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SHEEP SHOULDN'T BE SACRIFICED

When the democrats came into power in 1893, they were pledged to reduce the tariff on wool. No sooner was this fact generally known than the prices paid for sheep fell rapidly. This fall in price was further accentuated by the general depression which prevailed. The outcome was a wholesale sacrifice of many of the flocks in the United States not only on the ranges, but also on the arable farms. Some flocks on the farm were sold at \$1.00 per head, and in but few instances did mature sheep net to the owners more than \$1.50 per head. Such low prices would not have been reached but for the fact that the markets for mutton, for the time being, became glutted because of the very large numbers that were dumped upon them within a short time.

The wholesale sacrifice of flocks at that time was peculiarly unfortunate. Those who did not sell, reaped a splendid harvest within the next few years, because of the prices which followed. The sacrifice of sheep at the time was based upon an incorrect idea. That idea was that the wool produced by sheep was so important a factor, that unless a relatively good price was paid for the wool, sheep could not be kept at a profit. That view was not correct then, nor is it correct now.

Even when wool values were at the lowest in those days, some profit could have been obtained from sheep, providing the industry were handled in the best way. It is generally conceded that the food consumed by a sheep on the arable farm will be paid for by the wool produced. This is probably true when it is considered that sheep gather much of their food from weeds that would otherwise harm, and from grasses that would otherwise remain uncut. Such being the case, the lamb produced by a ewe, less the food consumed by the lamb, will represent the profit. A ewe will produce about seven pounds of wool. Now assume that the average price of wool is 20 cents and that the price should be cut in two by a reduced tariff. There would still be

the lamb to the good, less the cost of its food, with 70 cents added to that cost. These two items would not amount to more than \$1.70. The average value of a lamb at the present time on the farm, when six months old, is not less than say \$3.50. The profit therefore, at the present time is very substantial, even though there should be a great reduction in the tariff on wool, or should it be removed; but of course the profit that would otherwise come to the flockmaster will be reduced by the extent of the reduction of the tariff.

If the owner of the sheep on the range maintains large numbers of wethers in his flock from year to year, he will suffer much more from a reduction in the duty on wool than the man whose holdings consist entirely of ewes and their lambs, along with such stock rams as may be necessary. The wethers will only give a return in the fleece from year to year, whereas the ewes will produce a fleece and also a lamb.

The democrats are again in power, and it is a foregone conclusion that there will be a marked reduction in the duties on wool. Even so, it would be a mistake to reduce the flocks, much more, to part with them. The prices of all kinds of meats are soaring, and they are going to soar for years to come. This means that the mutton produced by sheep will bring in so good a return, that in the face of a cut in wool values, the flockmaster will make good money from his sheep. Let it be clearly understood that this discussion is not intended to have any bearing on political questions, but to show that sheep ought not to be sacrificed because of any reduction that may be made in the wool duties.

BIG ACREAGE TO TURKEY RED

D. W. Pulver, one of the bonanza farmers on Rothiemay bench, was in town Wednesday. Mr. Pulver has in 700 acres of Turkey Red, and will sow 300 acres to spring crops. The way winter wheat yielded this fall is an incentive to increasing D. W.'s faith in central Montana, and he knows—this could be all "caps"—that it is only a question of proper tillage when bumper crops will be the rule in this district.—Hedges Herald.

Home Training Best

By Mrs. E. M. VALESH, Editor of the American Clubwoman

I WOULD not give six months of the right kind of HOME TRAINING in exchange for a year of the BEST college course in economics ever invented.

Of course the TROUBLE is that the AVERAGE girl of today, and more particularly the girl who needs it most, does not get the RIGHT KIND of home training. The next best thing, then, naturally, is the college course.

But again the trouble with that is that the girl who NEEDS IT MOST is unable to obtain it. What time has our great army of shop girls and factory girls and office workers to take up a course in economics to make better homemakers of them? Yet these are the girls who REALLY NEED the knowledge, and these are the girls to whom it is NOT GIVEN in their own homes. The only real help that the college course might be would be developed if the women who took it were subsequently to go out into the homes of the women UNABLE TO OBTAIN IT and pass on to them their knowledge.

BUT, YOU SEE, THE TROUBLE WITH A COLLEGE COURSE IN ECONOMICS IS THAT IT DOES NOT TEACH THE WOMAN TO MEET THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS WHICH SURROUND HER IN HER OWN HOME.

PRAY AT WORK ON DESERT ACT

Representative Pray has taken up with the interior department the question of rights of entrymen who initiated entries under the desert land act three and four years ago and are now planning to make final proof and whose rights are thought to be jeopardized by reason of the fact that the lands adjoining those they entered have been taken up subsequently under the homestead act and are being cultivated. There are many such entries now pending in Montana, and fear prevails among the desert land entrymen that the department intends to hold their entries for cancellation on the ground that their lands are not of desert character, since the adjoining lands are being cultivated and produce crops. Mr. Pray contends that inasmuch as the lands were believed to be desert, filings were made and, inasmuch as the department accepted payments and filings under the desert law, it cannot cancel entries where entrymen have shown full compliance with the desert land act. The secretary of the interior has not yet rendered a decision on this question, but Mr. Pray is anxious to present the side of the desert entrymen before a precedent is established.

100,000,000 BUSHELS OF MONT. GRAIN

Helena, Dec. 7.—The time is not far distant when Montana will be producing 100,000,000 bushels of grain annually was the prediction made at the first annual meeting here today of the Montana Grain Dealers association. When all the state's agricultural land is under cultivation, its grain output will be double that, it was asserted. The primary object of the association is to encourage and co-operate with the farmers in securing purer seeds and varieties of grains best adapted to Montana's climate. It was the consensus of opinion that the development of the agricultural interests of the state could best be served by an organization of this kind and by a co-operation with the growers and dealers.

Efforts are to be made to include in the association all farmers, independent and line elevators throughout the state. About 30 grain dealers were in attendance. The next meeting will be held here in July. A banquet was held tonight.

STRUCK OIL IN BILLINGS

Billings, Mont., Dec. 12.—That this section of Montana is underlain with oil was indicated this week when workmen who were constructing drains along one of the streets of Billings struck a seepage of a substance which proved to be oil. It was examined by an expert who pronounced it to be of particularly high grade. He also declared that some of the finest oil fields in the United States have been discovered in the same manner, and there is no question that a flow would be encountered if a drill is sent down to a depth of probably 2,500 feet.

IMPORTANT TO HOMESTEADERS

A question of particular importance to homesteaders has just been decided by the secretary of the interior in the case of Neil W. Myers against Richard Sherwood, both of Billings, and the point determined is that for the purpose of complying with the regulations with reference to residence, the abode of the entryman's family is not necessarily his own, and that if he sleeps on the homestead, having complied with other rules with reference to cultivation and improvement, his right to hold the land cannot be taken away by contest.

Sherwood entered a quarter section of land about four miles from this city about three years ago and proceeded to cultivate it and made some improvements. He worked at the plumbers trade in Billings and his family resided here. He, however, slept virtually every night in a cabin on his claim. Myers instituted a contest on the ground that as Sherwood's wife and children resided in the city, his home was with them and that for this reason he had failed to fulfill the requirements of the government. The general land office held that Sherwood's title to the land was good and the decision was affirmed by the secretary of the interior.

WISE IN HER OWN CONCEIT

Wise in her own conceit, Boston is not so wise otherwise. The Boston Traveler says that at a theater in that city the other night between the first and second acts the orchestra began to play "My Country 'Tis of Thee." About half of the audience immediately rose, some hesitatingly, and remained standing until the orchestra had ceased. The other half of the audience looked a little uncomfortable, but kept their seats. Some time later, during another intermission, the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" filled the air. Without a moment's hesitation, the part of the audience that had remained seated during the playing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" stood as one man while the other half seemed glued to their chairs.

And the result was that probably the greater part of the audience went home wondering which anthem was the national air, and in doubt as to which they should have paid their respects to by rising. Such ignorance is deplorable, but what can you expect in a town that knows it all? Out here in Montana people don't know everything, but they do know enough to rise as one man when "The Star Spangled Banner" is played.—The Valerian.

Chickens are a good deal like men. A rooster will be cock of the walk for months. Then young rooster will tackle him, and be whipped. But the young roosters will keep at him, taking punishment patiently, and finally the old rooster will become so tired that one of the youngsters will down him. Then the hens will rush to his conqueror, and pay no attention to the former champion.

HOBSON FLOUR MILL A REAL BENEFIT

Hobson has a farmers' elevator and a farmers' flouring mill that are a real benefit to the producers of crops within a radius of thirty miles of that enterprising city.

The old line houses started to run the elevator on this year, and paid from 5 to 8 cents a bushel more for wheat than at any other point in the Basin. They were buying the grain up there for considerable less than all the freight to Minneapolis. The farmers' elevator kept right on doing business nevertheless, and in retaliation against the milling trust of the state, which combination will not buy grain from farmers' elevators, the Hobson mill has reduced the price of flour about one-half to farmer.

The mill gives thirty pounds of flour and twelve pounds of shorts for every bushel of wheat brought to the mill in exchange. This brings the price of flour to the farmer down to about one-half what his local grocer-man could sell it for with 12 pounds of shorts thrown in.

This is one of the practical benefits brought directly to the farmer in having a farmers' elevator and flouring mill located in the vicinity of the producer and consumer. And the farmers for thirty miles of Hobson are hauling their wheat to that town and having a portion of it ground into flour and bran.

Judith Gap has a real farmers' elevator which is owned and controlled by the farmers. The elevator this year has saved the producers hundreds of dollars by compelling its competitors to pay more for wheat than was ever paid here before. Some of them have bought the grain just less the Minneapolis freight, while last year and the year before they were buying on a margin of 33 cents less than Minneapolis price. Now, to make the elevator a complete success a farmers' mill should be erected to run in conjunction with the elevator, the same as at Hobson. And this will be the next move the farmers will make just as soon as they get a good crop that will put them on their feet.

That may be next year.

A husband doesn't like it very well when his wife takes his arm, on the street; but he likes it less when she puts her head on his shoulders, in a railway carriage.

Men so often say: "It's turning out just as I said."

Don't let a book agent decide your literary taste.

DRAMATIC EVENT EXTRAORDINARY

Mr. Sanford Dodge will soon appear at the opera house in Judith Gap in a splendid new scenic production of "The Right of Way". This wonderful play was dramatized from Sir Gilbert Parker's powerful novel by Eugene Presbrey, one of the foremost American playwrights. "The Right of Way" was an instantaneous success from its initial production in New York City to the present time, owing to the fact that more people are becoming acquainted with the story through reading the book and it bids fair, eventually to rival "Ben Hur" and other works of a like nature.

If you have not read the story, now is your time to do so; if you have, you will want to read it again before seeing the play, but whether you have read the story or not, you will be intensely interested in the drama itself as it will be presented by Sanford Dodge and his excellent company at the opera house, Judith Gap, Tuesday evening, Dec. 17th.

RUPTURE EXPERT HERE

Seeley, Who Fitted Czar of Russia, Called to Helena.

F. H. Seeley of Chicago and Philadelphia, the noted truss expert, will be at the Grandon hotel and will remain in Helena Tuesday and Wednesday only, Dec. 17th and 18th. Mr. Seeley says: "The Spermatic Shield Truss as now used and approved by the United States Government will not only retain any case of rupture perfectly, affording immediate and complete relief, but closes the opening in 10 days on the average case. This instrument received the only award in England and Spain, producing results without surgery, harmful injections, treatment or prescriptions. Mr. Seeley has documents from the United States Government, Washington D. C., for inspection. All charity cases without charge, or if any interested call he will be glad to show the truss without charge or fit them if desired. Any one ruptured should remember the date and take advantage of this opportunity.—Advertisement.

Advertised Letters.

Letters remaining in the Judith Gap postoffice unclaimed, December 9, 1912.

C. F. Dunlavy, Elmer Peck
—Geo. S. Haynes, Postmaster.

It is not enough to admit that you are a fool; you must try to get over it

RESOLVED
THAT THE GIVER IS
JUDGED BY HIS GIFTS.
YOU MAKE OTHERS HAPPY
WITH YOUR GIFTS AND
BRING HAPPINESS UNTO
YOURSELF. DON'T BUY TRASH
FOR PRESENTS WHEN YOU
CAN BUY SENSIBLE
PRESENTS.



BUSTER BROWN

"QUALITY STORE"

CALL AND LOOK OVER OUR STOCK AND CHOOSE SUITABLE AS WELL AS SENSIBLE PRESENTS. WE HAVE MOST EVERYTHING PRACTICABLE FOR LADIES, GENTLEMEN, AND CHILDREN.

TIES, SUSPENDERS, SWEATERS, CAPS, HOODS, HANDKERCHIEFS, GLOVES, SHOES, HOSE, SUITS, HATS, ETC.

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"THE PIONEERS OF JUDITH GAP"

Gap Grill

Open Day and Night

BEST FOODS

BEST SERVICE

H. M. HANSON, PROPRIETOR



THE RANGE ETERNAL

FOR THE HOME

A Masterpiece in Range Construction

This range has no heirlooms. It has inherited no old patterns or castings. Its builders have profited by a 30 years' experience in range construction which has taught them what to do and when to do it. They have learned that little things count in range building.

When you are in town next time, come in and let us show it to you.

C.R.STONE