

# The Bad Lands Cow Boy.

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## BAD LANDS COW BOY, By A. T. PACKARD.

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GOOD AGENTS WANTED!

## "He Hath Bitten Off More than he Can Chew."

The two following articles appeared in the Bismarck Tribune of Sunday. "Sheriff Willard of Medora, arrived from the west yesterday."  
"The fact that Editor Packard has taken a stand against the stockmen and in favor of Myers, who was recently brought back for retelling cattle by Sheriff Willard, has prompted some of Mr. Packard's acquaintances to lose confidence in him as that lofty champion of justice he declared himself when he entered upon his journalistic career in the Bad Lands."

The above articles fit together so well that "Twere a sin to part them" and we publish them in full.

Up to this time we never have and probably never will again, allow a controversy, personal to ourselves, to appear in the columns of a paper that we own. In this case, however, Mr. Willard has found such ready mouth-pieces in other papers, that for two reasons we allow ourselves a personal explanation; 1st, because he has allowed his causeless spite toward us to lead him to indirectly charge a perfectly innocent man with stealing cattle and, 2nd, to show our exact position in this matter and the justice of our previous remarks, which caused the above article. To mutual acquaintances, we are perfectly willing to rest the case without argument.

The last article quoted from the Tribune states that we have arrayed ourselves against the sentiment of the stockmen in believing Myers to be innocent. It further states that we set up a lofty standard of justice when we came to the Bad Lands. As Mr. Willard has mixed his dates somewhat on the latter charge and confused the time we first came here with the time when he told us, when he was running for sheriff and our name was dragged before the public against our will as justice of the peace, that "There's plenty of money in it if the justice of the peace and the sheriff stand in," we can pass that by as an in-advantage on his part.

The gist of the article charges that George Myers is guilty of stealing cattle and that the stockmen here join in the charge. To make the matter perfectly clear, we will again state the history of the case, with some additional points over our last account.

George Myers is now and for several years has been working for the Maltese Cross outfit, of which Ferris & Merrifield are managers and Theodore Roosevelt of New York is proprietor. Instead of spending every cent he can get in extravagance, he has constantly turned the greater share of his wages into cattle and horses. In this way he bought a bunch of cattle of Ferris & Merrifield, but before they were all branded, two of these animals were found on the Maltese Cross range and were turned over to Myers by Sylvanus Ferris, one of the managers, in the presence of the representatives of at least two other outfits. Whether they were the identical two animals in question, does not make a particle of difference. They were mavericks (unbranded cattle) and as such, according to a by-law of the Little Missouri River Stockgrowers' Association, belonged to the range on which they were found. This reduces it to a personal matter between Ferris & Merrifield and Myers. They settled the business satisfactorily to themselves and it is no one's else business. There was no sign of disagreement by the representatives of other brands present and the matter was a virtual bill of sale by Ferris & Merrifield to Myers.

The two animals were then driven with the Maltese Cross beef cattle to Dickinson, to be shipped to market. To identify and hold them, they had been thrown and Myers' brand cut in the hair with a knife. This was done with the assistance of the representatives of two other brands.

Mr. Willard, in his capacity as inspector for the Montana Stockgrowers' Association, inspected these cattle while being loaded at Dickinson. He either noticed these two cattle or he did not. If he did not, then is he indeed a poor inspector not to tell the difference between a regular Maltese Cross brand and a 44-hair brand. If he did notice the two cattle, why did he not report them at the time, unless it was that he wished to make up in mileage, the expenses of a pleasure trip which he took to Jilet, Ill. while on his way to arrest Myers? This is also a question for our taxpayers to answer when they go down into their pockets for the \$1,500 or \$2,000 this suit is likely to cost.

Up to date, the above are the facts in the case, and they absolutely and beyond all question, prove that George is innocent.

The article quoted states that the stockmen on the river believe in George's guilt. At the time we wrote our previous article, we had not spoken with a solitary stockman, nor did we know the opinion of one of them. We knew the facts in the case and we also knew that George Myers was not a fool. He would have been a fool in the worst sense, if he had for the value of two animals, lost the respect and esteem which he has gained by his honest, manly conduct, not only here, but at his old home in Ohio, where he could have gotten bail for \$200,000 had it been necessary. Since our last issue, we have spoken with several stockmen and they fairly seethed the idea of George's guilt. We think we are

within bounds when we state that there is not a solitary man, stockman or otherwise, in this country or any where else, who knows the facts in the case who will for a moment believe George guilty. The whole course of his life is utterly against any such assumption.

Additional Local.  
Try Max Sanford for a clock, or any article in silver plate.  
Dickinson, Dak.

The express messengers are now kept hard at work, taking care of the holiday presents. One of them had 201 way-bills between Helena and Medora.

The Northern Pacific has reduced all passenger fares in Dakota to a uniform rate of four cents a mile. This move is entirely in the interests of public and will be taken advantage of accordingly.

Mike Seitz, who started from the Logging Camp on the 10th, with two of Capt. Cotton's horses, arrived in Mandan last Friday. The trip was a hard one, he only making ten miles the last day.

Picture frames, furniture, small express wagons from \$2.50 to \$5.00. Rocking chairs, paper racks from \$1.50 to \$3.00. Hall racks with mirrors, at \$1.75, \$2.00 to \$3.00, at  
MAX SANFORD'S,  
Dickinson, Dak.

Theodore Roosevelt is now traveling in Europe with his bride. His trip will be materially shortened by his coming here to prove that George Myers owned the two cattle he has falsely been accused of stealing.

Do not forget your duty as parent, brother or sister, and allow Christmas to go by without selecting suitable presents for your loved ones. Send a postal to Max Sanford, Dickinson, Dak., ordering what you want, and it will be shipped the same day.

The tax case of Billings Co's tax-payers against Stark Co, resisting the payment of taxes, came up last Friday before Judge Francis at Bismarck. T. R. Selmes appeared for Billings county and Mr. Finnelly for Stark county. The whole day was consumed in the argument. Judge Francis rendered a pro forma decision that the preliminary injunction should be dissolved, as the attorneys have made an agreed case that no steps shall be taken toward collecting the taxes until the matter is decided by the supreme court. This will be done some time in February. Meantime the matter is virtually as it was, except that Billings county's case seems to be growing stronger. The only similar case that has hitherto been decided for the ground against which we are fighting was decided so simply on the question of expediency. Other decisions favor our side. The case is assuming a far wider scope than was first expected and will bring up prominently the gross earnings railroad law. Mr. Bullitt of St. Paul, is associate counsel with Mr. Selmes and has prepared a voluminous brief which almost goes back before the flood in proving our position to be good.

The following are the latest cattle quotations in the Chicago market:  
Xmas Beeves, 1,700 to 2,100 \$5.00 @ 5.70  
Prime Beeves.....\$4.75 @ 4.95  
Choice to fancy shipping.....\$3.95 @ 4.60  
Good to choice shipping.....\$3.45 @ 4.25  
Common to good shipping.....\$2.00 @ 3.60  
Poor to medium steers.....\$3.00 @ 3.35  
Grass-fed Texans.....\$2.25 @ 3.50  
Fair to choice native cows.....\$1.50 @ 2.50  
Inferior to medium cows.....\$1.25 @ 1.65  
Poor to choice bulls.....\$1.50 @ 2.00  
Stockers, 500 to 800 lbs.....\$1.75 @ 2.60  
Feeders, 600 to 1,200 lbs.....\$2.25 @ 3.40  
Veal calves.....\$3.50 @ 6.00  
Milch cows, 7 head.....\$20.00 @ 40.00

## STOCK NOTES.

A Mistake Brand Adopted.  
ST. JOSEPH, Nov. 20, 1886.

EDITOR HERALD.—The Executive Committee of the Apache County Stock Growers Association, recognizing the necessity for a distinguishing mark or brand, for using in returning calves, branded through mistake and where the owners do not care to vent their brand, have adopted the following as a mistake brand.

In case where a calf has been branded by mistake; both the first calf and the one giving in return should have M put on the right side of the animals neck.

This will prevent in a measure those annoying disputes over such cases and show both parties interested whether, or not, a calf branded through error has been returned.

The "mistake brand" has been found of great use in all range countries, and the Committee hope it will be used by all Association members, and that each will endeavor to have its use made general by all his neighbors.

The brand has been recorded, and is the property of the Association. By order of the Executive Committee.  
WILL C. BARNES, Sec.

have qualified and one of them is in Texas on business. W. F. Van Driessche was elected treasurer, but resigned and J. C. Fisher was appointed in his stead. But Mr. Fisher is on a six week's visit in Elyria, Ohio. No justice of the peace has as yet qualified and the terms of the old ones expire Jan. 1. It behooves Mr. Rowe, the third commissioner, to qualify at once and rescue us from our present "slough of despond."

## The Live Stock Commissioners.

The Illinois State Board of Live Stock Commissioners have had most serious work in charge for the past few months. Their service during seasons of reputed cattle plague in the State are onerous in the extreme, and their labors very exacting and extended in almost any event. In view of the gravity of the situation, as considered by cattle-growers here and elsewhere throughout the United States, any formal utterances of the Live Stock Commission will command attention. This board met in Chicago yesterday, and their annual report will be made to Governor Oglesby to-day.

It is stated in the United States census of 1880 that the following was the number of live stock in Illinois then:

Horses.....1,053,000  
Mules and other cattle.....1,315,000  
Swine.....1,007,000  
Working oxen.....540,000  
The more careful authorities will admit that the additional generosity of 10 per cent, to these figures will be a very moderate rate of increase for the past six years. Upon such returns it is perfectly safe to place the value of the live stock interests of Illinois at not less than \$100,000,000, or fully one-fifth of the assessed personal property of the State. The vast stock interest grouped about Chicago is scarcely to be computed. The remark made by a conservative man whose specialty was a line of high thoroughbreds may be taken as illustrative of what is involved in a cattle disease like that which has been under investigation and treatment here during the past three months. He estimated that the reputed disease and the quarantine placed upon Illinois cattle in consequence had in three months resulted in the loss of over \$1,000,000 to his line of cattle alone.

Two years ago the General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for paying for slaughtered animals not diseased, which had to be killed to prevent the disease from spreading. The sum of \$30,000 was appropriated for the purpose of meeting the necessary expenses of the commission, such as traveling expenses, hotels, the services of the veterinarian, etc.; that to say, \$25,000 a year for paying for slaughtered animals, and \$5,000 a year for the running of the office, etc. In Chicago alone there have been about 3,000 animals placed in quarantine. The distillery-fed cattle in Chicago are reported at 6,000. The city of Peoria has in its distilleries about 10,000. The utmost care was necessary to keep the infected or exposed cattle, away from other cattle, and to prevent the spread of the disease.

It may be asked how it affects Illinois that so many precautions are necessary, and why these precautions are necessary at all. It is the minimum cost that the State of Illinois appropriates \$30,000 a year, and then only on great pressure, to protect property valued at the lowest possible estimate at \$100,000,000. But this is not all. It is estimated that Chicago's sales of cattle bought here every fall, to be taken to Springfield, Ill., and there distributed to the farms of their purchasers in neighboring counties this year, fell off about 6,000 in consequence of the reported cattle disease in this city. That was a result, too, experienced in the State itself. The disastrous effects are still more widely extended. The States of Michigan and Iowa, for example, have publicly declared against and will not permit the importation of any Illinois cattle across their borders until it is clearly known and officially stated by the Illinois Live Stock Commissioners and other high, competent authority that the dread disease is effectually stamped out. The loss to a single train of cattle since September is estimated at \$1,000,000, and the total loss can not be less than \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 for that period. It is not necessary to call attention to the effect of such diseases upon the money loaning circles of the community, and how timid financial institutions become in such a presence.

The Live Stock Commissioners will have expended all their appropriation by the end of this year. The unusual outlay incident to the outbreak here this fall has exhausted the amount set apart by the Legislature for this purpose. It is understood that the commission will ask for an appropriation of not less than \$200,000 to meet all the exigencies which may arise during the next two years. If the principal on which the work is based is correct, and that is admitted, the amount is desired should not be matter for serious dispute. If any sum is needed at all, it is likely to be a large sum. The reluctance of those having diseased cattle to report them arises from the fact that they can not collect from the State anything if such diseased animals are killed. A larger and broader policy will have to be inaugurated. The State must not endeavor to put a premium on dishonesty or the secreting of infected cattle, but rather make it an object for persons owning diseased cattle to report the facts as soon as they discovered the danger.—[later Ocean.