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DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS. PUBLISHED WEEKLY. Advertising Medium of the Stockman's F... Subscription \$2 a Year in Advance. Entered at the Postoffice at Sonora, as second-class matter. MIKE MURPHY, Proprietor. SONORA, TEXAS, June 13, 1891. Dr. H. Guernsey, M.D., Physician, Obstetrician, Surgeon. Fort Mc... TEXAS PATENT OFFICE. WHY THE VALUATION OF ANY PROPERTY... and of Wool Legislation—Will Meet Again in San Antonio Next Year.

Yesterday the Texas Woolmen's Association was in session at Convention Hall. There were in all only about twenty-five members present, but these represented every section of the wool country. The meeting was devoted largely to discussion of an animated kind.

Yesterday at 10 a.m., the appointed hour for the convention to meet, only one man was in the hall. At 11 a.m., about twenty members had assembled, and neither president nor vice-president having appeared, Editor Claridge, of the Stockman, called the meeting to order and asked that Jno M. Campbell act as chairman. The latter was in the act of declining when Vice-President B. L. Crouch appeared and took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were dispensed with and the secretary William Campbell, gave a statement of the finances of the association. He stated that the former secretary had turned over to him \$110. Since then he had received \$82 dues, \$115 Washington fund, and \$40.50 Mohair fund. Expenses amounted to \$112.95, leaving \$169.15 cash on hand.

The secretary read a paper from Colonel Wm. L. Black, urging the formation of a Wool Exchange, and as most of the discussion of the day centered about this, it is presented in full as follows:

Mr. President and Gentleman of the Wool Association of the State of Texas: At our last meeting I was appointed on a committee to confer with merchants and dealers in the east, with a view to improving the present system of handling the wool product of our country. I am glad to report there is a decided tendency towards a reform, and think we are on the eve of a change which cannot but result in great good to wool growers. Frank Bennett, the editor of the American Wool Reporter, has taken a very active interest in the matter, and has recently offered a series of valuable premiums to be awarded to the growers of the best handled, and most carefully packed wool of different kinds, which will have the effect of attracting the attention of growers to the importance of a more uniform system of preparing their wools for market, and there is very little doubt but his commendable effort will result in great benefit to the wool grower.

S. N. D. North, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, was the first one to abolish the old custom of quoting wool on the grease basis, and has, for sometime, in his quarterly review of the principal wool markets reduced values to a scoured basis, and quoted prices accordingly. The Boston Commercial Bulletin very soon followed the example of Mr. North, and referred to the change in the following language:

"We desire to call special attention to the market quotations this week. They arranged upon a plan similar to that adopted by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. They are so many grades of wool now sold on a scoured basis rather than the grease price, and the shrinkage under the old geographical classifications differ so materially that where wool is actually bought on the scoured basis, the scoured basis

is a better criterion of the market than the grease price, and will in future be given as the market quotation."

It is to be hoped that other leading papers will adopt a similar course, and put a stop to the absurd custom of quoting wool in grease, which can give no proper idea of correct value, and is on a par with quoting and selling cotton in the seed.

With reference to the system of preparing and packing wool for market, there is no doubt that this is a most important feature to be considered, and I am pleased to report the subject will, in all probability be made a leading question for discussion at the next quarterly meeting of the Woolmen's

Manufacturers Association, which meets in Boston, in October next.

The absence of any rules and regulations to govern growers in packing wool on their farms and ranches, has given rise to much confusion, and, I am sorry to say, has prompted some unscrupulous men to pack their wool fraudulently. I am convinced the percentage of such men, compared with the whole, is very small, indeed, yet the existence of these few rogues, causes the buyers of wool to be very suspicious, and to guard themselves from any possible loss, they are usually disposed to offer a less price for wools in the interior than they would otherwise do, if no such conditions existed.

I am quite sure that I voice the sentiment of ninety-nine wool growers in every hundred when I say that we are exceedingly anxious that this should be remedied, and I am equally sure there will be no difficulty in having wools prepared and packed systematically, and in conformity with the wishes of dealers and manufacturers, wherever there is a proper organization to agree upon rules and regulations to govern the same.

In our efforts to bring this matter to the attention of the trade in Philadelphia and New York to unite upon some satisfactory method of preparing and packing wool for market, and to publish the same as a standard for marketable wool.

A "Wool Exchange" would accomplish, in our judgment, exactly what is needed in this particular, and could regulate market quotations through the agency of a committee, whose report would be regarded official by all the trade, and might be telegraphed daily through the American Press in the same way that cotton is now reported.

Before the organization of the New York Cotton Exchange in 1870, very much the same evil existed in the cotton trade as now exists in wool. It was not an uncommon thing for cotton to be mixed, packed, or fraudulently packed with sand, water, stones, or foreign substance, and it was quite common for a buyer to pick up a bale at one end of the country while another bale was paying 1 cent per pound more for the same class of cotton in the other end.

But there has been no such confusion in the trade since the cotton merchants of New York organized the Cotton Exchange and agreed on what should constitute a merchantable bale of cotton. The dishonest cotton grower soon found that he could no longer continue packing sand or water in his bales, as the expense attending the rejection of his cotton for being unmerchantably packed was far more unprofitable than to conform to the rules and regulations of the Exchange, and the telegraphing of official quotations every day, has had the effect of informing every person interested, of the market values, and has resulted in great benefit to all.

I feel quite satisfied that the same happy result will follow the organization of a Wool Exchange and that there will be very few

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\$1.00 a Head Reward,

for information as to the whereabouts of my sheep, branded 33 on loin, black brand, long wool. C. T. Covington, Wentworth, Tex.

\$15 Reward.

Lost from about 13 miles below the Woodhall ranch on Rio Grande about the 15th of April, one sorrel roan, 15 hands high, blaze face, branded C with arrow through it on left shoulder. One bay horse 14 hands high, blaze face, branded RQ on right thigh. One black horse, 15 hands high, right hind foot white, branded AP (connected) on left shoulder. Will pay \$25 a head for their return to O. C. KING, Sonora, Tex.

\$2 a year for the DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS.

