

IT IS THE LAST GREAT ROUND-UP OF THE WEST

RANCHERS UNITE AS IN EARLY DAYS

This Year the Ranchers of Southern Alberta Hold General Round-Up

Staff Correspondence.
Lethbridge, June 19.—What is probably the last great round-up of cattle in the history of Southern Alberta is now in full course. From the Cypress Hills in the east to the Kootenay foothills, and from Montana north to the Big Bow, the cowboys are being secured by tireless cowboys and cattlemen in each of over 130,000 head of range cattle owned by those represented in this general round-up.

Not for many years has Southern Alberta witnessed such a concentration of the cattlemen's forces, and to all those who have rejoiced in ranching as a district, view and picturesque phase of western life, there is a pathetic interest in the fact that this will probably be the last general round-up in this territory. Other springs will bring the usual individual

cattle the year round by "line-riding" of cowboys on guard, as on the small stock farms they are held by fences. This necessitates the employment of more men than are needed when the cattle run loose on the range, but it ensures more satisfactory results in severe weather. Winter feed is put up during the summer season, and in the winter the cowboys not only corral and feed the calves and weaker stock, but keep the entire herd supplied with food. Last winter they also found it necessary to feed the stronger cattle in the coldest weather to keep them moving, so that they should not become chilled and yield to their natural desire to sink down into a sleep that might know no uprising.

But notwithstanding their capable forces of line-riders even the "Neat-ors" missed cattle last winter, that drifted before storms out on the range and are now being rounded up by the combined outfits of the Southern Alberta ranchers.

Drifting in Storms Last Winter.
Every big rancher's cattle went far adrift last winter, regardless of range, fences, rivers or cowboys. So long before the snow had ceased flying it was decided by the cattlemen to make a pathetic attempt to bring back the general round-up in Southern Alberta as in earlier days. More to the north on the ranges leased from the

to the north on a large range leased from the C. P. R.
Two outfits were sent in by the Little Bow Pool, a number of smaller ranchers along the Little Bow river, owing from 500 to 3,000 head of cattle each. For some years these men have contented themselves with sending a representative to some round-up and this "rep" would look after the interests of one or more of their number. This year they pooled together to bring out two outfits for themselves. Some of the ranchers in the Pool are Wright, J. Millan, W. S. Hill, Sam Baird, Joseph Marian, Bert Talbot, W. H. Moore, O. H. O'Toole, Victor Morgan, Joe. Burgoine, Edward Bell, Mark Johnson and Bert Warren.

The Oxley and McGregor outfits—the latter belonging to J. D. McGregor, one of the largest ranchers in the Medicine Hat district—were the two sent east by Buck to work that territory.

Two Noted Outfits.
The remaining outfits were those of the Circle and the "Cochrane" or more properly the "Mannell". The former is owned by the Conrad Cattle Company of Montana, while the Mannell outfit is that bought last year by Mr. Edward Mannell of the Cochrane ranch. The old name still clings to it however. With this outfit are also the western states of the ranches of Mr. Archie McLean, one of the largest individual ranchers in the South.

J. H. Wallace, another of the large ranchers of this district, who has not joined the general round-up, will conduct a smaller one of his own shortly.

ENCROACHMENT OF THE SETTLERS

On The Range—Incidents of Last Cold Season Among the Ranchers and Cattle

Thirty years ago Southern Alberta was one vast range admirably fitted for stock raising, and many American cattlemen looking for a new location came up across the border. They found an invigorating climate. Chimed by the western states, the short winter months; a land blessed with an abundance of clear water; and the northern men along the Big Bow are looking hopefully forward to the close of the round-up by the southern men, satisfied that a large number of their cattle will have been driven up from points close to the border.

Last General Round-Up.
It was on the 27th of May that the eight outfits participating in this last general round-up of range cattle found themselves encamped beside Eight-Mile Lake in Lethbridge District, awaiting the order to start.

Each outfit representing a large ranch, naturally had its own captain and the foreman of that ranch, while the two outfits composed of several smaller ranchers from the Little Bow had in pooling together for the occasion elected their own captains.

On the eve of the start the eight captains assembled at the lake, selected the place where the city of the country and of round-up tactics would indicate him as a fitting leader. It is the foreman of the Circle Ranch, by the name of Howell Harris, who was elected.

Buck, Noted Cowboy, in Command.
The choice fell upon Belknap Buck, "Baldy" Buck, the noted young Montana cowboy, who was elected as foreman of the Circle Ranch by its manager, Howell Harris, a veteran cattlemen.

Once elected, Buck as General Officer Commanding, promptly planned out the first part of the campaign and the captains learned that the men must first sweep the territory, extensive and little settled, south and east of Lethbridge and north of the boundary. It is the borderland between the ranges of the Montana cattlemen and those of Southern Alberta. Ordinarily few cattlemen risked the range from the ranges north of the Belly river, but last winter's storms created new conditions.

On the eve of May 28th, the cowboys by the score gathered in to the cattle camp from Lethbridge, where they had been encamped the town as in the good old days, when the cattlemen owned the country. There were in all over a hundred riders attached to the eight outfits, and superb horsemen as they are, their cavalcade made a goodly showing.

Ho-The Start.
Next morning in the gray dawn, with the cook's call to breakfast the work of the round-up began. The cavalcade of over 100 horses attached to each outfit for the cowboys' use were corralled and mounted for the lassoed. The camps were broken up and before sunrise the men were off.

All the outfits trailed their "way" through the first morning across the prairie to Coaldale—and a handsome sight the moving camp presented. Each huge cook and bed wagon was drawn along at a merry pace by four horses; scores of cowboys rode off gracefully nonchalant at home on their "risky" mounts, while in the rear of each outfit were the hundred or more horses running free, yet never out of the surveillance of a cowboy's keen vision.

At Coaldale the cowboys, according to the Chief's plan, separated. Two were sent east toward Medicine Hat into the "Neat-ors" district, while six went south, working up north again along the main coulees of that region—the Chin, Etzikon and Verdigris.

Personal of the Round-Up Camp.
The eight outfits included two belonging to the Bar V. Ranch, which is owned principally by George Lane. This is now the largest cattle company in Southern Alberta, having over 30,000 head of cattle, and has in addition many thousand head of cat-

tle to the north on a large range leased from the C. P. R.
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Uncle Sam's Hospitality.
Every winter some Canadian cattle drift over the border into Montana, and unless very close to the line are not driven over in spring and are until the shipping season; then detached by their brand as claimed by the Canadian inspector, and the financial returns made over to their owners.

This year many more cattle than usual drifted before the north wind into Montana, partaking of Uncle Sam's hospitality for the season, and large returns will probably arrive with the shipping season. Some of the cattle unfortunately drifted into the regions blackened with the rays of the sheep and cattle men, and were shot by the sheep ranchers.

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In many respects this past winter has undoubtedly been an unusual and critical season for the Alberta rancher. One in which his actual losses have not been so great as his realization that the days of the big ranch and with them the free wide range are numbered. The most interesting and finest traditions of the early days of the west.

A Merry Day Off.
Once the cattle were across the river, Lethbridge, dear to the heart of the cowboys, was again visited by them, and for a couple of days the main streets were everywhere dotted with the cowboy's figure, with or without their leather chaps, but always with the knotted kerchief on the neck, the wide hat and radiant self-assurance.

Ponies were tied here and there in lanes and stableways, or with their riders astride them, loped up and down the street in rare cowboy fashion.

At the principal hotels the cattle gathered their way with military precision and thoroughness, scouring the country for miles on each side of the river. The excellence of Belknap Buck's campaign is at once apparent to anyone familiar with the country and its trio of almost parallel waterways.

Two weeks after the start six of the outfits that had separated at Coaldale met again at Terrill's Lake, each driving two or three thousand head of cattle before them from the south. The round-up trailed the company from the Lake to Coaldale and then struck out across country for Lethbridge.

Thousands of Cattle.
The cattle were all to be thrown back to their own range north of the river. The drive was a long one, the condition of the river made it advisable to cross as many as possible by the bridge at town, which was directly on the line of route to fresh operations on the south-western ranges.

Before reaching Lethbridge the Circle Ranch was a superb spectacle—always one of the finest in a round-up. The river was running high, gray and turbulent. On either side the green prairie stretched in beautiful undulations. Some of the riders sent across the river rounded up a few cattle there and held them close to the river bank as a guide to the cattle crossing, while other riders cut out a bunch from the big herd on the south side and drove them to the river.

These latter stepped in with eagerness to drink; and finding themselves crowded from behind by the mounted cowboys, were swept out to the current. They started to swim for the opposite bank. The current carried them downstream, but provision had been made for this by the experienced cattlemen who drove them in some distance above the landing place, and they were safely landed on the north bank.

The "decoy" cattle over the river were driven slowly down to the landing, and the swimming bunch—struck by the bulk of the others—struck out bravely for it. Bunch followed bunch, and the water was splashed over. The Cochrane and Mannell outfits all crossed their cattle over here.

Crossing Cattle Over Bridge.
At the bridge the cattle were driven over by traffic before several thousand cattle were crossed by the other

outfits. Here down a steep coulee from the high plain above the riverbed the cattle wound in living dark lines through the gray dusk. A long line—rolling, breaking, forming again, plodding—down to the level meadows by the river.

Here the cattle snatched at tufts of juicy grass and stood at ease like docile regiments until again forced forward by the cowboys to the bridge. There the steady thunder of their hoofs broke on the still morning air like the measured tread of a vast army.

Not all the cattle crossed so easily as this. The herd driven by the Bar V. outfit stampeded on the plain above, and in the gray dawn the animals pounded about following—2,300 of them—checked on every side though with difficulty by a dozen of agile cowboys riding around and around them. In about an hour they were quiet and driven off to the bridge.

Drifting in Summer Storm.
Members of the Beef Commission and others who drove out of Lethbridge to the cattle camp on the day of the big storm last week, had an unexpected and interesting sight. Several thousand head of cattle herded in groups of two or three with irrigation canal began to drift before the high wind of a storm hurrying over the plains from the northwest, as so many of last winter's storms did.

All along the outskirts of the herd cowboys were on guard, and then dexterously crowding their horses against the blindly drifting herd kept turning them again—so that between the storm's fury and the knowing and the cowboys' manoeuvres, the herd was unscattered and still in its place to cross the bridge the following morning.

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The picture on the prairie that morning was a western idyll. The horses just freshly corralled from their night range on the prairie, crowded together restlessly and chafed, as the cowboys leaped the ropes, each deftly lassoing a horse for the morning's ride. Saddles and equipment lay here and there on the fringe of the camp. The cook wagon of prairie schooner design bulked in the gray light behind the high-piled bed wagon, while four restless, unwilling cow ponies were being harnessed to each.

To complete the picture there was one of our party, a young western Danna, a girl still in her teens, yet tall and supple as a young birch; a fearless girl whose superb horsemanship is one of the boasts of Lethbridge. Miss Wallace, the daughter of a Lethbridge rancher, had just returned from a California college, but she sat astride of her spirited black mount still with ease and grace that betrayed nothing of ten months' absence from the saddle.

Off Over the Prairie.
The order came to start, and in a flash the corral ropes dropped, the cavalcade of horses galloped off into freedom again. The cowboys' ponies, the latest magazines sent by home friends, were in their morning time; the wagon horses plunged, some of them refusing the burden. Quirks flicked, and the whole varied cavalcade set off at a merry pace across the prairie. Perhaps the greatest marvel of all

round-ups is passed, and the cowboy can hope to have more sleep at night, more choice of food at his meals, and a little relaxation generally.

During the summer his recreation has been snatched at in short sprints in the own passed. Some of his delight in reaching town comes from the opportunity of procuring a drink more palatable than water from a pool on the prairie; but the major pleasure is in availing himself of the right to the freedom of the city.

A Daring Cowboy.
Last week, when one rode into the Dallas, a nice hotel at Lethbridge, and demanded a stirrup cup from the man behind the counter, a policeman actually hurried down the street to arrest him, unmindful of a cowboy's privilege.

The cowboy, who had enjoyed the cup, and more particularly the way in which he got it, smiled at his adieu to the flustered policeman, and rode away—as no one but a cowboy can ride, with all the easy poise and grace of the horse loving benevolent him.

At home at the ranch or in his bachelor's shack the cowboy may spend his leisure in very conventional fashion with some good books or the latest magazines sent by home friends—for there are all kinds and classes of cowboys. But when he is out in town for the day he must have his sport and make the townfolk stare.

And who would blame him?



"BALDY" BUCK, ROUND-UP LEADER, AND PARTY, LEAVING CAMP.

the process of breaking camp was the amount of work done and the new work spoken. Speech is not the bond of social intercourse among cowboys. It is rather their universal love of the free outdoor life that leads. It is a spirit that must be born in them, for it is never acquired. And their love of the life must be deep set, for their days are long, the work arduous and its tasks many.

Cowboys' Busy Lives.
Even in winter most cowboys are kept busy herding the cattle or feeding the weaker stock corralled near the ranch. His life for the other three seasons is one long stretch of work from sun-up to sun-down, with a few giddy, glad holidays sandwiched here and there between.

With spring's advent he starts out on the first round-up, which means for him a cutting out which was long in start at 4 o'clock, when the captain of the outfit sends the cowboys off in groups of two or three with directions to gather in all the cattle within a certain section. Four or five of these groups ride off, rounding up all the cattle they see, driving the animals before them back to the camp.

Then, while the cowboys hold the herd at a point near the camp, the captain or another rides in among the cattle, driving them back to the round-up camp every day of their return to Lethbridge this year. They cut out all the cattle whose brands did no indicate that they belonged to the range north of the Belly River. After dinner each day the captain sends his cowboys out again to round up more cattle. The cowboys' breakfast—a good substantial one speedily eaten—was taken at 4 a.m. His meal comes only at 11, while a third meal may be had at 6 o'clock. If delayed this morning, the supper may only come several hours later.

Routine of Round-up.
At night on the round-up each cowboy must fill two hours of night duty herding the cattle near the camp. It is obvious that he does not get much sleep. In camp parlance these men herding at night are "night-banks," filling the same duty by day when an outfit is driving a herd of some thousands of cattle is called the "day-wrangler."

Day after day on a round-up is much the same with a herd growing daily larger, and something of the fresh delight in the life wearing off for the cowboy. In an individual round-up for one ranch the calves each morning are branded in the afternoon. They are roped by the hind legs, pulled out of the herd and thrown down by cowboys near the branding place, where the hot iron sears on their hide the distinctive brand of the rancher.

In the general round-up taking place this year in Southern Alberta the branding will only be commenced when the cattle have all been thrown back onto their own range.

A Second Period.
After this first round-up for gathering the scattered cattle and branding the calves, "dipping" takes place, and when, as this year, over 100,000 calves are "dipped," as a final to the round-up and driving to the shipping place all the cattle that are to be sold for beef.

The autumn is by this time turning the prairie brown, but still the cowboy's work is not done. The calves must now be rounded up and brought in to the winter's feeding place. With them are gathered some of the cattle that are unlikely to stand the severity of the winter season if not cared for.

Rest Comes With Autumn.
Now his long season of successive

MR. WHITNEY WILL MAKE 200 K.C.S.

Duty of Ontario Govt. Before Premier Leaves For Old Country

Toronto, June 21.—One of the duties which the provincial government has to get off, Mr. S. J. Premier Whitney leaves for his old country trip, on July 1st, is the appointment of King's Counsel.

Among those who have been recommended are: Toronto—Charles Miller, E. J. Hearn, N. G. Ash, W. E. Middleton, L. Starna, G. A. Masterson, E. J. Hearn, N. G. Ash, W. E. Carthy, Seymour Corley, Claude Macdonell, M. P. S. James, B. H. Drayton, London—Joseph C. Judd, Percy Moore, H. B. Elliott, E. T. E. M. P. Graydon—R. G. Fisher; Hamilton—S. D. Biggar, John Gaud, F. R. Waddell, J. G. Farmer; Windsor—Ernest Wile, A. St. George Ellis, J. W. Hanna, and O. E. Fleming; Guelph—J. J. Drew and W. H. Cutler.

The entire list contains about 200 names but it is hardly likely all these will get the title.

Financial and Commercial News
STOCK MARKET DULL.
New York, June 21.—A stagnant stock market, such as that of to-day, means a gloomy spirit in the Wall Street, however, were somewhat lower in the financial situation or outlook. This feeling owes something to the depression in the industry buying and selling stock on commission, which results from public neglect of the market.

Buying orders were insignificant in volume. The development that attracted most attention was the engagement of the St. Louis and San Francisco bond refunding plan and reports of an intended Chesapeake and Ohio bond issue caused a weak tone in the bond department. A slump in the London market for copper warrants was of only slight influence here. The closing tone was decidedly firm. Bonds were weak. Total sales par value \$786,000. United States bonds were unchanged or call.

George H. Shaw, general traffic manager of the Canadian Northern, is in the city today.

IT PAID ATED COAL

Prevented Taber Mine
Im.—General Supt.
Commission

of \$5,000 worth of coal, had not yet been settled, Jamieson intimated it would be paid. The usual "red tape" in paying bills occurred in Chief Justice Sifton in prompt payment could not be made when coal had been consumed. Mr. Jamieson said he was with the work of the department, but he thought it might be managed. Confiscation of the part on the part of Mr. Jamieson, and that might explain the delay to the department. The Justice thought the system was overhauled in order to insure prompt payment.

Law Cripples Transportation.
nd's Day Act, if strictly observed, would seriously cripple the transportation business of the commonwealth tying up traffic for and it took nearly two days in moving again, which means that the mines might be closed not only on Monday, Tuesday as well. The C.P.R. had Sunday traffic as much as prior to the act, never in any way freight and local trains.

Boys Under 16 in Mines.
Commission also heard the testimony of the mine at Cammore to Richardson gave some testimony. He was opposed under 16 being employed in the general health of miners appearing well with the health in an agricultural community.

endent Morris said that the mine in a while ran short of the inability to procure it of labor.

Unions Incorporated.
Little was opposed to the Columbia Compensation Act, but objection to the Nova Scotia. He did not think transmen and miners should same hours. If they did, of the mine would be as transportation men longer to get the coal out in order to keep up the pit. He wanted unions in-

more mine employs about and produces 350 tons a day, "out" to the C.P.R. at \$7.50 a ton.

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