

RANCHING IN CANADA

HOW FINE HORSES AND CATTLE ARE RAISED IN THE BRITISH NORTHWEST.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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CALGARY, Alberta.—Calgary is the capital of the cowboy country of the wild Canadian west. What was once known as the Great American desert extends from Montana north into Canada. It comprises a region more than twice as large as Ohio, running from the Rocky mountains eastward, devoted to grazing. The land though semi-arid is covered with the richest of grasses and it is now supporting hundreds of thousands of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. According to the last census there were a million cattle in Manitoba and the northwest, a little more than a third that many horses, and about 400,000 hogs and sheep. Large herds are now brought from Texas here to be fed and more than 40,000 hogs were shipped on the hoof last year from Calgary to England. Just north of this region there is a dairy country where they are establishing creameries with government assistance, and where they expect to raise butter and cheese for British Columbia and the Orient.

THE GREAT CANADIAN RANCH.

These stockmen claim to have more grazing lands than we have. I have traveled for hundreds of miles east and north of Calgary through a rich prairie country covered with grass, and I am told such lands run south to the United States line. The Canadians say that their possible ranching area is bigger than Texas, and some describe it as equal to six states as large as Pennsylvania.

The most of this country is now let out on government leases. The annual rent is four cents an acre, but the grass is so thin that it takes 20 acres to feed one head of stock, and the government will not permit more than that average number to be grazed on any of the ranches.

Our own cattle country has been greatly overstocked. The grasses have been so cut off that they will not come up and our agricultural department is encouraging reseeded the plains. Here, in Canada, everything is under rigid government supervision. The mounted police patrol the ranches. They enforce the protection of the cattle against diseases, and have dipping stations where all the stock that comes into the country is examined and treated to prevent the introduction of Texas fever and other plagues. These police have veterinary surgeons with them and they watch carefully all cattle from the United States.

A LAND OF FINE STOCK.

Most of the stock raised here is well bred. One thousand dollars is by no means a high price for a bull, and there are cattle sales at Calgary every year which compare favorably with any in the United States. The favorite animal is the Shorthorn, but there are many Friesian and Galloways. The best breeding stock comes from England, and there are some ranchmen who make a specialty of raising choice beef for the English market. The Canadian cattle company, which has 40,000 head on its different ranches, ships its stock on the hoof to England. The animals are all grass fed, and the sanitary regulations are such that they must be killed within eight days after landing in Great Britain.

Sir William Van Horne has a big farm in western Canada which is noted for its fine cattle, and there are many

rich farmers in Manitoba. Right in the heart of the vast belt Thomas Greenway, a former premier of that province, has a farm of 2,000 acres, but he plants only one-half of this in grain and devotes the balance to raising highly-bred Shorthorns. He has now 300, and says they are the most profitable part of his farming operations.

THE ARMOUR OF CANADA.

One of the best known ranching men of the west is Patrick C. Burns of Calgary. He is the Armour of this part of the world, and is sometimes called the cattle king of the British northwest. He shipped 3,500 car loads of beef last year, and he has now about 20,000 head in his yards. He has a big trade with Manitoba, British Columbia and Alaska. At the beginning of the Klondike gold discovery he got one thousand dollars apiece at Dawson for steers, and as much as a dollar a pound for beef on the hoof.

Pat Burns came to Calgary about twenty-five years ago, and began life by plowing up the prairie at so much per acre. He turned his savings into cattle, and let them graze on government lands. As he made more money he bought more cattle, and, to make a long story short, he is now a millionaire and is growing richer and richer. It was in his office in Calgary that I chatted with this man on cattle raising. Said he:

"There has never been such a country for money making as this. All we have to do has been to turn the cattle out on the prairie and let them grow into gold. The climate is such that they can feed out of doors all the year round and the grass fattens them almost as well as grain. I am now shipping to Liverpool stock which have never tasted corn. They are grass fed and their flesh is hard enough to stand the voyage."

"Not as well as grain-fed stock?" asked I.

"Perhaps not," was the reply. "But they cost less to raise and they are worth more money to us."

CANADA CATTLE FOR ENGLAND.

"What can you get for a good steer, Mr. Burns?"

"A four-year-old, fit for the market, will bring \$40 here," was the reply.

"What will it sell for in Liverpool?"

"Seventy-five or eighty dollars. It cost just about \$30 to get it there, for we must send it 2,000 miles by rail and then across the Atlantic ocean. The people who handle such cattle expect to make \$7 or \$8 a head."

"How much do such animals weigh?"

"I have shipped many which have averaged one ton each, and we sell hundreds which will weigh 1,500 pounds. Such beasts are entirely grass fed."

"But will not the stock business now fall off? I understand that the ranches are being cut up into farms."

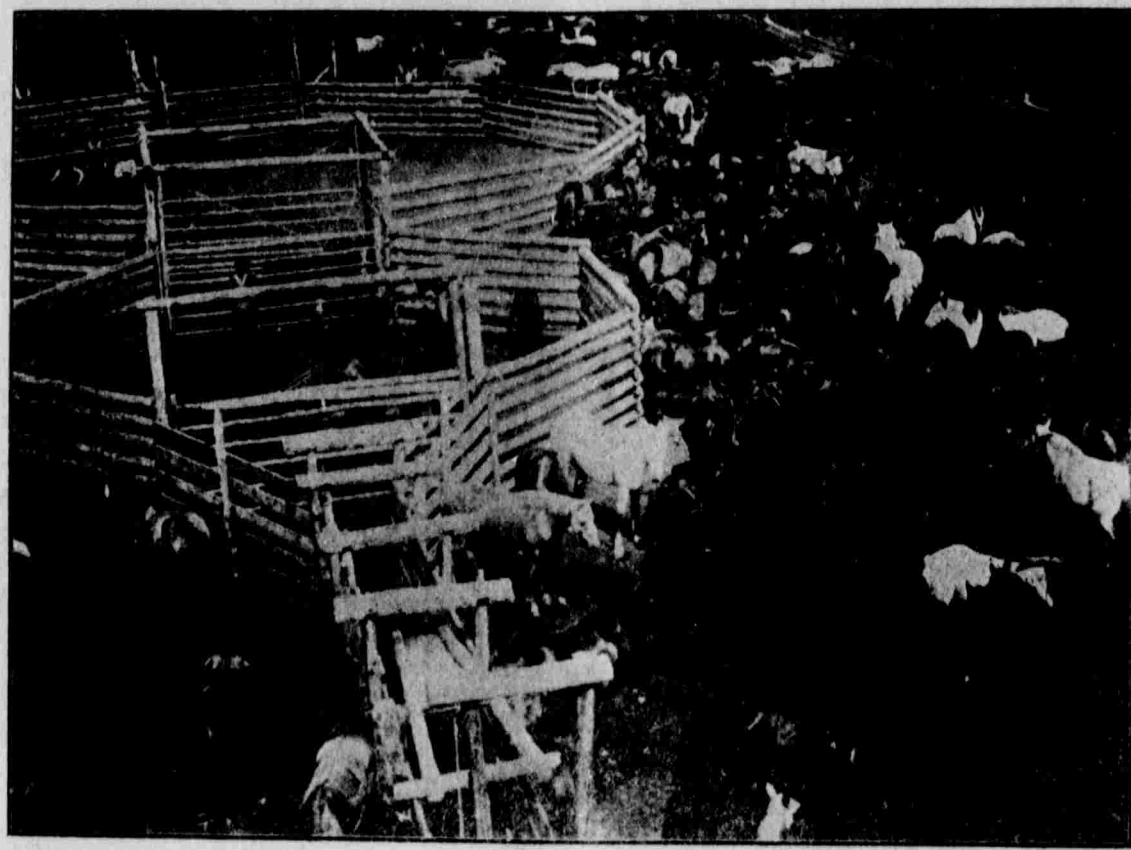
"Yes, that will be the case with ranching pure and simple, although stock raising will increase. It now takes ten acres of wild grass to support one steer; on the farms the same land will support ten. We have now about 15,000 cattle in this vicinity. We shall eventually have 1,000,000."

WHEAT-FED BEEF.

"But what kind of feed can you raise for fattening stock? You are too far north for corn."

"We don't expect to raise corn. We have wheat, oats and barley. Much of the best meat is now made of wheat. The screenings and rough wheat are saved for feed and the cattle graze on the stubble. When wheat is low it is

A Chat with Pat Burns, the Cattle King—Wheat-Fed Beef and Barley-Fed Pork—How Blooded Horses are Reared—A Visit to a Horse Ranch—Stockmen versus the Farmers—How One Chicago Man Kept Off the Cowboys—The Mounted Police.



ALBERTA HORSES IN THE DIVIDING CORRALS. Specially Photographed for the Saturday News by Frank G. Carpenter.

more profitable to feed it than sell it. I know a man who recently tried the experiment of fattening hogs with wheat. He had sixteen and he fed them on wheat that cost 70 cents a bushel. The hogs fattened so easily that his wheat, turned into pork, netted him \$1.25 a bushel. Wheat at 50 cents a bushel will bring far more in pork or beef than at the elevator.

"Barley is another feed that makes good pork," continued Mr. Burns. "It grows well in Canada, and it will to a large extent take the place that corn does in the United States. Our barley-fed hogs will bring several cents more per pound than your corn-fed hogs. I expect to see a barley-pork packing center grow up here."

AMERICAN MEAT IN CANADA.

"Does Canada buy much of our meat?"

"Yes, we get most of our pork from Chicago, and we are also buying veal to fill out our shipments to England. All your meat that comes here pays a tariff

of 1 cent a pound, but even at that your packing arrangements are on such a vast scale that you have so far been able to undersell us. We are also importing poultry into eastern Canada from the United States. I bought in 25 carloads of turkeys last Christmas. Eventually we will raise these things ourselves, and we will be shipping fowls direct to England."

RAISING BLOODED HORSES.

One of the large stock businesses here is horse raising. I saw thousands of horses feeding on the prairie between here and Medicine Hat, and passed large herds on my way north to Edmonton. The horses are fine looking. The day of the broncho and the broncho buster has passed, and the animals now breeding are handled by the stockmen, so that they are comparatively tame when ready to break. Nearly all the best known horses are represented. There are Clydes from Scotland, thoroughbred Shires from England and Percherons from France.

Some of the ranchers are raising trotting stock, and others park saddlers for our city markets. Robin Adair, which recently took the first prize at the New York horse show, was reared just outside of Calgary, and near by there is a stockman who has 1,200 Percheron mares. There are stallion shows here every year, and they compare with the cattle shows in quality.

A VISIT TO A HORSE RANCH.

I drove out over the prairie yesterday to the Robinson horse ranch. This is devoted to rearing Clydesdale and Shires for the markets of British Columbia and eastern Canada. These horses are in great demand in the mining regions, some of them going as far north as Alaska. Leaving Calgary, we drove for several hours over a rolling prairie covered with a thick grass, now cured into hay. It is brown on top, but green near the roots. The horses feed on such grass all the year round. They are pastured in the midst of the winter, even when the ground is covered

ed with snow. They paw the snow away with their feet, and, as the cowboys tell me, come out bog-fat in the spring.

The ranch buildings here consist of a dwelling worth perhaps about \$2,000, a barn the size of a country livery stable, and a number of corrals. The horses live on the prairie and the buildings are comparatively cheap. The owner of this ranch, although he is worth half a million dollars, lives as simply as the ordinary store clerk of one of our cities. His house here is comfortable, but not pretentious, and during our call his wife apologized for her appearance, saying that she had just come from superintending the dressing of some hogs which had been killed that morning. She chatted freely about her ranch life, saying that she preferred it greatly to that of San Francisco, where her girlhood was spent.

HOW THEY REAR HORSES.

In a chat with Mr. Robinson about horse rearing, he said:

"Our horses are reared of themselves. We graze them for a part of the year on the prairie here near the Elbow river, and later on drive them to the foot hills of the Rockies, where we have another large grazing territory. We find it best to let the horses hustle for themselves. They come out stronger and are worth more than grain-fed stock."

"We formerly paid considerable attention to breeding, keeping the stock up for that purpose. Of late years we have turned the stallions out with the horses and let them hustle for themselves. We divide the horses up in droves of about fifty each and give every drove a stallion, keeping the droves separated for two or three weeks to allow them to become acquainted with each other. The males are then driven together into one herd and they pasture in common. Every stallion, however, will take care of his own mares. He will not allow any of the others of his sex to come near them and will fight for them on the slightest provocation."

DRAFT HORSES PAY BEST.

"What breeds of horses are the most profitable?"

"We can make more money from draft horses than from any others. I have about 300 four-year-old animals which will weigh 1,500 pounds apiece. Those horses will bring \$400 a pair, and they are far easier to raise than the thoroughbreds and require less trouble to train them for the market."

"What breeds are your draft animals?"

"They are chiefly Clydesdales. I like them better than the Percherons. Their limbs are cleaner and they are better for general purpose horses."

"How are they broken?"

"We have little trouble as to that," replied the horse rancher. "I have one boy who has broken more than a thousand horses. We first get them used to the halter. This is a matter of a couple of hours. After that we hitch up each animal with a quiet old slager and drive the team about for a day or so."

"Later still we harness the horse up with another horse of the same age which we are training. We put on the brakes and let the colts go as fast as they please, holding tight to the reins. The pulling of the wagon soon tires them out and in a short time they are ready for general use."

STOCK MEN VS. THE FARMERS.

I find somewhat the same friction between the cattle men and sheep men here as in the United States. The gov-

ernment regulates where the sheep ranches are to be and the result is that there are fewer sheep than cattle or horses.

The cattle men also object to the stock country. Within the past few years it has been found that almost all of these semi-arid lands will raise winter wheat, and a large part of such lands are being turned into farms. I had fenced in a thousand acres of such grazing country and was about to raise winter wheat. The stock men warned him to leave and cut his fences. After they had done this several times he called upon the head of the mounted police, Col. Saunders, and said:

"I have come to see if my rights cannot be protected. I am not a Canadian citizen, but I am an American who has bought property in Canada. I have a clear title to my farm, but your stock men say that I shall not till it and they have cut my fences again and again."

"I think we can protect you," replied the chief. "I will send you an officer and he will swear in your hired men as members of our police force. After that they can arrest any one who dares touch your fences or destroy your crop. If the intruders resist arrest and your men shoot them in carrying out their duties that act will be perfectly legal."

Thereupon the Chicago man went back to his ranch. A few days later his hands were made temporary members of the mounted police, and from that time on he had no further trouble.

THE CANADIAN COWBOY.

I would say, however, that the Canadian cowboy is a far more orderly creature than his American brother. He lacks the picturesqueness of our frontiersman and he never dashes into the settlements to shoot up the towns. His system of mounted police which prevails throughout western Canada results in good order being everywhere kept. The farmers are regularly educated. Indeed, the general order in both town and country is superior to that of the western parts of the United States.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

CURED CONSUMPTION.

Mrs. B. W. Evans, Charwater, Kan., writes: "My husband lay sick for three months. The doctors said he had quick consumption. We procured a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, and it cured him. That was six years ago and since then we have always kept a bottle in our house. We cannot do without it. For coughs and colds it has no equal." 25c. per bottle. Sold by Z. C. M. 1. Drug Co., 112 and 114 South Main Street.

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