

Who Brings Sunshine Into the Life of Another Has Sunshine in His Own.—David Starr Jordan.

THINGS FOR FARMERS

to THINK ABOUT

What Are We Going to Do for Cattle?

Startling Falling Off in Stock Everywhere Threatens a Meat Famine

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Stop a minute and think of a few stock figures.

According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, in the year 1908 there were in this country 21,194,000 milch cows. In 1912 the number had fallen off to 20,699,000. In the same year we had 54,631,000 sheep. In 1912 the number had fallen off to \$52,362,000.

Taking a still longer sweep, the figures are far more startling. In the last six years we are told that while the population of the United States has increased eleven per cent, the number of cattle has dropped off twenty-two per cent, or just twice as much as has been the growth in population.

To show the comparative value of cows in 1908 with that of 1912, we need only to say that in the former year the money represented amounted to \$650,000,000 in round numbers, while in the latter year the amount had bounded to \$815,000,000. An increase in value of horses for those years is also to be noted of from \$1,867,530,000 to \$2,172,573,000.

The shortage in beef creatures has carried the price up and up until now many families rarely know the taste of this staple article of food. Let any man step out and try to buy a piece

of meat of any kind today and if he has not a pocketful of money the chances are that he will go home with a piece of liver or with no meat at all.

The latest reports are to the effect that the price of shoes is advancing by leaps and bounds. It is impossible to get good shoes at any price, but the price paid, like that demanded for meat, is so high that it takes about all some people can get to keep their boys and girls in footwear. Where will the end be?

Butter and cheese have climbed the ladder until they have sent many a man to bogus products, oleomargarine, butterine and such stuff. Every store that deals in butter must now have its counter over which the many imitations of this product are sold. Nor are we in sight of the end yet. Thousands of cows, sheep and horses are being sacrificed by the farmers of this country while this article is being written. Sacrificed is the right word, too, for if the farmer folks received the good prices for stock that are indicated by what city people must pay for meat products, it would not be so bad. This is not so, however. The man who sells off his cows and other stock because he must have the money or has not the feed and grain to support them must take the lowest possible sum. His extremity is the dealer's opportunity. It is astonishing what an increase takes place in the value of meat between the farm and the consumer's table! And when the farmer has his money, he soon realizes that he has stricken down the goose that laid the golden egg.

Now, it is self-evident that something must be done to encourage the growth of cattle in this country. We must get back to the old way of breeding cows, colts and lambs, or the world will have to stop eating beef, mutton, pork and find some other article of diet.

A great change is taking place in many parts of this country in regard to the number of cattle raised. Where there were once great wide ranges, over which cows, horses and sheep roamed almost at will, now we find inclosed farms, given over not to cattle breeding, but to general farming. The old ranching methods of farming are gone, never to come back again.

With many farmers in the eastern part of the country the idea is gaining ground that as a means of making money poultry keeping is ahead of dairying. There is less hard work connected with it, many believe, and so they are selling off their cows and investing in large poultry plants. Whether these men are mistaken in their theory, only time can determine; the fact is what we are now dealing with; and the cows are certainly going.

Not only that. On farms where cows are still kept for dairy purposes, many farmers do not pretend to grow calves. They sell their milk for bottling purposes or for cream and never get anything back upon which to grow calves. If their cows run low, they think they can go out and buy some for less money than it would cost to grow them. Many men know

to the writer never think of raising a calf. This helps to make the famine of cows more severe.

Now, what is to be the outcome of this dearth of stock to the farmers and the consumers of this country?

In the first place, farmers will become poorer. Every head of stock sold from the farm by just so much weakens the capacity of the place to maintain itself at a good degree or fertility. For cattle furnish the natural fertilizer of the land. No cattle, no fertility, save that which may be brought in sacks, and that is by no means the equal of barnyard manure.

Second, the price of cattle must advance, if not to the farmer at least to the man who stands in the middle. We never will again see low prices for beef cattle, horses or sheep. The tendency is all the other way.

Then, too, butter and cheese must grow scarcer and so higher in price. This will carry eggs and poultry products with it. It will cost more for the city man to live and he will not live as well as he ought to. It will be more difficult to rear a family of children. The size of families will decrease. The world will suffer in every way. It must be so, for effect always follows cause.

What is the remedy for this condition of things? Just this: Our farmers must grow more cattle. Every man who has a bit of land should grow a few calves every year. There is money in it and the world needs the added stock. It must have it or go hungry. Fellow farmers, let's grow more calves, horses, sheep and hogs!—Journal of Agriculture.

Beef Cattle Do Best in the South Fed in Open Field

Conclusive Experiment in North Carolina Proves Barns and Sheds to Be Rather Detrimental

Washington, May 18.—President Harrison of the Southern Railway Company has received from Messrs. R. S. Curtis and L. W. Shook, animal husbandmen in charge of beef cattle and sheep investigation at the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, a report of an experiment in feeding two lots of beef cattle on the farm of Mr. R. A. Darby, in Richmond county, North Carolina, which will be of interest to those who contemplate feeding beef cattle in the South and are deterred by the assumption that a large initial investment is necessary in the way of barns and sheds.

One lot of sixteen steers was fed in an open shed and given a run of a space sixteen feet by thirty feet. Another lot of sixteen steers was fed in a five-acre field. The report shows

that the cattle fed outside made 31.5 pounds more gain per head than those fed inside and their final market condition was equally as good as those fed under cover.

The feed for each lot of cattle consisted of 1,150 pounds cotton seed, 250 pounds cotton seed hulls, 1,230 pounds of corn, 12,915 pounds of corn stover, and 42,776 pounds of corn silage.

(Note—This is an important discovery for the South, especially for Florida, for if there is any state in which cattle can be fed successfully in the open it is this. It will be seen from the above that even in North Carolina, where the climate is not so mild and even as in Florida, these beef cattle put on more flesh when fed in the open field than when fed in even an open shed. It reminds us that in New Zealand and, we believe, Australia, it

is the practice to allow farm animals to spend their lives in the open fields, dairy cattle, horses and mules being

provided with blankets securely strapped upon them in the winter.—Ed.)—Times-Union.

South Coming to Front as Beef Producing Section

Many Small Herds Being Built Up and Breeds Improved by Purchase of Pure Bred Sires—Shorthorns, Angus and Herefords Are Favorites—Mild Winters Great Help.

One of the most encouraging features of the beef cattle situation is the fact that the southern and southeastern states are taking hold of this problem. These states, on account of the great variety of crops possible to be grown and their extremely mild winters, are very favorably located for beef production. What they have lacked in the past has been the right kind of sires. With good, pure-bred sires from any of the leading beef herds to grade up the native stock, it will not require many years to make a marked improvement. Good results follow rapidly on the heels of good breeding and liberal feeding.

The opportunity has long been present in the south and we are glad to see the people awakening to the fact. They must keep more live stock to build up their soil fertility. In no other portion of the United States is live stock farming more needed than in the south.—Chicago Daily Farmers and Drovers Journal.

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