

Cattle in Walla Walla 1877

THAT AIN'T WHAT THEY ARE FOR-- Several of our citizens seem to labor under the impression that the sidewalks are first-class cow corrals; leastwise a number of them allow the milk producers to feed, sleep and occupy the sidewalks at night to the annoyance, disgust and danger of...pedestrians...

--Walla Walla Union, Jan. 27, 1877

There are some most active cows and young cattle in the town. They can climb into the tail end of a farmer's wagon and eat all the hay and straw he has put in to keep his feet warm, while he is taking a drink. Sell them to a by gymnastic troupe.

--Union, Jan. 27, 1877

Eastern Drives 1877

Mr. Lang, who was here last summer buying cattle to drive East, is here again buying all the cattle he can get. He is also buying horses, principally cayuse ponies.

--Walla Walla Union, Jan. 27, 1877

GOT ENOUGH--Mr. Lang, who has been buying cattle in this vicinity for some time, took a trip up to ^{the} Mt. Idaho country and succeeded in purchasing all the cattle he requires. He struck a bonanza there, as no cattle-buyers had been up there for several years. The cattle will be driven East as soon as the weather will permit.

--Union, Feb. 10, 1877

(FROM the Lewiston Teller Apr. 7)

Mr. Lang on Thursday attempted to swim about 800 head of cattle across Snake River opposite the mouth of Tammay Hollow. In the attempt several were drowned, and it was abandoned.

--Union, April 14, 1877

LARGE DROVE OF CATTLE--The Boise Statesman says:

Messrs. Lang & Ryan crossed Snake River a few days ago at Keeney's Ferry and came up the Boise Valley to Fouché's Ferry on Boise River, where they crossed with 8,300 head of beef cattle--steers ranging from 2 to 5 years old--which they drove up Indian Creek to the Overland Road, where they are now encamped. The cattle were bought in the Walla Walla valley and will be driven to Nebraska, where, after selling a portion of the herd, the remainder will be stall-fed for the Chicago and other Eastern markets.

-- Union, June 9, 1877

Durhams Brought In

The Dalles Mountaineer of the 17th inst. says:

J. B. Huntington, Esq., . . . arrived in town on Tuesday evening enroute for his ranch (on the Yakima) with a band of 13 head of short-horn Durham cattle, from the lot lately imported by from Liberty, Iowa, by Hon. Marshal B. Blinn of Olympia...

--Walla Walla Union, Feb. 24, 1877

Columbia ~~Game~~ Beef Canning.

Ten Thousand head of cattle will be canned at the Columbia fisheries for the Eastern and foreign markets...

--Oregon Weekly Tribune (The Dalles) April 28, 1877

Stock from Willamette 1877

For some days past young stock from the Willamette valley has been arriving at the wharf on almost every steamer. A band of 400 calves ...came up at one time. They were in thin condition but the bunch grass of Wasco will recuperate them...

--Oregon Weekly Tribune (The Dalles) March 3, 1877

...Another large band of calves--some so thin and weak they could hardly travel--came up from the Willamette valley last Wednesday and are now recuperating on the bunchgrass of Wasco. This is becoming quite a business.

--Oregon Weekly Tribune, March 17, 1877

The Stock Industry

We learn from the Record that Mr. J.P. Sharp of Kittitas valley is offering 200 head of cattle for \$1,500, he having run out of feed.

-- Times, Jan. 26, 1881

It is reported, according to the Record, that 200 head of cattle went into a place near the lower Yakima for shelter and the snow came and blocked them in and they died of starvation.

-- The Times (The Dalles) Jan. 26, 1881

(from steamboatman)... the piles of hides - no doubt all that remains of 'last year's' cattle. Hides are to be seen in plenteous numbers all along the river, willow trees and upturned roots being extravagantly ornamented with them...

--Times, March 23, 1881

The stock business as yet is one of our leading industries. During the past 4 months not less than 4,000 head of livestock of every description have been driven over the mountains to the Sound markets. Among the latest to send an invoice over is Mr. Geddis, who on Monday last started a band of 200 head for Seattle.

-- Kittitas Standard reprinted in
The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, Nov.22,1881

Rosenbaum, Myer & Co., cattle dealers of Chicago, have recently bought 6,000 head of cattle in the Yakima and White Bluffs ranges, which will be taken to Nebraska.

-- The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, April 18, 1881

Cattle Drives
(plus Indian scare)

Mr. George Smith, the veteran cattle driver, arrived here on Saturday from the Yakima with 206 head of cattle for Messrs. Forst and Borst.... Just before he left an advance guard from a party of Eastern immigrants, at present encamped near Boise City, Idaho, and including 52 families, arrived in the valley. They came for the purpose of ascertaining reliable information regarding the rumored Indian troubles, as they had deemed it prudent not to bring their train into the valley if any serious troubles were apprehended...

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune (Seattle) Sept. 18, 1878

The cattlemen are gathering their stock from the Columbia river plains and find them generally in good condition after a severe winter's close picking under sage and snow. The eastern buyers will curtail the market over 30,000 head and very materially advance the prices--probably 1/3 above last year's quotations.

-- Weekly Pacific Tribune (a letter ~~mk~~ rec'd) Apr. 3, 1878

Last evening Mr. W.H. Crockett arrived here from Yakima with 516 head of fine beef cattle for Messrs. Phelps & Wadleigh. This is one of the largest bands of cattle that ever crossed the Snoqualmie pass. Mr. Crockett reports the following parties on the way over with cattle for this market. Mr. McNaught with 225 head. Thomas Haley with 40 head. John Stewart with 30 head and a Snohomish butcher with 30 head more. The roads are now in a wretched condition and snow will soon obstruct the pass. The bands now on the way over will be the last to cross this season.

-- Weekly Pacific Tribune, Oct. 17, 1878

Cattle Industry

Once again calamity has overtaken the fair land east of the mountains. The Port. Standard of Sat. says that the whole country about The Dalles, Klickitat county, Goldendale and vicinity is covered with from 3-4 feet of snow and that cattle and sheep are dying by the hundreds and thousands. A gentleman, it states, who came through Friday evening says that cattle were dying in the streets of The Dalles from starvation while out on the praries it is even worse. It was but a few years ago that a similar storm swept over that country and destroyed the flocks and herds in vast numbers and it is upon them again.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune (Seattle) Feb. 23, 1879

A correspondent writes from The Dalles that the memory of the oldest inhabitant runs not back to the time when this section of the country was visited with a like snow storm as is now upon us which commenced on Mon. night the 10th inst. and at this writing is over 24 inches in depth. Sheds, awnings and several warerooms have fallen in... Stockmen are very gloomy... Now in the Klickitat valley is over 3 feet deep and a large portion of the settlers are immigrants with poor stock & no feed..

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune (Seattle), March 2, 1879

Cattle in Dalles streets

Hardly a day passes over but we see a crowd of men watching several vaqueros driving some half-wild cattle at a furious pace through our streets in broad daylight...Somebody's children will surely be gored or trampled...One of the proprietors of the new steam ferry boat assures us that as soon as she is completed she will land all cattle at the corral below town, thus avoiding the danger of driving them through the streets...

--The Dalles Inland Empire, May 24, 1897

A Walla Walla exchange says--

The drove of 4,000 cattle bought in this country by Rand, Briggs & Co. has been started for Cheyenne. They are a fine lot of cattle. Some of their drivers came out by stage from Cheyenne, where they are called 'cowboys'. These cattle will reach the Chicago market by rail after being fed one season in Wyoming territory.

-- Spokane Times, June 19, 1879

Cattle Drives

Seattle, Aug. 13-- George Smith, eight days from Yakima, arrived here last evening via Snoqualmie pass with 100 head of cattle for this market...The ranges are good and cattle fat. At least 20,000 head will be driven out of the county next winter, he states, for eastern markets.

The mining prospects continue excellent. Moses Bollman recently took an \$185 nugget out of a discovery claim in Swauk district...

-- Portland Oregonian, Aug. 14, 1879

Yakima correspondence -

The railroad prospects are stimulating the people to renewed exertions. They see, in the near future, favorable opportunities to sell at good prices potatoes, beans and other garden sass...The demand for beef on the sound is quite limited compared with other years. Beef, I am informed, is $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound on foot, 3 cents when slaughtered. Oats can be had here for 50¢ per bushel and hay at \$5 to \$10 per ton...There will be cut some 300 tons of timothy this year. The wild hay and the mixed quality is worth \$5 to \$7 per ton.

--Portland Oregonian, Aug. 19, 1879

Lang & Ryan drive

...To drive the (cattle of Lang & Ryan) to the Yellowstone country, where they will winter, will require 800 head of horses and the services of 120 men. Most of these "cowboys" are Kansas men, who have been in the employ of this concern for the past six years. Forty wagons accompany the drive and about 160 stands of loaded rifles will always be on hand, good for about 30,000 shots at any band of hostile Indians that may attack them. The drive will be cut up into three squads or bands of cattle, the first lot having two days start of the ~~first~~ third. This brings them in easy range of the rear from the front. In April they will begin to gather up for the start and by the 25th of that month the greatest body of cattle ever banded together will be slowly marching eastward. Up to the 20th of June the drive will be about 9 miles per day but as the heat of summer comes along they will decrease it to about 5. Therefore a steer travels no more on a drive of this kind than he would upon the range and is sure to be in good order when he reaches the Yellowstone, where there is an abundance of bunch grass as soon as the Grande Ronde is passed.

--Portland Oregonian, March 9, 1880

(some sources estimated number of cattle on this one drive at over 30,000)

The Stock Industry

The heavy fall of snow last week will no doubt be disastrous to cattle. The fall weather was not conducive to the growth of grass and now that the ground is covered with an average of 2 feet of snow it will be difficult for stock to find feed...Where stockmen have been provided in laying up a good supply of hay no great suffering will happen. Heretofore our cattlemen have depended upon the usual favorable winters and are not prepared for an emergency like the present.

-- The Dalles Times, Dec. 7, 1880

Mr. John Splawn of Yakima City started last Tuesday for the Yakima valley with a drove of 80 head of beef cattle for the Portland market and arrived in "ockland last Thursday night, where he was river-bound. The ice was not strong enough to bear the weight of his cattle, and was sufficient to stop the ferry boat from running.

-- The Dalles Times, Dec. 14, 1880

High Prairie -- This is the name of a settlement situated about 10 miles from this city...near the mouth of the Klickitat river. Last Tuesday a young man of this city paid this place a hasty visit and from him we learn that the settlers number 200 and have large bands of cattle and horses...The cattle and horses are looking very poor...

-- The Dalles Times, Dec. 28, 1880

From a party who came over last week we learn that the late severe weather has been very disastrous to cattle and sheep in our neighboring county across the river...

-- The Dalles Times, Jan. 4, 1881

Cattle

The first of last week after the chinook gave appearance of earnest work, Purdy Flint, who had about half of his herd of cattle up and was feeding them about \$100 worth of hay daily drove them back to the hills again..Republican in Tacoma News, Jan 22, 1885

Most of those engaged in the cattle business have profited by their previous experience and have provided feed for their cattle--Republican in Tacoma News, Jan. 15, 1885.

From everyone who has come in off the range we hear of large losses of cattle, caused by the unprecedented severity of the winter. Some cattlemen already place the loss at one third and say if the present weather continues they will be glad if one-half of their stock is saved. The present winter has learned our stockmen a severe lesson, and one which we hope they profit by and that is to feed their stock. It is absolutely cruel to turn out dumb brutes in such weather as we have had this winter to shift for themselves--Record, January 15, 1881.

The business of slickering has notably fallen off during the past year. Not that there has been less activity and vigilance displayed by the cowboys than usual, but the snows of last winter ruined the business in this locality. The mourners are numerous in this locality over destruction of the stock. The winter so decimated the numbers..that the profits have been almost entirely annihilated..Record. Dec. 24, 1881.

The agents of Lang & Ryan, cattle dealers, are now in the Yakima and Kittitas valleys purchasing an immense drove of cattle, which they intend to drive to St. Louis early in the spring. They expect to start with fifteen or perhaps twenty thousand head. Last year they purchased about one-fourth that number for the same market. The effect of this drain will be in a few years hence to make beef cattle extremely scarce.-- Washington Standard (Olympia), Jan. 12, 1878

(Jan. 26, 1878 Standard says Lang & Ryan bought 12,000 head of cattle. "At an average cost of \$13 per head this would give a total of \$156,000 disbursed by them since the first of October.")

Mr. R.M. Tilley arrived in town last evening, the 18th inst. with 97 head of beef cattle. He started with 100 head but lost three on the road. He brought them over the Snoqualmie pass to this side and drove them thence to Olympia where they arrived in good condition for market. The Tribune, reprinted in Intelligencer, Oct. 24, 1870.

The Klickitat Sentinel of last week informs us that John Clemens one of Yakima's Cattle Kings passed through Coldendale Wednesday morning with 175 head of beef cattle destined for the Portland market. Record, April 7, 1883.

Polly & Splawn drove through town yesterday with 100 head of fine beef cattle intended for the Astoria market. The cattle will be driven by land to the Dalles, thence by steamer to their destination. They have been fed all winter and are in splendid condition--Record, February 7, 1880.

One hundred head of horses belonging to Polly & Imbrie passed through town on Wednesday evening bound for Sanday's ranch on the lower Yakima and near the mouth of the Topnish. They had been driven from the Cowychee and were in tolerable fair condition--The Record, Jan 22, 1881.

Snoqualmie Drives 1881

Over 3,000 head of beef cattle have been driven over the Snoqualmie pass from Yakima to Seattle during the past season. The last drive of the season arrived at the latter place on the 27th and consisted of a band of 206.

— The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, Nov. 2, 1881

Livestock

From Mr. John Clemens (cop) of the Wenas we learn that the stock in the hills are now doing well as the bunch grass is uncovered and entirely accessible to animals.

Ben Snipes, the Yakima cattle king offers boys \$10 per head for all the stock they bring in through the winter in ~~100~~ ¹⁰⁰⁰ ~~1000~~ ¹⁰⁰⁰ he furnishing the hay . This will be a bonzana for the boys and makethem look well to stock. With the possibility of beef holding at 10 cents by the first of March Snipes will not lose by his generosity. The Washington Farmer, January 17, 1885.

Livestock

From Mr. John Clemens (cop) of the Wenatchee we learn that the stock in the hills are now doing well as the bunch grass is uncovered and entirely accessible to animals.

Ben Snipes, the Yakima cattle king offers boys \$10 per head for all the stock they bring in through the winter in ~~100~~ ¹⁰⁰⁰ if he furnishing the hay. This will be a bonanza for the boys and make them look well to stock. With the possibility of beef holding at 10 cents by the first of March Snipes will not lose by his generosity. The Washington Farmer, January 17, 1885.

Eastern Cattle Buyers Here 1885

Rosenbaum Myer & Co., cattle dealers of Chicago, have recently bought 6,000 head of cattle in the Yakima and White Bluff ranges which will be taken to Nebraska.

--Walla Walla Journal and Watchman, April 10, 1885