MONTANA AS A STOCK RAISING STATE

This year's shipments of Montana range cattle to the markets of the East has been the smallest of any year since 1890. Up to last year the production of beef in this state had at no period for a decade fallen below 200,000 head. Last year the shipments amounted to 180,05. head, and this year there will be a falling off of 10 or 12 per cent.

The following is a record of the shipments of Montana range cattle for 15 years:

1885	79,089
1886	119,620
1887	82,134
1888	167,602
1889	123,880
1890	174,035
1891	250,000
1892	203,000
1893	279,158
1894	302,655
1895	306,460
1896	254,864
1897	252,162
1897	232,225
1899	203,498
1900	180,055

A perusal of the table gives an idea that Montana is producing fewer cattle than in the past. This is partially true, but it cannot be taken to mean that Montana's great industry—the live stock business—is on the decline. Quite the contrary. While the range herd is fast becoming a thing of the past, for every range steer that is butchered and shipped out of the state several clover and alfalfa fed cattle are substituted.

The steady settlement of the state has curtailed the range privileges of the large outfits and many of the big firms have sold out their holdings. In fact but few cattlemen are running more cattle than they are repared to pasture and feed during the winter.

Ten years ago there were many less people in the state. There was a vast domain known as the public range. It was really a boundless area, larger than many states and principalities. It was used by the cattlemen as a free range. Some of the land belonged to the Northern Pacific railroad, much of it was unsurveyed and the government held the greater portion of it.

Since then, however, things have changed. The railroads have started their crusade for immigration and a great deal of the land is being settled All the farm lands of the state are occupied and the great ranges of grazing land that will never be any more than grazing land is passing into the hands of many owners.

While there are a number of big outfits still in the state, cattle men agree that they will soon be obliged to move unless they can own all of their land.

It is estimated that there are 5,000,000 cattle in the state of Iowa. In Montana there are in round numbers about 1,000,000 head. This state is many times the size of the state of Iowa, yet the latter state produces five times as many cattle.

This illustration is used to show the difference between the range cattle business and the winter fed cattle industry as conducted in some of the older states.

It has been a favorite axiom of the cattle man that it requires a 40-acre lot in Montana for every steer. Under cultivation, either through irrigation or on the bench of lowlands, 40 acres can be made to support many head of cattle.

It is estimated by the best authorities on the subject that 10 years will see the cattle of the state double and perhaps treble in numbers. The range herd which was scarcely given attention, and never shelter, will be succeeded by a type of animal that will produce a much better beef and more of it. He will be owned by many owners. Instead of spending weeks under the protection of the walls of a deep coulee and securing nothing except that which he can rustle, the coming beef animal of Montana will be wintered in enclosures protected from the storms, and fed on alfalfa hay during the winter. It will not take him half the summer to recover from the storm of the winter, but when spring comes it will find him fit for the slaughter pens. But if fed during the summer he proves the highest type of western beef.

The markets this year have withall been very satisfactory. There was a tendency to slump when the drouth in the Middle states caused a shortage of the feed crop, but Montana range fed cattle stood up well in the market and brought excellent prices. The slump tendency was reactionary, however. Authorities on the question have predicted that there would be a beef famine, as the number of cattle being fed during the winter in the Middle states—in the corn belt—is very much less than ever before. The beef consumption is increasing annually, and there is no question but the spring will see beef higher than ever before.

It is safe to assume that next year Montana range cattle will bring a higher price than ever before. There is an abundance of hay in stack in all parts of the state. Generally speaking the alfalfa crop last summer was never larger and having some left over from last winter cattle men are prepared to stand a long winter.

The conditions which confront the live stock industry in Montana at this time are most promising. The prospective high price of beef, the number of cattle that will be ready for shipment next year, and the protection which the ranchmen have from loss through the provision of large quantities of hay to feed during the winter portend well for the future.

The quality of the beef shipped from Montana this year compares favorably with the records made during previous seasons. Indeed that was one of the notable features of this year's round up. While in numbers the season sent fewer cattle to market, in quality Montana "critters" were not rivaled by the cattle of the states to the south of here. There is always a brisk market for Montana range cattle.

The horse market has made wide fluctuations during the last eight months. Early in the summer large shipments were made to St. Paul and Omaha. Persons who shipped at that time made money. Several large bands were held for shipment until later in the season, and the middle of August saw the bottom fall out of the market. Many who bought horses for speculation during the early summer and shipped a month or two later lost money. The drouth causing a general shortage of feed was responsible for the drop in the price of horse flesh. Since, however, agents of the British government and the United States as well, have been in the market for horses of a certain description and as a result many hundred head of young horses have been shipped to be used in foreign lands.

The average Montanan has today just cause to be proud of this young state. This has been a banner year in our history and the various statistics herewith given present a most flattering showing and will give a good idea of what one of our principal industries—stock raising—amounts to.

Prevailing favorable conditions have decreased the number of stock shipments this year and thus far nothing but prime cattle have been shipped, whereas last year everything was rushed to market that could be sold on account of the short range.

Range conditions this year have been of the best, and while few of the stockmen are in need of ready money, they are able to hold over their cattle to another year with the hope of realizing a larger profit on their investment.

Northern Montana, in particular, makes a good showing, although other parts of the state would probably not be far behind, if the same reliable statistics were obtainable from other places.

The report from Cascade county shows large shipments and that a large number of cattle, sheep and horses will winter on the ranges.

Beaverhead county presents a great showing for its livestock interests. The season has been a good one, and all cattle and stockmen have prospered accordingly. Other districts also show up exceedingly well.

The territory contigous to Fort Benton, beginning with the Highwoods on the south, the Marias on the east, the narrow gauge on the north and half way between there and Great Falls on the west, a circle whose diameter is about 75 miles, has furnished about 300 cars, or 6000 head of cattle and 200 cars of sheep, or about 40,000.

About 2,000,000 pounds of wool have been shipped from Benton station, though some of that came from the Judith basin. This same territory will winter about 35,000 head of cattle and 300,000 head of sheep.

The cattle and sheep not only enter on the winter in the best possible condition, but the range is in splendid shape, and practically everyone who uses hay has all he needs or more. Hay is cheaper in this section than it has been before in years.

In addition to the shipments from Benton, Galata, on the north, has shipped about 500 cars of cattle, and Galata and Cut Bank together have shipped 200 cars of sheep. Big Sandy has shipped about 30 cars of sheep and 245 cars of cattle.

As all these places might be called contiguous territory, the totals would be something like this: Cattle, 23,000 head; sheep, 80,000 head; wool, 2,000,000 pounds. The cash value of these amounts to considerable over $1,000,000.

While some of the horse shipments have not been satisfactory to the buyers, nevertheless the owners of range horses have had more active sales and better prices than for many years past. About 2000 head have been sold from this territory. The prices have varied from $6 to $35 for unbroken range horses, the cayuses bringing the bottom prices.

The estimate from the Great Falls market of 1901 shipment is: Cattle, 2432; houres, 13,338; sheep, 7200, and 26 mules. Sales of livestock and sheep are approximately equal to the shipments with home consumption added. There will be wintered in Cascade county about 225,000 head of stock, and in the countries tributary to Great Falls about 1,000,000. The number of cattle wintered will probably reach 15,000; horses, 25,000.

During the last year at least 60,000 sheep were driven out of Teton and Choteau counties, and about 10,000 to Helena; 35,000 were driven to Culbertson from Cascade.

There are more cattle, mostly in small bunches owned by small ranchers, on the range this year than last. The prospects for wintering in good shape are excellent. The range is in splendid condition, and it is probable that but little feeding will be necessary.

There is no wool in Cascade county and none on hand in tributary country. The amount of wool shipped from this point was about 10,000,000 pounds. Not over 10,000 pounds were consigned. The average price received in this market was a trifle over 13 cents.

During the season just closed there have been shipped from Big Timber and tributary country about 6000 head of sheep and lamps and 4500 head of cattle. Satisfactory prices were paid for sheep and lambs this year, although the figures were not as high as last year. Sweet Grass county stock topped the market both in weight and price for Western range stock. For several years this county has either been at the top, or close to it. The excellent condition of the cattle from this section is no doubt due in part to alfalfa feed, which is next to grain feed. The shipments of wool from this point last season amounted to not quite 2,000 000 pounds.

At least half as much more would have been shipped from here, but for a misunderstanding regarding the freight rate from Two Dot and Harlow, many shippers being under the impression that they could not secure the reduced through rate unless they shipped to Billings.

It is estimated that there will be wintered in this vicinity about 350,000 head of sheep and 23,000 cattle. The open range is getting very scarce and the feed on it is already eaten off. There is, however, more land under fence than ever before in this county and feed in the enclosures is in abundance.

More hay has been put up by most stockmen. One noticeable feature of the horse business is the big improvement in stock, nearly every owner now breeding to blooded stallions.

The season has been the shortest for a number of years, which was due to the late opening.

MONTANA'S ORGANIZED LABOR

Not in many a day has organized labor in the West had such cause to hold up its head with pride as is found in the bright surroundings of this Christmas season. Looking backward over the record of the past, or casting a glance forward to what may be expected in time to come, it's all the same. Good report is heard everywhere and up and down the state are seen evidences of what labor has accomplished for its upbuilding as well as for the permanent improvement of the commonwealth.

Not in all the state is a foundation laid so firmly as the underpinning of the state's labor unions. Dotting the broad area of Montana from end to end are substantial evidences that men have been at work with tools of their trades making vast changes in the face of the landscape nature left when order was called from chaos and a finished job was made of the globe. Great forests have been hewed down, the hills have been tunneled for ore and swiftly great cities have risen beside long stretches of iron rails, the highways of the plains.

And while all these things have gone forward in an amazing way and the best work possible has been turned out by skilled mechanics, there has been much attended to that is not in evidence, but which forms the bulwark of labor in the state. In every section of Montana where labor is employed the union has its watchful guardianship over the welfare of the wage earner. The forms and customs of labor are recognized wherever a payroll is found in the state. The regulations of the unions are in force and the workers are enjoying all the benefits that can be gained from earnest and complete organization.

Greatest in the World.

One of the strongest organizations in the known world is the Miners' Union of Butte. It is the parent organization of the kind in the state and is well supplied with all that makes a union solid with the community about it. Within its ranks democracy prevails and the republican form of government is carried out. A vote of the members is the highest power and from this there is no appeal. Within its hall, where all meetings are held, men of undoubted eloquence hold forth. It is a training school where began the education that has fitted many for public life in this state and has whetted keen many a sharp intellect and opened the way to higher positions for worthy and ambitious men. Splendid types of physical and intellectual manhood compose the membership and the men who are numbered in its ranks is its best guarantee of its future success.

What has been written of the Miners' Union is true in proportionate degree of all other labor organizations in the city of Butte and in the state. They are the best the world of labor affords and when the cause of the wage earner needs fresh examples of enthusiasm or new ideas for its betterment, Montana laboring men and Montana labor leaders can deliver the goods.

Councils of Labor.

The Western Labor Union, whose president is Daniel McDonald, is the organization in which all the organizations of the state centers. Affiliated with this central body are a large number of independent branches, forming a strong confederacy for mutual benefit, that is one of the most effective forms in which labor displays its strength. The Silver Bow Trades and Labor assembly is the central body within whose council converges the local labor unions and all their interests. Here plans are mapped out, new departures arranged and settlements effected between conflicting interests. The mechanism of this body, like that of the Western Labor Union, works without a hitch and is one of the marvels of its kind, typifying strength and simplicity in its form and accuracy and safety in working to the desired end.

Among the well known men who take part in the work of organized labor in Butte, Michael McCormick is conspicuous. He is an ex-president of the Miners' Union. Clarence Smith, secretary of the Western Labor Union, is also well known. So is Luke Kelly. A hundred others might be named—all good, staunch defenders of the cause of labor and worthy of a place on its scroll of fame.

Clarence Smith, secretary of the Western Labor Union, was interviewed today by an Inter Mountain reporter concerning labor matters in the West. He said:

We are living in an age of organization—the organization of labor and the organization of capitalism. Capitalists have accomplished wonders with the organization of industry. Trusts have clearly shown that production can be revolutionized—is being revolutionized—by the concentration of energy and the elimination of waste that is afforded by intelligent organization of industry.

We seldom hear nowadays the rampant howl of the erstwhile popular politician for the "destruction of the trusts."

The more thoughtful and more sensible student of industrial economy has long since abandoned this theory of destruction.

He is now engaged in the constructive work of evolving a system of industry where every saving device of consolidation can be utilized; not for individual benefit, but for all the people.

So has labor progressed in the matter of organization. The time was, and not so very long ago, either, when to be a union man meant not only to be a man marked by employers, but to be regarded as a "crank" by many honest and well-meaning people.

Time has not lessened the terrible terror of the blacklist in the possession of unscrupulous corporations, but the years have greatly changed the public mind regarding organized labor.

The best men everywhere now declare that the organization of labor is not only logical and right, but that it is an absolute necessity if the workers are to preserve their rights and protect their interests.

Many claim that labor has not kept pace with capitalism in the matter of organization. Be that as it may, it is certain that the progress made in organizing the working people has been so great during the last few years as to be simply marvelous, both in point of numbers organized and the far-reaching influence exerted by unionism.

Without reliable data from all labor organizations it is impossible to state accurately the increase during any given time. It is safe to say, however, that in the United States today there are 50 per cent more organized workingmen than there were two years ago.

While it is gratifying to note the progress made by organized labor in every part of the country of late years, it is in the West that we see the greatest and the most substantial gains.

Nowhere has organization proceeded so rapidly; nowhere has unionism accomplished so much for the working people, and nowhere is organized labor so strongly and permanently entrenched as in the Inter-mountain and Pacific coast states and territories.

A faint idea may be formed of the gains made in point of numbers when we consider that the Western Labor Union, including the Western Federation of Miners, now has a membership more than double that of two years ago.

We can appreciate to some extent the practical benefits achieved by the Western labor movement by referring to the laws for eight hours for miners and smeltermen in both Montana and British Columbia, and the opportunity presented to the working cople of Colorado to vote for legislation of great value to them, at the next general election.

These matters are briefly mentioned, without going into the numerous other benefits secured in regard to wages, improved conditions of labor and the general protection afforded by the compact and effective Western organizations.

And as to the soundness, permanency and effectiveness of Western unionism, let us look back and note the promptness with which tens of thousands of dollars came to the relief of imprisoned Coeur d'Alene miners; see the masterly legal fight that was made, and note the sureness with which the martial law governor was buried under the political sod by the votes of Idaho union men.

So much for the past. At present the labor movement is growing as never before in the West. This year both the Western Labor Union and the Western Federation of Miners provided for an increased assessment, and the brightest, most active and best organizers were put permanently at work in the Western field.

The result has more than justified the

Clarence Smith.

wisdom of this practical policy. Both organizations have almost doubled in membership since last May. In Denver, Leadville, Helena, Anaconda, Kalispell—in nearly all of the cities and mining camps of the West—there has been such an interest in organization as was never shown before.

Before another six months has passed Butte will have more than one rival for the reputation of being the best organized city in the country.

Again I say, this is the age of organization. The working people are fully awake to the necessity of combining for their own protection.

The great organizations of labor are taking advantage of this favorable sentiment, and the result is that, in spite of local dissension in one place and an internal quarrel in another, the greatest labor movement the world has ever known is being built up on a sound, intelligent and practical working basis.

And the vanguard of this movement is right here on the hills and in the valleys of the Western mountain states and provinces.

Mythology in Kansas.

"Some one in Kansas proposed that a statue of Ceres be placed on the dome of the new statehouse, but now he wishes he hadn't made the proposition," remarked the exchange editor as he laid down a Kansas paper.

"What's the objection?" asked the telegraph editor.

"It is urged that no one in Kansas knows the lady, and that she was probably an actress anyhow. It is the opinion that the figure of Chief Fewclothes, an Indian, would be more appropriate as an ornament to the dome of the Kansas statehouse."

"Well, I should think that a statue of Chief Fewclothes would be a nude departure at any rate."—Pittsburg Gazette.

Here Are a Few of the

Buildings Constructed

During the Year 1901

Under the Supervision of

Architect M. D. Kern

Graduate of Royal School of Architecture of Wuerzburg and Munich, Germany

Pythian Castle, on South Main street, Butte. This is a modern fraternity building, complete in every respect, is properly heated and ventilated and cost $48,000.

Reynolds & McDowell Block, at the northwest corner of Colorado and Silver streets, Butte. It is a modern building. Family flats on the first floor; office and lodging rooms, 78 in all, on the two stories above. Is electric lighted and heated. Cost, $39,000.

Designing of the Monroe School, Butte.

Remodeling of old McDermott, now the Finlen Hotel.

Supervision of Silver Bow County Hospital.

In addition to the above the following buildings were erected, under the supervision of and from drawings furnished by M. D. Kern: Walker Bros., Mercantile Block, Salt Lake City; Walker Bros., Bank remodeling, Salt Lake City; Mr. R. Macintosh, Masonic Hall, Salt Lake City; Mr. H. M. Walker, Terrace, Salt Lake City; Bourke & Cullack, Terrace, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Jennings, Residence, Salt Lake City; Mrs. H. Sadler, Residence, Salt Lake City; City Hall, Rock Springs, Wyoming; School House, Mountain Home, Idaho; Court House, Richfield, Utah; Superintendent Joint City and County Building and numerous Store and Office Buildings and Residences in Salt Lake City and vicinity; St. Ann's Hospital, Anaconda, Montana; Designer of Masonic Hall, Anaconda, Montana.

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The company is now ready to furnish abstracts of title to Silver Bow county. Mr. Davis still controls the Deer Lodge abstract, which he completed some years ago.

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