

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

OUR NATIVE CATTLE.

SALT LAKE CITY, July 17, 1895.—A good many years ago in Texas there existed a quality of cattle probably as inferior as any that could be found in the United States. This was particularly true of the Panhandle country. There is perhaps no better cow country in the world than the Panhandle of Texas and the ranchers in that district realized that the poor prices received for their product was their own fault and not nature's. They commenced to improve the quality of their stock, buying well bred bulls, and getting rid of the old inferior class, taking care not to inbreed. That was not so very long ago. And today we find that there is no place in the United States where one can buy so many good cattle as in the Panhandle. There are herds there that are all Herefords—others will breed Durhams and Galloways. This year these people were getting very good prices. I know of herds of 2-year-old steers that sold from \$20 to \$23 and some as high as \$25 on the ranch.

The people of Texas have suddenly awakened to another fact, that it is not necessary to sell their cattle to the first contractor that comes along, or flood the market at any particular time of the year, but that they can feed their own cattle and produce the feed themselves to do it with. This year Texas is a great field of corn. It is said they have four times as much corn growing and almost matured, as in any other year. This, with the cotton seed, will make them independent of markets and northern range buyers—old methods in Texas are over—I say all this as a prelude, for it is quite pertinent, as we have today similar conditions to those existing in Texas in times past. Conditions here in the cattle business are ripe for a change and a step in advance.

During the past two years Utah has been subjected to a drain of her cattle. Thousands of cows, calves and young steers have been shipped away and many are still to go. The prices paid to the actual owners and producers average about \$8 for yearling steers, \$11.50 to \$12 for two, \$15 to \$16 for three, and \$18 for four; \$10 per head for cows with the calves thrown in, being more than the average price for the Territory. That is one condition. Another is that when buyers go through Idaho, Nevada or Wyoming, contracting cattle, they put a little clause in their new contracts, "No Utah cattle shall be included with these steers." Another element is that eastern feeders will very seldom undertake to feed corn to a second bunch of native Utah cattle.

Why is all this—what is the matter? It is simple enough and evident to every practical person, that the cattle-growers of this Territory have become so careless in their methods of breeding and producing, that they now find the buyers discriminating against them; and what they do sell is only bringing them, in some cases almost

less than half the price paid for the same aged stock in parts of Texas.

There is no harm in writing thus openly and positively about our own property for the people who come here to deal and buy appreciate the conditions and general average, and it will make no difference. It is always unpleasant to be told our fault; it is not easy sometimes to correct them. Never before have the stock growers had such an opportunity to improve their stock as today. With most of the scrubby stuff shipped out, and a decreased number of cattle on the ranges, owners should avail themselves of the chance to commence breeding good cattle. To begin with there should not be a Holstein bull let loose on the range. In fact the cheapest thing to do with that kind of stock is to shoot it. They are worthless for anything but to give cheese milk. The Jersey cattle should not be allowed to run at large. There are but three classes of cattle that do well here—perhaps four. The Hereford, or White Face, is by long odds the best, is the fattest the year round—strongest and best rustler in winter and sells the best at market, fat or lean, old or young. They are the favorite cattle of the packer, exporter or feeder, and for cattle to run on the range cannot be beaten. Next comes the Durham, or Short horn. These cattle are excellent, and where crossed with the Hereford, make very desirable animal. The black cattle—Galloway, or Pole Angus—are also good, but unless they are kept well bred up are likely to be light in weight and stunted. The Devon cattle are good cattle, but are not sturdy enough to grow well on scant feed and water.

What the people should do is to get some thoroughbred bulls of these different classes—better buy Herefords or Durhams—and start to improving their herds. Don't try to raise so many cattle just now, but save your ranges and improve what you keep. It can be done and now is the opportunity. Systematic effort in this direction for five years would increase the value of the cattle product sixty per cent. A producer cannot expect to be successful if he allows his herds to inbreed—if he overcrowds his range and lets his steer calves run long enough to become staggy. Bulls should not be run more than three years with the same herd. It is a very easy matter to exchange with a neighbor after that length of time has elapsed and it is to his benefit as well as yours.

We have a peculiar condition here in Utah that gives our cattle the best colors of any district I know of—all the Southern countries cannot be beaten for breeding anywhere in the United States; the climate being just right. With a little care Utah cattle can be taken from the bottom of the list and made as famous as the Panhandle of Texas cattle. Why not do it? It will be money in your pocket—a gratification to your taste, and help make our state have a good name.

We can't raise corn in Utah like Texas, but we have an abundance of other resources. We must wake up to our natural advantages and cultivate

every acre. The benches should be made to produce grain and straw—more care should be taken with the hay harvest, and the cattle given the benefit of every pound of feed that can be produced. If you live far from the railway, it is an easy way to get your hay and grain in the cars by feeding it to your live stock. But why feed good grain and hay to miserable, inbred, stunted cattle, that never will be worth much but for the hide and bones? The secret of it is to have the quality. It is that which makes the grower's money—not numbers, but kind. Sixteen dollar yearlings and twenty dollar twos can be produced without any particular trouble—one sixteen dollar yearling is less trouble and expense to produce than two eight dollar yearlings.

A great deal can be said on the most profitable and economic methods of feeding cattle in this country, and I shall try your patience some day with an article on that question, based on the practical experience of a great many of our most successful feeders. A good way to start out is, to this year ship or sell all your old questionable bred bulls and shelly cows. Use the money from the sales to buy some strong new blood of standard grade. As the winter progresses watch your herds—gather in those that are not doing well and feed them a little hay to keep them strong. Unless you have a great deal of feed it is poor policy to try to make beef out of a few steers. The feed is worth three times more to you for your poor stock cattle. Take care of your bulls and feed them in the spring before turning them out. These are simple, little things that we all know. Follow them up and each year improve your herds by purchasing or trading for some new strong blood and it will not be long till you are rewarded for your efforts by the more satisfactory prices paid, to say nothing of the personal satisfaction that any true cattle man feels in having good stock.

A. E. DE RICQUELLE.

NON-MORMON TESTIMONY.

In many papers in the East there appear from time to time disparaging articles in regard to the Latter-day Saints. Having, in many instances, no published denial, these so-called true statements tend to befog the minds of the people at large in regard to the real character of the people called Mormons. My desire in writing you is to tell of the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as I have found them, and in this way to remove, if possible, some of the prejudice existing in the world against them.

The first representatives of your people that called at my home, came here in January, 1894. They were received as cordially as any other ministers would have been; because, although I had read and heard many stories to their belittlement, I had no prejudice. I was hardly prepared though for the surprise that was in store for me. Instead of being ignorant and foolish they were intelligent and refined gentlemen. Instead of promulgating heresies they propounded the everlasting truth