

Great Falling Off In Sheep and Cattle.

The Live Stock Outlook.

Better Days For Horses.

TAH's leading live stock industry is probably that of raising sheep for the market and the woolen goods manufacturer. In past years this industry has flourished to such an extent that the inevitable over stocking has been the result. This year, however, the flockmasters have thinned out their stock. On account of heavy losses and huge shipments to market, following the restriction of ranges, there are now 40 per cent less sheep on the winter ranges than there were at the same time last year. This state of affairs is generally true throughout the entire north.

Western sheep went into winter quarters this year with brighter prospects ahead than for several years past; feed is better and more plentiful and the range will not be so heavily stocked.

While this last condition is largely due to the heavy losses of last winter and spring, it is also a fact that the western sheep owner is no longer willing to take chances on an overcrowded range, and this is as it should be. When the ranges are crowded the stock owner comes in to the clipper in good condition, the quality and quantity of the fleeces are effected, and then comes the trouble of trading to the summer ranges in their impoverishment condition.

Altogether the year just preceding has not been a prosperous one for the western sheep man. True, better prices obtained for the fat and strictly fat lambs at the river points readily brought \$5.35 and at Chicago \$5.50, while wethers sold as high as \$4.50, but it must be remembered that this was for strictly fat stuff—and the fat end of the westerns, this summer was hardly over 40 per cent—the other end going to the feeders at prices hardly profitable.

There has been no end of talk about conditions here in the west, last February and March, when the heaviest losses were taken, but after all has been said these conditions were not overestimated. In Wyoming and Idaho in any number of cases the individual losses exceeded 50 per cent; in Utah on the west desert the general losses approached 40 per cent; in nearly every case these losses occur from being continued cold weather and insufficient feed to sustain sheep under the conditions.

Further loss was sustained at the clippers when the weight of fleeces fell off two and three pounds under the weight last year, Utah ewes for instance generally yielded 7 pounds of sheared fleeces, having averaged this year over four and a half pounds. Taken altogether and excepting only remote cases, the balance this year in the western sheep and wool industry will hardly fail to show on the wrong side of the ledger.

The west and east deserts in this state which are used as winter grounds by 50 per cent of the Utah flockmasters, however, Idaho were never in a more attractive condition than this present fall; an abundance of feed is assured, and the late snow-fall, beginning Nov. 13 and still continuing, solves the water problem.

Quite a number of the growers who are well equipped for summer ranges, have taken advantage of these splendid opportunities and are rapidly increasing their stock herds, and on the east desert there is room for 200,000 head more than will be run.

The opening of the Uintah Indian reservation Oct. 1, next, to settlers, will no doubt result in the abandonment of that splendid summer range section by many Utah sheep men. If this is the case, we may well wonder if it will not put them out of the business altogether, but will have the effect of moving them on to the timber reserves and other mountain ranges.

In 1900 the government census showed 3,818,423 sheep in the State of Utah, divided as follows: ewes, 1,983,000; wethers, 1,035,000; lambs, 1,265,388. The total value of these was \$10,256,480. The lamb and wether crop of that year was of the value of approximately \$5,000,000, and the wool crop totalled \$1,800,000.

For this year the state inspection as reported by Jesse M. Smith, president of the Utah Woolgrowers' association, shows a total number of 352,000 sheep, the same being about of the same value as the same year. The total value of these was \$10,256,480. The lamb and wether crop of that year was of the value of approximately \$5,000,000, and the wool crop totalled \$1,800,000.

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The census of 1900, however, probably showed more sheep than were owned by Utah flockmasters, as there were flocks maintained independently, and the census was duplicated in a number of cases. However, the fact remains the same. Utah flockmasters all along the line have materially cut down their flocks this year.

CATTLE.

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