

### The Cowboy.

It was formerly believed by residents in the older states that the cowboy was the most terrible creature to be met with throughout the region of his range. Although this was true with "dudes," or offenders of the law who had gained their displeasure, in which case they took great delight in tormenting them, or in securing revenge to their own satisfaction. On the other hand, to those who met them pleasantly, or who passed by them in the "taking care of their own business, and letting others do the same way," the cowboy could not be excelled in hospitality, joviality, or in performing the good Samaritan act if called upon.

As to the patriotism and bravery of the cowboy, we find an example familiar to all, in Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the late Spanish-American war. To the tenderfoot it seems strange that education and politeness are predominating accomplishments of these rough rangers—many of them being college graduates; while despite the above facts, this peculiar rough and independent life on the range possesses an enchantment that cannot be overcome.



FISHING SCENE ON SHIELDS RIVER.

cal mining districts. By the advent of railway facilities the sheep ranches have no limit to the number or their flocks.

In selecting a sheep range some care is taken to secure broken ground, comparatively free from brush, where the wind has unobstructed sweep in blowing the snow off the higher ridges, laying bare their feeding grounds. Instances have occurred here where an investment in sheep has paid 100 per cent the first year, while on the other hand examples might be cited of almost entire loss of the investment in one year. In large flocks, where the utmost precaution is used to insure against loss, involving expense, a return of 30 to 40 per cent is reckoned to be as certain as the interest on government bonds. The difference in the above per cent of gain or loss depends upon the climate, but conservative sheepmen prefer the latter method of caring for their flocks, rather than running the risks of a changeable climate.

To the man with small capital no business presents greater attractions and advantages than wool-growing, as profits are more immediate, if not quite



STARTING FOR THE SHEARING SHEDS.

### WOOL GROWING IN PARK COUNTY.

OF ALL the moneys that enter Montana none are so widely distributed and remain so permanently with us as do those of the sheep and wool industry. The wool here is unquestionably the favorite range-produced now thrown upon the market; there are climatic conditions that make it light and strong, and range conditions that keep it from sand or dirt, while the best of all there is a set of intelligent and progressive wool growers established here who see that everything is done that can be done to keep up and advance its reputation.

The history of the sheep industry of Park county does not go back many years, but such has been its growth that it stands second to none among the sheep producing counties of the state today. Every day we hear of new adventures in this direction, while those who are older in the business declare it to be the best investment that can be made, bringing, as it does, immediate and substantial returns. Confidence in this business as an investment cannot be shaken. It is a good

substantial investment and, whatever the market changes may be, will always continue to be so as long as there is a call for mutton or wool.

During the summer of 1883 nearly 200,000 sheep were driven into Montana, the upper Yellowstone region receiving the greatest per cent of the number according to her size. At first they were only raised for home consumption, which was found in the lo-

as large as in the kindred industry of cattle raising which requires more capital in the beginning, and profits are not realized as soon or so often. It is a favorite method with the amateur to locate a ranch in a farming valley and pasture his sheep upon the adjoining upland. In this way the owner may support himself off the products of farming and allow the profits of his sheep to go toward the increase of

his flock as long as he may desire. A corral must be built, into which the sheep are driven every night to protect them from the ravages of wolves, coyotes, or other dangerous animals; sheds must be provided to shelter the ewes during the lambing season, and hay gathered to feed the flock in case a heavy snow should lie on the ground so long as to threaten the sheep with starvation. Although the hay may not be needed throughout the whole course of a winter, yet the careful sheep grower experiences no loss in being prepared for any emergencies in his business.

Our sheep will, in a healthy condition, clip from five to eight pounds of wool which, since 1883, has ranged in price from



FREIGHTING WOOL.