

The country is so immense, and it is so hard to trace a man's property in horses and cattle, that this evasion of justice is quite easy. If it is impossible in these cases to refuse bail, a speedy trial would greatly reduce the chance of escape without trial.

Some convictions have been obtained against cattle thieves, and, at the present time, several are committed for trial, one at least being a well-off rancher.

While a stock inspector, who should personally inspect all cattle shipped, is urgently required, I think the expense should devolve on the ranchers themselves to a large extent, as, beyond paying a small rent for their leases, they are exempt from all taxes, such as usually fall on settlers, viz., school and municipal taxes, statute labour, &c. If all the large stock owners would unite in one strong association, instead of several small ones, and impose a tax of 10 cents per head on all cattle sold, whether for local or shipping trade, the expenses of a competent official would be easily met.

As a rule the visits of our patrols are very welcome to the settlers, and many of them apply for advice to our men on matters affecting disputes with their neighbours, &c., which action very frequently saves both parties great expense and loss of time, as generally our men are very well posted, and can give very good advice on all ordinary matters.

A great deal of heavy patrolling was occasioned late this fall by the escape of an Indian "Almighty Voite" from our custody at Duck Lake. He was pursued and tracked for three days by Sergeant Colebrook, who had arrested him in the first place for cattle killing. On the morning of the fourth day the sergeant and a half-breed named Dumont came upon him suddenly, he being accompanied by a 13-year old squaw with whom he had eloped, and, rather than be captured, he deliberately shot Sergeant Colebrook dead. Anxiety to capture the Indian alive was the sole cause of this murder as the sergeant had sufficient provocation to warrant him in shooting the Indian before he could load his gun. On the sergeant's falling dead off his horse, the half-breed went off for assistance, and although we thoroughly patrolled the country for several weeks, we have so far been unable to recapture the Indian. It happened at a very bad season, as the Indians on the various reserves in the vicinity had just scattered out for their fall hunt over a very large extent of broken country, and as all are more or less related to the murderer, it is very difficult to locate him. Two detachments, thoroughly outfitted for the winter have been placed out on either side of their hunting grounds; these will be in communication with the traders among the Indians, and we hope to capture him, or at any rate drive him out of his own country when he will be easily taken.

A good deal of adverse comment on our failure to capture this Indian has already been made, but when it is remembered that we have captured him once for cattle killing, and after several days tracking, came upon him again, when he committed a murder, it will be easily seen that in the totally unsettled country, where he now is, surrounded by friendly Indians, always on the move, hunting, it is a very difficult undertaking. If a small reward of say \$200 had been offered for his capture, I think he would have been in jail ere this.

People fail to realize the immensity of this country and think because there are so few people in it, any individual should be easily found when wanted.

The same difficulty in arresting criminals at once, obtains in Australia, as I find that it took the police force of Victoria, with the assistance of that of New South Wales and a number of black trackers from Queensland, two whole years, viz. from 1878 to 1880, to capture the "Kelly gang", consisting of four young men, the eldest 26, and the youngest 20, who, after several years cattle-stealing, became so bold that all the efforts of the police were directed towards their capture.

They actually attacked the police, killing three of them, and after robbing several banks in broad day light, and terrorizing many small communities, and attempting to wreck trains, they were only captured, three of them being shot, when immunity from arrest had made them reckless and foolhardy.

For two years a large reward was offered for the capture of these men, dead or alive, which, during the last year rose to \$10,000 each. The police received this amount for their capture, and on the floor of the House of Representatives in Victoria, it was stated by a member of the government that the arrest of these outlaws had cost the colonies concerned \$200,000 above the ordinary police expenditure.