

which most of the herd have been accustomed. There has been a waste of pastures by both white men and Indians and more especially by Indians.

THE STOCK BUSINESS.

These few remarks will enable any one to form a rough general idea of the principal conditions under which the stock farmer's business is carried on in the Thompson country. Allowed by law to pre-empt 320 acres, he seeks a suitable place for a homestead and for a little cultivation, with, if possible hay meadows, or a piece of a range for winter pasture, or access to such a range on unoccupied crown lands. The homestead being formed, the cattle and horses branded with distinctive marks, are turned out to roam over the extensive mountains and valleys on the public domain.

The settler could do little as a stock farmer with his mere pre-emption of 320 acres. That only gives him a footing in the country. He uses the public domain, and as the cattle belonging to different settlers naturally congregate where there is good grass, these places, comprising good summer and winter grazing, are liable to be overgrazed, and some of them have been destroyed. A few of the settlers who have money have, even at the upset price of \$1 per acre been adding to their holdings by purchasing winter ranges or sheltered places with good herbage for young stock, but nobody will buy a tract of the ordinary summer ranges at \$1 per acre in the present prospects of the cattle market. The remedy, in the opinion of some, is to lower the price of government land so as to induce settlers to buy it, who thus would have an interest in preserving the grass, but others say that the effect of this lowering of price would be to throw too much of the pasture lands into the hands of the richer