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Cattle Drives.

It has been customary in this county, as often as once or twice each year, and also in some other portions of the Territory, for some of the people to turn out and drive all the stock that could be found on the range within certain limits, to some place where it could be corralled, in order to enable some individuals who had horses or cattle that were running at large and which they could not readily find, to get them with less trouble than to hunt them up on the wide, extending plains on which they had been turned to graze.

This wholesale driving business has unquestionably, in many instances, been attended with good results to some, but it certainly has not been productive of much good feeling on the part of those who by such operations have had their stock unnecessarily and against their will driven from its accustomed range and turned out twenty or thirty miles, more or less, from the place where it had been running and driven from, after the corraling operation had been consummated, to go or stray off, if the owner was not on hand to see after it, where he might not soon, and perhaps never, find it again.

It has also been alleged by many who have been opposed to such operations, that the gathering up of such vast herds of cattle and bands of horses and mules as are generally grazing on the range west of Jordan, in Great Salt Lake county, affords excellent opportunities for a certain class of stock-dealers to become seized of animals without having to pay for them in gold or silver, or giving in exchange any valuable consideration. One thing is certain: whether that kind of dealers obtain either cattle, mules or horses on such occasions, not their own, or whether they do not, every lazy, worthless scamp within hearing of a "drive" is always in attendance and unquestionably finds out, if he does not obtain any at the time, who has animals to dispose of on such terms as will suit him.

Not a year has passed, since these mountain valleys have been inhabited by the whites, without more or less of the scape-graces who have been passing across the continent or have fled from justice in the States or California, remaining somewhere in the Territory during the winter season and, before leaving in the spring, such have invariably helped themselves to an outfit, generally at the expense of the honest citizens, and those who have been thus *tithed*, and who have in addition contributed largely—not willingly—to the support of domestic thieves, which, though they have not been very numerous, are exceedingly fond of good animals and fat beef, are very sensitive when mention is made of stock gathering or stock-driving movements and strongly protest against such operations.

These remarks have been suggested by an effort that has recently been made to get up one of those stock-gathering concerns in this county, which was interdicted by the county officers, who were applied to by many citizens who were opposed to such things, particularly at this time when thieving is the order of the day with the class of people to which reference has been made, and which at this time is very numerous, having been on the increase ever since protection has been extended to them by the federal judiciary of the Territory.

To punish them according to law, for offences against property under such circumstances is somewhat difficult, and no measures should be entered into that will have a tendency to further their nefarious designs against the property of the citizens, and certainly nothing could be more favorable to such fellows than to have all the stock in the country gathered up, so that they could make selections.

If those who feel aggrieved because the intended "drive" was inhibited will reflect for a moment, they cannot but see the injustice that might be expected to result from a general stock-moving operation at this time and until

the laws of the Territory can be strictly enforced against those who break them, and especially against those who are habituated to taking that which is not their own, without the interference in their behalf of some power that is professedly friendly to such operations.

Important Mail Arrival.

The "Way Mail," that is to say, an ox wagon load, as reported, of the mail bags that have been left by the way side, some of them nearly or quite six months, arrived on Wednesday night the 25th ult., and from that time till Monday afternoon we were daily in the receipt of a variety of old papers and other documents, which were delivered as fast as the clerks in the Post Office could distribute the heterogeneous mass, comprising dates from the first of November, 1859, to April 4, 1860.

The news brought by this extra express or freight wagon was very important. The meeting of Congress in four weeks from the date of some of the papers was announced, but fears were entertained that the House would not be able to effect an organization very soon, unless one of the three contending parties could purchase, or sell out to one of the other divisions of that incorruptible body, the immediate representatives of the people in the National Legislature.

The meeting of Congress, the struggle for the speakership, the harmonious expressions of the members from time to time, with the proceedings of both Houses for four months, are graphically sketched under various dates, and some of our especial friends, who have visited our sanctum within the last few days, have feasted on the variety of information they have derived from the perusal of some of the papers and documents thus received and of no particular use excepting to loafers and for waste paper.

After this mass of rubbish had accumulated in our office till it was nearly filled up, we gazed upon it with a degree of pride that our country was so great and glorious, and that the Post Office Department and the Mail Contractors were so efficient in the transmission of the mails, and particularly that after they had been paid for the service before it had been performed, they should cause the "way mail" to be brought in at this late date. From what has been done there is a great probability that other arrivals of the kind may be expected in due time, and we may even see some of the magazines that have been forwarded to us but not received during the last six months.

Surely ours is a great country, but there are some who believe that if the officers of the Government, from the Chief Magistrate down to the lowest appointee, were not so assiduous, in their efforts to support and sustain partisans and contractors, and would pay more attention to the wants of the people by extending to them their constitutional rights, and insisting that contracts entered into with the Government for the performance of any service for their benefit should be fulfilled, it would give much better satisfaction.

Departure for the States.

On Friday last a company consisting of some thirty ox wagons, with three and four pairs of oxen to each wagon, started from the encampment on Big Canyon creek, near the mouth of the canyon, where they had been collecting several days, for the Missouri river for freight, intending to return this season.

There were also six or seven mule teams started with them, but after getting over the mountains they will probably go on ahead, and leave the ox teams to jog along at their leisure as they will be more likely to make the trip successfully by moving slowly, especially at the commencement of the journey. Capt. J. W. Young is in charge of the ox train, whose experience in traveling across the plains will be of material benefit to the company, if his advice and instructions are strictly heeded.

There were quite a number of passengers, not apostates, went with the company, going to various parts of the United States and some to England and other parts of the old world, most of whom are not expecting to return this season.

Two Men Shot at Springville.

On Friday morning last, Mr. Jesse P. Steele, an officer of Springville, Utah county, having a warrant for the arrest of one Jack Cole, accused of mule stealing, went to the house of Cole's father where he was staying to make

the arrest, taking with him three other men whom he had summoned as a posse.

Cole was found in bed, and on being informed by Steele of the object of his visit, got up and put on his clothes and said that he was ready to go. Steele asked him for his arms. Cole replied that he had none in that room but if he would let him step into another apartment he would get his pistols and deliver them up. To this Steele [unwisely] consented, for as soon as Cole got hold of his pistols he girded them to his body and refused to surrender them, but said he would go along.—They all stepped out of the door, Steele still insisting that the pistols should be given up to him, and Cole refusing to comply with the demand.

They had proceeded only a few steps, before Cole watching his opportunity, drew both pistols and pointing them at Levi Davis, one of the posse who accompanied Steele, snapped them simultaneously, but only one went off; the ball striking Davis on the right collar bone, glancing downwards, wounded him severely. Cole proceeded to cock the pistol that missed fire, but before he got ready to shoot again, he received several shots from the posse, one ball striking him on the head, one in the face, another passing through the fleshy part of one arm, and two piercing his body, inflicting as supposed, fatal wounds, but he was not dead on Sunday afternoon.

Cole is represented by a man with whom we have conversed (and who is well acquainted with his history) as being a reputed horse thief. He returned from California, where he had been for several years, with Major Prince's train about one year ago. While in California he was convicted of horse stealing and sentenced to one year's imprisonment on the Prison Brig at Sacramento, from which, after serving the State about nine months, he escaped, but was retaken by the sheriff of San Bernardino county; he subsequently succeeded in getting away from his captor and fled to the Mojave, where he fell in with the train of Major Prince, Paymaster to the Army, on his return from California with the means for paying off the troops at Camp Floyd.

LATER FROM SPRINGVILLE.

A gentleman from Springville reported to us yesterday, that Cole, who was shot on the morning of the 27th ult. was yet alive when he left there on Monday morning; but, from the nature of his wounds, the surgeon in attendance believed that it was not possible for him to survive. Davis was on the mend, with a fair prospect of recovering.

Our informant further stated that there were eighteen mules stolen from the government by Cole and two or three accomplices, nine of which were recovered; but the others they succeeded in getting away without being captured. He also said that there was a certain ministerial functionary at Springville at the time of the shooting, who was quite indignant at the proceedings against Cole and threatened the magistrate who issued the warrant and those who went to serve it with judicial vengeance.

He further stated that there were in his vicinity many who believed that there was some complicity in the wholesale thieving operations that have been going on for some time past in this part of the Territory, by which the government and the citizens have suffered greatly in the loss of horses and mules, that could not be investigated very closely without disclosing the facts, and that when known, certain government officials whose names are on the civil list, and who seem to sympathize with those implicated in acts of theft, would not occupy a very enviable position in the eyes of the public.

Escaped.

A prisoner, named Davis Skeen, who had been arrested in Utah county, on a warrant issued on an indictment found against him by the grand jury of that county, made his escape from custody at Provo city, as we are informed, on the 25th ult.

The guards, it seems, contrary to instructions, had allowed the prisoner to leave his place of confinement and to speak with some of his former associates (who no doubt had gone there for the express purpose of assisting in his escape) and, taking advantage of a moment when the eyes of the guard were not upon him, he ran to a house near by where a horse, which no doubt had been previously provided for the purpose, was waiting, with pistol and knife hanging on the saddle, succeeded in mounting and leaving the guard, who

fired at him but apparently without effect; though a man who met him afterwards between Provo and Pleasant Grove, reported that he saw blood on his person.

Skeen, it will be remembered, was one of the number that was released from custody last fall by his honor Judge Eckels, indicted by a grand jury in Cedar county for a similar offence.

Thos. Nutt was fined one hundred dollars and costs, by the probate court of Utah county, on the 23d ult., for larceny.

Crickets.

Reports from North, South and West represent that in some places the crickets are very numerous, and fears are entertained that they will make sad havoc with the crops where they have made their appearance in countless numbers.

In the vicinity of the upper settlement on Kay's Creek, Davis county, myriads of those destructive creatures are said to have hatched and they have already commenced the work of destruction and if they do not leave for some other place, as they sometimes do when large enough to travel, the presumption is that they will require all the grass and grain in that neighborhood for subsistence and will take it, despite the efforts of the inhabitants to prevent them from so doing.

At Fillmore and other places in Millard county, where they made their appearance very early in the spring, they have gone to the mountains, as reported, and the fears of the people in relation to their depredations have measurably ceased, tho' they may return again and sweep all before them. They are enemies which agriculturists have good reasons to fear when they are in the vicinity of their fields, but it is said, by those who have had experience in those matters, that they are more easily subdued than grasshoppers.

Latest from the Coal Mines.

A few days since Mr. John Spriggs, one of the principal operators in the Weber coal mine, called at our office and made a favorable report concerning the quality and quantity of the coal, and exhibited some very good specimens, equal to any that has ever been brought to the city from the San Pete or other mines in the Territory.

He reports that two tunnels have been cut into the mountain to a considerable distance, one of which passes through three veins of coal from five to six feet thick, and the other through two veins, one six and the other about twelve feet in thickness. The upheaving of the earth at some period of time has so changed the horizontality of the strata that in drifting into the mountain at the base, on a level, the veins, which are at various distances apart, are passed through successively, their downward inclination being at an angle of some forty or fifty degrees. The coal can be taken out very easily, and Mr. Spriggs is of the opinion that without extending them any further into the mines that fifty tons of coal daily can be delivered at the entrance of the tunnels at a cost of about six dollars per ton.

FOR THE HISTORIANS.—Mr. Ray, or Rae, aged about 60 years, a farmer residing eight miles from Nauvoo, on the Pontoosuc road, was whipped with hickory withes by a mob on the 7th Msy, 1846, and also a neighbor of Mr. Ray received a similar beating. One of the two died.

Any person or persons in possession of information relating to the circumstances are respectfully requested to communicate it at the Historian's Office.

The Historian wishes to learn their full names for history, also the names of witnesses and any incidents concerning those cruel transactions.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—On Wednesday last, Jeter Clinton, Esq., acting coroner, held an inquest on the body of Mrs. Collett or Collard, of whom mention was made in last week's issue as having been shot on the morning of the 24th ult., in the 13th Ward, she having died of the wound in the course of the night after the unfortunate occurrence. The jury after hearing all the evidence that could be adduced in relation to the affair rendered a verdict of "accidental death," which unquestionably was the fact, but such accidents ought not to transpire, and persons cannot be too careful when handling the weapons of death.

Pigs! Pigs! Pigs!!!

Two or three young PIGS will be received at this office, on News subscription, if delivered soon.