




ABOUT

SHEEP
... AND ...
GOATS

IN THE

.OZARKS.

ON THE



EXTRACT FROM
"The American Sheep Breeder."

State Historical and
Natural History Society
DENVER, COLORADO.

*Wants to Know About
The Ozarks
for* NOV 4 1904
Sheep and Goats

Editor American Sheep Breeder:

In common with other of your readers in this country of high priced land I am anxious for reliable information as to the suitability of the Ozark Mountain country for profitable sheep and goat farming or ranching. The editor is especially requested to answer in detail, if possible and agreeable, the following questions about the Ozark country of southwest Missouri:

Is it a strictly mountainous country too rough for profitable cultivation, too poor in soil for remunerative variety or mixed farming or too sparse in grazing herbage for successful stock raising? I would like to know something of the general character of the country, its altitude, climate, timber and water supply, soils, crops, native and domestic grasses, railways, markets, people, schools, land values and other possible inducements to settlement. This region has been widely advertised as a fruit country, but I have seen little reference to its advantages for sheep and goat raising and will thank the Sheep Breeder for any enlightenment it may give me on the above questions, and indeed for any information whatever that may lead me to a safe and correct solution of the Ozark country problem. As the editor knows, I am in the sheep and goat business and would gladly follow this line of work in some region of cheaper lands and milder climate than northern Illinois. Awaiting a reply by personal letter or through the columns of the Sheep Breeder.

Very truly,
JOHN SCHMIDT, Clay County, Ill.

Mr. Schmidt's questions about the Ozark country are not new, but have been asked by scores of other readers scattered all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In preparation for an intelligent reply to them the writer, accompanied by Mr. A. A. Bates, lately visited the Ozark country and is pleased to submit the following notes:

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THE OZARK REGION,

or "Ozark Uplift," as the geologists are pleased to designate the country, is not confined to the state of Missouri, but really embraces the entire grand division of Southwest Missouri; the two northern tiers of Arkansas counties; a block of the dozen northwest counties of Arkansas; about 6,000 square miles of contiguous country in the eastern division of the Indian Territory and several of the near outlying counties of Southeastern Kansas, covering altogether not less than 35,000 square miles of territory, or about 22,400,000 acres. While this region—large enough for a good sized state—is a distinct upheaval and mountainous in general character, more than half of it is made up of elevated plateaus, easy, graceful slopes and beautiful low-lying valleys, river and creek bottoms. These smoother lands are all available to convenient and profitable cultivation and a good percentage of them already devoted to general farming and fruit raising.

Of the remaining 40 or 45 per cent of the country, one-half may be designated as hill country, the balance being rough mountain country too broken and precipitous for convenient or profitable cultivation. As a whole

THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY

is singularly attractive. It is a happy union of graceful, billowy prairie, wooded hills, far-reaching tablelands, rugged, picturesque bluffs, rapid streams, bold rocky cliffs and headlands, wild glens and canyons, conical shaped buttes or mounds, and green, grassy glades, and intervals, the whole blending in

A MATCHLESS LANDSCAPE

in which is no semblance of weariness or monotony, nothing abstract or startling, but everywhere endless variety in unity and harmony. The Ozark range has little of the rugged grandeur of the Rocky or Snowy ranges, but is rather a great divide, or water shed, reaching from the Black river country of Southeastern Missouri to the Flint Hills of middle Eastern Kansas, and for the most part smooth enough for agricultural uses, not to exceed 25 per cent of the country above outlined being too rough and rocky for cultivation in some form.

Of the 25 or 30 Ozark counties of Southwest Missouri of which I would write for the pleasure of Mr. Schmidt and his friends.

THE MEAN ELEVATION

is not far from 1,300 feet above sea level. Some of the lower valleys bordering on Arkansas drop to 800 and 900 feet, while the higher plateaus and hills reach an altitude of 1,600 to 1,800 feet,

as at Cedar Gap, Springfield and Lebanon. This elevation gives

A DELIGHTFUL CLIMATE

as agreeable and healthful as one may find in the Blue Ridge of the Virginias and Carolinas—a mild, equable temperature representing the happy mean between the rigorous cold of the North and the heat and humidity of the lower South. There is ozone in this Ozark atmosphere with superabounding

HEALTH FOR MEN AND ANIMALS.

The latitude and climate of South Virginia and North Carolina is delightfully reproduced here with the added tone that comes of elevation and close kinship with the neighboring western prairies. Never more enjoyable summer days or cooler, restful summer nights than in these Ozark hills. Not a breath of malaria ever sweeps over this range where all the springs of life are touched by the rejuvenating influence of the invigorating atmosphere. There is no languor or lassitude in the spirit or movements of the people of this country, where the waters are pure, the skies bright and the air as crisp and enlivening as in the foothills.

You ask, Mr. Schmidt, if this is

A GOOD STOCK COUNTRY.

if it be suited to profitable sheep and goat raising? Yes, why not? Sheep and goats are in all these 25 counties—from 2,000 to 6,000 of the golden fleeces—and from a few score to a few hundred of the silver fleeces in a county. They have always kept sheep in the Ozarks and always profitably. The footing is splendid and the feet are always strong and healthy. In fact it is

A NATURAL SHEEP COUNTRY.

abundant in pure water and nutritious wild grasses. The woods and bare buttes grow any amount of "blue stem" and smaller grasses, and there is not one of these 25 or 30 Ozark counties of Southwest Missouri that could not graze 10,000 to 20,000 sheep for ten months of the year without interference with the present farm operations. Indeed, there are large counties like Texas, Wright, Shannon, Howell, Webster, Douglas, Barry, Crawford, Laclede, Polk, Taney, Oregon and Ozark, where 50,000 sheep might be run on the wild ranges. It is a mere question of enclosing the range or herding the sheep, and in this country either is cheaply done.

THE NATIVE FLOCKS

of mongrel sheep range the woods all winter in most cases, few of them being treated to hay,

grain or shelter. Occasionally one runs onto a little bunch of Cotswolds or Downs, and they are always healthy, fat and trim. The Kansas City and St. Louis markets are near by—only 10 or 12 hours distant, and the lambs and wethers are quick of sale and profitable. In truth, Mr. Schmidt, I cannot imagine a more pleasant, better paying or safer business than running well-bred sheep of any of the mutton breeds in these Ozark wilds. There are no wild animals, no deadly parasites, no stagnant waters to breed and foster them and

NO BLIZZARDS OR DISEASES

to decimate the flocks. The winter is mild, the ground bare of snow most of the time, and the wild herbage varied and abundant. If sheep are looked after they

WILL RUSTLE FOR THEIR OWN LIVING

in any of the southern counties of this Ozark group. The shelter of the cliffs, woods, gulches and glens affords all needed protection from the storms, save only in the sleet storms, when they should be provided with shelter, even though it be only the shelving rocks which are common to many of the wild ranges. It is rather surprising that

SHEEP RANCHING ON A LARGE SCALE

has never been undertaken in this Ozark region. Mr. Bates, who has had much experience and observation in Wyoming, Dakota and other range states, says the grazing herbage is just as nutritious and far more abundant here than in any of the great sheep states of the West and that the risk of loss by storm and wild animals is as nothing compared to any of the western sheep regions. His observations in the south part of Christian County and along the northern border of Taney County led to the conclusion that from one to two sheep to the acre could be successfully run in that country and that it is entirely feasible to run sheep

IN BANDS OF TWO THOUSAND HEAD,

as they are run in Wyoming, Montana, Utah and Oregon. A nomadic sheepman, who recently found his occupation gone in the Powder river country of Wyoming, where the government absorbed his sheep runs in one of the forest reserves, quite agreed with Mr. Bates that ranching on the western plan was entirely feasible in Taney, Stone, Barry and McDonald counties, and that this region offered great inducements to the nomadic sheepmen who are landless and are now being crowded off their old runs, either by the government, the big sheepmen or the cattlemen. Of course they

MUST OWN THEIR RANCHES.

in the Ozarks so as not to encroach on the little valley and bottom land farms of the river settlers, but that is easy enough to do when government and other non-resident lands can be massed in 1,000, 2,000 and up to 4,000 acre tracts at \$1.50 per acre, as can be done in several of the counties. This is a low figure for grazing lands good enough to carry two sheep to the acre. The more one looks into

THIS OZARK RANCH PROPOSITION

the more exciting it grows. Here are millions of acres of rich wild grasses worth millions of dollars in the aggregate, now going to feed the annual fires, and nobody to utilize them.

A HUNDRED 2,000-ACRE SHEEP RUNS

could be made up in each of a dozen counties I could name without making a single settler a dime poorer and with the certainty of making the new rancher

MANY A DOLLAR OF GENEROUS INCOME

out of his investment. There are a lot of things for the "frozen out" western sheepmen to think about in this country. One of these is the ownership of his ranch by indisputable title deeds. Another is all the year round grazing. Still another is the near-by markets, and best of all, the absolute freedom from risk of loss by storm or disease. And

HOW TEMPTING THE OUTLOOK

to early lamb raisers in this kindly climate where lambing may be done in December and the lambs sold in June. The grasses are green in these southern woodlands by March 15 and the ewes in full tide of milk by April first. This is a long way better, Mr. Schmidt, than yourself or friends can do in Clay County, Ill., or than those rangeless sheepmen can do in Wyoming and Montana. This Ozark ranch business

APPEALS TO THOUGHTFUL SHEEPMEN

viewed from whatever standpoint they may. There is grass in the valleys, grass on the slopes, grass in the gulches and up the rocky hillsides. The rains bring the herbage, and keep it green till the November frosts. Then follows the succulent green winter plantain and the patches of blue grass, and all over the sheep runs are cold springs, clear as amber, feeding brooklets and creeks and rivers that are ever flowing.

In this connection, I am pleased to give the following

STORY OF A TANEY COUNTY SHEPHERD,

as printed four years ago in the Missouri and Arkansas Farmer. The frankness and candor of the writer, not less than his startling disclosure of local possibilities in sheep raising, will furnish food for thought to many of the readers of the American Sheep Breeder.

"I came here with little more than my stock of experience with sheep. I had only enough money to pay the \$14 government fee and buy a small flock of 50 sheep, and such few articles as a homesteader needs. My claim of 160 acres lies on the ridge a mile from White river, and the land is high and rolling and covered with blue stem grass, and there is abundant water in the valleys and plenty of shade everywhere. Just such a country as my experience in four sheep raising states had taught me was adapted for the sheep business.

"I found myself a pioneer sheen raiser of Taney County and had to combat the prejudice of my neighbors as well as their dogs. The first month I lost ten of my little flock by dogs. It has been up-hill work for years, but I have at last demonstrated that sheep are the money-makers, and my neighbors have small flocks of their own. As the sheep have multiplied the prejudice and the dogs have given way, so the loss from that source is small and would be nothing were my sheep corralled at night, which I have not done.

"In the seven years my little flock of 40 and its increase—for I never bought any more, except bucks—have supported me year by year and increased until the flock numbers 290 at present, after selling off the surplus for 1898.

"This is the most ideal country and climate for sheep I have ever known. I have never lost a sheep from contagious disease. Scab and foot rot and other troublesome sheep diseases are wholly unknown here. I have talked with breeders who claim they have brought scab-infected sheep here and they got well of their own accord. The ground is dry and well drained. There is no mud and no stagnant water or miry places. Sheep love the high ground of the hills. They love to sleep at night on the highest ground they can find.

"The Ozark mountains, with their extensive blue stem range and mild climate, afford an unexcelled locality for sheep.

"I feed my sheep nothing from March 1st to December 1st. After December 1st I feed them lightly until January and then light or heavy, according to the weather, until March. With the first days of March my sheep find picking sufficient on the range and do not come up for their feed.

"Weeds are the first green things that appear, but by March 15th the blue stem grass is abundant.

"I have been experimenting with blue grass and find that when started it rapidly grows and spreads wherever the blue stem flourishes. I do not doubt but that with a nominal outlay the blue grass can be made to flourish on these hills as it does in old Kentucky, where I was raised. Indeed, the climate and the general appearance of the country are strikingly similar.

"When one buys all the feed it costs but 50 cents a year to winter the sheep, and nothing whatever to some I know who let their sheep rustle for a living the whole year through. It is true sheep will live without feed through the winter upon the range in this county, but I find it money well invested to keep my flock strong and healthy so the ewes may bring early and better lambs.

"But little tillable land is required by the sheepman; fifteen acres of clover and timothy will winter 300 head of sheep. I have only fifteen acres in cultivation on my claim, but as much of this is in fruit, I buy considerable part of my winter feed.

"Blue grass remains green all winter in Taney County. I do not doubt that thirty or forty acres of rough land started to blue grass will winter in good shape a large flock.

"Thousands of acres of government land in Taney County are open to homestead at the pitiful sum of \$14 for 160 acres, or which may be cash entered at \$1.25 per acre, which would make ideal sheep ranches. While most of this is rough high land, it is all covered with grass and timber and well watered. It is this class of land that makes the best sheep range. One who understands the country can locate claims with sufficient level, rich land to raise winter feed for large flocks.

"We who are handling sheep are anxious for more sheepmen to locate with us. Sheep raising is an infant industry which would be more profitable to all in handling, protecting and marketing our supplies were more people engaged in it.

"My sheep are common native ewes bred to Shropshire bucks, but I would advise newcomers, whenever possible, to bring in their flocks, as the demand far exceeds the local supply. Of the various breeds I would suggest the Cotswold as being best adapted to this locality. They are large, hearty and good mothers.

"My lambs come in December; by April they weigh from forty to seventy pounds and bring 6 and 7 cents in St. Louis. Mild climate allows me to put my lambs on the market in April when the best prices are paid. In April I shear my flock, the wool netting me an average of \$1 per head; but would do better with a better grade than I have.

"My experience teaches me that I can make 100 per cent annually on each dollar invested in Taney County. I do not have to herd my flock. I do not round them up at night, though it would be better if this were done. My flock spend the night in the woods, close to the house, where they come each evening for salt.

"In winter I do not shed them, except the ewes in lambing time. I have not lost in seven years a single sheep or lamb from the weather. There are no varmints here to molest sheep; no wolves or bears, and I have no trouble with large birds or foxes.

"My own experience assures me that any industrious man who has sufficient money to buy a small flock can come to Taney County, homestead a tract of 160 acres and make a success. It would give me pleasure to give advice and such assistance as I could to beginners.

"To men with capital there is big money in handling large flocks in this county. There are tracts of government land ranging in size from 160 to 5,000 acres of the finest sheep range on earth, which may be cash entered at \$1.25 per acre. The price of all land is very low. The best improved farms in the White river bottoms can be had at from \$15 to \$25 per acre.

H. T. WILSON, Forsyth, Mo."

THE MAGNIFICENT AND MATCHLESS WATER SYSTEM

of this Ozark country passes belief. Nothing at all comparable with it in any of the other mountain ranges of the country. The limestone formation underlying nearly all of the Ozark country is cavernous, abounding in caves, some of them miles in extent and of rare beauty and interest, and these, with the hundreds of smaller caverns and the numerous fissures in the bed rock readily absorb the rains and snows that fall upon this great divide, and the waters are filtered into subterranean rivulets, creeks and rivers of which thousands of clear, cold rock springs are born. These springs feed brooklets, creeks and rivers that thread their way through the hills into the most beautiful and plenteous water system I have ever yet seen. The Meramec, Gasconade, Osage, Spring, Big Piney, Little Piney, Current and White rivers, all clear, rapid streams of splendid volume, are but the continuation and reflection of subterranean rivers that flow hundreds of miles under the "Ozark Uplift" and break out into mighty fountains that form new rivers. It is impossible without seeing them to get any adequate conception of the volume and magnificence of these great fountains. The Mammoth Spring that breaks into a fountain of a hundred feet diameter and 90 feet depth just at the Arkansas border on the Memphis division of the Frisco

railway yields 1,000 horse water power within 40 rods of its capacious opening and spreads out into a splendid rushing river 150 feet wide that wastes its energy among the rapids and cascades to its junction with Black river 30 miles below.

The beautiful Meramec first sees the light and sunshine in a giant fountain of 80 feet diameter up in the hills of Texas County and flows downward along the Frisco road to the very gates of St. Louis, as fair and bright and dashing as the historic Juniata. Every river and creek and brooklet of this beautiful Ozark region traces to a spring as clear as a mirror. The streams and springs are countless, though not all nameless. No ranch or home or camping ground is without its spring, brook, or river, and the unused water power of the Ozarks could drive all the machinery in all the cities of Missouri and furnish the light and heating energy besides. There are a thousand fountains in these hills any one of which would make more than local fame for as many towns in the less favored and more monotonous prairie states. And these springs make brooks and ponds for hundreds of possible homes, farms and stock ranches.

I mention them to show Mr. Schmidt and his friends that I have lately been rambling over

A SHEEP AND GOAT RANCHER'S PARADISE.

The flocks were here a dozen years and more ago when I got my first impressions of the Ozarks as a pastoral country. Now the goats are here and the country has the sanctions of two years of prosperous and successful goat-herding. It is something over two years since Mr. Puterbaugh of Chicago brought

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED ANGORAS

to Cave Spring Farm, just outside of Springfield. They were direct from Texas—semi-tropical goats, and were turned into the brush in the early spring and left to the tender mercies of wind and weather at an altitude of 1,600 feet. The frosts and cold storms nipped some of the weaker ones and the March storms got a few that were too early shorn, but in spite of wind and weather and bad handling, the Angoras "weathered the weather" and "cropped the crop" of interminable browse and brush, leaving Mr. Geo. A. Ramsey, owner of the farm,

A BEAUTIFUL BLUE GRASS PASTURE,

where only oak scrub and a tangle of hazel and bramble had been. The flock wrought the usual transformation in the brush-ridden pasture, leaving behind a sheen of living green for

the sheep and cattle that were to come after. Following these came many smaller lots of Angoras, mostly from Texas, and these were scattered well over Greene, Christian, Webster, Wright, Howell, Taney, Phelps and Crawford counties, where they have since done well, more than meeting expectations.

THE PLACE & HOOVER FLOCK.

300 strong, selected from the famous New Mexico herds of Mrs. Margaret Armer and E. D. Ludlow & Co., were brought to Cuba, in Crawford County, a year and a half ago and turned into 40 acres of scrub oak, where they subsisted well on winter browse, and last summer made a practical finish of the brush on the 40 acres. This fine flock of thoroughbred Angoras, perhaps the best bred in all Missouri is now 425 strong and is wintering on the suburban farm of Father O'Loughlin at Rolla in Phelps county. The several views given of this fine flock, with its bright little shepherdess, Miss Ruth Hoover, were taken under the eye of the writer to show how high class Angoras will thrive in the wild brush lands of the south Missouri Ozarks. Speaking of the unqualified success of this flock under Missouri conditions, Dr. O. G. Place of the Boulder, Col., Sanitarium, says: "We have found the Ozark region of southern Missouri an ideal goat country. Our flock wintered well last winter, getting their own living on the wild browse at Cuba, and we are running them in the same manner at Rolla the present winter. Southwest Missouri is a great goat country." So confident of a successful issue for their well bred Angoras, are Messrs. Place & Hoover, that they will push the breeding of pure Angoras to the very highest levels known to the industry, with a view to supplying high class breeding stock to the Angora breeders of the Ozark country. Their future plans also involve the breeding of the best classes of milk goats and the condensing of goat's milk for use of infants and invalids. These gentlemen, whose observation in the leading goat countries of the old world led them to the Ozarks for a location, are among the most enthusiastic Angora champions and fanciers I have yet seen and have gathered about them a very select lot of high bred does and including choice bucks from the Armer, Landrum, Johnston and Bailey herds.

The Swan Creek Land and Fruit Co., at Taneyville, in Taney county, founded a very select flock last fall by purchase of a lot of registered does and bucks from the Armer and Ludlow flocks and will materially add to the size of their Angora holdings the coming spring.

At Mountain Grove, in Wright county, on the Memphis division of the Frisco system, Mr. J. M. Kenreigh & Son put in a flock of 240 Angoras to "civilize" their new farm preparatory to permanent sheep farming. Mr. Kenreigh last week assured the writer that the goats had proven a great success as brush extinguishers and that wherever they have cleaned out the brush the blue grass and white clover came in. Mr. Kenreigh saved 99 per cent of all the kids dropped in his flock last year. Both himself and son are enthusiastic over their success with goats and will increase their flock to the full browsing capacity of the farm. Mr. Slocum, an Iowa goat breeder, has 100 well bred Angoras in the near neighborhood of the Kenreigh's and there are many small bunches of these goats in Wright county and the neighboring counties of Texas and Howell, both of which are well stocked with "blue stem" and other native herbage. The

PROGRESS OF THE ANGORA

in southwest Missouri is remarkable, and yet it is not surprising when one considers the extraordinary local aids to the industry. The goat takes care of himself and that appeals to the easy going native farmers, who are not overfriendly to anything like sustained labor. With these old settlers an animal that

WORKS FOR NOTHING AND BOARDS HIMSELF

while clearing up the farm, will naturally have great favor. The Angora is mighty popular in the Ozarks just now because there is a general movement toward the extension of the grain fields and orchards. Oak grubs, sprouts and scrub are not easily killed by the axe and grub hoe and have to be reckoned with for several years before they are subdued. The goats will kill them out in a single season if confined and kept in sufficient numbers. A hundred goats are worth in killing out brush the two best woodsmen that ever wielded an axe or pick. They

KILL THE BRUSH, ROOT AND BRANCH.

and make an end of it, and the next season are looking for "new fields to conquer." The settlers have found out that the Angora is enriching their farms while they are clearing them up and most of them are clamorous for goats. Half the farmers in the country want goats and the other half will soon enough want them. One could sell a train load in a week at Mountain Grove, West Plains, Willow Springs, Thayer, Ozark, Sparta, Chadwick, Forsyth or Springfield. The

ANGORA FEVER IS EPIDEMIC,

and is spreading fast. The Frisco railway system inaugurated a general Angora boom last fall by giving a swell goat banquet at the Planters' Hotel and inviting half a hundred more or less distinguished men and women to join in the disposition of a cheerful and inviting goat meat menu. About the same time was organized

THE FRISCO LIVE STOCK COMPANY,

avowedly for the purchase and distribution of Angora goats among the farmers of the Ozark region. In pursuit of this commendable purpose, this corporation, which is composed of enterprising Frisco railway officials, prominent men in all departments of local life and veteran Angora breeders, has purchased tracts of wild land at Arlington, Newburg, Swedesburg, Sparta and other points on the Frisco system, where experimental goat farms will be conducted as object lessons to the neighboring settlers and from which goats will be distributed in small bunches among farmers desirous of engaging in the goat and Mohair industry. The company has already several lots of Angoras at its different stations, and with the opening of spring will bring in several thousand Angoras and common goats with a view to the stocking of the surrounding farms and instructing the farmers in the practical ways of goat breeding and handling. Mr. Fred Ludlow of Lake Valley, New Mexico, who is one of the directors of the company, and an expert in Angora breeding and handling, will devote several months of the coming summer to the instruction of the farmers in the management of their initial flocks. Every movement of this company since its organization last October, has been characterized by good business procedure and its master spirits have displayed clearness of insight and forecast, energy, enthusiasm and determination that promise great and lasting success to the enterprise. This is the first instance in which a great railway system has lent its powerful influence and co-operation in the work of

COLONIZING THE ANGORA

goat in large areas of its tributary territory and the movement will be watched with interest by other lines, as well as by the general goat raising public. Certain it is that the Frisco people are bringing the Angora into the Ozarks to stay. And equally certain is it that their premises are well taken. With the possible exception of the mountains of New Mexico, there is no country in America more eminently suited for the raising of goats and Mohair than the Ozark region, where the climate,

soil, water, footing, browse and wild herbage unite to make

A REAL ANGORA PARADISE.

The goat is, par excellence, the great civilization of a brush country. Turned loose in these wooded hill ranges he will clear away the native brush and scrub as the sun dissipates the dews, and after him comes the all-conquering blue grass and white clover. Then follows the flocks of sheep, the dairy herds, the grain fields, orchards, vineyards, gardens, and all the higher arts and better amenities of rural living. The Angora in the Ozarks is the best augury of promise this beautiful mountain country has yet seen or entertained. When bands of the pretty silver fleeces are treading these brush ridden, half cleared and half cultivated fields, and threading the millions of acres of woodland now so rich in unused herbage and browse, the real millennium of domestic husbandry will have dawned on the Ozarks. There is room and abounding subsistence in these 25 or 30 counties of southwest Missouri for

EVERY GOAT IN THE UNITED STATES.

If 20,000 of the industrious browsers were brought into each of these counties, they would double the realty values of the farms in two seasons. Only the sheep can match them as fertilizers of worn and wasted fields. Nothing—not even the muscular arms of the pioneer settler, can equal them as domesticators of a wilderness country. Yes, Mr. Schmidt, the Ozarks are a good goat and sheep country. Never a better. Primarily a magnificent goat country. Secondarily or just a little more remotely, a superb sheep country. Every farmer in the Ozarks should bless the day when Mr. S. A. Hughes launched his Angoro boom for the Ozark mountains, preparatory to his immigration boom for the great Southwest. The pioneer flocks and shepherds are here and fortune smiles on them. For every native farmer that builds a flock of Angoras in this region there will come half a dozen new settlers to found new flocks, plant new roof trees and build new homes. In answering Mr. Schmidt's questions about this country, we make answer to a score of other questions from scores of other questioners.

WILL DOMESTIC GRASS GROW HERE?

Yes, why not? Blue grass grows above the limestone bedrocks in old Kentucky and it will grow above the same formation here. Indeed, it is already growing here side by side with its kindred white clover. Wherever sheep, goats or cattle range there are flocks, patches and fields of blue grass. You may find it along

the Frisco road from St. Louis to Springfield, and westward to the Kansas and Indian borders. It does not cover the country as in north Missouri, but it follows the flocks and herds as the needle inclines to the pole. This is

NATURALLY A GRASS COUNTRY.

Where "blue stem" grows wild in the woods, blue grass and timothy, and the clovers will grow in the fields. There are splendid little patches of blue grass on all farms where live stock are run. Timothy meadows are quite common and very productive. And these red limestone soils are the paradise of the clovers. Now and then one is blessed with the sight of a rich rank patch or field of clover, but the average farmer is not yet up to the standard of the rotative farming in which the clover field is the prime factor. And yet the day will come when the clover fields, as the orchards now, will cover a fifth or sixth of the arable farm lands. Of

THE NATIVE GRASSES

I have already briefly spoken. Blue stem is the stalwart wild grass of the woods and uncultivated hills and grows everywhere, reaching its best estate in the southerly counties of Oregon, Ripley, Howell, Carter, Shannon, Taney, Texas, Wright, Douglass, Ozark, Christian, Stone, Barry, Newton and McDonald. It is a bunch grass, as in the further West, and grows two and three feet high. A short, fine curly grass, akin to the buffalo grass of the plains, also abounds in the same counties, adding materially to the sheep grazing capacity of the country. Mixed with these are half a dozen other wild grasses with an endless variety of wild flowering plants and weeds to swell the volume of grazing herbage, especially for sheep and goats. Most of the woodlands are comparatively free of undergrowth, so that there is practically

FREE OPEN RANGE

for the flocks and herds a condition highly prized by the ranchman. Both Mr. Norton (the Arizona goat man) and Mr. Bates, the sheep expert, were enthusiastic over the abundance of wild herbage and the open unobstructed range of the woodlands they saw in Christian and Taney counties. The same conditions obtain in all the Ozark counties of southwest Missouri and Arkansas. These gentlemen were especially pleased with the

ABSENCE OF POISONOUS VEGETATION

and the freedom of the wild country from sheep and goat killing wild animals. These are primary considerations with stockmasters who venture with hesitation into the land of the

wolf, coyote, bob cat, or mountain lion. Mr. Schmidt asks about

THE RAINFALL

as if that were a "condition precedent" to successful husbandry here as it is in central or northern Illinois. It is perhaps enough to say that here, as in all the great divides or water shed districts of the middle or eastern states, there is no want of rainfall in the growing season. An elevation of 1,300 to 1,700 feet generally brings precipitation with every prevailing wind. Here in the Ozarks it comes almost with the regularity of the tides. I suppose 37 inches is a fair estimate of the annual rainfall on the "Ozark Uplift." Anyway, they have all the moisture they need for the growing crops and sometimes a trifle too much. But, I hear my questioners asking,

HOW ABOUT THE SOILS?

Well, there is plenty of soil in these counties and it differs in character and quality as in every other country. But it must be said to the credit of the Ozark region that there are no sterile and unproductive districts within the bounds of the country reviewed in these columns. Beginning with Crawford county, some eighty miles west of St. Louis, the Frisco railway runs along the crest of the great Ozark divide nearly 200 miles to the city of Springfield, traversing the counties of Crawford, Phelps, Pulaski, Camden, Laclede, Webster and the east half of Greene. The country immediately along this part of the line is mostly smooth or gracefully undulating, and the superficial soils are mostly silicious clays and marls of grayish cast, generally underlaid with a rich red clay subsoil. These soils are very retentive and with anything like good handling produce fine crops of grass, hay, grain, vegetables and fruits, and with the adoption of clover as a rotation crop are capable of a high state of cultivation. There are large areas of red land in all these counties, the soils of which are practically indestructible. All these counties are well suited to mixed or variety farming.

THE WHITE LIME DISTRICT.

embracing the counties of Greene, Webster, Wright, Christian, Polk, Lawrence and Jasper, are largely made up of the red clay soils with a liberal admixture of dark red loams, the subsoils being mainly red clays. These soils are abundant in lime and magnesia carbonate, lime phosphate, alumina and organic matter and for fertility and versatility of production are only equaled by the alluvials of the river valleys and bottoms. They grow in good measure all the products of the middle latitudes

and are always and everywhere warm, friable and retentive. These red soils are largely characteristic of the entire Ozark country, and may be said to be as perfectly adapted to general agriculture as any of the superficial soils known to American husbandry. All the Ozark counties of this southwest Missouri group have good areas of valley or bottom lands lying along the numerous rivers, creeks and even the small brooks. These valleys range from a few rods to half a mile or more in width, and are composed of the richest alluvials, the accumulations of ages from the wash of the higher hills and plateaus. In the counties drained by the Gasconade, Big and Little Piney, Spring, Current and other large streams, from eight to ten per cent of the total area is bottom land as rich as the valley of the Nile and of imperishable productive power.

THE CROPS

grown in these red, gray and alluvial soils embrace every farm production of the middle latitudes. Wheat is a universal crop in the Ozarks, rarely failing of good yield to good cultivation. This year the wheat crop has been uniformly good, the yield ranging from fifteen to forty bushels per acre, twenty-five to forty bushels being of course the reward of good cultivation. The wheat grown on these red limestone soils is of the highest quality, and many of these counties produce close to half a million bushels. Corn is a good crop in the Ozarks wherever the planter is a good farmer, the yield ranging from thirty-five to fifty bushels on the uplands, and from forty to ninety bushels per acre in the bottoms. Oats are a good crop with all up-to-date farmers, and so are rye, barley and the entire list of middle country vegetables and plants. As

AN ALL AROUND FARM COUNTRY

the Ozarks will rank with any region of like extent in the United States. They do not grow as big corn as on the black prairie lands of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, but they can grow here a much greater variety of crops and the quality of the grains, grasses, vegetables and fruits is unsurpassed. They have

ALL KINDS OF COUNTRY

down here just as they have all kinds of crops and soils. In Greene, Lawrence, Dallas and Polk counties are large areas of most beautiful prairie land and here are some of the finest farms and orchards and country homes, in Missouri. Then there are the broad extended plateaus and back of them toward the rivers come the hills and bluffs. Along the Current, White and Gasconade are broken mountain districts

of surpassing scenic beauty. And the low-lying valleys winding with the beautiful rivers down through leagues on leagues of the most inviting lowland country I have seen in a third of a century of almost constant travel. Then there are the yellow or hard pine districts of Shannon, Carter and neighboring counties where the sandy loam soils predominate. The new settler may have his choice of these soils as well as choice of location, the main question with him being one of

LAND VALUES,

which are lower here than in any other good agricultural country in the United States. Improved farms, with fair buildings, more or less cultivated land and orchard, sell all the way from \$5 to \$30 per acre, the price depending upon location, soil, cultivation and improvements. In nearly all cases where these prices obtain, the amount asked for the farms is generally below the cost of improvements. In the great orchard districts the land values run much higher.

IMPROVED LANDS,

which may be said to constitute 25 to 75 per cent of each county, according to its location, are selling all the way from \$1.25 per acre—the price of Government land—up to \$10 per acre, according to location. Of course these wild lands take a higher range of values near to the cities, villages and commercial orchards. Large tracts of cut-over land in Howell, Shannon, Carter and other of the lower counties, where the big lumber mills have operated, are offered as low as \$1.50 per acre. And to the credit of these lands it may be said that they abound in the very best grazing grass of the country, including patches of blue grass and white clover. Even in the old settled farm districts of Pulaski, Christian, Howell and Wright counties, from 60 to 75 per cent of the country is still in the wild or primitive state, and thousands of acres of wild land are purchasable at from \$2 to \$4 and \$5 per acre. In the southern counties of this Ozark group one will often run on to pretty little bottom land farms with thirty, forty or fifty acres improved and lying along a clear brook or creek, which can be bought at \$5 to \$8 per acre and very likely thousands of acres of wild, rough hill-land adjoining it that may be homesteaded or purchased at \$1 to \$1.50 per acre. I have heard of just such purchases as these in the last few weeks. But the marvel of this country is

THE CHEAP FARMS,

where men have toiled for a generation to improve and make them habitable and comfort-

able and homelike, and are now willing to part with often at half the cost of the improvements. There are literally hundreds of these farms in every one of the counties named in this article. Many of the settlers know nothing of the outside world and after weeks of disappointment and homesickness in looking over other countries for a new location, come back to repurchase the old homestead or buy a new one near by. And these farms will grow everything for the comfort and subsistence of their owners—wheat, corn, oats, rye, sweet and Irish potatoes, all the vegetables, all the fruits—everything known to the middle states. In fact there is no region more easily settled or that produces more of the means of independent living than this Ozark country from which I came but yesterday. I dare say Mr. Schmidt and several thousand more of the readers of this Sheep Breeder would like to know about the public or

GOVERNMENT LANDS

of this Ozark region. Mr. Wm. H. Johnson of Springfield, Mo., who is considered the best authority on this class of lands, estimates that there are still 200,000 acres of public land subject to cash entry or homestead entry in southwest Missouri, the three counties of Stone, Taney and Ozark alone having 30,000, 40,000 and 75,000 acres respectively, or a total of 145,000 acres. I might give in this connection the conditions of entry, settlement, occupation and cash purchase of these lands and who are eligible to homestead privileges, but for want of space will refer these matters to Mr. Johnson himself, who will promptly furnish the desired information by letter. During a residence of several years in Taney county, Mr. Johnson settled more than 1,000 homesteaders in that county and no man is more familiar than he with the soil, timber, fruit, mineral and other conditions in the Ozark belt. While the greater part of the public lands here are unsuited for general farm purposes, by reason of their rough and often rocky make-up, they are all particularly well suited to sheep and goat raising and almost any of them might be made adjuncts to neighboring farms and stock ranches. In this respect they have both present and prospective value far beyond the nominal price at which they may be gotten by cash entry. There are three other industries or sources of permanent revenue that I have not mentioned, and each of them will interest the home seeker. First of these is

THE MINERAL WEALTH

of the country, which is incalculable because inexhaustible. Here is the richest lead and

zinc region in the world, millions of dollars being invested in the mining of these two minerals, the product of which in three of these counties reaches a value of \$12,000,000 a year. The mineral deposits underlie three or four-fifths of the counties herein named and only the requisite capital is needed to develop the mineral wealth of the newer territory to the immense production reached in Jasper, Newton and Lawrence counties. Extensive deposits of iron are being worked near the city of West Plains in Howell county, and iron and copper are being successfully mined at Winona, in Shannon county. Full 50 per cent of Taney and Christian counties are recorded as mineral lands where superficial prospecting shows very rich deposits of lead and zinc. The same is true of a dozen other counties. White lime is extensively produced in Greene, Dade and Jasper counties, the yearly exports from Greene county annually reaching over half a million barrels. Dade county makes and exports about 50,000 barrels and Jasper county 87,260 barrels per year. The white lime rocks of these counties show over 95 per cent of pure carbonate of lime. Jasper county has extensive beds of marble, which are quarried for export on a large scale. This mineral wealth may not interest our pastoral, agricultural or fruit culturist readers, but the millions of capital invested in mining enterprises in this fabulously rich region and the tens of thousands of men engaged in the production of lead, zinc, iron and lime here makes home markets for the products of the farm, flocks, orchards and forests. It will interest Mr. Schmidt and many another reader of this review to know that this Ozark region has

FOREST WEALTH

of great present and greater prospective value. These Ozark woodlands have other significance than the fuel they yield and the wild grasses and flora that are here in prodigal profusion to tempt the pastoralist with his sheep and goats and cattle. While the hard pine districts arc well denuded of their rich growth, the millions of acres of woodland abound in white, black, red, burr, pin and post oaks, hickory, walnut, ash, sycamore and elm, all of growing commercial value five times greater than the present price of the land these woods now cover. Many a wild tract in Pulaski, Christian, Taney, Howell, Wright and other of these largely wooded counties will be worth ten years hence ten times their present commercial value for the timber alone. Some of our readers in the famous fruit belts of Michigan, Ontario, Western New York, New Jersey, Maryland and the "Eastern Shore" will very likely make protest when they read in this letter that the Ozark uplift is

THE GREATEST FRUIT COUNTRY IN AMERICA.

Only the Oregon and California fruit belts can vie with it in territorial extent; nor can any of them excel it in fruit growing possibilities. This, good reader, is the "Land of the Big Apple," and the single northwest county of Arkansas—Benton county—ten years ago exported \$2,000,000 worth of apples in a single year. Apple, peach and pear orchards galore reach out in bewildering succession all the way up the Frisco road from suburban St. Louis, 200 miles westward to Springfield, the central city of the Ozarks. There are orchards and orchards at Cuba, Rolla, Crocker, Newberg, Swedeberg, Lebanon, Conway, Marshfield and all around Springfield. The output of a single orchard at Lebanon sold last fall for \$6,000 and Iowa parties are clearing the woods at this point for

A FIVE THOUSAND ACRE ORCHARD.

A small orchard at Cuba yielded \$1,000 worth of pears last season. All up the Kansas City and Memphis line of the Frisco road as far north as Lamar and southward from Springfield to the Arkansas border it is a network of apple, peach and pear orchards. There are hundreds of small orchards planted for farm use on either side of the railway, but the visitor is mostly taken with

THE BIG COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS

that flank the railway for miles as you travel down the south slope of the Ozarks from Cedar Gap to Thayer and Mammoth Spring at the southern border of the state. One of the pioneer commercial orchards of the Ozarks was planted some 25 years ago by Hon. Ira S. Hazeltine, a Michigan fruit grower, who came to Springfield for a milder and kindlier climate. He purchased land four miles west of the city and finding that the seedling orchards of the neighboring Tennessee farmers bore great crops of fruit, he took the cue from them and planted scores of acres of the best standard apple trees. Mr. Hazeltine built even better than he knew. His apple trees multiplied and bore surpassing crops of surpassing fruit. Almost intoxicated with the success of his venture, Mr. Hazeltine bought more land, stripped it of timber, plowed deep and planted apple trees till the native farmers wondered if he were not gone daft. Instead of going to the asylum they sent him to Congress and looked on amazed at the magnitude of his orchards, the magnificence of his apple crop and the volume of his bank account. This brave old pioneer was lately laid to rest in the red soil that made him fortune in apple

trees and fruits, but his four sons are still buying red lands and planting new orchards and growing rich from the sale of their apple crops. Two years ago the fruit crop from the combined Hazeltine orchards sold for \$57,000. The crop of one of the 80-acre Hazeltine orchards sold on the trees that year for \$13,500 and the crop from another 80-acre orchard for \$12,000, the buyer himself harvesting them. You see, my dear Mr. Schmidt, this is \$150 per acre and better for a single crop of apples—almost as good as growing corn and hogs in your own Clay County, Ill., prairies. The Hazeltines have cold storage for their apples now and sell them late in the winter when the markets are well cleared of less perfect fruit. If you ever come to Springfield over the Memphis branch of the Frisco line, Mr. Schmidt, take a good look at these great Hazeltine orchards as you are rolling into this beautiful "Queen City of the Ozarks." And when you have looked well over this bright, busy, buoyant, bustling town of 30,000 people, the product and commercial center of the Ozarks, take a run down the Memphis division of the Frisco to Cedar Gap in Wright county. You are still in the red lands here, 1,790 feet above the tides and in the midst of 6,000 or 7,000 acres of thrifty apple orchards, mostly planted by Memphis people who come up here to summer in their pretty mountain cottages. You are on the crest of the great Ozark divide here, and whichever way you turn is Arcadia.

On the west lies the clear Spring lake, some forty miles in extent, and surrounded by woodlands and orchards. To the southeast the horizon line is seventy miles away and the outlines of the "Twin Mountains" are as well defined as the neighboring cottages. Within this field half a hundred mountain peaks cast their shadows over the intervening valleys, and wild gulches and canons, presenting an ever-changing panorama of scenic beauty beyond the power of my poor English to describe. On the northeast the view is scarcely less enchanting, for the vision reaches fifty miles away into the blue atmospheric depths, hal- lowed with the verdure of pine-clad hills. From your comfortable observation car you look hun- dreds of feet below into deep, wild gulches and glens where great springs swell into moun- tain streams that go dashing and dancing down into cavernous depths that are never touched by the sunshine. And over all is the soft blue haze of these serene heights bathing mountain and valley and glen with

"A light that hath no name,
A glory never sung."

Here, my good Mr. Schmidt, is

THE NEW ARCADIA

every whit as fair as the one above the

Aegean Sea. Here the spirit of poesy touches the stern realism that plants orchards and vineyards, freighting their precious burdens of fruit and wine to the sunny sites of the South. In these hills, too, the shepherds may find their Arcadia in pastoral scenes fairer than the Hebrew shepherds ever knew. But never mind about moralizing. There are more orchards down at Mansfield-under-the-hills and half a dozen miles further on at Norwood they are clearing away the woods and planting orchards, scores of them. A dozen miles further down the southern slope of the Ozarks you are

AT MOUNTAIN GROVE,

still 1,600 feet above the sea level, still in the red lands and Wright county. Everybody is touched with the mania for commercial orchards here. There are 7,000 or 8,000 acres of apple and pear trees within a radius of four miles of the bright and progressive little city of 1,600 souls. They have flouring mills, banks, churches and a model academic school here; a big cold storage plant that carries 23,000 barrels of apples, and a beautiful plateau country, not to mention flocks of sheep and goats. It is the founding and extension of orchards, the preservation and sale of fruits, however, that engages popular attention and the attention of visitors as well. A little way below is

CABOOL AND MORE ORCHARDS

In the edge of Texas county, the largest of all the mountain counties—the largest in the state. A lively little town, some flouring mills, a model flock of cotswolds chewing their cuds and quietly eyeing the train, and a pretty little valley are the salient features of the situation. Down this valley, narrow and winding, we go to

WILLOW SPRINGS,

a lively sawmill town of 1,800 people or more, and orchards everywhere there is room for them. Gradually we drop down the southern slope by Burnham and are soon in the

LAND OF THE ORCHARD AND VINE.

At Pomona there is a straggling new village, ideal in its wild tree-embowered location and all around it orchards and vineyards, small fruit farms, fruit and wine cellars, fruit storing and packing houses and over and in all the air of commercial fruit growing. Half a dozen miles down the line brings us—Mr. Schmidt and I—to

OLDEN AND THE OLDEN FRUIT FARM.

Thirteen years ago, there were 700 acres of this great fruit farm in apple, peach, pear and cherry orchards and small fruit plats. Now there are 130,000 Elberta peach trees, and the apple orchards of the farm are miles in extent. They have nurseries, fruit cellars, cold storage, packing houses and warehouses galore, and a pretty village has grown up about the station. Every way one turns there are orchards, small fruit plats, pretty cottages and the characteristic air of a cultivated, contented, confident community. The owners of this great 3,000-acre fruit farm, often have a yearly income greater than a king's ransom. The whole business is run along artistic and keenly practical lines. A ten-mile run from Olden brings us to

WEST PLAINS,

the capital of Howell county and a live town of 3,000 people, half of whom, I should say, are interested in some form of fruit growing. It may be an apple orchard, a pear orchard, a small berry farm or a peach orchard, most likely the latter, for they have the warm, rich, red and mulatto soils here in the loveliest of valley and slope lands and here at an elevation of 950 feet we are full in

THE ELBERTA PEACH BELT,

the home of the most luscious peaches that ever enter the great fruit markets of the country. At this elevation and down to 750 feet elevation, which takes us twenty miles lower down to Thayer and Mammoth Spring, the slopes, table lands, valleys and hills meant all be converted into a vast, continuous Elberta peach orchard and a train of refrigerator cars daily freighted in the season for the great market cities of the country. Eleven miles down the beautiful Howell valley brings us to

BRANDSVILLE,

where we are still over 900 feet above sea-level. A rich Chicago company have 35,000 Elberta peach trees, extensive apple orchards and vineyards, capacious wine cellars and a beautiful company home with a retinue of cottages here and have lands and plans for planting 19,000 acres in Elberta peach trees. The early realization of their enterprise will result in the

LARGEST PEACH ORCHARDS IN THE WORLD

Involving miles of continuous orchard all devoted to the king of peaches. This great enterprise will seem bewildering to the plodders

on the small fruit farms of other countries, but it is the way the big fruit syndicates are carrying their work to successful issue in this Ozark country. Five miles below Brandsville is

KOSHKONONG,

the scene of another gigantic peach growing enterprise. We are still in the deeply colored red lands at an elevation of 980 feet, with peach orchards reaching out into an interminable network surrounding the pretty hamlet. Culvert Bros. have 27,000 peach trees in these orchards, every one an Elberta. The 20,000 of these trees that bore their maiden crop last year gave a yield of seventy-two carloads of fruit, for which the fortunate owners received \$34,000, of which about \$25,000 was reckoned as net profit. The Culvers are planting 40,000 more Elberta trees this season and are clearing the ground for as many more next year.

AT ST. ELMO,

just below the great Culver orchards, are the still larger orchards of the McNair Fruit company. The farm is 5,000 acres in extent and 140,000 Elberta peach trees are already planted. Of these 60,000 were in bearing last season, producing 175 carloads of these superb peaches which found their way to Chicago, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other large cities of the country, where they created a sensation among merchants, consumers and fruit connoisseurs. I have no data as to the returns on the mammoth peach crop of this farm, but reasoning the value at the very conservative sum of \$500 per car, the product of the McNair orchards last year mounted up to the princely sum of \$87,500. It is probable that \$100,000 would come nearer to the wholesale value of the McNair peach crop, as much of it was estimated by crates and baskets to be worth \$600 per car. In the picking, packing and shipping season, 2,000 men, women and children find employment on this farm.

The small fruits are extensively cultivated for export in Jasper, Newton, Lawrence and Greene counties, and the industry has proven very profitable. At Sarcoxie in Jasper county, 350 carloads of strawberries were shipped out in a single season.

Mr. W. H. Parks of Springfield sold in three successive years from a three and a half acre cherry orchard \$500, \$700 and \$1,200 worth of cherries. And so it goes. In every Ozark county visited came reports of market returns from apple, peach, pear and cherry orchards and small fruit plats or farms that in any other country would seem fabulous. The simple story of the fruit industry in all these Ozark counties reads like a novel and challenges belief. And yet no wonder-working

Monte Cristo has wrought marvels or miracles here. The transformation from forest to orchard and garden is the work of patient, plodding, painstaking human hands. And the work will go on and on till these plateaus, hills and valleys along the Frisco line are redolent with the rich, ripe, luscious fruits of almost continuous orchards, vineyards and fruit gardens. Fruit growing in this ideal climate is

A NOBLE INDUSTRY,

and develops a race of royal men. The successful cultivation of the orchard and vine goes hand in hand with mental culture, fine method, painstaking, intelligent industry, nice economy, careful investigation and delicate sympathy with the nature and habits of the trees, vines and plants, reared and fostered by the cultivator's own hands. With the successful orchard, vineyard and small fruit garden comes the cultivation of pretty homes, books, flowers, art and a love of the beautiful and ideal. The very nature of this noble calling appeals to the best qualities of the best men and women and in the light of experiments at Olden, Brandsville, Koshkonong, St. Elmo and Springfield is the promise of a great destiny for all this beautiful and fruitful region, involving tens of thousands of intelligent men and women, a chain of bright towns and a social order representing the best amenities of our genial civilization. Many of my readers may not care to enter the fruit growing lists, but I beg to remind them that I have been asked to give a summary of the resources of this Ozark country and that this great industry is one of the foremost of them. Mr. Bates reminds me, just here, that my friend Mr. John Schmidt may want to hear something about

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

that has taken such a profound hold of the consciousness and activities of the Ozark country people. It may surprise the reader to know that this is really the best poultry raising country in the United States, and that poultry and its products outclass any other industry, and in fact are greater in cash returns than all the fruits, minerals, grains, grasses, herds, flocks and forest products of the country combined. While the domestic birds and fowls are not, like the fifty or more native grasses and the fifty native plants of weed and flower, indigenous to the soil, everybody in town and country cultivates poultry so assiduously and successfully that the grand total of revenue from this source runs away up into the millions. While Plymouth Rocks are most generally kept, all the finer breeds are cultivated with such marked success that everybody is led to take a hand in the work. The mild

equable climate, dry footing and presence of limestone in the soil and fine disintegrated particles of limestone in the fields and woods, the pure spring and brook water, nearly always accessible; the mild, open winters, which influence the free production of eggs when the more northerly markets are destitute of them; the almost entire freedom from prevailing poultry diseases and parasites and the cheap and plenteous supply of insect foods, vegetable and grain foods, are "all and singular" inspirations to the business of raising poultry and eggs possessed by no other country. So large is the volume of production in these counties that Springfield has come to be the largest poultry and egg market in the country. Besides the large consumption of poultry and eggs in this city of 30,000 people, the city and the county of Greene annually export 9,000,000 pounds of live and dressed poultry and 5,000,000 dozens of eggs. No industry in the country pays so well for the money invested and care given to the business, which is growing in volume even faster than the orchards and mining interests. The poultry raiser or fancier makes no doubt about the health of his charges for they have really no enemies. The average Ozark county exports from half a million to a million pounds of poultry and from 150,000 dozens of eggs up to 250,000 dozens. The possibilities of the business are practically illimitable.

With all the advantages of the country herein mentioned of course there are

SOME DRAWBACKS.

These inhere to or belong to every country, no matter what or where. The first disappointing sensation our Mr. Bates felt on looking over this Ozark region was the presence of the broken and partially disintegrated limestone in many of the forests and fields. The famous fruit orchards above mentioned are planted on beds of broken, flinty rock from the size of coarse gravel stones up to the size of eggs. His disappointment, however, changed to surprise when he saw the fruit men preferring these white rock deposits, that are generally mixed with red soils, for planting their trees and vines on, and later when in Christian and other counties he saw some of the richest corn stalks and shocks grown in fields where the white lime deposits were thick enough to almost obscure the red soils on whole acres. At the Brandsville, McNair, Culver Bros. and others of the big peach orchards the surface of the ground, both in forest and field, was white with this fine, broken rock to the almost entire exclusion of red clay with which the gravel is nearly always mixed. The stranger is not well impressed with this very common feature of the fields and woods, but the old-timer is never disturbed by it. In the more

broken rocky hill or mountain districts the presence of great masses or ledges of rocks, the stranger from the plain or prairie countries is unpleasantly impressed with the appearance of the country, but even these rugged and broken tracts are rich in herbage and browse and will always be favorite sheep and goat runs for the shepherd.

I am inclined to think the easy-going settlers themselves are the most serious drawback to the Ozark country. Some of these are mountaineers from Tennessee and the Carolinas who bring their old habits and characteristics with them. They find it so easy to subsist themselves and families here that they drop into careless content with their lot and pursue the same superficial methods of cultivation peculiar to their old mountain homes. The log cabin, no matter how crude or open, is good enough for them and they have no higher ambition than the use of the bull-tongue plow, a patch of corn, tobacco and sweet potatoes, a flock of chickens and some shabby pigs—just equal to their simplest necessities. To do better and advance in the scale of enlightened living would require effort they are disinclined to make. They would sooner give up the life they are so well satisfied with than lift a hand to make themselves or their families or neighbors wiser or better. These are good, quiet, law-abiding, kind-hearted people, who share their last meal or Battle Axe plug with you, but they have no more business in this advancing country of railways, orchards and schools than a bull has in a china shop, and the sooner they sell out their farms and homes to ambitious new comers the better for the country. Let no reader take this little criticism as a reflection on the average of

THE PEOPLE

of the Ozark country, from 8,000 to 15,000 strong in the counties named. There are as large a per cent of bright, intelligent, progressive and entertaining people in this country as in any of my knowledge. The real, unadulterated yahoo is a rara avis here as much as he would be in Boston or Chicago, and there is neither place nor a mission for him in a country that is fast filling up with bright, ambitious new settlers from the north and east. The people of the towns are as cosmopolitan in character and enterprise and working ability as in any other part of the country. In the farm districts they are more homogeneous and provincial, but always and everywhere are friends of good government, law and order, good society, schools, churches and the best amenities of good living. Hospitality, warm, cordial and unreserved, is a cardinal principle with them, and the new settler from whatever country or clime is assured of a cor-

dial reception to the full extent of his deserving.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

are of the best and the settler will find from forty to one hundred and forty of them in a county, depending upon the measure of the population. Six months of the year they are free to every child of fortune or lowly birth and none are beyond the opportunity for a good common school education. Most of these Ozark counties have a permanent school fund of from \$10,000 up to \$30,000 or \$40,000—a practical endowment that cannot be alienated. There are

PLENTY OF CHURCHES

representing all the leading religious faiths—each county having from twenty to fifty or more, depending upon the religious needs of the population, and no citizen is beyond the reach of the church of his choice. The visitor is impressed with the good order and high moral standards everywhere apparent, and is most agreeably surprised with the

LOW RATE OF TAXATION

and freedom from bonded indebtedness in nearly all the counties of southwest Missouri. Few of the counties have any public debt and there is nearly everywhere a disposition to avoid bonding the county or town for any project however alluring. Grist mills, flour mills and saw-mills are numerous enough for the convenience of every settler. To the credit of the Ozark region it may be said

GENERAL CROP FAILURES

are unknown. The crops are never cut short by frost or desolating drouth. There is always wheat and corn, oats and other grain crops and vegetables equal to the needs of the country and in nearly all seasons a good surplus for export. The evenness of the rainfall and the natural fertility of the soil make the production of good crops as certain as the rains and sunshine. The

RAILWAY AND MARKET FACILITIES

are exceptionally good. The Frisco system covers this whole Ozark mountain country as it is fast covering the whole Southwest. From St. Louis southwest to Springfield, Oklahoma, Ft. Smith, the Indian Territory and far into South Texas and away into western Kansas runs the main line of this great system with scores of connecting lateral lines in every direction. The old Memphis line, now a part of

the Frisco system, runs from Kansas City via Springfield to Memphis and Birmingham, traversing the Ozarks from north to south and reaching out over the counties herein outlined with several lateral lines. With this rapidly growing railway system now reaching north-east to Chicago via the Chicago & Eastern Illinois,

THE MARKET FACILITIES.

of the Ozark country are as illimitable as are its capabilities for production. The fruit market is practically unbounded. The cities of the South take all the surplus flour, much of the wheat, all the poultry products they can get and all the fruit that can be spared. The whole country is hungry for the surplus poultry, live stock, fruits and vegetables of this region and the transportation facilities are at hand to carry off these and the mineral products of the country.

The Frisco people offer ample

FACILITIES FOR SETTLEMENT

and inspection of the country. Twice a month are run excursion trains on terms so liberal that anybody may come and see the country and judge of its real and relative merits. No country is more easy of access and settlement than this of which I have freely written. The railways bring hither the new settlers and good Mother Nature has made it possible for men to occupy the land and become owners of the soil and surround themselves with the common comforts of life within a single season. The land is cheap, the forests easily and quickly cleared, and half a hundred varieties of wild grasses are already here to subsist the horses, cows, sheep or goats. The potato and corn field and garden materializes the first season for the earnest worker and the wheat field the first autumn. The log house, barn or poultry house may be built in a few days on the very spot where the trees are standing. Of course it takes labor to do all this and that is what the country needs to make it blossom as the rose. Here in the Ozarks is

THE BEST POOR MAN'S COUNTRY

in the middle states. Any man with strong hands, a willing mind and an ordinary stock of common sense may make a home and farm and surround himself with the comforts of rural life here, if only he is a worker. By the same sign he may plant and own an orchard, found flocks and herds and become independent. Speculators are not wanted; there are already too many men "living by their wits," which means live out of the labor and sub-

stance of others. For the small farmers of the East who would enlarge their holdings and industrial horizon; for the renters of Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana; for the hard working men of New England, whose thrift and economy would bring plenty and competency here, and for the fruit grower, poultry raiser and pastoralist with small flocks and herds, for the landless ranchman of the West whose occupation is going or gone, this Ozark country offers inducements not often found in these days—these migratory days when everybody and his neighbor are on the wing for some new Utopia. Here is Utopia—the one you have been seeking all these years, and within its horizon is Arcadia.

To the eastern and northern readers of this review, accustomed to harder lines of life in less favored lands, the country reviewed in these columns with its measureless wealth of climate, soils, minerals, forests and orchards and its commercial and industrial possibilities, present a field of opportunity so vast and inviting that its heraldry is little less than a benediction. It is no dreary waste from which men may turn with a sense of loneliness and desolation for its plateaus are as fair as Lombardy, its valleys lovely as the fabled Eden and the sunshine falls upon its matchless landscape as softly as on the waves of Naples Bay. For the idealist it has poetry and for the sterner materialist rich fields of conquest. It is a

GREAT DESTINY

to live in a land where Apollo might tend flocks and Sappho turn dairymaid, singing her songs in the shadows of the blue mounds—a land where the practical and ideal go hand in hand to make the perfect human life.

COUNTIES IT WILL PAY TO INVESTIGATE.

While there is not a single county to condemn or overlook in all the thirty-five outlined in this report, there are half a dozen that commend themselves as especially meriting the attention of home seekers and investors. Mr. Bates was greatly impressed with

PULASKI COUNTY,

for its material advantages and especially for the large number of exceedingly cheap improved farms and fine tracts of oak timber available to new-comers. This county is 520 square miles in extent and has 10,390 people. It lies high up on the Ozark divide 1,400 feet above the sea and on the Frisco line 125 miles southwest of St. Louis. It abounds in fine plateau, beautiful alluvial valleys and bottoms and is drained by the Gasconade and Big Piney rivers and dozens of smaller streams, each with borders of

rich valley and bottom land. The Gasconade and Big Piney traverse the county 300 miles. It is a fine wheat, corn, grass and fruit country, and though 75 per cent of it is still in forest, the exports for the year 1900 were 2,045 cattle, 15,224 hogs, 300 horses and mules, 4,800 sheep, 70,125 bushels of wheat, 676,820 lbs. of flour, 20,000 lbs. of corn meal, 171,265 lbs. of mill feed, 2,278 bbls. of apples, 28,000 railroad ties, over half a million lbs. of live and dressed poultry, 487,000 dozen eggs and 36,000 lbs. of wool. The woods abound in fine oak timber and natural grass and for the subsistence of 80,000 sheep and goats or 20,000 cattle. Wild lands are selling at \$2 to \$5 per acre and farms for less than the cost of improvements. Waynesville, the capital of the county, is ten miles inland from Crocker, the nearest railway station. There is room and need for 500 new farmers here and they can buy the farms for about the cost of a year's rental in Illinois. Plenty of schools, churches and mills and room for 100 tip-top sheep and goat ranches in the splendidly grassed woodlands and river bluffs. Hon. W. H. Locker of Waynesville, the livest man in the county, and the present honored member of the legislature, will be glad to answer all your questions and show you over the country. He is a mighty good man and an honest one.

LACLEDE COUNTY,

next west of Pulaski, is another one of these plateau counties, rich in red soils, 70 per cent forest and 1,580 feet above the sea. Here, as in Pulaski, it is a succession of table lands, wooded hills, and fine valleys along the Gasconade and numerous smaller streams. It is a fine grain, grass and fruit country, has 98 free schools, 35 churches and 12 mills. Farms are very cheap and wild lands from \$2 to \$6 per acre. The county is about 40 per cent larger than Pulaski and has a population of 16,523, nearly all native Americans. Exports for 1900 were 1,637 cattle, 12,136 hogs, 1,020 horses and mules, 5,704 sheep, 64,000 bushels of wheat, 158,000 lbs. flour, 16,491 bbls. of apples, 72,000 ft. of hardwood lumber, 9,000 ft. walnut lumber, 22,225 railroad ties, 90 tons lead ore, 1,886,670 lbs. of live and dressed poultry, 282,800 dozen eggs, 23,000 lbs. dried fruit, 84,000 lbs. wild game, 5,000 lbs. feathers, 31,000 lbs. hides and pelts and 39,000 lbs. of wool. Over 50,000 bbls. of apples were shipped out last fall. This county holds the medal for best display of fruit at the Pan-American. Lebanon, the county seat, is a model town of 2,500 people, has several mills and churches, a fine high school, several newspapers, a noted artesian magnetic well, and is one of the popular summer resorts of the Frisco system. The three great industries of the county are fruit, poultry and grain growing, all

yet in their infancy. If you want to know more than I have told you about this county, Mr. A. T. Nelson, the obliging local agent of the Ozark Plateau Land Co., will tell you and be glad to show you over the country besides. He is young, active, handsome and reliable.

WEBSTER COUNTY,

the next west of Laclede, is exceptionally good territory, has a population of 16,640, a mean elevation of 1,400 feet and an area of 650 square miles. This is one of the plateau counties, very rich in red soils, abounding in white limestone and is one of the best all around farm and fruit counties in the Ozarks. It is an undulating woodland country with many small prairies. About 60 per cent of the county is forest and the balance mostly in well kept farms. Wild lands \$2.50 to \$7 per acre and farms from \$10 to \$30 per acre. The county seat is Marshfield, a bright and model town of perhaps 2,000 people. The county has 77 free schools. The chief exports are live stock, wheat, apples, flour, poultry, eggs, wool, nursery stock, etc. It will pay to look this county over. Mr. W. H. Thompson or Mr. John W. Case will inform further about this county and take pleasure in showing you about the country.

GREENE COUNTY

and the city of Springfield come next. Here we are in the central county and city of southwest Missouri, the former with an area of 650 square miles, a mean elevation of about 1,300 feet and 52,713 people. This is a very rich county mainly of red soils, woodland, springs and small streams abundant, farms well improved and generally well cultivated. A very fine and productive variety farm country. Poultry, eggs, commercial fruit, live stock, canned goods, wheat, flour, mill feeds, wool, artificial ice, hardwood lumber and lime the principal exports. Wild lands \$6 to \$10 and improved farms from \$12 to \$40 per acre. Springfield is a most beautiful city of 30,000 people, has scores of mills, shops and factories employing about 6,000 mechanics, and not an empty house within its borders. Its collegiate and high schools rank with the best in the country. Population cosmopolitan and progressive. The greatest poultry and egg market in America. Location ideal, water supply unequalled, enterprise unbounded. Elevation 1,500 feet. Tributary country larger than New England. The center of the Frisco railway system. Mr. Wm. H. Johnson of this city will give you all the information about the city and tributary country that you may desire and you may be very sure it will be accurate and reliable.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY,

lying next on the south of Greene, is one of the smallest of Ozark counties, having only 342 square miles, but it is big in productive resource and has a soil not excelled by any in the southwest. Its wheat and cornfields in point of yield are well nigh matchless among the Ozark counties. The county is rolling along the streams, has good areas of table land beyond, some rugged bluffs and very pretty little valleys. The red, black and mulatto soils predominate and there is never a crop failure. Corn, wheat, rye, oats, cotton, cow peas, turnips, and all root and garden crops make a fine showing. There are 16,969 people in the county, and they support over 50 free schools, 50 churches, 6 newspapers and 9 flour mills. The wheat crop this year ran above 1,000,000 bushels, the yield per acre ranging from 15 to 40 bushels. The corn crop is always good, ranging from 35 to 70 bushels to the acre. This county exported in 1900 4,750 cattle, 18,521 hogs, 3,000 sheep, 252,561 bushels wheat, 142,000 lbs. flour, 1,500 bushels clover seed, 1,900 bbls. apples, 153,000 ft. of hardwood lumber, 173,000 feet of walnut, 88,000 railroad ties, 375,350 lbs. of poultry, 317,540 dozen eggs, 70,000 lbs. butter, 619,000 lbs. canned goods, 57,000 bbls. of nursery stock, 10,000 lbs. wool and 1,125,000 lbs. of cotton, the latter commodity much of it coming from the neighboring counties to the south. This is a remarkable showing for so small a county. Nearly half the county is still in forest, which is abundant in blue stem, wild pea vines, and other grazing grasses and plants to the number of 50 or more. The south half of the county is especially rich in wild herbage and many fine natural sheep and goat ranches could be located here and purchased at a low figure. Many good farms are offered for about the first cost of improvements. The county is finely watered, and is connected with Springfield by the Chadwick branch running some 35 miles southward to the village of Chadwick, near the Taney county border. Half the land in the county is considered mineral land and the output of lead and zinc from some of the richer mines reaches large volume. Blue grass, orchard grass, clover and timothy all flourish here, and the same may be said of all the fruits. Ozark, the county seat, is a prosperous town of 1,000 people. At Sparta, a little further down the Frisco, is located the largest of the Frisco Live Stock company's experimental goat ranches. Mr. J. P. Lee, the Sparta land man, will give any further information that may be desired. He is a reliable and trustworthy gentleman. At Chadwick, the end of the road, are the offices of Messrs. Hamel & Workman, who know all this south country like an open book and they will tell you where are the best farm lands, mining prospects and sheep and goat ranches. They

are both prime men to be trusted and honored with your confidence. In full sight of Chadwick are the well grassed hills and rich valleys of

TANEY COUNTY.

Through this county sweeps the White river, the greatest of Ozark streams, 150 miles, its serpentine windings flanked with rich bottoms where grow the finest cotton and corn, the former up to two bales and the latter up to 75 bushels to the acre. On the bald, rocky buttes and wooded bluff lands of this county grow the finest wild grasses, and here are the sites for many and many a fine sheep and goat run. There are rich mineral deposits here, too, and some 10,000 people. Here you are in the Elberta peach belt and the belt that grows all the other fruits and I am told that they are building a railway up the White river valley. When they do, it will be pretty near the land of promise to many a new ranchman and farmer. At Taneyville, some dozen miles from Chadwick, is the Angora and fruit ranch of my friends of the Swan Creek Land and Fruit company with a nobby bunch of Angoras. These people are solving interesting problems for Taney county and some day I may have more to write of their enterprise. This county must not be overlooked by the homeseeker. For the rest Hamel & Workman of Chadwick or Mr. Wm. H. Johnson of Springfield will give you all needed particulars. From here we go back to Springfield and thence down the Memphis division of the Frisco, south to Cedar Gap, Mansfield and Mountain Grove in

WRIGHT COUNTY.

This is one of the counties that it will not do to overlook. Here we are 1,500 to 1,800 feet above the sea in a county of 720 square miles and with a population of 17,519 people—good wide awake people from every state in the Union. They have 90 free schools. The springs and rivers are tributary to the White and Gasconade rivers. The soils are good, the table lands and valleys being particularly well suited for fruit and mixed farming. A third of the county breaks into wooded hills and bluffs, the balance being easily accessible to the plow. Extensive areas of table land and the small valleys offer opportunity for the best order of farming. The fertile soils bring fine crops to the thrifty farmer. All the grains and grass flourish here and the woods are rich in wild grass and other herbage. Wheat and corn are prime crops. Clover and timothy grow big and strong. The orchards are beautiful and fruitful. Wright county exported in 1900 2,500 cattle, 11,280 hogs, 5,330 sheep, 52,500 bushels of wheat, 168,000 lbs. flour, 56,000 lbs. corn meal, 120,000 lbs. of mill feeds, 15,680 bbls. apples, 450,-

000 feet hardwood lumber, 2,156,000 feet of pine lumber, 57,000 railroad ties, 144,000 lbs. poultry, 184,230,000 dozen eggs, 4,000 crates of peaches and berries and 256,000 lbs. canned goods. The last apple crop could hardly have been less than 25,000 bbls. Lands are cheap here, wild land going at \$1.50 to \$7 per acre, and improved farms from \$7 to \$30. Mountain Grove, the largest railway town in the county, has 1,800 people, seven churches, a first class academy, a bank, two newspapers, two roller mills, two fruit evaporators, capacious cold storage and the only government experimental fruit station in the country. Messrs. Key and Slaughter live here and will be delighted to give all needed information concerning this and the nearby counties. They are enterprising and hospitable men, worthy of the highest confidence.

A little further down the road we come to Willow Springs and

HOWELL COUNTY.

In this county—one of the largest in the Ozarks—are the great peach and apple orchards at Pomona, Olden and Brandsville, all in the Elberta peach belt. We are well down the south slope of the Ozark divide, and the whole county is smooth enough to be turned into continuous orchards. Half the county, however, is forest all finely stocked with blue stem and other grasses. This has always been favorite ground for stockmen on account of the open range and plenteous herbage. Lands are very cheap here considering the advanced status of farm and fruit growing. Wild lands are selling from \$2 to \$8 and improved farms as low as \$10 and \$15 an acre. The north part of the county abounds in fine sites for stock ranches, where there are 30,000 or 40,000 acres of cut over lands well grown up with grass. Howell has 21,834 people, close to a hundred free schools, all the churches that are needed and an excellent population.

All the grain crops do well on these red, dark and yellow lands. West Plains, the county seat, is a beautiful and wide awake town of 3,500 people, the largest and liveliest on the Frisco between Springfield and Memphis, and here lives Mr. Charles Wheeler, an enterprising land man, who will tell you all about the city and county, the iron mines, the goat and sheep ranches, the orchards and ever so many other things of interest to the public. E. C. Markham & Co. are also very reliable and reputable land men at West Plains and can set you right on land matters. I would like to say something of Oregon county, but time is up and space gone. Mr. G. M. Durst of Thayer will write you about this county. You can depend upon anything he says.

If you would know about goats or the status of the Angora industry in the Ozarks write to

General Manager A. B. Hulit of the Frisco Live Stock company, Ozark Hotel, Springfield. He is absorbed in the business and a mighty good man. And General Immigration Agent S. A. Hughes of the Frisco system will answer all questions as to the semi-monthly homeseekers' excursions that are fast filling up this country with good people. Write him at St. Louis.

