BUSINESS MEN'S OPINIONS.

Discussing the Best Means of Controlling the Liquor Traffic.

THEY SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE

Well-known Nebraska Merchants Describe Local Conditions Under Both Dry and Wet Regimes, Affecting Retail Business and Tax Rates.

Many responsible business men throughout Nebraska have expressed their opinions on the question of the best means of controlling the liquor traffic. Some towns have voted the saloon out of existence, while others have voted for license. Quite a number of towns have reversed their policy in the matter. In cases like this, residents of those towns are in a position to form accurate judgment respecting the result of this experience. The Merchants' and Manufacturers' association recently sent out queries to business men. The following replies have been received:

HOLSTEIN—G. L. Fischer, grain, says: "It is true that the question of license prevailed in our town through the active influence of business men and property owners, who feared the loss of country trade, and the establishment of dives and other clandestine means of dispensing liquor incident to a dry town. The business men also believed that the dry policy would make them pay more taxes."

STERLING—C. W. Stuve, general merchandise, says: "Our people favor license as long as the liquor men are willing to run their places right. During the campaign the merchants urged that the dry policy would drive away the trade of farmers for miles around, since there are many Germans in this locality. It was also argued that the barring of the saloon caused merchants to pay highr taxes."

INDIANOLA—Chester W. Dow, implements, writes: "About two-thirds of the business men of this town are license men, and they advance the theory that the license policy draws trade to their stores."

FORT CALHOUN—Fred H. Frahm says: "Every business man in town is in favor of high license. They argue that there is no doubt that taxes would be much higher under the dry policy. In regard to lose of trade, that is an open question."

UTICA—A grain merchant writes: "High license was carried here in the last election by a large majority. Most of the people of this vicinity favor high license in preference to a dry town, which would bring about bootlegging and other clandestine methods of selling liquor. If we had no saloon here, liquor would be shipped in anyway as long as it is made and our merchants believe it is better to have a saloon in order to know just where the liquor is being sold."

CLARKS—Campbell brothers write: "This town is dry. Many of our business men believe the policy hurts their business, since surrounding towns have saloons, and many of the farmers are Swedish, Dutch, and Bohemian. The question of increased taxes was not discussed here."

HERMAN—H. H. Herzog, lumber, says: "With one exception, every business man in town supported the wet ticket. The question of country patronage was the principal argument put up by the wets before election."

SEWARD—H. A. Graff, clothing, replies: "I believe the majority of the business men and property owners here favor the policy of license under more strict obervance of the Slocumb law. Our people are demanding better enforcement."

STELLA—A prominent business man writes: "There seems to have been enough business men here to carry the license ticket, I am sorry to say, through fear of a heavier tax in case of the adoption of the dry policy. During the campaign, the merchants argued that the taxes would be much heavier if the town should go dry."

KEARNEY—Says a leading merchant: "The result of the election on the question of license in this city, we are inclined to think, was brought about under the idea that the liquor traffic could be better controlled with the open saloon than by supplying the demand for liquor through drug stores and bootleggers. Then again, many business men feared the loss of trade from the foreign element in the country; further than this, the revenue coming to the town from licenses is $10,000 annually, which is of material help to the city, as well as to the school fund."

FAIRBURY—D. B. Cropsey, editor, replies: "Our business men thought the license system was the best way in which to regulate the liquor business. It is true that they feared they would have to pay too heavy a penalty in loss of outside patronage and in increased taxes as results of a dry town."

BLUE HILL—C. F. Gund, cashier, says: "Our town is in a German community, hence our merchants realize that trade would suffer if a dry policy were adopted."

SILVER CREEK—D. T. Davis, publisher, replies: "I think I can truthfully say that our people feared a loss of patronage from the farmers if the town should go dry. Of couse, there is a division of opinion, but the prevailing sentiment seems to be that the majority who support the business interests of Silver Creek are in favor of the wet policy, and they are, as a rule, as fine a class of citizens as can be found anywhere."

RED CLOUD—A leading citizen says: "There are many voters of this place who favor high license because of the experience this town once had under no-license rule, when 'blind tigers' ran unhindered, and the town was disgraced beyond anything experienced under the license system. I do not believe the matter of partonage from outside territory would enter into the question to any extent."

PLYMOUTH—A dry goods merchant writes: "This town is only from eight to ten miles from DeWitt and Swanton, which are both wet; therefore our business men felt that if Plymouth should go dry, their business would be injured. This community does not want county option, neither does Saline county, to the north of us. The strict enforcement of the Slocumb law would be better for everybody, and our people are in favor of its better enforcement."

VALENTINE—D. M. Rice, editor Democrat, replies: "It is true that the business men took an active interest in our recent election upon the question of license. During the contest, the merchants argued that a dry town would produce a loss of patronage and increased tax rates. They also preferred a saloon strictly regulated to a traffic in liquor through the drug stores, bootleggers, and 'blind tigers,' which are peculiar to some of the dry towns."

FALLS CITY—L. J. Harris, Editor of The Journal, writes: "One reason for the result of the recent election in this city was the fact that a large portion of the population of tihs county is German. The influence of the business men was for license because of the probability of less of patronage in case the town should go dry."

KEARNEY—F. L. Whedon, Editor of The Democrat, replies: "In the recent election upon the question of license, business men here were generally favorable to high license and the enforcement of the law. There is no doubt that business men took into consideration the probability that they might suffer loss of business in case the town should go dry, and that taxes would be increased. This sentiment, of course, had its effect."

LINCOLN—A. I. Fogel, Editor of The Country Merchant, says: "In the recent election here I believe that the majority voted for license because the voters believe that the so-called prohibition theory will not successfully prevent traffic in liquor; also because the elimination of liquor licenses would increase the tax burden and more than probably decrease the volume of outside patronage of the city's merchants. I am also of the opinion that many business men feared that the elimination of legal liquor business would result in an increase of lawlessness and have a demoralizing effect upon the community."

CLARKS—William Douglas, merchant, writes: "This town went dry in the recent election owing to agitation among those who pay little or no tax. The majority of our business men believe that taxes will be much greater upon the withdrawal of license money, and they know that trade will be less, as a great many of our farmers have expressed themselves to that effect. It was the expressed wish of the best class of our taxpayers that license should carry."

SUTTON—F. M. Brown, Editor of The Register, replies: "I regard it as a fact that the license issue won because our business men and taxpayers feared they would have to pay too heavy a penalty in loss of outside patronage and in increased taxes as results of a dry town."

SUTTON—Henry Gresshans, farm machinery, writes, "We had two years of experience under the dry policy and I regard it as very unsatisfactory, there being more drunkenness than we have had under the wet policy. Under the dry regime we had about fifteen places where bad liquor was sold, and we could not control the traffic at all; now we have but four saloons which are controlled, and there is better order in town. I am for the wet policy and a strict enforcement of the Slocumb license law."

PLAINVIEW—P. F. Boyens, furniture dealer, writes: "Your information is correct. Our business men and taxpayers feared a loss of outside patronage as a result of a dry policy, because our neighboring towns are wet."

WAYNE—W. S. Goldie, Editor of The Democrat, replies: "The chief reason why Wayne voted wet at the last election was because of the experience of twenty years ago, when the town went dry. The man who has been marshal from that time to this, and who is one of the best officials in the state, said publicly that he had more trouble with drinkers during the one year in which the town was supposed to be dry than he had during several years under the license system. He has no use for the saloon. The Anti-Saloon league representatives put up a campaign that was somewhat disreputable, and thereby lost many votes. I believe that this town is three to one for high license in our recent election the Anti-Saloon league did about all the own fighting, but they accomplished little."

SCHUYLER—W. J. Higgins, dry goods merchant, writes: "As a matter of government alone, I do not think that liquor is a benefit or help to the town, but speaking from the standpoint of the business man, my observation is that in some localities, and particularly where a majority of foreigners, as it the case in this county, reside, no doubt a dry policy would drive such citizens away from a town, as they go where they can get what they want. While I am not particularly a drinking man, when I speak of conditions in this local section, I would not favor a dry policy."

NELIGH—J. N. Mills, of Mills & Berry, dry goods, says: "Our experience teaches us that we have better government and less discord under the license system. When our town is dry and other towns wet, the dry town is left out. I do not think statutory prohibition is a temperance movement. The writer has been in business in this town since 1880 and has taken an active part in the liquor question. I shall always vote for the license policy as long as the United States continues to issue licenses."

GLENVILLE—Ernest Frisch, farm machinery, writes: "The business men took an active part in the recent election. Among them there is a sentiment that the adoption of a dry policy would be detrimental to their business because of the German element in this community. Most of the taxpayers are retired farmers of the German nationality."

VALENTINE—M. C. Carroll, real estate, replies: "In the recent election most of our business men worked hard for the old Board and for license, for they were sure that if the town went dry they would lose most of their outside patronage. They also said that in that event property would be taxed to the full limit. We have two weekly papers here—The Democrat and The Republican—and they worked hard for the old Board and for high license. Most of the farmers in this neighborhood are in favor of license."

LAWRENCE—D. Livingston, editor of The Locomotive, writes: "License won here through the support of business men who desired to please a large country trade, and who also desired to benefit by the payment of liquor license money which would relieve them of that much tax. Our business men believe that the high license system is the best way of controlling the traffic."

SCHUYLER—S. Fuhrman, dry goods, writes: "My experience with the dry and wet policy in this state is that when a town goes dry the surrounding towns are generally wet, and the town loses the revenue on license. The only way to deal with the liquor traffic is to regulate the same by law, and enforce the law to the letter."

SCHUYLER—Henry Bolton, merchant, writes: "In this particular locality we are supposed to be governed by the Slocumb liquor law. The law, however, has not been enforced, and my opinion is that if the Slocumb law were enforced it would be better for this locality than what is known as the dry policy. As a law-abiding citizen of the state of Nebraska, I believe in enforcing all the laws that are on our statutes."

GLENVILLE—D. K. Caldwell, banker, says: "Our business men and property owners wished the license system to prevail. They are people who favor personal liberty, regardless of the question of taxes. This county is rich. It is a German settlement of well-to-do and industrious people who have been prosperous from the beginning of the settlement of Clay County."

PENDER—Nick Fritz, farm machinery, writes: "In our recent village election, it was the concensus of opinion that if the town should go dry we would lose a good deal of trade on account of neighboring towns having license, as we have a good many substantial German farmers in the neighborhood."

GRAFTON—William G. Hainey, general merchant, writes: "I am perfectly satisfied with the Slocumb law if enforced properly, because it does away with 'bootlegging' in dry towns and places the responsibility where it belongs. In dry towns I have noticed this nefarious clandestine traffic carried on without a chance of an officer catching the sellers, and I found it to be true that there was little chance of enforcing the law."

VALENTINE—E. Clyde Davenport of Davenport & Co., general merchants, writes: "The result of the election was probably due to the fact that the majority of the business men are of the opinion that well-regulated saloons do no harm to a community, and the revenue derived from them is very necessary toward the support of the school and village. I think the business men were not so much afraid of the loss of outside business as they were of the increase in taxes."

M'COOK—John E. Kelley, real estate, writes: "I resided in Kansas in 1880 when the prohibition amendment carried, coming to Nebraska five years later. I have lived the last twenty-three years in McCook. All of that time the city has favored licensing and regulating the traffic—the annual license fee being $1,200. I was in Iowa both before and since the prohibition law was abolished, and am free to say that I favor the Slocumb law when properly enforced over any means of regulation that I have observed. In both Iowa and Kansas it has always been as easy to get liquor as in Nebraska, and much more so than it is in any Nebraska town that does not favor license."

M'COOK—P. Walsh, president McCook National bank, replies: "I am unalterably opposed to prohibition so-called, because the policy has proven to be detrimental to business interests wherever it has been tried. I believe that Nebraska at this time has better laws for regulating the sale of liquor than any other state."

A real estate man of McCook writes that he is "in favor of a strict enforcement of the Slocumb high license liquor law in order that the revenues from the traffic may make city taxes low enough so that eastern investors will not shun Nebraska." He says prohibition only takes away the revenue and does not stop the sale.

ARAPAHOE—R. J. Finch, merchant, writes: "The country tributary to Arapahoe has a large foreign population and the town has always had saloons until the last year. At the election this spring all hinged on the question of license or no license and a majority of the business men seemed to fear a loss of business if the town continued dry; also, that the taxes would be heavily increased if no license money was had."

BUSINESS MEN ARE ORGANIZING

To Protect the Material Interests of Taxpayers Against Unwise Legislation.

Hundreds of the best business houses of Omaha have joined an organization styled the Merchants' and Manufacturers' association, which is rapidly growing in strength and influence. Its avowed object is to protect the material interests of taxpayers against any movement known to be detrimental to them. Just now the association is giving its attention to the quiet but vigorous campaign being carried on in Nebraska by the paid agents of the Anti-Saloon league, who are seeking to foist statutory prohibition upon the people through a subterfuge which they call "county option." In other states where they have operated they openly declared that "the object of the league is statutory prohibition;" that "county option is a natural step to prohibition."

The Merchants' and Manufacturers' association stands for a strict enforcement of the Slocumb high license law, under which any village or town may, by popular vote, decide to license the sale of liquor or not. Under this law over 450 Nebraska towns have gone dry. It affords the greatest possible degree of home rule, not interfering with the right of a community to manage its own affairs. Under its provisions, outsiders cannot dictate to the people of a town or village what they must do in the matter of regulating the liquor traffic. Every state in the Union, save four, long ago adopted the license system, and nearly two dozen states have abandoned statutory prohibition in order to adopt the license system. Experience has proved that the local license system is the only practical means of regulating and controlling the sale of liquor.

The new association of business men holds to the conviction that the Slocumb high license law has been of great benefit to Nebraska since its enactment in 1887, and therfore the law must be defended from attack. They are convinced that business prosperity is possible under the license system, whereas it is easy to see that statutory prohibition injures business by causing outside capital to shun a state having that policy. They are convinced that county option means prohibition in the end, and for that reason is a menace to the business interests of the state. Their appeal is made to the merchants and taxpayers of the whole state, knowing that if the latter can be shown the true inwardness of the movement for county option, they will soon be able to effect an organization in every county strong enough to destroy the work of the imported, salaried agents of the Anti-Saloon league.

Hundreds of business men have joined the association under the following conditions:

"As business men and taxpayers we favor the movement to form an Association of Merchants and Manufacturers for the purpose of adopting measures to bring about a better enforcement of the Slocumb liquor license law throughout the state—a law making it optional with the people of a town or city to say whether or not liquor shall be sold. We believe the said law has been of great benefit to the state and that there can be no better means for regulating the sale of intoxicants. We stand for its strict enforcement. We join this association with the understanding that no distiller, brewer, liquor dealer or saloon keeper is eligible to membership. Our object is to protect property interests from the ill effects of unwise legislation."

WOULD DESTROY HOME RULE

County Option is Radically Different from Nebraska Local Option.

There is a great difference between local option as defined by the Nebraska law, and county option as defined by the Anti-Saloon league. Local option guarantees home rule and prevents outsiders from dictating to townsmen as to what policy they shall pursue. On the contrary, county option would give to voters in country precincts and in villages the right to say what another town must do in respect to regulating or abolishing the liquor traffic. County option would destroy the principle of home rule, whereas local option sustains that principle. The one is antagonistic to the other.

For instance, say that the taxpayers of a town had voted for license while other towns in a county had voted themselves dry, the policy of county option, if adopted by the legislature, would enable the voters of the dry towns and country precincts to combine and force the wet town dry. In other words, outsiders could run a town regardless of the will of the resident taxpayers. The state would of course retain the power to tax the property of townsmen while at the same time depriving them of the right to control the policy of the town government which they are taxed to maintain. Voters outside the limits of the town, whether they be taxpayers or not, would, under county option, have the right to vote upon a question concerning only the people of the town, which would be radically unjust, destructive of the principle of home rule and wholly unamerican.

Contest Notice

U. S. Land Office, Broken Bow, Nebraska, November 25 1907.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Annie McIntosh, contestant, against homestead entry No. 5250 made December 14, 1904, for sesw, sse, section 10, sw sw, section 11; nww, section 14 ne, snw, section 15, township 26, range 33, by Alexander Hendricksor, contestee, in which it is alleged that claimant has wholly abandoned said tract for more than six months last past that claimant does not maintain a residence on said tract but resides elsewhere, that all the above alleged defects exist at this date and have not been cured

Said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on December 4, 1908, before John H. Welton, U. S. commissioner, at Mullen, Neb, and that the final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m., on December 8 1908 before the register and receiver at the United States Land Office in Broken Bow, Nebraska

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed Oct 21, 1908, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

42 4 Hpd JOHN REESE, Register.

Contest Notice.

U. S. Land Office, Broken Bow, Nebraska, October 20 1908.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Charles R. Temple, contestant, against Homestead entry No. 2856 made July 3 1902 for nesw, section 19; nsw sesw section 20, township 26, range 30 by Jennie Strang, contestee, in which it is alleged that said claimant has wholly abandoned said tract for more than six months last past; that she has never resided upon, cultivated or improved said tract as required by law and that the same is wholly abandoned, that she maintains a residence elsewhere than on said tract, and the land is in its wild native state; that all the above alleged defects exist at this date and have not been cured.

Said parties are hereby notified to appear respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m on December 3 1908 before J. H. Welton, U S. Commissioner, Mullen Nebr., and that the final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on December 8, 1908, before the register and receiver at the United States land Office in Broken Bow, Nebraska.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit filed October 14, 1908, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

42 4 Hpd JOHN REESE, Register.

Contest Notice.

U. S. Land Office, Valentine, Nebraska, October 8 1908.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by William H. Everly, contestant against homestead entry No 14161, made November 12, 1902, for section 21, Township 27 Range 38, by Ida Westgate, contestee in which it is alleged that Ida Westgate has wholly abandoned said land and changed her residence therefrom for more than six months last past; that the land is not settled upon nor cultivated in good faith and claimant has not established residence thereon, and she has failed to cure her laches to this date, and said abandonment took place more than six months prior to the expiration of five years from the time of making said entry,

And said alleged absence was not due to her employment in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States as a private soldier, officer, seaman or marine during the war with Spain or during any other war in which the United States may be engaged.

Said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on November 24, 1908 before the register and receiver at the United States Land Office in Valentine, Nebr

The said contestant having in a proper affidavit filed October 19, 1908 set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication

41 4 E E. OLSON, Receiver.

Contest Notice.

U. S. Land Office, Valentine, Nebraska, November 9, 1908.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Charles Edwin Bilyeus, contestant, against Homestead entry No 18 69 6929 made April 30 1907, for section 1, township 31 range 30w, by James Maule, jr, contestee, in which it is alleged that said James Maule jr, has wholly abandoned said land and changed his residence therefrom for more than six months last past; that the said land is not settled upon nor cultivated in good faith, and has failed to cure his laches up to this date and said alleged absence from the land was not due to his employment in the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States as a private soldier, officer, seaman or marine during the war with Spain or during any other war in which the United States may be engaged; said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on December 22 1908, before the register and receiver at the United States Land Office in Valentine, Nebraska

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit filed Nov. 9 1908, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

E 44 4 E. OLSON Receiver

Contest Notice,

U. S, Land Office, Valentine, Nebraska, November 9, 1908.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Isaac H. White, contestant, against Homestead entry No 18767 made April 30, 1907, for sne, se, senw, esw, section 2 sne and nenw, section 11, township 31 range 30, by James Maule, sr, contestee in which it is alleged that said James Maule, sr. has wholly abandoned said land and changed his residence therefrom for more than six months last past, that the land is not settled upon nor cultivated in good faith, and entryman has failed to cure his laches up to this date

And said alleged absence was not due to his employment in the army navy or marine corps of the United States as a private soldier, officer, seaman or marine during the war with Spain or during any other war in which the United States may be engaged.

Said parties are hereby notified to appear respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on Dec. 22, 1908 before the register and receiver at the United States Land Office, Valentine, Nebraska

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed Nov. 9, 1908, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

E 44 E. OLSON, Receiver.

Sawyer Bros.

Oasis, Nebr

G. K. Sawyer has charge of these cattle. Horses DS on left shoulder. Some on left side. Horses same left thigh. Range on Snake river.

Nebraska Land and Feeding Co

Bartlett Richards Pres Will G Comstock, V. P
Chas C Jamison Sec&Treas

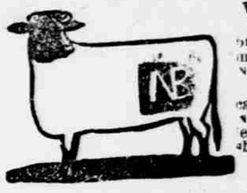
Cattle branded on any part of animal also the following brands:

horses branded the same

Range between Gordon on the F.E. & M V. R R and Hannis on Nebraska M R. R. in Northwestern Nebraska

Ellsworth, Nebr. BARTLETT RICHARDS.

Jos Bristol



Valentine, Nebr.

Range on Niobrara river four miles east of Ft. Niobrara

Horses and cattle branded NB connected on left hip or side as shown in cut

R M Faddis & Co.

Postoffice address—Valentine or Kennedy.

Some branded on left thigh.

Horses branded on left shoulder or thigh.

Some branded on left shoulder or thigh

Some branded on right thigh or shoulder

P. H. Young.

Simeon, Nebr.

Cattle branded as cut on left side

Some on left side.

— on left jaw of V horses.

Range on Gordon Creek north of Simeon.

Albert Whipple & Sons

Rosebud S. D.

Cattle branded SOS on left side OSO on right side Some cattle also have a + on neck Some with A on left shoulder and some branded with two bars across hind quarters. Some Texas cattle branded S O on left side and some on left side.

Horses branded SOS on left hip. Some cattle branded AW bar connected on both sides and left hip of horses

N. S. Rowley

Kennedy, - Nebraska

Same as cut on left side and hip, and on left shoulder of horses. Also on left side and hip.

+ on left side

Same cattle branded husking peg (either side up) on left side or hip. F on left jaw and left shoulder of horses.

O on left hip of horses.

N on left jaw of horses

C. P. Jordan.

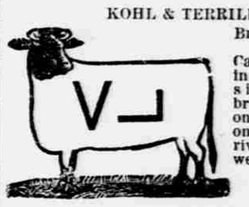
Rosebud, SD

Horses and cattle same as cut; also CJ BE JJ 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.

KOHL & TERRILL,



Brownlee, Neb.

Cattle branded as in cut on left side. Some branded KTY on left hip. Range on North Loup river, two miles west of Brewulee

J. A. YARYAN

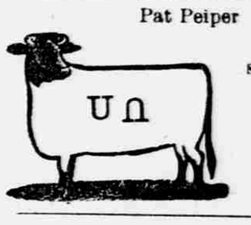
Pullman, Nebr

Cattle branded JY on right side

Horses branded JY on right shoulder

Reasonable reward for any information leading to the recovery of cattle strayed from my range.

Pat Peiper



Simeon Nebr.

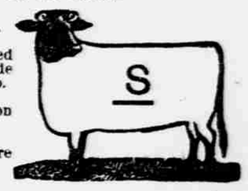
D. M. Sears

Kennedy, Nebr.

Cattle branded as on cut, left side some on left hip.

Horses same on left shoulder.

Range—Square Lake.



Roan Brothers

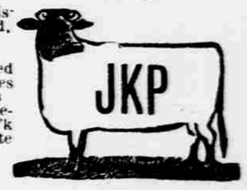
Woodlake Neb

Range on Long Lake and Crooked Lake.

JOHN KILLS PLENTY

t Francis Mission, Rosebud, S. D.

Cattle branded as in cut; horses same on left thigh. Range between Spring Ck and Little White river.



Metzger Bros.

Rolfe Nebr

Cattle branded anywhere on left side.

Earmark, 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.