

A CRUEL INDUSTRY.

Cattle-raising on the Plains.

We have seen that cattle-raising is a conspicuous industry—if industry it can be called—and is carried on in, I think, every county of the State of Montana. Large cattle herds are already things of the past in the western end of the State, and it is evident that farming and settlement will soon drive them out of Gallatin and Cascade counties. It is cause for jubilation that this is the case. It seems strange that cruelty should distinguish this branch of food-raising wherever it is seen and in whatever branch one studies it. From the bloody fields of Texas, where the ingenious fiends in the cattle business snip off the horns of the animals below the quick to the stock-yards in Chicago, where men are found who will prod the beaves into pens, there to crush their skulls with hammers, it is everywhere the same—everywhere the cattle business has its concomitants of cruelty and savagery.

The reader would not suppose there was cruelty in the mere feeding of cattle on the plains, but let him go to Montana, and talk with the people there, and he will shudder at what he hears. The cattle-owners, or cow-men, are in Wall Street and the south of France, or in Florida, in the winter, but their cattle are on the wintry fields, where every now and then, say once in four years, half of them, or eighty per cent., or one in three (as it happens) starve to death because of their inability to get at the grass under the snow. A horse or a mule can dig down to the grass. Those animals have a joint in their legs which the horned cattle do not possess, and which enables those animals which possess it to "paw." Sheep are taken to especial winter grounds and watched over. But the cow-men do business on the principle that the gains in good years far more than offset the losses in bad years, and so when the bad years come, the poor beasts die by the thousands—trotter along until they fall down, the living always trying to reach the body of a dead one to fall upon, and then they freeze to death, a fate that never befalls a steer or cow when it can get food.

Already, on some of the ranges, the "cow-men" (cattle-owners) are growing tired of relying upon Providence to superintend their business, and they are sending men to look after the herds once a month, and to pick out the calves and weaker cattle and drive them to where hay is stored. By spring-time one in every fifteen or twenty in large herds will have been cared for in this way. In far eastern Montana range-feeding in large herds will long continue, but in at least five-sevenths of the State, irrigation and the cultivation of the soil will soon end it. The hills and upper benches, all covered with self-curing bunch grass, will still remain, and will forever be used for the maintenance of small herds of cows and sheep, properly attended and provided with corrals and hay, against the times when beasts must be fed. The farmers will undoubtedly go into cattle-raising, and dairy-farming is certain to be a great item in the State's resources, since the hills are beside every future farm, and the most provision that will be needed will be that of a little hay for stocking the winter corrals. Last year the cattle business in Montana was worth ten millions of dollars to the owners of the herds. "Providence was on deck," as the cow-boys would say.

But the sheep there brought twelve millions of pounds of wool on their backs in the same year. They are banded in herds of about 2000 head, and each band is in charge of one solitary, lonely, forsaken herder, who will surprise his employers if he remains a sane man any great length of time. In the summer these herdsmen sleep in tents, and the ranch foremen start out with fresh provisions at infrequent intervals, and hunt up their men as they follow the herds. In the winter the grazing is done in sheltered places especially chosen. On the winter ground a corral is built, and thirty to forty tons of hay are stored there for emergencies when the snow lies thick on the ground. It is a prime country for sheep. They get heavy coats, and are subject to no epidemic diseases. The grass is rich and plenty and the warm Pacific winds soon melt what snows occasionally cover the ground. The wool ranks next to that from Australia. The tendency of the sheep-herders to become insane is the most unpleasant accompaniment of the business, except the various forms of mutilation of the sheep for business reasons. The constant bleating of the sheep and the herder's loneliness, spending weeks and months without any companionship except that of a dog and the herd, are the causes that are commonly accepted to account for the fact that so many herdsmen go insane. Since I found insanity terribly common among the pioneers on the plains in Canada, where no sheep were raised, I prefer to leave the incessant bleating of the sheep out of the calculation, and to call it loneliness—and yet, in my opinion, that is not the sole reason.

The horse market has been very poor for some time, and mules are being raised for the market with better results. The substitution of electric for horse power on street railways has lessened the demand for horses, and so has the use of steam farming implements. There has been an over supply of horses as well. But the Montana men find horses a good investment. It costs nothing to raise them, and all breeds seem to improve there. They get great lung development, and acquire no diseases. When they cannot be sold from \$50 to \$100 apiece, the owners keep them until they do fetch those prices.—(Julian Ralph in Harper's Magazine.)

Things You Did Not Know.

- Spiders have eight eyes.
- Music type was invented in 1502.
- Fish were always sold alive in Japan.
- Gypsies originally came from India.
- Silk worms are sold by the pound in China.
- The savings bank was invented by a clergyman.
- The ashes of burnt corks make fine black paint.
- In battle only one ball out of eighty-five takes effect.
- Sales by auction were formerly held by candlelight.
- Laplancers often skate a distance of 150 miles a day.
- All the chickens in the western part of French Guinea are perfectly white.
- A mosquito has twenty-two "teeth" in the end of its bill—eleven above and the same number below.

Balaklava.
We forced our way through ring after ring of enemies, fell in with my comrade Peter Marsb, and rode rearward, breaking through party after party of Cossacks, until we heard the familiar voice of Corp. Morley, of our regiment, a great rough-bellied Nottingham man. He had lost his lance hat, and his long hair was flying out in the wind as he roared: "Coom 'ere! coom 'ere! Fall in, lads, fall in!" Well, with shouts and oaths he had collected some twenty troopers of various regiments. We fell in with the handful this man of the hour had rallied to him, and there joined us also under his leadership Sergt. Major Ranson and Private John Penn of the Seventeenth Penn, a tough old warrior who had served with the Third Light in the Sikh war, had killed a Russian officer, dismounted, and with great deliberation accoutred himself with the belt and sword of the defunct, in which he made a great show.

A body of Russian Hussars blocked our way. Morley, roaring Nottingham oaths by way of encouragement, led us straight at them, and we went through and out at the other side as if they had been made of tinsel paper.

As we rode up the valley, pursued by some Hussars and Cossacks, my horse was wounded by a bullet in the shoulder, and I had hard work to put the poor beast along. Presently we were abreast of the infantry who had blazed into our right as we went down, and we had to take their fire again, this time on our left. Their firing was very impartial; their own Hussars and Cossacks, following close on us, suffered from it as well as we. Not many of Corp. Morley's party got back. My horse was shot dead, riddled with bullets. One bullet struck me on the forehead, another passed through the top of my shoulder; while struggling out from under my dead horse a Cossack standing over me stabbed me with his lance once in the neck near the jugular, again above the collar bone, several times in the back, and once under the short rib, and when, having regained my feet, I was trying to draw my sword, he sent his lance through the palm of my hand. I believe he would have succeeded in killing me, clumsy as he was, if I had not blinded him for the moment with a handful of sand. Fletcher at the same time lost his horse, and it seems, was wounded.

We were very roughly used. The Cossacks at first hauled us along by the tails of our coats and our haversacks. When we got on foot they drove their lance butts into our backs to stir us on. With my shattered knee and the other bullet wound on the shin of the same leg, I could barely limp, and good old Fletcher said: "Get on my back, chum!" I did so, and then found that he had been shot through the back of the head. When I told him of this, his only answer was: "Oh, never mind that, it's not much, I don't think." But it was that much that he died of the wound a few days later; and here he was, a doomed man himself, making light of a mortal wound, and carrying a chance comrade of another regiment on his back. I can write this but I could not tell of it in my speech, because I know I should play the woman.—*The Nineteenth Century.*

Give the Boy Pleasure.

"Have you given your bright boy a suitable gun, and if so, which is right enough, are you taking pride in his progress in marksmanship and his glowing descriptions of the wonderful shots he has made? If you have done so, I am glad, for I believe thoroughly in fostering a love of pure sport in a growing boy. A true sportsman must needs be a gentleman, and your boy will acquire broader, purer, manlier and more gentlemanly ideas from nature's mute teachings, if his trips afield are governed by the sportsman's honest code, than he can possibly pick up from the doubtful companionship and influence of tainted streets. But do not permit him to shoot harmless birds and animals during the breeding season, as far too many boys are inclined to do. If he wants practice with his gun during the summer, get him a trap and artificial targets and let him blaze away as much as he pleases. It will improve his shooting without needlessly sacrificing a host of beautiful birds, and when Autumn brings the lawful shooting season, your boy can be given his head and allowed to kill fairly what game he can. The gun should not be used on birds of any kind that are not useful for food, and nothing will excuse the killing of feathered game between May and September.

"But the boy wants his sun afield, his woodland rambles and his share of sport. Very good. Take him afield and through the woods unarmed, and let him practice his observation and study the infinite variety of wild, happy life abounding everywhere. Let him find the cunningly-hidden nests in grass or tree, and gaze on callow young and dainty eggs, and make him keep his hands off the treasures he may find. Teach him that it is manliest to search, find, look and learn without doing harm. Far too many well-meaning people encourage their boys in collecting eggs and nests, under the delusion that the boys are doing no harm and are imbibing useful scientific information. Not one boy in a thousand either derives any benefit from egg-collecting or half completes his collection. He simply robs a lot of nests, collects a few eggs, then wearies of the passing whim and tosses aside the useless spoils. Except in rare cases where certain specimens possess especial value, an egg-collector should not take a complete set and destroy a nest. Most birds will not desert their nests if an egg or two vanishes, but the promiscuous robbing of nests by boys works a great deal more harm than most people dream of. If your boy wants sport in June, give him a rod and tackle and let him go to the hurrying trout-stream and fill his basket of toothsome beauties; or, to where the river-pools are broad and shadowy and game black bass await his skill. Never fear that his morals will be tainted by nature's touch: there is nothing of evil in the forest; its influences are as wholesome as its atmosphere, and the teachings of the stream are as pure and sweet as its limpid current and tinkling fall."

Nobody will say that there is not good wholesome advice in that extract.

Children Enjoy.

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No, it isn't frozen salt, and it isn't underground. On the contrary, this remarkable lake may be seen at any time during the year, fully exposed, being even at its best when the sun is shining directly upon it. This wonderful body of water is one of the saltiest of salt lakes, and situated near Obdorsk, Siberia. The lake is nine miles wide and seventeen long, and within the memory of man was not entirely roofed over by the salt deposit. Originally evaporation played the most prominent part in coating the lake over with salt, but at the present time the salt springs which surround it are adding fast to the thickness of the crust.

In the long ago rapid evaporation of the lake's water left great salt crystals floating on the surface. In course of time these caked together. Thus, the waters were finally entirely covered. In 1878 the lake found an underground outlet into the River Obi, which lowered its surface about three feet. The salt crust was so thick, however, that it retained its old level, and now presents the curious spectacle of a salt-roofed lake. The salt coat increases six inches in thickness every year. The many islands with which the lake is studded are said to act as braces and to help keep the arched salt crust in position.

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