ix County Journal.

TABLISHED 1888.] CIAL COUNTY PAPER. APER IN THE COUNTY. ARGEST CHETCLATION OF ANY BLISHED IN SIOUX COUNTY. cription Price, \$2.00 - - - Editor. the Harrison post office

SDAY, MAY 26, 1892.

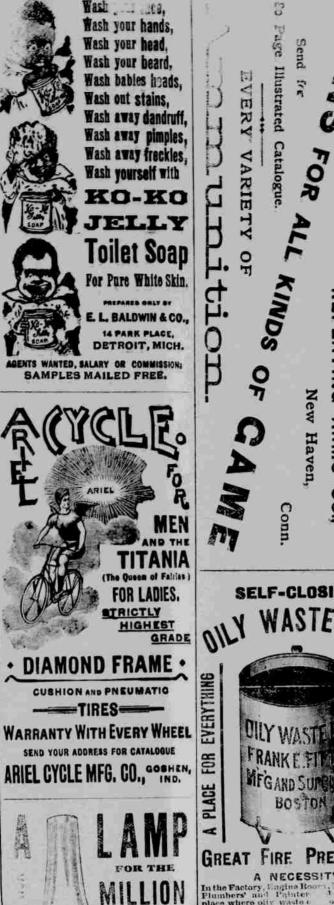
table Sheep Industry. by W. P. Young at the Waterlo the Iowa Fine Stock Breeder

sing sheep husbandry, u the past with the present. besying the future of the ry, there are so many point. ed that some will either ighted or not brought up in It is a settled fact that andry is becoming one industries of this country. next few years sheep will is successively the cow, the e hog. A few years ago d scarcely afford to keep flock of sheep; now no rural plete without at least a We naturally ask "What is this change?" In order to ust go back a little: A few p were raised almost exwool, but as they improved im their mution qualitie known, the demand mow mutton is extensively nes of the wealthy of the as then that the heavy was in demand, but owdiminitive size they no ebest as pure-breds. Th is one that weighs 150 ton easily, and produce a antable wool that weight twelve pounds. Where find such a sheep? Scarce pure breds are up to that vare, as a usual thing. for wool or wholly for Shropshire comes nearest -purpose sheep. But their too coarse and the fleece nother difficulty with the that they are too expenmer to buy. So we see find the best quality of resort to cross breeding. experience for the past started with a flock of We crossed them with Leicester rams for four t two crosses produced ely formed sheep as we with a fleece of the wool weighing from 10 to next two crosses held wool was loose and of ty. They also acquired hty of the Leicester and the tallow separated unlike the Shropshire or r this we tried cros Merino ram. This proeffect on the wool, but ook after the Merino. we crossed with a This brought us the mutton sheep, also the wool, but the weight decreased about two last two years we have rams exclusively. We ak that yields on an ght to ten pounds of in quality, however, Southdown ram. The d, and they are probrangy than the Southuality of the mutton is of any sheep we ever also tried a Shropshure es. The result may be failure. It gave us a lank, hard to fatten and hairy wool. From ave obtained we think man can make for a a Merino basis, crossed ire or Southe wn ram. compare the profits in profits in hogs, although sk, the mode of feeding nt. We will take it as de from our experience two years. We will pital of \$450. At \$6 per uy 75 sheep. The flock ing require 70 acres of the land at \$4 per acre #280. By the end of the has increased to about 150. original number of ewes 75 sheep averaging 150 ht. These are worth five d, and are worth a total he 150 fleeces averaging worth 22 cents per pound The amount of expenditure amount of sales, together of the herd in possession aking a gain of 104 per y expended. With the we buy 45 hogs at 1,975 busbels of corn, one half bushels of r offspring, 300 pigs, 9 days, and will re-usiels of corn. This 4,075 busiels of corn 5 30 cents per bushel 50. At selling time pounds, and at three per, pound are worth

\$1.925; micken - profit of 20 percent. This I think will hold good for the best two years. There is a great deal more risk with bogs and they require more time and labor. We have not fed steers very extensively for the last few years. and would hardly be able to compare them, but judging from the few we have fed we think they would run about the same as hogs. The care of sheep is very small compared with the care required by other animals. The only time they need care is the coldest part of the win ter, and when the lambs come in the spring. This makes it easy for a farmer to care for them in connection with farming. They are easily held in a pasture, and if they do break into a corn field they do not damage the crop. In fact it is a good plan to turn the lambs into a corn field a month before the corn is ripe, if there are no burrs to damage the wool. I will now conclude with a few remarks about fiting sheep for market. In September we wean the lambs and pick out about 75 of the best ewes, under four years of age, for breeding purposes. The remaining ewes, together with the wether lambs, we put on good pasture until snow comes. We then begin feeding a slight allowance of grain, about a bushel to the hundred speep per day, We continue this up to the first of March. We then increase the the feed to a quart per day per sheep. We continue this for about a month and a half. which is as long as they should be fed. Good hay should be fed in connection with the grain; clover hay is usually, preferred. Fodder is good. When not covered with snow blue grass is much better than hay, and largely] takes the place of corn. Pure water should be kept within reach, especially in the heat of summer. When fattening they should have a clean place in which to feed. The corn should be put in troughs. Hay should be fed in racks placed as low as possible, for if they are placed above the sheep the chaff continually drops into the wool of the sheep and hurts the sale of it. The sheep should be clipped before being sold for there will be more profit from selling the wool

separate than when on the backs of the sheep. Especially is this true if the wool be of a good quality. The best time to sell is usually just before grass comes, say in April. The market is us ually good at that time, in fact it is good at any time, and promises to be better for the next few years, for mutton will largely take the place of beef and pork in the far future. \$

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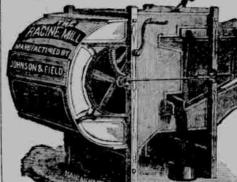
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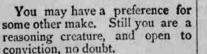
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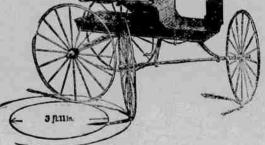
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