

# Turning Weeds Into Sheep

By Robert H Moulton

The world needs more wool and to obtain the necessary supply of this commodity the country must raise more wool producers—there should be a flock of sheep on every farm

THE remarkable success recently achieved by Mr. Y. C. Mansfield of Endicott, Washington, in fattening several hundred head of sheep on the Australian salt-bush has created an interest in this once despised weed, which is rapidly spreading throughout the north-west states. One result of Mr. Mansfield's experiment is that other farmers on whose acres the weed grows have come to look upon what was formerly considered absolutely worthless land as a real bonanza, and they are now preparing to turn their attention from the raising of hogs and wheat to sheep, with the assurance that, under ordinary conditions, they can hardly fall short of Mr. Mansfield's success. They see opened before them what is practically a virgin field of sheep raising, offering wonderful possibilities.

As soon as the value of the salt-bush as a forage crop became generally known it undoubtedly will be cultivated in other sections of the West. As a matter of fact, it is now found along all the highways from Arizona to Washington, but very few people know its true name and fewer know that it is a valuable plant. In eastern Oregon it is generally known as the Pendleton flood weed, and has been looked upon as such a pest that there is a law in the state against allowing it to go to seed.

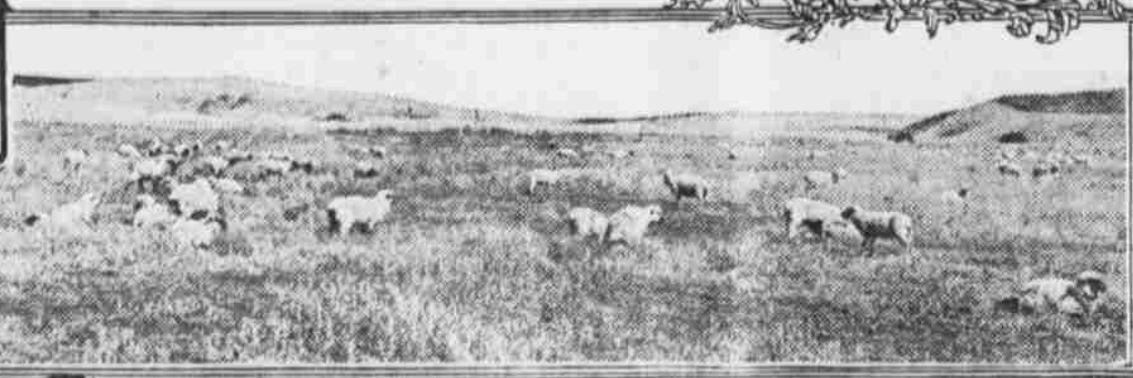
According to Mr. Mansfield, however, it is really of more value to eastern Oregon than the alfalfa plant, for not only is it a far better feed for sheep, but it will grow on the most arid land, and practically requires no attention after once getting a stand, as it grows in hard, firm soil better than on loose, well-cultivated land.

Mr. Mansfield's experience, as related by him to the writer, who was fortunate to visit the farm at a time when a thousand head of sheep had just been turned into a new pasture of the saltbush, when the accompanying photographs were taken, reads almost like a fairy story.

For several years Mr. Mansfield farmed 3,000 acres of land, all of which was wheat land with the exception of 150 acres, which were sub-irrigated alfalfa land. Finally the land became so foul with Russian thistles and Jim Hill mustard, that this, together with the high cost of labor and the low price of wheat, made it impossible for



AUSTRALIAN SALT-BUSH CUT FOR HAY



AUSTRALIAN SALT-BUSH PASTURE



SHOWING HEAVY FOLIAGE OF THE SALT-BUSH

him to longer continue in the growing of wheat alone without also keeping live stock to help pay the living expenses.

Accordingly, two years ago, he decided to invest in a flock of sheep, and it was while driving these home that he made the discovery which he has since turned to such good account.

Along the road near the Mansfield farm the salt-bush grew in abundance, and to Mr. Mansfield's infinite surprise the sheep began feeding upon it greedily. He figured upon the spot that he had destroyed \$500 worth of good sheep feed that year, besides wasting a great deal of labor, in trying to get rid of the weeds.

Last summer he pastured his entire flock of 1,000 sheep on the salt-bush with the most astonishing results. The sheep were not only exceedingly fat, but their wool was of a superior quality. Several neighboring farmers with small flocks of sheep followed Mr. Mansfield's experiment and their sheep, also, were in much better shape than those that were taken to the mountains during the summer.

During a period of two weeks last summer Mr. Mansfield's flock of 1,000 sheep was kept on less than five acres of ground that was growing Australian salt-bush, and they did not clean the feed all up at that. These five acres of land were two feed yards where he had fed stock for years and consequently they grew an immense amount of the weed, but ordinarily dry land which practically will not grow anything else, will produce this

weed. Later in the summer Mr. Mansfield made some hay of the weed, but on account of the scarcity of labor was not able to haul it in out of the shock. He had to turn his sheep through this hay to the stubble field, where there was plenty of other pasture, and they would stop and eat this hay. They cleaned it all up and saved the trouble of hauling it in.

Mr. Mansfield is not only very enthusiastic about the saltbush as a food for sheep, but believes it is good feed for other stock also. Hogs, cattle and horses, he states, eat it soon, and he believes that they would learn to like it as well as the sheep do if they were confined a short time on it. Sheep, he adds, must be confined on it a day or two before they relish it. Then they go to it with avidity. They do not, however, eat enough of it to make them sick and die, as they do on alfalfa and a great many other plants, but they get exceedingly fat on it.

The Australian saltbush is described as a much-branched perennial, which forms a thick mat over the ground a foot or 18 inches in depth, the branches extending from five to eight feet; one plant often covering an area of 15 to 20 square feet. The leaves are about an inch long, broadest at the apex, coarsely toothed along the margin, fleshy and somewhat mealy on the outside. The fruits are tinged with red, flattened and pulpy, but become dry as soon as they fall from the plant. The seeds germinate better if sown on the surface, which should be planked or firmed by driving a flock of sheep across it. When covered to any depth the seeds decay before germination.

The plant will grow on black alfalfa land that is really of no value for anything else on earth. Mr. Mansfield states that there are millions of acres of such land in the United States, which, if sown to this seed, undoubtedly would keep sheep enough to produce more wool and mutton than is now raised in the entire United States.

Mr. Mansfield adds that if cut for hay the saltbush should be cut while the branches are soft and tender, and the second crop will make considerable pasture and re-seed the ground.

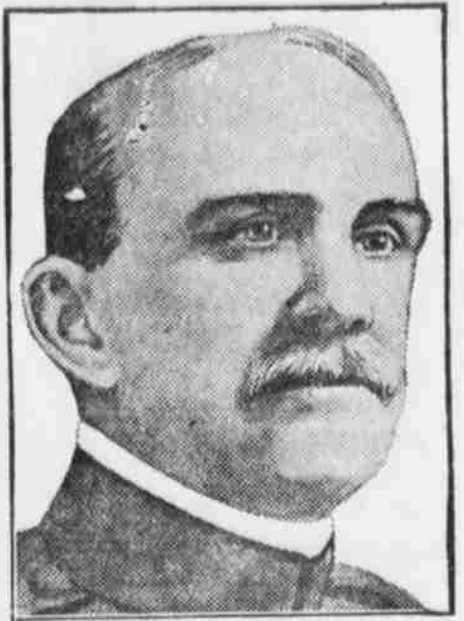
# IN THE LIMELIGHT

## GREATEST OF TOWN BUILDERS

Rome was not built in a day; but your Uncle Sam has on his payroll a uniformed patriot, a sort of super-contractor, who in five months has built 16 little Romes in the United States of America, a feat that takes its place in the annals of American history as one of the most remarkable achievements of the world's greatest republic, an engineering enterprise of modern times, rivaling in every way the work of General Goethals in building the Panama canal.

This man who has built towns over night is Col. Isaac W. Littell, quartermaster corps, war department, in charge of the construction of the cantonment camps for the training of the selective army now going into camp. To get a comprehensive idea of the wonderful work under the direction of Colonel Littell, acting as the representative of the secretary of war, one has but to make a few comparisons with cities of corresponding size in the states where the cantonments have been located many of the camps are as large as the nearby cities.

The cantonment at Wrightstown, N. J., houses a population almost equal to the entire resident population of Atlantic City. The 40,000 men under roof at Columbia, S. C., are more than two-thirds the population of Charleston, S. C. Two cantonments the size of Camp Meade at Annapolis Junction, Md., would make a second city of Wilmington, Del., home of the powder kings of America. The new camp at Fort Riley, Kan., mobilizes at that point a new city as big as Topeka in point of population. Texas' camp at Fort Sam Houston is greater than the city of El Paso.



## CARRIES BURDEN OF WAR FINANCE



Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City bank of New York, has entered upon his duties as chairman of the special committee appointed by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo to engineer the sale of \$2,000,000,000 of war savings certificates, provided for in the \$11,538,000,000 bond and certificate bill.

Mr. Vanderlip was at one time a reporter and later financial editor of the Chicago Tribune.

His headquarters will be in the treasury department, and he expects to spend about four days a week in Washington while engaged in the work of floating the war savings certificates. The remainder of his time he will spend in New York looking after his duties as president of the National City bank.

As chairman of the war savings certificates committee he will receive a salary from the government of \$1 a year. Mr. Vanderlip emphasized that he was not giving up his place with the bank or his other interests, but only was giving up his active work with them for the time being to devote his time to the government.

## CARES FOR SOLDIERS' COMFORT

"Begin shipping at once one and one-half million each knitted mufflers, sweaters, socks and wristlets. These are desperately needed before cold weather."

This is part of a cable message which was rushed to Red Cross headquarters in Washington the other month. It was sent by Maj. Grayson M. P. Murphy, head of the Red Cross commission in France, which is finding out exactly the needs of the men in the trenches.

An interviewer sped across the open grounds of the state, war and navy building to the new white haven of mercy on Seventeenth street to find out how this order was to be met. Realizing that only the recently created woman's bureau could handle such a demand, its circumscribed quarters in the much overcrowded building were sought.

The new director of the woman's bureau, Miss Florence M. Marshall, sat at a big desk in the midst of secretaries. A knitted sweater meant Christmas for someone in a foreign land, a partly made khaki comfort kit bespoke a thought of home care for some soldier lad.

By a happy combination of circumstances, just before the cable for the "woolies" came from France, the Red Cross had purchased 1,000,000 pounds of knitting wool, to be knitted by American women into garments to protect American soldiers and sailors from cold this winter. This yarn is being distributed to Red Cross warehouses and sold at lowest possible price to the chapters throughout the United States. The proceeds from the sales are turned back into the treasury of the Red Cross and made available for further purchases.



## MAY BRING PEACE TO WORLD



The least compromised of Germany's few really clever diplomats, Dr. Richard von Kuhlmann, has been recalled from Constantinople and placed at the head of the imperial foreign office. Many observers, both within and without the German empire, think that this young and brilliant diplomat has been appointed with a view to conducting peace negotiations, and they point to his residence in Constantinople, The Hague, and London as likely to render him conversant with the finer points of the difficulties to be encountered, and they recall his former popularity in the British capital as a proof of his acceptability as a mediator by the allies. Turning to purely German opinion, we find that Dr. von Kuhlmann is suspected by the pan-Germans as being too sympathetic to England, but by the great majority of the German press he is regarded with admiration and hope. Whatever side may preside over his activities, says the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger, his policy will assuredly exhibit a strong hand. Fate has given him a diplomat's greatest conceivable task, according to this journal, "which is to lead the first great military power, thus far alone victorious on the battlefields, toward a just and lasting peace by reconciliation."

# DECIPHERING WORLD'S OLDEST LOVE LETTER AT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE world's oldest love letter and the world's oldest map, so far found—these are two interesting discoveries just brought to light by Dr. Stephen Herbert Langdon of the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The love letter, on a tablet of clay, was, according to Doctor Langdon, written about the time of the patriarch Abraham.

It is true that in the translation romance gives way to commercialism, but nevertheless there is nothing of the kind in any other museum. The tablet was deciphered and translated by Doctor Ugnad.

Personal letters of this type written by the ancients are generally found inclosed in clay envelopes, so fashioned that while they cover the writing completely and hold the tablet itself secure they do not obliterate the symbols, but rather protect them.

So much for the love letter, but Doctor Langdon, leading Sumerian scholar of all time, seems much more interested in the ancient Babylonian map which he has just finished reading.

The map proves conclusively that the comprehensive city planning, heard so much of in recent years, is almost as old as civilization.

Not only did the Babylonians plan the building of their towns and cities, but, according to this map or diagram, they laid out villages and hamlets along preconceived plans to give residents "all the advantages of city life."

Nothing like the map just discovered at the university ever has been found before by archaeologists, and evidently it is only one of many. If it can be taken as a fair sample of the forethought exercised by ancient Babylon in building up her outlying domains, then the whole country must have been connected by the most elaborate system of canals in the history of the world.

Babylon had no telephone or telegraph, but for certain fundamental purposes of protection it had "something just as good." For Doctor Langdon has translated some of the numerous small inscriptions on the tablet bearing the map to indicate that the particular section here described was so laid out that persons living in any part of it could hear the blowing of a horn from the central common. It was an old custom in the country to blow a horn at a certain season of the year, after which grazing was no longer permitted. The reason for this is lost in antiquity, but examination of other tablets at the museum some day may reveal it.

The exact age of the map is not definitely known. Doctor Langdon believes it was made in the Cassite period, about 1,500 years before Christ. Concerning the horn-blowing custom, Doctor Langdon says: "The map throws a welcome light

upon an obscure law in the great law code of Babylonia, which bears the name of Hammurabi. In it we have reference to the custom of blowing a horn at the village gates to notify the shepherds on the plains that the grazing season was over. These rural villages in which the peasants congregated from the surrounding plain appeared to have been so arranged that the village buglers were able to make the shepherds and farmers hear the sound of the horn in every part of Babylonia.

"The rural life of ancient times in this historic land has here a visual commentary," Doctor Langdon adds, "and we see how the peasants lived together in villages, having village commons for their flocks and a municipal marsh to furnish a most necessary article of domestic life, the cane reed. Assuming that the orientation of the map is the ordinary one employed in other Babylonian maps, one is able to trace the several features of the country and their details. The skeleton of the plan is made by the canal which enters from the northeast corner of the district, flows south-southwest and turns in a rough parabolic curve, to retreat at the same angle toward the north-northwest. At the center of the district marked by the end of the parabola enter from the south-east and southwest corners two canals which unite with the main canal.

Inscriptions on the tablet give the names of the various canals, the villages and hamlets. Thus in the extreme northeast corner is the town of Bit Kar Nusku, and the northeast wing of the canal, on which this town lies, is called Nar-bilti, or "Canal of the Burden," indicating that agricultural and other products were carried upon it.

"This name and others," says Doctor Langdon, "show that these canals were arteries of trade as well as streams to supply the fields with water. The town Kar Nusku is mentioned in temple accounts of the city of Nippur as supplying sheep and grain for the support of the temple priests. In the northwest corner, on the left branch of the canal, is the town of Hamri, also mentioned in the accounts of the temple at Nippur. Therefore, the northwest branch of the canal bears the name Nar Hamri. According to references in Assyrian inscriptions, hamru designates a place where the cult of the fire god was established."

Another canal bore the name of Belsunu, a rich man, whose estate is supplied with water for irrigation purposes. Unfortunately, the estate itself lay outside the limits of the map, so it is impossible to get any description of Belsunu's country house. In the opinion of Doctor Langdon the point of chief interest in the mind of the ancient map-maker was the conelike space at the end of the parabola, which is about the center of the map. The following inscription is cut into this

upon an obscure law in the great law code of part of the tablet:

"Field between the canals, the contents (?) are eight gul (a measure of area) in the Cassite and Assyrian inscriptions) field of the palace."

"Therefore the mapmaker wished to give an accurate drawing of the field belonging to the royal estates," says Doctor Langdon, "and we may assume that he did his work at the king's injunction, and that the tablet has come down to us from the royal archives at Nippur. The Cassite kings nominally held court at Babylon, as the capital of Babylonia.

Forests were unknown in southern Babylonia, and the natives had to use reeds for making baskets, household furniture, firewood, hedges and even for the writing stylus. Accordingly, a municipal marsh was an essential, and one is shown on the map at the university museum. Another feature of no little significance, which sheds light for the first time on the origin of the customs that sprung up in the middle ages of endowing monasteries with estates to provide for their tables, is the "field of the table of the Baru priest." On this phase of the diagram Doctor Langdon says:

"The Baru priest was the seer of the Babylonians, whom they invariably consulted about all future events. This learned priesthood was attached to all the great temples and, as we see here, owned valuable landed estates. The idea of a state-supported order of seers seems preposterous to us, for divination is considered illegal, but Babylonian religion was supercharged with magic and mystery. Kings and laymen undertook no important tasks, launched no important ventures, without consulting these sages of the liver omens, of oil omens and of every conceivable kind of divination. They formed an important part of the priesthood, and hence we find them on our map in possession of estates more valuable than those of the king himself.

"In the extreme corner of the northwestern part of the district is the village of Hamri, situated in a field which bears no name, perhaps the municipal property. South of this area is the field in which we find a village with the curious name Til amel Hassa, or Hill of the Fifty Men. The local history of this town, which would elucidate its interesting name, is unknown. The field itself bears no inscription and was probably a village common also. A small canal separates the two village properties. The large field of the table of the Baru priest is bounded on the north by the canal of the table. These names refer to the properties settled by royal decree upon this religious order for the support of their table, in precisely the same way certain lands in Europe became the property of monastic orders in the middle ages."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.