

# STOCK YARDS DAILY JOURNAL.

A Daily Commercial Newspaper for Modern Farmers and Stockmen and an Advertising Medium that Reaches the Buyers

Vol. XII, No. 101.

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## DAILY MARKETS

Official Receipts, 18 Cars, 693 Cattle; 84 Cars, 6,715 Hogs; 2 Cars, 195 Sheep.

## QUIET TRADE IN STEERS

Only a Scant Supply of Fat Beeves Noted Here Today.

## SLOW MARKET FOR COWS

Butcher Values Hold About Steady—Bulls Unchanged—Strong Demand For Calves, Tops Land at \$8.00—Stock and Feeder Market Steady to Stronger—Packers Score Again in Live Pork Trade—Sheep Trade Nominal.

## RECEIPTS FROM JANUARY 1, 1908.

The following table shows the receipts from January 1, 1908, and receipts for the corresponding time in 1907:

	1908	1907	Dec.	Inc.
Cattle.....	570,184	603,172	36,988	
Hogs.....	2,282,980	1,852,465	429,515	
Sheep.....	680,172	761,890	171,718	
Horses.....	22,298	26,760	4,462	

## LIVE STOCK IN SIGHT.

The following shows the estimated receipts of cattle, hogs and sheep at the five principal western markets:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
Chicago.....	3,000	28,000	10,000
Kansas City.....	2,000	12,000	1,700
South Omaha.....	800	4,900	1,000
St. Joseph.....	700	6,700	200
East St. Louis.....	1,200	8,000	800

## RECEIPTS BY CAR.

The following shows the number of cars of stock handled today by railroads centering at St. Joseph:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
C. B. & Q., west.....	23		
C. B. & Q., east.....	46		
C. R. I. & P.....	19		
Missouri Pacific.....	15		
St. Joseph & Grand Island.....	8		
A. T. & S. F.....	2		

## CATTLE.

Prices Hold Steady at Recent Declines on Fat Steers.

There was not much to the market this forenoon. Receipts posted this morning were altogether too high as there were not to exceed 700 fresh arrivals on sale. The small trade was at unchanged prices compared with the previous day with nothing offered in the steer line that was on choice or prime order.

The market for the week has not been a satisfactory one to the selling interest and yet it has been as good as the trade can expect under heavy marketing at this season of the year when packers are loaded with fresh meats and the demand is not good. Receipts here and at outside primary markets have fallen off some compared with last week, but the total is still above normal. The local total for the week is around 2,400 less than last week and at five markets the total of 160,000 is 16,000 less than for the previous week, but 36,000 larger than for the same time last year.

All changes in prices for the week have been toward a lower level. A few choice to prime steers, on Christmas order, have sold about steady, but for all grades of steers selling from about \$7.75 down declines have been 15¢ to 25¢ with the sharpest depreciation falling on short-fed light and medium weights selling from about \$6.25 down. There is not much prospect for reliable improvement in the market until after the holidays unless the country should at once cut shipments down to a minimum, which is not likely, although soon falling off from present volume is likely.

A few yearlings on fancy order here this week have sold at \$7.00 to \$7.20 and a good class of heavy beeves went at \$7.00 with a fair showing of passably good beeves of all weights making \$6.00 to \$6.75; fair light and medium weights have been going at \$5.00 to \$5.90 and common to fair lots at \$4.25 to \$5.00.

## DRESSED BEEF AND SHIPPING STEERS.

17.....1006.5 70 1.....820.3 50

## COWS, BULLS AND MIXED.

Not much business was done in this line of trade today as supply was limited.

Straight heifers of choice or prime quality have been very scarce on the market and bulk of offerings in the heifer line were of a class selling between \$3.50 to \$5.00. Medium cows are closing 15¢ to 25¢ under a week ago, while canners and cutters show a decline of 25¢ to 40¢. Trade has ruled dull at the declines in common and medium cows. Common and medium heifers have been neglected this week and prices have had a lower trend.

Good fat butcher bulls have been scarce and the kinds are selling steadily with a week ago. On the general run of bulls, however, the market has had a weaker tendency. Buyers wanted good light veals this week and the market closes unevenly higher. A few selected calves have sold up to \$8.00, the highest point reached in recent years on this market.

## HEIFERS.

5.....	878.4 75	4.....	707.3 50
2.....	870.4 50	1.....	580.3 35
15h&a	894.4 45	2.....	670.3 25
8.....	629.4 25	2.....	620.3 25
4.....	862.3 75	1.....	630.3 25
1.....	470.3 75	1.....	720.3 00
2.....	795.3 75	1.....	810.3 00
11h&a	552.3 50	2.....	740.3 00
7.....	728.3 50		

## COWS.

2.....	1180.4 50	1.....	1100.2 75
1.....	1310.4 35	1.....	1050.2 75
1.....	1160.4 25	1.....	1150.4 00
7.....	1123.4 15	2.....	780.2 60
1.....	1230.4 00	1.....	1080.2 60
1.....	1130.4 00	2.....	1075.2 50
1.....	1150.4 00	2.....	1085.2 50
1.....	1230.3 85	1.....	930.2 35
2.....	1160.3 85	32Col.	854.2 35
1.....	1170.3 75	5.....	882.2 30
2.....	1140.3 75	12.....	981.2 30
3.....	1130.3 75	2.....	900.2 25
3.....	940.3 75	1.....	840.2 25
3.....	1120.3 75	4.....	855.2 25
1.....	1000.3 65	13Kan	817.2 10
1.....	1070.3 50	2.....	880.2 00
1.....	1080.3 50	1.....	930.2 00
2.....	1055.3 40	2.....	735.2 00
16.....	251.3 35	1.....	980.2 00
2.....	890.3 25	1.....	740.2 00
1.....	1030.3 25	30Kan	812.1 75
4.....	1010.3 25	1.....	920.1 75
1.....	1140.3 20	1.....	660.1 75
4Kan	845.3 00	1.....	700.1 40
1.....	1000.3 00		

## BULLS AND STEERS.

1.....	1440.4 10	1.....	1380.3 25
1.....	1020.4 00	1.....	1330.3 00
1.....	1650.4 00	1.....	1230.2 75
1.....	1780.3 75	1.....	1320.2 75
1.....	1630.3 75	1.....	1200.2 60
1.....	1710.3 65	1.....	1330.2 50
1.....	1710.3 25		

## VEAL CALVES.

1.....	130.8 00	3.....	196.6 00
1.....	110.8 00	1.....	205.6 00
1.....	170.8 00	2.....	85.5 00
1.....	130.8 00	15.....	140.5 00
1.....	180.7 75	1.....	200.5 00
1.....	130.7 50	1.....	230.4 50
2.....	160.7 50	2.....	245.4 50
1.....	140.7 50	1.....	250.4 25
2.....	190.7 00	1.....	270.4 25
1.....	200.7 00	1.....	280.4 25
1.....	200.7 00	3.....	353.4 00
1.....	230.7 00	1.....	380.4 00
3.....	142.7 00	5.....	332.4 00
1.....	210.7 00	7.....	353.4 00
2.....	150.7 00	2.....	300.3 50
2.....	150.6 50	2.....	270.3 25
2.....	160.6 50	1.....	290.3 25
1.....	100.6 00		

## STOCKERS AND FEEDERS.

A moderate Friday run of stockers and feeders sold on a steady to strong basis. Regular dealers were stirring around early like they needed the cattle and they admitted that there was pretty fair call from the country for anything of quality.

The stock cattle market opened this week on a slow, easier basis, but closes strong and active for decent stuff. Compared with a week ago good, weighty feeders are not selling materially different and there is not much change quotable in the trade in attractive stockers. Plain and inferior stockers have met a slow outlet and prices have been headed downward. Speculators stocked up pretty heavy early in the week, but most of the early accumulation has been sent to the country and not a great number of cattle will be carried over to next week unsold.

The market for stock heifers closes easier at last week's closing figure. Stock cows are 10¢ to 20¢ lower than a week ago.

## STOCKERS AND FEEDERS.

2.....	1055.4 60	25.....	825.4 15
1.....	1020.4 50	5.....	1060.4 00
1.....	800.4 50	9.....	703.3 85
1.....	890.4 35	1.....	850.3 75
32Col.	1022.4 25	13.....	718.3 15

## Yearlings and Calves.

14.....	578.3 90	2.....	450.2 50
2.....	540.3 50	1.....	410.2 75
2.....	420.3 50	2.....	680.2 75
1.....	640.3 25		

## Feeding Cows and Stock Heifers.

6.....	548.3 15	1.....	870.2 50
6.....	713.3 10	1.....	810.2 50
1.....	460.2 85	1.....	630.2 50
2.....	640.2 65	12.....	950.2 45
1.....	870.2 60	3.....	910.2 30
1.....	520.2 60		

## Feeding Bulls and Steers.

1.....	1150.3 00	1.....	1000.2 65
1.....	1010.3 00	1.....	950.2 60
1.....	1130.3 00	1.....	860.2 50
1.....	820.2 75		

## Packer's Cattle Purchases.

Swift and Company.....	200
Morris Packing Co.....	200
Hammond Packing Co.....	50
Total.....	450

## Packer's Purchases Yesterday.

Swift & Co.....	497	4,581	679
Hammond.....	469	2,318	299
Morris.....	369	2,393	392
Total.....	1,335	9,292	1,361

## Stock Cattle Purchases Yesterday.

J. V. Atkins.....	309
George Spencer.....	71
Maxwell, Spayde & Co.....	48
Peter Hanson.....	38
W. R. Roundtree.....	30
Joseph Baker.....	19
B. Maxwell.....	10

W. E. Kennedy..... 8  
C. B. Reynolds..... 7  
J. C. Peters..... 7  
George Rockwood..... 6  
Country and order buyers..... 608  
Total.....1,219

## HOGS.

Further Sag of 5¢ to 10 Cents is Noted in Live Pork Prices.  
Packers continue to force prices to a lower level and are aided in their efforts by the country continuing to force nearly a half million hogs per week into leading primary markets. Supplies for this week at five points aggregate above 393,000 for five days and add to this total the number at three or four lesser markets and the aggregate will reach close to the half million mark. In addition to enormous receipts the weather and season of year have also been against an active market.

Today with all outside markets reported as opening slow and lower the local buyers started out bidding 5¢ to 10 cents lower and were able to establish the market on this basis, although sellers hung out until well along toward noon before accepting the decline.

## Packer's Sheep Purchases.

Swift and Company..... 76

## OTHER LIVESTOCK MARKETS

### CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Union Stock Yards, Ill. Dec. 18.—The Live Stock World reports: Cattle—Receipts, 3,000. Market slow, steady; cows weak; feeders strong. Hogs—Receipts, 28,000; heavy steady to strong; lights weak; top, \$5.80; bulk, \$5.35 to \$5.75. Sheep—Receipts, 1,000. Market stronger.

### KANSAS CITY.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 18.—Special to The Journal: The Drovers Telegram reports: Cattle—Receipts, 2,000. Market slow, steady; cows and heifers steady to weak; stockers unchanged; calves steady. Hogs—Receipts, 12,000. Market 10¢ to 15¢ low, slow; top, \$5.65; bulk, \$4.95 to \$5.55. Sheep—Receipts, 1,700. Market steady to strong.

### SOUTH OMAHA.

SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 18.—Special to The Journal: The Drovers Telegram reports: Cattle—Receipts, 800. Market steady to strong. Hogs—Receipts, 4,300. Market about steady; top, \$5.80; bulk, \$5.25 to \$5.40. Sheep—Receipts, 1,000. Market active, steady.

### EAST ST. LOUIS.

EAST ST. LOUIS, National Stock Yards, Ill., Dec. 18.—Special to The Journal: The National Live Stock Reporter reports: Cattle—Receipts, 1,200, including 300 Texas. Market steady. Hogs—Receipts, 8,000. Market steady; top, \$5.85; bulk, \$5.40 to \$5.65. Sheep—Receipts, 800. Market steady.

### ST. JOSEPH CASH GRAIN MARKET

Today's cash values: Receipts, wheat, 6 cars; corn, 10 cars; oats, 0 car.

### Wheat.

No. 2 red.....	1 05	@	08
No. 3 red.....	1 01	@	04
No. 4 red.....	97	@	01
No. 2 hard.....	1 09	@	04 1/4
No. 3 hard.....	97	@	01 1/4
No. 4 hard.....	94	@	01 3/4

### Corn.

No. 2 white.....	57 1/2	@	57 1/2
No. 3 white.....	57 1/2	@	57 1/2
No. 3 white.....	56 1/2	@	57 1/2
No. 2 corn.....	55 1/2	@	57 1/2
No. 4 corn.....	55	@	56

### Oats.

No. 3 corn.....	56 1/2	@	56 1/2
No. 2 white.....	51	@	54
No. 3 white.....	50	@	51
No. 2 oats.....	49	@	51
No. 3 oats.....	48	@	49 1/2
Bran.....	94	@	12
Corn chops.....	1 10	@	1 12
Shorts.....	1 05	@	1 15

### GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The following Chicago board of trade quotations are furnished by T. P. Gordon, Board of Trade Building, St. Joseph, Mo.

Options	Open	High	Low	Close	Close Yesterday
WHEAT					
Dec.....	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2
May.....	105 1/2	106	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2
CORN					
Dec.....	67 1/2	67 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2
May.....	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2
OATS					
Dec.....	49 1/2	49 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	49 1/2
May.....	51 1/2	51 1/2	50 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
PORK					
Jan.....	15 70	15 75	15 67	15 70	15 62
May.....	16 02	16 12	16 02	16 07	16 00
LARD					
Jan.....	9 15	9 20	9 15	9 15	9 12
May.....	9 35	9 40	9 35	9 37	9 35
RIBS					
Jan.....	8 12	8 17	8 12	8 15	8 12
May.....	8 42	8 50	8 42	8 47	8 42

### DREW YEAR IN PEN.

Oklahoma City, Dec. 18.—C. M. Buckles, cashier of the First State Bank of Oklahoma City, was found guilty by a jury at El Reno of embezzling \$1872 while he was treasurer of Canadian county three years ago. He was sentenced to serve a year in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$3,485.

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Many Different Areas and Character of Soils Come Under Work of Bureau—Includes Work in Eastern Mountains, and in Southern Coast Countries as Well as on Great Plains and Western Mountains—Over Sixty Men Employed.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Professor Milton Whitney, chief of the United States Bureau of Soils, believes firmly in the inexhaustibility of the soils of the United States. He declares that the general impression among economists that soil fertility is declining through loss of mineral plant food is erroneous. Professor Whitney has been engaged in soil investigation for twenty years and has been chief of the Bureau of Soils since its inception fourteen years ago. "The subject of the fertility of the soil and its permanency is of the utmost importance to the nation," said Professor Whitney, "as upon it depends the future welfare and growth of the people. There is a general impression among economists that soil fertility is declining through loss of mineral plant food, but the Bureau of Soils, through the extensive soil surveys and investigations made in the laboratory and from the study of world-wide records has determined that this impression is erroneous. "It is not unreasonable to expect that as this country becomes thickly settled and our people are forced to cultivate smaller areas, with more intelligent and more intensive methods the actual amount of crops obtained from the land now in crops can be increased two and one-half times over what we are now producing. "But the amount of land in crops is only about one-fourth the amount in farms. Applying this ratio to the whole amount in farms, it is apparent that the land in farms at present can be expected to produce in time something like ten or twelve times the amount of crops that are now produced on these farms. "So far as the present outlook is concerned, the nation possesses ample resources in its soils for any conceivable increase in population for several centuries. The Bureau of Soils finds that the decline in yield is due generally to the accumulation of organic products in the soil which are not eliminated through proper cultural methods as fast as they have accumulated, and that the failures that are reported, due to improper methods of cultivation and of crop rotation. "Our own government statistics show that during the last forty years the yields per acre of all our cereal crops has shown a tendency to increase. Statistics of all the European countries show that the yields in recent years have consistently increased. "The reason for this increase is due undoubtedly in the first place to better methods and more intensive methods of cultivation, to more care in the selection of seeds and in proper adaptation of crops to soils and in suitable rotation of crops on the soils. It is due in part to increased attention being given to live stock and the consequent larger accumulation of manure to put back on the land. It is due in part, in recent years, undoubtedly to the use of commercial fertilizers.

## NEW ENGLAND PUMPKIN PIE

The Way Grandmother Used to Make It in Androscoggin County, Maine.

THE STOCK YARDS DAILY JOURNAL

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CONVICTS FOR POISON SQUADS.

Texas is going to put its convicts on farms and make them self-sustaining. Why not turn our penitentiary birds over to 'Doc' Wiley for a gigantic poison squad? If some of the stuff is as bad as Wiley asserts they would soon be the best kind of criminals on earth, or to be more correct, under it.

WORKS BOTH WAYS.

It is argued that fleshy feeding steers will not sell much lower in the near future because packers have a place for light steers with any kill to them at around present prices. This opinion is reversible; viz., that prices for light killing steers will be maintained at around present prices on account of the demand for anything useful to put on feed.

FOUND IT, ALRIGHT.

Killers were not slow to seize their opportunity to hammer, and hammer hard, the lamb market when the supply became too bulky. It's a true maxim that the man, or set of men, who invites and looks for trouble usually find it. The country invited trouble by shipping too many sheep and lambs and the present condition of the market bears evidence that the country found it.

VEAL CALVES SELLING HIGH.

Veal is enjoying considerable popularity with the meat eating public, and the calf market has been doing some spectacular stunts of late. Prime light veal calves are selling up to \$8.00 per cwt. on this market, the highest point in years. A good 200-lb calf, six to ten weeks old, is worth relatively more than the ordinary yearling or two-year-old that has had to rustle for a living. This is a strong argument in favor of selling the little bawlers.

TAKING IN BARGAIN BEEF.

Your friend, the packer, seems to have a pretty good idea of how to do a little bargain shopping just before Christmas. There is not much of a demand for fresh meats at this season of year. But you will notice the packer quietly getting out and clearing stock yards of supplies of cattle every day. The packer probably sees a bear spot ahead in cattle supplies and will be on deck with large stores of beef bought at bargain prices. There is not much danger of the packer offering this beef at sacrifice prices after the holiday rush.

HONOR TO THE HEN.

It is the poultry show season in Texas and in half a dozen towns during the past two weeks there have been exhibitions of aristocratic hens, haughty roosters, incubators, brooders, coops and all the paraphernalia going to make up a modern poultry show, says the Texas Stockman-Journal.

The hen is getting her inning and she deserves it. Secretary Wilson says the poultry and eggs crop in the United States is now worth as much annually as the cotton crop, seed included. Right now in the larger cities eggs sell at from 30 cents to 40 cents a dozen and when eggs get to selling for 3 cents a piece a hen has a right to cackle.

But although poultry shows are held in many towns of Texas, in greater number than there are live stock shows, country fairs, or agricultural displays, the poultry industry in Texas is capable of much development.

On the basis of cost of production chickens ought to be one of the cheapest kinds of meat on the market. Instead of that it is the highest. There are a number of reasons, one of them being that the most chickens are produced by poultry specialists who buy their feed. The fewest chickens are produced on farms where the cost of feed is trifling. Texas has much poultry production, but it isn't produced in the right way so far as cost goes. There are not enough chickens on the farms. A reason for this is that on many farms there is little time to give the poultry yard the attention it needs. In the thinly settled districts, animal pests, hawks and snakes are also discouraging to the wife of the farmer who would raise poultry. Only greater settlement and cultivation will remedy these difficulties.

But the greatest thing standing in the way of more poultry raising in the country is the fact that the men folks of the family do not give the humble hen the respect she deserves. They do not see in her the possibility of paying all the expenses of the family larder and even that of meeting the bill for winter clothes. Yet if the hen be but given the chance to scratch and something to scratch for she will get rid of any grocery mortgage ever made. As President Neill of the Farmers' Union has pointed out, the easiest way for the farmer to get in condition to hold his cotton is to get out of the habit of eating from a cotton bale, make other crops pay his living expenses and allow cotton to remain as 'velvet.'

The humble hen is one of the helps. Just now the time being put into poultry shows is well spent. Every show stimulates a few more people to give poultry the attention it deserves. Nothing stands in the way of Texas being the greatest poultry state in the Union. Missouri last year owed the hen \$45,000,000 and Texas can beat that figure if it will only give to the hen a little more honor where honor is due.

A pure bred swine at the next International will result in a display in keeping with the dignity and importance of the greatest live stock show in the world.

The infant emperor of China is said to be a sufferer from tuberculosis. Still, they call him Pi Yu, instead of Wun Lung.

THINGS FARMERS WANT.

Uplift Commission Gets Thousands of Letters Every Day.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—President Roosevelt's "Farmers' Uplift Commission" sent out nearly half a million circulars of inquiry to farmers and persons who are familiar with farm life in different parts of the country. Those circulars contained twelve questions for the purpose of drawing out information on the general economic, social, educational and sanitary conditions of the farm homes in this country, and the persons to whom they were sent were requested to state what, in their judgment, should be done for the betterment of country life.

The commission has been receiving replies at the rate of more than 5,000 a day, which have carefully tabulated, and it is now certain that farmers and those familiar with farm life are practically unanimous that farmers need and want these things:

1. They need better schools everywhere in the rural districts, particularly in the south, better school houses, longer terms and better paid teachers.

2. They need better roads and they want the national government help to make them.

3. There is an almost unanimous demand for postal savings banks.

4. The farmers everywhere are exceedingly urgent in their demand for a parcels post system.

In this connection it is well to consider the resolutions adopted at the recent annual session of the National Grange. Those resolutions declared in favor of federal appropriation for highways; improvement, establishment of rural and general parcels post; of savings banks; defeat of the ship-subsidy legislation; the election of United States senators by direct vote; liberal appropriations for establishment of farm schools; and a thorough revision of the tariff, to protect the farmer and his products from such burdens as are now put upon them by the tariff.

These are in accord with the resolutions adopted at the preceding annual session of the National Grange, and at its last two annual sessions the Farmers' National Congress has heartily pronounced in favor of these things, and all of them. The replies received by the president's farm commission came from all parts of the country and from all classes among those living on farms; and the Grange is strong in the eastern and New England states and Michigan, while the Farmers' National Congress draws most of its delegates in attendance at its annual sessions from the south and especially the great agricultural states of the Missouri and upper Mississippi valleys; hence it can not be disputed that the expressions given above of what farmers want and need are authoritative and the best expression of the wishes and thought of the farmers of this country.

That being the case, farmers everywhere may well ask for and work for these things. And most assuredly they should do so. I would respectfully urge every reader of this paper to be alert and earnest to advance the interests of farmers as those interests may be advanced by legislation without injustice to other classes. If the things desired by farmers are to be provided by state legislatures, then write at once to the members of the legislature from your district, in favor of those things, and remind the men that you write to that you are a voter. If the things should be and must be provided by congress, then write to the congressman from your district and the senators from your state, in favor of those things, and remind these men that you are a voter.

The most powerful influence that can be brought to bear on legislators, state or national, is a stream of letters from voters. And not so very many letters are required. A congressman will "sit up and take notice" if he gets a dozen letters about a certain thing from the voters in his district. Ask the men most successfully in getting legislation and if they are honest with you they will say, as Walter Wellman recently said, that the most powerful influence that can be brought to bear on congressmen and senators is public opinion as evidenced in letters from their constituents.

Brother farmer, "thou art the man!" It is you that should write to the members of your legislature and your congressman and senators. Do not think that your neighbor is the only one that has a duty in this regard. Be sure to write yourself—and then urge your neighbors to write. If among the millions of farmers in this country, fifty thousand would write to congressmen and senators in favor of any one thing, those men would almost "fall over themselves" to enact that thing into the form of law.

And be sure to have your Grange, your farmers' institute, your farmers' club and all other farmer organizations in your vicinity, pass resolutions in favor of these things. Then be equally sure to send a copy to the congressman from your district and one of the senators from your state, with the request to lay the resolutions before congress; or to the legislators from your district, if the subject matter of the resolution relates to state legislation.

If we would only be active and vigorous, we could accomplish so much. And that includes that all do their share. It means that you must do your part. Brother farmer, there is just one reason why we do not get the legislation we want—it is because we do not beseege congress with letters and petitions as other classes and interests do. We have only ourselves to blame. The one man the average congressman or senator wants to please is the voter who has the intelligence and public spirit to write to him about legislation. Congressmen and senators need votes to stay in office and they know the voter that takes enough interest in legislation to write about it will probably vote for the man that does what he wants and against the man that does not. We farmers do not realize how effective letters from us really are. Don't hesitate because your penmanship may

not be pretty or your grammar as straight as your corn rows. Your ideas are all right and that you write is the important fact to the congressman or senator. That you write to him is what counts and grammar, penmanship and spelling are strictly non-essentials. They don't count when it comes to vote.

The time to do a thing is right now—if not sooner. Once more, let us do our feeding and currying before breakfast. Respectfully yours, John M. Stahl, Legislative Agent Farmers' National Congress.

CURRENCY OF FURS AND SKINS.

Primitive Mode of Exchange That Prevailed in Early Days.

In the early days of the United States furs and skins were very generally transferred from hand to hand as money. Thus, in the northern states, a pound of beaver was regarded as the unit of value, and in the south the same weight of deerskin performed a similar function. In the far west furs retained a currency value until quite a recent date. But, after all, as a bale of skins was rather a bulky roll of money to carry about, it was customary to cut off small strips as tokens of ownership and pass them from hand to hand, while the skins were deposited in recognized places of security. Proof of rightful ownership was demonstrated when the strip was fitted to the part from which it had been detached. Trickery in substituting another skin was not so easy as might be imagined, because it seldom happened that two skins would prove so exactly similar in shade and length of fur where the strip was cut off as to deceive even the eye of a novice.

"Navigates" His Farm. A story which almost parallels that told of Capt. Gray, the sailor-farmer of Toddy Pond, who is said to carry a compass on his plow to run the furrows straight, comes from Cranberry Isles. One sea captain, who enjoys the proud distinction of owning one of the very few horses on the island, got alarmed for fear that he would lose his bearings in the recent smoke, and on the veracious accounts of sober citizens took the binnacle from the vessel and strapped it alongside the seat of his wagon, fearing that the weather might become so thick that he would lose his bearings and have to navigate in what was worse than a fog. It is currently reported that he shouts at his team to turn to starboard or port, instead of the more conventional landlubber terms usually employed. — Kennebec (Me.) Journal.

Shifting the Blame. According to all accounts the Cameron Highlanders militia are a fine body of men physically. Not long ago four of them occupied the least crowded seat in a full compartment on a Scotland railway. Just as the train was moving off a diminutive little clergyman jumped into the compartment, and tried to edge himself between two of the Highlanders. Not finding it very comfortable, he turned to the one on his right, and said: "Sit up, please. You know that according to act of parliament this seat holds five." The Highlander looked at him for a moment, and then replied: "That may be a' richt enough for your kind, sir, but shairly 'ye canna' blame me for no bein' constructed according to act of parliament!"

Chess and Checks. Chess was originally the game of kings, the game of shahs. The word "shah" became in old French "eschac," while the old French "escheca" was further corrupted into "chess." The more original form chess has likewise been preserved, though we little think of it when we draw a cheque, or when we suffer a check, or when we speak of the chancellor of the exchequer. The great object of the chess player is to protect the king, and when the king is in danger the opponent is obliged to say "check," i. e., shah, the king. After this the various meanings of check, cheque, or exchequer become easily intelligible. Exchequer, or scaccarium, the name of the chess board, was afterward used for the checkered cloth on which accounts were calculated by means of counters.

The Right Sort of Wife. An Atchison man recently refused a proposal of marriage. "I like you," he said to the girl, "but you have too many friends. There would be too many at our wedding, for you would be afraid not to invite them all, and your many friends wouldn't be satisfied unless they made fools of us by playing some kind of crazy pranks on us when we started on our wedding journey. You have so many friends that we would get all kinds of wedding presents that we don't want, and would be kept poor in future trying to pay back when the donors got married. You are nice, and I like you, but what I am looking for in a wife is a woman who is friendless."—Atchison Globe.

A Lost Bet. An Irish waiter named Kenny was noted for his wit and ready answers. A party of gentlemen who were staying at the hotel heard of Kenny's wit, and one of them made a bet that he would say something Kenny couldn't answer at once.

A bottle of champagne was ordered; the one who had made the bet took hold of the bottle and commenced to open it. The cork came out with a "bang," and flew into Kenny's mouth. "Ah," he said, "that is not the way to cork!" Kenny took the cork out of his mouth and replied: "No, but it's the way to 'kill-Kenny.'"—Ideas.

MAKES A FLOATING COMPASS.

Peculiarity of Magnetized Needle When Placed in Water.

If a thoroughly dry and clean sewing needle is very carefully laid on the surface of the water in a basin the needle will float in spite of the high density of steel—seven or eight times that of water.

On close inspection it is found that the surface of the water is depressed under the needle, very much as if there were a thin film stretched over the water, and slightly indented by the weight of the needle. This property of liquids, of offering a certain assistance to a force exerted upon their surface, is termed "surface extension." The magnitude of the force of surface tension varies from one liquid to another. It is greatest in the case of mercury. The cause of the phenomenon must probably be looked for in the attraction of the liquid molecules to one another. A sewing needle, thus floating upon water, may be used as a compass, if it has previously been magnetized. It will then point north and south, and will maintain this position if the containing vessel is moved about; if the needle is displaced by force it will return to its position along the magnetic meridian as soon as the restraint is removed.

How to Keep Young. It is true that the neophobia of the old has its cause in mental attitude rather than in physical decay. It is not that the mental power is less, but it is natural for a man to rely on the thinking he did in his twenties and to refuse to reopen questions he "settled" half a lifetime ago.

This atrophy of thought can be avoided if the danger is foreseen, and a man deliberately forms the habit of breaking thought habits. It can be escaped if a man recognizes that he is borne on a stream of social change and that, instead of trusting to the perspective in which things appeared in his youth, he must look and look again.—From Social Psychology, by E. A. Ross.

Thoughts. It is very important to cultivate businesslike habits. An eminent friend of mine assured me not long ago that when he thought over the many cases he had known of men, even of good ability and high character, who had been unsuccessful in life, by far the most frequent cause of failure was that they were dilatory, unpunctual, unable to work cordially with others, obstinate in small things, and, in fact, what we call unbusinesslike.—Lord Avebury.

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# SAINT ELIZABETH

By ANNA B. PATTEN.

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It was a steady downpour of rain, such as taxed the resources even of our merry house party, that sent me to seek amusement in the portrait gallery at Redfern hall. From the time of my arrival, a week before, I had loved to stroll there daily, speculating over the probable history of those knights in armor and bearded dames of the past. My special favorite, however, was the portrait of a lovely young girl kneeling before her prie dieu, tolling her rosary. She was not strictly beautiful, but her face wore such a sweetly pensive expression, with so rapid and tender a look in the eyes, that she seemed to lack only the halo to become a saint.

It was before this picture that I stood, absorbed in admiration, when the housekeeper passed through, on her way to her quarters. I took the opportunity of gratifying my curiosity.

"That picture? Oh, that is Saint Elizabeth," she announced, in reply to my inquiry. "Poor thing! brushing her apron across her eyes, 'it's a sad story—the tragedy of the house, you know."

I did not know, but was so anxious to learn that Mrs. Fairbanks was finally prevailed upon to return with her sewing and relate the history of my favorite portrait. "And a long story it is," she precluded, as we settled ourselves in a cozy alcove where we could be free from interruptions, yet within sight of Saint Elizabeth at her devotions. "A long story, though her life was short enough, poor dear! There's very few people as knows of it but me. My mother was housekeeper at the time, and she told me all the facts of the case."

After a brief silence, during which Mrs. Fairbanks dropped her work and gazed pensively at the Madonna-like face, as if questioning whether she should divulge its hallowed history, she continued:

"It was in Master Rupert's time. He was a queer piece, I should judge, from what mother said—a sort of mixture. His mother was a Spaniard, and he got his quick temper from that side of the house, but he was cold and self-contained on the surface, like all the Redferns; so, you see, when he did give way to his anger, it was something fearful. Mother said that at such times everybody got out of the way who could possibly do so. Still he was flattered and made much of, for he was rich and titled, and the young ladies they smiled on him, and their mamma's entertained him, but it was all of no use. He cared nothing for any of them. He just buried himself in the library with his books, or up in the studio with his pictures, for he was a fine artist and could have made a fortune with his brush if he had a minded to, which only goes to prove that the Bible tells the truth when it says: 'To him that hath shall be given.' Mrs. Fairbanks paused to take breath after this bit of Scriptural philosophy.

"So you see, after awhile the gentry folks they sort of gave him up. They all came to the conclusion that there never would be a mistress at the hall, but, bless me, they made a mistake! One summer Master Rupert flew off on a sketching trip—he was always doing that way, starting off without a moment's notice, and expecting his things to be all packed up and ready. Well, he met her by accident, in some out-of-the-way place in the mountains, and it was all up with him. He made up his mind to marry her on the spot. Every one wondered afterward at his choice. To be sure she had a lovely face, but then she was only a slim bit of a girl, with shy, shrinking ways; not at all the grand lady you'd think he'd have picked out for the mistress of this great house.

"As for the girl, poor little thing, living there in the wilds, she had nothing to say in the matter except her 'yes' at the altar. It was all fixed up between Sir Rupert and her mother; she simply obeyed her mother now, as she had done every hour of her life. It probably never occurred to her that she could do anything else. "Ah, but it was a gala day, they say, when the master brought his wife home! The bells were rung, bonfires were built, and flower-girls strewed blossoms in their path. She seemed awed by all the splendor, and a little frightened at being the center of so much attention. She shrank closer to her husband and glanced up at him timidly, but, instead of cheering her by a sweet word of encouragement, he just spoke stern like to her, as if to remind her of her duty. Oh, yes, he was fond of her; you could see that by the way his eyes followed her from place to place, but, like all the Redferns, he didn't believe in showing it.

"Well, there were gay goings-on for a time. The house was full of guests, and my lady was made much of, and some of her timidity was beginning to wear away; but now it was the master's turn to grow uneasy. It almost seemed as if he was jealous of every look and smile she gave another. You see, he knew he hadn't touched her heart, and he feared to have it awakened. All at once he stopped inviting friends to the hall; he shut her up like a bird in a gilded cage, and gloated over her all to himself, in his cruel, selfish way. He loved to dress her up in jewels and fine clothes and pose her for different pictures—that is one of them that you admire so much.

"Then he took up his books again, and she must always be near by, curled up like a mouse in one of the lounging-chairs, ready to do his bidding. She yielded to him, as she had yielded to her mother, without a word of complaint. Only once she rebelled; that was when he scoffed at her devotion to her religion. Then she turned on him with a look in her eyes that told him he had gone too far. Perhaps he came to the conclusion that religion was not the worst rival a man could have; that, on the contrary, it was more than likely to keep a woman out of mischief. Anyway, it was plain enough to see, my mother said, that the poor, starved little creature must have some outlet for her pent-up affection, so she poured out her soul in devotion at the sacred shrine of the Virgin Mary. Perhaps she found there the mother love she had never known.

"Well, the master let her practice her whim undisturbed, so long as it did not interfere with his pleasure. The unused chapel was opened, and she spent hours at her aves and fasters, and many a day in penitential fasting. A priest came over from the adjoining diocese to hear her confession, though what misdemeanors such a saint from heaven could have to lay bare the Lord alone knew. That was how she happened to get the name of Saint Elizabeth.

hook, and then walk swiftly toward the confessional.

"It was a minute before Hawkins could pull himself together. He had not once thought of this probable outcome of the tragedy. With terror of the coming revelation, he sprang forward to intercept him, but he was too late. Father Dominic lifted the curtain, and my lady, glancing up, startled by the interruption, saw his face. She sprang to her feet, starting dazedly from one quiet figure to the other. She drew her hand across her forehead in a bewildered way, then suddenly darted forward and tore the cowl from the other's face. When she saw what it revealed she gave a shriek of horror and sank down at his feet!"

"Not dead!" I exclaimed, quite overcome by this startling development.

"Yes, stone dead! She never breathed again. It was her heart, the doctor said, and true enough, hadn't she had enough to break a heart of granite?"

"Oh, please go on, Mrs. Fairbanks. What happened next?"

The housekeeper shook her head mournfully.

"There isn't much more to tell. Hawkins said as how he held his breath as the two men faced each other, both so white and stern. His master's eyes had lost their wild glare, they had a look of agony as they met those of the priest, and his hands had been clenched so fiercely that they had left the marks of the nails in his palms. He caught the priest fiercely by the arm. 'Is it true,' he whispered, 'what she confessed here at my feet, that she was trying to make me care for her—I that worshipped her—night and morning she prayed for this—it was the hope of her life?'"

The priest bowed his head solemnly.

"Too true, dear saint! Sometimes she was almost disheartened by your coldness toward her, but she never quite despaired."

"The master fell back as if he had been struck a blow.

"My God! and I had to sit silent for fear of revealing myself, and now it is too late! Strike me, priest, where I stand, a blasphemous hound. Do you hear? You will not? Your sacred calling forbids it, eh? But it would not have spared you from my hand. I came here to kill you, and now I have slain her, the innocent lamb! A life for a life, your Bible says—and before the priest could prevent him he drew a pistol from his pocket and shot himself through the heart."

In the silence that followed the somber close of the housekeeper's story I turned once more to the portrait of Saint Elizabeth, wondering whether she had at last found compensation for her short life's tragedy. A pale sunbeam that broke through the clouds just then touched the bowed girl's head as with the halo omitted by the painter; that was my question's only answer.

GIVE HIM THE HAT.

Summer Lying Opens with a Bang Out in Kansas.

Kansas opens the season for hunting and fishing stories with a crash that makes other people sit up and take notice. Comrade Thomas B. Murdock, Ninth Kansas cavalry, who has been publishing the Eldorado (Kan.) Republican for 40 years, makes a long-distance and successful leap for the center of the stage by his story in reply to one by Owen Wistar. Comrade Murdock turns to his war diary, and finds that in October, 1862, his company was at Fort Halleck, near Medicine Bow river. A mile or so northeast of the fort was a lake, which was nightly covered with wild fowl. Every night there would be an acre or so of them bunched together in the middle of the lake. Murdock and some of his comrades put in their time for days preparing for a hunting excursion. They had a mountain howitzer that held an even bushel. They swiped four boxes of ammunition from the quartermaster and took from each cartridge the lead slug and six buckshot it contained. They put the powder into a flour sack, and estimated that they had 700 Mississippi yager slugs and 4,200 buckshot. They pulled the howitzer out to the lake, and planted it so as to sweep the center, the muzzle being on a level with the water. A hurried survey showed them that there were about 17,000 ducks feeding in the moonlight, sweetly enjoying themselves and dreaming of no danger. When the lanyard was pulled the foundations of Medicine Bow mountain trembled. The boat was manned to gather up the booty, while two of the boys rushed back to the fort for a six-mile team to haul in the game. As a good soldier, Comrade Murdock had to make a careful count of the matter turned into the commissary, and he gives this as the result:

Canada geese ..... 103  
White geese ..... 147  
Brants ..... 284  
Mallards ..... 283  
Canvas backs ..... 284  
Blue bills ..... 40  
Fin tails ..... 27  
Teals ..... 159  
Unknown geese ..... 173  
Turkey ducks ..... 226  
Sandhill cranes ..... 7  
Fly-up-the-creeks ..... 18

Grand total ..... 1,546

And it should be recalled that the shot brought a sea of speckled trout to the surface of the water which were gathered up and taken to the fort. The Ben Holiday stage line, as far east as Virginia Dale and as far west as the North Platte river, was bountifully supplied with ducks, geese and mountain trout the next day, to the delight of the overland travel. As the Eagle man knows nothing about war, we will inform him that when the geese and ducks had all been picked, each soldier in the Kansas cavalry company had a pillow. We have ours now.

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BUREAU OF SOILS

Continued from Page One.

ment. It serves as a summary of the best that is known about soils and a covered. Such service is essential to the individual welfare of the citizen and to the well-balanced, systematic development of the national soil resources.

The importance of the soil survey as a factor in national development may be judged from the fact that the value of the annual products of the soil has now reached \$5,000,000,000, and in the conservative estimate of the experts of the bureau of soils this stupendous amount might easily be doubled within the next twenty years through a complete comprehension of the full capabilities of soils now cultivated and the discovery of the proper uses for soils not now cultivated.

While the European countries have been debating the possibility of such investigations in their own regions the United States has covered a territory greater than many of them possess. And yet the total area covered by detailed soil surveys in the United States is a little less than two-thirds that of the state of Texas.

In the New England states the soil survey has aided in the development of the tobacco industry in the Connecticut Valley, in the reforestation of mountain and hill lands in New Hampshire, and in the study of the exceptionally valuable potato soils in northern Maine.

In North Carolina the bureau of soils is co-operating with the state department of agriculture, and that institution is following the work of the soil survey by establishing branch experiment stations in such localities as have been covered by the soil surveys.

In the central states the study of the corn soils and the separation of these from the soils peculiarly adapted to wheat production is being conducted. In Michigan and Wisconsin a study has been made of the sugar-beet soils and of the possible extension of sugar-beet production.

northern parts of both of these states might well be reforested. Problems in the Use of Soils. The great problem of the north-eastern states is so to utilize their soils that they may produce upon an intensive scale those crops which yield large returns per acre, which have a particular market value in the great seaboard cities, and which may be produced practically without competition from the more level central prairie states.

In the south Atlantic states the problems are similar, except that large areas of unoccupied land still exist, and that the problem of the drainage of a portion of these lands along the coast and the determination of their value is paramount. Farther inland, in the Piedmont section, the prevention of soil erosion is one of the chief problems.

In the Gulf states the development of special industries along the coast is showing uses for lands which have previously been considered of little or no agricultural importance, and lands once held at a nominal value for their timber stand have a greater value as agricultural lands even after the timber has been removed.

In the far west the opening of Indian reservations and the extension of irrigation systems annually make available for agricultural purposes large tracts of land about which there is little or no information, so far as the nature of the soil and its peculiar fitness for various crops is concerned.

All new tracts of land of this character are widely advertised and the cautious home seeker avails himself of all information that will enable him to make a wise selection. In such areas where soil surveys have been made the reports are eagerly sought for, but the increase in the number of new and favorable localities in the fast-developing western states emphasizes the necessity of making these additional soil surveys if the department is to furnish this information to the farmer.

The bureau aids continued active co-operation with the reclamation service in surveying the soils of the various projects under construction. This is likewise essential to the complete success of these undertakings on the part of the government to make homes for the people in what are at present arid wastes.

A noteworthy achievement just accomplished is the completion of a reconnaissance survey of an area of approximately 40,000 square miles in western North Dakota, in the great plains region. This region includes that portion of the country west of the one hundredth meridian and east of outlying ranges of the Rockies, extending from the Canadian boundary on the north to the Rio Grande on the south, and contains several hundred thousand square miles.

The transformation of these plains into prosperous farming communities has progressed rapidly during the past few years, owing largely to fertile virgin soil, favorable rainfall conditions, and proper dry-farming methods. Detailed soil surveys in various parts of this extensive area have given the new settlers exact knowledge of the soils of certain restricted localities, and in order to protect the interests of the homesteader it seemed imperative to complete as soon as possible a general or reconnaissance survey of this entire region to determine just what soils can be expected to yield remunerative crops in dry seasons as well as in years blessed with abundant rainfall and what crops can be grown most profitably.

will be transferred to south Texas, where an area of several thousand miles will be surveyed, the party returning to complete the survey of eastern Montana the following spring. In my opinion this reconnaissance survey of the Great Plains should be vigorously prosecuted until complete knowledge of the soil conditions in the form of maps and reports for the entire region is available to all who wish to make homes in this section of the country.

START A FLOCK OF SHEEP. Go Slow at First, Use Good Stock and Profit is Sure.

Six or ten good ewes are quite enough for a starter if you are thinking of going into sheep raising on the average farm. It is not a good plan to start on a larger scale because there are many things to learn.

The middle-wool breeds, when fattened, both layer and marble their meat well. This quality makes them winners both on foot and on the block and popular with buyer and consumer. Their good flesh-making qualities above mentioned are also of value in maturing the lambs early, thus giving the breeder the chance to put them on the market at almost any age, from 6 weeks to a year.

The long wools place much more fat in and upon their carcasses, thus not giving as good quality of carcass, but heavy weights when mature sell at a somewhat lower price. Oxford Down is the largest and heaviest fleeced of all Down breeds; some of its heaviest specimens weigh over 400 pounds, and probably no breed, except the Lincolns, have produced heavier weights.

The Leicester is not altogether satisfactory for the average farmer. They are a bit tender, but are fine of bone and grow a fleece of excellent quality, though sometimes it is too open or thin.

The market aptitude of the representatives of this breed to fatten readily is remarkable, backs, and frequently the same aptitude produces a soft and uneven covering. The Border Leicester, originated from an infusion of Cheviot blood, is generally stronger in bone and more vigorous than the English type.

ALASKAN BIRDS IN CALIFORNIA. Strange Visitors Brought to San Bernardino by Big Storm.

At an early hour this morning several flocks of strange birds numbering thousands came into the city on the wings of a big rain and wind storm, and this morning the bodies of many of the fowl were found lying inert in the downtown streets and in the parks, says a San Bernardino correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle.

SHOCKED IN HAUNTED CHAMBER. Sleepers' Fright, However, Was Not Caused by Ghosts.

John Leech and a member of the Millais family once stayed a night at Cowdry hall, in England, where, many guests being present, the two friends had no alternative but to accept beds in an isolated room supposed to be haunted.

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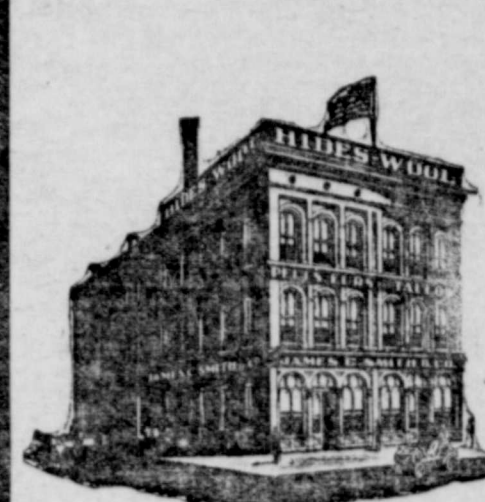
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WHEN WRITING ADVERTISERS Mention The Journal.

St. Joseph, Mo. Topeka, Kan. Wichita, Kan. Grand Island, Neb. TALLOW, FURS, PELTS, WOOL, HIDES



THE Eastern hide markets have declined about 1-2c the past week and large buyers seem to be out of the market for the present, waiting for developments, hoping to be able to buy hides lower. The best hides of the year have already been picked up and receipts are now running a very large percentage grubby. We look for lower prices by first of the year so we advise keeping your stock well shipped out. Tallow market is steady with fair demand. Furs are active and are bringing top prices. Kindly note advances on some grades of furs. Let us have your shipments.

GREEN CURED HIDES No. 1, No. 2. Natives, 10c. Side brands, over 40 lbs., 7c. Bulls and stags, 7c. Green salt cured skins if flat, 5c. Green salt cured deacons, 5c.

Green mottled hides, 1 1/2c less than same grade cured. Horse half cured, 1/2c less than cured. Horse hides, green, No. 1, \$2.50-\$3.75. Horse hides, No. 2, \$1.50-\$3.75. Green pony hides, \$1.00. Sheep pelts, green, \$2.00-\$3.00. Dried, according to wool, per pound, \$4.00.

DRY HIDES Dry flint butcher, heavy, 16c. Dry flint, heavy, 15c. Dry flint, under 16 lbs., 14c. Dry salt heavy, 13c. Dry cattle, 12c. Tallow, No. 1, 10c. Tallow, No. 2, 9c. Dressed, 8c.

FURS Raccoon, large, prime, \$6.85-\$11.00. Raccoon, medium, 5.00-5.50. Raccoon, small and No. 2, 3.00-3.50. Skunk, black prime, 1.00-1.40. Skunk, short, 80c-1.15. Skunk, narrow stripe, .60c-.95. Skunk, broad, .30c-.45. Mink, large, black, 3.00-4.00. Mink, medium, 2.00-2.75. Mink, small and No. 2, 1.00-1.75.

FURS Opossum, large cased, .20c-.25. Opossum, medium, .15c-.20. Opossum, small, .05c-.10. Muskrat, winter, .25c-.30. Muskrat, fall, .15c-.20. Kites, .15c-.20. House Cats, .05c-.10. Fox, gray, .20c-.25. Fox, red, prime, 1.25-2.25.

FURS Wolf, prime mountain, 1.00-2.25. Wolf, prairie, .25c-.50. Wild Cat, .25c-.50. Beaver, large, each, 4.00-7.00. Beaver, medium, 3.00-5.00. Badger, No. 1, .15c-.20. Others worthless. Otter, prime, large, 7.00-10.00.

SHIP FURS BY EXPRESS FAST AS ACCUMULATED. JAMES C. SMITH & CO. Second and Edmond Sts., St. Joseph, Mo. - Bell Telephone 995.

Do You Want to Make Some Money? If So, Get in on the Ground Floor. Buy Lots in the New Town of SCHERER, TEXAS

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