

A TALK WITH THE SECRETARY OF AGRICUL-TURE ABOUT OUR MEAT SUPPLY AND ITS FUTURE.

(Copyright, 1906, by Frank G. Carpen-ter.) ASHINGTON, D. C., Oct, 1. -I have just had a long talk with Secy. Wilson about American meats at home and abroad. The conversation took the in the agricultural department,

the secretary and myself being seated, neek by jowl and knee by knee," side the big desk before which he senes out the various improvements is seeds and cultivation which are protationizing the farming of the inited States.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SECY. WILSON.

patore I detail our conversation, I efore I detail our content about the to say a word or two about the ary of agriculture. He is one of irongest men fri President Rooseat the same time ngest m a Sunday school at-a Sunday school at-a whim. He comes of the simple with eetch United Presbyterian stock at is in fact, a Scotchman. Seated with him at dianer, the other night, began faking about our United nden of a preacher of that llk; randson secretary if he had orbit catechism. He a I asked the er learned the al by quoting the first question wer as "to man's chief end," and answer as "to man's chief end," and then going on to the close with the proper definitions of sanctification, elector, and justification. I asked him if he could repeat any of the old Paims as they were sung in Rouse's resion. He replied that he knew them all, and that if I would start one he could go through it to the end. I thereupon began:

"I to the hills will lift mine eyes,"

The secretary at once chimed in, "From whence doth come mine ald, From whence doin come mine aid, is safety cometh from the Lord, Whom heaven and earth hath made. By foot He'll not let slide, Nor will He slumber that thee keeps The Lord who keepsth Israel He slumbers not nor sleeps."

He then took up the second verse and third, and went on to the end of the Psalm.

FROM PLOW BOY TO THE CABI-

Seey. Wilson can quote Burns quite as well as the Bible. He gives the poet with the broad Scotch accent.and with the same accent that Burns used him-self. He was brought up in the Burns country and was born near Ayr in the same locality where Robert Burns first raw light and where Tam O'Shanter had his famous race after the dance of the witches. Like Burns, young had his famous like Burns, young of the witches. Like Burns, young Wilson was brought up on a farm, and he followed the plow there until he was 16. Then his father emigrated to America and settled in Connecticut,

ne was is and the time in Connecticut, Three years later the family moved to low going in canvas-covered wagons, They took up a homestead, and James Wilson worked on his father's farm for three years and then entered a homestead of his own. That is the way he started farming in the United States, and he has been farming from that day to this. He has done all kinds of farm work common to the middle west. He has raised corn, wheat and live stock and has made maney out of them. Before he came to the cabinel he had a large syndi-cate of agricultural papers to which he are weekly agricultural sugges-twas and since then he has made his sparment a great correspondence

department a great correspondence

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.) plication of it. He tells me we can double our corn crop, which is now worth more than twice as much as all the gold and silver that man digs from the settle in our that the number of the set the gold and sliver that han digs from the earth in one year, by merely using the proper seeds, and that by the ju-dicious application of the fertilizer of the air by means of bacteria we can turn the worn-out lands of the south into a very Garden of Eden.

OUR MEAT SUPPLY.

But I started out to tell you about But I statistic with the secretary on American meats. His bead has been full of them ever since the investiga-tion of the beef trust, and he has made a number of quiet trips during the past a number of quiet trips during the past year to the packing centers, dropping into the various establishments with-out notice to inspect their cleanliness and see whether Uncle Sam's agents are doing their doty. He has been out on the ranges and looked at the animals there, and has made frequent visits to the barns and stockyards of the corn states. the corn states. My first question was as to our meat

supply. The secretary said: "We have more meat and better meat than any other country. Our animals are out-of-door animals. They have fresh air both summer and winter, and tresh air both summer and whiter and the percentage of disease is small. Fresh air is as necessary to the beast as to man. It makes pure blood, and pure blood makes good beef, pork and mutton. You ask as to our supply. I can give you the figures of the stock on hand the first of this year. We then had about 47,000.000 cattle, 50,-060.000 sheep and 52,000,000 hogs. In In addition, there were about 20,000,000 milch cows. These are scattered all over the United States, and they are the source of the meat we are eating today." today.

MILLIONS IN MEATS.

"What are these animals worth?" "If you take them as they stand they are worth many millions. Our malch cows now approximate \$500,000,000 in value, our other cattle are worth \$662, 000,000, and the sheep and hogs, \$283, 060,000. As to the value of this stock when ground up into meat and other products, that would run into the billions if they were all turned into the packing houses and sold."

OUR IMPROVED STOCK. "How about our cattle, Mr. Secretary

"How about our cattle, Mr. Secretary? Are we improving our stock by breed-ing from year to year?" "Yes. The long-horned Texas animal has about disappeared, and the same is true of scrubs of every kind. We are importing the best of the foreign breeds and are greatly increasing our number of pure blooded cattle. At the last cen-sus about one in a hundred of all our cattle was pure blooded, and this 1 per cent was, according to some estimates, worth 10 per cent of the value of all the cattle. We had then about 700,000 pure-blooded animals." 'blooded animals."

"Where did our cattle originate?" "The first that were brought to Amer-ica came with Columbus to the West Indies in 1493. They were taken from there to Mexico by the Spanlards and thence spread northward into Califor-nia, Texas and the other states along the border. These cattle were the anthe border. Those cattle were the an-cestors of our Texas cattle. The Span-iards also sent some into Florida, the descendants of which found their way north and formed the basis of the cheap cattle of Florida and the adjoining states."

and on the hoof.

"We have the advantage of Argen tina as to shipping live animals. The

tina as to shipping live animals. The cattle of that country are grass fed and they have diseases which prevent their competing with us. They cannot be sent abroad unless killed, and their beef must go in cold storage or packed. We are exporting a great deal of meat in the shape of packing-house products. We ship hundreds of millions of pounds of bacon and hame and a vast quantity of bard. The only country that com-"How about our blooded stock?" "We imported some from England in early times, but none of importance unearly times, but none of importance un-til the nineteenth century. The Here-fords were first imported into New York and Kentucky, and the Shorthorn soon followed. About 1870 came the Polled and Kentucky, and the Shorthorn soon followed. About 1870 came the Polled

What Improved Stock Is Doing For The Country-The American Market-Our Beef And Pork Abroad-John Bull Our Best Customer-Diseased Meat-The Government Inspection-Behind The Scenes With Secretary Wilson.



WESTERN CATTLE STARTING EASTWARD.

"We send more to great Britain and Belgium, Holland and Germany and a great part of the balance to the United Kingdom. We are increasing our ship-ments of cattle and fresh beef, and al-Ireland than to any other country. John Bull is the best customer for the world's meats, and he buys most from world's meats, and he buys most from the United States. He imports more every year than we export, and he draws from other nations as well as from us. In 1903 the United States sent Great Britain 7,500 millions of pounds of meat, Argentina sent about 2,800 millions. The other countries, which produce smaller amounts, were Den-mark, Holland and Canada. The most of the Argentina meat was in the shape

so those of our packing house products.' THE MEAT INVESTIGATION AND OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

"But will not this investigation of the beef trust hurt our foreign meat

"Not for any length of time. In fact, I think it will help it. Under the new act of Congress the agricultural de-partment will inspect our American produce smaller amounts, are most mark, Holland and Canada. The most of the Argentina meat was in the shape of heef and mutton, and that of New Zealand was largely frozen mutton. Our meats were of all classes, fresh, packed meats from the pastures to the pack-

age. We shall see to it that the meats are in good condition all along the line. We shall watch them at every stage, and the customers can feel sure that they are sound, wholesome and fit for food. In fact, the best meat label of the future fs to be the American label; and it will be a guarantee of good meat all over the world. Since the investi-gation there has been some falling off in our sales of canned meats, but the world needs them and will buy them." "Speaking further about our meat in-spection, I would say that there will in the future be two kinds of slaughter-houses. I mean one kind that will be under the supervision of the United States and another kind that will not of bacon. The most of the lard went to | age, We shall see to it that the meats States and another kind that will no

state and foreign commerce. We have put out@new rules for such inspection, and we will keep them rigid enough to insure good and absolutely healthy meat." DISEASED MEATS. "How do our animals compare with those of other countries as to dis-

They are remarkably free from

"They are remarkably free from them, and we shall make them more so in the future. We expect to extermi-nate sheep scab and cattle mange, and to that end are having the animals dipped. This goes on throughout the mountain states and also in the south. As it is now they have a fever tick in the couthern states which attacks uni-

As it is now here a states which attacks ani-mals imported from the north. Many of the other states quarantine against it, and the result is our meat industry in the south is comparatively small

in the south is comparatively small. By studying this tick we have found that we can get rid of it by starving it. The insect breeds on the ground, al-though it feeds entirely on the blood of the animals. The way we do is to divide the pasture fields and put the animals on one side and nothing on the other. The licks which are on the ground and breeding having no ani-

ground and breeding, having no ani-mals to feed upon, soon die, and after

mais to been upon turn the cattle back into those fields and let the ticks die on the other side. Before changing we dip the animals in a mixture which kills the ticks upon them, and in this

way we are fast wiping out the pest. Congress has given us over \$80,000 to use for this purpose in the southern

under that supervision. The several

states, and the states themselves will states and cities must look after their own butchering. As to this department, it has to deal only with those pack-inghouses which manufacture for liter-state and foreign commerce. We have vantages over the north and west in stock raising. Its winters are mild, and therefore less feed is needed to fatten

the stock." FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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takes imagination to see the possi lities of a business or of a scientific et Secy. Wilson has it, and Uncle-am is growing rich through the ap-



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and we have now Shorthorn Polled Angus, Herefords and many oth-er breads of meat cattle. We have fine breeds of mlich eattle as well."

BETTER MEAT THAN EVER. "Do we grow better beef from year

"Do we grow better beef from year "Yes," said Seey, Wilson. "It used to be that the steer was four years old before he was thought fit for the pack-ing bouze. Some years later he was marketed at three years, and lowa and Illinois are now sending in stock two years old which are equal to and better than the four-year-olds of some time ago. We are learning how to raise beef, and how to breed for it. We put the meat now where if is the most pro-fitable. It used to be that the unim-moved steer and the steer from the dillow in their abdomens. The well-bred steer of today puts his meat upon his back, so that you can cut beef-steaks clear along him from the borns to the hocks."

HIGH-PRICED MEATS

'Are not the prices of meats very

high, Mr. Secretary?" "Yes, but there is a reason for it. Our times are so prosperous now that every one enters the markets for the best cuts and the demand is great." "Will the time come when the Ameri-

"Will the time come when the Ameri-can laborer cannot afford to eat meat? Will he be reduced to the condition of the laborer of Europe?" "I think not. The American will be able to eat meat as long as I live or as you live, unless we change our public policy in such a way as to stop the de-mand for labor and bring about hard times. As it is now our chief meat market is the home market. Our home market is our best market for every-thing. We are the richest people on earth and the best fed."

JOHN BULL OUR BEST CUSTOMER. "Tell me something about our ex-

OUR MEAT ABROAD.

> 'Tell me just what our meat exports consist of?" "In 1904 they amounted to \$218,000,-600," replied the secretary, "and of this \$175,000,000 came from lard, cattle, fresh beef, bacon, hams and oleo oll. We then shipped \$46,000,000 worth of lard \$42,000,000 worth of cattle, \$27,000,000 worth if fresh beef and \$25,000,000 worth consist of



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