

Story of the Livestock Industry of the State of Nevada.

(BY GOVERNOR JOHN SPARKS.)

In attempting to present the livestock industry of Nevada, and to convey to the minds of strangers true conceptions of its importance and growth, I deem it necessary to go back to the beginning and explain conditions and circumstances which have exercised a far-reaching influence for good, and not altogether free from evils, that have retarded development in a progressive manner.

The class of stock first brought to Nevada territory was generally of very inferior quality, and especially that placed on the ranges. Horses, cattle and sheep of Spanish descent were driven here from California, where they and their progenitors had ranged for years without any attempt to improve their breeding or maintain their inherent qualities. The only object in bringing them here was to relieve the overstocked ranges in California; and therefore it is not probable that the best were selected for that purpose.

Beginning of the Industry.

This class of stock, unpromising and undesirable as it was, constituted the foundation of the livestock industry of this state. It served, however, the purpose of demonstrating the superiority of our climate, soil, grasses and forage plants for the development and growth of livestock, to the highest standard of perfection.

When the Comstock lode was opened up and thousands of people rushed to the camp, the cattle and sheep previously brought here in a starved and dying condition, furnished the market with meat as fine as anyone could desire, and were sold at fabulous prices; this stimulated and encouraged stockmen to engage in the business in a permanent way, with a desire to improve their stock. The process was slow and expensive, but succeeded remarkably well.

The foregoing is history, related to me by stockmen who had actual experience through every stage of the process, and received by me as undoubted truth.

Governor Sparks's Coming.

I first came to Nevada in 1870. My impressions at that time were very favorably inclined toward the state as a stockraising country, and after several years' experience those impressions have not changed. Evidently the livestock conditions in 1870 had somewhat improved over those of early times, but there were then urgent reasons for desiring a better class of animals for breeding purposes. The practice at that time of buying cattle in Texas and Oregon, placing them on the ranges of Nevada, militated very materially against stocking the ranges for legitimate breeding purposes, as the feed was consumed, the cattle shipped to market and no increase left behind.

In those days the native cattle and sheep were sufficient to supply the local demand for beef and mutton. Later on, however, Texas found a better market, and in Oregon the supply was reduced to a minimum. We may, therefore, conclude that, about 1874, practical cattle and sheep breeding began and has continued to increase both in numbers and excellence of animals raised. It was but a short time thereafter that our stockmen began to ship both cattle and sheep to San Francisco and other markets, which has not only been continued to San Francisco, but they have forced their way into eastern markets, and successfully competed with the coveted stock of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

Interesting Figures.

To illustrate this assertion, I will

quote from railroad statistics furnished by the Southern Pacific company from records in its office covering a period of seven years—1898 to 1904 inclusive—showing the tonnage of cattle shipped by the said company to points beyond our border. For seven years named there were 183,000 tons of cattle shipped out of this state, estimating, according to railroad approximation, 11 tons to the car. The result is 16,636 carloads of cattle shipped during the time named. Estimating 20 animals to the car we have 332,720 cattle shipped for the seven years. This is the method of approximation used by the railroad for determining the number of cattle transported by it for that period.

By examining the same table I find that 77,131 tonnage of cattle were carried from Nevada points to points in other states during the years 1903 and 1904. Adopting the same method of approximation as above, we find 7,713 carloads, numbering 154,260 animals exported. As these cattle were almost all beef cattle on their way to market, computation will show that if this surplus had been equally divided among our population, every man, woman and child in Nevada would have been entitled to within a small fraction of two loaves each.

Sheep Six to One.

I have not been able to get information even by approximation, that would enable me to move this question as to the number of sheep shipped to market during the last year, or the number now ranging in the state. I believe, however, that in numbers shipped and now held the sheep will exceed that of the cattle shipped and held, six to one.

The sheep business is controlled and managed by persons who operate on a different plane, and in so far as the welfare of the state is concerned, the difference is as easily distinguished as the difference between the daylight and darkness, or good from evil.

The unwelcome or intruding classes are those who come with bands from other States have no fixed habitation, own no land here, and have no intention of becoming citizens, but who come for the purpose of devouring our substance, eating out our ranges, and leaving desolation and destruction behind.

This system requires two men, four or five ponies and about six dogs to manage from Nevada points to points in other states during the years 1903 and 1904. They ascend high mountains during spring and summer, returning in the fall to the plains below, or to the mountains, where they come winter. Shearing time comes and the same round is gone over each year. The wool clips bring in a handsome dividend and mutton always has a good price. They claim to ruin the public domain, but as a general rule they are not particular whether the domain is public or private if there is plenty of feed.

A Better Class.

There is, however, an honorable distinction to be made in favor of another class of sheep owners, who have been consistent, enterprising citizens of the state, have invested in lands and improvements, have introduced the best blood in the country, and have carefully guarded and kept their flocks free from disease. This class has deservedly prospered. Several holdings in the state number from 50,000 to 75,000 head and no one is envious, for there is a well founded belief in the minds of our people that whatever profits may accrue, the state will receive the benefit.

Reverting to the breeding and improvement of cattle, there has probably been a more general advance toward perfection than is observable in any other class of livestock. There are several stock farms in the state which

Gray desolation wraps the

waste of plain

That in the far, uplifts to

ash strewn height.

All silence, save the wail of

hungry wolf

And shriek of distant puma

in the night.

Here chuckawalla summers

in the sun;

Here horned toad bakes his

spines in noonday glare.

While sinuous rattler waits

whom he may strike

And scorpion bids the

emptiness beware.

IN DEATH VALLEY

By William McClure Gotwald.



THE DESERT'S GREEN—A JOSHUA TREE.

We wist, we craved, we died a thousand deaths.

But Nature mocked, or Nature was not there.

And yet we loved thee, desert, for the heart

Here found forgetfulness, sought everywhere.

are almost entirely devoted to the propagation of cattle of the pure blood to be obtained, and representing all the different breeds. Much prejudice on the part of owners of range was experienced at first, on account of the prevailing opinion that such fine and delicate stock would not prosper when turned out to range for themselves, but experience has proved that they are not only able to make a living, but actually possess more endurance and vitality than the original stock. They mature much younger, produce more beef, more milk and butter, and of better quality which commands the highest prices in the market. Let anyone go on the ranges and he will find many graded cattle that would command attention in the show ring of almost any state in the Union. This condition is not confined to the range by any means. Examine the cattle owned by ranchers of small property of dairies of all classes, and the evidence of good blood is clearly manifest, and without doubt will continue to improve until the cattle of Nevada will rank with the best to be found anywhere in the world.

About the Horse.

Call to mind Arabia, the land that has given to the world the highest type of horse known; the land of and sand-

ly deserts, and stunted vegetation, and compare with conditions in Nevada; you will find the similarity so striking as to convince the most skeptical that Nevada is the natural home of the horse.

Our horsemen have given attention to breeding all classes, from the thoroughbred to the broncho, and have been successful in so far as improvement is concerned, but the very low prices prevailing for some years so discouraged horse raisers that they quit giving it attention, and actually allowed their range horses to run wild until they became a public nuisance. A law was passed authorizing the destruction of all unbranded horses, except running at large. Thousands were shot down in the same manner as wild game, for the hide, and the range freed from their depredations. A better class of general purpose horses will hereafter be raised, and our thoroughbreds with royal blood going back to the renowned Lexington through sons and daughters of that grand old horse, from generation to generation during the last 25 years, will continue to be the pride of our people, and inspire the highest respect for those pioneer breeders who have done so much to furnish a glorious record, both in breeding and performance on the turf.

In speaking of range stock, it is intended to apply to stock placed on ranges which under ordinary circumstances will be expected to subsist both winter and summer, without other feed. It is, however, considered prudent to be provided with hay sufficient to feed the stock, should an unusually severe winter occur. Ordinarily it is only necessary to send riders out to look over the range stock during the winter months, and if they find an animal that does not appear to be doing well, it will be driven to the feeding quarters and taken care of. It is not a very great burden to make provision for feeding, as almost every range contains much land in the form of natural meadows, which only requires the mow with a force of men to change the grass into a fine quality of hay in short order. Not only are the natural meadows available but it is almost impossible to find a range, however small, that does not contain sagebrush lands richly productive for alfalfa or any other crop grown in this latitude, when prepared and irrigated. Alfalfa is the crop favored by all stockmen. The yield from four to five tons per acre for the season, two cuttings during the summer, leaving good pasture after the second crop. The stockmen are now showing a preference for alfalfa, as almost every farmer in the state makes

it the principal crop, it being very nutritious and eaten with avidity by all hay eating animals with the very best results, and brings remunerative returns when sold.

Hog Raising Business.

While this industry is one that holds out great inducements to the farmer, it has not been adopted to the extent of entitling it to recognition as one of the leading industries. This is not a corn producing state as a field crop, and although many substitutes are found which will promote growth and even fatten hogs, nothing so far can be considered equal to corn-fed pork.

The state produces enough to supply its inhabitants with fresh pork, and many farmers cure sufficient for their own use. This climate seems to be especially adapted to the health of swine, as it is a common saying here that "A hog never dies until he is killed." Good blood has been introduced, and by feeding sugar beets, which are very easily grown, supplemented by a little wheat or barley and some alfalfa hay, a very good article of pork may be produced.

Realizing that animal health is one of the prime factors necessary in successful stock growing, a descriptive statement concerning this industry would be incomplete and unsatisfactory without full assurance of healthy surroundings and exemption from excessive and unnatural loss from disease. Our stockmen have zealously guarded their herds from infectious diseases from all sources, which requires painstaking care, assisted by high altitude, pure air, almost uninterrupted sunshine, nourishing food and pure water, have resisted all epidemics and have effected propagation and spread of disease from local sources in our midst.

It can be safely asserted, without fear of contradiction, that no more healthful locality, east or west, is to be found in the United States than to be found in Nevada, for both man and beast.

Superior Native Grasses.

Allusion has been made to the native grasses and forage plants of this state in terms that most certainly indicate great confidence in their specific virtues and superior qualities, over those of all other states and territories for stock raising purposes. In the endeavor to substantiate this assertion, I am aware that its correctness may be challenged by other states and territories where the same plants and grasses grow. It must be admitted that these plants are only found in the arid west. The query may then arise if the same are grown in other arid states and territories, why should Nevada claim a superior product? Because aridity being an essential condition, and Nevada the most arid state in the Union, it naturally follows that arid grasses and plants attain the greatest perfection for the reason that conditions are more favorable.

Neither is it anomalous; the state of Virginia has the reputation of producing the highest quality of any state in the Union, although surrounded by other states engaged in the same pursuit. The state of Kentucky became renowned for its superior fine grass, but it undoubtedly grew as luxuriantly in other states. Conditions of soil and climate surely exercise an influence not understood in the growth and maturity of grasses and plants.

Grasses and Forage Plants.

We have two distinct classes of native grasses, which are of two different kinds, growing together in each class. The most valuable land producing vegetation adapted to such conditions, cover species growing on dry, sandy and rocky uplands, extending far up on the mountain sides; both conifer-

ations of land surface produce grasses and plants peculiarly adapted to livestock stock, and development. The low flat lands afford the good pasture, and produce a fine quality of hay. On the moist lands will be found the wild red top, rush, square grass, wild blue grass, and the time honored wild blue grass is now coming in, to take possession of the old meadows and pastures, all of which are valuable stock feed.

The Native Bunch Grass.

The uplands, plains and mountains, produce the bunchgrass, which is the most highly prized of all for range purposes. It grows in stools or bunches, its name implies from six inches to 18 inches in height, has a fine straw standing upright and maintains this position for years without eroding or falling down. At the top fine shoots are thrown out, which are loaded with seed and possess great fat-producing qualities. The next in the stockmen's estimation is the native blue grass. This grows in stools, is much taller than bunch grass, and is excellent food both summer and winter, and for the dairy produces milk and butter of the very finest flavor and quality. Those who have tested it thoroughly for this purpose positively assert that no food known can compare with it for dairy pasturage.

The different varieties of the sage plant are held in high esteem as a winter forage plant. It grows taller than bunch grass, is eaten with great relish by all kinds of range stock, is very nutritious, and bears close grazing without permanent injury to the plant. Its constitution is strong and securely set in the ground, and is more easily situated as to be easy of access.

Other Good Browsing.

The greasewood makes splendid browsing for stock, and are very generally distributed throughout the state. There are many herbs and weeds known by name to the average stockman that contribute to the general supply of forage plants to be found on the ranges.

The several varieties above enumerated do not usually grow together in the same soil. Whether they are only indigenous to certain conditions of soil or otherwise is a matter for the better informed to explain.

In the first place these plants and grasses all grow in dry atmosphere, and all the forage plants grow in a comparatively dry soil. They grow rapidly and at maturity ripen slowly, standing in the ground, supported by live roots which gradually feed the plant during the curing process, and in so doing undoubtedly leaves the residue substance naturally stored in the plant. Not so with grasses grown in wet soil. Their constitution is weak, soft and spongy, and when allowed to ripen naturally, lodge on the ground and become worthless for feed within a very short time.

Let anyone go out on the deserts or the mountains and examine a stool of bunch grass, white sage, greasewood, or any forage plant in the dead of winter, which has been standing upright in the soil for months after maturing—take a quantity in the hand and it will be found firm, elastic and as pliable as a very fine material; if you also discover that it contains a remarkable quantity of sap, pure and natural. It is a well-known fact that these bunches continue to stand for years and remain as nutritious as the day they were first gathered, because there is life enough in the plants to resist decay. If the feed on the range is not consumed this year, that which is left is good for next year and much longer.

AN UNEXPECTED GUEST.

The Butterfly That Lived in a Christmas Tree.

Papa, Archie and May went to the woods to get a Christmas tree, and found just what they wanted—a little pine, bushy and straight.

"There's something I must cut off," said Archie. He pointed to a little gray bunch on one of the twigs and pulled out his knife.

"No, no!" cried May, holding his hand. "Let it stay. It's a poor little caterpillar's house."

May was right. One Indian summer day a caterpillar, dressed in brown velvet, was taking a walk in the woods. At last he came to the little pine tree and thought to himself, "What a nice place to spend the winter!"

So he made himself a little house, of fine, soft thread, and fastened up the door. He did not leave himself even a window to look out. If there had been one, how it would have surprised him to see that he and his house and the pine tree were riding in a sleigh with Papa and May and Archie.

He would have been still more surprised if he had seen the tree standing in the parlor, covered with toys and trinkets and little candles.

"It must be spring at last," he thought, for it was very warm in the parlor.

So he poked a hole in the wall of his house, and out he came. But what do you think? He was not a caterpillar.

"Oh, see the lovely butterfly!" cried May.

He flew to the top bough, and the children said there was nothing else on the tree so pretty as the butterfly.

"He must have come down the chimney with Santa Claus," said May. And she never guessed that he came out of the caterpillar's house.—Youth's Companion.

MAKING CHRISTMAS TOYS.

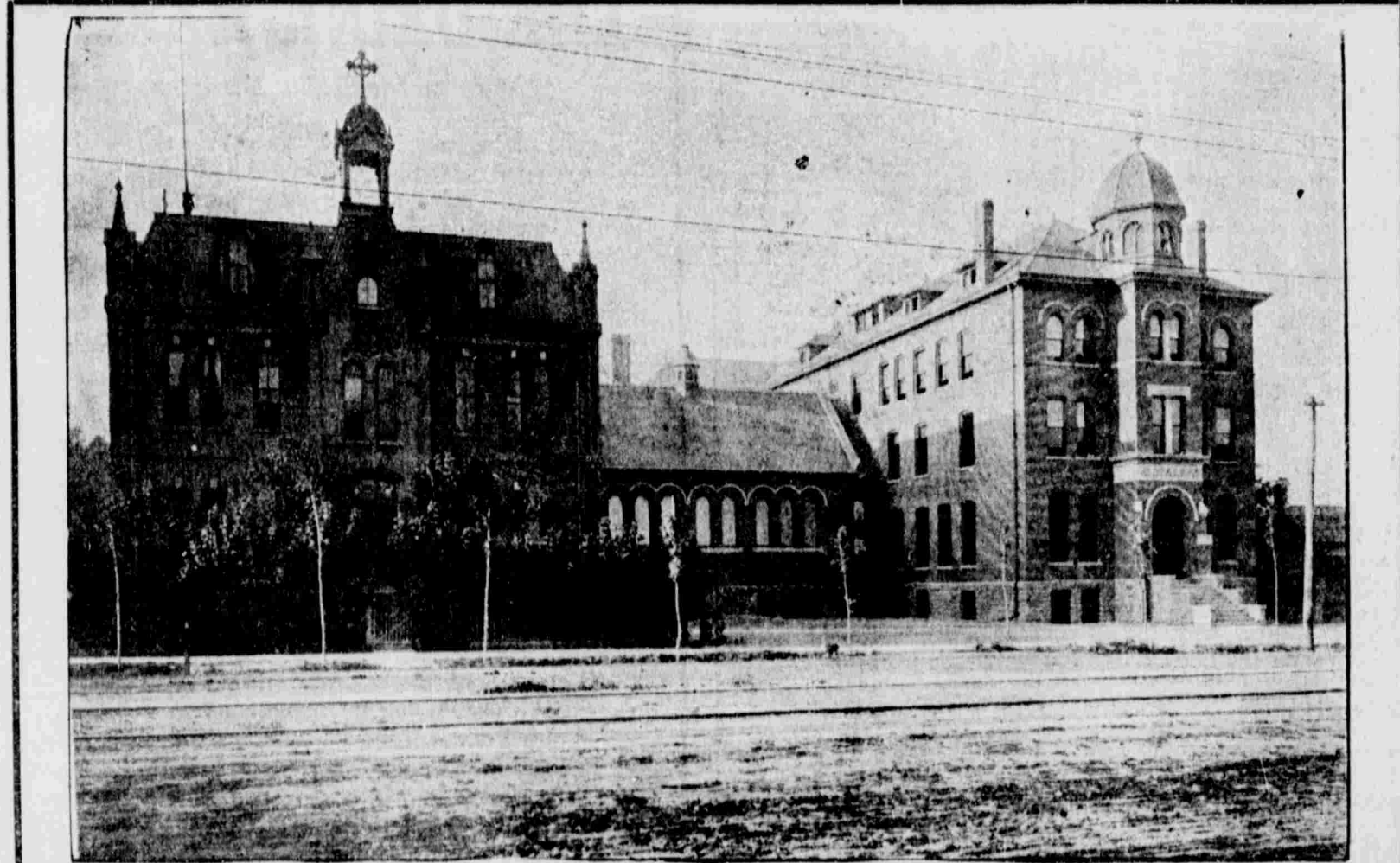
A Thriving Industry in Germany, France and Switzerland.

In parts of Germany, France and Switzerland every humble householder takes more interest in Christmas than the average American boy. This seems like a strong statement, for Christmas is pretty thoroughly appreciated by the young of America. But, great as the festival is to them, it is not essential to their existence. They could get along without Christmas, but the toy-makers in Switzerland, the Tyrol and south Germany would starve without this

midwinter holiday which makes a market for their goods. There are wood carvers, doll dressers and toy-makers, in every hamlet and home of the Tyrol. They depend upon the small wages they make from these toys to put bread and butter in their mouths.

All through the winter season every boy and man carves out wood animals and toys for the factories. Everything is handmade. A Noah's ark of twenty or thirty wooden animals that retails for a quarter in this country does not pay the carver more than a few pennies.

The boys are taught to handle the knife early, and they learn to cut out wooden ducks, hens, horses, cows and other toys before they have reached their teens. Working all through the early winter days and nights in their little homes, they make the wooden toys that delight so many children throughout the world.—New York Mail and Express.



THE BEAUTIFUL HOME OF ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE.

THE Right Reverend Bishop Scanlan founded this well known institution of learning in 1886, and some years later transferred it to the Priests of the Society of Mary. The Marist Fathers, who regard the education of youth as one of the primary objects of their society, bring to the great task a long and varied experience gained in the many colleges of the order in Europe and America. They are indefatigable in their endeavors to instill into the minds and hearts of their pupils the strictest principles of virtue, as well as a sound knowledge of every branch of a liberal and thoroughly practical education. The spacious study halls, airy lecture rooms, the philosophical hall with the recreation ground, constant and careful supervision—all tend to render the scholastic life of the pupils in the highest degree complete, comfortable and homelike.

The Very Reverend John J. Guinan is the able and energetic president of the college and has a large staff of distinguished professors, who give careful and unceasing attention to the progress of the pupils in every branch of learning. The program of studies has been scrupulously graded and the textbooks of the various classes are by authors of approved merit.

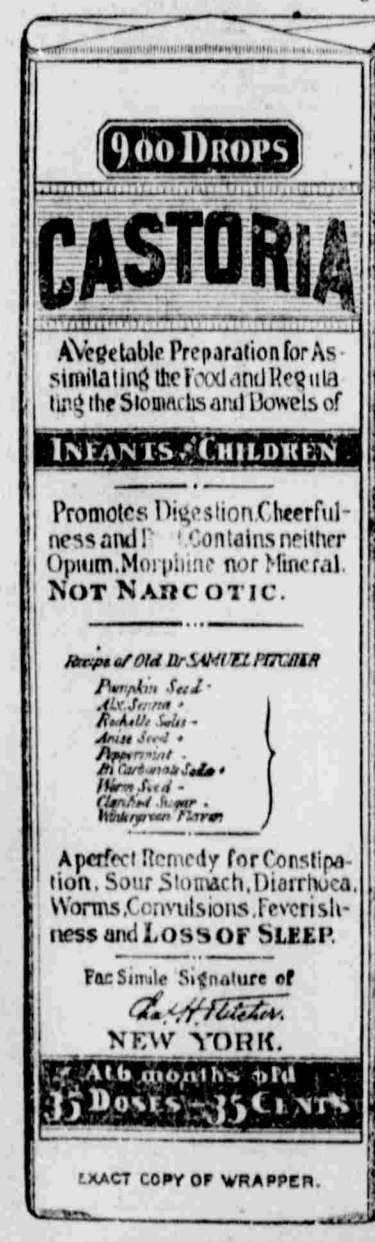
While laying the greatest stress on the right moulding of character and the harmonious training of all the mental faculties, due encouragement is also given to bodily exercise. Healthy and agreeable distraction is provided by a fully equipped gymnasium, military drill, and outdoor sports.

In addition to the preparatory, there are three distinct courses of study established—the classical and the scientific, for those who desire to prepare themselves for the learned professions, and the commercial, which is destined to fit young men for mercantile pursuits. The college is empowered to grant diplomas, confer degrees and bestow all literary honors.

The Kind You Have Always Bought.

THIS is the caution applied to the public announcement of Castoria that has been manufactured under the supervision of Chas. H. Fletcher for over 30 years—the genuine Castoria. We respectfully call the attention of fathers and mothers when purchasing Castoria to see that the wrapper bears his signature in black. When the wrapper is removed the same signature appears on both sides of the bottle in red. Parents who have used Castoria for their little ones in the past years need no warning against counterfeits and imitations, but our present duty is to call the attention of the younger generation to the great danger of introducing into their families spurious medicines.

It is to be regretted that there are people who are now engaged in the nefarious business of putting up and selling all sorts of substitutes, or what should more properly be termed counterfeits, for medicinal preparations not only for adults, but worse yet, for children's medicines. It therefore devolves on the mother to scrutinize closely what she gives her child. Adults can do that for themselves but the child has to rely on the mother's watchfulness.



The Kind You Have Always Bought, with which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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Bears the Signature of

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