

Poetical.

THE MAN WHO DID NOT KNOW WHEN TO STOP.

BY HARRY MAPES POWERS. A very fair singer was Myklosch Schewp. Except that he never knew when to stop...

Young Folks.

From the Ranches to the Cars.

The collecting and assorting of the herds for the drive Northward, on the fenced ranches in the settled portions of the State...

The stock-grower who has lived remote from the settlements, perhaps seeing no human being except the owner of a neighboring rancho for a year, looks upon the "out-riders" visit as an event in his existence.

He is a most hospitable host, and for several days after his guest's arrival no business is thought of, and a season of feasting riding and hunting is observed.

There is considerable sport and a great deal of hard, rough riding in getting the wild herds together and assorting them.

In a few days everything is in readiness, and the herds are started on their long Northern march.

A route is selected which affords the best pasturage, and is most convenient to the towns, and it is essential that the cattle should reach the end of the drive in prime condition for the market.

There are few incidents to relieve the wearisome weeks that follow. The herds browse listlessly along the six to ten miles a day, following the winding courses of the creeks and rivers, the herders following lazily after to keep them in the general direction northward.

For days and days human habitations are lost sight of, and the drovers and riders are alone in the midst of the great grassy country. Not quite alone, either—I came near forgetting that bright and cheerful companion of the drover, the cow-bird, a brown little fellow about the size of the well-known chipping sparrow, or "chippy," as the boys call him.

Flitting along on the outskirts of the drove, one moment tiding glibly on a tall, swaying weed, the next perching saucily on the tip of a stock's horn, perhaps at night roosting complacently on his back, the cow-bird goes through the long journey from the Texas plains to the Kansas railroad station, whence the cattle are shipped to the east.

Whether the little fellow returns to the east, whether the little fellow returns to Texas to accompany the next herd, or die of grief at separation from their long-herded friends, I cannot say; but I think they must go back, for their cheerful presence is never missed, and their number never grows less.

Although, as I have said, there are few incidents to interrupt the monotony of the drive, the cattle-men sometimes meet with thrilling experiences. In former years Indian attacks were not infrequent, and many a brave band of herders has been surrounded and killed by the savages whose hunting-grounds were encroached upon by the droves.

There is always danger, too, of stampedes in the herds, caused either by the terrific thunder storms and tornadoes which burst upon the great plains without warning, or by the "cattle thieves," bands of white Indians, or half-breed outlaws, who live by stealing stray cattle from the herds, and sell them or kill them for their hides.

Having in his early life encountered one or more of the devastating prairie fires, which sweep over the great, dry pastures almost every fall, the slightest smell of smoke or sight of flames will plunge the steer into a panic of fright, and this well-known circumstance is turned to advantage by the cattle thieves in securing their plunder.

Getting some distance to the westward of a herd on a dark night, the pungent steam of a buffalo robe, and the rugged set of the burning hair is borne down upon the reposing cattle by the wind. The first which gives the alarm, ten thousand pairs of horns are reared aloft in air, and one united shout of terror is heard. Before the herders can mount their horses and check the panic the herd is past control, and the maddened and terrified animals, trampling one another and whatever comes in their way under foot, dash frantically off in the darkness with only the faint light of the stars to guide them.

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