

**Effect of Feed on Wool.**

The character of the feed has much to do not only in the production of good sheep and good lambs, but also in the production of wool. A leading object in raising wool should be to keep the staple even through its entire length, and this can be done only by feeding regularly both in quality and quantity. If sheep have been fed upon sweet, nutritious hay, with occasional feeds of grain and roots, and then followed for many weeks by hay of a poor quality and the roots and grain denied them, an inequality in the wool will be produced—the upper part of the staple will be light, and the lower part much thicker; in this case the top part of the staple will break off in working it up. So it is impossible to produce good wool upon

pastures abounding only in coarse, wild grasses. Good bred sheep should never be turned upon such lands, for whatever the care of breeding may be, the coarseness of the feed will produce inferior wool.

In common with many other animals—including man himself—there is always exuding from the skin of the sheep an oily substance called yolk, or gum, especially designed by nature to protect the animal from too much moisture, and to soften the wool. This oil is feebly supplied by old sheep and those fed on meadow hay or other coarse fodder, and is more abundant in vigorous and well-fed sheep. This is an important secretion, and can only be supplied by generous keeping and proper care. If these are lacking, the secretions will not take place in sufficient quantity, and sheep, lambs and wool will be seriously affected; especially is this the case, when sudden

changes occur from good feed to bad. Great care, however, should be observed, that not too much of this oil is excited, as it then wastes the powers of the sheep, and becomes expensive to the manufacturer to remove it.

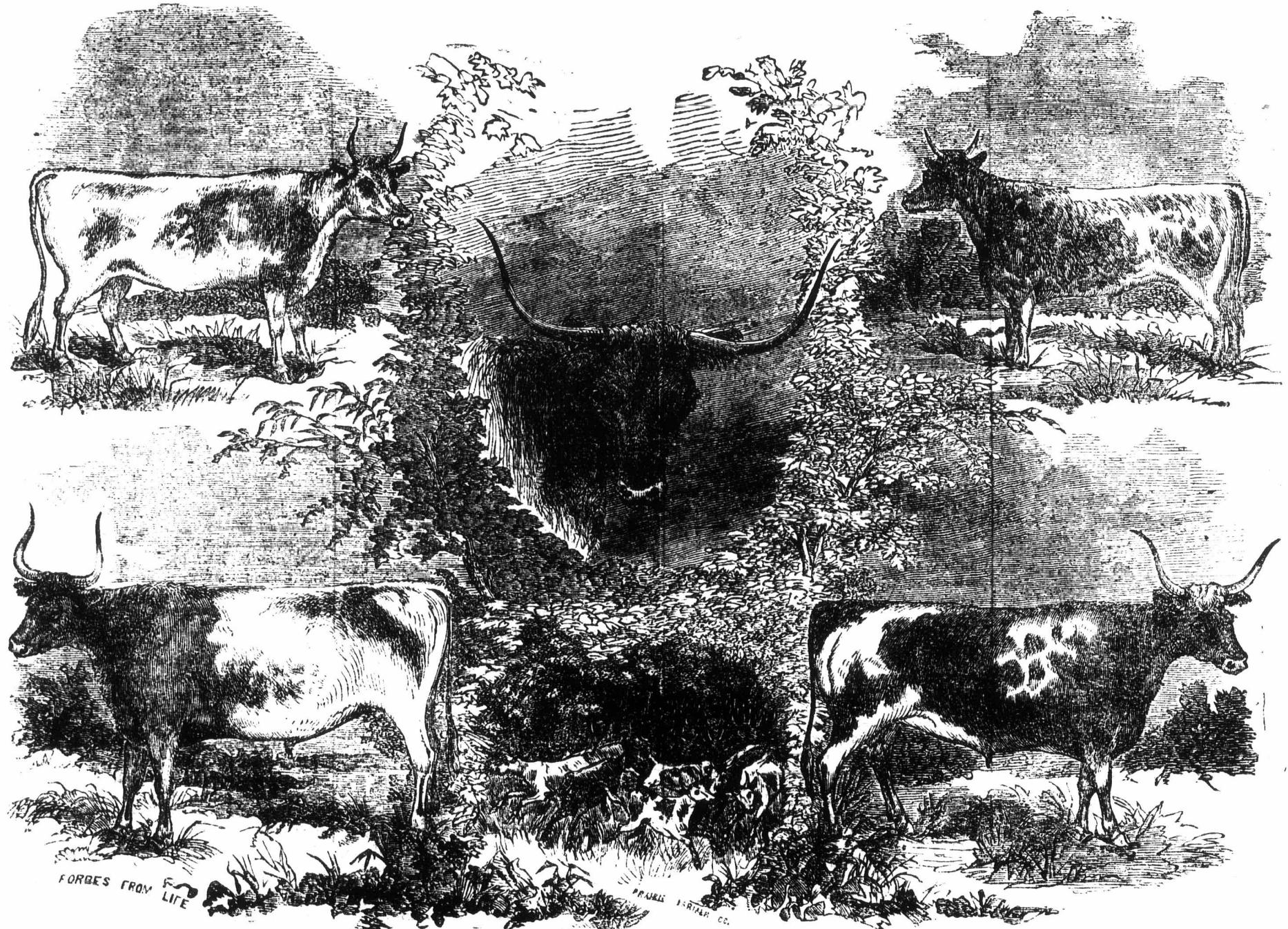
Wool is composed of the best flesh-producing substances found in the vegetable kingdom. The animal has no power to change the character of those substances, and the composition of the same kind of grass is materially varied by the soil upon which it is grown; hence the character of the soil has much to do with modifying the character of wool.

It has long been known that wool raised upon calcareous or limy soil is dry and harsh, while that raised upon argillaceous, or clayey soils, is soft and mellow; cultivation will materially modify this fact.

The black-faced, heath breed, raised up-

on the uncultivated moors of England, produce a short, coarse, harsh wool; but this is greatly improved when the same breed is raised where the land is cultivated, though the soil is the same, a fence only separating the two. On the other hand, if the highest bred long-wooled sheep are allowed to run upon the moors, the wool quickly degenerates, and soon becomes wild and harsh, like the low bred type.

We may learn from these facts that the food of the sheep modifies the character of the wool, and that we cannot have good wool from poor feed. The higher the type of sheep, the higher must be the character of the wool. We cannot escape this law. If we give poor feed, we shall have poor wool and light fleeces; if good feed, large animals, large lambs, good wool, and a generous quantity.—N. E. Farmer.

**Texas Cattle.**

As the immense resources of this continent are becoming developed, we are occasionally astonished by the enormous productions of some classes of industry, or the utilizing of that which has for centuries perhaps lain unknown. The enormous business now done in Texan cattle is little known to the majority of us, but as it must to some extent affect the value of our productions, we have procured the above from the *Prairie Farmer* Co., who had it engraved for their paper. They publish an excellent agricultural paper in Chicago, and if any of our readers desire more information in regard to the Western States, we must say that the *Prairie*

*Farmer* is the paper for them to peruse. We frequently give extracts from it.

**TEXAS CATTLE TRADE.**

The Abeline Chronicle gives the following as the most accurate figures yet given of the Texas cattle trade of this year: There are now near the line of the Kansas Pacific, by actual count, about 125,000; passed Red River Station, to be driven to that line, 100,000; for A. T. & S. F. Railroad, say 50,000; for Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad, 75,000; for the Union Pacific, about 50,000; to be wintered in Kansas and Colorado, 50,000; leaving to be divided between the M., K. & T., and the A. & P. Railroads, 50,000. Total, 500,000. This is a lower estimate, by considerable, than has before appeared,

though it shows that the number to arrive this year will be larger than in any previous year. The idea advanced by one of our correspondents, a few months ago, that the days of cheap beef were over, proves to have been an erroneous one, though we are inclined to believe that the present enormous consumption of Texas beef must, within a short time, make his prediction true. In one way our western breeders can always command good prices, and that is by marketing choice beef alone. Improved breeds of cattle, fattened with care upon the grass and corn of the prairie States, will find a ready market at prices much in advance of the long-horns from the south-west, and we believe that this relative difference will continually increase as our farmers are forced into better breeding and better feeding. Scalawag beef cannot compete.

**THE TEXAS CATTLE KINGS—THE MIGHTY STOCK FARMS OF THE PLAINS—THE PARADISE OF FORTUNE HUNTERS.**

From the Pittsburg Commercial.

Texas alone has 3,800,000 cattle, divided into 950,000 heaves, 950,000 cows, and 1,900,000 young cattle. The plains on which these cattle roam contain about 152,000,000 acres of ground. The principal pasturages are on the Nueces, Rio Grande, Guadalupe, San Antonio, Colorado, Leon Brazos, Trinity, Sabine and Red rivers. The cattle are owned by scores of ranchmen, each of whom has from 1,000 to 75,000 head. On the Santa Catrutos river is a ranch containing 84,132 acres. It is owned by one man, Richard King, and has on it 65,000 head of cattle, 20,000 horses, 7,000 sheep, and 8,000 goats. This immense number of live stock requires 1000 saddle horses and

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