

Excerpts:

From A History of the Beef Cattle Industry in the Inland Empire. By Todd Vernon Boyce. A Thesis submittedState College of Washington, 1937.

...Columbus brought the first cattle to America in 1493 on his second voyage. Some of these were taken to Vera Cruz, Mexico, where they rapidly multiplied...and gave rise to the stock which later became known as the Texas Longhorn.

..The Spanish in 1525 made a good start in the stock industry. Horses, cattle and sheep were found in goodly numbers in Cuba, Florida and Mexico. When Coronado began exploring the Mexican country he took with him 1,000 horses, 500 cattle and 5,000 sheep. Mexico being an ideal cattle country, the herds multiplied rapidly and, by 1598, they had drifted as far north as the Rio Grande. Continuous grazing began about 1700...

Lewis and Clarke estimated 7,000 ponies of the Spanish type among the Shoshone Indians of Idaho.

From 1870 to 1885 Texas was a haven for cattle. In 1871, 600,000 head were driven northward to the railroad. By 1885 more than 5,000,000 head had been driven to the northern markets. These herds were handled by the Spanish system of husbandry which was the practice of rearing cattle in large droves without fences, corrals or feed. ..From 1891 to 1894 about 250,000 head of cattle perished in Arizona alone from cold and exposure.

...It is hard to over-emphasize the importance of the cattle business in the west. When the Civil War ended and the soldiers wandered home after Appomattox the Lone Star State boasted of 3,500,000 cattle. During the conflict the Southern Armies needed meat and needed it badly but the Union forces closed the dates from the Confederacy by an effective blockade. In the North the cattle industry prospered as the Northern armies offered a large and steady outlet for all salable stock and the prices rose until steak sold for forty cents a pound.

After the War the westward migration continued. The Great American Desert, formerly considered a barrier, was occupied by the common and became pasture for their herds. The Texas stockraiser began driving his herds northward to avail himself of the high price. The Texas "sea lions" stretched their long necks for a thousand miles into the northern grasslands. With them came the habits and customs of the cattlemen and, to no small degree, changes in the characters of millions of settlers on this new frontier.

..

First Cattle in Washington territory.

Just when the first cattle made their appearance in Washington Territory is questionable. Several authorities give as many answers..

In the light of all the facts it is safe to say that during the time the Spanish government held Nootka Sound the first cattle were brought into the Pacific Northwest. These were brought either from Mexico or California and were very dark in color.

Sheep made their appearance about the same time, in 1789. Three years later the Spanish established a settlement at Neah Bay, which they called Nunez Yaona. To this place Fidalgo brought eight head of cattle and a few hogs, sheep and goats. This is thought to be the first cattle to reach Washington territory.

Some years later cattle were shipped from the Sandwich islands to Washington territory. The sea-going crafts in those days were not equipped for livestock transportation. The animals were placed on the top deck and in a heavy storm many were washed overboard.

In 1811 a shipment of cattle from the Sandwich Islands bound for Washington Territory met with this fate.

The steamer, Isaac Todd, came into the Columbia river in April, 1814, bringing two young bulls and two heifers from California. A few years later Peter Carney, traveling through the West, described the Fort George Settlement as boasting of twelve head of cattle and numerous

pigs and goats imported from California.

Little attention was given to cattle-raising prior to the coming of Dr. McLaughlin into the Northwest. In 1825 the herd at Fort Vancouver numbered 27 head. McLaughlin was very saving on the cattle, allowing only one bull to be killed each year for rennet with which to make cheese. The first animal was slaughtered for beef in 1836.

The Hudson Bay company refused to sell cattle to the settlers as the company desired the increase. In these early days Dr. McLaughlin was offered two hundred dollars a head for cattle. Fearing that these high prices of stock would retard settlement and work a hardship on those less able to buy, the Hudson Bay company, in order to strengthen its claims in the west, offered to the head of each family fifteen cows, fifteen ewes and horses sufficient to carry on farm work.

As early as 1826 cattle made their appearance in the Okanogan valley and about this time the settlers in the Colville valley began to be interested in livestock. This date also marks the beginning of the beef industry in Stevens county and in the Inland Empire. Three young cows taken to the Colville valley in 1836, increased to 55 head in 1837. In 1841 the Colville herd numbered 196 head of fine cattle.

The Hudson Bay company in 1829 contracted for a small herd of twenty nine head from the Russian Settlement at Fort Ross, Calif. and drove it over the trail to Fort Vancouver, thus increasing the number at the fort to several hundred head. This herd was transferred to Fort Nisqually in 1833. It is believed that from this place the Indians of the Yakima valley secured their stock. In 1834 more cattle appeared in the Okanogan and Colville valleys.

Fort Vancouver at this period numbered about 700 inhabitants and there were not cattle enough to go around and supply the needs of the community. Mr. Jason Lee recognizing that livestock were fundamental in the life of the mission brought about the organization of a joint stock company to raise money to send to California for

This was the genesis of the Willamette Cattle company. The whole amount raised amounted to \$2,700. Mr. He invested \$400, Dr.

McLoughlin invested \$900 for the Hudson Bay company, and Lieutenant W.A. Slacum invested \$500. Preparations were hurriedly made and Ewing Young was sent to command the ship, Lariot, which ~~Edwards~~ Slacum loaned to the company to make the trip. Edwards and others accompanied Young and in due time the Lariot anchored in San Francisco Bay. In California, Young and Edwards brought eight hundred Spanish cattle at three dollars apiece and succeeded in driving 650 head six hundred miles back to the Columbia, losing the rest on the way. Mr. A.J. Splawn said the drive lasted 120 days with plenty of trouble and hardships on the way.

Mr. Edwards kept a diary for most of the trip but it was never finished. It ended in the midst of a night fight with Indians who were determined to steal the cattle. This herd of stock was divided among the company at \$7.67 a head.

In 1838 the Hudson Bay company drove a large herd from California to the Fort at Vancouver which they sold to the settlers and traded to the Indians who were very eager to obtain stock. The same year Dr. McLaughlin organized the Puget Sound agricultural company to take over the stock raising business which had increased beyond the control of the fur company.

The herds increased rapidly. In 1846 the Company possessed 3,100 head of cattle, 350 head of horses, 5,300 sheep and on the Cowlitz Valley farm there were 800 cattle, 1,000 sheep and 120 horses. Dr. Talmie testifies that in 1852 the company could count 6,777 head of cattle. The next few years the herds were greatly diminished as they were allowed to range freely over the country and the settlers killed them at their discretion.

Various authors give conflicting figures as to the number of cattle owned by the company in these early years. In 1841 some authorities place the number at 12,000 head; others claim there were but 6,000. It is safe

to say that by 1841 there were 10,000 head of cattle in the company's care which were priced at \$10 each.

Five years after Young and Edwards made their famous drive from California...a little group of Americans conceived the idea of building a schooner, sailing her to California and exchanging her for livestock.

The schooner was built by Felix Hathaway, Joseph Gale and Ralph Kilbourne. In due time she was ready but Mr. McLaughlin refused to sell the necessary equipment such as sails, ropes etc. However Lt. Wilkes soon persuaded the doctor to sell the material, Wilkes being held responsible for the bills. Gale was the only sailor in the group and he ran the Star of Oregon, the first sea-going boat built of Oregon timber, out across the bar and headed for San Francisco. On one occasion he held the pilot wheel thirty-six continuous hours. In five days he dashed across the portals of the Golden Gate like an arrow, September 17, 1842. The party wintered in California and sold the ship for 350 cows. The next spring they drove 1,250 head of cattle, 600 head of mules and horses and 3,000 sheep to the Columbia river. Thus Americans were laying claim to the Northwest.

Not only the White men but also the Indians of Eastern Washington were very zealous in their quest for cattle. If there were no possibilities to steal stock they were willing to resort to trading for the needed animals. In 1844 an expedition of Cayuse, Walla Walla and Spokane Indians went to California to trade horses and fur for cattle. Trouble arose and the Indians returned without the desired stock but this attempt on their part shows an eagerness of the Indians in the Columbia river region to own cattle.

The breed of stock obtained at this time was the Spanish longhorns called by the Texas "sea lions" by the cowboys east of the Rockies as they presented an imposing picture.

Chapter II

Ebb and Trough

It goes without saying that no one is sure just when cattle were introduced into eastern Washington to become "part and parcel" of the country. Jason Lee brought a few from across the plains to Wallula, the present Walla Walla, in 1834 (Splawn, Kamiakin)

These cattle which were driven across the plains were a boon to the travellers. Oxen furnished the motor power which dragged the long, cumbersome immigrant trains across the continent to Oregon and Washington. The cows that were driven with the train furnished the members with much needed milk, especially for the children and meat when there was a scarcity of game.

When Dr. Marcus Whitman arrived in the Walla Walla valley in 1836 he brought a few cattle. His small herd was probably stolen by the Indians because in 1838 Mrs. Whitman, in a letter to her family in New England, said that they had just purchased ten head of cayuses from the Indians for meat. She told the family that horse meat was good and very nutritious.

In 1838 the first cow to be used for beef was slaughtered at Fort Walla Walla by the Hudson Bay company. This animal was reported to be 27 years old and toothless. Part of the beef was sent to Mrs. Whitman who lived thirty miles from the fort. By 1841 no more horse meat was used as cattle had become quite common.

Settlers from the East who first passed through the Walla Walla valley did not fancy the damp, wet weather of the Willamette country and returned with their stock to the bunchgrass hills of Walla Walla. After the Whitman Massacre and the Indian Massacre of 1856 the settlers were forced to leave their stock and herds at the mercy of the Indians until peace was recognized some time later.

The Walla Walla Statesman estimated that there were 200,000 head in the valley in 1855-56. These cattle were worth about one dollar per head. With the return of peace vast numbers of settlers flocked into

the valley and the stock business flourished.

Kamiakin, the great Indian chief of the Yakimas went to Fort Vancouver to trade for cattle about 1840. This is said to be the first herd to fatten on the grasses of the Yakima valley. He was very enthusiastic about collecting stock. He purchased cattle from the emigrants and traded horses for cattle with the first whites in the Grand Ronde valley and he traded horses for cattle with the whites at The Dalles. Other Indian chiefs followed his example.

Chief Owhi of the Kittitas tribe purchased cattle from the same company at Fort Nisqually, driving them over the NahOcheez pass. Talth-scosum, chief of the Kawah-chinz, traded horses for cattle with the Hudson Bay company and drove them to his range at Rock Island below Wenatchee. Other Indians obtained stock in this way and soon large herds roamed the grassy hillsides of the Yakima Valley and beef became one of the food supplies of the tribes.

During the Indian wars of 1855-56 the military forces corralled large numbers of these cattle and used them for food; also, the Indians being on the warpath, lived principally on beef, thus greatly reducing the herds.

In 1854 Father Pandosy wrote from St Joseph's Mission to Father Mesplil at The Dalles, "A chief from the Upper Nez Perce killed thirty seven head of cattle for a feast to unite the hearts of the Indians for war against the Americans.

The cattle numbers increased with the settlers. Most of the early arrivals in the Yakima valley went into the stock raising business. In 1850 thousands of cattle were driven across the plains to the Oregon and Washington country. At this time Brooks, Bumsford and Noble began running stock at Waiilatpu, while Chase and McKay began in Umatilla in 1851. T.M. Thorpe owned the first herd of cattle driven into the Yakima valley for the purpose of grazing. Later Nobel Saxen drove a herd to the Moxee valley for the same purpose. Next came Mr. Snipes with large herds

from the Dalles to fatten on the Yakima hills. Closely following his example came Jefferies and Murphy with large herds. By the fall of 1860 some 2,000 head grazed in the valley.

The census of Oregon and Washington in 1860 numbered 64,059 inhabitants and the totals for cattle were milch cows 63,106; oxen 10,203, other cattle 109,073, all amounting to 182,382. This is a ratio of about three head of cattle to each inhabitant.

The Palouse country was a Mecca for the stockraiser with bunchgrass reaching to a horse's belly. In the 1860's a few adventurous stockmen drove their herds into the country adjacent to Spokane. First came John Warlin with his wife and children (10 children) soon after came Irby, the Walter Brothers, R.M. Bacon and John Enos. J.G. Kethroc and Barney established a stock ranch at Keardan and contracted to supply the army post at Spokane with beef. The presence of the troops stimulated immigration by sustaining the timid and by offering an outlet for a market of stock.

The Northern Pacific railroad was built to Davenport in 1889 thus bringing in a host of settlers

In Adams county George Lucas, a prominent cattleman, gathered a number of his fellow citizens together who were engaged in the same business and all of them dressed in Indian garb appeared on the high hills in a hostile manner to frighten the scattered settlers out of the country. The settlers had come to stay and at once began firing at the supposed Indians who ran for shelter.

The Palouse Indians were expert cattle thieves and under Chief Tilcoax, ran off several head in charge of the army near Colville. When Lieutenant Harvie drove 250 head from the Dalles to Fort Walla Walla in 1858 he was escorted by 15 dragoons and later was reinforced by Col. Wright to prevent the loss of cattle to the Indians.

The first Great Reverse

In 1861 things began to hum across the border. Gold and plenty of it, was discovered in the Cariboo district in British Columbia.

Thousands of miners swarmed in the valleys panning and sluicing the rich sands. These miners had to eat and beef was scarce. The Washington stockmen, sensing this rare opportunity, began driving livestock to the placer grounds to meet the needs of the goldmen. In 1861 John Thorpe and Jack Splawn drove a herd of cattle from Yakima to the Cariboo mines, a distance of 800 miles. On the way the local Indians through whose country the party passed, took their share of the stock. At the British Columbia border, the government exacted two dollars per head duty to enter the country. Thorpe and Splawn drove hard and long and in due time arrived at the mines with 150 head which they sold for \$20,000. They were not the first in the field, however, for during the journey the party met other herds bound for the same destination. Thus, a lucrative business began which continued for a number of years and tided the Washington settlers over a period of serious financial stress.

While the cattle business was flourishing Ben Snipes, Barton and Allen, Dr. Baker, Thorpe, Splawn, Murphy and a number of lesser lights went into the business with a determination to make a fortune while the grass lasted. Thousands of cattle ranged the hills. Everything looked bright and promising for a cleanup the next year. Then came the winter of 1861-62 which almost blasted the hopes of the courageous and crushed those of timid spirit.

It was the worst winter in the history of the Pacific Northwest.....

The settlers around Walla Walla burned fences to keep from freezing. Dan Drumheller in the fall of 1861, purchased 300 head of cattle; by the next May but eight head were alive. About 10,000 head of cattle went into winter pasture around Walla Walla and but 1,000 survived. The Indians too were losers. About two-thirds of their ponies perished.

The Walla Walla and Yakima Indians held a council to evoke the Great Spirit to send the Chinook and Weipal, the great Indian witch doctor howled and screeched at the cold moon with the coyotes adding their voices...

The tragedy was prevalent throughout Washington, Oregon and Montana with herds perishing in the Witter Root and Deer Lodge valleys. Spring brought a terrible sight. Men with herds of 300 to 400 in the spring found but 50 or 60 head. Nearly all the stock on the range died. The loss was estimated at one million dollars.

...In the spring of 1862 cows and calves sold for as high as one hundred dollars a head.

The Doom Days

The Cariboo mines offered a ready and profitable outlet for Washington cattle and the stockmen quickly recovered from their losses. In the summer of 1862 Dan Drumheller drove 240 head to the Cariboo district. Beef was scarce and sold for \$1.50 a pound at the mines. On these long hard drives the cattlemen formed companies and drove together for protection from the Indians. (Drumheller)

Beginning in 1862 large numbers of cattle were driven to the British Columbia mines. This ready and profitable market brought an influx of stockmen into the Yakima valley. William Parker and John Allen drove in a large herd and settled in Parker Bottom. They were the first cattlemen to build there. In 1864 the Fort Simcoe Indians began to purchase cattle and their herd grew until in 1878 it numbered 3,500 head. Sometime later the military forces took charge of the Fort and sold the herd of which Splawn bought the largest portion.

The next year Barnes, Thorpe and Splawn drove a herd of 300 head to Boise Basin. On this drive Indians stole Splawn's horse and money. Soon after Barnes drove another herd to the Boise basin, found no sale for his stock and was forced to drive them back two hundred miles to Camas Prairie. Prices rose and fell with the number and the location of the herds.

Below is an excerpt from the Washington Statesman: January 31, 1863: Several large bands of beef cattle and milch cows are on the way up between here and the Dalles. A part are being driven to the Boise and Onyhee mines and

the balance are destined for this valley and the mining camps above. Good beef cattle are very scarce in our market at present and a limited number will find a ready market here at good prices.

Wherever there are cattle, thieves, wolves and coyotes are sure to be found.

In these early days Walla Walla harbored about as "tough" a group of human beings as could be found in the Northwest. Among the respectable populace mingled the gamblers, pickpockets, thugs, robbers, prostitutes, gay-cats, and dianoise. It was an era of thieves and highwaymen, of loose morals and easy money, of chance and the game.

A sort of "get rich quick Wallingford" spirit prevailed.

In opposition to this reign of lawlessness the good citizens organized the "Vigilantes"

One bright sunny day 60 head of cattle disappeared from Wild Horse creek. A posse was quickly organized. After a hot pursuit the cattle were retrieved and the sun set upon a still form dangling from a limb.

On April 21, 1865, a cattle thief named McKenzie was found hanging from a tree. The same week Isaac Reed and William Willis were hanged for stock stealing. Before they were dropped they confessed that they were members of a gang that had a number of horses on the Columbia.

That same week another rustler, "Slim Jim" was hanged from a tree that still stands in Walla Walla (1918) Jim had too many cattle which belonged to other people. Of course every week was not as hectic as the one just mentioned, but it gives a good indication of the spirit of the times.

Besides the thieves the cattlemen had other such enemies as predatory animals, poisonous plants, rattlesnakes, Indians, prairie fires and early settlers who shot animals in defense of their crops.

Occasionally a bear, usually a grizzly that had turned killer, preyed upon the range cattle. Whenever this occurred the animal usually destroyed several beef before being killed, as the grizzly is a sly, cunning animal.

For all that the stockmen of Eastern Washington had a decided advantage over the cattlemen east of the Rockies in that they did not have to contend with large herds of buffalo. A few were seen on the Snake River and buffalo bones were found as far west as Wenatchee, but they were never numerous (Paul Fountain, the Eleven Maglets of the West. New York, 1906)

In contrast to the buffalo the Valley of the Okanogan in 1864 grazed a small herd of camels. The Manchurian variety was imported into British Columbia in 1861 to be used as pack animals to the Cariboo mines. They were ruled off the road by judicial decree and were turned loose on the Okanogan plateau to live or die. Some were gathered up and used as pack animals in Montana. At least one camel was used in the Inland Empire in 1864 to carry a load of 400 pounds to the Kootenai mines. They were impractical; due to the stony formation of the country they became footsore. Nothing is known of what became of the Okanogan herd. T.C. Elliott, Historical Papers and Addresses, Section 12 Walla Walla, 1935)

In these years the stockmen were as free as the open range upon which they rode. Their horses were of the scrub variety because the thieves stole the good ones. (Cotton, Op cit. P. 63)

Spalden said: "Our work on the range consisted of two roundups--one in the spring, the other in the fall. Every owner in a certain territory was supposed to be present or represented by someone; at these times calves were branded by the thousands. It is remarkable how few mistakes were made when we consider that oftentimes we would have five hundred calves in one bunch. After all the roundups were finished for the year those cattle were left unbranded that would stray from their mothers were called "slick ears" and they were the property of the first man who put his brand on them. It was in this way that the rustling cowboy shone. I have known a few men who started in with one or two old spotted cows and came out in a few years with a large band of cattle.

...

Cattle were becoming numerous in the Yakima valley at this time. Elisha McDaniel brought 900 head to Mabton which he sold to Ben Snipes who became the cattle king in Washington Territory. That fall Moore and McConnell brought in 600 head to graze in the valley. Ben Snipes made the hardest drive in 1866, by urging 1,000 head to the Blackfoot mines via White Bluffs, Spokane, Pend d'Oreille Lake, Thompson Falls, Bitter Root Valley and Deer Lodge Montana. During this trip he lost many head.

The stock on Status Creek was increased by 300 head by E. Bird who moved into the Yakima Valley in 1866. Later in the year Splawn and Parker drove 200 head to Warren Diggings. McAllister drove a large herd to British Columbia. He was followed later by Connell. (Splawn)

The British Columbia markets in the early days demanded more beef than the eastern Washington stockmen could supply. Cattle were driven from the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue River valleys to the lower Columbia, up the river to the Dalles and then across eastern Washington, via the Okanogan valley to British Columbia markets. Cattle intended for northwestern British Columbia were driven by the Cowlitz river routes to Puget Sound. Large bands were moved into western Washington to graze on the good pasture grounds around Steilacoom. From there they could be shipped in small lots commensurate to the needs of the northern markets. In a short time boats were put in use and, in the interval between January 1 and December 22, 1859, 2,145 head of cattle horses and sheep were shipped from Puget Sound to Victoria (J.O. Oliphant. Cattle Trade on Puget Sound, 1858-1890, *Agricultural History* VII, 1933, July pp 130.-32.

The value of these animals was about \$73,207. In these years, due to the urgent demand, stock from the Sandwich Islands and from Honolulu were received into that territory.

The steamers Eliza Anderson, Constitution, Wilson G. Hunt and Julia were regularly employed in the cattle trade on the Sound.

During the first quarter of 1860 500 head of cattle worth \$23,000 and fifty-six quarters of beef, worth \$1,040 were sent to Victoria. During the rest of the year 680 head worth \$27,989 were shipped to the same port. In 1860 Victoria was the largest foreign customer of Washington Territory, one half of its exports were merely cattle 3,624 head amounting to \$96,435. (Oliphant)

The editor of the Port Townsend Northwest in October, 1860 urged the production of more cattle in Washington Territory. "Port Townsend alone consumes on an average three beefs in two days or 535 head per year, besides mutton and pork," he wrote. "For this beef alone, the neat little sum of \$16,050 is sent to Oregon, every cent of which should be saved to our farmers. (Oliphant)

Between 1861-64 the Victoria trade was expanding but in 1865 there was a slight decline. The territory of Washington shared in this trade over a five year period to the extent of more than a quarter of a million dollars annually....

During the year 1861 Victoria imported through Port Townsend 1,234 head of cattle worth \$31,235. Victoria, in that same year also imported \$9,160 worth of stock from other ports..

...In the summer of 1863 the government laid an embargo on exports of livestock from the United States, causing much excitement on the Pacific coast. The Morning Oregonian and the British Colonist both ~~edited~~ aired their views on the matters. Those on either side of the boundary line could not see how the disposal of cattle on the Pacific Coast would affect the outcome of the Civil War. The intense interest showed by those affected on both sides of the boundary clearly indicates the importance of the cattle trade in the Northwest. The price of beef rose to forty cents a pound in Victoria. By an executive order Lincoln raised the ban on the Pacific coast and by the end of September Victoria was receiving cattle and cattle products by the usual routes. The volume of trade in 1863 cannot be accurately stated. In 1864 a scarcity of meat was reported in Victoria.

....the trade of 1865 differed little from that of 1864.

Robert M. Hutchinson actively engaged in the cattle trade testified that he shipped 1,200 head from ~~the~~ Ellacom to Victoria in 1865 and in addition he shipped 4,500 head of sheep. He believed these shipments represented about half of the stock shipped that year.

Victoria looms large at this period of the cattle trade on the Pacific coast. It was the center of distribution to the British Columbia markets.

The steamboats actively engaged in this transportation made a fortune for their owners. The Eliza Anderson charged \$15 per head to carry cattle to Victoria during those boom days. (C.B. Bagley, History of Seattle.)

.....Cattle by the hundreds were being rushed across the border Below is an excerpt from the Walla Walla Statesman, August 17, 1866:

"Walla Walla is full of goods for Blackfoot which are being rapidly hurried away on pack trains.. Added to this activity 650 head of cattle passed through Walla Walla last Saturday for Wariboo, British Columbia, having been driven all the way from Marysville, California. They swam Snake river at the mouth on Saturday afternoon without losing a hoof.

The cattle belong to Jerome Harper and J.H. Parsons. They are heavy cattle dealers and have been engaged in driving cattle through to British Columbia since 1860. They usually pass through here about the last of July or the first of August. They drive from six hundred to a thousand head every year...cumtux."

The same year W. McEnnery brought 500 head into the Walla Walla valley to winter at his ranch and drove them next spring to the Blackfoot market. (Walla Walla Statesman July 13, 1866) Herds driven to

Blackfoot market in 1867 found the country filled with cattle, prices low and competition keen. Two years later the cattle drives from Eastern

Washington to the mining camps practically stopped. Those territories were raising their own stock (Splawn)

About this time Dan Drumheller started for the Fraser river with 400 head of excellent steers. It was in the spring and the river was full of driftwood. Several attempts were made before the entire herd was safely grounded on the opposite shore. When he reached his destination he found the British Columbia market choked with cattle but Mr. Harper, the largest cattle buyer in British Columbia, purchased his herd at \$75 a head with the promise that Dan would not bring any more cattle into British Columbia. Harper was an old friend. The rangemen of the west were a cordial lot not only because of their isolated position but also because of the fact that men having the same occupation tend to cling together, to suffer together and to enjoy each other's pleasures and profits.

The reason Harper gave \$75 a head for Dan's cattle was that in 1864 Dan told Harper where he could buy 1,000 steers for \$6,000. Harper made the deal, drove the herd to British Columbia and sold them at the mines for \$100,000. In 1873 Harper engaged Drumheller to help him drive 2,500 steers to the United States. His herd was driven to Nevada and sold for shipment to the east. (Drumheller.)

The boom days were over. The cattlemen of Washington were faced with perplexing times. In the following pages are related some ways in which they tried to solve their problems.

...In 1867 the Colonial parliament passed a tariff law laying duties of \$3 a head on beef cattle. These developments affected the Puget Sound cattle trade. By June 30, 1867 cattle exports to British Columbia dropped to 670 head worth \$22,790.

...The entry of the Canadian Pacific Railroad into British Columbia changed the economic situation in that province after 1886. A slump in the cattle trade hit the Pacific Northwest from the close of 1872 to the spring of 1881.....

The markets of western Washington offered some relief for the cattlemen east of the Cascades. Ike Carson in 1868 drove two hundred head to the Puget Sound district. This was the first drive that way to the coast

markets. Many large herds were driven into the Kittitas country for summer range, it being the gathering place for the droves that finally furnished the coast around the Sound with meat before the railroad came.

The next year Joseph Borst performed the feat of driving a large herd over the Cascades to the coast. This was the real beginning of the cattle trade with the west side and it has kept up ever since.

The Seattle Intelligencer gives this account of some of the difficulties experienced in cattle driving: "Only those that have crossed the Cascade mountains can have any adequate conception of the difficulties to be encountered by the cattle drivers in driving cattle over the vast ranges east of the Cascades. Aside from the numerous streams to be swum or forded, the rough, precipitous grades to be ascended and descended and miles of thick mud and gnarled tree roots on the route, the general dangers and hardships of the trip cause one to wonder that the sturdy drivers who are supplying the markets of Seattle with fresh beef are able to get through at all. Particularly is this the case at this season of the year, when the cattle are compelled to wade through twenty-five miles of snow from ten to fifteen feet deep. Since the latter part of January last Phelps and Wadleigh and Foss and Borst, the two largest butchering on the Sound have had a force of men in the mountains endeavoring to open a thoroughfare. This has been work of much labor, expense and time, and one which has been seriously retarded by frequent snow storms. (Walla Walla Union, April 20, 1878.)

In 1875 the western section of the state was paying the eastern section \$200,000 annually for beef alone. The eastern animals were in better shape than those produced on the west side, but this trade could not absorb the surplus stock in Eastern Washington. (Shiach)

The cattlemen began to devise other means to dispose of their surplus stock. John West and company began canning beef, using the salmon canneries on the lower Columbia River in Oregon. This company did not do very much in the packing line, the canning being more of an experiment

than a financial success. In 1875 Cross and Michelbach of The Dalles proposed to the Oregon and Washington cattlemen that they would construct a packing plant if the cattlemen would supply the beef.

When the packed beef would be sold in England both the packers and the cattlemen would receive their money, but if the beef spoiled on the trip or found no sale, both would be the losers. The plant was designed to use 15,000 beeves during the season. This would give 15,000 hides to tan, 30,000 horns and 60,000 hooves for glue besides hair and tallow. Mr. Cross could not persuade enough cattlemen to cooperate in his scheme and it fell through (J.O. Oliphant. Oregon Historical Quarterly XXXIV 1933 246-247)

In 1876 Mr. Kinney began packing canned beef at his plant in Astoria. Several others began the business and in the fall of 1876 there were six companies engaged in canning beef and they had put up 24,000 cases, the Kinney company canning 13,000 cases. The price was eleven cents a pound.

The beeves were selected from eastern Washington and from eastern Oregon. The Kinney plant at Astoria probably put up as much as 20,000 cases a year. (Oliphant)

The canning business declined after 1877 due to the fact that Chicago, New York and Philadelphia were sending fresh beef to the British Isles that year. This failure of the canning business was indeed disappointing ... but at this time a strong demand for cattle from the northwest was offered in Nevada and Wyoming. By the close of the decade of the 1870's herds were pouring over the Rockies to eastern pastures. The terrible winter of 1880-81 along with the eastern movement, cleared the Northwest ranges of surplus stock and brought temporary prosperity to cattlemen of Washington and Oregon. North Pacific History company, History of the Pacific Northwest, Portland, 1889)

In these years the Inland Empire was a heaven for cattle. "The stimulating climate, the sea of grass..and the chance to run wild, have developed animals of enormous size and the quality of the beef is unsurpassed... The bunchgrass reaches a height from 18 to 36 inches (North Pacific History)

Cattle Kings sprang up from Malheur to Colville. In the latter locality grazing was excellent but large herds were not kept with big profits. (F.H. Cook, 'The Territory of Washington, Cheney, 1925)

These were dark days for the settlers in eastern Washington, all of whom raised cattle. There were few markets, a surplus of stock and low prices. However beginning in 1875 buyers came from Wyoming and Montana and paid good prices for Washington cattle to stock the ranges east of the mountains. (Splawn)

The Boise Statesman of August 3, 1875 says: Messrs Lang and Ryan crossed the Snake river a few days ago at Kenney's Ferry and came up the Boise river, where they crossed with 8,300 head of beef cattle--steers. The cattle were ~~been~~ bought in Walla Walla valley and will be driven to Nebraska. (Walla Walla Union, June 9, 1877.)

In 1878 Ryan and Lang were in the Yakima and Kittitas valleys purchasing an immense drove of cattle which they intended to drive east in the spring. They expected to start with fifteen or twenty thousand head. (Washington Standard, January 12, 1878.)

In February of the same year Lang offered Nice and Kennedy \$11,000 for their herd containing an unknown number of cattle (Palouse Gazette, February 9, 1878) The next spring the drove of 4,000 cattle bought in the Washington country by Rand, Briggs and company has been started for Cheyenne. Some of their drivers came out by stage from Cheyenne, where they are called cowboys. (Spokane Times, June 19, 1879)

During the boom years when the cattle industry was getting a foothold in Montana, the high prices offered for stock cattle drew herds from the northwest. The boom of the cattle business on the Great Plains is contemporaneous with the decline of the cattle industry in the Columbia Basin. In the early sixties the mining camps were the gold mines of the cattlemen and in the late sixties large herds moved east into Washington, Oregon and northern Idaho. The ranges in 1872 were considerably overstocked, bringing on a depression which lasted until the close of the

the seventies, Prices fell. Many stockmen quite the business. On top of this came the winter of 1880-81 which froze the watering places. (Oliphant Cattle Trade from the Far West to Montana.)

Out of a herd of 40,000 Snipes and Allen salvaged but 10,000 head.

The Indians lost practically all their cattle and ponies. Ben Snipes in the spring hurried to Portland, borrowed as much money as he could, returned and purchased all the surplus stock he could get and more he had "cattle on a thousand hills" and a "goodly number in the valleys." Prices rose and he became very wealthy. (Oliphant, "Inter Losses of Cattle.")

..Sheepmen were coming into the region. Farmers with the unholy barbed-wire fence were getting too numerous. In Whitman county stockmen and farmers were contending over a herd law. Said a Yakima cattleman:

Running cattle in large bands in this country is fast getting to be a thing of the past." In southeastern Washington free range almost vanished by 1880. The era of wheat farming was close and there was "sheep agitation in the Walla Walla Country." (Oliphant Cattle Trade)

Two roads led into the Montana country. One led through southern Idaho by way of Boise City; the other the old Mullan road, ran from Walla Walla to Spokane valley across northern Idaho and into Montana. In 1880 some 10,000 head were urged over these routes into Montana. In comparison Oregon sent 16,725 head; Utah 900 head; Texas 15,000 head and Wyoming 3,775 head.

It is difficult to get an exact account of figures as there are many discrepancies. In September, 1881 the Weekly Missoulian stated that 600 head had arrived from Walla Walla. It was then estimated that 10,000 head would leave this region during the spring and move east to supply the range in Montana and Dakota. (Oliphant)

From the Inland Empire we glean the following concerning the largest cattle drive on record:

"Messrs Lang and Ryan, the extensive cattle dealers, will start from Oregon for the East during the coming month with 15,300 head of cattle purchased in that state, and will be joined by two other bands from Idaho, making a grand total of 23,800 head. They will winter in the Yellowstone country and will continue their journey eastward during the summer of 1881. This immense drove will be divided into three bands, the first having three days start of the third, this being within easy communication of each other.

"To manipulate this vast herd will require the services of 120 men and eight hundred horses. Forty wagons will accompany the drive and about 160 stand of loaded rifles will be kept in readiness for the benefit of any band of hostile Indians that may show a disposition to interfere with their movements. This business promises to be a source of untold revenue in the near future, and our stockmen had better prepare themselves to meet the demand (Palouse Gazette, March 19, 1880)

The Niofrara Cattle company alone brought into Montana 10,000 head in 1882 and Kempton and Tusler brought in 2,500 head and ranged them on the Tongue river. This latter herd had been purchased in Washington Territory. (Oliphant)

The completion of the Northern Pacific railroad in 1883 (it didn't reach Yakima until 1885 typist's note) changed the complexion of the cattle trade, yet the end of the cattle drives were not over.

Throughout the eighties the stockmen continued to drive cattle to various markets. The year 1885 was a prosperous one for the Far West cattlemen. Montana quarantine regulations did not affect stock purchased west of the mountains and the high prices of beef stimulated the cattle industry.

Heavy shipments of cattle from Washington, Oregon and Idaho to Montana and the Yellowstone country were noted in that year. Up to July 1883, 30,000 head from Washington and Oregon entered Montana. The vice president of the Northern Pacific railroad in his annual report in 1885 declared: "The movement of young cattle into western

Dakota and Montana has changed somewhat in its character during the past year. In 1883 we forwarded from eastern terminals 73,320 head and from Washington and Oregon 3,100 head. During the past fiscal year the offer of special rates has developed an important movement from out western division. There has been shipped from stations west of the Rocky Mountains 34,740 head of cattle, 3,360 horses and 24,400 sheep. The shipments westward from eastern points aggregated 34,120 head of cattle. (Oliphant)

Stock from the Big Bend country, from Idaho, from southeastern Washington from Oregon and the Yakima valley were driven to the Northern Pacific stations for shipments.

The railroad brought an increasing number of settlers and each farm crowded out the stockmen and hastened the end of extensive cattle raising in the Columbia Basin. Owing to a lack of evidence there is no way of knowing the exact number of cattle moved from the Northwest into Montana in 1885. It is alleged that from the Yakima valley, between April 1 and October 31, 47,477 head of cattle were moved by rail to Montana and Chicago markets. Some of these cattle sold for \$9 a head. The number of cars loaded from various points are as follows:

Yakima 126; Kennewick 90, Pasco, 41; Wallula 202; Lind, 182; Sprague, 15; Spokane Falls, 104; total 760 cars. The Northern Pacific, in that year, shipped 38,070 head from Washington territory. (These figures may not be exact..Oliphant)

In 1886 the Montana range was overstocked. A hard winter would certainly play havoc with the cattlemen. Herds in eastern Washington were reduced in 1886, due to the constant outgo of cattle to the east. Washington and Oregon shipped into Montana in 1886 28,000 head of young cattle and 32,000 sheep. The Northern Pacific reports 50,900 head of cattle shipped into Montana from Washington and the east. This report does not designate the amount from Washington, but it is reasonable to believe that Washington sent a goodly number.

On the Montana ranges the shadow of death waited for thousands of cattle that had been shipped into that state in previous years. Drought and an overstocked range pushed the herds into the terrible winter of 1886-1887 in very poor condition.

The loss was staggering. Stockraisers, men as they are, rapidly recovered from the blow, and by the close of the eighties more cattle roamed the range than ever before. Cattle shipments to Montana almost ceased after 1887 but in 1889, 47,000 sheep left Washington for Montana. In 1890 some 101,400 stock sheep left Washington and Oregon for Montana and the Dakota ranges. The cattle boom east of the Rockies sustained the cattlemen west of these mountains in the years that almost spelled defeat for the local stockraisers (Oliphant...)

According to Splawn the range cattle business began to contract rapidly in 1887. Two main factors tended to break up the open range. First, the stockmen had to drive his herd to market, and the bigger the herd the more economically it could be handled. Second, settlers took advantage of land laws and began homesteading the best range country, fencing the land and keeping small herds as a secondary issue. In doing this they usually fenced in the best watering places, thus greatly inconveniencing the open range stockman (Agricultural Yearbook 1924 p 529.)

Reports came from various sections of the country intimating that eastern Washington would soon cease to be a range territory. In 1887 the Walla Walla assessor wrote:

"Of course the range is not as good as formerly as the plow is turning down the bunch grass and the fence is driving out the stockmen. Almost every farmer now raises a few cattle, hogs, sheep or horses for market and each year this is being done more." (E Sample report of the governor of Washington territory..1887)

The Yakima county auditor made a similar report: "Since the country has begun to be occupied by settlers who are engaged in growing wheat

and other cereals, many of the large stock raisers in the country have driven their large herds to localities not yet reached by settlers." (Ibid)

From 250 letters of inquiry sent out by the governor the next year from those reporting he learned that the ranges were being curtailed by the homesteaders, by preemption and by railroad purchase. The returns from different land offices substantiate the pleas of the stockman. It was also generally conceded that it was unprofitable to raise inferior stock in the territory. Instead of leaving cattle to eke out a bare living on the wintery range, farmers provided food and shelter for their herds (Sample report, 1888)

On came the 'nesters' to avail themselves of the homestead laws. These frontiersmen saw at once the strategic value of getting land which contained watering places and when these lands were fenced they could not be crossed by stock and the cattle owners were forced to buy such homesteads to obtain water for their animals. Many of these homesteads were taken up as speculation ventures, and to hold up the cattlemen (F.S. Hultz, Range Sheep and Wool in the Seventeen Western States, New York, 1931, page 8.)

In about 1889 the stockraisers began to purchase railroad lands which they fenced for pasture. At this time the first alfalfa began to appear in Eastern Washington (W.C. Moore, Reports of the Governor of Washington Territory, 1889)

The cattlemen and the Indian resented with equal vigor the rapid advance of the plow which turned under the bunchgrass and transformed the range country into moving fields of grain. Scores of cattlemen drove their herds to crowded markets and invested their capital in farm lands and became wheat ranchers along with the rest. If their farm cattle were milk stock, the ranchers kept them the year around and disposed of the calves for veal. The heifers were raised for the dairy and if they were not good milk producers they passed over the block as poor beef carcasses (Rader, p.5)

Both the settlers and the elements of nature seemed to be against the 'open range' cattlemen. In 1889-90 when on retreat from barbed wire and hostile farmers, nature delivered her hardest blow. Let us note that the Pacific Northwest at this time produced about 100,000 hides annually. Considering the vast number of live cattle exported and the great number of hides not sold, would double those figures. Said a writer of this period: "At the low price of \$25 each this represents an income about equal to each of the industries of grain raising, wool raising and the fisheries and one half of that of the saw-mills and coal mines. ..if the horns, bones, hooves hair and hides were kept in the states and tanning, manufacture of fertilizer of leather, gelatine and neats-foot oil carried on, the total value of our herds would be almost doubled." Julian Hawthorn, History of Washington, New York, 1893 p. 257) When an industry of this magnitude was almost crushed by the hard winter of 1889-90 the results were calamitous.

Mr. H.S. Parker, a large stockraiser in the Crab creek country estimated that fully sixty per cent of the stock in that district perished. V.V. Florence lost 500 out of a herd of 600 head. William Bingham lost 1,000 head of horses. Practically all the colts succumbed. McKinney and Paulson, large stockowners, lost heavily in cattle. (Cheney Enterprise, February 20, 1890)

In March came a chinook which gave temporary relief of a few days, but a severe freeze-up followed, closing the watering places and sending the thermometer down below zero. This sudden and severe change completely wiped out what was left of large bands. Every animal owned by Drumheller on Crab Creek perished. (Cheney Enterprise, March 6, 1890)

The results of this tragic winter aroused public opinion as to the need of providing better care for stock in winter (Ibid) Newspapers such as the Cheney Enterprise, the Asotin Sentinel, the Ellensburg

Register advocated that stockmen hang on to their stock, keep haystacks for emergency use and practice diversified farming.

Hundreds of cattleraisers, who envisaged the new conditions, did hang on to their stock and went into diversified farming with a gusto, prepared winter feed, built adequate shelter and obtained a higher and purer grade of cattle.

Thus a great change had come in methods of handling stock and reducing the size of herds. This datemarked the end of the large "free range" cattle owner in Washington territory and brought to the foreground a less lucrative but a more stable system of raising salable cattle.

Cowcoys

..the cowboy seldom changed. The little red schoolhouse taught him to read; the Spanish American war gave him a new slant on things.

The range closed on him, making him a farm hand or a garage tender, or maybe a moving picture spare. In his heydey his range extended from "the river to the coast, and from the Rio Grande to the Saskatchewan. As a class the cowboys were illiterate, with all the sublime contempt that men of action are wont to feel for men of books." The words ranch, corral, rodeo, sombrero, loco, quirt, bronco, lariat, carviayard, horsewrangler, cow, dogy, buck, pitch and cayuse used by the American cowboy, are all Spanish names, except the last which was borrowed from the red man (J.L. Cowan, Lingo of the Cow Country. Outing, Liv. 1909. August p.620.)

Like everything mortal the cowboy came to his end. He reigns no more. He was the go-between man who connected the frontier with the settlers. The buffalo are in the parks, the Indians are on the reservations, the cowboys are in the wild west shows or bucking bronco contests. They came, according to Hebard, from every walk of life. For one to think that to be a cowboy one had to be dumb, uncouth and a tough guy was a grave mistake. From the best families of the East came young men to take up the life of a cowboy. (Hebard, Pathbreakers. 1912)

Graduates from the best colleges came west and lost themselves in cattleland.

Those days are gone. Out of the east came the long ribbons of shimmering steel. Upon them came the homeseeker, with his plow and a strong determination. Later came barbed wire, more settlers and more wire. The cowboy saddled his pinto and rode into the west, never to return.

Chapter IV Renaissance

Purebred sStock

The introduction of purebred cattle into "ashington Territory marked the end of the Texas 'sea lion' and completely revolutionized the cattle business. It was marked by the beginning of alfalfa fields, permanent haystacks, shelter in the winter months and smaller but better herds (Moore, reports of governor. 1889)

In 1847 Uncle Johnny Wilson of Linn County, Ore. brought a drove of Durhams from Henry Clay's herd at Blue Grass Grove. This full-blooded herd added greatly to the stock in the west.

Later Capt. Benser brought a herd of blooded cattle to the Columbia Bottoms. Mr. Daniel Drumheller, a competent witness wrote: "The cattlemen of this region (Washington) seem to be of the opinion that the range cattle of the early days of the industry were veritable scrubs. In this they are greatly mistaken. It is true that all the cattle in the early history of California were long-horned Mexican breeds. A few of these were driven to Oregon prior to 1850... Gov. Gaines, one of the early governors of Oregon territory brought with him to Oregon some splendid Durham cattle. A few years later, Sol King of Benton county made several importations of choice shorthorn cattle. Besides these, there were other early settlers of Oregon who owned full blooded cattle of beef strains..in my opinion the range cattle of Oregon and Washington were as good sixty years ago as they are now. The good grazing in that time may have been accountable for this to some extent. (C.S. Kingston, Introduction of Cattle into the Pacific Northwest."

Mr. Cross of Salem in 1858 imported from Kentucky some good roans. In a short time the cattle in Washington began to improve and the Spanish cattle began to disappear (Splawn.) For the next few years the records are silent concerning pureblood stock but about 1873 A. Laboree brought into the Yakima valley the first herd of Black Polled Angus cattle (W.D. Lyman, History of the Yakima Valley, 1919)

With the advancement of wealth there also came the advancement of blooded stock.

Each poor neighborhood had its poor grade of cattle and vice versa. This pure blood stock brought by the wealthier class encouraged the poor farmer to invest in a better grade of cattle. A demand for good beef in the home market at this time also was an incentive for pure blood stock and most of the counties in 1887 reported new breeds.

The Moxee company purchased 12 Polled Angus bulls of the Olympic herd owned by J.H. Pope of Canada (E.S. Sample. Reports of Governor of Washington Territory, 1887.)

In 1890 the Texas steer was fast becoming a thing of the past on the western range. He served his day well but it took him too long to mature and he was shoved aside for a more progressive type of animal which could be made salable at six months. The type desired by cattlemen at that time was a short-legged stock blocky and early maturing and easily fleshed animal. Baby beef was the call of the hour. The large massive 2,000 pound steer was no longer the butcher's choice but the clean, neat evenly fleshed 1,400 pounder was the apple of his eye. Therefore met this demand well. (Editorial Ranch and Range, 1897, Aug. 12, p.5.)

Stockmen soon learned that it was quality which brought the higher prices on the Chicago markets. The byword among the stockmen at this time was sell the old herd and grade up the best and make as much money out of one-half of what you formerly kept as you did before (Editorial Ranch and Range, 1896, Dec. 29 p.6)

Partly as a result of this reasoning and partly because of economical conditions, the Washington State Livestock Breeders association was organized October 1, 1898 at North Yakima with annual meetings to be held during the state fair at Yakima. "We have initiated this movement," said President Richards, "for a live working association for the purpose of fostering and developing to the highest

degree our stock interests..one of the main objects is to stimulate livestock exhibitions, particularly at the state fair..to be a member of this association requires a high standard of stock raised by such member, and is therefore a guarantee that stock is sold on its merits." (Editorial Ranch and Range, 1898, Oct. 6, p.8)

"J. Splawn was one of the first in the state to produce purebred cattle on a large scale. His Springdale herd of Herefords at North Yakima was due to good advertising, the leading herd in the Pacific Northwest in 1901, supplying foundation stock for cattlemen in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and in British Columbia (Editorial, Ranch and Range, 1901, Feb. 28, Pg. 12)

His ranch occupied about 2,300 acres and his stock was valued at \$25,000 (Ibid, May 2, p. 13)

In 1902 Levi Ankeny and Grant Copeland owned the largest cattle ranch in the state. It consisted of twenty thousand acres of fine grazing land in Adams county and was capable of supporting 3,000 cattle within fence. (Editorial Ranch and Range, 1902, Aug. 7 p3.)

The Inland Registered Stock Breeders' association held its third annual meeting in 1904. A small exhibit of stock was shown.

For a number of years following 1904 the cattle business, purebred stock along with the rest in eastern Washington was in the doldrums. Despite this fact the livestock in 1913 represented an investment of \$47,000,000 of which \$16,700,000 consisted of cattle.

In the same year the state had purebred bulls worth \$403,741. At this time not over one per cent of Washington cattle were registered but the year saw an increase in importation of purebred animals. (First Biennial Report of the Executive Depts. of the state to the governor, 1913-14. p.30.)

The Inland Empire in 1865 was a veritable sea of grass...Cattle Utopias soon came to an end and the Inland Empire was no exception. The coming of the railroad marked the beginning of the end of the free

cattle range in Washington that the stockmen had enjoyed for so many years.

The iron horse meant the end of the trail for the cowboy and cow pony (Splawn)

With the railroad came the settlers like bands of hungry wolves seeking what they might devour. In 1884 the United States government land offices at Spokane Falls, Olympia, Vancouver, Yakima and Walla Walla entered upon their books about 7,962 applications for public lands. The population of Washington Territory in 1880 was 66,976; in 1884 it had increased to 150,000 and in the following year 2,752 persons made application for free lands. Every farm reduced the free range area. (W.C. Squire report of the Governor of Washington Territory, 1884 PP 25-61.

West of the Columbia river gorge the land rises quite rapidly until it merges into the Cascades. Numerous ridges extending from the mountains to the Columbia run parallel to each other in an easterly direction. Their northern slopes, too steep to cultivate were used for grazing. This range land too was becoming scarce. Many scales of grazing land were made, especially in the foothills near the summer pasture.

The water places were purchased. In 1904 that which was left of the free range in this district was in a depleted condition. Cattle could not eke out a living on it while horses and sheep could barely get through a season on the scanty fare (J.S. Cotton,

Forage Problems in Eastern and Central Washington, Pullman, 1904)

The carrying capacity of the eastern Washington range varies in the different areas. The extreme eastern portion lying next to the mountains has a carrying capacity of from five to fifteen acres per animal; the northern portion from fifteen to twenty acres per animal; the central portion from 25 to 50 acres and some parts require seventy-five acres to maintain an animal (Parr, opp. cit. p.20)

The carrying capacity in the Washington national forests is one cow to

two acres and three sheep to one acre (Agricultural Yearbook, 1932)

The sheeph have always played havoc with the forests. Dr. J.A. Pierson, director of the Southwestern Forest Experiment Station stated that 200,000 board feet of lumber have been eaten by livestock in the last twenty years. The stockmen branded these findings as "propaganda" to reduce sheep grazing in the national forests. The wool growers care little for the forests and passed a resolution to muzzle such research (Editorial Stockmen Pass Resolutions to Muzzle Research, "American Forests and Forest Life, XXXII 1926, March p.167)

In 1911 Sampson and Dayton began a study to determine the amount of injury to timber reproduction caused by grazing, both from browsing and trampling. It was discovered that grazing by cattle and sheep, in one plot containing 11,040 plants, caused injury to 38.3 per cent and eight per cent of the yellow pine, 21.5 and 19 per cent of the Douglas fir, 48.3 and 11 per cent of the White fir, and 26.9 and 12.5 per cent respectively of the sugar pine. (A.W. Sampson Range and Pasture Management, New York, 1923, p. 199.)

Overgrazing caused the settlers to ask the Northern Pacific railroad for protection for their stock. At their bequest the railroad in 1896 instituted a leasing system and until 1904 had leased 1,000,000 acres to the stockmen. To the enterprising cattleman occurred the idea that to continue his business he must control his range to protect it from the nomadic herder who roamed all over the state and grazed and destroyed the range at will. Many stockmen purchased their range and thus excluded all inroads being made upon it; they fenced their range in this way controlling the grass. The two hard blows delivered to the cattle business, the hard winter of 1890 and the hard times of 1892, all but caused its defeat.

Many's little lambs also multiplied so rapidly that they almost took possession of the range. In 1889 the sheep but 100,000 were in southeastern Washington en masse. The 1904 report stated that 894,000

sheep were in the state at the time. Yet, while the value of cattle exceeded that of sheep, the cattle were kept on farms and leased land as both cannot graze together and the cattle thrive. (Cotton)

The leasing system also enabled the stockmen to improve their breeds and gave to each stockraiser a definite section of country for a definite period of time and it was up to him to keep up his range or get out, with the result that the land was taken better care of and in a short time, increased the carrying capacity of stock per acre.

...Between 1896 and 1903 the railroads issued 300 leases embracing 1,500,000 acres. Much of this land was taken up by homesteaders for the purpose of growing wheat and the stockmen were pushed into the coulees and hill lands. The stockraiser with vision purchased railroad lands and waste stretches and fenced them for grazing purposes.

Those who did not get railroad land or waste stretches were forced out of business. In 1905 very little free range was left except in the high mountains (Cotton, J.S.: Range Management in the State of Washington, Washington, 1905)

Many enterprising individuals, sensing the future value of grazing lands, fenced large sections of government tracts which excluded all stock in that particular vicinity. They grazed their own stock on government lands still unfenced and in that way deprived those who did not fence from the grass on the outside. Many times these illegal fencers rented the enclosures or for speculation to stockmen who had the same privileges to those grasslands as they who illegally fenced them. Another class, who had no stock, but who fenced ten or fifteen square miles of the public domain, made a good living renting those lands to stockmen who had large herds. This evil practice grew worse year by year (Editorial, Ranch and Range, 1901, August 1, p.12)

During the time of Theodore Roosevelt's term in the White House 148,000,000 acres were withdrawn from the public domain for the National Forests. This placed most of the timberland of the west under

government control. Regulated use of the forests had not been authorized until the June act in 1897 and this law prohibited sheep from grazing on any of the national forests except in Oregon and in Washington.

Due to overgrazing the interior department in 1899 cancelled sixty-eight permits to sheepmen for grazing in Mount Rainier reserve. Consternation reigned among the wool growers. They claimed that sheep had been grazed east of the Cascades for twenty years and "their feet are golden in the way of improving and enriching soil. This action deprived 260,000 sheep of summer range. A series of adjustments were made between the cattlemen and sheepmen which pleased no one.

Overcrowded ranges led President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 to appoint a commission to investigate conditions. The commission reported that unless something was done the western range would soon be completely ruined. The stockmen suggested that range lands be withdrawn from homestead selection. No law was passed until 1916 when pressure became so great that the government passed the Grazing Homestead act which stated that 640 acres may be taken up "...land chiefly valuable for grazing and raising forage crops..." this law did not meet the need of the demand but the table below shows to what extent Washington availabled herself to its uses.

(Table ranging from 0 in 1918 to 75,391 in 1919, 89,311 in 1919, 000, 26,278 in 1921, 73,470 in 1922 etc to 2,669 in 1935.

It is difficult to know the exact reason why the federal government had not acted to preserve the range land. As early as 1878 Lieutenant Powell, chief of the geological survey suggested action. In 1898 the American National Livestock association passed resolutions asking that the range land be protected. In 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt sent out a commission to investigate conditions. No action was taken. In 1930 President Hoover appointed a committee to study the range problem. The recommendations of this report were never

translated into law. At last, in 1935, after untold damage had been done, less than half the public domain was placed under some sort of administration.

Despite all this controversy, the livestock industry was still strong in the state. It did not decrease with respect to numbers or in wealth. The difference lay in the fact that formerly few stockmen owned vast herds, while in this period thousands of farmers owned few cattle. This resulted in superior grade of stock raised. The farmer found it profitable to raise a few choice steers, rather than the scrub stock of former years. The state markets were largely supplied from these sources. (Second Biennial report, 1916, dept. of agriculture of Washington State.)

Trends

In the eleven far western states the peak of stock on ranges was reached about 1890. At this time about 12.5 millions of animals grazed on range land, representing eighty-eight per cent of the stock in those states. In 1910 10.4 millions of animals grazed, representing about sixty per cent of the total animal unit. Following a rise in 1920 there has been a decline to 1935 when ten million animals used the range, representing fifty-seven per cent of the total amount. Thus, there has been a decline of about 20 per cent on range lands since 1890 (Letter from Secretary of Agriculture.)

"The public domain of the west is made up of remnants left after careful culling by many agencies. The homestead, desert homestead and grazing homestead laws eliminated much of the best of the natural range area. State, railroad and other grants with their provision for lieu selection of indemnity land, still further reduced the average quality. The natural forests, Indian reservations, reclamation withdrawals and so forth, each have absorbed grazing land better than that which remained. (Ibid)"

Until 1910 livestock had not increased quite as rapidly as wealth

yet there is a greater interest in livestock today than ever before.

Gone are the days of cheap meat; gone are the ranges and the prices from henceforth will be determined by the ability of the farmer to produce beef in agricultural areas on high-priced lands. As a side issue good beef can be produced but it must be made to yield returns for the high-priced material consumed (S.N.D. North The American Yearbook, New York and London, 1911, p.488.

.....In 1936 forty-six per cent of the cattle purchased by Armour and company of Spokane were obtained from adjacent farmers who loaded their stock on a truck and wheeled it to the packing plant.

The same year Armour and company purchased twenty-three per cent of their stock from Montana, eighteen per cent from Idaho, one per cent from Oregon and twelve per cent from other places.

In the same year twenty-eight per cent of their total production were sold in Spokane and the Inland Empire. (Letter from Armour and Company December 1, 1936

Appendix

Stock Raising in Washington Territory

"Washington west of the Cascades is at present not adapted to cattle raising, except for home supply....

"Stevens county..is so broken, mountainous, and timbered that only two thirds of it is pasturable and most of that only for summer range

"Yakima and Klickitat counties..his section has ~~an~~ available pastorage of about 3,000,000 acres but in Yakima county it is well eaten out.. the climate is hard and though stock manage to subsist through the winters, the sources of nourishment are limited--fencing is becoming the rule in the valleys with the growth of agriculture and the day of the great stock ranging seems nearly finished except as it is carried on in connection with farming. Reckoning the available pastorage of the Yakima and Klickitat section of Washington as we did that of the western section we find ~~tho~~ forty-three acres of pasture to the unit of stock.

"Great plateaus of the Columbia, Spokane and Whitman counties.
his section including ^{ed} between the Spokane, the Columbia and the Snake river is the most important grazing portion of the territory when both extent and quality are considered. We find here the largest continuous acres of pasture, though it must be borne in mind that everywhere in this territory pasture is in broken areas; coulees which are extensive dry water courses, often wide and deep with precipitious basaltic walls run northeast from the Columbia in the western portion of the territory; scab land, so called from the eruption of spots of the same basaltic formation shows itself in bare, dark patches along the coulees and in the tule lake regions of the northeast. The general topographical character of the great plain of the Columbia is rough, rising in elevation from the Columbia to the eastward. The quality of the pasturage improves from the sand

border of the great river past the margin of sagebrush to good bunch-grass, well watered, east of the 110th meridian. Generally in Eastern Washington, contrary to experience elsewhere, the poorest pasturage is found near the rivers. Belts of sand border the water courses for miles. The southeast portion of Spokane and Whitman counties, or about one-fifth of the entire section of the great plain of the Columbia, comprising all that country bordering the Palouse river and its tributaries, is perhaps the best pasturage in the territory, but it is rapidly passing into the possession of farmers. Bunchgrass is abundant

"The middle part of Whitman county along the main Palouse and the higher country in the east furnishes superior summer range, from which stock can pass in winter to the milder and drier pastures of western Whitman. We find in this section of Washington nearly 45,000 cattle and over 58,000 sheep with about 8,000,000 acres of available pasturage, good, bad and indifferent, or 141 acres to each unit of stock.

Walla Walla and Whitman counties--The heavily timbered Blue Mountains occupy the southern portions of these counties. Between the Snake and Touchet Rivers there is lack of water. ~~Between~~ With these exceptions, Walla Walla and Columbia, have good pasturage, but the rapidly increasing farming interests have crowded out free range. The stock unit in Walla Walla and Columbia counties has but nineteen units of pasturage. (Report on "Cattle, Sheep and Swine" in production of Agriculture, Tenth Census, 1880 pp 134-135 of the monograph or pp 1088.)

Extracts from the Report of a Practical Cattleman in Klickitat county.

"My range extends north from the Columbia one hundred miles, east and west 125 miles; other herds however occupy the same range. The western half of Klickitat county is well watered; the eastern half

above Elder creek, has good feed but scant water except along the Columbia river and feed is short near that stream. Cattle cannot reach the best feed for want of water. Grazing plants are bunchgrass, principally, also rye grass and white sage. Land is held by preemption and homestead entries, and a good deal by first occupation merely. Very little land is purchased except for agricultural purposes, but stockmen respect each other's rights of range; that is, cattlemen do.

Land is fast becoming pre-empted and homesteaded for agricultural purposes. This change will gradually drive all cattle from the country; large bands went out in 1880. The region is overstocked and badly; cattle most numerous. My range is permanently injured by sheep. Number of cattle owned January, 1879, 5,000; number of calves branded during 1879 1,725; number of cattle sold during 1879 500, loss 10 per cent incurred during winter. Twelve hundred thousand five square miles of free range government land; 160 acres of land owned, \$1,600; buildings and fencing (two barns and house and corrals) \$2,000; equipment in wagons, harness saddles etc., \$500, horses \$25 to \$60 per head, \$1,500; total value of plant, exclusive of cattle \$5,600.

"The average composition of a herd of 5,000 just before the roundup was: bulls 100, average value each, fifteen dollars; cows 2,200, average value each, twelve dollars; steers, three years and upward, 500, average each, twenty dollars; two-year olds, both sexes, 900, average value each, twelve dollars; yearlings 1,300, average value each, eight dollars. Steers are in great demand and hence a small proportion are held by cattle raisers. One-half of the yearlings and two-year olds are males. They run so near even that many stockmen keep the tally together and divide by two; one year with another it is an even thing. If properly cared for, a herd of cows will bring seventy-five per cent increases. The number depends wholly upon one's vigilance. Some man will brand more calves than their cows number; others, of course, do not get all their increase branded. For the whole country

not over sixty per cent of the calves are raised to yearlings. Five men are regularly employed at thirty dollars per month and board, \$1,500, and one man at forty dollars a month and board, \$480; cost of regular labor per annum \$2,980. My men are regular hands and by riding constantly do all work required, no extra help being necessary. (Report on Cattle, Sheep and Swine in Production of Agriculture, Tenth Census 1880, pp 134-135 of the monograph or pp 1088-1089 of the volume.)

"Cattle drift by their own instinct from summer to winter ranges; they reach the winter range about the first of November, and leave it for the summer pasture grounds in May. We do not use corrals, except in early spring, when we sometimes corral a bunch of cows to brand the calves, but very seldom. We rope calves and brand outside of a pen usually. We do not feed cattle at any season; we feed twelve saddle-horses; that is all. We have about seventy-five acres under fence for raising feed for our saddle-horses in winter, besides a horse pasture (ibid.)

"Cattle are never rounded up by a regular system on our range. We keep the same number of men riding the year round and have the same force or outfit, winter and summer. We have a very rough range, and in summer our cattle go back into the mountains where it is impossible to find all the head of them. We brand during the summer whenever we find calves and those that we fail to find during the summer we catch in the fall and winter when they come down from the mountain range. Owing to the roughness of our country it is not suitable to round-up. (ibid)

"The weight and quality of cattle have improved by the importation of Shorthorn bulls is about the same proportion that the ranges have decreased; if the stock had not been improved they would have decreased in weight and quality in the same proportion as the ranges filled up

and began to fail. Shorthorn bulls have been brought into the country and renewed often. Their progeny have helped to improve our common stock. Shorthorn cattle will be run in small bands and better taken care of. Running cattle in large bands in this country is fast getting to be a thing of the past. Hides are saved from cattle dying or salted; beef hides are worth about eighteen cents a pound; murrain hides one-third off. There is no sale for bones. Average native beef is worth four cents net weight per pound in Portland, Oregon. The average live weight of a three-year old steer, range-fed, in best condition is 1,200 pounds; net weight 625 pounds. (ibid.)

"I estimate the average percentage of losses among cattle over an average year to be: "From disease 1 1-2 per cent; winter storms five per cent; wild animals one-half per cent; snake bites one per cent; thefts two per cent; poisonous plants 2 per cent; total loss 12 per cent.

"I estimate the average profit of the cattle business of five years, say from December 31, 1875 to January 1, 1881, about twenty five per cent. About one half are returned for taxation. The proportion of each county depends much on rates of taxation; if taxes are one-third of cattle cost may be returned and taxed; if medium one-half, if low, two-thirds; it depends as elsewhere, largely upon the verocity of owners (ibid)

Report of a Practical Stock Raiser in Yakima County

"My range is on the Yakima river from Yakima City to the mouth of the river, a distance of one hundred miles, thence down the Columbia river one hundred miles to Columbia^{us} and embracing all the country between two rivers named in the triangular section described. We do not control individual stock ranges, however all herds ranging over the same common territory, as it is impossible to keep different herds of cattle apart. (ibid)

"My range is poorly watered and has a band of scabby sheep at every watering place. There is a large tract of land north of Umatilla City, where in certain seasons, there is no water; that makes a good winter and spring range for cattle which subsist on snow for drink and where sheep never go. (Ibid)

The natural grasses and forage plants are bunch-grass, rye grass, goose grass, four or five varieties of slough grasses, blue joint, cane grass, alfilerie, willow, whitesage, rose, greasewood and broom sage besides rushes in wet land. (ibid)

Land is held by pre-emption and homestead and by occupation; none of our lands are subject to cash entry; much of the Northern Pacific Railroad land is occupied and will be purchased from the company when they offer it for sale. Only a small proportion of government land which is desirable for agriculture, is held by simple occupation, as it has been generally surveyed and is subject to entry. Fencing land is the only way to exclude others. (ibid)

"Much of our bunch-grass land is proving valuable for wheat production and is being rapidly taken up and settled. All arable land will thus soon be cultivated and thus end the production of cattle on the open range.

"The country is badly overstocked. Cattle have been most numerous, but now cattle owners are running from a pestilence, sheep. Our ranges are permanently injured by sheep; they drive us out and ruin our ranges and business. They kill the grass; they poison the stock water. There should be a United States law confining them to certain limits, from which they should not encroach upon cattle ranges and take the life out of the enterprise. (Ibid)

"The composition of a herd of 5,000 just before the round up was: Bulls 1500 average value each \$25; cows 2,000, average value each \$12; steers three years and upward 370, average value each \$17; two year olds, both sexes, eleven hundred, average value each

\$12; yearlings, 1,400, average value each \$7.

The above prices are for cattle sold in large bands. One-half the yearlings and two-year olds are steers. About 72 per cent of the cows will drop calves.

"Since 1867 when I embarked in the cattle business I have never had a count on my herd. After getting my herd up to 2,000 head I have endeavored to hold it to about that number, buying and selling each year. All purchases have been within the territory, and all sales have been made to parties beyond the territory. My answers are therefore approximate. Number of cattle owned January, 1879, 2,300; cattle bought during 1879, 900, number of cattle owned January 1880 about 2,000. (ibid)

"A general statement based on my business would be for example, an investment of \$50,000 in 5,000 cattle and suppose them to occupy the range where my herd is. There are 5,000 square miles of free-range government land; three hundred acres of land owned worth \$5,000; buildings and fencing, including corrals in different parts of the range \$1,200; horses for handling cattle \$1,600; brood mares and stallion for breeding horses used in business \$1,500; total estimated value of plant \$11,800

"We expect to brand about sixty six per cent of calves, i.e. on the whole number of cows in our herd including, two year old heifers.

I pay four men at \$40 per month and board, twenty dollars per month \$2,880; one man at \$20 a month and board \$20 a month. Cost of regular labor per annum \$3,840. Ten men extra when sales are made, to help round up, for one month \$1.50 per day and board \$450; ten men extra when cattle are fed in winter for one month, perhaps some seasons, at \$1.50 and board \$450; total cost of extra labor \$900 per annum.

"No changes are made at present for summer and winter grazing.

Our cattle used to be driven to the upper part of Yakima for summer grazing but now too many 'pilgrims' and 'grangers' have settled in that country. Our cattle are corralled when the calves are branded and some cattlemen wean their calves. Cattle are also penned to count and counterbrand them when a sale occurs.

"Some parties prepare hay for feeding in winter; many do not. Those who do not have hitherto lost as few cattle as those who do. But now the range is too short to make it safe to own cattle without a ton of hay to every cow. Sreer's will live in an ordinary winter. Hay out is now cut outside of inclosures and will cost, not including interest on value of ranch \$3 per ton, ie will-grass hay. (ibid)

"If there is plenty of browse-feed in the inclosures where we put weak cows in winter, we would feed to one hundred cows about five hundred pounds of hay a day, usually we feed to this number one thousand pounds.

"We have three hundred acres of meadow fenced, 150 acres of which is cut with a mowing machine and yields commonly one and one-half tons of wild grass hay to the acre. As we are not compelled to feed every winter, our stock of hay accumulates and we are thus enabled when it is necessary to feed a large herd of cattle. But the great difficulty in this sort of provision is the impossibility of getting our stock to the hay when a hard winter comes, owing to deep-crusts of snows which prevent stock from being driven far. Many stock-raisers have claimed, therefore with much correctness, that their loss during an occasional hard winter will not reach the great expense of maintaining a hay ranch and especially as they are liable to loss in any case from the probability of being unable to collect their cattle to feed them.

"The work of branding begins the first of May when an outfit of a dozen men starts out with a wagon and cook, and camp near some corral on the range. The surrounding country is ridden over and all stock

handled and calves branded within reach, the branding pen being used to corral cows and calves in. After working all the range within reach the outfit and wagon go on to another corral, ten or twenty miles distant, and proceed to handle all the stock in that neighborhood. Thus they go through the range where, at different points convenient to favorite pasture grounds of cattle and to good water, corrals have been located for branding. Many calves are necessarily missed and when these leave their mothers, or are weaned naturally, they are called 'slick-ears' 'sleepers' or 'mavericks' and belong to any cattleman who can get his brand on them. In the spring men go out

'slick-earing' with lassos and branding irons on their saddles and secure such calves. The animals are roped and the iron put on, having been heated over a fire of sage-brush or cow-chips. This sort of business has proved the most profitable branch of the enterprise to some cattle raisers as they brand more calves than their cows mother

"While quality is much improved, weights and values have much depreciated, owing to short range and surplus of supply over demand. Cattle used to sell for \$40 but now they sell by the herd at \$10. Improvement in quality has occurred by the importation of shorthorn bulls and cows. Stock will be improved by shorthorn blood; but improvement of cattle with us does not seem to pay.

"Hides of slaughtered cattle are saved. Cattle that die of disease, old age, etc. are skinned, if found, but hides do not pay for the labor. Beef hides are worth fifteen cents at The Dalles, Oregon. Bones are not utilized. Beef brings an average of two cents gross in The Dalles and Portland, Ore, the only markets for our section. One thousand one hundred pounds is average live weight of a three year old range-bred steer; six hundred pounds net weight.

"In an average year estimated loss from disease, none before 1880, but this year 2 per cent from winter and spring storms, 10 per cent from thefts, 2 per cent from poisonous weeds, 2 per cent

total loss 16 per cent.

In many instances men have lost large sums of money in this business; in other cases cattle-raisers have cleared thirty three per cent profits in five years. About sixty per cent of cattle in territory are taxed.

The estimated average value of Washington cattle in 1880 was: Bulls \$28; cows \$12.50; three-year-old steers, \$19; two-year-old \$12.50; yearlings \$7.75; calves \$4.75; heaves \$22.

(Ibid..p 137 of the monograph or p 1091 of the volume.

Stockraising in Whitman County,

Winlock, Wash.
Feb. 23, 1926

Mr. J. Orin Oliphant,
Cheney, Wash.

Dear Mr. Oliphant:

Your letter asking me to give a history of the livestock industry of Whitman county in the late seventies and early eighties came some time ago. It is drawing a long bow on memory to do so with accuracy(Letter from John C. Lawrence to J.O. Oliphant in possession of the author)

Fortunately S.W. Crumbaker of Colfax was at my home when your letter came. He was a pioneer and stock raiser with a large acquaintance in the late seventies as well as later and gave me a good deal of help. I then wrote to Colonel Duling of Garfield who came with his brother Joe in 1880 and was for many years active in raising and handling all kinds of stock, particularly cattle and hogs. He added a good many names to the list I have.

Since then I have recalled a number of names, so that, while not yet complete, I have a list of about all of the principal stockmen of that period.

You must remember that Whitman county at that time included both Adams and Franklin counties. Consequently a history of the stockmen will include the three counties. To better understand the territory I will give you the principal localities occupied by the stockmen of that day.

The eastern part of the county along the base of the Coeur d'Alene mountains, with its heavy black soil, was the choice for farming. Consequently there were few large holdings of stock in that locality, owing to the land being occupied by settlers. In the southern part along the break of Snake river and extending to the Columbia the stock business was active from an early day. This was true

along Union Flat from Pullman to the Palouse river near the present town of LaCrosse. Alkali Flat, intermediate between Snake River and Union Flat and extending down to Texas Ferry, now Texas City, was regarded in the early days as fit only for stock raising. The Rock Lake district, with the so-called cove of Palouse or Palouse Cove, with Pleasant Valley lying between it and the Palouse river, comprised with the other localities named the Palouse country.

Farther to the west and north lay the Cow Creek country, Crab creek and the region about Kahlotus lake and beyond to the lower Snake river constituted a vast expanse of stock country. No one at that time thought that any portion of this area would ever be farmed. Perhaps much of it had better have remained untouched by plow.

Alkali Flat, Union Flat, Rebel Flat and all of the country lying to the east as far as the mountains has become a land of farm homes with orchards, fields and dairies. Its wheat fields constitute one of the world's areas of high production not only in the yield per acre but in the total annual yield. The pioneers had properly judged this land as to its future value for grain production. They had underestimated the value of much of the western portion of the country, especially the western part of the present Whitman county. My remarks in the preceding paragraph refer more particularly to a part of Adams and Franklin counties.

In the retrospect of nearly 50 years I find the cattle industry predominated in the early days. I will not attempt to give the names of the cattlemen in the order of the importance in the size of the herds but rather by localities as they occur to me. In the eastern part of the county S.J. Trent, founder of Garfield, had a herd of dairy cows where he was engaged in making cheese. This herd he afterward sold to the John Bishop of Dry Creek, near Steptoe Butte. John had selected his homestead near the butte with the belief that there would always be open range for the bon the butte. However a few years later

'Cashup' Davis, living on the opposite side of the butte, bought all the land comprising that landmark and, fencing it in, of course shut out all other stock.

James McCoy, founder of Oakesdale, was a cattle raiser. Peter Proff of near Rosalia was a stock raiser, including cattle. N.L. Strange of Pine Creek, George McQueen near Farmington, later on William Powers of Palouse, an early day merchant there who ran cattle in Palouse Cove, Pierson of near Four Mile, north of Kamia Butte, Burnham near Pullman, Neil Stewart of Pullman, Charley Johnson at the head of Penawawa, William McNeeley of Union Flat, William Stimson further down the flat, Whaling brothers, Al Hooper, Al Fudge of lower Union Flat, William Huntley of Endicott and Lillian F. Smith afterward the wheat king of the county, Jennings of Pleasant Valley, Dr. Baker and McCausland near the head of that valley, J.D. Bassett of the Washtucna country, H. Henderson of Rock Lake, James Warmouth of Rebel Flat, Louis Nease and "Portuguese Joe" of Cow Creek, D.M. Drumheller of Crab Creek with Samuel Blythe whose cattle roamed over a wide range--all of these constituted the big early day cattlemen. Some of them continued their herds until comparatively recent years.

Most of these names are familiar to the old settlers. Few could recall all of them. Some are only a memory. Stories should be written about them, tales of adventure and romance. Samuel Blythe, now living on the Methow, far from the scenes of his early day experience was known as the "Duke of Crab Creek." His appearance bore out this designation. It was not until years later that it became known that he was in reality an English lord, entitled to sit in parliament in his own right, a privilege of which it is said he took advantage on some of his periodical visits to England. (ibid)

The early day horsemen were fewer but still constituted a respectable number, some of whom were prominent in the political history of the county. S.J. Crutcher of Pine City, later of Rosalia, a horseman, was a

member of the territorial legislature and author of the first barbed wire fence law. It specified what constituted a lawful barbed wire fence. This was at the time the so-called herd laws were under discussion, it being a question whether the grain farmers should be compelled to fence to keep the stock out or whether the stock owner should herd his stock or otherwise to keep them out of the grain fields.

At this time Whitman occupied a very important position in Territorial politics. George Comegys, a stockman of the early days, was speaker of the house and H.F. Stratton, a merchant of Farmington, was president of the council, the upper house which corresponded to the present senate.

Dr. Simpson of Garfield was an early day horse breeder. Frank Donahue at the south of the gulch bearing his name, a short distance south of Rosalia, a breeder of Roan Copper Bottoms, William (Bill) Masterson, north of Pine City, later killed in the old Pacific hotel in Spokane while interfering with an officer who had his son-in-law under arrest; Edgar Torrance, whose horses were on Downing Gulch, Staley Brothers of Uniontown and Pullman, St. John of Pleasant Valley, who founded the town of that name, B.R. Ostrander who lived above St. Johns, Frank Babcock of Rock Lake, Dr. Bunnell of Colfax, James Milne near Steptoe and a neighbor of Comegys, Mansfield Brothers of near Endicott, Crissman of Alkali Flat, John Tabor of Ewartsville--all of these made up the larger part of the list of pioneer horsemen.

A good many had both horses and cattle and it is a little difficult for men at this time to give a clear line of demarcation. Draper and Stevenson of near Elberton were pioneers who had both horses and cattle. Many others merged their stock raising into grain farming.

There were scarcely more than half a dozen sheep raisers in the early days. As the settlers came in the sheep raisers were the first of the stockmen to be crowded out, as the settlers always objected to sheep. The first of the sheepmen came up from the "alla" "alla" country, among them Phil Coz and brother. Phil remained in the

country until his death and became a leading horse breeder as well as grain farmer, the latter as the country in the locality of Hay, which was near his home, changed from the stock raising to grain farming.

William Lee, whom I first knew when he had sheep on Downing Gulch in '79 was afterward elected a county commissioner and for a long time prior to his death lived on Rebel Flat. George and Ellis Smith were pioneer sheepmen as well as fruit growers at Penawawa. J.S. Copley of Almota was a sheep raiser as well as a member of the legislature in the Territorial days. John Harper and his brothers, Milt and Bill, of Union Flat, were prominent sheepmen. Bradley Brothers of Pleasant Valley, who sold out to George Howard, as I remember and Henry T. Traub made up the remainder of the sheepmen of prominence. There were others with smaller holdings as in the case of cattle and horses. Y.C. Mansfield of Mansfield brothers, horseman, later turned his attention to sheep raising which he continues to the present time in the Yakima valley. Bands of sheep passing through Wolfax in the early days were not uncommon as they were being driven to the summer range in the mountains or returned to the winter quarters along Snake river.

While it would seem that stock raising in Whitman county passed away with the pioneers I am under the impression that the census of horses and cattle, if not of sheep, would exceed in the aggregate the herds and droves of the early days. Certainly there are more hogs. Hogs could not be grown on bunch grass as other livestock.

The camas of the early day did afford a pioneer hog feed. The region about Moscow was noted for the growth of camas and for this reason was known as "Hog Heaven." John C. Lawrence.

A special correspondent writing to the Oregonian from The Dalles says:

"Winter is still with us, having taken a very bad relapse five days since, changing in a short time from a chinook to a raw east wind with snow and a severe freeze. Up closing the river for the second night and chasing the thermometer down to degrees below zero.

Whilst the loss of stock before has been considerable the last five days have killed more than all before. In some places it has completely wiped out large herds. It has been more severe in the adjoining countries than in Wasco and Sherman, as they are more agricultural, having more hay and straw with smaller herds and therefore have been able to pull through in better shape. Mr. Razier from Willow Creek in Crook county states that on Willow and Bay creeks most of the stockmen had feed and their losses were not heavy. The Van Houghtons had lost few out of their 20,000 sheep, but Mr. Hill, on Bay and Trout creeks, had lost four hundred head of cattle out of one thousand. The heaviest losses were on the Oso Ocho and Crooked rivers and the desert beyond Pringle where there are but few animals left. Brown Brothers lost nearly the whole of their 15,000 sheep, Finlayson lost 6,000 and others nearly or all they had. Horses fared not so badly as they are better "rustlers" and will beat back onto higher ground, where there is more grass and the hills. It is hard to account for the heavy loss out on the desert as there is no stock there in the summer so that the grass attains a good height and there is an abundance of chapparal which the snow does not cover and which is good browsing--unless it is for the want of water. This is the probable cause of large losses where they have fed stock as in the Klickitat where some have lost half their cattle to which they have been feeding hay and straw. Henry Blackman mayor of Heppner who was in town yesterday states that the thermometer there on the morning of the 25th registered 17 below zero and that the

horses up to this week were light but were increasing fast now. When the heavy snow went off stock were turned out on the green frosted grass. This last cold snap coming on, with a few inches of snow and feed scarce, in their weak condition they chill and perish in large numbers.

George Thompson who has just returned from his stock ranch on the Weiser in Idaho says his stock is doing finely. He has not lost a hoof so far. Having plenty of hay gathered up his stock and began to feed before they got weak, as he says it takes less to feed an animal in flesh than to keep them alive when one down. In this there is more truth than many give credit for. He says, however, the loss through that section is somewhat awful and north of there it is worse and that W. Bigham has lost 1,000 head of horses on Crab creek in Washington and that Drumheller and Parker, large cattle owners on Crab creek have been completely cleaned out. How long will it be before man will learn that it is to their interest and more humane to have only as many animals as they can take care of and have them of a better quality? It is a pitiful sight to see the helpless dumb brutes all pinched up with the cold moaning and wandering around in the snow dying from hunger. (Cheney Enterprise March 6, 1890)

A Battle For Hay

Ritzville, Feb. 26-^a Bloody battle was fought this morning near the Blythe ranch seventy miles west of here in Douglas county, six participating in the fray. Four were wounded, two fatally and two have slight wounds. The fight was over the ownership of a stack containing a few tons of timothy hay. It seems that Blythe had purchased the hay and held a bill of sale. The Wilson Brothers also claimed the stack and were determined to hold it. Both sides armed themselves and started for the scene of the killing, each determined to hold possession. Arriving, the battle commenced. L.G. Wilson was shot through the

chest, it is supposed fatally. Virgil his brother was shot through the back

Dick Garlick and Dutch Ben, the employees of the Plythe ranch, were shot in the shoulder and stomach respectively, but the wounds are not considered fatal.

After the revolvers were emptied, they were used as clubs, and their strokes could be heard quite a distance (Cheney Enterprise March 6, 1890.)

The Day and Rothrock Cattle company began business in a modest way. The money invested came from the Hercules mine located in the Coeur d'Alene district. In the early days Mr. Rothrock owned a butcher business at Wallace near the Hercules mine. He invested his earnings in the mine and in the course of time his investment increased greatly in value. Later Mr. Day, one of the partners in the mine, joined with Mr. Rothrock and invested in Washington Lands. They became sheep raisers and Mr. Rothrock still continues this branch of the industry.

About 1913 the Shorthorn herd was founded, chiefly by purchases made at public sales in the Northwest. The practice has been continued and many valuable animals have, in this way, been added to the herd. Mr. Rothrock was the stockman of the firm and he had an innate desire to grow purebred cattle. While engaged in sheep raising he handled steers but soon after embarked in fullblooded stock. By the records that the herd has made in the Northwest one would get the impression that the herd of Rothrock shorthorns was one of the oldest in the Northwest, whereas it is one of the more recent herds. (F.D. Tomson, "Story of Herd Building in the Northwest," Breeders Gazette, 1923, April.

The Hercules ranch was located near Sprague, Wash and is named after the Hercules mine. The stock is also known as the Hercules herd, due probably to a sense of gratitude which the owners felt toward the rich silver-lead mine where the money was obtained to start in the stock business. The ranch produces enough alfalfa to maintain the herd. Mr. R

Kothrock purchased Gainford Perfection as part of his foundation stock. Other bulls have been added and a number of show winnings have been made in the Northwest. The quest for females has been tireless. Importations have been made from Montana and Minnesota. The champion at the 1919 National Shorthorn congress in Chicago and the highest priced animal in the sale at that time came from the Hercules herd.....

The Uni-Brook a-Bar Farms in Missouri purchased the yearling bull, grand champion of the Pacific International for two thousand dollars. The Washington State college honored Mr. Kothrock by an official recognition of his constructive relation to better stock improvement.

An arid livestock ranch is located in the Kittitas valley and is owned by ex-senator J.H. Smithson of Ellensburg. Of course all livestock owners are seeking the breed best adapted to local conditions and one that will produce the most profit. Their Herefords and Shorthorns are good and both have won an enviable reputation but the question arises as to whether they are the ideal butcher's beast. It would be safe to say that the Aberdeen Angus is the butcher's ideal animal and O.V. Battles swears by all the cattle gods that the Angus is also an ideal range beast and can give a first class account of himself on any range and under any range conditions.

The owner of this particular herd of 800 to 1,000 improved head imported from Scotland in 1897 18 purebred Angus cows. Most of the cattlemen then sneered at the purebred stock. He sold his scrub cattle and shipped in a fullblood Angus bull and began raising Angus alone. After forty years of handling cattle under all kinds of conditions he declares that the Angus are the most profitable range cattle for that district or any other district where good beef is raised at a profit. Angus cattle are raised cheaply and mature early and the butchers want them because they beat the others on the block.

..On March 1 separate herds of steers and cows are turned out on bunchgrass ranges. On June 1 bulls are put in with the cows and removed December 1 in order to have no winter calves. Calves are branded at six months of age. On June 1 the cattle are put in the forest reserve.

Breeding cows are kept separate in a fenced pasture on the reserve. The steers are put on alfalfa pasture for thirty days beginning October 1 and then put in the feed lot and fed silage, chopped alfalfa hay or whole corn for thirty to sixty days and sold before Christmas.

In the fall the calves are put on pasture and seldom fed more than sixty days during the winter. The cows are brought in from the reserve when the snow gets too deep for them and put on the foothills to pasture until November and are brought in to feed about January 1. They are fed straight hay; about twenty pounds to the head and plenty of straw and turned out the next March.

The Aberdeen Angus are known as Doddies.

Stock Laws of Washington Territory

"Any person finding an animal inside of his enclosure or anyone which breaks into the same, shall, if he attempts to exercise any control or possession of said animal post said animal as an estray and if the owner is known notify the said owner; and any person finding an animal known to be an estray on land owned by him may within three months take up the same as an estray and in case person shall find any animal which required feed to preserve life, he may take the same up as an estray at any time (T.F. McElroy, Statutes of Territory of Washington, Olympia 1865, Section 1, pp28-29.)

"All stock that may remain in any county for thirty days shall be liable to taxation. The sheriff shall assess said stock and if the owners are not known, the sheriff shall post three notices describing the stock and the taxes due. After having waited thirty days the

the sheriff shall sell to the highest bidder so much of the stock as will pay taxes. (McElroy, 1867 "Section 1, p 142)

"Any person or persons who own any vicious or dangerous cattle shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars unless the animal is properly fenced and the public properly protected. (Laws of Washington Territory, Section 1, p 400

"Any person bringing into territory any cattle known to be infected by a contagious or infectious disease shall be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for each offense.

"The fences specified in the territorial laws shall had to be five feet high and so constructed as to prevent animals from breaking through. If, however, the animals did break through, the owner was held responsible for all damage done.

"Any person defacing brands shall be liable to not more than five nor less than one year in the penitentiary. Anyone buying, knowing the property to be stolen, an animal shall be liable to not more than four nor less than one year imprisonment and to be fined not more than five hundred dollars nor less than one hundred dollars.

"Any person who shall falsely assist or deface a brand shall, upon conviction, be liable to not more than fourteen nor less than one year in the penitentiary and be liable to a five thousand dollar fine.

"Any person bringing into this territory knowingly an animal having the glander shall, upon conviction, ~~knowing~~ be fined one thousand dollars or one year imprisonment, or both.

"Any person hunting for stray stock shall drive the herd in which they find their said estray into the nearest corral and there separate their estray by removing it from the corral, before turning the herd at large. Anyone found guilty of not complying with these rules shall be fined \$100.

All cattle driven into Washington territory, or driven through the territory to a distant market shall be assessed as personal property in any county where found; owner not liable to taxation in more than one county in the territory.

Any person bringing into the territory any Texas cattle or any cattle infected with Spanish fever shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to twenty months imprisonment or a fine of five hundred dollars. If found guilty his bail shall not be more than \$5,000.

Any person defacing the mark or brand on neat cattle with intent to steal, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned not more than five years nor less than one year or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding one year.

Every person who shall cruelly beat his ox, overdrive, overload or torment the same, shall, upon conviction, be fined the sum not exceeding \$300.

If the taker-up of estray cattle shall convert the same to his own use before the title shall be invested in him, according to law, or if he shall violate the law regulating the taking up of estrays, he shall be fined any sum not exceeding \$500 and not less than double the value of such property.

Any person maintaining in good repair around his enclosure any fence may recover in suit for trespass from the owner of any animal which shall break through such fence, in full for all damages done on account of trespass; the animal may be held for security for payment of damage done.

Anyone about whose premises any estray maybe at large may take up the same and post within ten days three notices of the same, giving a correct description of the brands, etc. If before the expiration of ten days, the owner shall prove estray to be his, he shall pay two dollars for notices and pay for feed of animal before removal of same. If, at the expiration of ten days no one shall have made claim to

animal he shall deliver the same to the nearest justice of the peace and receive \$1.10 for each mile traveled in such service. If, at the end of thirty days no claim is made, the animal shall be sold at auction. No estray shall be taken up from April 15 to December 15.

Any person owning cattle in Klickitat, Yakima, Stevens, "hitman, Walla Walla and Columbia counties shall keep a brand different from the brand of his neighbors. Every person shall record his brand with the county recorder cut upon a piece of leather and his brand burned upon the same, and the place on the animal, the brand is to be used. On trial of any action involving ownership of any animal, a copy of the brand made by the auditor shall be considered prima facie evidence as to the right ownership. The hides of all cattle slaughtered shall be kept for twenty days and they shall be shown to ~~every~~ anyone who may desire to see the same within that period.

Any person letting stock run loose shall be held accountable for all damages said stock may commit upon cultivated land...

...The railroads of Washington Territory shall be liable to the owners of all livestock for the full value of all livestock killed or maimed by passing trains, unless said railroad shall be enclosed with a lawful fence...

A lawful barbed-wire fence shall consist of posts not more than thirty feet apart with three wires stretched and fastened to the posts. The first wire shall be twenty-two inches from the ground; the second thirty-four inches; and the third forty-eight inches from the ground. Four light strips or poles shall be fastened perpendicularly to the wires between the posts. Any person building or maintaining a barbed wire fence shall keep the same in repair. If, upon five days notice, that owner's fence is down, the owner shall neglect to repair said fence, he shall be liable to a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than fifty dollars..

"No mark or brand shall be considered lawful unless recorded.

No two residents of the same county shall use the same marks or brands. The person having first recorded his mark or brand shall have the preference.

.....

In 1895 by an act of legislature, a commission was appointed to encourage the livestock industry in the state. It was invested with authority to regulate the branding and the shipping of cattle and to punish with a fine or imprisonment the stealing of animals. It also had authority to appoint stock inspectors and to levy taxes on stock. It required all butchers who were slaughtering cattle to keep a correct record of all marks and brands of slaughtered cattle with the name, address and date of purchase of the one who sold said stock. All butchers were required to pay a license of \$10 to conduct business.

It provided the unlawful branding of calves between December and April following, except by the owner. Any person violating any of the above was guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars and not more than five hundred dollars, or incarcerated in the county jail for not less than one month nor more than six months. All moneys collected were to be paid into the general school fund.

Any person who for amusement or otherwise shall cause to fight any bull or other animal, or any person who shall permit the same on any premises under his charge, or any person who shall be present at any such meetings as a spectator, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than \$150 or to imprisonment in the county jail of not more than sixty days or both.

It shall be unlawful for any kind or character of livestock to run at large in any county in this state in which three-fourths of the lands outside of the incorporated cities and towns are under fence, or any of such county three-fourths of which is under fence, when

such portion is separated from the balance of said county by any natural barrier such as rivers, range of hills, or any other sufficient barrier; Provided, that where more than one-fourth of any district is used for grazing cattle or horses on the public domain or on unfenced lands, such districts shall be excluded from the operation of this act....Any stock found at large in any county when three-fourths of the land outside of incorporated cities and towns is under fence shall be treated as estrays and shall be taken up at any time of the year. Anyone violating this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 for each offense. (Ibid)

Every railroad before the end of 1907 shall cause to be constructed on each side of the right-of-way a substantial fence and at each crossing a cattle guard. The railroad company shall not be held liable for stock killed when such fences and crossings shall have been duly made and kept in good repair.

Any person owning or having in custody any vicious animal and allowing the same to escape or run at large, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; and any person may be lawfully entitled to kill such animal to protect his safety. (Laws of Washington State 1907 and 1908)

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