

**HOW THE LOGGED OFF LANDS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON MAY BE MADE PROFITABLE.**

[By Prof. D. A. Brodrie, Supt. of Puyallup Experiment Station.]

There are thousands of acres of land in western Washington from which all the good timber has been taken, and which is growing up to brush and briar so thickly in many cases, as to preclude even grass from growing. Such land as it now stands, is practically useless for anything. Not only so, but such land is taxed to a greater or less extent, according to the location, and in most cases the taxes amount to more than the receipts from it.

Now this land may be made to bring in good returns if handled properly, and the best means for doing this that I know of is the use of Angora goats.

In the Willamette valley, where these animals have been in use for more than 30 years, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of land, now in cultivation, that were cleared almost entirely by goats. What has been done in the Willamette valley may be done here, where the climatic conditions are so similar. In fact, it has already been demonstrated that they will do well here, as there are a number of bands scattered throughout this section; all are doing well, and the owners appear well satisfied with the undertaking. One of the most enthusiastic of these is Mr. Isaac Carson, of Steilacoom, who some years ago introduced about 300 head from Oregon. These have been allowed to roam and take care of themselves as best they could. In conversation with Mr. Carson recently he said that the goats had netted him 35 per cent on the investment annually. However, in most localities in Western Washington, some care, especially in regard to shelter and at kidding time should be given. If this is done, much better results will be obtained.

A small band of these animals at the Puyallup experiment station more than doubled their number last year, and produced an average of five pounds of mohair per head. The care required is much less than that of any other animal, which makes the margin of profit still wider. A reserved estimate of the annual income of a band of Angora does, where a reasonable amount of care is bestowed, would be 50 per cent on the investment.

The fleece and the increase in numbers are not the only means of profit from these animals. The pasture and fodder cost probably nothing, as goats prefer browse to grass and hay. They will eat the leaves of the alder, hazel, vine-maple, oak and fir. The only green plants in the experiment station pasture last summer that were left untouched by the goats were cedar and fern. Everything else was kept eaten bare, and many bushes are already dead with one year's cropping.

Wherever these bushes die and begin to rot, the grass starts to grow and affords more pasture for the other stock. In two or three years all the brush will be dead and instead of the dense growth of underbrush, nothing will be left except the large stumps and logs, among which cattle can find pasture where it was impossible before the goats came. In lands where large timber is scarce, brush land may be made arable in a very few years.

It will thus be seen, that above the profit of raising goats for the increase and mohair, they have enhanced the

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value of the land by converting it from a dense thicket, as much of our land in Western Washington is, into an open pasture, and eventually into a cultivated field.

The Angora goat is coming to Washington to stay, and there will be plenty of work for him to do for the next fifty years, in clearing up the many thousands of acres of brush west of the Cascades, thereby rendering profitable to the owner that which is now a constant drain on his resources.

This subject is one of increasing interest throughout western Washington and it well worth the most careful consideration.

A bulletin on the adaptability of the Angora goat to western Washington is almost completed and will soon be ready for distribution from this station. Its object is to create an interest in this very important subject and furnish information regarding the management, care, uses, etc., of these animals.

We put up a wind mill at a well three years ago and have never had to pump water once for the stock. A supply is always there which the stock may drink at will. A person would be surprised to observe how often the stock comes up to water in these warm days. The total expense of the well, wind mill, piping, tanks, cistern and so forth was \$225. The interest on the cost at eight per cent would be \$18 a year. Now can I afford to walk from 300 to 500 miles each year for that money, saying nothing of the stock always having good water to drink and all they want? There are a number of different kinds of mills in this neighborhood and all are good.—Field and Farm.

Milking should be done rapidly, and it is therefore not well to have too many hands employed in the work. With one milker to a dozen cows there is more likelihood of efficiency of work than when half as many cows make up the tale. The slow hand gets less milk and dries the cow.

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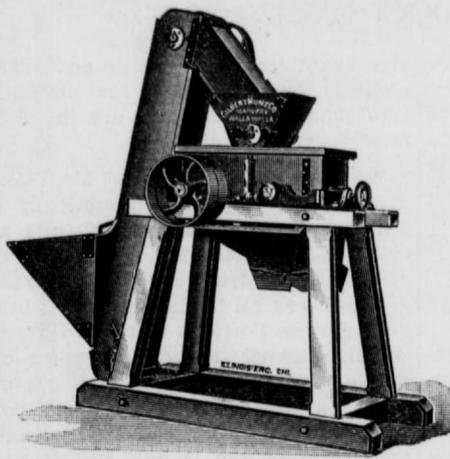
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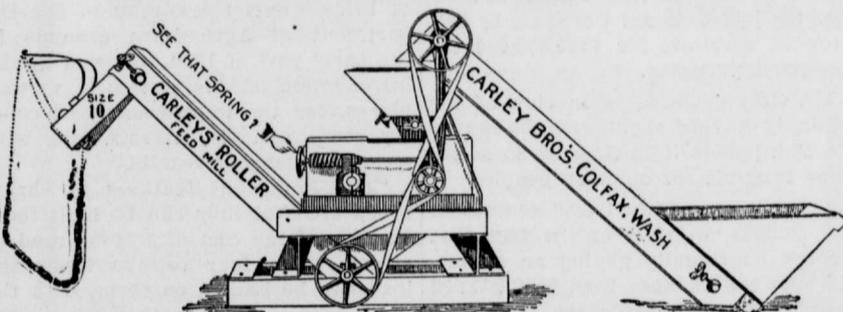
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