

COWBOYS AT WORK

A Round-Up Day With the Picturesque Herders of the Northern Range.

CUTTING OUT THE CATTLE

The High Art of Catching and Branding a Yearling Steer.

HOW HE MAKES USE OF HIS VOICE.

Minute Description of the Beds Made in the Open Meadows.

DETERMINING OWNERSHIP OF CALVES

Written for the Dispatch.

The Northern Range is the Western stockman's name for a large area of the grazing country in the older Rocky Mountain region. The area comprises Idaho and Wyoming, with adjoining strips of Northern Utah and Colorado, the western ends of Nebraska and Dakota, and the whole of Southern Montana. It contains more square miles than France. It covers almost a larger area than New York and Pennsylvania combined. The aggregate population of this great stamping ground for cattle is not more than 350,000. Within its limits but one town—Cheyenne—can count as many as 10,000 inhabitants. The development of the general resources of the range has hardly yet begun. Of all its products, however, the most valuable are its herds of cattle and horses. Its actual governing power has for 15 years been the Wyoming Stock-growers' Association, under whose advice



CUTTING OUT AND ROPING.

stock laws have been passed by the Legislature and under whose control the stockman's herds have been maintained. Given 200,000 unfenced square miles of the earth's surface, on which range at will 2,000,000 head of cattle, the property of thousands of men, and how may each owner garner his own harvest of beef? This is the grazer's problem on the Northern Range. The roundup begins about the middle of June, often with mud, wet grass and freezing nights, to add to the other miseries of the tenderfoot then breaking in at cowboy life.

Equipment of a Round-Up Party.

The many round-up parties are numbered, and each has its own territory to look after. In one round-up party may be 150 men; in another not more than 50. Each party has a foreman, with two or three assistants, in charge of general work, a ranch foreman having control only when working his own herd with his own men. In a party of 150 men perhaps 80 will be in the company of 20 of the best ranch hands. The rest of the party, consisting of one or two men from more distant ranches, are on hand to look out for cattle far from home, it being an ordinary thing to find strays 200 miles or even more from where they were turned loose the year before. To every 10 to 12 men there is a mess wagon and a cook. A cowboy on a round-up party carries with him a few ponies, the men of each mess usually holding their animals together and taking care of them at night together.

The Music of the Meadows.

The following of a calf while in the hands of a cowboy is a study in fancy with a wealth of descriptive comparisons. When the calf is a tender little fellow, only a few weeks in this cruel world, it seems plaintively to petition its tormentors to have mercy because of its helplessness. It is so young, so weak, so tiny, so innocent—why give it pain? It can but weep and whimper, and its only consolation is the red light in the misty gray of the early dawn. The cowboy is here and there wrestling with a young bucking broncho, some men try to get a start like the bull boy in crack-the-whip, others, in the saddle, are tossing up and down in the air with the motions of a bounding corker.

The Routine of a Day's Work.

Camp has awakened noisily, and the racket goes on until the riders set out. The clanking and rattling of saddling up over the men shout and clatter during their last squall, and then off the troop of riders goes. Camp is in a moment as still as a grave. The men are in a few minutes in the saddle, gathering scattered in cups and plates, and muttering imprecations at the careless cowboys, it being the cowboy's province to growl. The foreman, leading the troop, makes a detour for a point 10 or 15 miles from camp, telling off men right and left by the way, so disposing of them, up ravines and over hills, to cover the grazing ground to be worked over during the day. Each man, thus given his duty, goes off as far as some natural dividing line between ranges—a divide, a mountain, a marsh, a sand waste or a stream. Returning from these outposts, the riders conjointly scour a portion of country into which outside cattle are driven from season to season. They are usually in a spot about midway between camp and the furthest point reached by the most advanced party of the day. The cowboy does all at times rich in adventure. The cattle, usually obeying drovers' calls, such as "Whoop-ee!" "Git along!" "Hay-oo!" head the way they are driven. But outside, gather, drive and occasionally encounter bear and buffalo may tempt the cowboy to turn sportsman for the passing hour.

How to Divide the Cattle on the Day's Grounds are Gathered.

As soon as all the cattle on the day's grounds are gathered, they are held by mounted cowboys in herds numbering 200 or 300 each. Meantime the pony herds have been driven up, the great little laws that have been ridden on the long morning's hunt are unscathed and new mounts are taken by the men.

The Separation of a General Herd of Cattle Into Herds by Ownership is Called "Cutting Out."

With group-up and branded animals the task of rearing his property to each stockman is not so simple, enough, but in the case of young calves ownership is often

A UNION OF NATIONS

On the Silver Question Is the Only Practicable Solution.

WE SHOULD STOP ALL COINING.

This Would Force Europe to Take a Step of Mutual Advantage.

AN ARGUMENT FROM BANKER CLEWS

Written for the Dispatch.

Of all current public questions, I know of none that so vitally affect the future of our financial interests as this one—what shall be the status of silver among the world's currencies? At the present time about one-half of the world's metallic money consists of silver and the other half of gold. It is clear that silver cannot maintain its necessary function as money unless it is invested in a stable and sufficient quantity. Such stability it cannot possess without the intervention of a conventional arrangement, which, with all the force of a uniform law, make a given weight of silver virtually exchangeable for a given weight of gold.

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The provision made for the redemption of such certificates would be the least objectionable. If the Government redeem them in lawful money, it exposes itself to a new demand upon its legal tender notes or its credit. If it redeems them in bullion, it would be a new demand upon the Treasury no less so as to prohibit their use for the purpose, the redemption would have to be made with the bullion. The Government would be committed to the maintenance of silver. The large supply of the metal there suddenly thrown into the hands of the Latin nations alarmed the combination, first, into a limitation of their coinage of silver, and finally, into a suspension of it. The coinage before the war being shut off, the price of silver bullion was cut loose from the relative legal valuation between silver and gold, and was left to drift in accordance with the market demand, and to decline in consequence of an excess of supply over demand. This is a brief explanation of the causes of the present situation of silver. I know of no way of repairing the value of that metal other than by establishing an international union similar to that of the Latin Union, but embracing a wider range of Governments than the combination did, the co-operation of the United States, Canada and Germany being especially important.

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COULD YOU DECIDE.

A nice matter to decide. When a herd is undisturbed a calf usually runs at the side of its mother, and as she is driven out of the little one usually follows her. But if an unbranded calf is taken in charge by the owner in Texas who abandoned all his cattle on the range—to the owner of the largest female herd in the locality. In such cases it is customary to award the calf to the owner of the herd in which it was taken in charge by the owner. The men riding in among the general herds, and selecting an animal of a certain brand, gently drive it out to the guard line of mounted cowboys where it is taken in charge by the owner. A young steersman arrived to a spot a few hundred yards away. There, as the beginning of a herd of his brand, it is held by another cowboy. The men riding in among the general herds proceed quietly, having care to avoid a stampede. When, however, a young steer is urged to the edge of a bunch of cattle he is often sufficiently excited to start out on the prairie on a gallop for liberty, and before heading him of the cowboy in charge of him may have a wild dash for miles and miles in pursuit. So the work proceeds, the general herds dissolving, the individual herds gradually enlarging, until the former disappear.

Branding Not Much of a Sport.

Cutting out finished, the round-up party disperses for the day. The branded cattle on their home range, excepting cows with calves, are turned adrift. Extrays are held in separate bunches until the next day, and when something of a herd belonging in one locality is collected they are started off in charge of some men to where they belong. The brand of a cow is entered on the brand book, and a cow ownership is taken in charge by the cowboys of the firm interested, and are driven toward camp, where the cooks call the men to breakfast. The men are now well along in the afternoon, and all hands are glad to fortify themselves with dinner.

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If done in the open it is especially difficult, ropes then being necessary in handling the calves. In such a case a man rides up toward the cow, and, resting his hands on his long pony tether, skillfully throws one end of a noose either over the head or about a hind foot of the lively little animal, as it trots or gallops. The rope is then pulled the rope a calf increases its speed. The cowboy then winds the hand end of the rope about the pommel of his saddle, the pony suddenly jerks and starts to strain, and the calf falls. A second cowboy hurries up, nooses the calf at the head if it has been caught by a foot, or vice versa, until it stretches its neck out, and the animal, with head and one foot stretched as far apart as possible, is unable to rise.

Checking a Calf With the Rope.

A calf this month old is no toy to play with. When caught it viciously jumps and kicks, and then scurries away, raising a dust like a small whirlwind. The sagacious cowboy, with a long rope, and after for some distance, but at a slightly slower speed. When the rope, gradually straightening, is nearly straight, the pony suddenly jerks and starts to strain, and the calf falls. A second cowboy hurries up, nooses the calf at the head if it has been caught by a foot, or vice versa, until it stretches its neck out, and the animal, with head and one foot stretched as far apart as possible, is unable to rise.

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