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STRANGE ANIMALS OF OLDEN TIMES

North Platte River generally carries a considerable volume of water, while the South Platte is dry except during times of floods, because its water is used for irrigation purposes further upstream. The North Platte is 650 miles long and drains about 28,000 square miles. At the city of North Platte the river has a maximum discharge, according to the United States Geological Survey, of about 20,000 cubic feet a second and a maximum discharge of only 70 cubic feet a second. Its average volume of flow during the nine months from March to November is about 3,500 cubic feet a second.

From Dekter to Ogalalla, Neb., South Platte River and the railroad are close to the bluffs bordering a table-land. Here and at other places where the bluffs come close to the river many travelers in the day of the Overland Trail suffered from attacks by Indians and white outlaws, who were wont to swoop down unexpectedly from their hiding places in the hills to murder and plunder. It is difficult for the modern traveler surrounded by the luxuries of the railway train to realize the hardships and dangers endured by the men and women of indomitable courage and energy who under such conditions invaded and finally conquered the west.

The fossils found in the Ogalalla and Arikaree formations show that western Nebraska was inhabited in what the geologist terms late Miocene time by animals of very different type from those living there now, and also that very different physical conditions prevailed at that time. In place of the dry barren plains of today there were numerous streams and swampy lowlands.

The Arikaree formation contains great number of bones of a peculiar type of animals called chalicotheres. They were larger than a large horse and had a horse like head, long front legs, and shorter hind legs, but every foot had three toes, each of which in place of a hoof bore an enormous claw. An equally strange form of Miocene time is a deerlike animal called Synoceras. Its head somewhat resembled that of an antelope but was longer and had four horns, the larger pair, over the eyes, curving inward and the smaller pair, nearer the muzzle, curving outward. Camels were common in North America during the Miocene epoch, and several forms have been found. One was about the size of a sheep and is supposed to be the ancestor of modern camels and llamas. Others were large and had long necks like the giraffe. All these ancient camels had hoofs like cattle, not broad cushioned feet like those of the camels of the present day. Rhinoceroses were abundant, and hundreds of specimens of Teleoceras, a very heavy-bodied, short-limbed type, have been found. The proboscideans, of which the elephant is the best-known type and the only living representative, became prominent during the Miocene epoch, when a large mastodon called Trilophodon was common.—Overland Guidebook, U. S. geological survey.

THE MIRAGE

In the Red River valley of Minnesota may be seen some of the magical effects of the mirage that forms a striking feature on an arid or semiarid region. Warren Upham describes it as follows:

"The mirage, typical of plains country of the ocean, may be seen in the Red River Valley almost any sunny day in spring, summer or autumn. This queer phenomenon makes the high land at the sides of the valley and the tops of the distant trees and houses appear to be raised a little above the horizon, with a narrow strip of sky between.

The more complex and astonishing effect of mirage may be seen from the highland of either side of the lake-bed floor. There, in looking across the valley from one-half to two hours after sunrise on a hot morning following a cool night, the groves and houses, villages and grain elevators loom up two or three times their true height and places ordinarily hidden by the curvature of the earth are brought into view. Ofttimes, too, these objects are seen double, being repeated in an inverted image close above their real positions and separated from it by a fog-like belt. In its most perfect development the mirage shows the upper and topsy-turvy portion of the view quite as distinctly as the lower and true portion."

These appearances are due to refraction and reflection from the layers of air of different density, such as are often formed above a wide expanse of level country in warm weather.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE WORLD.

HOG CONDITIONS IN THE STATE

The state of North Dakota is at present confronted with the problem of fattening and marketing the 1915 hog crop.

There is on hand a larger number of hogs than at the same time a year ago. The hogs, however, average considerably smaller in size than at the same time a year ago, this being caused by scant feeding through the summer months due to the high price of feeds. The market, however, at present is rather more promising than it has been for some time and with the abundant crop of feed grain the 1915 hog crop may yet be marketed at a good profit.

The essential features in the feeding as far as possible all the refuse grains to bring this about will be to utilize from the farm. Pigs that weigh 125 pounds to 135 pounds now should be finished as rapidly as possible by using feeds that are conducive to quick gains such as barley or a mixture of 2-3 barley and 1-3 oats or shorts, or a mixture of barley 90 per cent, tankage 10 per cent, or barley 60 per cent, shorts 30 per cent and tankage 10 per cent, or where corn is available, "hogging off" is the most practical and economical method. Last fall at the North Dakota Experiment Station the gain made in "hogging off" corn was from 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 pounds per hog per day.

Almost invariably the market for good hogs weighing 180 pounds to 225 pounds remains strong up to the first of December and those farmers who can get their 1915 crop marketed before that date in all probability will be far ahead of those who will have to carry their pigs into January and February.

With the present prices of feeds the essential feature in profitably marketing this year's hog crop will be finishing them as rapidly as possible and selling as soon as they are ready for the market.

So many inquiries along this line have been received by the Animal Husbandry Division of the North Dakota Experiment Station that a circular dealing with finishing and marketing of the 1915 hog crop is in the course of publication and will be ready for distribution in a few days.

WHAT IT COSTS TO RUN A FARM

The total expense of operating a farm is larger than usually figured. This is due to certain expenses not being considered. Those omitted are as a general rule those for which cash is not paid. Building depreciates in value even though well built and kept in good repair. Machinery has an annual depreciation of about 10 per cent. If the year ends with less feed on hand than at the beginning, the decrease is an expense. Unpaid family labor is not often thought of as an expense. However it is fully realized that when the boys leave home and someone is hired to take their place. The value of these items on 54 farms, reported to the Grand Forks County Better Farming Association amounted to \$264 a farm in 1914. The total expenses amounted to \$991 a farm.

From this it is seen that if those expenses not paid in cash are omitted, about one-fourth of the actual expense of operating the farm is overlooked. The farms from which the above figures were calculated are typical of a large number of smaller farms in the east and south.

A PLEDGE

"I Joe Smith, citizen, by birth or by solemn oath of allegiance, of the United States of America, do resolve from henceforth to avoid the pessimistic negligence, unmanly surrender of prerogative, and unjust default of civic duty that give opportunity to the demagogue, the disloyal propagandist, the organized strength of "pacifist" weakness; to oppose so far as in my power lies the civic heresies of hypocritical or blind idealism and the treachery that would send Uncle Sam, armed with a broken-bladed jackknife, into international ways where highwaymen lurk; to support my party so far as it promises to uphold the American flag, to defend American rights, and protect American citizens; to endeavor to purify it of factionalism and error, and in every way, by restraint of selfish impulse and cultivation of sanity with courage, to contribute so far as I may to the spread of true Americanism in this time of test. I shall earnestly and unceasingly endeavor to keep my head straight on my shoulders and not twist the other fellow's neck because he is not looking in the same direction I do."—New York Sun.

NO SUCH THING AS SOLID WOMAN'S VOTE

In the September Woman's Home Companion Mary Ware Dennett writes and exceedingly sensible article entitled "What the Ballot Will Not Do." She says that women are foolish to ask for the ballot on the ground that if they get it wonderful and specific reforms will be realized. She says that women should claim the ballot on broader general grounds—that as citizens of proper age and responsibility they have just as much right to it as anybody else. In the course of her article she comments as follows on the so-called "Solid Woman's Vote".

There is one more temptation to avoid in suffrage speaking, and that is the claim or implication that there will be anything like a woman's party or a solid woman's vote. It is a rash unwarranted prophecy, and would be undesirable even if true. There has been no woman's vote in the suffrage states as yet. To be sure, there are a few noticeable instances when the woman of all political parties (and many of the men, too,) have joined to accomplish a certain end where there was a definite moral issue at stake. The recall of Judge Weller in California is a typical case. But on the whole, though they scratch their tickets rather more freely than the men, the women vote as Democrats, Republicans, Progressives, and Socialists, just the same. Women are people, not a class."

GUILTY CONSCIENCES

The editor of a newspaper in a nearby town borrowed a gun from a friend the other day to go hunting. When he appeared on the street, he noticed a peculiar agitation among the denizens of his town. People rushed from the store to store and little crowds gathered in the doorway and windows to watch him pass along. The editor was thinking about the vacation ahead of him, but his face, from habit, was set and stern. Suddenly a man, braver than the rest, rushed up with a dollar bill in his outstretched hand. "Bill," he said, "old boy, I've been intending to hand you this dollar for six months. It's for the subscription I owe you." The editor gasped, almost

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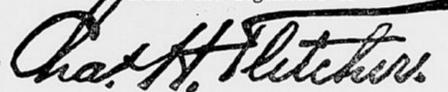
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fainted, caught himself and manfully accepted the proffered dollar with a look which said "Go on. Dam the torpedoes!" The man rushed away, and several others braved the editor's gun and paid up back bills. Altogether, when the editor arrived at the office he had a nice roll, enough to pay for his vacation and some left over. But a surprise awaited him at the office. Found six bushels of potatoes, ten dozen eggs, a load of hay, two fine hogs, a firkin of butter, two bushels of corn, and a gallon of hard cider. In the center of his desk was a large placard, and somebody had written on it:

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