

## Cattle Business 1871

The demand for fat beef cattle from Portland, Puget Sound and Victoria is increasing rapidly. Mr. Benj. Snipes sold last week to a buyer from below 50 head of <sup>four</sup> ~~three~~ year old steers that were averaged at 740 pounds each. We did not learn the exact price received, but was told that they realized over \$50 per head. These cattle were perfect beauties. Two years ago they were brought from the Willamette valley, where they cost \$10 per head. The first cost of 50 head at \$10 per head would be \$500; the cost of transportation and herding them ~~amount~~ realized from cattle \$2,500; for two years about \$8 per head, \$400; /amount of expenses and first cost of stock, \$900; profits ~~from~~ in two years from the investment of \$500, \$1,600. If there is any legitimate business on the Pacific coast that can beat cattle raising for money making, we don't know of it.

— The Dalles Mountaineer, Feb. 25, 1871

Snoqualmie drive 1871

We received a call on last Saturday from Mr. E.<sup>D</sup>. Phelps of the firm of Phelps & Wadleigh, large cattle dealers doing business in the Yakima and Klickitat vallies...Mr. Phelps informs us that their cattle are in splendid condition and especial so a band of large steers that they wintered in the Yakama valley and have now ranging further up, in the Kitetas valley, towards the Snowqualmie pass. This band is intended for the Puget soundmarket.

— The Dalles Mountainerr, March 18, 1871

## Drives to East Side 1871

Within the last few days quite a number of men from the valley counties have gone up the Columbia in search of grazing and farming lands in Eastern Oregon and Washington territory. They are mostly men who want to go into the stockraising business and who want wider ranges than can now be found in the Wallamet valley. Quite a number of large droves of cattle have already gone up the Columbia and we hear of others in Polk, Yamhill and Linn counties who are preparing to go. —Oregonian 14th

—The Dalles Mountaineer, March 18, 1871

## Oregonians Bring in Stock

The ferry between this city and Rockland, W.<sup>T.</sup>., has lately been kept very busy ferrying from this side the poor young cattle brought from the Willamett and bringing back fat cattle that are destined for Portland, Puget Sound and the Victoria markets.

— The Dalles Mountaineer, April 8, 1871

## Cattle Arrive by Boat

During the past week about 600 head of cattle have arrived by the O.S.N. Co. steamship Idaho from the Willamette country; besides a large number of horses, mules and hogs, etc.

— The Dalles Mountaineer, Apr. 22, 1871



## Lanky Cattle Arrive in Dalles

The 400 head of cattle that ~~arrived~~ left Salem on the cars last Sunday and arrived here on Monday and Tuesday evenings were in the worst condition of anything of the kind we have ever seen. The appearance of these starved brutes as they passed through our streets was anything but a compliment to the agricultural resources of Marion county. In some countries the ~~men~~ owners of such ~~stock~~ live stock would be subject to arrest for "cruelty to animals."

— The Dalles Mountaineer, April 27, 1871

## Drives to East Side

On Monday Messrs. Vanduyne and Somerville of Independence, Polk county, shipped up the Columbia 300 head of young cattle and a lot of horses, intending to place them on a ranch in the John Day valley. The movement of cattle in the direction of eastern Oregon is attaining very important proportions. Already ~~more~~ many thousands, mostly young cattle, have been driven from this valley to the fine grazing regions of eastern Oregon and Washington territory... — Oregonian

-- The Dalles Mountaineer, May 20, 1871

Cattle Go Out, come in

Mr. A.H. <sup>e</sup>Brayman of Salem was in town on Thursday afternoon on his way home from his cattle ranch on the Yakima river in Washington territory. During this trip he has sold 150 head of beef steers and has purchased another lot of young cattle...

— The Dalles Mountaineer, ~~July~~ 22, 1871



## Snoqualmie drive 1871

Last Sunday a drove of 200 head of fat beef cattle were ferried across the Columbia river at this point. They were bound for a market on Puget sound, by way of Snoqualmie pass. This is the commencement of what in the course of time will be the route to market for thousands of our cattle.

— The Dalles Mountaineer, Sept. 2, 1871

## Cattle Sales

During the past 10 days Mr. Thomas Connell sold 200 yearlings to Lehman brothers of Antelope valley, Ore. Ninety head of cows and two-year old heifers to Mr. Tompkins, of North Fork of John Day river. Thirty head of cows and calves to John Foster of Yakima, W.T. Cows and calves at \$40; two-year old heifers with calves \$35; two-year old heifers without calves, \$28; and yearlings \$19 per head.

Phelps & Wadleigh of Yakima valley sold a large band of beef cattle to parties from the Sound country.

Benj. Snipes sold to Nicholas McKay, better known as "old Nick", 40 head of two-year old heifers at \$40 per head, taken as they came from the band. They are represented as being a fine lot of graded stock considerable above the average. During the spring Mr. Snipes has sold 11 young blooded bulls to different parties. The highest price paid was \$200 and the lowest \$70— the whole amounting to \$1,290. He has a contract to deliver 400 head of beef steers to parties on Puget Sound, 100 head of which are already enroute for that section of country.

Mr. Snipes is now the owner of <sup>about</sup> 3,000 head of cattle; besides he has a band of 300 head of fine horses.

Frank Tompkins has sold a band of 70 head of young beef cattle to French & Co. of this city, which they have had driven to their large cattle ranch situated on a small stream that runs into the main John Day river... A number of other sales of cattle have taken place lately that we have heard of, but have forgotten the particulars.

— The Dalles Mountaineer, July 20, 1872

### Cattle Prices 1872

Just now cattle of all kinds sell at lower prices than ever before in this valley. Good cows are offered at about \$25 per head, while beef cattle only bring about five cents per pound. Yearlings can now be bought for about the same price that calves brought a year ago. This falling off is mainly owing to the fact that Texas cattle have been brought into Montana, Nevada, Idaho and Eastern Oregon in such large quantities that those Markets are supplied.—Walla Walla Union

—The Dalles Mountaineer, Dec. 21, 1872



## Cattle Shipments Downriver 1873

The trade in livestock between East of the Cascades and Puget Sound is assuming increased proportions. For several weeks past, the shipments passing through Kalama to the Sound averaged above a hundred head of beef cattle and two or three hundred of sheep each week—a couple of weeks ago, four hundred passed by one invoice. The present week (Friday and Saturday) two lots of beef steers arrived here by steamer from the Cascades and were transported to Tenino by a special stock train.

—Kalama Beacon, June 7th

—The Dalles Mountaineer, June 14, 1873

## Overgrazing 1874

An exchange says the great herds of cattle feeding upon the plains and mountains of eastern Oregon have destroyed the recuperative properties of the bunchgrass and to save them from starvation their owners are compelled to drive them long distances in search of pasture. From the Dalles to the Walla Walla valley the vacant land has been eaten off and it is thought that within a very few years more stock raisers will have to take up their line of march for the interior of the country in search of pasturage--Oregonian July 23rd.

A gentleman from the upper country called our attention to the above paragraph and says it is not true...

--The Mountaineer, August 15, 1874



Phelps & Wadleigh 1874

Mr. Phelps of Messrs. Wadleigh and Phelps of Yakima, W.T.,  
called on us on Tuesday morning last...~~Mr.~~ These gentlemen furnish  
their market at Seattle annually with about 400 head of beef  
cattle...

--The Dalles Mountaineer, June 20, 1874

## Barlow Road Cattle Trade 1874

(Barlow road)...Upon examining the book kept at the toll bridge at Sandy river I found that 850 head of beef cattle had passed over the road for Portland this season. Also that there had passed from the Willamette valley to eastern Oregon about 3,000 head of sheep and 3,000 head of stock cattle (says J.H. Jackson)

--The Mountaineer, Aug. 15, 1874

## Canning Beef 1875

(Mountaineer in editorial Jan. 23, 1875, estimates that 80,000 calves were branded in eastern Oregon last spring and that there is still quite a cattle surplus; suggests packed beef as the answer; <sup>put it up in salt barrels;</sup> some could go the whaling making Honolulu its point of supply)

Since the close of the salmon season some of the canners on the Columbia river have turned their attention to putting up beef and mutton in tins, which seems to find a ready market abroad and is eagerly sought after by shipmasters who are thus enabled to lay in a supply of fresh meats, which will last them throughout the voyage. Oxtail and other choice soups are also put up in these establishments--Standard.

--The Mountaineer, Feb. 13, 1875



## The Cattle Range 1876

(Judge Hall an editor of the Oregonian)

(stock) ar to the country what the mines used to be, and more. Everybody talks of stock and nearly everbody owns stock. This is and will be for a long time the principal source of ~~wealth~~ wealth. Bunch grass is the mine that can be worked with the least labor an expense and with greatest profit. ...(admits range has been eaten out somewhat)

--Mountaineer, March 25, 1876

## Cattle from Willamette 1876

Last Saturday a band of cattle were brought up from the Willamette valley per steamer and driven through our streets toward Fifteen Mile creek , which were distressingly poor. Some of them passed in their cheeks during the night following their debarkation. They were so lean that all their bones could be counted and it bothered them to cast a shadow. Poor things! But our bunchgrass will soon straighten them up...

--Oregon Weekly Tribune(The Dalles) April 22, 1876



## Cattle for Black Hills

From the Dayton News--

During the week about 900 head of cattle have been driven out of the county, having been purchased for the Black Hills.

--Oregon Weekly Tribune(The Dalles) April 29, 1876

## Steer Chases Ship Captain

Tuesday evening the steamer Vancouver went over to the island to bring over a drove of 36 head of cattle belonging to Nye & Dillon. In putting them on board, a wild steer got the advantage of the hands and made after Capt. Gray. He ran from the animal but being in close quarters his only resource was to jump overboard. So over he went and the steer after him, both going down out of sight. The gallant captain...being an expert swimmer was soon standing upon the guards of the boat none the worse for his dive. The steer swam ashore, was secured... --Vancouver Independent

--Oregon-Weekly Tribune, May 13, 1876

(other cattle also sometimes broke loose on the steamers)