

POISONOUS PLANTS OF THE WESTERN RANGES

PREPARED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



LOCO WEEED, OR RATTLEWEED

Each year poisonous plants are responsible for large losses of live stock on the western ranges. Although there is a large list of plants whose poisonous qualities might possibly do harm this annual loss is almost entirely the work of a very limited number. If stockmen, indeed, would learn to recognize without fail half a dozen of the more dangerous plants their stock would go through the year practically unharmed. Many stockmen already possess this knowledge, but it is also true that there are others who do not know what plants to avoid or where these enemies are most likely to be found. Common names, such as "loco," "poison weed" and "parsnip" are used in a very indefinite way.

Of these plants the cicuta, or water hemlock (Fig. 1), is the only one that is dangerous to man. It causes excessive frothing at the mouth, gnashing of teeth, pain and nausea which result in violent convulsions, and even death. It is poisonous at any season but does most of its damage in the spring and early summer. For domestic animals there is no remedy, but an emetic will frequently save man. It grows from three to four feet in height with a white flower. The root is the poisonous portion of the plant.

The locos are perhaps the most common of all the more poisonous plants. There are many varieties, but the one illustrated in figure 2 is one of the worst. It affects horses, cattle and sheep, causing progressive emaciation which after a time varying from a few weeks to two or three years may bring about starvation for the animal ceases ultimately either to eat or to drink.



TALL LARKSPUR

Good food, laxatives, strychnine for cattle and Fowler's solution for horses are recommended as remedies. All parts of the plant are poisonous. It is from six inches to a foot in height with flowers that vary from pure white to shades of purple and pink. The larkspur on the other hand affects only cattle. There are two common varieties—the tall larkspur (Fig. 3) and the low larkspur. The tall larkspur grows from three to seven feet in height and the low from six inches to one and one-half feet. The flowers of both are violet-blue and purple. All parts of the plant are poisonous, but after it has blossomed the poisonous properties are lost. It is most to be feared, therefore, in spring and early summer. The first symptoms are repeated falling, accompanied by such weakness that the animal is unable to rise for some time. When on its feet it staggers. Nausea and vomiting come later and death from respiratory paralysis is apt to be the outcome. The affected animals should be kept still with their heads up and hypodermic injections of eserine and whisky administered.



LYPINE

Sheep find the lupine particularly dangerous. This plant (Fig. 4) grows from one to two feet in height with flowers of a light blue or blue-violet. All pods and seeds are poisonous in the late summer or fall. Sheep suffering from lupine poisoning, show nervousness and weakness. They become unduly sleepy and suffer from partial paralysis and are ultimately taken with convulsions which lead to death. The zygaenus, or death camas (Fig. 5) is also particularly dangerous to sheep, but it affects horses and cattle as well. All parts of the plant are poisonous but the seed especially so. Frothing at the mouth, vomiting, trembling, with spasmodic gasping for breath are symptoms of this poisoning. It is not unusual for the animal to lie for days before death relieves it. The color of the flower is greenish yellow, the plant growing from four inches to one and one-half feet in height.

If stockmen will familiarize themselves with the appearance of these plants and with the symptoms that they cause it is believed that they can safeguard their herds from them without serious difficulty. Bulletins describing in detail some of the plants have already been issued by the United States department of agriculture and will be sent free on application while the department's supply lasts. The plants already described are those which it is most necessary to avoid.

Spider's Wonderful Web.
The spider is so repulsive as to cause a shudder in those who look upon it, and it is of no use in the world except for destruction of flies and other detestable insects, all making for a population that no army of spiders can exterminate. The housewife and all the rest of mankind may exorcise the flies, but they would rather have a million flies than one spider; yet this infinitely disgusting creature of incomprehensible nature produces a thread and with magical facility flings it into wonderful web forms which baffle all explanation of the geometrical.

Few of the curiosities of the myriad insect world are so marvelous as the spinning of the spider and the silk-worm. Many attempts have been made to utilize the spider for the production of silk, but the worm remains the almost absolute monopolist, though artificial silks are made from cotton and other material by an expensive treatment which are claimed to be equal to the real article in luster and elasticity.

Mineral Product of Washington.
The value of the mineral products of Washington, according to the United States geological survey, increased from \$15,347,213 in 1912 to \$17,578,743 in 1913.

convincing evidence of the ease with which errors in copying would arise during the earliest period in the history of the text.

The second document, dating from the fifth century, is an amulet or charm, probably worn around the neck, as it was tightly folded up and tied with a string.

May Be Made Big Industry.
In the Philippines the government is making great efforts to improve the quality of tobacco grown there.

FOR THE BUSY MAN

NEWS EPITOME THAT CAN SOON BE COMPASSED.

MANY EVENTS ARE MENTIONED

Home and Foreign Intelligence Condensed into Two and Four Line Paragraphs.

WAR NEWS.

The first shipment of cotton from the United States bound for Germany since the war began has reached Rotterdam.

A report from Friedrichshafen by way of Geneva says that in the recent British aerial raid on Cuxhaven one of the latest super-Zeppelins was destroyed by bombs.

The loss of the French submarine Curie is confirmed. The Curie was engaged in an attempt against the warships at the Austrian naval base of Pola and ventured there alone.

The Belgian borders have been closed by the German administration to all persons except those holding special military passes. This measure, it is understood, has been taken to prevent espionage.

Four German aeroplanes flew several times over the city of Dunkirk, dropping bombs as they went. Soldiers in the streets fired on the machines and one tube seemed to be hit, but all got safely away.

Italy has ordered the cruiser Calabria at Beirut, Syria, to render any necessary aid to the American Cruiser North Carolina should there be further demonstrations against the departure of Europeans from Turkish territory.

The British government, through the naval and military authorities, apparently fearing a raid over British towns by German airships, has issued a warning to the people to take to cover should the sound of firing be heard.

The Russian government has authorized the official news agency to deny in the most categorical manner the statement that Russia has ceded to Japan half the island of Sakhalin, in exchange for heavy artillery. It is asserted that the report is absolutely unfounded.

Total losses to Scandinavian shipping through mine disasters were as follows up to mid December: Sweden, eight ships and sixty lives; Denmark, six vessels and six lives; Norway, five vessels and six lives; Holland three vessels and fifteen lives. The total financial loss for the twenty-two ships and their cargoes will reach nearly \$10,000,000.

The United States has invited the South and Central America governments to send representatives to Washington to confer with the treasury department officials and American financiers on financial and commercial problems arising from the European war, with the idea of bringing the two continents into closer commercial relations.

GENERAL.

From 10 to 11 o'clock in the morning and from 10 to 11 o'clock at night are the hours when a boy or girl can do the best work in school, according to Prof. Frank E. Lake of Boston, who spoke before the National Commercial Teachers' federation at Chicago.

More than 150 prominent prelates of the Catholic church throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota, paid honor to the right Rev. James McGolrick at a dinner at the Kitchi Gamm club at Duluth, in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration to the bishopric of Duluth.

Republican leaders of Minnesota, seeking rehabilitation of the party in this state, met at St. Paul and perfected an organization to be known as the Republican league, elected temporary officers, issued various plans for strengthening the party, and decided to hold a state convention not later than July 1, 1915.

The Yaqui river in Southern Sonora has gone on a rampage drowning stock, washing away bridges, destroying crops, farming improvements and irrigation ditches. The inhabitants have sought safety in the hills.

Seven persons were killed and many others injured in a train collision recently on the Great Eastern railway near Irford, five miles from London. Some of the railroad cars were reduced to splinters. The victims of the accident are mostly city clerks.

Brigadier General Robert Henry Hall, retired veteran of the civil and the Spanish wars, died at Chicago. He was born in Detroit seventy-seven years ago.

It is stated by Chicago charity people that one-tenth of the population of that city receives public charity.

Mrs. Margerite Snyder of Rockford, Ill., was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary for conspiracy to defraud the estate of John Robert of Tacoma. Her claim as granddaughter of Robert was thrown out of court.

Rules of conduct of amateur athletes, the violation of which will be considered unsportsmanlike, ungentlemanly and dishonorable, were recommended by a special committee of the athletic research society in annual session at Chicago.

The utilities bureau, through which it is proposed that municipalities throughout the country may co-operate in exchanging data concerning rates, service standards and cost factors in public utilities, was permanently organized at Philadelphia.

As a New Year greeting to its 2,600 employees the Twin City Rapid transit company of St. Paul, Minn., announced that a pension plan providing retirement on practically half pay at the age of 65 years, has been adopted, together with plans for accident, sickness and death benefits.

"If the national government wishes the various states to maintain a citizen soldiery, it should furnish a greater incentive to the young men of the country to become soldiers," Governor Dunne of Illinois said, in addressing the officers of the Illinois National guard, who went to Springfield to pay their annual New Year's call on their commander-in-chief.

The sum of \$2,430,000 was obtained for Wellesley college in the fourteen months just ended, according to a statement given out by the treasurer, Lewis K. Morse, at Boston. Of the amount, \$430,000, including a conditional pledge of \$200,000 from the general educational board was raised before the fire of March 17, 1914, when college hall was burned. The remaining \$2,000,000 includes a pledge from the Rockefeller foundation of \$750,000.

For the second time within a week a robber was killed at St. Louis by the storekeeper, whom he tried to hold up. The dead man was identified as Charles Tozer, a police character, 30 years old. He was killed by George Vasileopoulos, a restaurant owner, while two accomplices were attempting to empty the cash register. Tozer entered the restaurant with leveled revolver and drove the owner and a patron into the kitchen. There Vasileopoulos seized his own revolver from a shelf and shot the robber as he entered the kitchen door. Tozer died in the arms of a policeman attracted by the shot. His accomplices escaped.

WASHINGTON.

Another warning was given by the State department to Americans contemplating travel abroad that they must provide themselves with proper passports.

The Interstate Commerce commission has ordered a hearing to be held at Omaha on January 14 in the case of Abel Roberts against the Missouri Pacific Railroad company.

American farms during 1914 eclipsed all records for combined value of their products, with a total of almost ten billion dollars, announced Secretary Houston, of the department of agriculture.

Advances of approximately 2 cents a hundred pounds in the freight rates on cement from all the principal cement-producing points west of the Mississippi river in trunk line territory, were sustained in part by the interstate commerce commission.

A bill to authorize the legislature of Hawaii to extend the right of suffrage to women was introduced in the house by Delegate Kalaniano'le. The measure would permit the legislature to submit the question to a popular referendum.

Nearly half a million dollars was spent by candidates of all parties last November in the first popular election of United States senators in the history of the government. To be exact \$460,777.25 represents the total of sworn statements filed with the secretary of senatorial honors from thirty-one states.

Woman suffragists who called on Representative Henry, chairman of the house rules committee, learned that the proposed suffrage constitutional amendment probably would be voted on in the house January 12. Mr. Henry said he expected to see the amendment defeated by more than a two-thirds vote.

Venezuela has formally proposed to all the neutral governments of Europe and Asia, as well as the two Americas, that a conference be held in Washington to revise or supplement the rules of international law respecting the rights of neutrals in the present war.

The German government has notified the state department that American consuls in Belgium must be acceptable to the German military authorities, and that it is desirable that some of the consuls be withdrawn.

FOOD LAW OBEYED

REPORTS STATE FOOD COMMISSIONER HARMAN.

FRAUD AND DECEPTION CEASED

Nebraska Laws Are Considered Far in Advance of Laws in Many Other States.

Lincoln.—State Food Commissioner C. E. Harman says in his biennial report to Governor Morehead that the state food, drug, dairy and oil commission of which he is the head, has had plenty of funds to enforce the laws and that the laws are now generally obeyed. Men in business as well as the public approve the state laws. The greater portion of the time of inspectors is now devoted to the proper sanitary protection of food products in their manufacture, distribution and sale. Adulteration and fraud and deception have almost wholly ceased. The Nebraska laws are considered far in advance of the laws of many other states and other states often copy from them. Nebraska was among the first states to place a "net weight" law on its statute books.

Commissioner Harman makes few recommendations. He will, however, have one or two amendatory bills introduced in the coming legislature. He desires an amendment to better the quality of cream produced in this state by having it sold on a basis of quality instead of a basis of quantity.

Should Be Declared a Felony.
In regard to prosecutions the commission says his inspectors filed 165 complaints in the past two years and secured judgments in favor of the state in all but one case, and two cases are still pending.

Commission for Belgian Relief.

At a meeting called by Governor Morehead about forty mayors of cities or their representatives met in the executive offices and organized the Nebraska Commission for Belgian Relief. J. E. Miller of Lincoln was elected president of the organization, Earl D. Malloy of Alliance, secretary. It is probable that the legislature will be asked to furnish only enough money for clerk hire sufficient to run the headquarters so that all donations made may go direct and in full to their destination. An executive committee will be appointed by the president and a proclamation issued to the people so that all desiring to donate anything of value will know how to proceed.

Travelers Invite Governor.

Governor Morehead received an invitation to speak at the national meeting of the travelers' protective association, an organization which is to meet in Omaha June 14. The invitation was extended in person by George E. Bergeron of Omaha of the program committee. An effort will be made to induce President Wilson to speak at the meeting.

G. A. R. Want \$15,000 Appropriated.

At the recent session of the executive officers of the Grand Army of the Republic of Nebraska, it was decided to ask the legislature to appropriate \$15,000 to be applied on railroad fare for survivors of the battle of Vicksburg who may desire to attend the anniversary of that battle.

Number of Silos More Than Doubled.

The number of silos in Box Butte County was more than doubled during the past season following an excursion made by farmers and business men. As the result of this event, five stave silos and nine pit silos were built. It is reported, also, that several other farmers are expecting to erect silos for next season's use.

Alliance City of First Class.

Alliance is now a city of the first class. Governor Morehead has issued a proclamation declaring that as the population of Alliance was shown to be over the prescribed number of 5,000, it was entitled to the honor of being placed in that category.

Nebraska Corn Show.

A complete program of the winter corn show will soon be distributed by Prof. F. Josiah Chase, corn show superintendent. The corn show will be open to the public at the Lincoln auditorium during the week of organized agriculture, January 18-23.

Before Supreme Court.

Validity of Omaha's ordinance, requiring public service corporations to elevate their overhead wires whenever required to do so by house movers, is to be tried by the supreme court.

Wants Veterinarian in Cattle Region.

Robert Graham of Alliance called on Governor Morehead to ask that two veterinarians employed by the state be retained in the cattle region of the northwestern part of the state where the scab exists among cattle. The government has been doing much to eradicate this parasitic disease, but the region is still under quarantine. The governor said he would try to induce the state board of sanitary livestock commissioners to retain two inspectors there pending action by the legislature.

NO NEED TO FEAR MEAT

Thorough Cooking of Uninspected Meat Will Render It Safe From Foot-and-Mouth Infection.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

According to the specialists of the department of agriculture people, even in states quarantined for the foot-and-mouth disease, need have no fear of eating meat, provided they cook it thoroughly. The foot-and-mouth disease is not easily communicated to human beings through food, although milk from a diseased cow might transmit the disease to a human being. In the case of milk, however, pasteurization will render it entirely safe. Human beings who do get the disease commonly get it from direct contact with a sick animal. It is wisest, therefore, for people to keep away from all animals having the disease, unless they are properly provided with rubber gloves, coats and boots, and these are thoroughly disinfected after each visit to the animals.

In the case of meat, as in the case of milk, it must be remembered that all herds which actually show the disease are quarantined, and neither milk nor meat from the sick animals can be sold. Sixty per cent of the meat used in this country is produced in nearly 900 federally inspected slaughtering and packing establishments located in 240 cities. In these establishments no animal is slaughtered until it has passed an ante-mortem inspection and also a most rigid post-mortem inspection by a veterinarian at the time of

slaughter. After slaughter its meat cannot leave the establishment until it has been carefully examined and stamped "U. S. Inspected and Passed." In all these establishments no animal showing any symptoms whatever of foot-and-mouth disease is allowed to go to slaughter, and no meat which, on post-mortem inspection, shows any suspicious symptoms of this complaint can be shipped out of the establishment. All meat suspected of coming from an animal suffering with this complaint is sent, under government seal, to the tanks to be rendered into fertilizer. The federal inspection stamp on meat, therefore, means that it is entirely safe.

The federal government, however, has no jurisdiction over local slaughter houses which do not ship meat outside of the state in which it is slaughtered. If, however, meat from such an animal did escape from one of these local slaughter houses, which are purely under state or municipal control, all danger of its communicating the disease to human beings would be removed when it is thoroughly cooked and sterilized. Those who are located near an infected region and wish to be absolutely certain of the safety of their meat should cook it thoroughly.

The disease when contracted by adults is not at all a serious illness. It commonly takes the form of slight fever sores in the mouth and a slight eruption on the fingers. In the case of small or sickly children, it may take a more serious form, especially if complicated by other illnesses.

FIND HOLY WRIT ON PAPYRI

Glasgow University Gets Priceless Manuscripts Discovered by Explorers in Egypt.

It was at Oxyrhynchus that the famous new "Sayings of Jesus" were recently found. The most important of the papyri is a fragment of the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters of John's gospel, dating from the end of the third century and substantially confirming the readings so largely

adopted by the New Testament revisers.

The fragment is further of importance as showing the outward form in which the New Testament writings were first circulated.

Their contents, it is known, were written in parallel columns on rolls of papyrus in upright letters of a medium size, and with no divisions between the words, and without punctuation marks, while the numerous lacunae, or breaks, caused by the brittle nature of the material, are themselves