

Cattle Raising in the Americas



WHEN the United States ceases to be an exporter of beef and pork from whence will Europe get its meat?

Will the United States, with its large ratio of increase in population, with which the meat production by no means keeps pace, be able in the future to feed itself?

Must Europe and the United States curtail their meat consumption?

There is no need to take a pessimist's view in answering any of these questions. The meat proposition is already serious, it is true; but this is because we are at the turning of the ways and not because the immediate future, or even the future for some hundreds of years at least, presents any real difficulty to the solution of this proposition.

Leaving out of consideration all questions involving the so-called meat trust, the tariff, etc., and looking at the matter simply as a question of economy in meat production, there is no need to fear a famine, nor ought there to be any fear of high prices to limit the consumption.

A number of factors enter into the world's present meat problem, one of the most important of which is the change in conditions under which meat has been produced in the United States. The change from range to farm production of beef cattle and the improved shipping facilities for corn, which latter has revolutionized the hog industry, have together upset the balance in the meat market. Unlimited free range on government lands made cheap meat, but the taking up of these lands by settlers, and particularly the taking up of land around water sites has changed the whole situation. The extension of railways and an improved service has given the western farmer a choice, either to sell his corn or to feed for meat, where formerly he had no choice; it was either hogs or cease raising corn. He raised hogs because he was forced to it, and he bought range beef cattle to put them in condition for the market by feeding for a few months with a part of his surplus grain.

The raising of cattle on the free ranges of the west was the cheapest method of meat production at the time practiced in the United States, but it is a question whether beef may not now be produced, and is not now produced by a few farmers, even cheaper than on the western ranges in the past.

The poor quality of range meat, which necessitated several months of farm feeding and care in order to be gotten in condition for the market, the great losses in the herds due to insufficient food and water, and the lack of winter shelter made the business of cattle raising on the western plains a more or less uncertain and precarious industry. It was an exotic, and as such it will die with changing conditions.

The future of meat production in the United States is a farming proposition, and like all other questions connected with the national agriculture depends for its satisfactory solution upon the improvement of farm methods. To remain a meat-exporting country, lands must be brought up to the European standard of production. At that standard, or even considerably below, farming in the United States pays, and pays well, and in no way better than by turning grass and grain into meat. But until the United States adjusts itself to the changed conditions and can again enter the European market as a competitor with Argentina, Uruguay and Australia for the meat trade, where will Europe, and even the United States, should it have a temporary need for meat, secure their supplies?

The answer to this question is not difficult. It is only surprising that it has not been more fully recognized.

The broad plains of Mexico and Central America, of Venezuela and Colombia, the Amazon region of Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador rival, if they do not excel the famed pampas of Argentine and Uruguay as cheap meat-producing districts.

In the country of the Orinoco alone, Venezuela and eastern Colombia, there is an area of territory more than equal to France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, or ten times the size of the state of New York, which has its superior as a cattle country in no part of the world, if indeed it has anywhere its equal.

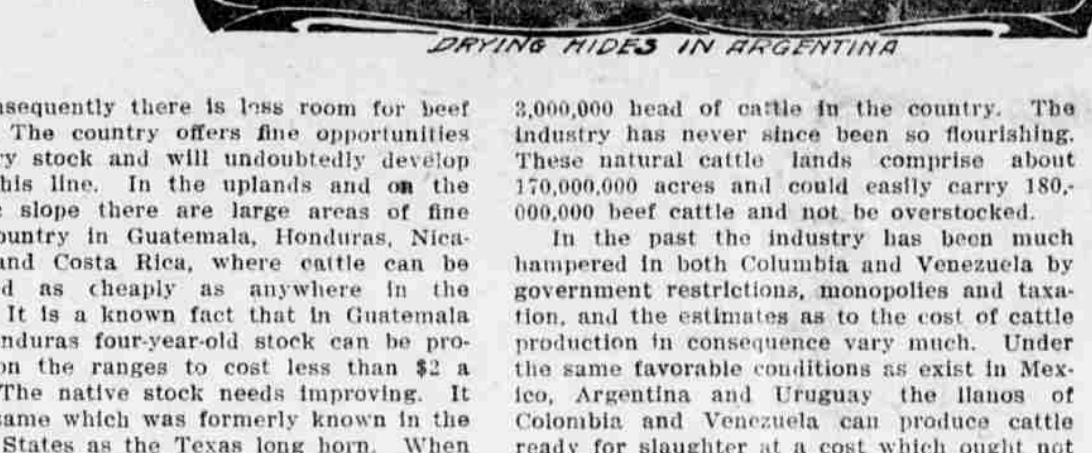
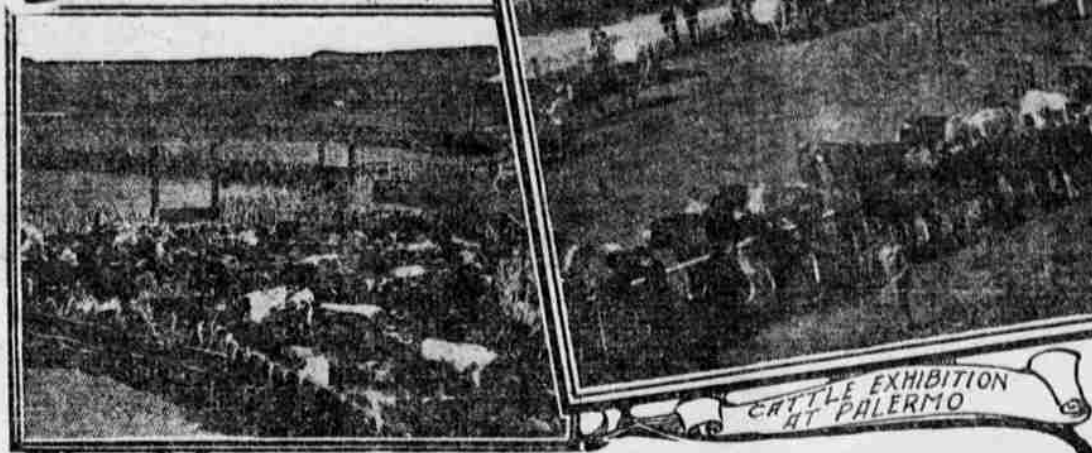
Mexico offers many advantages to the stock raiser. The conditions there are those with which stockmen from the United States are more or less familiar, which last fact, in part, accounts for the large investments of American capital made in this industry within the last few years in Mexico. Cattlemen own the land in large tracts of from 100,000 to 1,000,000 acres, acquired from the government by grant and at a very low figure. This prevents the shutting off from water, which has done so much to destroy the range industry in the United States. The winters are mild and there is no danger of loss from blizzards—in fact, the grazing is good all the year round.

The character of the ranges on the Pacific coast side in Jalisco, Michoacan, Guerrero, southern Oaxaca and Tepic are similar in character to the northern ranges but not so well watered, and the grass is scantier.

On the gulf side there are entirely different conditions. On the slope of the eastern Cordilleras in the states of San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas and northern Vera Cruz is the region known as the Huasteca Potosina, the country of the Tamesi, Panuco, Temporal and Tamanchale rivers. This is an almost ideal grass country. It is a succession of valleys separated by grass-covered terraces or hills increasing in height from the low plains near the coast to the borders of the central plateau 6,000 feet. This slope receives the moist breezes from the Gulf of Mexico in the form of rain during the summer months and dew in winter, and is always free from frost, drought and excessive heat. The natural pasturage of this country is as fine as any in the world, except on the Orinoco and in the upper Amazon country. Cattle in good condition can be sent to market at a cost of less than \$10 gold a head. On the northern and western ranges lean cattle cost to produce from \$2 to \$5 a head and can be fattened for market to cost in all about \$10 a head.

The latest Mexican statistics show about 5,250,000 beef cattle in the whole country, of an estimated value of about \$8 gold per head. Chihuahua and Vera Cruz lead with about 400,000 head for each state. As compared with Argentina with its 30,000,000 beef cattle it can be seen that Mexico is but at the beginning of the industry; in fact, as present the country produces but little meat above its own needs, yet it could, on natural pasture alone, carry twice the number of cattle now grazing in Argentina, and could easily supply to the European markets from its surplus an amount of meat twice what the United States has even been able to supply from its surplus.

South of Mexico in Central America and in parts of Mexico not above mentioned there is yet another cattle country, where the climate is more tropical. On the Pacific side the area suitable for cattle is limited. It is similar to the Pacific slope of Mexico, but the country is more thickly settled, a larger portion of the land is devoted to agriculture,



producing provinces, as they are also the principal grain producers. Next to these come La Pampa, Santiago and Salta, each of which provinces carries from about 700,000 to 1,000,000 cattle. Then come San Luis, Mendoza, La Rioja and Catamarca, averaging about half of these numbers. In the north, Misiones, Formosa and El Chaco, and in the south Rio Negro and Chubut are rapidly becoming important cattle districts. Even San Juan and Neuquen, on the Andean slope, and Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, in the extreme south, are finding that cattle as well as sheep can be raised with profit. In fact, there is but little territory in the Argentine Republic which is not suitable for either cattle or sheep.

Beef is exported from the La Plata region on the hoof, as salted or as meat extracts, and frozen in quarters.

England is the principal market for South American beef. The frozen-meat industry in the Argentine Republic has grown up since the closing of the English market to live cattle.

In the year 1903 the Argentine Republic exported 60,916 head of live beef cattle, three-fourths of which went to Chile. It exported 2,295,784 quarters (573,946 whole beefs) of frozen beef, and from the salting works 155,400 beaves as salt beef, meat extract or jerked beef.

In this latter industry Uruguay in addition exported 754,300 and southern Brazil 425,000 head, respectively.

As a field for investment in the cattle industry the La Plata region offers the very best of chances. In fact, it is without a rival, and will remain such until a like enterprise and capital which has there produced such marvelous results shall seek a new opportunity on the Orinoco and in the upper Amazon country.

The field for cattle growing is large; there need be no scarcity though the United States should cease to export and become an importer of meat.

No Corsets at West Point

Col. K. B. Collins, a retired army officer who was seen at the Raleigh, in discussing West Pointers said to a reporter of the Washington Herald: "I have often heard a question as to whether West Pointers wore corsets. It is absurd, in a way, because should any effeminate youngster resort to such a thing it would be an impossibility to keep the affair a secret, and, once known, his school life would become a burden to him on account of the endless amount of criticism he would receive from his fellows. He would be made the laughing stock of the school and would soon find himself the possessor of any number of effeminate nicknames that would grate upon his ears in any but a pleasant manner.

"It is true," continued the old soldier, "that many West Pointers acquire a figure the perfection of symmetry and a carriage the acme of manly grace, but these are due not to any ingenious appliance, but to the systematic drills and exercises that make every cadet, to a certain extent, an athlete. At the outset these young fellows are put through what are called the 'setting up' exercises, their object being to straighten the body and develop the chest. One might suppose that it would require a great amount of such exercise to make any marked showing, but three long hours of such exercise daily will soon produce beneficial results in the most stooped forms.

The cadet uniform is also a great help in this direction. The dress coat is tight, very tight. The shoulders are heavily padded in order to give them a square effect. The chest is made thick, so that there will be no danger of wrinkling. And in size, a new dress coat seems always to be designed for a boy several sizes smaller than the one who is to wear it. A new dress coat, in fact, is always a source of suffering to its owner. When he first puts it on, it buttons readily about the neck, but seems to lack about six inches at the waist. The owner may squirm and wriggle and attempt to reduce his waist to a minimum circumference, but his maiden efforts are never sufficient to button the new dress coat. Experience is a great teacher, though, and the young fellow laughingly requests one or two friends to lend their assistance, and with their combined tugging and squeezing he finally succeeds in buttoning the coat. All this for the sake of looks; comfort has no place in the makeup of a West Pointer; it is discipline and looks."

LEADING MISTAKES IN LIFE

Writer Has Recorded Ten, of Which Most of Us Assuredly Have Our Share.

Some of us may be glad to be told that there are only ten life mistakes, for there seem to be so many more, but a recent writer has catalogued them. Perhaps these are only the ten leading ones from which the smaller errors arise. Let's look over the list and see how many of them are ours: First, to set up our own standard of right and wrong and judge people accordingly; second, to measure the enjoyment of others by our own; third, to expect uniformity of opinion in this world; fourth, to look for judgment and experience in youth; fifth, to endeavor to mold all dispositions alike; sixth, to look for perfection in our own actions; seventh, to worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied; eighth, to refuse to yield in immaterial matters; ninth, to refuse to alleviate, so far as it lies in our power, all which needs alleviation; tenth, to refuse to make allowance for the infirmities of others.

EPIDEMIC OF ITCH IN WELSH VILLAGE

"In Downlans, South Wales, about fifteen years ago, families were stricken wholesale by a disease known as the itch. Believe me, it is the most terrible disease of its kind that I know of, as it itches all through your body and makes your life an inferno. Sleep is out of the question and you feel as if a million mosquitoes were attacking you at the same time. I knew a dozen families that were so affected.

"The doctors did their best, but their remedies were of no avail whatever. Then the families tried a druggist who was noted far and wide for his remarkable cures. People came to him from all parts of the country for treatment, but his medicine made matters still worse, as a last resort they were advised by a friend to use the Cuticura Remedies. I am glad to tell you that after a few days' treatment with Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent, the effect was wonderful and the result was a perfect cure in all cases.

"I may add that my three brothers, three sisters, myself and all our families have been users of the Cuticura Remedies for fifteen years. Thomas Hugh, 1650 West Huron St., Chicago, Ill., June 29, 1909."

TOO SHORT A TIME.



Wise—Why did that woman's club disband?

Sharpe—The majority adopted a resolution limiting the time of each member for speaking on any topic to two hours.

A Dreamer.

"You say your boy Josh is a dreamer?" said the literary lady. "Does he write poetry or romances?"

"Oh," replied Farmer Cornboasel, "he don't write anything. But he jest' natcherally refuses to get up till 9 o'clock."

Why He Believes Her.

Evangeline—Rachel never can tell anything without exaggerating it.

John—That's why I believe her when she tells her age.

Remember, girls, that pinning a \$17 hat on a 17 cent head doesn't increase the value of the head.

The fellow who buries the hatchet may still have a knife up his sleeve.

There's vitality, snap and "go" in a breakfast of

Grape-Nuts and cream.

Why? Because nature stores up in wheat and barley The Potassium Phosphate in such form as to Nourish brain and nerves. The food expert who originated

Grape-Nuts

Retained this valuable Element in the food. "There's a Reason" Read the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville," Found in Packages.

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