

# Brand Inspector's Report

The following explanation is made in order that all will clearly understand the annual report of the Brand Inspector: The Wyoming Stock Growers Association has brand inspectors employed to operate at the following open markets, namely, South Omaha, Chicago, Kansas City, Sioux City, St. Joseph and Denver, and at Indian agencies where cattle are sold to contractors. The work of the brand inspectors at the open markets is continuous throughout the year; at the Indian agencies only at certain times, probably two or three times a year.

The Nebraska Stock Growers Association pays to the Wyoming Stock Growers Association a stated amount (\$4,000.00 per year) to secure the inspection of Nebraska cattle by the inspectors employed by the Wyoming S. G. A. By so doing, the Nebraska S. G. A. secures a practically perfect service at an expense considerably less than it would cost to employ brand inspectors independent of the other association.

The South Dakota Stock Growers Association secures brand inspection on the same plan, hence it appears in the report of the brand inspector.

When branded cattle, owned by members of the association, are found in shipments where they do not belong, either thru having been stolen or being strays, they are cut out and sold separate, the proceeds being sent direct to the rightful owner by the commission men handling the shipment or else sent to the secretary of the association and by him delivered to the owner. In case of dispute or doubt, the money is held by the chief brand inspector until the question of ownership has been definitely settled.

This system of brand inspection has greatly reduced the amount of "rustling" in Nebraska, and if all stockmen were members of the association would, in connection with the enforcement of laws pertaining to county inspectors, etc., practically wipe out cattle stealing in this state. Even without any stealing, the system of brand inspection is worth many times its cost in returning to members of the association the proceeds of cattle called "strays." Right here we wish to call particular attention to the recommendations by Chief Brand Inspector C. L. Talbot, following the statistical report.

We wish to state further by way of explanation that the fiscal year of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association is from April 1st to March 31st of each year. The table showing cattle inspected from March 31 to May 31 is for Nebraska and is given to bring the report down to the first of the month in which the annual convention of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association was held.

## Membership in Association

A great deal can be truthfully said regarding the benefits of membership in the Nebraska Stock Growers Association and reasons why ranchmen of the central and western parts of the state should join, but there is one thing in particular of which we wish to speak, and that is brand inspection. Every cattleman of Nebraska who has reason for using a brand should be a member of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, and if he rightly understood the proposition he would join, unless already a member.

Not only does the money returned annually to members of the association thru brand inspection amount to many times as much as the total of the annual dues of all members, but this system of brand inspection has reduced the amount of cattle stealing to a very small fraction of what it would be if the N. S. G. A. did not exist. Furthermore, if all cattlemen of the ranch country would adopt brands, have them recorded in the office of the secretary of state, as provided by law, and then join the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, cattle stealing in the ranch country could be eradicated.

There is another source of great loss to ranchmen without the protection that comes thru membership in the association, and that is by "strays", as they are called, cattle that get into the shipments of men to whom they do not belong. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1915, the amount returned to members thru the inspection provided for by membership in the association was \$67,200.88. The annual report of the secretary-treasurer was made at the convention held in June, and shows the amount received from membership fees and dues for one year to be \$4,802.96. Thus for every dollar paid into the association on fees and dues the members received, on an average, fourteen dollars from strays that they would have otherwise lost. Taking the last five or six years together, the amount returned from strays has averaged in proportion to the amount paid in even larger than for the last year. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1913, the amount returned to members from strays averaged about fifty dollars for every dollar paid on membership fees and dues.

South Omaha, Nebraska, June 15, 1915.

Mr. President, Members of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with pleasure that I appear before you to read my annual report of the work done at South Omaha, and have the opportunity to make a few remarks on the value of the work that this Association is doing for its members and the stock growers of Nebraska.

## Cattle Inspected by Months for the Year Ending March 31, 1915

| Year      | NEBRASKA | WYOMING | SO. DAKOTA | TOTAL  |
|-----------|----------|---------|------------|--------|
| 1914      | 5942     | 808     | 619        | 7369   |
| April     | 5888     | 420     | 280        | 6688   |
| May       | 5639     | 276     | 556        | 6471   |
| June      | 10096    | 2119    | 1768       | 13983  |
| July      | 28018    | 19631   | 5810       | 53459  |
| August    | 59389    | 29636   | 7493       | 96518  |
| September | 41908    | 30059   | 7252       | 79219  |
| October   | 19404    | 12243   | 4944       | 36591  |
| November  | 5570     | 7322    | 3082       | 15974  |
| December  | 5413     | 1741    | 1141       | 8295   |
| 1915      | 6255     | 1377    | 216        | 7848   |
| January   | 9249     | 811     | 1124       | 11284  |
| TOTAL     | 205791   | 106434  | 34388      | 246610 |

## Total Strays by Months

| Year      | NEBRASKA | WYOMING | SO. DAKOTA | TOTAL |
|-----------|----------|---------|------------|-------|
| 1914      | 22       | 13      | 4          | 39    |
| April     | 8        | 5       | 0          | 13    |
| May       | 9        | 2       | 0          | 11    |
| June      | 77       | 9       | 111        | 283   |
| July      | 250      | 2158    | 64         | 2472  |
| August    | 280      | 2545    | 216        | 3041  |
| September | 286      | 2249    | 164        | 2699  |
| October   | 143      | 1180    | 33         | 1356  |
| November  | 27       | 622     | 30         | 679   |
| December  | 5        | 18      | 3          | 27    |
| 1915      | 0        | 30      | 2          | 32    |
| January   | 0        | 40      | 0          | 40    |
| TOTAL     | 1108     | 8957    | 627        | 10692 |

## Nebraska Strays for Year Ending March 31, 1915

|                      | Calves | Bulls | Steers | Cows | Total | Value       |
|----------------------|--------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------------|
| Returns to Secretary | 1      | 5     | 137    | 46   | 192   | \$11,645.48 |
| Returns to Com. Men  | 49     | 54    | 466    | 347  | 916   | 55,555.40   |
| TOTAL                | 50     | 59    | 603    | 393  | 1105  | \$67,200.88 |

## Strays Other Associations

|                      | Calves | Bulls | Steers | Cows | Total | Value        |
|----------------------|--------|-------|--------|------|-------|--------------|
| Returns to Secretary | 16     | 28    | 1180   | 210  | 1434  | \$98,537.30  |
| Returns to Com. Men  | 84     | 136   | 5993   | 2927 | 8150  | \$59,618.82  |
| TOTAL                | 100    | 164   | 7083   | 2237 | 9584  | \$658,156.12 |

## Grand Total for Nebr., Wyo., So. Dak., Colo., and Mont.

|           | Calves | Bulls     | Steers | Cows | Total | Value        |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|--------------|
| 1883-1900 | 42.09  | 1907-1908 | 320.91 |      |       |              |
| 1900-1901 | 37.09  | 1908-1909 | 34.40  |      |       |              |
| 1901-1902 | 26.70  | 1909-1910 | 37.91  |      |       |              |
| 1902-1903 | 29.50  | 1910-1911 | 47.42  |      |       |              |
| 1903-1904 | 23.40  | 1911-1912 | 40.53  |      |       |              |
| 1904-1905 | 27.66  | 1912-1913 | 53.55  |      |       |              |
| 1905-1906 | 28.61  | 1913-1914 | 64.75  |      |       |              |
| 1906-1907 | 30.65  | 1914-1915 | 69.65  |      |       |              |
| TOTAL     | 150    | 226       | 7686   | 2630 | 10692 | \$725,357.00 |

## Average for Calves, Bulls, Steers and Cows for 16 Years

| Year      | Calves | Bulls     | Steers | Cows | Total | Value        |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|--------------|
| 1883-1900 | 42.09  | 1907-1908 | 320.91 |      |       |              |
| 1900-1901 | 37.09  | 1908-1909 | 34.40  |      |       |              |
| 1901-1902 | 26.70  | 1909-1910 | 37.91  |      |       |              |
| 1902-1903 | 29.50  | 1910-1911 | 47.42  |      |       |              |
| 1903-1904 | 23.40  | 1911-1912 | 40.53  |      |       |              |
| 1904-1905 | 27.66  | 1912-1913 | 53.55  |      |       |              |
| 1905-1906 | 28.61  | 1913-1914 | 64.75  |      |       |              |
| 1906-1907 | 30.65  | 1914-1915 | 69.65  |      |       |              |
| TOTAL     | 150    | 226       | 7686   | 2630 | 10692 | \$725,357.00 |

The question is often asked, What is inspection? How done? And what benefits are derived from it?

Inspection is a careful examination of all branded cattle received at the various stock yards to ascertain if the brands are owned by the shipper, and in case they are not, to require bills of sale or other authority for all cattle owned by members of this or other associations. This work is carried on by the different associations and State Boards of Live Stock Commissions through inspectors located at the market points during the entire year.

The work is so divided among the inspectors at the stock yards as to give the best service with the least delay to the weighing of the cattle.

When strays are found the shipper if present and in his absence the commission firm selling the cattle, are notified as soon as possible. A tally for all strays claimed is put into the hands of the commission firm as soon as it can be done after the work is finished in the yards.

The object in notifying the shipper or his commission firm is that the animal or animals may be seen that are claimed by the Inspector. It has been the experience of all Inspectors that, when the shipper can be shown the animal claimed, the ownership can be adjusted without trouble, and in most cases to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Under the rules of the various associations, inspectors are required to collect the proceeds for all stray cattle owned by members of the associations, and send them to the secretary of the association of which the owner is a member.

Any member can have his proceeds sent direct to him or placed in any bank or with any commission firm by filing a written order with the Inspector at any market point. My experience in the yards leads me to advise that all stray money should go through the hands of the secretary of the Association. This gives a check on all who are handling your cattle. When shippers claim to have bought cattle and are without bills of sale the commission firms are allowed to hold the proceeds for a reasonable time to allow the shipper to produce his authority.

Allow me at this time to say a word to the shipper.

If you have bills of sale or other authority give or send them to your commission firm or the Inspector. If present do not fail to hand your authority to your commission firm or to the Inspector as soon as you arrive in the yards. By so doing you will save the Inspector work and at the same time put money into your own pocket, then you will have no complaint to make that your cattle are being unnecessarily disturbed or detained. If you sell cattle vent them or give bills of sale, thus avoid having the proceeds held until authority is produced. We take up the bills of sale so you are in no danger of having them used again.

## Benefits

What have the stock growers, as well as the commission firms, derived from inspection at South Omaha and other markets?

For the year ending March 31, 1915, there was sent to the secretary of this Association \$11,645.48 for 192 strays and during the same time the proceeds for 916 were sent direct by the commission firms to the owners valued at \$55,555.40, or a total of 1108 head, worth \$67,200.88.

The following report is the sum total of cattle inspected for the past twenty years for Wyoming and South Dakota, and for sixteen years for Nebraska:

| No. Insp'd | Proceeds to Secs | Proceeds to Com. Men | Total for State     |
|------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2454226    | 45915            | \$1874047.37         | 117950 \$4958017.37 |
| 1662949    | 15936            | 578164.78            | 43854 \$643253.22   |
| 2898979    | 2935             | 128529.25            | 22302 \$36980.91    |
| TOTAL      | 7016154          | 64786                | \$2580741.40        |

In addition to above, 920566 head were inspected for Colorado, and 451381 head for Montana.

This statement is correct as can be shown by the tabulated reports on file with the secretary.

No one can say what part of this would have been paid to the owners had there been no inspection, but we can say without fear of successful contradiction, that the work of Inspectors, with the aid of a pair of clippers, has proven the ownership of hundreds of cattle that would not have been paid to the owners.

Mistakes can be made by the most careful shipper, who when strays are shown to them they are willing to pay for them, even if the owner is not a member of this Association.

Many have the impression that the recording of a brand with the Secretary of State at Lincoln carries with it inspection. This is not true. The only way to have inspection at the market points is by becoming a member of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association.

I desire at this time to call your attention to the brand laws as published in your official paper, The Alliance Herald, under date of May 27, 1915.

You who do not assist this Association by your money and moral support can not reasonably expect those who do to render you any assistance in the recovery of your strayed or stolen cattle at the market points. These statements should appeal to every thinking man in the stock business in Nebraska, and especially to those who are not members of this Association.

I trust I have been able to show that inspection is not only valuable, but necessary to the successful carrying on the live stock business in the great state of Nebraska.

I thank you.

C. L. TALBOT.

| Sixteen Years' Summary Inspection Nebraska Cattle |          |           |                  |        |                      |        |              |        |         |  |        |
|---|----------|-----------|------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|--|--------|
| Date  | No. Head | Inspected | Estrays          |        | Estrays              |        | Estrays      |        | Estrays |  | Totals |
|   |          |           | Proceeds to Sec. | Amount | Proceeds to com. men | Amount | Head         | Amount |         |  |        |
| 1899-00   | 88105    | 149       | 6271.46          | 415    | 17467.35             | 644    | 23,738.81    |        |         |  |        |
| 1900-01   | 107098   | 85        | 3190.66          | 433    | 16059.97             | 519    | 19,250.03    |        |         |  |        |
| 1901-02   | 123341   | 75        | 2603.11          | 411    | 10973.70             | 486    | 12,976.81    |        |         |  |        |
| 1902-03   | 198832   | 64        | 1888.40          | 1061   | 31299.50             | 1125   | 33,187.90    |        |         |  |        |
| 1903-04   | 181671   | 143       | 3348.05          | 776    | 18133.45             | 919    | 21,481.50    |        |         |  |        |
| 1904-05   | 125853   | 105       | 2904.19          | 847    | 23217.38             | 952    | 26,221.57    |        |         |  |        |
| 1905-06   | 145237   | 113       | 3183.62          | 992    | 28381.13             | 1105   | 31,564.75    |        |         |  |        |
| 1906-07   | 179251   | 97        | 2982.54          | 1356   | 41490.10             | 1453   | 44,472.74    |        |         |  |        |
| 1907-08   | 132302   | 104       | 3215.25          | 1623   | 50166.93             | 1727   | 53,382.18    |        |         |  |        |
| 1908-09   | 181272   | 105       | 3921.17          | 1299   | 43643.60             | 1394   | 47,564.77    |        |         |  |        |
| 1909-10   | 286670   | 184       | 6941.24          | 2491   | 94433.81             | 2675   | 101,375.05   |        |         |  |        |
| 1910-11   | 311641   | 388       | 18400.74         | 1687   | 79997.54             | 2075   | 98,398.28    |        |         |  |        |
| 1911-12   | 274309   | 426       | 17267.42         | 1570   | 63632.10             | 1996   | 80,899.52    |        |         |  |        |
| 1912-13   | 221542   | 426       | 22810.03         | 5539   | 296613.45            | 5965   | 319,423.48   |        |         |  |        |
| 1913-14   | 196093   | 278       | 18556.39         | 986    | 65815.50             | 1264   | 84,371.89    |        |         |  |        |
| 1914-15   | 205791   | 192       | 11645.48         | 916    | 55555.40             | 1108   | 67,200.88    |        |         |  |        |
| TOTAL   | 2898979  | 2941      | 125314.00        | 22402  | 936980.91            | 25337  | 1,065,510.16 |        |         |  |        |

## BRAND INSPECTOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

April 1 to May 31, 1915

Covering the two months from the close of the fiscal year and the first of the month in which the annual convention was held:

No. Cattle Inspected in April, 5416. No. Inspected in May, 10432.

Total Cattle Inspected in the two months, 15848.

|       | Calves | Bulls | Steers | Cows | Total |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|-------|
| April |        |       |        |      |       |
| May   |        |       | 20     | 1    | 21    |

## Assault Case Dismissed

When Dave McIntosh, a negro, failed to appear Monday morning at the trial of Jim Donovan, Judge Roberts dismissed the case. McIntosh swore out a complaint last Saturday against Donovan for assault, his testimony being to the effect that he went into Donovan's restaurant, ate a meal, and there arose a dispute over the change. While said dispute was in progress, Donovan locked the front door, according to McIntosh, and then Donovan knocked him out by hitting him over the head with a piece of iron. The hearing was held Saturday, but was continued over until Monday morning. McIntosh in

## Beginner's Band

Parties desiring to join a "Beginner's Band" or wishing to take private instruction on any band instrument are requested to meet me at the band room in the city hall, Saturday night at 7:30.

W. A. WILSON,  
Director Alliance Band.

Many people think they are psychic when they are only seaisick.

# Convention Proceedings

## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 21st annual session of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association was called to meet at Alliance, Nebraska, on the 15th day of June, 1915; and pursuant to such call the Executive Committee met at the office in the rear of the First National Bank at 2 o'clock p. m., June 15, 1915.

Robert Graham in the chair; Chas. C. Jameson, Secretary and Treasurer. The following members of the Executive Committee answered to roll call: Rubin Lisco, J. H. Bachelor, Herman Krause, A. R. Modisett, John H. Orr, A. H. Metzger, Ed. M. Brass, Daniel Adanson.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and on motion approved.

The matter of adjusting disputes relative to ownership of strays and to ascertain owners of those reported by the inspectors to the Secretary as unknown was taken up.

No. 7414, dated November 16, 1914, one stray taken from a shipment made by J. H. Sibbett of Hyannis was supposed to belong to A. Bufink, whose address was thought to be Whitman or Grand Island, and the Secretary was instructed to correspond with the supposed owner and endeavor to establish the ownership.

Report No. 4198. The Secretary informs the Committee that he had corresponded with Holcomb & Company who formerly owned the brand but was unable to receive any reply from them. The matter was looked over and the Secretary is to make further effort to establish ownership and adjust the matter.

No. 5314, dated September 7, 1914, taken from a shipment made by Rentfro Bros. of Bingham, one steer. Unable to ascertain owner, so proceeds are still held.

No. 5127 1/2, report dated August 31, 1914, from a shipment made by A. T. Davis, one steer bearing brand registered by W. H. Bangs of Pruden, Nebraska. Secretary instructed to correspond with Mr. Bangs.

Report No. 5375. Steer shipped by Stansbie, September 8, 1914. Unable to establish ownership.

Report No. 4915, from a shipment made by the Sand Hills Land & Cattle Company, August 18, 1914, one steer bearing the brand claimed by P. J. Sturgeon. Mr. Bachelor of the Sand Hills Land & Cattle Company thinks that the steer is one of a lot he bought from Sturgeon which was not branded. The matter was laid over expecting Mr. Sturgeon would appear. (Mr. Sturgeon did not appear during any of the meetings but later he saw Mr. Bachelor and Mr. Bachelor informed him that he could pick any three members of the Executive Committee and submit to them and he, Mr. Bachelor, would abide by their decision. This, however, was not done during the meetings.)

No. 5651. One steer shipped by Brass & Rice from Alliance, bearing an unknown brand, but one which both Mr. Brass and Mr. Rice were quite positive was on several steers which they purchased. As no adverse claim was presented the proceeds were awarded to Messrs. Brass and Rice, they agreeing that should any other claim be made for ownership they will protect it.

Report No. 5400. Same as last above report, proceeds to Brass & Rice.

No. 6422, from a shipment made October 5, 1914, by W. H. Booth from Ellsworth, a steer bearing unknown brands. These Booth cattle were ranch by Tully and McLaughlin and it was suggested that the matter be referred to Mr. McLaughlin