

WYOMING BANNER STATE FOR WOOL

Forty Million Pounds Contribution of Her Ranges For 1909.

OUTDISTANCES ALL RIVALS.

Wars Between Sheep and Cattlemen Receive Check by Conviction of Several Men for Murder.

(Special Correspondence.)
Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 19.—Wyoming not only retains the proud distinction of being the banner sheep and wool state of the Union, but Wyoming, during the present season, increased her lead and clinched her right to the title. Forty million pounds of wool is her contribution to the world's supply for the year now drawing to a close, and while actual figures will not be obtainable for a few days, Secy. George S. Walker of the Wyoming Wool Growers' association, who recently severed his connection with the state board of sheep commissioners after seven years' continuous service, is authority for the statement, which he says is based upon reports already received by him. "The 1908 production of wool may aggregate a few hundred pounds more or a few hundred pounds less than 40,000,000 pounds," said Secy. Walker, "but 40,000,000 will not be far out of the way."

Montana, second only to Wyoming, will this year produce approximately 35,000,000 pounds, which is slightly in excess of her 1908 production, but for the first time in the history of the business Wyoming clips brought almost as much on the average as those of the neighboring state on the north, so that while in 1908 and 1907, during which years Wyoming produced a greater tonnage than Montana, the latter received more money for its product, this year Wyoming will outdistance her rival in the production of wool in the grease and on a scored basis, and will also receive more money in the aggregate than Montana.

HIGH PRICES PAID.
A few years ago buyers in the field in Wyoming, where the shearing season begins several weeks earlier than in Montana, would buy only the choicest clips at the outset, preferring to wait for Montana wool, which was regarded as of better quality than the Wyoming clips, but during the past season buyers brought eagerly of Wyoming wool, paying in some instances as high as 25 cents per pound at the shearing pens, with the result that the eastern houses secured a large supply and when the season opened in Montana the demand for wool was not as brisk as in former years, and prices suffered accordingly. Then too the Wyoming wools have shown the greatest improvement during the past few years. The product is clearer, of longer and finer staple, and the sheep are better bred than formerly. Indeed, Wyoming flockmasters buy more high-class bucks than any other wool growing state in the Union, and the good results are shown in the improved clips, larger lambs and better mutton.

EFFECTS OF ORGANIZATION.
Organization has played an important part in bringing about these re-

sults for Wyoming sheepmen have the largest, strongest and most active state organization in the country. By co-operating and pulling together the Wyoming sheepowners have been able to obtain the best of everything and doubtless there is no other state that can show as high a percentage of profit, although the industry in Wyoming is fraught with great risks, owing to climatic conditions and the expense of conducting the business. Owing to scarcity of labor, high salaries to herders, camp movers, lambers and shearers, the increasing cost of supplies, increased rentals for state and school lands, the rapid increasing value of deeded land, excessive valuations on bucks, lambs and sheep levied by the state board of equalization, the cost of running a band of sheep has practically doubled in the past few years. But more intelligent attention to the business, the purchase of better breeding stock and the better care of the flocks during the winter season, all contribute to the general growth and development of the industry, which is not only the greatest of any state in the Union, but the greatest of any like area in the world, and while the influx of dry farmers, settlers and irrigators to the western range states will retard the growth of the business in some commonwealths and cause a decreased production of wool in others, Wyoming will continue to lead the procession, unless of course disease should decimate the flocks. The climatic conditions, the topography of the country and the very nature of things favor Wyoming, and while settlers, dry farmers and others will continue to come and transform into fertile farms much land that is now regarded as "range country," the sheep will go on forever, for with the state's increased production of hay and grain the range grasses will be husbanded and areas that now carry the little cloven hoofs during all seasons of the year will be allowed to rest during certain months while the flocks are waxing fat on hay and grain in the lowlands and feed lots.

BOOST FOR STORAGE.
Many offers have been received by Wyoming sheepmen for their 1910 clip, prices ranging from 20 to 23 cents. This is regarded as an indication that the prices of 1909 will hold, and another year, and sheepmen are slow to dispose of their wool, very few contracts having been signed. Leading sheepmen predict that the year will be a record, and point to the recent sale of the Green River, Wyo. Livestock company's 1909 clip as an indication of what may be expected in the spring. The Green River company's clip was sold through the Chicago warehouse of the National Wool Warehouse and Storage company and brought 26 1/2 cents per pound. This is an advance of 1 1/2 cents over the highest price received by any Wyoming grower which sold by the old method of direct dealing with commission men or representatives of eastern manufacturers. This sale is a big boost for the wool business in Wyoming, and selling wool inaugurated in Chicago by the National Wool Warehouse association, and which plan had its inception in Wyoming, the Chicago house being preceded a year ago by an Omaha concern which was organized by the Wyoming Wool Growers association.

WAS WYOMING MOVEMENT.
Wyoming stockholders of the National Warehouse company own over one-third of the stock held by the growers, and their confidence in the plan has been rewarded by the highest prices paid for wool in 1909. The stock has advanced in value, and it is understood the company will pay a handsome dividend, and this too after handling and selling the clip at from 1/2 to 3/4 of a cent cheaper than heretofore, and also after advancing money at the lowest rates of interest ever known in the wool trade. The success of the movement speaks volumes for the business ability of the growers connected with the enterprise and demonstrates again the benefits of organized effort. It is

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Go to your druggist and get one-half ounce Concentrated pine compound, two ounces of glycerine, mix a pint of good pure whiskey; half and use in doses of a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful every four hours, shaking the bottle each time. If he does not have these ingredients in stock he will quickly get them, any one can mix them.

The Concentrated pine is a special pine product and comes only in half ounce bottles, each enclosed in an air-tight case, but be sure it is labeled "Concentrated." A prominent druggist says he has filled this prescription hundreds of times and has seen it work wonders.

predicted that this Wyoming-inspired and heavily backed movement will continue to grow and develop until the growers of all parts of the United States are freed from the trust shackles with which they have been bound for years.

CATTLE VS. SHEEPMEN.
For more than a quarter of a century, and ever since the industry was first established west of the Missouri river, cattlemen have made war upon the sheepmen. It has all been due to the use of the public domain. The cattlemen settled there first, and came to regard themselves as rightfully entitled to the exclusive use of Uncle Sam's broad acres. But the sheepmen believed that all of the range should be utilized, there being millions of acres unfit for cattle grazing. Gradually the sheep owners secured holdings along the streams and increased their flocks. The cattlemen threatened and drew dead lines which, although drawn without legal authority or moral right, were in the main respected. But with the decreased herds of cattle and increased flocks of sheep the situation became strained, and frequently the flockmasters disregarded the dead lines. This was followed by raids, slaughter of sheep, burning of sheep wagons and outfits and not infrequently murder. The cattlemen were known to their victims, indeed, the raiders, emboldened by the failure of the authorities to punish them, have openly bragged about their outlawry.

But there came a time when patience ceased to be a virtue and when sheepmen everywhere demanded, hoped and prayed that justice be done, that the murderers be punished. And, fortunately for the industry and the good name of western commonwealths, the final raid that kindled the long smoldering embers of righteous indignation into a flame, occurred in Wyoming.

THE FINAL RAID.
On April 2, 1909, seven masked cattlemen of the Tensleep, Wyo., country attacked the sheep camp of Joseph Almon, Joseph Emge and Jules Lazler, French flockmasters, who had camped on Spring Creek en route to their home range nearby from Worland, Wyo., near

which place they had their flocks on hay during the previous winter. Joe Almon had for many years run cattle, but this made no difference with the raiders, who, with murder in their hearts, fired into the sheep wagons while the flockmasters slept, and, without giving them a chance to surrender, Emge and Lazler were killed outright, the wagons fired and their bodies incinerated. Almon, shot through the neck, crawled forth, and as he staggered down the tongue of the wagon with both hands raised above his head and with a cry of "Don't shoot any more, boys," on his lips, two shots rang out simultaneously, and poor Almon, who had committed no crime and who had not wronged the cattlemen, fell headlong to the ground, and after a few gasps gave up his life.

BIG REWARDS OFFERED.
News of the raid spread like wildfire, and the Wyoming Wool Growers' association immediately offered a reward of \$2,000 and hurried its detective, Joe LeFors, to the scene. The National Wool Growers' association also offered a reward of \$1,000, the Big Horn county association, \$1,000; Big Horn county, \$500, and the state of Wyoming \$500. Sheriff Felix Alston, of Big Horn county, aided by the state association detective, gathered evidence against the raiders, and on May 2 the grand jury returned true bills against the following prominent cattlemen of the Tensleep country: George Saban, M. A. Alexander, Herbert L. Brink, Ed. Eaton, William Keyes, Charles Farris and William Dixon. Keyes and Farris were taken to Sheridan, while the others were held at Basin, the county seat, without bail.

CONVICTED OF MURDER.
The trial began last October, and the first of the defendants, Herbert Brink, was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to hang in January, 1910. The others, seeing there was no hope, pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree. Saban and Alexander, the leaders, were given from 20 to 25 years each in the penitentiary, and Eaton and Dixon got from three to four years each. Farris and Keyes were discharged and left the country. A petition will be presented to the governor asking that he commute the sentence of Brink to imprisonment for life, and this will probably be done.

FIRST CASE ON RECORD.
This is the first case on record where cattlemen have been convicted of sheep camp raiding, slaughtering sheep and murdering sheep owners and employees, and while great credit is due the county officers of Big Horn county, the results would not have been secured without the sheepmen's organization, whose slogan has been and will continue to be "Prosecutions of Persecution."

The sentencing of the Tensleep murderers while they got off very light, considering the enormity of their crime, marks the beginning of a new era in the range states, and especially in Wyoming, for dead lines, raids, slaughter of sheep and the murder of innocent, law-abiding people will be tolerated no longer. The state and county authorities will be made to see their duty, and the sheepmen's association will assist in all future prosecutions.

It is to be hoped, however, that although the shepherd has at last witnessed the punishment of raiders, he will not become arrogant and overbearing on the range or attempt to ride over others or disregard their rights, for while now he has the sympathy of an outraged public, he will lose this sympathy and support if he does not accord to others that same square deal on the range that he has so long sought, and which was not enjoyed until recently.

Get together, you sheep and cattle raisers, settle your differences amicably, and all the world will respect you. GEORGE S. WALKER.

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NEGRO WAS KILLED,
MARSHAL WAS SHOT

Kansas City, Dec. 20.—In a pistol battle in which County Marshal Joel B. Mayes, Policeman Earl C. Logan and an unknown negro were the participants, the negro was killed and the marshal was shot in the head and severely wounded in a pawpaw at 20 Independence avenue here today.

The officers had been notified that the negro was in the pawpaw trying to borrow money on jewelry stolen from Mrs. F. H. Barrett a few days ago. They went to the store and arrested the negro. The marshal was leaning against a counter when the negro suddenly drew a pistol and fired point blank at him, the bullet striking him in the head. Steadying himself, the marshal fired one shot at the negro, killing him. In the pockets of the negro were found three diamond rings belonging to Mrs. Barrett.

MORE DANVILLE PROOF.
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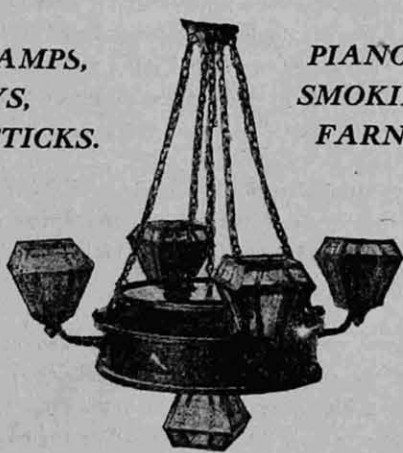
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