

(Continued from 2d page.)

We expect at this session of our Association to elect officers for another year. Let us select men of honor; men of experience, ability and integrity; men that will act in accordance with their highest convictions. It is far better to pay for an honest error than a mean advantage.

Mr. Ford was followed by Mr. Deegan, who said:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—It is with considerable diffidence that I attempt to give my views and make such suggestions as occur to me to advance the stock-growing interests. From my experience in endeavoring to effect the organization of this association, I find the most difficulty with those persons who will undoubtedly be the most benefited by the association: that is, the man of small means, the small stock-raiser, the man who has but a small lot of stock. It is hard to convince him that association with other stockmen, for mutual interest, is not all in favor of the large breeder. He ought to, (but will not), understand that while the owners of large herds are compelled to keep constantly employed numbers of men to guard and watch their herds, and are seemingly independent as regards mutual protection, the small herd owner is unable to do this, consequently his few animals are allowed to run at large and he trusts to luck and his neighbor's honesty to find them at the round-up. Now, by becoming associated, it becomes the duty of every member to be watchful for his associates' welfare; to notify him when he finds his stock straying, and if need be to assist him when necessary. One reason I find for this lack of promptness to join is that the members so far, have rendered assistance to parties not members equally with their brother members, and the consequence is that finding that they are just about as much benefitted as though they paid their five dollars, they fail to comply with the request to join. Now, this is all wrong, and if, as the association is open for all stockmen to join, and some will not, I conceive it our duty to ourselves to make it a point to refuse positively any and all information in regard to stock matters to any one not a member. This sounds harsh, but is just. If a party refuse or neglect to join in to aid and assist all other stockmen, why should all other stockmen aid and assist him? In the earlier stages of our organization, or rather previous to any organization, I saw, from experience, the necessity of unity amongst stockmen, to reclaim stolen, and prevent the theft of, stock; also, the necessity of accomplishing, by legislation, the passage of some law or laws for the protection of stock-raisers, (I do not mean those raisers who go out and raise a herd in twenty-four hours), but the grower of stock. I went to work, and we organized an association, and as the laws then in force for our protection were of the mildest form, we organized on the basis of a committee of safety; that is it was negatively a safe thing for the parties in the habit of raising cattle periodically if we could catch them. About this time our Legislature assembled and I endeavored to find some one to draft a bill that would cover our needs as near a could be, but after trying for some time, and finding that all agreed that such a bill was needed, yet none would undertake it as all were so busy on other bills, I drafted a couple of bills myself, which, if passed as originally drafted, I think would have been nearly what we wanted, but they were condensed and substituted until but a moiety of the original bills were left, and, after fighting from near the opening until (on one bill), the last half hour of the session, it was finally passed and they became laws; but they are laws in such a crippled condition as to be almost inoperative. Now, do you not suppose that if this organization had been completed previous to (as it was during) the session, that it would not have been an easy matter to have got those bills passed in their original form, and would then have been of some benefit? It is easy to see what can be accomplished by unity. There are many laws that ought to be enacted to protect the stock interests. But who will endeavor to get them if the stockmen themselves will not move in the matter, and of what use to try single handed? You must unite. The time is coming, and coming soon, when the railroads will be close at hand, and facilities for shipping stock out of the country will be many and easy—as easy for the thief as for the honest stock-grower. Then you will all both see and feel the necessity of organization, and most assuredly the man that has but a few head will regret the want of protection for his property. During the extra session of the last Legislature I drafted another bill in reference to round-ups and the sale of mavericks, but failed to get it through on account of the short life of the session; but principally for the reason that there could be no legislation in favor of a body that had no existence in law, and as that

bill and many more were needed, it was determined that we would become a legal body. So our Vice President, Hon. E. G. Brooke, (in the absence of the President), called a meeting of the association and the question of incorporation was discussed, and the motion finally put and carried to incorporate, with a capital of \$20,000 in 200 shares, at \$100 per share, to run for twenty years, which shares were payable by annual payments of \$5 each. The incorporators were E. G. Brooke, Jos. J. Boyer and Ross Deegan. We were then too late to accomplish anything in that session. But are now in condition to ask for our rights at the hands of the Legislature, and which rights consist in equal protection for our property in stock that any other species of property has. It is nonsense to say that we have now the protection of the law. Let any one try to obtain the conviction of a cattle thief in any of our courts, and he will be a much wiser man, and a far better lawyer at the end of the court term than he was at the beginning. That I will guarantee, but it will cost him considerable for his education. I would now make a few suggestions:

First. That there be a committee of three or five appointed for the purpose of drafting any bill or bills that may be deemed necessary for the benefit of the stock interests; also, that said committee be assisted by suggestions and advice from different members or associations for their digestion, and all bills drafted shall be presented to the association in convention by delegates and to be passed upon by them and accepted or rejected before being presented to the legislature.

Second. That it become the duty of the secretaries of the minor associations to make, at least annually, a complete and condensed report to the Secretary of the Territorial association, to be transcribed into the books of that association.

Third. I would also like to see a map drafted that would show the boundaries of each association.

In closing my remarks, I will say, that as it has been repeatedly, during the past year, mentioned to me that I was occupying altogether too much prominence in this organization for one who was of the class of small (and a very small one at that), stock grower, and in fact, repeatedly, as stated, no stock man at all, which acts as a hindrance to the growth of the organization, in that feeling of jealousy that seems to be the nature of a part of the stock growers, and having, myself the interest of the association (which is also my individual interest), at heart, I willingly now resign all further prominence of position, and hope that the larger stockmen will now come forward and be hereafter more conspicuous in action than in words.

Remarks as to the object, matters, etc., to be considered by the association being in order, Marshal Wheeler referred to the great discrepancy in the valuation of stock in the different counties, and urged the necessity of the stock-growers recommending a territorial equalization board.

An invitation was then given to all present who wished, to come forward and take membership, whereupon the following gentlemen enrolled their names: Daniel Flower, John T. Murphy, Abram Sands, Jas. J. Mayne, Green Preault, Granville Stuart, W. C. Swett, W. T. Morrow and John Brown.

On motion, the following committee was appointed to draft an address to present to the stock growers to induce, if possible, a more thorough organization: J. H. Freezer, J. H. Ming, Granville Stuart, J. T. Murphy, James Gibson, D. A. G. Flowers, Housen Cooper and R. S. Ford. The report of the committee to be submitted on the following day.

A vote of thanks was extended to R. S. Ford and Ross Deegan for their untiring zeal and labor in behalf of the organization.

The President was then instructed to appoint a committee of four to draft laws for presentation to the next Legislature for consideration, said bills to be first submitted to the association.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at 7 p. m. Thursday.

THURSDAY—EVENING SESSION.

President Ford in the chair. The committee appointed to prepare an address to be submitted to the stock-growers reported progress and asked further time.

The President then made a few remarks relative to the stock interests. He dwelt at length and with considerable earnestness upon the subject of brands, and among other important matters, referred to the number of places in which stock could be branded without danger of trouble. These points were eleven in number: The jaw, from neck to shoulder, from shoulder to hip, from hip to thigh on either side, and across the quarters under the tail.

The President of the Northwestern Cattle company, W. E. Cullen, being called,

made a few remarks, referring to the stock interest as the most important in the territory.

Sample Orr, in his usual witty manner, then entertained the association a short time on the subject of estrays.

Mr. Orr was followed by Mr. Deegan and by Granville Stuart. Mr. Stuart recommended a territorial brand commission, handling the subject in a manner which showed he had given it much study. He referred to the system of Colorado and Wyoming, and made many valuable suggestions in regard to the stock interests.

On invitation, R. S. Hamilton, Van Fisk and W. E. Cullen took membership with the association.

The following officers for the year were elected by acclamation: President, R. S. Ford; Vice President, Granville Stuart; Secretary, Ross Deegan; Treasurer, J. H. Ming; Corresponding Secretary, W. E. Cullen.

On motion, the chair appointed the following Executive Committee: W. C. Swett, J. H. Freezer, Wm. Ulm, Jas. Gibson and Gilbert Benedict.

R. S. Ford read a letter to the association from a party in Minnesota desiring information in regard to Montana, which created much merriment.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to Friday evening.

THIRD DAY.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. The sub-committee on address presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

To the Stock-Growers of Montana Territory—

We the undersigned committee, appointed by the Montana Stock-Growers' Association to draft an address to the stock-growers of Montana, setting forth the reasons why it would be to their interest to form auxiliary associations in each and every stock district in the territory, would respectfully set forth the following:

The time has passed when the individual stock-grower can successfully and economically manage his stock interests without the co-operation and assistance of stock-growers generally throughout the territory. The rapid increase of stock, and the wide extent of ranges now occupied, render absolutely necessary a thorough organization of the stock growing interests, thereby enabling them to protect themselves against the serious losses entailed upon them from the following causes:

1st.—The frequent occurrence of fires which annually destroy the grass over large portions of many of the choicest winter ranges, and which could, in nearly every instance, have been extinguished before much damage was done had there been an organization and proper co-operation among the stock-growers of the several districts in which fires have occurred. And in this connection, your committee would respectfully call attention to the necessity of each stock-grower in every district having at least one or more representatives of his interests resident therein from the 1st of July, for the reason that during this period fires are more likely to occur; and upon the appearance of smoke in any district the stockmen can all mount their horses and speedily reach, and usually extinguish, the fire before it spreads far.

2d.—Under our present laws, stock can be driven or taken off the public range and advertised as estrays, thus compelling the owner to pay an arbitrary and often exorbitant bill of charges or lose his stock. By organizing and co-operating stock-growers can secure the repeal of injurious laws and the enactment of others calculated to foster and encourage the stock interests without detriment or injury to any one. At the semi-annual round-ups in some of the districts it has been the custom to sell branded cattle as estrays, which is certainly a most high handed and illegal proceeding. And it is certain that had there been a proper organization among stock-growers, these so called estrays could and would have been returned to their owners, who, through no fault of their own, have been thus unjustly deprived of their property, thereby. While there is a law on the statute books requiring a vent brand when stock are sold, yet in a great majority of instances, the requirement of law has not been complied with, which positively does away with all the utility of having a system of recorded brands. There have been no prosecutions instituted against these violations of the law, for the reason that individuals always dislike to complain against their neighbors and a great many stock-growers regard it as a somewhat trivial matter, which is far from being the case. It is, therefore, necessary for all the stock districts to organize auxiliary associations for the purpose of having them co-operate with the territorial association in having all stock laws, and more especially those having reference to recorded brands and vent brands, properly

enforced. Under the system which prevails, to a great extent, of selling cattle without venting the brand, it is utterly impossible to protect the rights of either buyer or seller, because if the buyer should lose some of these cattle in driving and they should return to the range he could not identify and therefore could never recover them, and on the other hand, if the buyer, while driving, shall pick up other cattle on the range it would be very difficult to ascertain whether these cattle belonged to him or not, and it places the seller in the position that if the party to whom he has sold takes more cattle than he is entitled to from the range, he cannot readily detect him in so doing; and if any of his cattle should be stolen by parties to whom he has not sold, it would not excite remark from any one who should see these cattle being driven away; because the cattle would carry no evidence in the shape of a vent brand as to whether they had been sold or not.

Our object in urging organization in all the stock districts is to thereby establish a system that will allow each individual stock owner to retain all the legitimate rights and privileges he now enjoys, and to add such others as experience may prove to be proper and beneficial. A system that will not only compel, but encourage and even pay stock-growers to look after the interests of others as well as their own; a system that will protect our stock on any part of the public domain, the same as on our home range; that will prevent any animals being taken off the public range and treated as estrays because they happen to have been driven or strayed from their home range; that will protect our marks and brands all over the territory, and this, too, without regard to the amount of stock owned, making it beneficial to the small, as well as the large owner, and insuring that each owner whether large or small, shall pay his proper proportion of the necessary expenses of the organization and no more. The expenses necessary to sustain a perfect organization, in our opinion, cannot exceed one dollar annually upon each thousand dollars invested in horses and cattle, a sum which is certainly a mere trifle compared to the benefit resulting from this system, which will return it tenfold to each and every stock-grower. It will enable us to know the marks and brands and vent brands, postoffice address and location of range of every stock-grower in the territory, and will resolve them into a detective force, and pay them to look after the interests of one another which interests should be, and really are, identical. To do this, we must organize in every county and district in the territory, meet together and discuss our wants and needs, thereby finding out what they are, put them in the shape of laws and at the proper time impress upon our legislature the importance of enacting them. After the adjournment of the next legislature it will be advisable for the association to employ some competent person to compile all laws concerning stock interests which may then be in force, and have the same published in cheap pamphlet form for distribution free of charge, to all members of the various stock-growers' associations, and to be furnished to any one else wishing them, at cost. By this means every stock-grower can readily become familiar with all stock laws, which otherwise, it would be necessary to search for through no less than 8 volumes of the laws of Montana with the risk of missing some very important points. Another good reason in favor of organizing is the present condition of our marks and brands, and unless our present system of recording is soon carefully revised and improved upon, great confusion and litigation must result. The fault is in the law, which is not sufficiently explicit and should be amended.

There should also be a committee appointed to carefully compare and report on all brands and marks now on record, and all recorded in future, with a view to protect priority of rights in brands and marks. There are many other reasons for organization which might be dwelt upon and elaborated, but it would swell this address to too great a length, and believing we have already given enough of good and sufficient reasons why every district should organize, we will close by stating, that any information regarding the manner of organizing district associations, as well as the Constitution and By-Laws of those already formed, will be promptly furnished free of charge, on application to Ross Deegan, recording secretary, Helena, M. T. Applications for subordinate associations should be accompanied by the fee of five dollars, and the names of five stock-growers, and upon the receipt thereof by the secretary, he shall issue to the applicant a permit for the organization thereof. We would further state that whenever enough district associations are formed to enable their delegates to act as officers of the Territorial Association, thenceforth the Territorial Association will consist solely of

delegates from the various district associations, who will meet from time to time as may become necessary to further the stock interests, of not only their respective districts, but also of the territory at large.

R. S. FORD,  
GRANVILLE STUART,  
J. H. MING,  
Committee.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the newspapers of Montana be requested to publish the address of the Montana Stock-Growers' Association, for the information of the stock-growers of the several counties.

The President named the following as committee to draft, prepare and report a bill for the considering of the next meeting with a view to its being submitted to the legislature:

Granville Stuart, J. H. Freezer, R. O. Hickman, Martin Barrett, W. O. P. Hays, R. S. Ford.

The Secretary then arose and said, as the subject of the land question now agitating the nation had been mentioned on the evening previous, he would offer the preamble and resolutions passed by the stock-growers' association of Madison county as applicable to the case, and moved the adoption, which was carried with the amendment, inserting the words, "Columbia river," in the fourth preamble, after the words "Missouri river." [We omit the resolutions, as they were published in our last issue.]

Ross Deegan and Granville Stuart then explained how they had been deceived by the land commission last summer, and how statements by such deception had been wrong from them which were now being used by the commission to further the land grab scheme which were really in direct opposition to their views upon the subject. On motion Granville Stuart was appointed a committee of one to draft a letter to Hon. Martin Maginnis, explaining this matter. How the commission had obtained an expression of the people in favor of their diabolical scheme by misrepresentation.

A vote of thanks was then tendered the committee for valued service in preparing the address.

On motion the association then adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

NOTICE OF FINAL ENTRY.

United States Land Office,  
Helena, M. T., March 2, 1880.  
Notice is hereby given that the following named settlers have this day filed notice of their intention to make final proof in support of their claims and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver of the U. S. Land Office, at Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, the 20th day of March, A. D. 1880, viz: William J. Boston, Homestead entry No. 903, for the E 1/2 of the N E 1/4 of sec 23, and the W 1/2 of the N W 1/4 of sec 24 T. No. 17 N. R. 1 W.; and he names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said tracts, viz: Jemison L. Perkins, William C. Swett and John A. Harris, all of Chestnut, Meagher county, Montana, and Thomas L. Gorham, of Helena, Lewis and Clarke county, Montana, and John A. Harris, Homestead entry No. 920, for the S E 1/4 of S E 1/4 sec 22, the S W 1/4 of S W 1/4 of sec 23, and the W 1/2 of the N W 1/4 of sec 26 T. No. 17 N. R. 1 W.; and he names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said tracts, viz: William J. Boston, William C. Swett, Jemison L. Perkins, all of Chestnut, Meagher county, Montana, and Thomas L. Gorham, of Helena, Lewis and Clarke county, Montana. J. H. MOE, Register.  
March 11-17-5-31

Notice of Final Settlement, Distribution, &c.

In the Probate Court of Meagher County, Montana Territory.  
In the matter of the Estate of George Siggs, dec'd.  
Notice is hereby given, that Jacob M. Powers, the administrator of the estate of George Siggs, deceased, has rendered and presented for settlement and filed in said court, his final accounts of his administration of said estate; that he has also presented his petition asking for an order of court annulling and decreeing Lucy Ann Simmonds to be the sole heir at law of said deceased and asking for a decree of distribution of the residue of said estate, that Saturday, the 10th day of April, A. D. 1880, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the court room of said court, in Diamond City, in said county, has been appointed by the said court, for the settlement of said accounts and for hearing the petition asking for a decree adjudging the said Lucy Ann Simmonds to be the sole heir of said deceased, and for a decree of distribution, at which time and place any person interested in said estate may appear and file his exceptions in writing to said accounts and contest said petitions.  
T. E. COLLINS,  
Probate Judge, and ex-officio Clerk.  
March 8, 1880-5-17-51.

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5-15-41