

Where Town and Country Meet



THIS FEATURE PUBLISHED EACH SUNDAY.

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Mayor Tells Early Cow History

Dahlman Recalls Industry in Sandhills When That Country Was Wild Open Range.

Tribute to Farm Boys

"Yes! I've seen Nebraska grow from a range cattle country to be one of America's greatest farm states," said Mayor James Dahlman in a special interview with the editor.

Mr. Dahlman, popularly known as "the cowboy" mayor told about his early life here in Nebraska. He stated that he came to this country from southern Texas, in the spring of '78. He first landed a permanent job 12 miles east of what is now Gordon, Neb.

Describes Old Ranch Days.

At that time the ranch had to haul all its provisions from Sidney, Neb., a distance of about 200 miles. The cattle were let run at large except that territory in the western part of the state which was considered uninhabitable. The sand hills had been little explored up to this time. Cattlemen thought it was fatal for stock to penetrate the fastness of its sandy interior. Consequently when small bunches of cattle strayed they were marked off the list as lost, no further investigation being made.

However, the N bar outfit was riding line on about 15,000 head during the winter and spring of '78. In March a terrible storm came along and drove many hundreds of the cattle into the "desert." If these cattle could not be overtaken and brought back it would mean financial loss to the big cattle company. A loss almost too great to bear without at least making an attempt to repair it.

It was at this critical period in the career of the N bar that Mr. Dahlman and another Texas cowboy appeared and asked for work. They were informed of the situation, were made familiar with the dangers that might be encountered by attempting to bring back the strays.

Jim in his characteristic way said, "any place where cattle can go a good saddle horse and a cowboy can follow."

Hired to Get Lost Herd.

A band of fearless cowboys was organized and put under Mr. Dahlman. They were instructed to bring back as many cattle as they could.

Before he would take the "chuck wagon" into the desert he made a personal scouting tour of the water-holes. In company with four or five picked men he went out ahead of the main circle. Wherever he found sufficient grass and water to keep the saddle horses he sent back and moved up the roundup crew.

Battle With Wild Cow.

After about five days the outfit had moved far enough into the interior to be in a land which had never been rounded up.

One day the scouts were coming over a little sandy knoll which gave them a view into a narrow grassy valley. There before them, spread out like a picture were hundreds of wild cattle grazing. When the riders appeared the cattle ran like deer.

The boys had been eating bacon and beans for a week as their supply of fresh meat had vanished. Jim singled out a big wild black cow which he said would weigh about 1,400 pounds. He took down his rope and spurred in after the black. When he caught her she jerked the little cowboy, which Dahlman was riding, so hard that he and his rider went shooting into a sand bank some 30 feet away.

The rescue and shot the wild cow. She was dressed and a pack horse sent back with fresh meat for the boys behind.

Takes Out Thousands.

The roundup took out several thousand head of cattle that summer. Among those taken were 3-year-old stuff which had never been branded. They had been born and reared in the supposedly waste desert.

This roundup opened the eyes of the cattle men to the possibilities of this wonderful range country.

About Livestock Market.

"When I first came to Omaha it was a range market. Practically all the cattle which came here were grass cattle. At that time the western ranges were still controlled by big outfits," stated Mr. Dahlman.

Since then he has seen the market grow into the second best in America. He has seen the ranges turned to farms and has observed farmers in their improvement of the breeds. When he was a young man identified with the cattle business a beefsteak was not like it is today. It did not have that high quality of flavor and texture. It had been cut from a "long-horned, catmanned steer," with nothing but grass fat.

Praises Country Boys.

Mr. Dahlman has been mayor of Omaha almost 18 years. He declares that his early training out on the open ranges has made it possible for him to do the great amount of work required of a mayor of a city like Omaha.

His clear, strong features, and bright, fighting eyes, deny the 67

Husks and Kernels Picked From Many Fields

Being a Week's Review of 'Bee Stings' From Agricultural News.

Gleanings from the entire press, both political and agricultural, brand the experimental government established by soviet Russia as a huge failure.

The application of this bit of our news to our own agricultural problems is interesting. Liberty Magazine editorially says, "Its former industries have been reduced as by a wasting fever, and the greatest of all, agriculture, is now incapable of producing food even for the Russians, though under the backward system of czars Russia exported millions of tons of cereals and was one of the greatest granaries of the world."

We wonder what would happen to the world if America would try the experiment and fail. It is one of those things that is probable but not possible. In the first place American farmers as a body do not want governmental supervision of any of their business. They want to be left strictly alone. Price fixing, commission control, federal interference with the established rule of supply and demand all are resented by the farmers. Yet there is danger of communism creeping into our regulations even in mild form. The mildest class legislation will tend to lead reformers to "experiment with our business."

At the national dairy show in Milwaukee the State of Iowa took first prize in butter exhibits. This means only one thing. Iowa had the best butter. It is indeed a feather in the crown of success when a big state like Iowa can beat the so-called dairy states. Many writers commenting on the show claim that Iowa farmers are getting interested in taking care of their milk. It goes without saying that the care in handling of the milk is the first step toward better butter. Too many farmers do not care how dirty the milk gets, they think they are going to sell the cream anyhow. Yet this kind of milk handling tends to lower the standard of the states' dairy supplies.

In speaking of immigration questions, several papers lament the fact that the authorities are letting in too many people across our Mexican and Canadian borders. Well we don't blame the fellow who is trying to get into the United States. If we were outside of it we would use more risky methods than some of them are using, just to get back.

Sensational News Headlines.

Every paper in the country has been headlining the scrap between the farmers in California and the city water board of Los Angeles. This goes to show that the average farm community is too much on the order of owls when it comes to getting on the front page of the city dailies. Of course a lot of those farmers may get in jail but the world likes a community which will go to battle for its rights and even if they get in jail it will only mean more publicity to their cause. We hope they win their fight. It is too bad that they can't compromise and be friends, but then Los Angeles is not a farmer's town. They don't save the farmer's language.

Years which he says are his.

The boys' smile is characteristic of those men who have spent a great deal of time out under open skies, where they have looked into the horizon and seen the business of life.

He says the boys and girls who are fortunate enough to be reared upon the farms and ranches of America are to be congratulated.

Theirs is the chance to lay a strong foundation of health which will help them to carry on a long life of usefulness.

WHEN DIVERSIFIED FARMING SHOWS UP

The entire Pacific coast country has been suffering from a severe drought during the recent summer season. It is during this sort of period that Nebraska farmers can measure their possibilities by the steadfast rule of results.

When the Pacific west goes dry it means the farmers who are highly specialized, such as fruit growers, the potato growers of Idaho and other regions where irrigation is prevalent, must face sure failure. These districts depend upon a single crop for their income. That crop must come through successfully or they fail.

In talking to thousands of them this summer one could not but compare them to the diversified farmers of Nebraska. We follow here at home, if we are farming up to our possibilities, raise a few hogs, some cattle, milk a dozen cows, raise our own vegetables, sell a few hundred bushels of wheat; in fact, we literally have our eggs in so many baskets that it takes the best of us to keep all containers right side up. But granting that we work at diversified farming as hard as do those specialists out west, our chances for winning are safer at a five to one bet.

Most successful egg producers sprout out for the hens during the winter. However, care must be exercised as mouldy grain will kill the hens.

Cattle Industry Faces Changes, Long Trip Shows

Ten-Thousand-Mile Tour Brings Out Facts About the Business; Western Ranches Bare.

The old cattle ranges, which spread out like a fan over the western portion of the United States, have seen many changes during the last decade. Twenty years ago it was when the writer first hit the ranges of Oregon. At that time Oregon was all cow country south of the Blue mountains. Then on east throughout the Idaho country into Montana and the plains country the large herds were still dominant.

With the advent of the homesteader these conditions changed. Wyoming and western South Dakota held their own in total cattle production by scattering the herds over the "nester" farms. Today these two states are still producing great supplies of beef. But what about the rest of the range country? What happened to Idaho, California, Arizona, New Mexico, western Kansas, Colorado and the other once populous cattle ranges?

To answer this question and other interesting facts which are needed to understand thoroughly the agricultural situation, we went on a 10,000-mile inspection tour during the last summer. We covered western Nebraska. We saw the fat herds which are abundant in the sandhills region of Nebraska. On west to the Black Hills, through the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota, where we saw some of the best cattle of the land. Plenty of water, lots of grass. Cattle bred up to a standard good enough for any market.

On over Wyoming's vast grazing ranges we still saw plenty of good fat cattle. The cattle on the east slope of the Bighorn mountains are the finest that it has ever been the writer's pleasure to see roaming the open range. They are pastured in the mountain meadows during the summer time. The forest service supervises the range and keeps it from being overstocked. The grass was still rich and green during the middle of August. Calves were fat as butter balls. The future outlook for good grass shippers was assured even at this early date. During the winter months the cattle are taken down on the sage brush plains and wintered upon the fenced ranches. This gives them a change of pasture as well as climate. The cool summers at the high altitude frees them from annoyance from flies and severe heat. The well-protected valleys of the plains furnish protection upon the winter ranges.

Coast Regions Dry.

But when we went west of the Bighorn mountains we saw another story. We realized that Wyoming was the last stand. Idaho was the driest it had been for 40 years. The cattle looked thin but not hopeless. Oregon range cattle were as scarce as the proverbial hen's teeth. The old state has slipped back in cattle production. Why in Portland the daily newspapers "front page" the thing when a carload of fat cattle are brought to the stock yards.

California has permitted the real estate agents to colonize the ranges until the retired farmers have voted city ordinances over the once vast cattle ranges. Besides it was dry there also.

It sounds like knocking, seems too bad to tell it, but we went out to see and we saw. Arizona, the last of the big range countries to disperse its big outfits. This open range country has been visited with a four-year-drought which has wrecked the cattle more than price slumps. Thousands of the fine high-bred cattle will starve to death this winter. They are so poor now that they reel like old canners during a March blizzard.

Let those who wish to know all they want to about an over-production of beef cattle. The present uncertain range conditions over the west, the recent financial difficulties of the cattlemen and other things like price declines have started the grand old game for a toboggan which will swing too far toward under-production. The great ranges of the southwest cannot come back for two or three years. They will never come back as they were once for the big outfits are done for and small outfits cannot operate there as in Wyoming and the Nebraska and Dakota country. Diversified farming is out of the question. It is livestock or nothing.

The cattle are bred up to a standard which is equal to the corn belt cattle. At Globe, Ariz., the Elks were having a celebration to commemorate the coming of the early pioneers in '49. One of the local ranchers was assigned the duty of getting an old fashioned oxen team ready for the parade. He said that he looked all over the country for a hundred miles hunting for a pair of longhorned steers. Had to use a pair of purebred Hereford bulls as he could not find any longhorns.

New Mexico Also Dry.

In Mexico the situation is little better than Arizona. However, the range is not overstocked so badly and they may get through the winter without a heavy loss.

One old timer said, "well the cattle men had a 40 per cent loss in the last two years. It is drier this year." It is pitiful to see. One cannot help but wish the poor critters out here upon one of these good Nebraska ranges. But shipping is too high.

Omaha the Farmer's Friend

When a city comes out with a headliner telling the country communities it wants to be friendly it is often not taken seriously by the farmers. The attitude of a city towards its agricultural territory is often indifference, if not hostility. Just so long as business flows through its gates the city should worry."

But Omaha is really different. It is sincere when it hangs out the banner of welcome. We judge an individual by his work, learn to like or dislike him for what he does or does not do. It is the same with a city. When a farmers' organization meets in a city for a conference it is glad to have the city recognize it.

The farmers who have sent their delegates to that convention are pleased when they pick up the daily paper and see that the meeting is properly reported in the daily press. They feel a little closer towards the city.

Like Healing Remedies
When a farming community is visited by adverse business operations it is like pouring healing remedies upon a wound to have the city extend a program of sympathy. Omaha has always stood ready to do this. It has advertised the state's agricultural greatness. It has thrown open its gates of welcome and extended a real greeting to all farm organizations.

Down deep in the bottom of every farmer's heart is a respect for a community which helps him solve his financial and social problems. Omaha has, with the Chamber of Commerce, a regular program of agricultural development. The city maintains an agriculturally-trained man who stands ready to help in any plans which will make Nebraska agriculture better and bigger.

Second Largest Exchange
The Omaha Livestock exchange is the second largest in America. It has just recently inaugurated a program of improvement which will enable the commission firms to handle the tremendous business which comes to the yards.

Since the exchange was organized it has returned \$5,000,000,000 to livestock shippers. That vast amount of money has gone to the farmers and ranchers to help them build better homes and produce greater profits from their labor.

Recently, returning from an extensive trip over the entire west, it has been our privilege to compare Omaha with other cities. Truly, without extending any flattering lines to the good old market town, we want to take our hats off to Omaha.

When we came breezing into the fair city, dust-covered and journey-worn, still remembering some of the woe-filled tales told us by former Nebraska farmers who had migrated to the Pacific states, we gave ourselves a satisfied nod and thanked the lucky stars which guided us safely back.

To those who feel that they would like to "go somewhere in the west and build a sweet little nest and let the rest of the world go by" we want to tell you a little true story which happened to us in another city.

We were just pulling into Portland after a long, hot, tiresome day across the Umatilla desert and over that wonderful Columbia river drive. We were "hitting" straight for the tourist park, hoping to enjoy the comforts of the Rose city. The car was dust-covered and told its own story. As we swung into the main drag for the park a large closed prosperous looking car bearing the Oregon license plate glided by us. The driver was a middle-aged man who fairly radiated success. His clothes and pose branded him as one successful hombre.

He glanced in our direction and noted the Nebraska number of our car. Now folks, we can't make cold type say it as he did. We do not have the power of expression to tell you the world of pathos, the deep longing and heart-breaking spirit that he put into his words when he leaned out of the window and said, "Good old Nebraska." However, we understood what he meant. We were in position to feel and understand the pulling which drew his imagination back to some old home in the good old state.

When we landed in Omaha we felt just like the wanderer who greeted us in Portland. We exclaimed, "Good old Omaha."

CITY MEN WANT TO KNOW FARMING

"The most common thing in the world is for us to read about the things that pertain to our business. We want to know more about profits, more about financial results which are shown on the gain side of the ledger," says a great advertising man. He continues: "Every business in the city is almost directly dependent upon farming. The last few years, since political interest has been centered around the agricultural situation, city men have been more than ever interested in what the farmer is doing, what he is thinking about. They have tried to understand his needs and his desires."

CATTLE FIRST BY FARM COMMISSION

The question of financing and readjusting the cattle industry first by the farm commission appointed by President Coolidge shows the influence of the west upon agricultural thought. Chairman Carey knows the cow business and may really do something to make the future of this great industry more stable. However, his work will not help the fellows in the southwest, who are facing a hard winter. It seems that they will have to do just like the cattlemen have always done, take their losses and grin.

In the summer time old biddy goes out and gets plenty of grass and succulent feed. Shut her up in the poultry house and then fall to provide green feed if you want to stop her egg production.

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Backyard Poultry Philosophy

There are poultry men who believe in shutting the hens in the poultry house the first snow of the season and keeping them there until the last snow is gone in the spring. Many others believe in letting them out during the nice days. However, all are agreed that hens should not be turned out when it is wet. Moisture is the most deadly foe for egg production.

The way of the scoffer is always hard to follow. The people who laugh first often wind up with dry eyes, so be it with those who have made fun of artificial lighting in egg production. There are thousands who have tried it to their satisfaction. It works.

Out in California we visited a farm where some high school boys were doing poultry work at home for credit as well as for the money being made. They had a novel arrangement to fool the cocklers. They had an electric alarm clock attachment which set off the lights at 3 a. m. in the morning. We got up and dressed a few minutes before the alarm was to be given just to see what would happen. Well, when that clock touched off the lights and began to

The farmer's wife who depends upon old biddy hatching out the baby chicks is as far behind as the farmer who cuts his grain with a hand reaper. The setting hen is too much like raising modern show

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SUMMER-FEEDING IS MOST ECONOMICAL, SAYS IOWAN; STEERS \$12.60

J. W. McLain, Emerson, Ia., was on today's market with two loads of summer-feeding steers averaging 1,082 pounds and sold at \$12.60.

Mr. McLain does not believe in winter feeding. "It takes too much corn just to keep the steers warm," he says. "I bought the cattle here last May, fed them corn on blue grass and timothy pasture, and then put them on alfalfa for a few weeks before I shipped them."

"I fed 30 days I fed Peters' Economy alfalfa molasses feed as a supplementary ration."

"The way the cold situation is I think I shall follow about the same plan this coming season. When cattle are not started until spring the gains can be made a lot cheaper than during the winter, and when they are fat, around this time of year, the market is usually at the highest point of the season."

"We have a rather short corn crop, and not very many cattle are being put in over there, either for feeding or wintering on rough feed."

Next to Top Prices on Peters' "Economy" Feed

The clipping from the Journal Stockman, November 25, explains itself. That day choice prime long yearlings sold from \$12.30 to \$13.10.

Read what Mr. McLain says about summer feeding and Peters' Economy alfalfa molasses feed. Then start using it and make larger profits for yourself.

Any information gladly furnished.

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