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BEEF'S BUOYANCY.

From all parts of this blessed land is heard a mighty wail about the advancing price of beef, mingled with the sorry jokes that a steak has now become so precious that prudent housekeepers lock it up overnight in the safe, along with the family plate and jewelry. That the great staple is riding on the crest of a tempest wave is a fact that is pretty evident to dealers as well as consumers; few there be, however, who really can explain the cause of the elevation in price of the one commodity while most of the others still sit helplessly in the trough of the commercial sea. "The trust" is of course the first agency to be thought of as having created the beef boom, and the big packers are receiving their due share of indescribable abuse. Secretary Morton of the department of agriculture appears to believe that manipulation or speculation has something to do with the rise in price, hence the series of questions which his department recently issued for the purpose of eliciting information bearing on the whole subject. On the other hand the large dealers, those who are supposed to control the markets and who usually have the most absolute and arbitrary power in fixing the rates, declare that neither combination nor speculation can make a product cheap when it is scarce, or permanently make it dear when it is plentiful. In the present instance the supply, they say, is inadequate to the demand, hence the advance, and they are in no way responsible for it.

This view is borne out by statistics collected by *Dradstreet's*. That journal, after exhibiting the decrease in the number of cattle and farm animals generally during several years past, owing to business depression and short crops, which forced the owners to sell at any price, goes on to prove that not for seven years past has the number of beef cattle in the United States been so small as on January 1 this year, when their value was the greatest for thirteen years; the number of sheep was the smallest for fifteen years and value the lowest on record; hogs were smaller in number than in any year since 1891, and, with the exception of 1891, the lowest in value for ten years. Under these circumstances it is not strange to find that the total value of farm animals is the lowest reported for fourteen years. One evident result of the low prices paid has been to stimulate exports, and for the eight months of the fiscal year ending with February, a comparison with the same period a year ago shows an increase in shipments of over 85,000 head of cattle with an increase of value of more than four and a half million dollars.

On the face of the showing there would seem to be small room to doubt that the inexorable law of supply and demand was solely responsible for the present condition, the stock is limited, the quality is poor, and while the demand in the spring and summer is always less than in winter, it is still greater for the better grades than is the product on hand to fill it. It also would appear that if the "trust" had desired to effect a corner and force up prices, it would not have waited until the season of glut in cattle, sheep, poultry and other meats has made its advent. On the other hand some of the remedies of the big dealers at their disposal is not reasonable and inferentially to the consumer would look, except by "communication" or "conspiration," to suggest that Americans first shipped to foreign markets and then demand that Americans buy and eat beef home at home.

FRUIT AND BUGS.

In another part of this issue the NEWS has a communication from Prof. W. Pitzer, the new director of Cornell's experiment station, in which he has been engaged while in Utah. Mr. Pitzer comes up strongly against the fact that the destruction of the bugs is thought preferable, and also that such spraying kills the beneficial bees.

Assuming the correspondent's position to be correct—and his and Professor Cook's opinion should with that view—we present that the officials who have the enforcement of the law have imposed a new and difficult duty upon them when they decide that the importation of bees as part of their duty demanded special attention to protect the apiarists established in Utah. In our view of the case, the whole business is in their hands, and it would be quite easy for them to put an end to improper or unnecessary spraying, merely by enforcing the law. As to spraying that may be done while the trees are in bloom, and which is justly complained of, the chief culprits in it are those anxious to see the operation of the experiment station in the private hands of professional sprayers to get a job under color of the experiment station in the private hands of professional sprayers. If that commercial work not requiring spraying were in bloom, there would be operations with spraying powder under the pretension that they are carrying out the law and obtaining pay for their work under a false pretense, and the law is grossly violated without.

The way to settle the whole question is to regulate the matter in quite plain. The pomade pulps under the proclamation, as required by section 1 of the statute, stating the time of trees which are to be sprayed and proper to conduct certainly the inspector under notice in conformity with the orders given. Suppose orchard owners propose spraying at a time or times not in the proclamation and notice, what then? Let the law be enforced. The duty devolving throughout in the directed by the pomade pulps, and state this is not complied with by spraying at another time than is designated, let section 5 and 7 be applied by summoning those who do not spray at that time, and by having their trees cultivated to proper owners at the owners' expense. This will soon settle the matter, and without any great trouble to owners if orchards will not long and expect payment the professional sprayers for work in the wrong season when they will have to pay again for getting it rightly done. One unfortunate feature of experience up to the present is that the pomade pulp's proclamation is usually out so late as to make too soon to delay it until just preceding the spraying season would be an improvement which probably will come in time.

As is the conflict between the honey and fruit interests, that ought to be quickly and forever set at rest. Utah cannot afford to abandon fruit raising; nor can she do without the honey-bee and gain any advantage. There is abundant room for both industries to grow side by side; in fact, one is in a degree dependent on the other. It is stated that by premature spraying this season one honeypot in this city already has lost a hundred dollars' worth of bees. There is something radically wrong in a procedure that causes such damage, and orchard owners as well as beekeepers ought to be interested in checking it. There are many people who declare that spraying trees is of no value, and well they may, since such spraying is done at an improper season, and is a detriment to the fruit as well as to the bee industry. But spraying at proper times is beneficial in destroying pests, and at such times it catches only injurious insects, while the useful honey-bee escapes harm. We believe that if those who have the law's enforcement in hand will work intelligently to this end the people will not be long in finding out just what to do, and the annoying and in some respects disastrous antagonism between orchard owners and bee-keepers will be wholly swept away. In furtherance of this end we commend Inspector Pitzer's warning to the careful consideration of fruit growers.

NOT A LAUGHING MATTER.

In the Constitutional Convention yesterday afternoon Judge Hamilton, of San Juan county, offered a resolution which the press report says was read "amid peals of laughter" from the delegates. The resolution contained the suggestion that the Legislature should "by law set apart San Juan county as a reserve in order to protect the remains of the ancient cave and cliff dwellers of that land."

Now, with all due allowance for the amusement of the delegates at humorous satire occasionally made by the member from San Juan, we fail to see any occasion for greeting his serious suggestion with laughter. With great people a reservoir to the resting place of the dead is and constitutes a proper support of piety. The very dwellers of the prehistoric cave in the mount of a million of humanity, would have expected to the reverential nature of the Commonwealth to a degree that would have made no remarks as this one to be made. It was not and that still more, if, as it seems to have been evoked, Mr. Hamilton might well have thought himself in no reasonable fear of being "pomadized" or "hypocrisized," it happens that Americans had shipped to foreign markets a million dollars' worth of bones, and we are now here at home.

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