

The Texas Stock Journal

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND LIVE STOCK INTERESTS OF TEXAS AND THE SOUTHWEST

NO. 40, VOL. 20.

DALLAS, FT WORTH AND SAN ANTONIO, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3, 1900.

ESTABLISHED APRIL 1880.

Texas Stock and Farm Journal

Published Every Wednesday

BY THE GEORGE B. LOVING CO.

Office of Publication 312 Main Street, Dallas, Texas.

Fort Worth Office, Grand Floor Hotel Building.

San Antonio Office, 216 Main Plaza.

Entered at the postoffice at Dallas, Texas, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

Subscription, \$1.00 a Year.

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Display advertising 30 cents per line, space (16 lines) per week. Reading notices 15 cents per copy. One copy 5 cents. For insertion for one month 10 cents.

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COMING EVENTS

LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATIONS

Cattle Raisers Association of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, March 14.

National Live Stock Association, San Antonio, Texas, March 14.

National Live Stock Association, Fort Worth, Texas, March 14.

Range Stock Show, Fort Worth, Texas, January 17.

Fort Worth Stock Show, Fort Worth, Texas, January 17.

Fort Worth Poultry and Fat Stock Association, Fort Worth, Texas, January 17.

The Texas Hereford association, recently organized at San Antonio, will hold a meeting at Fort Worth, March 14, the second day of the meeting of the Cattle Raisers Association of Texas, and also of the Fat Stock Show, which will be held in Fort Worth at that time. Hereford breeding in Texas has grown to very considerable importance, and the close and extensive business relations between the Hereford breeders and the cattlemen of the state make the date chosen for this meeting a fortunate one. The interest in which will be increased by the Fat Stock Show. Breeders of Hereford cattle cannot, therefore, very well afford to neglect this meeting, nor to fail to secure membership in the association.

The negotiations of Secretary Hay with the governments of Europe and Japan for the purpose of securing a general consent to a continuance of the open door policy throughout China have already achieved gratifying results. All the important commercial nations have acceded to the requests made by this government through Secretary Hay. England was the first, and has been the most definite and emphatic in approval of that policy. Germany next consented, conditional upon the agreement being general. The same condition was attached to the consent of Russia. France has come into the agreement, as has Japan, and from Italy a favorable response is confidently expected. A recent single shipment from New York to China of about 20,000,000 yards of cotton goods, valued at more than \$1,000,000, indicates the growing value to this country of unrestricted commercial intercourse with the enormous population of that country. With numerous factories throughout the South for converting the cotton into cloth and the Nicaraguan waterway to give a direct line of transportation to Asia the cotton states would become centers of wealth and population. With her position, resources, opportunities and vastness of area Texas should lead in the race for supremacy in manufacture and trade.

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK CONVENTION

President John W. Springer has issued his official call for the third annual convention of the National Live Stock Association, to meet at Fort Worth, January 16 and continue in session four days. Among the subjects which will be considered and acted on at this meeting he has announced the following:

The leasing of public grazing lands to the government, under government supervision, to stockmen who are desirous of the use of the forest reservations for

grazing purposes by stockmen.

The census of live stock in the United States in 1900.

The transportation of live stock by railroad companies and matters appertaining thereto.

The exportation of live stock to foreign countries and to the West Indies.

The work of obtaining reliable vital statistics for the guidance of stockmen.

Matters of general nature in relation to the live stock industry which may be presented to the convention.

Members of the association are advised that if they have any subject of a general nature relating to the live stock industry, to present to the convention such subject should be prepared and presented in the form of a resolution and addressed to the executive committee to be prepared for reference to the convention. In a convention composed of more than a thousand delegates it will be difficult, without some such systematic arrangement for presenting the subjects for consideration, to secure for them the deliberate and conservative discussion they should receive. Such discussion is important as to the subjects announced, as the action of the association thereon will be intended to have influence upon the policies of the government and of powerful railway corporations.

A WORD OF CAUTION

To some it may have seemed that Texas Stock and Farm Journal has been working outside of its legitimate field in its efforts to promote the cotton factory movement in the state. The Journal believes, however, that just now little better work can be done for the promotion of the agricultural interests of Texas than in the advocacy of the industries that will increase demand upon the products of Texas agriculture. Factories of any kind will do this. Factories of any kind will lead to the introduction of other factories. Industry begets industry. Employment is given to labor, and the consumers of agricultural products are multiplied, and their purchasing power strengthened by industrial development in the cities and towns of the state.

The farmers of Texas are generally men who understand how their own interests can be benefited. They know that in the upbuilding of the towns their own market for varied production is enlarged—that the increase of a wage-saving population in the towns will give them market for many products that otherwise must remain unsold. This is why farmers as well as the business men in the towns—in some communities, more than the business men in the towns—are prompt, enthusiastic and liberal in sustaining the cotton mill movement.

The Journal has noticed that a number of the committees appointed in the Texas towns to manage the work of receiving funds for these enterprises are receiving letters from Northern factories offering cheap disposal of their factory equipment. The Journal does not profess to be an expert in these matters. It does know, however, that continual improvements are being made in cotton manufacturing machinery. The requirements of labor are thereby being constantly reduced and processes rendered less expensive. The mills in the North, as well as those in the South, that have the latest equipment are thus enabled to fill orders more quickly and at less cost, perhaps many of them at prices that would entail loss upon the mills having antiquated equipment.

The Journal's advice, therefore, is, buy no old machinery, no matter how cheaply it may be offered. Buy only what is entirely up-to-date, including all the latest economies. No other kind will be cheap. Indeed it is probable that no other kind will permit profits.

And by all means let all the investments in these enterprises be investments of home capital. The abundance of it in Texas, and the Texas people should gather all the legitimate profits.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW

In entering upon the new year the people of the Southwest are to be congratulated that their share of the increased prosperity during the year just past is due to conditions and developments that will probably render impossible hereafter a recurrence of so discouraging a situation in the agricultural and live stock industries as that which they had previously endured for a series of years.

The farmers of this section of the United States have learned economies which farmers of other sections had long ago been compelled to learn. They have learned better agricultural methods, by which to a great extent they have produced at home all necessary to their support instead of buying it at a cost that had added to its original cost the charges of the several middlemen, railway transportation and interest

of the work. The states north and northwest of Texas, indeed all states now looking to Gulf outlets for their export trade, have like interests in the matter. All these should combine and secure the co-operation of others friendly to the work in order that none of the antagonistic influences may longer delay the necessary action of the government.

COMPTROLLER FINLEY'S REPORT

Comptroller R. W. Finley's annual report presents a full exposition of the state's financial condition, which is a most favorable one. Without going into the details of the financial statement, it shows the resources of the state and the demands that must be met for the year 1899, and the estimated expenses for that period \$2,892,614.67, leaving an estimated balance in the state treasury at the close of the fiscal year ending August 31, 1899, of \$1,527,213.27. The comptroller considers \$300,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year a sufficient balance to have on hand to meet the ordinary requirements of the government, which would leave an unnecessary surplus in the treasury of more than \$600,000. Against this surplus he estimates appropriations that will be made by the called session of the legislature at nearly \$300,000. He considers the conditions favorable to a reduction of taxes and believes that a state of valorem tax of 16 2/3 cents on the \$100 for the year 1900 will produce a revenue sufficient to maintain the state government under the tax laws now in force.

The report shows the receipts of the school fund during the fiscal year, including balance on hand at its beginning, to have been \$2,249,199.03, disbursements \$2,232,624.27, leaving at the close of the year August 31, 1899, a balance on hand of \$16,574.76. The disbursements covered an apportionment of \$4.50 per capita on children within the scholastic age. The estimated requirements of the school fund for the current year, ending August 31, 1900, as furnished by the board of education, are \$3,050,000. In order that the schools may be properly maintained, the comptroller recommends that the present school tax, 18 cents on \$100, remain in force.

The report shows the condition of the permanent school fund as follows:

Cash balance on hand Aug. 31, 1898	\$967,157.12
Cash received during the year	1,268,059.63
Total receipts of cash, including balance	\$2,235,216.75
Disbursements during the same period	261,973.95
Leaving a cash balance on hand Aug. 31, 1899	\$1,973,242.80
Bonds on hand to the credit of this fund, Aug. 31, 1898, state, county and railroad bonds	9,962,531.54
County bonds purchased during the year	250,002.00
Total	\$7,212,533.34
County bonds, including balance on hand Aug. 31, 1899	\$6,447,247.05

This shows a decrease in the investments in county bonds since the beginning of the fiscal year of \$515,294.19. Under the former laws regulating investment of the school fund, repealed by the present law, the board of education was limited to purchases at 5 per cent interest. There was such demand for this class of securities by private capitalists that the board of many opportunities for investment until the law was repealed. City and county bonds with interest as low as 3 per cent can now be bought, which will enable the fund to have some income from its cash balance of nearly \$2,000,000.

The total assessments of 1899 show a value of \$922,927,741, an increase of \$83,507,868 over the previous year. This includes \$38,128,070 franchises and \$782,539 of international and Great Northern railroad property not previously assessed. Exclusive of these two items, the net increase has been \$29,407,166.

There has been an increase in values of almost all forms of assessable property. Land in Texas, for instance, shows an increase of value of \$4,281,580; town lots, \$2,858,371; cattle, \$7,160,972; goods and merchandise, \$2,157,451; moneys owned by others than banks, \$2,377,097; notes and other credits rendered by other than banks, \$1,430,394.

Several deficiency requisitions have been filed to which the comptroller calls attention, aggregating \$9,952, of which \$1200 is required by the live stock sanitary commission. Several appropriations are recommended, the largest being for deficiency in attached witness expenses, \$50,000, and Confederate pensions, \$175,000. Others asked for amount to \$21,252. The expenses of the called session of the legislature are estimated at \$1,000,000.

The total assessed railroad mileage of the state is given as 9222 15-100; average assessed value per mile, \$3,252.78. This is exclusive of county, international and Great Northern assets in Travis and Bexar counties. The amount of moneys and credits rendered for taxation show an increase of \$7,175,372 over the previous year. This the report says: "Comment is unnecessary, as the figures demonstrate within themselves that this form of property is not bearing its proportionate share of taxation."

In the administration of the pension law, a most difficult task, Comptroller Finley has tried to confine its benefits to "the worthy ex-Confederate soldiers or widows, who in advancing years are physically and financially unable to earn a support." In this he is carrying out the intentions of the law and making as effective as possible the aid of the state to those who under this law are found deserving it.

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CATTLE

The best price paid at the Chicago market the day after Christmas was \$6.25, for 159 head of the JA cornfed steers, average weight 1458 pounds.

The good blood of the JA herd makes it profitable to raise the steers and prepare it for market, and other Texas herds, not all of them in the Panhandle are beginning to be well known as producing the kind of stock that it pays to put in the feed lots.

In England preference is given to heifer beef, but in this country steers are rated higher than heifers. In order to get a fair price for the steers of the three classes, steers, spayed heifers and open heifers, the Iowa Agricultural Experiment station has been for some time engaged in feeding tests. The heifers after slaughter, produced and the report of it says the heifers made a slightly greater average gain than the steers. On the other hand, the blood of their heifers was shown by the steers and heifers in the character, composition or quality of meat, but both the spayed and open heifers gave a larger proportion of high-priced cuts on the range. And the demand for good blood on the range must receive a wonderful stimulus from the immunity against splenic fever effected by inoculation.

BREEDING FOR USEFULNESS

John Dryden has in a recent number of Breeders Gazette an interesting paper on the subject of "Breeding Shortorns for Usefulness." Mr. Dryden recognizes that the real value of a beef animal is found on the butcher's block and that final reward of comparative excellence must be determined by that test. Conceding full value to pedigree he does not see how the best practical results can be attained by the breeder who is over-partial to a particular family. Among the Scotch Shortorns he concedes equal merit to several families, and commends sharp discrimination in selection among them, saying: "Let right breeding, combined with individual excellence, be found in each selection." The advice is good as to all the breeds. He who does not direct his choice by a consideration of individuality as well as blood lines cannot become a successful breeder.

Mr. Dryden calls attention to the fact that the great Scotch breeders have sought usefulness as measured by the test of the butcher's block, giving less consideration to mere outward beauty and style than to the qualities that belong to the best meat producing animal, and says:

"I have spoken of useful qualities, the young beginner will first want to be confined to three points. First, a rugged and strong constitution in the animal, without which no permanent success can be achieved. This is a point which all breeders of cattle will accept without argument. This was always a prominent feature in Mr. Cruickshank's herd, and was always uppermost in his mind. I remember a point which each visitor came to discuss the qualities of his cattle with him.

"The second quality must be depth of flesh as against deep layers of fat, which may be placed upon the animal by long and continued feeding. This is not a characteristic which is easily determined until the animal goes to the block for slaughter. I remember asking Mr. Cruickshank how he distinguished flesh propensity in an animal from mere fat. He said he could easily do it in his own cattle, but he had some difficulty when examining strange cattle to which he was not prophesying as to the future it would be that the animals which will become fashionable are wanted by the market. But these characteristic prominently developed. So far as the appearance of the animal goes if you wait until four or five years of its life have been passed, you will find difficulty in distinguishing between fat and flesh, but if you get it at an earlier stage you will not find so much difficulty. In the animal to take on fat you will find you will require a much longer time to produce the same weight, and that until the animal practically has received its growth it is not possible to develop it in the form you expect to see.

"In the other case you have the third quality prominent from the beginning, which is early maturity. In the flesh producing animal the form is complete at almost any age after twelve months, and the animal may be fitted for market at a very early age, if it is desirable to do so. The useful qualities then to be sought after mainly are rugged constitution, depth of flesh, early maturity.

"It is possible that the earlier Scotch breeders in reaching out toward these three qualities in their cattle did frequently lose sight of what some of us in these days value even more—that is called style or general appearance in the animal; the particular color or form of the horns or the shape of the animal itself. Many of these breeders in Scotland considered these things as more or less non-essential, and while they would be gratified to find them present, they would not use them as an animal where one or all of these points was not what might be desired, provided the animal excelled in essential and useful qualities."

These facts apply more to the ranches in the Western or more North-western states. In the matter of superior breeding and individual development we have no greater demand than comes from the state of Texas. I could elaborate on this point, but it is unnecessary. I desire, however, to record myself as taking the ground that this great ranch trade from all quarters has been making a steady advance, and that it is not only in Iowa, but in America, indirectly and directly. Every breeder of Shortorn cattle has

been benefited by this trade. Every breeder that raised one bull or fifty bulls has found a ready market for his stock, and the stimulus has been even among the smaller breeders to improve their cattle by buying a few females, or more generally replacing the herd bull with one much better."

What Mr. Harrah here says upon the heavy demand upon the Shortorn herds for breeding stock is not at all an exaggeration, and it is equally true as to the demands that are being made and will continue to be made upon the other great beef breeds. The range breeders are ready to take very many more than all the surplus registered breeding animals that can be produced at the breeding establishments. The number of cattle in the country relative to population indicates such existing demand that prices must long remain good, and so wide is the range between the prices of the well-bred stock that goes to the markets and the scrub stuff that breeders want to make the blood of their herds as pure as possible. It will be long before Hereford, Shortorn, Aberdeen-Angus and other breeders of pure-bred cattle will be able to produce all that are needed on the range. And the demand for good blood on the range must receive a wonderful stimulus from the immunity against splenic fever effected by inoculation.

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HORSE

While it is gratifying to know the high esteem in which American horses are held in Europe, demonstrated by a large number of sales to purchasers in the different states of Europe, some breeders and writers are beginning to question the wisdom of permitting so many really great and valuable animals to be taken from this country to be placed in foreign breeding establishments. If this process continues the time may come when American breeders may have to draw upon the European studs for improvement of the harness breeds instead of providing those studs with great breeding animals.

The work horses should be kept stabled during the day only in the most severe winter weather, but it is well enough to keep them up at night. There will be no advantage in this, however, if the stable is foul and ill-smelling, badly ventilated, or if it is so constructed that the animals are exposed to drafts. Unless kept at work they will not need much concentrated food, but a little grain every morning and evening will be good for them, oats, bran and some corn, along with some clean, bright fodder or hay. Water them with fresh water from the well before feeding in the morning and at night. Keep the grooming up, as it serves to keep the hair and skin in healthy condition and helps the circulation.

Very many in making winter provision for their horses fail to take into consideration that the brood mare needs not only the food for her own maintenance, but an extra supply for the nutriment of her unborn foal, and if enough is not furnished for both of these lives both must suffer, and a loss will result to the owner, because the poorly nourished dam will develop and give birth to a well-formed, well developed and vigorous foal, nor will she be able to properly imbibe with milk after her birth. Attention to the mare's feed and to proper sheltering during this season should be held in more importance than has been customary in this state. The diet that is needed is one that consists principally of the tissue-forming foods. As a roughness nothing growing in Texas is better than alfalfa, but where it cannot be had, clean corn-fodder or oat straw can be used to advantage. There should be some grain also, though not much corn, it being fed principally for energy and style than for the occasional or, rather, frequent changes of diet, such as chopped or mixed feed, so that the appetite may never cloy from sameness. Have accessible shelter, with a high shed, open to the south and well closed on the east, north and west sides. Except in exceedingly severe weather such sheds give sufficient protection from cold, which is the worst enemy of the horse. In having these to resort to than they would if kept shut up through the winter in close stables. They need the exercise and the outdoor life.

In planning the construction of a stable select a location that is well drained with a soil in the lot some what sandy or gravelly, and if there is not natural drainage arrange for it to be drained artificially. Make allowance for liberal space in the stalls and a drainage way, and provide for as many rooey box stalls as may be needed. Indeed it would be better that all the stalls be shed box stalls. Build up the floor some inches, nearly a foot, higher than the outside ground, using a stiff clay for the purpose, pounded and packed as the ground is possible. Lay the walls high enough for the building to be well ventilated, and have it lighted by several windows so arranged as to not be trying to the eyes of the horses. The windows be kept open except when rains or unusually cold winds render it necessary to close them, and should admit the sunlight freely, as well as fresh air. Sunshine and a free circulation of air are great purifiers and help to keep the atmosphere of the stable pure and wholesome. Have managers for feeding or other roughness instead of overhead racks, and arrange a detachable bottom for each so that they may be frequently cleaned without disturbing the bottom of these and of the troughs in which the grain feeding is done should be always clean and sweet, and for this reason it is best to use timber smoothing boards in the construction. But the timbers used in the boxes and stalls should be rounded and smooth to prevent injury to the animals. Doors should be high and wide for the same reason. The walls should be closely built to shut out drafts, so that the building can be kept warm, depending on the winter season. It is best not to have a loft for storage of hay or other roughness, as this keeps the air often full of dust, as well as increasing the danger of fire. A separate but connected building is best for storage, with cutting box etc., at the entrance leading to the stable. Keep the floors of the stable well cleaned, throwing out on the outside pile the straw or hay used for bedding so that the floor will dry out. When it begins to wear in hollows and become uneven fill up these places with clean, bright, well-packed clay so that the horses may always have a smooth surface to stand on. Keep the building as open at all times as is consistent with the comfort of the animals. They stand a low temperature when it is dry, but shut out the rains and snows. There is an economy of material in building sheds along the sides of the stable, but it is better to have the space open for ventilation and light. Have separate sheds for the purposes for which they are needed. Aside from the quarters of the horses the stables should have place for the utensils needed in grooming and in cleaning out the quarters and the passage way. All the manure and bedding unit for longer use should be carried off across the street, and the manure heap from the horse and cow stables, and for all other material saved for that purpose.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Something more than good breeding is needed to grow a really fine fleece. The sheep must also have good feed and plenty of it.

The shortage in the beef supply will have a tendency to increase the demand for lambs and mutton sheep, the consumption of which has had considerable growth during recent years without the high price of beef to stimulate it. The number of sheep on feed, however, less than it was a year ago, partly because of higher prices of feed and partly because of the losses incurred by many feeders.

Don't overtax the breeding capacity of the ram. Don't begin putting him to service too soon and have him in vigorous condition when the period of service begins, and feed him properly through the season.

THE FARM.

The cost of cotton raising can be reduced by careful selection of seed for planting. Make this selection next summer or early in the fall from the stalks in the field, or better still, give a small area of cotton the most favorable treatment in a fertile location, and raise these plants specially for seed, selecting seed from the choicest of them, consideration being given to the quality of the staple as well as the plant's production. The crop produced the following year from these seeds will show a marked improvement on preceding crops.

Factory enterprises will build up the farming communities as well as the towns in Texas, and they will put the people of this state in a position to grasp at once the commercial advantages which the Nicaragua canal will give, when completed, in greater richness to Texas than to any other state. Texas then can safely produce four times the quantity of cotton now raised in the state, and make a better profit from every pound of cotton than enormous a crop than the producers have made this season on a crop exceeding but little, if any, two million bales.

The tyranny of the cotton crop has been felt long and severely in Texas but it cannot well be abandoned where it is so important as it is here. The way to escape its tyranny is to control it, not let it control you. Produce food stuffs for home use, fruit, vegetables, raise poultry, have plenty of milk cows, hogs, some stock cattle, sheep and horses and make provision for their pasturage, and grain feeding, and then raise every acre of cotton you can take care of. When farmers adopt this plan the production will be diminished enough to advance prices, and the crop will be produced at a cost considerably less than the cost now incurred had it absorbed all the time and labor of the planter.

My plan for cleaning the plow which will also work well on other tools of iron or steel is as follows: Slowly add one half pint of sulphuric acid to one quart of water handling it carefully and stirring slowly, as considerable heat will result from the mixing. When cool moisten the surface of the metal with this acid. Then, after it has washed off with pure water. This application should clean any surface not too badly rusted, but if the tool has been long neglected it may require more than one application. After cleaning a thorough coating of grease is given before putting a tool away, and when taken out to use I give another greasing and it will go one-horse draft easier, as the old farmer used to say his scythe did not cut so well when properly whetted. Not only is it much easier for the team, but for the plowman, if the plow is clean and bright, as the adhering soil makes it handle hard when the plow is rusty.—Denver Field and Farm.

The culture of rice is assuming important proportions in Texas and it has been in most cases a profitable crop. The production has ranged from about 20 to 40 bushels to the acre, though one farm this season produced an average of 77 1/2 bushels to the acre. The price is now about \$1.25 a bushel. The straw makes an excellent forage, and stock get a good supply of nutriment from the stubble. The implements and machinery used are the same as those used in a wheat crop. The irrigation is thought by some to improve the land but this can be the case only where a considerable quantity of water is deposited. Without that irrigation would tend to rapid depletion of the substances that make the growth of the plant. The market for rice should be a good one, since about one-half the quantity consumed in the country is imported.

GROWING IRISH POTATOES. During the past five years, experiments have been conducted by the Texas Station to determine the best methods of planting, fertilizing, and storing the Irish potato crop in South Central Texas. Many varieties have also been known to test yields per acre, keeping qualities and their desirability for sale purposes. In all of the most recently done, special potato machinery has been employed and its adaptability to local conditions proven. A full report of these experiments is now in press and will be published by the Texas Station as Bulletin 54. It will be sent to all applicants for the horticultural reports issued by the Station.

In testing many forms of fertilizers, it was found that the largest yield was secured from manure gathered from cattle-feeding pens and from mule stable. By the use of these materials, the yields were more than doubled, as compared with those secured from unfertilized land. The tests were conducted upon thin land, having a dark sandy surface soil and heavy clay subsoil near the surface, and it is interesting to note that the stock manure produced larger yields than did any of the combinations of commercial fertilizers used in this series of experiments. Next in order of value, among the simple manures, was cotton seed meal applied at the rate of 500 pounds per acre broadcast. This and acid phosphate used singly, produced larger and cheaper gains than did the other forms of commercial fertilizers.

After several years trial, the Station officers recommend the one variety of potato to be grown in this state—the Bliss Triumph. Efforts have been made to test here the relative values of Northern and Southern grown seed-potatoes of the same variety. The results are favorable to the Bliss Triumph, grown in either Arkansas or Virginia, rather than seed grown in New York state.

Bulletin No. 54 presents the results of several years' experience in growing second crop potatoes and suggestions of considerable value are presented by Prof. Price as to culture, storage value and as to the proper use or disposition of this crop. The bulletin contains illustrations showing the several forms of implements and machinery employed by the Horticultural Section of the Station in handling the potato crop, some of which can doubtless be used profitably by growers in Texas. J. H. CONNELL, Director of Texas Experiment Station.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

WATERMELON CULTURE.

By H. B. Hillier, Bowie, Texas.

Every farmer and trucker should grow his own seed and improve them from year to year. So-called selected melon seed are a humbug. A seed house usually contracts with some farmer in a good melon growing section to grow seed for him at a price agreed upon, the seed house often furnishing him the seed, but just as often buying them outright of any farmer, and taking his word for it, that they are pure and true to name, and when you buy them you often fail to get what you have paid for. The manner of growing and selecting (?) them is treacherous upon honesty. Say the "seed-man" has furnished a reliable (?) farmer with seed, true (?) to name, and pure, and contracts to buy all the seed he can grow from them, from them at a ridiculously low price. We will admit that the farmer is honest and faithful. He plants them and gives them the best care he knows how. When they are ripe, they attain all sizes from first to last of the season, from 50 or 60 pounds down to size of your hand or less. They are gathered as they ripen, broken open and seed washed out and all sound ones are gathered and sent to the seed house for sale as selected seed! To improve melon seed, or indeed any seed, is a very simple thing. It is to grow like like; select a type you wish to grow to, and each year stick to this type. Select the early and best melons. Let them get fully ripe, and let sure they conform to your type in form, color, rind, character of flesh and seed. In a few years every melon in your patch will be uniform in size, color and quality, and all extraneous blood will be bred out. If you grow more than one kind, be sure the patches are separated by several hundred feet. Even then and with the best care, melons will occasionally cross-fertilize them.

I plant melons in Texas, hence after long experience have adopted a method that seems best in my hands. I do not give it dogmatically, but ask you to try it. This is a hot, dry, windy country. Last summer was very hot and very dry, yet my melons remained green all summer, produced good fruit, but they were smaller as the season advanced, and they continued to ripen until frost. Who can beat this record in a dry country without irrigation? I plant my melons in beds about 8 feet apart. If the soil is poor the manure should be put on broadcast before it is bedded up, for the roots of all vines run out to a great distance after food in the soil. When I have ready to plant I open the center of this bed with an eight-inch shovel. About every 6 feet I scrape out a hole with the hoe, put in a handful of good manure, mix well with the soil and cover with fine dirt. This can be done in less time than it takes to write it, and it will do the work. On one side of this little hill 5 or 6 melon seed. A week later on another side of the hill plant a few more seed, and later on a few more. Then if one melon comes up and is destroyed by bug or frost, you have still others coming right along, and thus insures a good stand.

The object of manuring in the hill is to give the plant a good, vigorous start, for such plants are far less apt to be injured by bugs than weak ones. If the seeds are sown at least 24 hours before planting in rows, and no insect will cut them when young, nor will grub worms or moles eat corn when thus soaked—nor does it injure any seed I have ever tried.

The best protection against frost I have ever used are quart berry boxes, or large-size wood butter plates. These placed over any young plant and kept down with dirt will protect them against frost.

When the vines come up, I loosen the dirt about them with a hoe, killing all grass and weeds, and at the same time about the tender stems to protect them from injury by wind and cold. I plow them up with a turning plow about three times during the season, throwing the dirt always towards the vines. The vines should not be disturbed after they are about a yard long. I thus get my vines on a bed at least 18 to 20 inches deep loose soil and no ordinary dry drought will ever dry them out. I also train the vines along the row.

They will pile up on top of each other a foot or more deep, thus shading the ground and protecting the roots. The bare stump of the vine when it first comes up out of the ground if baked by the sun, will greatly injure the vines and insure to kill them in the early summer.

Now in my method we have a deep water furrow between each bed. This gives the drainage of the beds for melon vines will not bear to be water soaked. If a row of cotton is planted in the furrow it will shade the ground, and also serve as a season lateral vines will run into this grateful shade and make you fine fall melons. Melons will sunbake in the summer if and a suggestion is discussed to run an irrigation canal through these lands after the plan of the irrigation canal at Beaumont.

are all good, but the two first I shall continue to grow and improve. A farmer or trucker who takes any melon he may have that is fairly good and in a few years get up an improved melon of his own, and work up a trade for it until his customers will be satisfied with no other. Competition will thus be cut off.

FARM AND GARDEN NEWS.

The total receipts of cotton at Denton, Texas, to Dec. 30, 1899, were 6130 bales. The receipts of 1898 were over 14,000 bales.

A number of McLennan county farmers who raised tobacco last year are increasing their acreage of the crop and are now burning plant beds.

been quite successful this season and the market has been well supplied with fresh vegetables, such as radishes, new potatoes, young onions, lettuce, etc.

The stockholders of a tobacco farm of thirty-five acres near Marshall, Texas, held their annual meeting in that city Dec. 29, and because of their success in growing the '99 crop decided to plant a larger area in 1900.

A party of northern capitalists, most of them living in Iowa, has bought 14,264 acres of land in Jefferson county, Texas, with the intention of cultivating all of it in rice, the entire property being adapted to that crop. The work will require the expenditure of half a million dollars.

A freight car loaded with 38,000 pounds of round-baled hay left Greenville, Hunt county, for New Orleans, Dec. 27, destined for the British army in South Africa. This method of compressing hay reduces cost of transportation and is expected to open up abroad a large market for Texas hay.

Beeville Playcune: The Playcune was presented on Christmas day by M. Mock, with a bunch of nice carrots grown in his garden from seed sown in October. And in the wagon of a truck gardener who was making his rounds with vegetables, we saw a freshly pulled watermelon. What country can this be?

Wm. Hendricks of Butler county, Kentucky, is on his way to Southeast Texas to investigate tobacco growing in that section. He represents a number of Kentucky farmers who, if his report is favorable, will come to Texas with their families to engage in tobacco growing about Corsicana on a large scale.

Alvin Sun: A. J. Kimmons and Zack Evans had ripe strawberries on the Alvin market Christmas. In all probability our northern readers will claim this a campaign loss, but it is not. It is not unusual for us to have ripe berries at this season, while our northern friends are cutting ice, wading snow and wearing arctics to keep their toes from freezing.

Mr. H. Specht of Iowa Park, says the wheat acreage along the Fort Worth and Denver has been increased in that section. He represents a number of farmers who report 45,000 acres in wheat in the country tributary to Iowa Park. The crops of volunteer oats, and barley and rye are flourishing. Mr. Specht himself has 3,000 acres in wheat, 3,000 in oats, 300 in corn and 200 in African millet, sorghum and other feed crops. He is now pasturing 75 Hereford calves on thirty acres of rye.

A dispatch of December 28, from Texarkana, Texas, says: "The Fruit Growers' Association met here today with a full house. The organization comprises the growers and truckers of Northeast Texas and South Arkansas. President J. T. Garner of Mount Pleasant was in the chair. P. F. McCormick secretary. The meeting passed laws for its government and adopted plans for the extension of the industry into 1900. An official report was read by President Garner, showing the growth of the fruit and truck products in this section to be 90 per cent in excess of previous years.

A dispatch of Dec. 27 from Columbus, Texas, says: Messrs. Glenn A. and J. A. Harbert, Conrad Byars and Dr. H. C. Steiger will in a few days break ground to put in between 300 and 400-acres of rice several miles south of Columbus. They will obtain their water supply from the Colorado river, using a steam engine and a centrifugal pump. They will plant about the 15th of April. An advantage the lands that south of Columbus possess for rice culture is that a substratum of clay lies from six inches to one or two feet beneath the surface and holds the water better than lands which do not possess this characteristic. Thousands of acres of land near here not now in cultivation are admirably suited for rice culture, and a suggestion is discussed to run an irrigation canal through these lands after the plan of the irrigation canal at Beaumont.

WEATHER AND CATTLE CONDITIONS IN OKLAHOMA. Editor Texas Stock and Farm Journal: We had a two-inch snow on the 15th and one of four inches on the 21st. Both went off next day after falling. We have not had any cold weather so far.

Cattle trading is at a dead standstill, as it is out of season for trading here. Cattle throughout this section look fully 25 per cent better than at this date last year, and as the feed supply is unusually abundant I predict a light winter loss.

Some men here, who never fed any cattle till last winter, and then had quite a loss, are making preparations to feed all their cattle this winter on the weakest ones on grain. All realize that cattle are worth too much now to let them die for want of feed. We are fast drifting into a stock-raising country in this section.

J. S. Beasley bought from G. C. Brown one registered Hereford bull for \$250 and from Robt. Davis two registered Shorthorn bulls at \$100 per head. C. J. C. DENISON, Caple, Okla., Dec. 25, 1899.

NEEDS AND HABITS OF ANGORS. Editor Texas Stock and Farm Journal. According to your request, I will tell you readers a little more about Angora goats, and I will also present several letters from parties wanting information about these goats.

One of them is from a missionary, wanting fine bucks to grade up from the common goats, of a poor tribe of Indians, who grow blankets and cloth out of coarse hair now, and who would probably be well pleased if they could work up the long, silky hair of the Angora goats instead of the short, coarse hair of common goats. Where the work is worked up at home into blankets, shawls, cloth, socks, etc., there, of course, a graded up flock is worth several hundred per cent more than common goats. Where the wool is like to send fine bucks, especially when I know that they have a good goat range.

Another writer wants to buy a carload of goats to take them to the hills and mountains in Colorado; another man wants them in the sandy woods of Georgia, one in the woods of Arkansas and one in New Mexico; two in Arizona, five in Texas, one in Utah, one in Florida, two in Louisiana, one in the United States of Colombia, and one in Old Mexico. Surely the mails of Uncle Sam bring the letters in from every direction.

Of course, the world does not seem to need more than nine million bales of the American crop. A reduction in acreage of 20 per cent in 1900 is necessary to insure a remunerative price of \$1.00 for middling cotton. The fall sowing of wheat in North Texas, will make a reduction of 25 to 30 per cent in the cotton acreage a settled fact, but Central, East, West and South Texas are liable to plant too large an acreage for cotton interests in 1900. If they would wisely plant more corn, raise more hogs and bees, and less cotton they would insure a greater prosperity to the entire state. In the sandy soils of Central and East Texas, p-others and melons, tomatoes and fruit, potatoes and onions will beat cotton.

OLD COTTON PLANTER. McKinney, Tex., Dec. 28, 1899.

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idence. In a climate so mild and salubrious, with possibility of having a ration of green food or green pasturage almost all the year, the hog raiser in Texas can and ought to compete with any other section of the Union. There is no reason why as good stock cannot be raised to the expert breeders of other sections. In fact they have gone to extra pains and expense to secure strains of the purest breeds in Ohio, Iowa and Illinois and deserve the patronage of our farmers.

The owner of his farm who resides on it, and is an up-to-date ideal farmer should make the hog second to no other industry on the farm to increase his profits. It is a pleasant and profitable work.

Some of our best hog raisers in Collins assert that they can raise pork at 2 cents per pound and therefore there is a fair profit at present ruling prices, 25¢ to 30¢ and 4 cents for top lots at Texas packeries.

The present wars in the Philippines and the Transvaal ought to increase rather than lower the prices of corn, hay, beef, pork, flour and dairy products. Should both wars soon be over there will still remain a good demand for all such feed or food products in the open markets of the world. The outlook for good prices for cotton are not good. The world does not seem to need more than nine million bales of the American crop. A reduction in acreage of 20 per cent in 1900 is necessary to insure a remunerative price of \$1.00 for middling cotton. The fall sowing of wheat in North Texas, will make a reduction of 25 to 30 per cent in the cotton acreage a settled fact, but Central, East, West and South Texas are liable to plant too large an acreage for cotton interests in 1900. If they would wisely plant more corn, raise more hogs and bees, and less cotton they would insure a greater prosperity to the entire state. In the sandy soils of Central and East Texas, p-others and melons, tomatoes and fruit, potatoes and onions will beat cotton.

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Texas' great agricultural and live stock weekly, furnishes its readers eight scientific departments pertaining to agriculture and live stock, news departments, telegraphic market reports, three local pages, household department and interesting and instructive correspondence and miscellany. In short, TEXAS STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL is

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for the farmer, for the stockman, for the feeder, the breeder, the truck farmer, the gardener, the poultryman, the dairyman and the household.

The Semi-Weekly News

Does what its name implies, and more. It furnishes the news from your own neighborhood, from the whole country, from the whole world, besides miscellaneous matter and discussions of political and commercial problems of the utmost importance.

The two papers are a great bargain at price named. Send \$1.50 and get both for one year. This offer applies to both renewals and new subscriptions for both papers. Address:

TEXAS STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL, Dallas, Fort Worth or San Antonio.

Premium No. 22. Texas Stock and Farm Journal, Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, The Gentlewoman and A Handsome Calendar for 1900.

We have consummated a deal with the publishers of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly whereby we are enabled to make an extraordinary offer to new subscribers. For a limited time, the object of this offer is to secure several thousand new subscribers to Texas Stock and Farm Journal, and an equal number of new or renewal subscriptions to the Popular Monthly. We further offer to all subscribers who will send us the price of one, and give two premiums, either of which is worth the amount of the subscription alone furnished by Leslie to the "Little Sweetheart's" Calendar for 1900.

It is published exclusively by him from water color designs by Francis Brundage, the famous painter of children. It is a splendid piece of lithographic work in twelve colors. Six groups, each on a separate card, size 10 1/2 inches, tied at the top with silk ribbon, and a magnifying glass, are included in the price of the new year. The premium furnished by us is a year's subscription to "The Gentlewoman," a monthly magazine published in New York city, containing 25 to 40 pages. It is now in its fourteenth year, and contains illustrations, stories, fashion notes, hints on home decoration, and other matters of interest to every housewife in the land. The subscription price of this magazine is \$1.00 per year, but it costs you nothing. Send \$1.50 and get the three publications for one year, and also the "Little Sweetheart's" Calendar. The Journal, The Gentlewoman and Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly will be sent to different addresses if desired, but the Calendar must be sent to the party getting the Popular Monthly.

We will send the Gentlewoman and Journal to the home with the highest of the price of one, and give two premiums, either of which is worth the amount of the subscription alone furnished by Leslie to the "Little Sweetheart's" Calendar for 1900. It is published exclusively by him from water color designs by Francis Brundage, the famous painter of children. It is a splendid piece of lithographic work in twelve colors. Six groups, each on a separate card, size 10 1/2 inches, tied at the top with silk ribbon, and a magnifying glass, are included in the price of the new year. The premium furnished by us is a year's subscription to "The Gentlewoman," a monthly magazine published in New York city, containing 25 to 40 pages. It is now in its fourteenth year, and contains illustrations, stories, fashion notes, hints on home decoration, and other matters of interest to every housewife in the land. The subscription price of this magazine is \$1.00 per year, but it costs you nothing. Send \$1.50 and get the three publications for one year, and also the "Little Sweetheart's" Calendar. The Journal, The Gentlewoman and Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly will be sent to different addresses if desired, but the Calendar must be sent to the party getting the Popular Monthly.

TEXAS STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL, Dallas, Fort Worth or San Antonio, Texas.

SWINE.

The great trouble with too many farmers is, they make but little effort to bed their hogs, and consequently no provision is made for this purpose.

DRY, CURED MEATS.

The writer of this, in the Farm, Stock and Home, happens to know by personal experience that the most delicious hams, bacon and dried beef are cured by the dry process, or without brine.

POULTRY.

A large window, coming down close to the ground, should occupy much of the space in the south wall of the poultry house.

The foul odor of the discharges from ropp make it a disease easily identified and it is well to kill at once every fowl that contracts it.

Very often it will not pay to doctor fowls suffering from contagious diseases. Indeed it is probable that it should be killed at once.

While oats make a good feed for growing stock and for the laying hens they do not have the elements that promote animal heat.

Don't neglect the poultry shows. They give better lessons as to much of the poultry work than can be obtained anywhere else.

Continued sameness of diet is not good for fowls. A judicious variety of food encourages the appetite, makes digestion easier and you can get more from them as to their methods.

If the hens do not lay in the winter it is simply because they do not have the right sort of feed or care.

RAISING HOGS IN THE SOUTH.

It is doubtful if hogs can be raised more cheaply in any other portion of the United States than in Texas. Land is cheap, the climate is mild and some sort of pasturage can be had pretty much all the year.

The process of moulting is a tax upon the physical condition of the fowls and if it is not finished before severe winter weather begins the hens are left in bad condition and will hardly be able to become profitable winter layers.

CARE AND FEED FOR WINTER LAYING.

This is a subject often written upon, but for the benefit of beginners, I will give my methods.

First, as to house, I prefer one 10x12 feet, shed roof, with windows in the south, extending to within a foot of the floor; and a platform four feet wide across the end, two and a half feet above the floor, on which to place two rows of the roosts.

Having the roosts on the platform gives all the floor space for scratching room.

Help about six inches of straw or wheat on the floor, in which to throw leaves or millet seed. The hens will commence scratching for this as soon as they get off the roosts.

The small farmer would have greater advantages, as he could transfer his small stock of hogs from field to field and can utilize much waste in their development.

R. C. Judson, industrial agent for the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, Portland, Ore., in a letter to Texas Stock and Farm Journal under date of December 22nd, says: "We have at our experimental station 243 head of grass among which we have the native bunch grass or Buffalo Grass."

LIVE STOCK NEWS.

B. A. Packard of Bisbee, Arizona, recently sold 1000 steers at \$21 for yearlings, \$15 for two and \$12 for three.

Devil's River News: The bad weather of the past few days did not seriously affect the stock interests of the Sonora country.

A report from Corsicana says the late rains have had the very best effects on pastures in that section and the grass is in better condition now than for several years at this season.

The Cincinnati Price Current of Dec. 23 says: The holiday season has served to lessen the marketing of hogs. Western slaughtering for the week, 525,000, compared with 570,000 the preceding week and 610,000 last year.

A shipment of 1,000,000 pounds of corned beef, destined to the British army in South Africa, left Chicago Sunday night.

The Chicago Record of Dec. 28 reports that the English government has loaded with \$3,000,000 pounds of canned meat by the packers of Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and Milwaukee.

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Miles City, Mont. Stock Growers' Journal: Our range stockmen were never more confident of carrying their bunches through the winter properly than they are now.

A dispatch of Dec. 31 from St. McAlister, I. T., says: The cattlemen in the Creek Nation are leaving that nation in large numbers.

A dispatch of December 29 from Abilene, Texas, says: As the cattle quarantine is to be put in force after Jan. 1, a good many cattle are being moved over the line between this county and Comanche.

Beville Bee: While nearly all the local ranchmen make preparations for a hard winter and provided themselves with feed for their cattle, comparatively little feed has been required.

In a letter of Dec. 28 received by the Journal from Prof. M. Franzen, department of veterinary science, Texas A. & M. college, he says: "We have fifty-seven fine Shorthorn calves here at the Kennedy Pasture company that will be in the fever stage in a very few days, and we will receive a carload from Maj. Harry Landa about January 1."

M. S. Gordon, the Hereford breeder of Weatherford, Texas, recently sold to Geo. Hammond of Naruna, Burnett county, Texas, his pure-bred Hereford "Red Head," consideration \$200.

St. Louis National Live Stock Reporter, Dec. 28: Within the past week or ten days the range horse trade has been on a good basis for what horses have arrived.

For morbid conditions take BECHAM'S PILLS. Write the great Jesse French Piano and Organ Co., 231 Elm, Dallas, Tex.

Make up your mind to-day and send us \$1.00 and we will send you the greatest ever offered by any publishing house. (See Marion Harland Premium offer.)

Your Butter Profit

It may not be as great as you could wish. No matter what the price of butter it would be increased one-fourth to one-third if you used a Safety Hand Separator.

It is better to separate your butter than any plan you have yet tried. It gets all the butter fat and makes it into an improved quality of product.

The Sharples Co., P. M. SHARPLES, Canada Station Sts. West, Cleveland, U. S. A.

NOT IN A TRUST. BUY YET IN THE LEAD. We have the best quality of butter for sale.

SURE HATCH INCUBATOR. No matter what the weather, this incubator will hatch your eggs.

THE BANTAM. \$5 30 DAYS TRIAL. Send for our literature.

DAIRY.

No one wants the dairy cow to be fattened as is the steer for the beef market but she should be fed to good, vigorous condition.

Why does the dairy cow get so fat? It is because she is not properly fed. She needs in order to enable her to better withstand the cold.

AYRSHIRES—WHY I LIKE THEM. Because they are essentially the common farmer's breed, being large producers of a very superior quality of milk.

While all breeds make some special claim to individual merit; as the Jersey for quality and the Holstein for quantity of milk yet the Ayrshires combine all the qualities.

These cattle are all finely selected, no culls, well marked and in splendid condition for immediate use.

JOHN W. LOWELL, Denver, Colo.

Home Creek Hereford Ranch. Twenty-one Registered Bulls in Use.

20 Yearling Bulls. 80 Bull Calves. 75 Heifer Calves for sale.

WILLIAM ANSON, Coleman, Texas.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS CATTLE.

Allendale Herd, Oldest and Largest in the United States. ESTABLISHED IN 1875.

Males and females always on hand for sale, all registered. Nearly all the popular families are represented.

Sunny Side Herefords. 9-Top Shorthorn Bulls-9. For sale at a bargain if sold at once.

Hereford Grove Stock Farm, CHILDRESS, TEXAS. Breeders of pure bred (registered) Hereford cattle.

Blue Grove Herefords. W. H. MYERS, Proprietor. Breeder and dealer in registered and high grade Hereford cattle.

Hereford Cattle of Rich Blood. Ranch well below quarantine line. Cattle can go to any part of Texas without risk of acclimating fever.

Drummond Farm Herd. Registered Crossbred Shorthorn cattle, headed by C. W. 12557, May Day 12853.

Red Polled Cattle. Largest herd of registered Red Polled Hereford cattle in the State.

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BREEDERS' DIRECTORY.

SUNNY SLOPE HEREFORDS.

I have 22 head of two-year-old heifers, bred; 15 cows and 25 yearling heifers, that I desire to sell at once, and will make prices that cannot be duplicated.

C. A. STANNARD, Emporia, Kansas.

Ed. Rodgers, GRANDVIEW HEREFORDS.

Grandview Farm, which is the largest Hereford breeding establishment east of the Missouri river, is devoted to the breeding of the most desirable strains of Herefords.

C. G. COMSTOCK, Albany, Mo. O. H. NELSON, P. DOYLE.

NELSON & DOYLE, Breeders of Thoroughbred Hereford Cattle.

And the largest dealers in the world in thoroughbred and high grade Herefords and Shorthorns for 1898.

Nelson & Doyle, Room 222 Exchange Building, Stock Yards, KANSAS CITY, MO.

The Hereford Home Herd of Herefords ESTABLISHED 1888. CHANNING, HARTLEY COUNTY, TEXAS.

MY HERD consists of 400 head of the best strains, individuals from all the well known families of the breed.

1898—CHAMPION HEREFORDS—1899. F. A. NAVE, Attica, Indiana.

FAIRVIEW STOCK FARM, BREEDERS OF PURE-BRED HEREFORD CATTLE AND SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.

Champion at Syracuse, N. Y.; champion at Indianapolis, Ind.; champion at Springfield, Ill., and champion at the world's greatest show, Kansas City, Mo., 1898.

1898—CHAMPION HEREFORDS—1899. F. A. NAVE, Attica, Ind.

These cattle are all finely selected, no culls, well marked and in splendid condition for immediate use.

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Rockwall Co. Herd of Poland China Swine. Best bred Poland China Swine, raised by the best breeders of the breed.

Big Spring Stock Farm. Best equipped hog ranch in North Texas.

Wincy Farm, HOME OF THE PRIZE WINNERS. Offers in New Year's bargains 4 A. J. C. C.

PRIZE WINNING POLAND CHINA SWINE and FINE POULTRY.

Red Polled Cattle. Buy where you can find a selection. Four largest herds at Maquoketa, Iowa.

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SAN ANTONIO.

San Antonio office of Texas Stock and Farm Journal...

N. A. Swink, a ranchman from Cotulla, spent a portion of the week here.

R. Daugherty, a stockman of Pearisall, spent several days here this week.

I. T. Yates of San Angelo, has recently put 800 head of cattle on feed at Belton.

H. J. Packenham, a sheepman from Dryden, was here from there a short time this week.

F. A. Wilder and E. H. East, prominent cattlemen of Victoria, were here on a visit this week.

W. J. Moore, Jr., came here from his ranch near Moulton Thursday, and spent a day or two here.

J. L. Brown, a well known stockman of Goliad, put in a portion of the holidays visiting San Antonio.

George C. West, a stockman of Tilden, was here Tuesday paying a brief visit, after which he left for home.

Captains John Tod and John T. Lytle, and D. H. Almsworth, left San Antonio Thursday for the Laureles ranch.

Capt. John Tod, a prominent ranchman of Corpus Christi, came up this week to meet Capt. J. T. Lytle on business.

J. R. Winters and wife came in from their ranch near Cotulla to spend a portion of their holidays in this city.

J. F. Moore, a cattle buyer of Bastrop, passed through here en route home from a trip south over the International railroad this week.

Among the sales of the week was one of 400 head of yearling steers sold at \$17 per head by Joe Ottula of Encinal, to J. F. Moore of Bastrop.

L. S. Tobin, a ranchman of Karnes county, came up from there last week. The object of his visit was to make a trade, and he stayed a day or two.

J. W. McCutchen, a prominent stockman of Fort Davis, was here this week returning home from a trip recently made by him to North Dakota.

J. W. Chapman, a well known ranchman of Atascosa county, came up from Pleasanton Thursday and spent a part of the Christmas holidays in this city.

The appointment of J. L. Harris as general live stock agent of the Washita is a source of great pleasure to his many friends among the stockmen here.

William Norris and John Kelly, both well known sheepmen, came in this week from their ranches near Comstock and spent several days here.

Andrew Armstrong, Jr., a very popular young stockman of Cotulla, came up from Hondo where he has some cattle on feed, and after a brief stay went home.

Among the trades during the week was the sale of Ed Corbick of El Sordo, to Archie Farr of Bainesides. This sale embraced 1000 head of cows, terms private.

F. C. Rhea, live stock agent of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railway, came in Thursday from a trip to North Texas, where he found live stock conditions favorable.

Felix Shaw, a well known ranchman of Encinal, sold this week 700 head of yearling steers at \$15 a head. They are to be delivered May 1st.

H. K. Rhea, live stock agent for the Cotton Belt, who has been North, has returned and reports that on the first of the year there will be considerable sinking up in railway circles.

S. J. Lancaster, who has lived a long time at Beville, near which place he owns a very fine and well stocked ranch, spent a portion of the holidays in San Antonio this week.

Preston Austin is accredited with having purchased from Denis O'Connor of Victoria, 3000 cows and between 300 and 400 head of steers. The terms of sale could not be ascertained.

A. M. White, a well known local stockman has gone to the Panhandle to receive a number of fine bulls which he will place in one of the Coleman & Keeran pastures in the Indian Territory.

On Friday H. B. Holmes of Luling, shipped a train load of cattle, consisting of 370 head of very fine steers. They were shipped to the Chicago market from Mr. Holmes' pens at Luling.

Joseph F. Green of Encinal, proposes to combine mercantile with live stock pursuits. He purchased a large warehouse at Encinal and will place a considerable stock of merchandise there.

Wm. H. Jennings, manager of the Swift & Company interest in Texas and the Indian Territory, who has been absent from here many months, arrived Saturday and was warmly greeted at his old home by the local stockmen.

Thos. Waelter, a well known stockman of Beville, was here a short time the present week. When he left he went to the coast county in the vicinity of Corpus Christi, where he has gone to look after some cattle on pasture there.

James McLymont, whose home is Del Rio and who owns more sheep and raises more wool than any other man in Texas, and probably any other state in the Union, was here again this week and happy over recent sales of clips of his wool.

Henry W. Taft of New York city, passed through here this week with his wife and a party of friends en-

route for the Catarina ranch in Dimmitt county, owned by David Sinton of Cincinnati, father of Mrs. Taft, where they will spend the holidays.

Col. Ike T. Pryor, agent of the Evans-Sluder-Buel company, accompanied by Messrs. Thos. H. Franklin and T. D. Cobus, spent several days this week hunting on the ranch of Mr. Pryor in Rio county, where each killed a considerable quantity of game.

W. F. Pettus, familiarly known as "Buck" Pettus, of Goliad, one of the pioneer stockmen of the state, was among the visitors during the holidays to this city, where he met the local stockmen and they discussed the Christmas day of olden times and contrasted them with those of the present season.

Three live stock agents are here looking up shipments of cattle and sheep for their various roads. They are E. J. Ashburne of the Illinois Central, whose headquarters are at Waco; H. Polk of the Santa Fe, with headquarters at Fort Worth; K. Reason of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, also of Fort Worth.

Coleman & Keeran of this city, have purchased the valuable ranch property in Dimmitt county, known as the old Alsworth ranch. It contains 16,300 acres, and was bought from Collins & Higgins at \$1.25 per acre. Tom Cole, a member of the same firm, returned this week from Dimmitt county, where he went to consummate the purchase.

B. W. Klipstein, a Beville banker, was here during the week and told a Journal representative that he had several friends had established there a fancy breeding stock farm where they propose to breed Hereford and Shorthorn cattle. He stated that he expected to receive two carloads of registered stock about the 15th of January.

John R. Holland, a well known stockman of Alpine, arrived here this week, accompanied by his wife. To a representative of the Journal Mr. Holland said: "I brought my wife to San Antonio where we could spend the holidays. The cattle and sheep around Alpine are in splendid condition. A considerable number of cattle have recently been shipped to market from Alpine."

Momer Eads, general live stock agent and assistant general freight agent of the International and Great Northern railway, has returned from a trip to the East. He said to a representative of the Journal: "We expect to do a heavier cattle shipping business this spring than we have ever done before. He is one of the most active stockmen in the matter of preparing for the entertainment of the visiting cattlemen who are to come here next month, and is working like a Trojan to that end."

Tom Coleman, of the local firm of Coleman & Keeran, has gone to the Indian Territory to look after some of his property. He is particularly very much disappointed over being compelled to take that trip instead of going, as he had expected, to the Catarina ranch, where he proposed to prominently participate in the roping contests. Coleman flatters himself that he is one of the most expert throwers of the lariat, an accomplishment that he is proud of, and he is often that he may possess. His cattle and other friends therefore, deeply sympathize with him in his disappointment in not being able to show the lariat to numerous as during preceding years. He can rope the wildest sort of a steer.

Vories P. Brown, president of the Fair association and editor of the Stockman, has entered into a partnership with Sam C. Bell for the purpose of breeding Hereford cattle. They have secured for this purpose a large tract of land, containing several hundred acres of the best alfalfa and arable land. This ranch is located seven miles west of San Antonio on the Atascosa Pass railway. It is well watered, and is proposed each year to sow on it sorghum and other feed plants. This week they received sixteen head of Hereford cattle, which they had purchased at Channing, and placed them in the pasture as the nucleus of their herd.

This being Christmas week, the stockman, like other mortals, preferred to spend the time with his family at home and for this reason the visitors here this week have not been so numerous as during preceding weeks recently. Those who came here to spend the holidays, or any portion of them, all state that they enjoyed the trip to the New England States. Some of them brought their wives and families with them and the ladies and children appear to have had more pleasure than their husbands or fathers. They visited the stores, making purchases and looking at show-windows and driving about the city. Many went to church, attending the special services incident to the occasion.

V. M. West, a prominent stockman of Luling, is here and said to a representative of the Journal: "Atascosa county was never in better condition at this season of the year for stock of all kinds than now. Our pastures have splendid grass as well as water in them and our cattle are in the very best of trim. Some months ago one of our neighbors, alarmed at the drought then prevalent, and fearing to hold the entire herd of his cattle, sold a portion thereof to my son who placed them in one of my pastures. These cattle purchased by him have thrived, fattened and grown rapidly, and the balance of the herd, from which they were taken have also done equally well. We have had more rain this fall and winter in Atascosa county than has occurred before in the recollection of the oldest stockman in the county. We therefore feel very confident over the present live stock conditions there and believe our cattle will do well and we will be able to market them."

It is estimated that over one thousand fully vided delegates will be here in attendance on the live stock convention which meets here the latter part of January and follows the big convention at Fort Worth, where the National Live Stock association is to hold forth and which is to be attended by delegates from every state and territory of the Union. The long list of the delegates to the National

convention at Fort Worth will embrace the names of stockmen from Cuba as well as those from the United States and the majority, if not all, of the members of the National Live Stock association will come here and join in the proceedings of the convention of the Texas stockmen. This latter will, therefore, be the largest assemblage of stockmen which has unfolded to him some of those laws which will be one of the most important ones ever held here. The importance of it is manifest from the fact that it is a gathering in the interest of the most important industry incident to this state, live stock, which also is of equal importance all over the Union although not as extensively engaged in this section. The stockmen of this section are therefore exerting themselves to their utmost to have this meeting a grand success and are arranging for the proper entertainment of the visiting delegates.

The stockmen of Southwest Texas spent their Christmas with more cause for rejoicing and happiness this year than for many seasons past and in a manner much more delightful than had been anticipated by them several months ago. The month that they had prevailed has been washed away by a series of copious showers that have moistened the earth down deep, soaked the roots of the grass and filled up all of the water holes and tanks. The result was that Santa Claus has put a slick, sea-fat steer in the sock of the cowman and a smooth, fat sheep in the hand of the sheepman. The cowman is now rejoicing that he has held up on his prices and did not sacrifice his herd when he feared that the drought was going to cause his knee to sicken and die of starvation. The sheepman is rejoicing that his sheep weathered the drought, reached the winter in splendid shape to stand its respects, were all fat and their wool worth more than it has been for many years, and in the prospects that its price will still continue to remain firm and in favor of the wool grower.

Therefore, therefore, for the Christmas rolled around the cowman and the sheepman of this section did not lose the occasion it presented to be as happy if not a shade happier than other purchasers in other parts of the state. Each spent his Christmas, quietly happy but with his accustomed generosity and liberality, trying to contribute to the happiness of those about him. First he said to his family, and especially the little ones of it, got all that wealth could contribute to their joy and then he called on his neighbors and made them recipients of his bounty and to use the expression of his friend the farmer: "They all had a hog killing time together. On most of the farms the merry-making was superior to that of former years and participated in with gusto by all hands. On some of the ranches a series of festivities had been arranged that were especially attractive, notably the roping contests that took place this week on the Catarina ranch owned by David Sinton, of Cincinnati, and the roping contests on other ranches. His daughter, Mrs. Taft, who spent the week of holidays on that ranch, to which many prominent stockmen and their families had been invited, was especially attracted by the roping contests. She was particularly fond of displaying the activity and dexterity of various members of the party assembled, and was an appropriate as well as a pleasant way of spending the holidays. She made it a point to exemplify the exercises incident to ranch life and the care and handling of cattle that were as instructive as they were enjoyable to many of the spectators.

In no more appropriate way could the time have been spent nor could any program have been arranged other than the one carried out to have afforded so much harmless merriment for the visitors and especially the guest of honor, Mrs. Taft. Doubtless that lady enjoyed its incidents thoroughly, and she is returning to her home she will depict Christmas scenes and incidents of ranch life in Southwest Texas in a way that will interest and amuse her hearers.

There has been this year a notable absence of accidents and casualties connected with the celebration of Christmas on the farms and ranches of this section. Stories of six-shooter tragedies are notably absent from the reports. The tough cowboy, like his old companion, the long horned steer, has passed away from life on the range and the pistol is seldom seen and still more seldom used. Life on the ranch and the farm of this part of the world will compare favorably with that of the New England States, and that apart from mere sexual formation, the sex of a person or animal may be easily distinguished by its general appearance. There is no need for a minute examination to tell which is male or female.

To particularize, in the white male is characterized by broad shoulders (or four-footed), upright shoulders, full chest, thick neck, large head, deep, sonorous voice, a large, strong, bony nose, and a thick mane. In the female, on the other hand, observe the female form, the smaller head, the thinner and apparently longer neck on account of the narrow sloping shoulders, the smaller horns, while the body widens out at the hips to give pelvic room. The voice is less powerful and softer, and in the human female an octave higher. The whole form of the female is wedge shaped from the square shoulders to the hips and feet, the feet are wedge shaped from the broad hips to the shoulders and head. Now, all these points of form are only characteristics of the mental status of the sexes.

Of course the description of the human female form is not taken from the fashion plate of a magazine, but from nature.

It is of human and animal subject, we find many degrees of difference from the extreme male to the extreme female form, and in these intermediate degrees it sometimes puzzles even the most intelligent stock farmer in the land. See the add and write for a catalogue, mentioning Texas Stock and Farm Journal.

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A Veteran Stockman's Study of an Un-solved Problem.

To the student, all nature is vocal, but especially sheep and cattle. In most secrets, yet she will be wooed ardently, or her ways and moods can never be understood. The writer has unfolded to him some of those laws which will be one of the most important ones ever held here. The importance of it is manifest from the fact that it is a gathering in the interest of the most important industry incident to this state, live stock, which also is of equal importance all over the Union although not as extensively engaged in this section. The stockmen of this section are therefore exerting themselves to their utmost to have this meeting a grand success and are arranging for the proper entertainment of the visiting delegates.

The stockmen of Southwest Texas spent their Christmas with more cause for rejoicing and happiness this year than for many seasons past and in a manner much more delightful than had been anticipated by them several months ago. The month that they had prevailed has been washed away by a series of copious showers that have moistened the earth down deep, soaked the roots of the grass and filled up all of the water holes and tanks. The result was that Santa Claus has put a slick, sea-fat steer in the sock of the cowman and a smooth, fat sheep in the hand of the sheepman. The cowman is now rejoicing that he has held up on his prices and did not sacrifice his herd when he feared that the drought was going to cause his knee to sicken and die of starvation. The sheepman is rejoicing that his sheep weathered the drought, reached the winter in splendid shape to stand its respects, were all fat and their wool worth more than it has been for many years, and in the prospects that its price will still continue to remain firm and in favor of the wool grower.

Therefore, therefore, for the Christmas rolled around the cowman and the sheepman of this section did not lose the occasion it presented to be as happy if not a shade happier than other purchasers in other parts of the state. Each spent his Christmas, quietly happy but with his accustomed generosity and liberality, trying to contribute to the happiness of those about him. First he said to his family, and especially the little ones of it, got all that wealth could contribute to their joy and then he called on his neighbors and made them recipients of his bounty and to use the expression of his friend the farmer: "They all had a hog killing time together. On most of the farms the merry-making was superior to that of former years and participated in with gusto by all hands. On some of the ranches a series of festivities had been arranged that were especially attractive, notably the roping contests that took place this week on the Catarina ranch owned by David Sinton, of Cincinnati, and the roping contests on other ranches. His daughter, Mrs. Taft, who spent the week of holidays on that ranch, to which many prominent stockmen and their families had been invited, was especially attracted by the roping contests. She was particularly fond of displaying the activity and dexterity of various members of the party assembled, and was an appropriate as well as a pleasant way of spending the holidays. She made it a point to exemplify the exercises incident to ranch life and the care and handling of cattle that were as instructive as they were enjoyable to many of the spectators.

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