- One Bay Mare, 9 years old, weight 1100
- One Bay Yearling Colt
- One Gray Yearling Colt
- One Buckskin Yearling Colt

### Thirty-one Head of Cattle

- One Red Cow, 7 years old, fresh in November
- One Roan Cow, 8 years old, fresh in March
- One Red Cow, 4 years old, fresh in January
- One Red Cow, 7 years old, fresh in March
- One White Faced Cow, 4 years old, fresh in January
- One White Faced Cow, 4 years old, fresh in January
- One White Faced Cow, 5 years old, fresh in January
- One Red Brindle Cow, 3 years old, fresh in January
- One Jersey Cow, 3 years old, fresh in December
- One Dark Red Shorthorn Bull, 18 months old
- Three 2-year-old Heifers, fresh in January
- One Holstein Heifer, 19 months old, fresh in February
- Three Yearling Heifers
- Three Yearling Steers
- One Good Grade Hereford Bull, 10 months old
- Three Hereford Calves, 8 months old
- Seven good grade Shorthorn Spring Calves

Three Spring Pigs

Some Chickens

### Machinery

- One 7-foot McCormick Binder
- One La Crosse 20 single disc drill
- One John Deere Gang Plow
- One John Deere Sulky Plow
- One 8-foot Disc
- One 24-foot Iron Harrow
- One Cultivator
- One McCormick Mower
- Two Sets of Bob Sleds
- One Narrow Tire Wagon with Box
- One Narrow Tire Truck Wagon with Hay Rack
- One Mail Wagon
- One Spring Buggy
- One 5-H. P. Economy Gasoline Engine
- One Martin Feed Grinder or Mill
- 30 Feet of Belt
- One 55-gallon Gasoline Steel Barrel
- One Set Breaching Harness
- One Single Harness
- One Sheffield Cream Separator

### Household Goods

- One almost new Monarch Range
- One Dining Room Table
- Six Chairs
- One Kitchen Cabinet
- One White Sewing Machine
- One Sanitary Folding Couch
- And Other Articles Too Numerous to Mention
- 15 Tons of Good Hay
- Some wire and fence posts

Will Sell or Rent My Farm After Sale

TERMS OF SALE—All sums of \$10.00 and under, Cash; over that amount time will be given until October 1st, 1920, at 10 percent interest on bankable paper, or 5 percent discount for cash on sums over \$10.00.

## CHARLES LARSON, Owner

M. T. ROACH, Auctioneer

C. H. CHRISTIANSEN, Clerk

### Boedecker & Rode Vulcanizing

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and  
TUBES



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