

THE PRAIRIE WOLVES.

FINE WINTER SPORT FOR THE HUNSMEN.

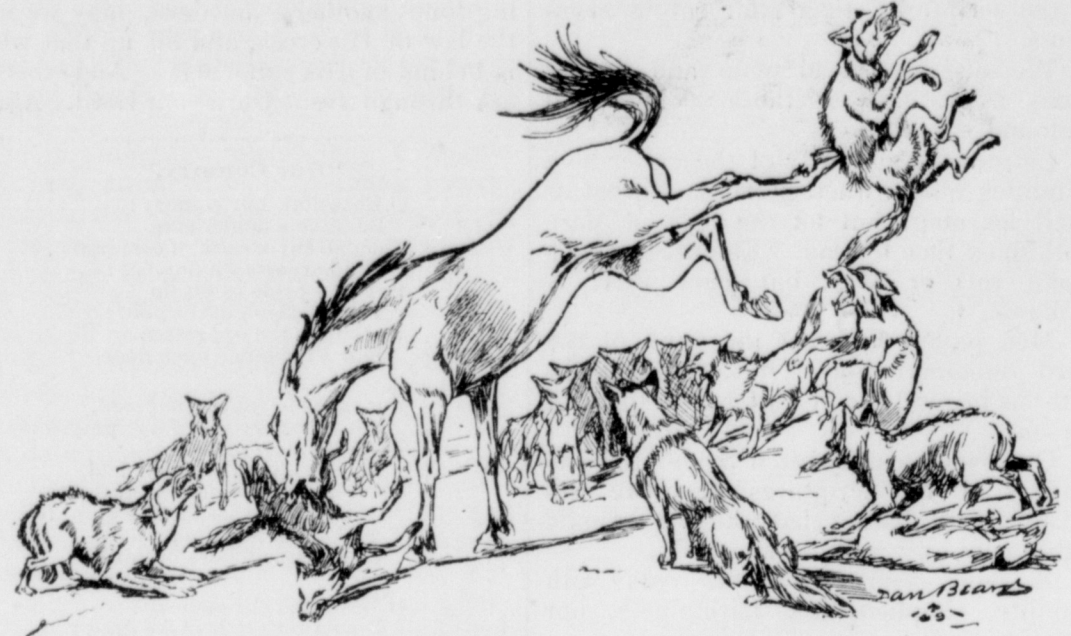
Bounties Paid for Wolf and Coyote Scalps to Protect Stock—Terrible Battle Between a Durham Bull and Twenty-Two Hungry Wolves—How Cattle Protect Themselves.

AXTER'S ranch, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, is where several wolf hunts have recently been held. This is the favorite sport on the great plains this winter. The bounty on the scalps has also caused many to trap and poison both wolves and coyotes.

From 15 to 30 men make a good hunting party, to round up the wolves. A day having been set for the chase, the sportsmen scatter out over the plains, covering, sometimes an area of 10 miles, for the purpose of driving the wolves toward a common centre. The wolves have their haunts

these dens they also breed their young in the Spring, their litters numbering from 4 to 9.

The prairie wolf shuns the abode of men, unless hunger forces it to attack stock even near the ranchman's house. But coyotes will come up near the frontiersman's house, and make the night hideous with their yelping noises. They will kill sheep, calves, pigs and poultry. Coyotes will not only slaughter sheep by the wholesale, but will suck their blood, and have many of the traits of a "sheep killing dog." It is the prairie wolf that preys upon the largest stock on the plains. The largest bull and fleetest horse become their prey, when maddened by hunger. So great has been the loss to stock in Texas, that the question has been urged at the present session of the legislature to increase the bounty. Some counties in the States on the plains claim that their financial resources have been greatly impaired by the payment of scalp bounties for wolves and coyotes. From Wyoming and Nebraska, south to Texas, the question of "for" or "against" these bounties has been agitated in the various legislatures. The stockmen lose hundreds



DANGER AT BOTH ENDS.

along certain streams and in this locality the hunt is made. Many of the streams have hardly a shrub or tree along their banks, and the hunters are thus afforded a large open country in which to make the chase. They begin to ride towards the centre. When a wolf is sighted it is shot by some of the expert marksmen of the plains, or to increase the interest in the sport, the bounds are given an opportunity for a run. Rifles and shot guns are the weapons generally used. The great expanse of level plain, which is only broken occasionally by sand hills, gives a fine opportunity for a hunt, and it is a rare instance when a wolf makes its escape through the circle. The wolves, coyotes and swifts all have their dens under ground, and sometimes they succeed in running into these lairs when hard pressed by hunters and hounds.

It is fine sport when the ever narrowing circle has two or more wolves rounded up, in an area of about a mile. An attempt of a wolf to escape on one side being frustrated it runs in the opposite direction, only to be headed off by hunters and dogs. Wolves and dogs are sometimes permitted



COYOTES SUCKING THE BLOOD OF SHEEP.

to fight it out in the centre. The wolf is cowardly, but when wounded and at bay will sometimes make a hard fight. Thus the sport continues until the wolves are all captured or killed. The hunt is not always a success, but often several of them are taken by the huntsmen of the plains.

I have recently made a four week's journey over the plains along the Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas line, and many an interesting story is told by the frontiersman of the wolves, and how they are captured. The occasional wolf hunt is had more for the sport it affords, yet there are some known as wolf hunters, and follow it as a business. The state bounty, together with the extra paid by some cattle associations, make the wolf and coyote scalp bounty \$2. The coyote is not a game animal like the gray wolf, and its capture is not so exciting a sport.

The prairie wolf of the great Western plains is grayish in color, and is a little smaller than the common wolf. I was shown the flesh hide of a prairie wolf at the county treasurer's office at Sterling, Col., that measured six feet from nose to tip of the tail. The small streaks of black along the back give it a grizzly appearance. The jaw is strong and the teeth sharp. The coyote, also known as a prairie wolf, is not so large and dangerous as the gray wolf of the prairie, and is also called the American jackal and Mexican prairie wolf. The Indian dogs, which so much resemble the wolf, are said to be a cross breed with prairie wolf, coyote, and the dog.

Wolves, coyotes and all such animals on the plains make their homes underground. They dig a hole about two feet in diameter and at an angle of 45 degrees and at a depth of from 6 to 10 feet excavate their underground den, where they make their abode after a successful raid for food. In

of thousands of dollars—fortunes it might be said—in the slaughter of cattle, horses and sheep by these wild animals of the plains, and hence the bounties in some states for wolf and coyote scalps, with the hope of exterminating these pests.

The prairie wolf has not been so noted as the timber wolf, the black wolf of the south or the wolf of the northern pineries in attacking human beings. It has had more to feed upon, and hence has not been so dangerous to man. Yet the prairie wolf has been known to attack human beings. An old frontiersman near the Colorado Wyoming boundary line recently told me of the thrilling experience of three men on the plains in that vicinity in the earlier days. One of the party went out to hunt for meat and failing to return his two comrades started in search of him, following his trail through the snow. They soon heard the rapid firing of a rifle and hastening to the place, still a mile distant, they found their friend surrounded by a hungry pack of prairie wolves, and keeping them at bay with his swift repeating rifle. His ammunition was nearly all gone, and they were just in time to save him from a horrible fate.

The prairie wolves do their foraging in packs. They first run down a horse or steer, till, wearied by the chase, the pursued animal turns at bay upon the howling wolves. The horse will kick and also strike at them with his fore feet. The cattle defend themselves with their horns. It often happens that the wolves by leaping on cattle will eat out large pieces of flesh before the final stand and fight are made. When horses and cattle are at bay and making their last fight against their tormentors the wolves become more methodical in their attacks. While some are attacking the attention of the animal in front others are snapping at the sides and hind legs, till finally the hamstring is cut and then the fight is over.

At Yuma, Colorado, near the Kansas-Nebraska corner, Sheriff M. R. Lovell, an old-time foreman of cowboys on the cattle trails, related to me some stories of how wolves prey upon stock. He has had an



IN FULL CRY.

experience of 15 years in the cattle business and is familiar with the traits of the prairie wolf. "In one of our herds," he said to me, while chatting in his office a few days ago at Yuma, "we had a fine Durham bull, weighing about 1,300 pounds. One morning, accompanied by two cowboys, I was going over our range and found this bull surrounded by a pack of 22 grey prairie wolves. They had chased him several miles, as the trail showed, the bull

at times turning for a fight and then continuing in his attempt to escape. They had bitten pieces of flesh out of his flanks as was shown by blood on the snow, and an examination I made a little later. When we came upon the bull he seemed to have stopped for his last fight.

Roaring and bellowing with pain, and pawing the earth, he was attempting to keep off these 22 wolves. At times he would rush upon them in his madness, which would give those behind him another chance to snap and bite at his hind legs in their attempt to hamstring him. A large pack will work in shifts, resting each other,



CAPTURING A GRAY WOLF.

and thus give the stock no opportunity to rest. "We rushed our horses at full speed," continued Sheriff Lovell "for we could see the fight going on when some distance from the battle. We were none too soon, for that strong Durham bull would soon have become the prey of the wolves. Several pounds of flesh had already been eaten from the flanks and other parts of the body, although the bull had not yet fallen."

"Cattle will sometimes bunch themselves in a circle, heads out, making a kind of corral with calves in the centre," said Sheriff Lovell. "With this phalanx of horns against them, the wolves have but little chance to kill them. It is instinct with cattle to bunch when in danger. I have seen a large herd, scattered over a large territory, suddenly rush together when alarmed or in supposed danger. It is the lone steer or horse that becomes a prey to the wolves. The cow boys used to lasso wolves and antelope just for the fun of it, and would occasionally capture a buffalo in the same way. I have seen Frank Tate, who was in the Pan Handle of Texas when I last heard of him, rope an antelope. John Williams, now in Warrensburg, Missouri, used to work for me on the cattle trails, and was very expert with the lasso. One day we ran across a prairie wolf on the trail, and Williams, jerking up his lasso, started in swift pursuit. It was a lively chase over the plains, but Williams landed the loop over the wolf's head and started back on a full gallop, dragging the strangled wolf along the trail.

Wolves are often captured now in steel traps and also by putting poison in dead animals. So many wolves have been poisoned by strychnine in the carcasses of horses and cattle that they are becoming a little shy of dead bodies. The steel trap is set on the wolves' trails, or around a dead carcass, and a good many are taken in this way. "I have recently" said a frontier hardware merchant on the plains when I questioned him on the subject. "The prairie wolf and coyote have always been robbers of the frontier cemetery. The old-time hunter and trapper would often bury his dead comrade in the western rivers to save the corpse from these jackals of the plains. When the body is put in a grave heavy sticks of timber and rocks are placed over it to protect it, but often the burial party have seen prairie wolves or coyotes scratching at the new made grave before they were out of sight."

WILL C. FERRILL.

LUCKY AND UNLUCKY DAYS.

Friday an ill omened day in England but not in America.

It is not long since the common prayer book reminded us specially of the 5th of November, a day the celebration of which is in most parts now dying out. The 5th of November following the union with Ireland, in 1800, was the day on which the title of king of France was abandoned by English sovereigns after being borne for four hundred and thirty-two years. It is in consequence of this that our foreign official correspondence ceased to be carried on, as up to that time had been the case, in French. Days of the week have frequently had various influences assigned to them, some productive of good, some of bad fortune. But by common consent Friday has been pitched upon as an unlucky day, and is in England still esteemed so, inasmuch as sailors, it is well known, dislike to sail on a Friday, and we have even heard of a popular actress refusing to take her benefit on that day. But the Americans, who pride themselves on their superiority to the superstitions of our forefathers, have discovered that for them at least, Friday is a day of good omen. It was on a Friday that Christopher Columbus set sail, on a Friday that he first discovered land, on a Friday that he arrived for the second time at the coast of America. The first American state paper in England is a commission from Henry VII. to John Cabot, dated Friday, March 5, 1496, and which led to the discovery of North America. The oldest town in the United States, St. Augustine, was founded on Friday, September 7, 1565, by Melendez. Friday was the day of the arrival of the *Mayflower* with the pilgrim fathers, 1620; of the birth of George Washington; of the surrender of Yorktown; and of the motion in congress in favor of independence. We are not likely, therefore, to find in America any tradition of an old Lancashire custom mentioned some time ago in *Notes and Queries*. It appears that when a woman comes courting on a Friday in Lancashire the malevolent spirits are averted by beating trying-pans.—*English Paper*.

What Made it Dull.

Dolly Chatterby.—Such a stupid time as we had at the sewing society this afternoon. All the girls were num as mice—hardly a word spoken the whole blessed time.

Mrs. Chatterby.—Is it possible What's the trouble?

Dollie.—Well, you see most of the girls have joined the king's daughters. They have a motto, you know, "Never speak ill of anybody," or something of that sort. It's too ridiculous.—*The Talsman*.

ONE HUNDRED A WEEK.

THAT IS THE WAY THE BOOKS ARE GOING.

Dictionaries Going as Fast as We Can Get Them—Some Idea of the Book and What People Say About It—Wonderful Value for the Money.

The article that follows this introduction appeared in the last issue of PROGRESS, and was so thoroughly successful in drawing attention to the wonderful edition of Webster's dictionary that it is repeated. More than one hundred copies of the dictionary have been sold with PROGRESS since that date, and the demand for them is increasing every day.

Perhaps the biggest surprise about PROGRESS office now is the edition of Webster's dictionary. We have not spoken of it before, except in the way of an announcement or two which simply quoted the combination price with PROGRESS. The same book was used in this city about the holiday season as a "leader,"—which means, as most people know, that the article is reduced to about wholesale prices for the retail trade. At that time the people were busy and while there was a good sale, holiday goods had the preference. By guaranteeing to dispose of a very large number of this edition of Webster's Unabridged dictionary, PROGRESS has obtained control of its sale for the provinces. Less sanguine friends laughed at the idea of the paper being able to dispose of more than half the number, but they did not realize how a really good article at remarkable value takes with the people. The first lot went off in two or three days after the announcement was made and the second lot is going even faster than the first. Last Saturday morning between 10 and 12 o'clock no less than ten persons called personally at the office and carried off the book with them. Each of them was well pleased, for, while the cut of the dictionary is attractive it does not by any means show just how handsome the volume is. The invariable remark is, "How can such a book as that be gotten up for \$1.75," for that is what it costs in addition to the \$2.00 a year for PROGRESS—\$3.75 in all. Several ladies made the same remark when they called to see the book: "I want it for the children," and one of them frankly stated that children often asked puzzling questions which were difficult to answer offhand. "We have a small dictionary, but Webster's is such a mine of information that it answers every purpose and every question."

And that is literally true. The book that PROGRESS controls contains not only 1,500 pages, but an appendix that brings it up to over 1,800 pages. Many people will listen to this but are still skeptical and ask, "Isn't that dictionary old enough to vote?" There is only one reply to this, and it is conclusive. It is the standard Webster's dictionary on which the copyright expired last year. By reason of that copyright the price ranged from \$12 to \$15. The writer paid \$13 for his volume only 18 months ago, and it is identical in contents with the one PROGRESS is now offering at such a remarkable price.

A well known clergyman who called at the office a few days ago saw the book, and not having seen PROGRESS' announcement, asked what it was worth. "What would you say it was worth?" was the reply. He looked through the book carefully, and said, "the print is good, the binding handsome and heavy, almost equal to that on my own. I have both editions of Webster—they were sent to me for my opinion—so I did not have to pay anything for them, but I should say this book is worth at least \$6."

"I will give it to you with the 16-page PROGRESS for a whole year for \$3.75."

He was too surprised to speak for a moment and his parting words were, "I cannot understand it."

And this was from a judge of books—an educated man who was selected to pass an opinion upon copyright editions of Webster!

It would be superfluous for PROGRESS to begin to praise the dictionary that the authorities of the world have united in saying is the best work of its kind extant. It is in very truth the dictionary of dictionaries. It is more, for within its pages can be found all the information that is of practical use to the every day man. Besides being a dictionary of pronunciation and spelling, it is a dictionary of synonyms and quotations. How often when one is writing do words get mixed; how often one wonders whether such a word is spelled right or wrong? Men and women who can spell every ordinary English word, often get puzzled by the very simplest. Again when one is writing, how often do the same words crop up. There is nothing so provoking as to read an article over after writing it and find a repetition of words. It is hard always to think of other words that will express the same meaning. If Webster's dictionary is at hand difficulties disappear—spelling does not trouble one, and with 10,000 synonyms to choose from there can be no repetition of words.

There are still many persons who, when writing, will persist in using numerous quotations—Latin and French most commonly, but also from other languages not so well known. The ordinary reader is

not a French translator, and has not gone to college or high school for a sufficient period to have the meaning of Latin phrases at the end of his tongue. He stumbles over some common French quotation and is puzzled, loses the thread of the article, and throws it down in disgust. If he had Webster he could find it in a few seconds, and learn something else at the same time.

For example, how many people understand or know anything about the "proof marks of the printer? Every merchant has more or less printing done, and if he is as particular as he should be, he knows what his job is going to look like before it goes on the press. In other words, he reads his own proof. It he does, it is 100 to 1 that he does not know how to make out this word or that letter, or alter or make the necessary changes. He is at a loss and at a disadvantage. If Webster's dictionary was on his desk, there would be an end to all this. The printer's proof marks are not only all there, but they are explained and made as clear as noon day.

It would take too many columns of the paper to speak of everything in this book. This much may be added that there is a perfect wealth of carefully made and correct illustrations, some 1,500 in all, which would be invaluable to the student of natural history, or anyone else who is curious enough to want to know what animals or fishes or birds unknown to him look like.

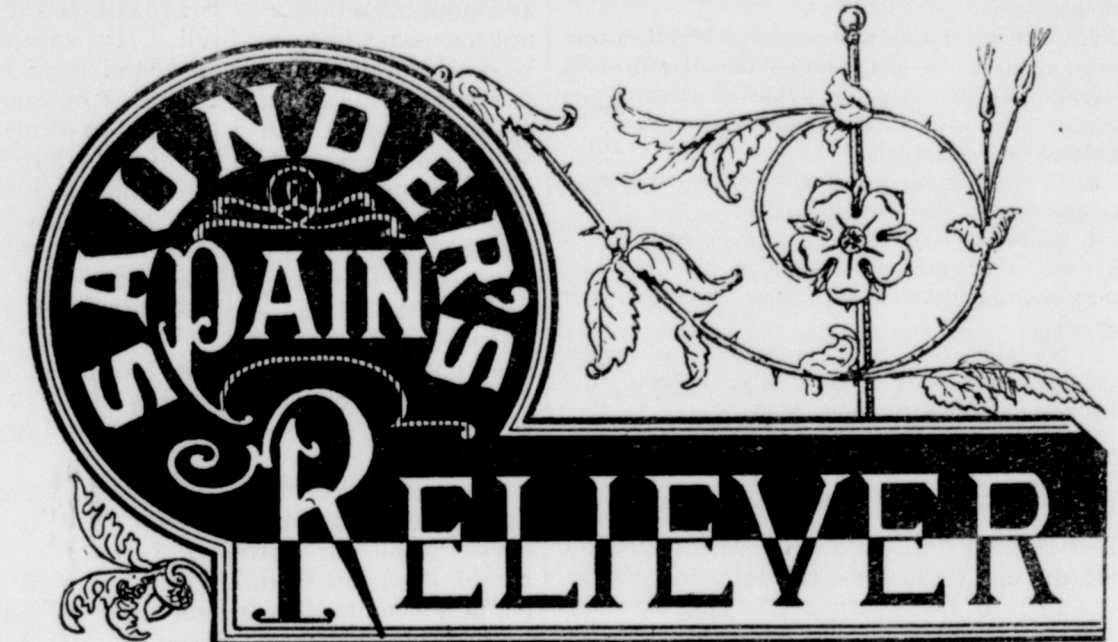
PROGRESS offers the book as an inducement to subscribers. It is offered at a figure that cannot be competed against by any other than the publisher, and to get the books from him at \$1.75 would call for an

order for several hundred copies. PROGRESS and Webster's dictionary to old subscribers, whose subscription expired before February 1st, for \$3.25, and to those whose subscriptions expired during February, and new subscribers for \$3.75. What better value can be found for the money?

The Care of the Hands.

There are not nearly as many secrets in hand treatment as people imagine. A little ammonia or borax in the water you wash with, and that water just lukewarm, will keep the skin clear and soft. A little oatmeal mixed with the water will whiten the hands. Many people use glycerine on their hands when they go to bed, wearing gloves to keep the bedding clean, but glycerine does not agree with every one. It makes some skins harsh and red. These people should rub their hands with dry oatmeal and wear gloves in bed. The best preparation for the hands at night is white of an egg, with a grain of alum dissolved in it. Quacks have a fancy name for it, but all can make it. They also make the Roman toilet paste. It is merely the white of an egg, barley flour and honey. They say it was used by the Romans in olden times. At any rate, it is a first rate thing, but it is sticky and does not do the work any better than oatmeal. The roughest and hardest hands can be made soft and white in the space of a month by doctoring them a little at bedtime, and all the tools you need are a nail brush, a bottle of ammonia, a box of powdered borax and a little fine white sand to rub the stains off, or a cut of lemon, which will do even better, for the acid of the lemon will clean anything.—*New York Lefter*.

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LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

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