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Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

COLUMBIA, MO.

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TEXAS FEVER.

Elaborate experiments on Texas fever have been conducted at Columbia during the past year by the Missouri Experiment Station and the State Board of Agriculture, co-operating with the Texas Experiment Station. Bulletin No. 37 by Dr. J. W. Connaway, just issued, reports the results of these tests.

It was clearly demonstrated that the Texas tick is the natural means of communicating the disease from one animal to another. Ticks hatched in the laboratory when put on Missouri Shorthorn cows in lots free from any possible infection, produced fatal cases of Texas fever in every instance within from thirteen to eighteen days after the young ticks were placed on the animal.

The Texas Station dipped a car load of Texan cattle, all of which were covered with the Texas fever tick, and shipped the dipped cattle to the Missouri authorities.

These cattle were dipped in a West Virginia mineral oil at a cost of less than 5 cents per head. The Missouri Station confined these dipped Texan cattle in a small lot with a number of shorthorn cows from the 13th of August until the first of November, and made careful daily observations and temperature records, with the result that no Texas fever was communicated. If subsequent experiments confirm these results, the dipping process will be entirely practicable and fea-

sible, and can be easily and cheaply done on a commercial scale, and would enable the farmers of the Mississippi Valley to purchase and bring to their farms with perfect safety at any season of the year cheap range cattle to eat their surplus corn and grass.

An attempt was made to inoculate cattle so that they would be proof against this disease, with very promising results. These results are also in a measure confirmed by experiments that Dr. Connaway has just concluded in Mississippi, on a car load of dairy cattle shipped there from Kansas. Twelve of these cattle had died of Texas fever before the animals were injected; none died afterward. The method is neither expensive nor difficult, and if it proves to be successful as it now promises, the entire Texas fever district comprising a dozen states will be opened as a market for the thoroughbred stock of the North and West, inasmuch as these animals may then be shipped to these states with entire safety from loss. Extensive studies and observations on the habits and movements of the tick were made which led to a number of important practical conclusions in regard to the best methods of disinfecting pastures, etc.

This bulletin profusely illustrated, is for free distribution among the farmers and stockmen of Missouri and of the Southwest, and may be had on application to the Director of the Missouri Experiment Station, Columbia, Mo.