

Blotting Paper Is Made by Accident

Dust and Sand Used To Dry First Ink

It was not until after the Civil war that the use of blotting paper became general. A pewter shaker of dusting powder or sand was employed for the "blotting" purposes before then. The blotting paper industry was born when a careless workman forgot to put sizing in a batch of ordinary rag paper. Distracted over the loss, the mill owner attempted to utilize the paper for his own correspondence, but when he began to write on it the ink spread all over the paper. Then the idea occurred that here was a substitute for sand drying. Thus was blotting paper born.

Water Served as Ink In Ancient Writings

One hundred years ago a writing paper was introduced into England which by means of a chemical treatment turned black when any liquid was applied. It was possible to produce regular black letters merely by writing upon it with a pen dipped in water.

Fool's Cap Coined As Contemptuous Term for Ruler

During the reign of Charles I, all English paper was stamped with the royal arms of England. The monarch, in consideration of certain moneys, granted monopolies to several companies for the manufacture of paper. On the accession of Oliver Cromwell, he commanded the royal arms to be removed and ordered the substitution of a fool's cap and bells in the water mark as an indication of contempt for Charles I.

Old Documents Of Adams' Day Found

Although the world too often takes for granted the part which paper plays in preserving history for posterity, every now and then some dramatic incident brings this important fact into fresh focus and forces the world to pay homage to the great service of paper to mankind. Such an event recently was recounted when valuable lost diplomatic

documents of the United States dating back to the Russian ambassadorship of John Quincy Adams in 1810, were found in Leningrad in the ancient American embassy buildings. Hundreds of bound volumes, maps, pamphlets, and bundles of correspondence were discovered. Behind the buildings, in a dimly lit room in the musty disused stables, were found bundles of correspondence which government historians now are using to piece together the jig-saw puzzle of history. Once again paper speaks from the grave.

Counting Sheets Still Done Best by Hand

Although the papers we use today are the products of some of man's most ingenious triumphs in the realm of mechanization, no automatic machinery has been invented which counts and sorts papers as well as the human hand. In most mills this function is performed by girls whose speed and sense of quality through touch is little short of miraculous.

Slate Paper Can Be Cleansed Easily

Slate paper, which takes its name from the fact that it can be cleaned like a slate, is prepared from the regular products. Into its manufacture go benzine, followed by a preparation made of lead, zinc oxide, turpentine, seed oil, copal, and sandstarch.

Parchment Paper Used For Enduring Newspapers

Newspapers which wish to preserve complete copies print a limited number of editions on special parchment paper which will not decay. Historical societies and most publishing houses now print a few copies of important books and pamphlets on paper that will last.

Coated Paper In Use for Centuries

Coated paper, similar to that used today for half-tone printing, first was used in the sixteenth century. In the beginning it was used to decorate interiors, and today's wallpaper is actually a descendant of the first coated paper.

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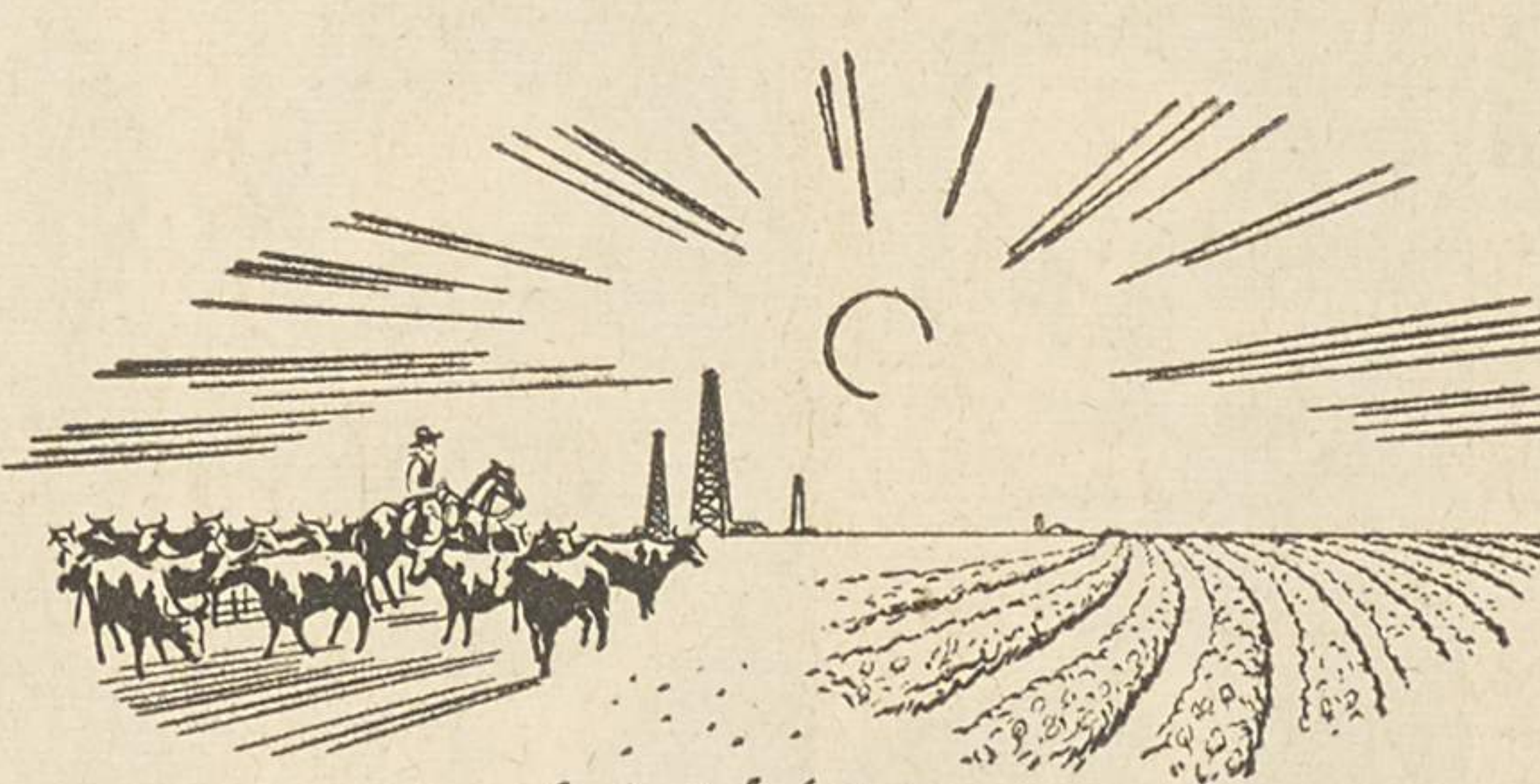
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