

seize all unbranded cattle for the benefit of the common school fund.

Sheep-raising dates properly from 1871, when sheep began to be introduced in large numbers. Cattle-men at first raised strenuous objections, because of the injury inflicted by the close grazing of the sheep, and forcible measures were even adopted to drive out the obnoxious stock, but the legislature interposed with laws for the protection of both classes. The increase of sheep was thereafter rapid, so much so that they numbered 1,500,000 in the spring of 1884, and the industry rose to the third position in the state. The yearly clip exceeds 7,000,000 pounds, valued at \$1,500,000. Lambs one year old yield four pounds of wool, and ewes five to six pounds. The flocks are mainly Mexican, improved with thoroughbred merino rams. Snowstorms and cold, spring rains, as more injurious to sheep than cattle, menace the business to some extent, but apart from this drawback it prospers, and the calculation has been that money invested therein should be doubled in three years.

These two classes of stock have so absorbed attention as almost to exclude other descriptions. Swine should thrive well on the bottom lands, and the success with sheep led to experiments with cashmere and angora goats. Nevertheless the small stock, outside of sheep, was in 1886 placed at only 25,000. Of horses and mules there were 100,000, used largely for mountain traffic, yet not in much favor with stock-farmers, owing to the greater trouble and expense of raising them.

Of the great stock counties in the north, Arapahoe claimed in 1884 animals to the value of \$1,500,000. In the south Pueblo had 50,000 cattle and 75,000 sheep, and Las Animas 60,000 cattle and 143,000 sheep. La Plata possessed a similar number of cattle, but only 20,000 sheep. The livestock in Sagnache was valued at \$500,000, and in Rio Grande at about the same figure. There are two stock associations,