

WAR ON RATS IS GRAIN MEN'S UKASE

Little Field Rodents Cause Three-Quarter Million Dollars Damage Annually.

SHARP TEETH EAT PROFITS

While a war of extermination is being waged on the English sparrow, grain men assert that it would be proper to extend the warfare to rats, the position being taken that they do vastly more damage each year than the sparrows.

Of course grain men have only to do with the damage that rats do to grain and while they have no compilation of figures at hand, they assert that in Nebraska alone, rats destroy probably an average of \$500,000 to \$750,000 worth of grain annually. This damage could be greatly reduced, they say, by a systematic killing of the rodents.

Years ago when elevators were constructed of wood and wood floors in such structures were the rule and when the old-fashioned shovel houses were located at the grain-buying points, it was figured that rats took a toll of not far from one-tenth of the grain.

In recent years the shovel houses have gone to the discard and grain is now handled through elevators. These elevators have solid foundations of cement, from a foot to eighteen inches in thickness, extending well up the sides, much higher than a rat can ever climb. In this way much of the rat damage has been eliminated.

However, while the grain is being held by the farmers and before it finds its way into the modern elevators, the rat damage is great. On the farms, prior to taking to market, the grain is stored in bins in barns, or in granaries, and as a rule, say the grain men, these storehouses, instead of being rat-proof, are of wood construction. Rats easily get into them and eat large quantities of grain annually.

This year, with wheat prices around \$1.70 and corn \$0.90 cents per bushel, it does not take a rat family very long to eat a dollar's worth of grain. And with thousands of farmers having grain in storage in their home bins the loss of a few bushels to each farmer, in the aggregate, means a neat sum of money.

Grain men want a rat-killing day proclaimed and believe that with a little co-operation the profit-eating pests could be pretty well wiped out at a small cost and hundreds of thousands of dollars saved annually to Nebraska.

Wheat Price Booms, While Corn Drops

With reports of a little better conditions regarding export operations, after declining for several days, wheat took an upturn and on the Omaha market sold at prices 2 cents over those of last Saturday. Receipts were seventy-six carloads and sales were made all the way between \$1.68 and \$1.74 a bushel.

Corn failed to follow wheat and sold down 1/2 cent. Receipts were 117 carloads and prices were \$6@88 cents a bushel.

Oats were off 1/2 cent a bushel, selling at \$2@52 3/4 cents. Receipts were forty-three carloads.

Gasoline and Kerosene Join Higher Cost Parade

The high cost of joy-riding, exclusive of court fines and hospital bills, is now part of the price parade. One of the local oil companies announced Monday that motorists could purchase gasoline for 18 cents, just one penny more than has been the toll at the filler-station. High test gasoline also jumps 1 cent, selling now for 21 cents.

Kerosene's market value is 7 cents, a rise of 1/2 cent.

Shoes

Would it be a satisfaction to you to keep the little feet of some poor child warm in a pair of shoes for the winter?

That is a big call that has come to the Associated Charities. "Many children are actually compelled to stay home from school because they have no shoes," said Mrs. Doane of the Associated Charities. "We have spent \$600 for shoes this fall, but the demand is still very great."

Some of them come in with their cold little feet actually on the ground. Letters are received from others, pitiful little letters from children whose Christmas would be made happy even with a pair of shoes.

Here is practical giving, indeed. Even old shoes that you or your family have discarded will go a long way to keep the feet of the poor warm. Or you can send the money to buy new shoes or send an order on some shoe store.

Do it now, for many little feet are waiting to be shod. Send or bring your offering to Mrs. Doane, Associated Charities, 1716 Dodge street, or to The Bee.

Commissioners Pick Sites for the New Street Lights

The city commissioners are engaged in the task of brightening up a few of the dark corners of the city. At present the brightening process is limited to a map, but after the map shall have been approved, the electric light company will place the lamps according to directions of the city officials and under terms of the five-year contract approved at a special election a week ago.

City Electrician Curran submitted a map at a meeting of the council committee of the whole. Pins represented proposed locations of 790 of 1,071 new lamps to be installed. The ornamental district in the Bemis park section is slated for 125 lamps, and a similar number will be installed in the Minne Lusa district.

The Bemis park lighting district embraces a zone bounded by Cuming, Hamilton and Thirty-third streets and Mercer boulevard. Old lamps will be taken out. Ornamental posts for the Minne Lusa addition lamps already have been placed by the promoters of this addition.

Many applications for lights have been received at the city hall, and it will be a problem for the commissioners to make the spread and please all applicants.

Commissioner Parks, whose heart beats particularly for the South Side, intends to get same lights for Indian Hill, a district which has never seen an electric light, although it is a part of Greater Omaha.

Blows Top of Head Off With Shotgun

North Platte, Neb., Dec. 11.—(Special Telegram.)—Oscar Falk, 31, of Cheyenne, committed suicide at the home of his uncle, Andrew Falk, five miles south of here, by placing a shotgun against his forehead and blowing away the top of his head. His mother had brought him to the uncle's home several days ago suffering from mental trouble.

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No. 3 cans Golden Pumpkin, Hominy or Sauer Kraut	12 1/2c
No. 2 cans Early June Peas	10c
Baker's Shredded Coconut, for puddings, pies or cakes, can, 10c—4 for	55c
6 cans Oil Sardines	35c
25-cans Jars Pure Preserves	25c
28-oz. jars Pure Strained Honey	30c
4 pkgs. E. C. Corn Flakes	25c
Mallo, for icing, per can	20c
Large bottles Worcester Sauce, Pure Tomato Catsup, Pickles, assorted kinds—Horseshoe or Prepared Mustard, per bottle, at	8 1/2c
Pure Apple Cider, gallon	30c
15-cans Condensed Milk	10c
Breakfast Cocoa, per lb.	20c
Fancy Quenched Olives, quart	35c
Condensed Soups, per can	8 1/2c
9 bars Best-of-All, Diamond or Swift's Pride Laundry Soap	25c
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Lemon or Orange Peel, lb.	20c

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The present prices of the Encyclopaedia Britannica ("Handy Volume" Issue) hold good only on orders sent to us at once. We are sorry to state that on account of the higher cost of all materials for the making of books, the Publishers are obliged to increase the price to us, and we to the general public. The present low prices will, therefore, be advanced by from one to three monthly payments (from \$3 to \$9), according to the binding, on or before December 20th.

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The Scarcity of India Paper

India paper is made from a kind of flax grown in Germany, Belgium and Ireland. The war ended the getting of any flax from Belgium and Germany two years ago, and the embargo of the British government has cut off all supplies from Ireland. The result is that no more India paper can be procured for years to come, for even should the war end tomorrow, there are other and more important crops to be grown than flax.

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