

The Land of the Mild-Eyed Steer.

Valentine, Neb., June 3.—If Washington is the "City of Magnificent Distances," then this is the country of magnificent distances. The good roads movement may be traced in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana but the people of Northwestern Nebraska have no cause for worry on this point. The roads are always good here. Mud is something unknown and even in the driest weather the dust is not burdensome.

The ranchmen of Northwestern Nebraska use, as a rule, the wide-tired wagon and as a result the roads are all ways like the best macadam—hard, free from dust and as smooth as a billiard table. This is a good thing for the country, for where horses are miles apart and a ranchman has to drive thirty or forty miles to a town good roads are a prime necessity. But up here in Cherry county a forty-mile drive is an absolute pleasure.

The hospitality of the citizens of Valentine is unbounded. Last week the Elk River Valley Editorial Association held its fifth annual meeting here and two dozen editors came to town. When the train from the east pulled into the Valentine station at 1:30 in the morning a host of Valentine people were on the depot platform to greet the newspaper men and escort them to cozy homes for entertainment. The train from the west came in at 4:40 in the morning, yet the visiting editors who came on that train found many to welcome them.

When one spends a couple of days in the society of the newspaper men of Northwest Nebraska one is able to understand why this section is receiving the attention of people looking for locations in which to engage in cattle raising and mercantile pursuits. They are the liveliest lot of hustlers imaginable and each is forever declaring that his particular town and section are the best that ever happened.

A year ago "Eob" Good was editor of the Valentine Democrat and week in and week out he was ready to mount his editorial tripod—that's what the old saw backed office chair is always called—and declare in double headed accents that Valentine stood at the head of all and Cherry county led the procession. Now "Bob" is printing the Eagle at Bassett, Rock county and he spent twenty-three of the twenty-four hours he was here insisting that Bassett is the best town in Northwestern Nebraska while Rock county can give every county in the state cards and spades and beat 'em out. "Bob" always grows eloquent when talking about his home county. Frank Wingfield of the Crawford Gazette listened to one of "Bob's" spels for an hour or two and then remarked in his broad English accent:

If Good was in Hades he would whittle out a font of type make a press and get out a paper full of declarations that his particular corner was the coolest and most comfortable portion of the infernal regions. And Good's eloquence in behalf of his section is equalled by the eloquence of every other newspaper man in this portion of the moral vineyard.

Through sunshine and rain, through drought and moisture, through good and evil report, the deities of the northwest have had an abiding faith in the future of this section and their cheerful optimism and their "never say die" method has had much to do with the present prosperity of this great cattle country. They were the first ones here. When others were leaving in despair they remained behind and swore that the time would come when the despised sand hills would be the object of all who sought wealth. And they have lived to see their faith vindicated. Today a million steers roam these same sand hills and their owners sit back in ease and watch their bank accounts growing to respectable proportions.

It may not be generally known but the fact is that there is an industry other than cattle raising that is bound to grow in this section. Along the Niobrara and Minnechadua exist great deposits of fuller's earth waiting for the developing influence of capital. Building stone of superior quality exists in untold quantities along the Minnechadua.

Fuller's earth is found chiefly in Bedfordshire, Surrey and Kent, England and its principal use is cleansing wool from woolen fabrics. Because of its softness soap has superseded it for this purpose but it would still be used if it could be had as cheaply as soap. It also furnishes a basis for many of the high explosives. Aluminum is obtained in large quantities from this species of clay. There is no reason why the industry should not flourish in this section for the deposit of fuller's earth is inexhaustible.

Valentine first sprang into fame during the famous Sioux uprising in 1890-91. This was headquarters for the military service, both militia and regular, and the famous seventh cavalry was stationed at Ft. Niobrara when the Sioux came down in a swarm and threatened to massacre every white person in the northwest. Valentine was at its liveliest then. Those who were not too badly frightened at the idea of a lot of half starved Indians wrecking the government were working day and night making money while the soldiers were present.

From that day to this Valentine has been prominently before the people. About the time the Sioux grew fractious the people of this country began to realize that farming was useless and that cattle raising was their only hope. Today the country prospers because the mild-eyed steer grows fat upon the grass of the sand hills.

The Standard Cattle Company with headquarters at Ames owns a sizeable ranch in Cherry county. The company owns and controls a range twenty-five miles wide and forty-eight miles long. The Richards & Comstock people own a range only a little smaller. But there is no conflict between these big range men and the men who have only a few acres homesteaded and a limited range privilege. The big concerns have pursued a policy of conciliation. If the small herd owner wants to sell out the big concerns pay him his price and the matter is settled. If the small herd owner wants to hold on after the big concerns have secured control of all the land about him he is not molested. On the contrary he is allowed to pasture his cattle with the big herds and his hay is purchased at a fair figure.

The result of this policy has been advantageous to Cherry county. The big ranch owners have prospered and the little ranchmen have been benefited. Up to date there has been no conflict between the cattle men and sheep headers. The sheep men have not advanced this far to the southeast yet. But when they do no doubt the history written in blood further to the northwest will be repeated here. Sheep and cattle cannot occupy the same range.

In the latter part of June, about the 20th Valentine will have three days of horse racing and other western sports that will be worth traveling hundreds of miles to see. The trotter and the pacer are unknown in this section. The cow pony and the rangy runner are the only kinds of horseflesh receiving any particular attention in this neck of the woods. The races will be running races and purses aggregating more than \$1000 have been hung up. The Indians from the Rosebud Agency will be down in full force, for they have a lot of gallopers that they are willing to bet their last blanket upon. The sport promises to be fast and furious.

W. M. M.

Peter Vlondray
Rosebud, S. D.
Left side. Left ear stopped.
Horses branded VB.
Range Little White River, at mouth of Cedar Creek.

C. E. Wright.
Valentine, Neb.
Brand registered No. 374.
Brand anywhere on right side.

J. G. COOLEY
Postoffice address Hyannis, Neb.
On right side; horses same on right shoulder.
Range—six miles northwest of Mott.

Henry Fliniaux, Simeon, Nebraska.
Brand registered No. 518.
Cattle branded on left hip. Some without square circle.
Horses branded on left shoulder.

R. M. Faddis & Co.
Postoffice address—Valentine or Kenne.
Cattle branded same as cut.
Some branded on left thigh.
Some on left side or hip.

J. P. GARDINER
Postoffice address Cody, Nebraska.
On left side of cattle; horses on right arm.
Range, north and south of Niobrara River, 13 miles south west of Cody.

D. N. GOURLEY
Postoffice address Rushville, Neb.
On left hip; also 500 on left side.
Horses on left side.

D. Bray
Rosebud S. D.
Cattle branded on left thigh or hip same as cut. Horse brand same on the left shoulder.

Charles Richards
Merriman, Neb.
CCR

Wm. F. Snidgt
Rosebud S. D.
Same as cut or with bar under S; right ear slit and dulapiped.
Horses branded same on left hip.

Charlotte E. Bovill
Merriman, Neb.
Left side or hip.
Range north of Ell.

Perry Parker.
Kennedy, Neb.
Cattle branded same as cut.
Horses P left shoulder.
Range—Mouth of Boardman.

Vetal Vlandry.
Cody, Neb.
Cattle branded anywhere; some with underline beneath the brand.
Horses on left shoulder.
Range—Little White River and mouth of Cedar Creek, S. D.

John DeCory
Rosebud, S. D.
Some branded 1D 417 on left side.
Horses JD on left hip.
Range in Meyer Co on Antelope Creek.

CHAS S NICHOLS
Postoffice address Merriman, Neb.
On hip of cattle; horses same left shoulder.
Range between Bear Creek and Niobrara River, 9 miles southeast of Merriman.

Reuben Quick Bea.
Rosebud S. D.
Cattle branded same as cut or on hip.
Range, Blakk Pipe Creek.

High Grade Bulls.
I have at my ranch 20 miles south of Valentine in Dewey Lake precinct 8 high grade Herford bulls two and three years old and three head of full blood Galloways which I will sell cheap. These bulls are all first class and were raised on my ranch.
W. G. BALLARD
Woodlake, Nebr.

C. P. Jordan.
See head, ST.
Horses and cattle same as cut; also C, B, E, J, D on right hip.
Range on Oak and Butte creeks.
A liberal reward for information leading to detection of rustlers of stock bearing any of these brands.

Morey & Hewett.
Gordon, Neb.
Brand registered 222.
On left hip of cattle. Horses same left shoulder; also 240 left side.
Range—South of Snake 35 miles SE of Gordon.

Shadholt & Fleishman.
Baldy, Neb.
Left side; S P left shoulder; herd mark; dew hip.
Range—Range 36 and 37, between Niobrara and the Snake.

Hervey Ranco
Two miles east of Crookston, in Cherry county, Nebraska.
Cattle branded on left hip, on right hip, and on right side with 3-inch letter.
Wm Cavaraugh Mgr Crookston Neb.

George F Damou
Albany, Neb.
Cattle branded on left hip or right shoulder S P on right hip and U E T ribs; 6 on left hip. Horses F D or S D on right shoulder.
Range 7 mi. norh east of Albany Neb. Agent for Pasteur Black Leg Vaccine.

Wm. J. Ahen
Ft Niobrara Neb.
Brand registered No 870.
Horses branded on left hip.
Range, Niobrara river 12 miles east of Valentine.

James Goodfellow.
Cody, Neb.
Cattle branded on left side. Horses JG on left jaw.
Range—Between the Niobrara and Medicine Lake.

M RICHARDSON
Postoffice address McCann Neb.
Branded on left side.
Range—McCann.

CHARLES GAITSIDE
Postoffice address Cody, Neb.
Cattle branded on left side; also CG on left hip of cattle and left shoulder on horses.
Range on Niobrara 10 mi southwest Cody.

Parker & Son
P O Address L. W. Parker Reige, Neb.
Brand same as cut. Also ZP.
Range on Niobrara south of Crookston.

A T BRACKETT
Postoffice address Reige Neb.
Branded on left side.
Range—Three miles Southeast of Georgia.

Pat Peiper
Irwin, Neb.
UN

George Keyne
Cody, Neb.
Brand registered No 1027.
Horses branded on left shoulder.
Range north and south of Cutcomb Lake in Cherry Co.

Frank Livermore.
Cody, Neb.
On both sides or any w on an.
Also L on hip or shoulder.
Range—Little White River and mouth of Cedar Creek S. D.

L. B. Lesser.
Merriman, Neb.
On left side; also on same side, SM underlined.
Horses, underlined M on left thigh.
Range—Little White River.

J. P. Lord
Simeon, Neb.
Stek branded same as cut back of right shoulder and on right hip.
Range on the Niobrara.

D. M. Sears.
Kennedy, Neb.
Cattle branded as on cut, left side. Some on left hip.
Horses same on left shoulder.
Range—Square Lake.

Charles H. Faalhaber
Brownlee
Right or left side of cattle.
Horses same on left shoulder.
Left ear cut off of cattle.
Range on Loup river.

Stotts & Stetter.
Cody, Nebraska.
Branded on left side.
Range, Tu Can Lake and Morgan Flats.

WILLIAM FERDON.
Postoffice address Brownlee, Neb.
Take cut on either left side or hip; also left side.
Horse same as cut on left hip.
\$250.00 REWARD for conviction of anyone unlawfully handling cattle in these brands.

William Shangran.
Cody, Neb.
On left side.
Horses same.
Range—Lake Creek, S. Dakota.

P S ROUSCHE
Postoffice address Brownlee, Neb.
On left side or any part of animal. Ear mark—right ear cut off; horses branded same on left hip. Also has stock branded H on side or shoulder, or JK or W or O V L or O or FZ. Also the following, the first one being on side and hip.

E. R. Vandegrift.
Brownlee, Neb.
Same as on cut.
Range—Between Goose Creek and North Loup.

Frank T. Lee.
Brownlee, Neb.
Cattle on left side; horses same on left shoulder.
Range—Four miles northeast of Brownlee.

Gorsuch Bros.
Newton, Nebraska.
Cattle branded as on cut.
Some left side or hip.
Range on Gordon Creek.

Julius Heckman
Brownlee, Neb.
Range south of Brownlee.

Sawyer Bros.
Postoffice address Oakes, Nebraska.
Robert Quesenberry have charge of these cattle; horses D on left shoulder; some stock branded anywhere on range, Snake river.

C F COOPER
Postoffice address Oakes, Neb.
Brand registered 2635.
Cattle branded on left side same as cut. Horses branded on left hip.
Also some cattle branded: R U G V A H.
Range—South and west of Hackberry and Duck Lake.

Metzger Bros.,
Gregory, Neb.
Cherry Co.
Branded on left side and thigh.
Ear mark, square crop right ear.
Horses have same brand on left thigh.
Range on Gordon and Snake Creeks.
A reward of \$250 will be paid to any person for information leading to the arrest and final conviction of any person or persons stealing cattle with above brand.

J. A. Adamson.
Valentine, Neb.
On left side or hip A4 left side or hip.
Range on Niobrara.

D. B. STONER & SON.
Newton, Neb.
Brand registered No. 411.
Cattle branded same as cut on left side or left hip. Horses same on left shoulder.
Range—South of Gordon Creek.

Teeters Bros.
Newton, Neb.
Cattle branded on left side same as cut.
Horses on left shoulder.
Range—Between the Gordon and Snake.

Louis F. Richards
Merriman, Neb.
R

Garner Brothers.
Cody, Neb.
Anywhere on cattle.
Horses on left shoulder.
Range—North Ell.

SWEENEY BROS.
Postoffice address Pullman, Neb.
Cattle branded as on cut; horses branded same as cattle except reversed S.
Range—Stevens and Stephenson Lakes and South.

C. Evenson
Cody, Neb.
On left side and thigh; horses the same on left side.
Range—Between Niobrara and the Snake.

GEORGE N DAVIS
Simeon, Neb.
Cattle branded on left side.
Horses same on left shoulder.
Range—Gordon Creek.

P. A. Cooper.
Chesterfield, Neb.
Cattle branded same as cut on left side. Horses same on left shoulder.
Also on left side.

DAWSON & BALL
Postoffice address Chesterfield, Neb.
Cattle branded on left side as on cut; also V left neck and Z left hip; some V left neck, V left shoulder and Z left hip. Horses VZ left hip, Range Snake River, 31, 32, 33.

J A SAULTS
Postoffice address Gregory, Neb.
On left side or hip horses same on left shoulder.
Range—Arkansas Valley and Snark.

JULIUS PETERSON
Postoffice address Gregory, Neb.
Branded as on cut.
Range two miles north of Gregory.

WILLIAM BEAMER
Gordon, Neb.
Cattle branded same as cut on left side. Horses branded on left shoulder.
Range—6 miles south of Irwin.

D. Stinard.
Valentine, Neb.
State Brand registered 1534.
Cattle and horses branded same as cut on left hip.
Range—2 miles east of Ft. Niobrara.

PIKE BROS
Postoffice address Crookston, Neb.
Branded on either side of animal.
Some a right hip.
Range—On Minnechadua, 5 miles east of Crookston.

J. A. Adamson.
Valentine, Neb.
On left side or hip A4 left side or hip.
Range on Niobrara.