

Pulse of Western Progress.

That section of the state known as the Little Missouri country, which lies north of the Black Hills and west of the Cheyenne and Standing Rock reservations, is an ideal stock country, well watered by the Little Missouri and the head waters of the Moresau and Grand rivers, writes a Pierre correspondent of the Sioux Falls Argus-Leader. It is broken by ranges of hills, well timbered, giving shelter to the stock, and all the streams are fringed with a heavy growth of timber.

The same facts which make it an ideal cattle country also make it an ideal one for the rustler, the graves and hills giving him shelter and hiding places.

In 1890 the rustlers became so bold that the settlers organized a vigilance committee, which went determinedly to work to put a stop to that kind of work on the ranges. Several years later I have selected forty-nine locations, and from numerous tests I can say that the country is full of great wealth. The ore greatly resembles that from Africa, and some of the ledges are forty feet in width and cut the placers diagonally. Six tests of the government assayer gave an average of \$6 to the ton.

"The cattle owners here are paying well, the Canadian Pacific mine is paying well, the mine at Hobson, on Canal river and Horsefly creek, having made two clean-ups the present season of \$30,000 and \$70,000 respectively.

Several of the leaders of the rustlers were lynched, and the gangs forced to scatter, and that range has been comparatively free from rustling since that time. But it seems that the lesson will have to be taught over again.

The cattle owners keep armed guards with their herds, and several of the rustlers have been captured in the act of killing cattle from the herds. So far the offenders have only been arrested and turned over to the cattle association for punishment, but forbearance is ceasing to be a virtue and another vigilance committee will be formed to put a stop to the work. If they are compelled to go to arbitration, then the first one did trouble is expected from the rustlers, who have also organized, and before the winter is over there is likely to be war in that part of the state.

NEZ PERCES LANDS.

The one absorbing piece of news among the hundreds of squatters around the borders of the state is the publication of the special to the Minneapolis Journal, is the announcement that President Cleveland will issue his proclamation, opening the reservation on November 18.

Enough homeseekers are now in camp and waiting for the authorities to take all the desert lands to be opened to settlement. Several hundred are waiting in this vicinity for the opening day, and hundreds are now camped in that vicinity.

The big rush will be into the Cold Springs country near Cottonwood, which is now part of the reservation. Several hundred are now camped in that vicinity, and many of them have already gone across the line. It is understood that the Indian agent will drive these off, he having declared his purpose of giving everybody a fair show.

The Indians are now in camp in search of lands will work at a disadvantage. Those now around the reservation have put in considerable time going over the country and spying out the lands. They have their places all picked out, and will waste no time in getting them. He who gets the ground first, of course, the settler who has to select his land after the opening of the reserve will have to be content with second choice.

At the United States land office at Lewiston, Idaho, the records were being checked up, preparing the books in time for the opening. Official lists of the lands selected by the Indians, while the lands remaining open for public entry have been received from Washington, and these are being placed upon the books. There are nearly 1,000,000 acres to be opened, and the various classes of land—timber, agricultural and mining.

A HUMAN VAMPIRE.

The cattle men on the ranges west of Pierre are reported as telling a ghastly story of a madman who for some time past has been roaming over the reservation, killing cattle with his naked hands, to such their blood, and in some cases even attacking men. One said to have been killed by this man, however, has been wandering about the ranges, says a recent special from Pierre. He was first seen some four or five weeks ago. Repeated attempts have been made to capture him, but thus far he has not yet been taken.

He is said to be labor under the hallucination that he is a vampire, and to go about without weapons of any kind, to kill the cattle which he believes is a mystery. When found after he has left the animals appear to have been seized by the heads, borne to the ground by main strength and torn to pieces by the teeth and nails of the lunatic.

Jack Lewis, a cowboy on one of the ranches, and a native of Pierre, is the hero of the most exciting adventure with the wild man ever reported. Lewis had been out for several days with a party on the range, and about 8 o'clock in the evening he wandered away from his companions and dismounted for a few moments.

As he stood by his horse he was suddenly attacked from behind, hurled to the ground and nearly strangled by the maniac. He struggled furiously, but was unable to reach his weapon, while his assailant frotted at the mouth and nose, and sought to seize the corral by the throat with his teeth.

Such remarkable strength did he display that he was nearly overpowered, and would doubtless have been killed had not his friends, attracted by his cries, arrived in time to rescue him. The madman fled westward, through several miles of flat prairie, and reached the town of Fort Pierre, where he was captured.

The madman is described as very tall, nearly naked, his skin bronzed by exposure, and his savage face nearly hidden by his long, unkempt hair and beard. Lewis, himself a strong man, says the man's strength and activity are something almost beyond belief, and that no three ordinary men would stand a chance in a fight against him which he has not yet fully recovered.

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