

## GOAT RAISING

An industry closely associated with sheep raising is the growing of Angora goats, which has received a great impetus from the investigations and publications of the Department of Agriculture in the past five years. An association was recently formed with headquarters at Kansas City, and a number of States, including Iowa and Missouri, have shown much activity in this line. Texas, California and Oregon, however, continue to be the centres of the industry. This beautiful little animal, brought to this country originally seventy years ago from the Turkish village of Angora, attracted comparatively little attention till it was discovered how effectively a herd would clean up a piece of brush land. This, added to the fact that the herd will take care of itself against ordinary sheep-killing dogs, gave the goats great usefulness in many sections and spread the industry. It was found by the students of the subject that there was a good demand for the clip to make some elegant forms of very durable cloths, including the plush commonly used in upholstering railway cars. Also it was found that the meat was very good eating, much resembling mutton, and that considerable quantities were actually sold annually from the Southwestern ranges under the name of mutton, and, of course, at the same price.

In the sudden expansion of the business there has been occasional loss by lack of experience on the part of those attempting to handle the goats. Two things especially are easily forgotten: the mother neglects her kids unless watched closely; and a good wire fence is necessary to hold goats.

Very successful shows have been held at Kansas City and at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and the trade in the goats for breeding purposes continues quite active. While the demand has not assumed the form of a fad, as in the case of the Belgian hare, some fancy prices have been paid for very desirable animals. The highest figure so far recorded was \$1,050. A new importation from Turkey was made in 1901 for the first time in fifty years, and the energy displayed by breeders indicates that the industry is being put on a solid foundation.