

North-west Mounted Police.

We have been successful in several cases in arresting these robbers, particularly in a case of wholesale cattle lifting which occurred at Prince Albert. It is the custom of horse owners in the west to send out parties in charge of bands of horses through the northern and eastern settlements, in order to trade them off for cattle, grain, cash or any merchantable commodity. Parslow and Dalgliesh, residents of Calgary, went to Prince Albert on one of these expeditions, and some time after their departure a considerable number of cattle were missing. After inquiry, suspicion pointed to them, and as it transpired that they had taken out three car-loads of good cattle in return for two of very indifferent horses, the matter was placed in the hands of Staff-Sergeant Brooke, with the result that three-fourths of the missing cattle were found west of Calgary, and 650 miles from where they were stolen, some having been already sold. Great credit is due the sergeant for the able manner in which the case was worked up, resulting in the acquittal of Parslow, and the conviction of Dalgliesh a cow-boy, and of one McBeth a half-breed, who had been hired to trade for them as knowing the country and the people. Dalgliesh got one year in the police guard-room, and McBeth three years in the penitentiary. The defence was very expensive to all concerned.

Several other important arrests for cattle lifting have been made. One case, that against one McArthur, who was accused of stealing a number of cattle from High River and Pine Creek, and whose trial the police expected would involve several men who have been suspected of stealing cattle for years, resulted in a severe disappointment, as after being some considerable time in the guard-room at Calgary, McArthur was released on bail, thus giving him an opportunity to arrange his affairs and disappear.

At present we have under arrest, committed for trial, one Brewster, who is accused of stealing over 30 head of cattle near Red Deer, his brother being out on bail for the same offence. The obtaining sufficient evidence in this case to commit, reflects great credit on the energy and judgment of Sergeant Dunning at Red Deer. This Brewster was found at Green Lake after a long search, some 800 miles from the scene of his alleged theft, in possession of a large band of horses, which we held for some time expecting the owners of the brands to claim; this they have neglected to do although personally warned, and the police have released them.

I regret to say that there is a great disinclination shown among ranchmen, particularly those in a small way, to prosecute their neighbours for cattle and horse stealing, and, although several instances of cattle (not sold by their owners), being driven en route to the stock yards to be loaded for the east, have been detected, the cases were invariably settled, and the police could not get a case against the perpetrators.

The ranchers are constantly complaining that the Government do not appoint a stock inspector, to examine all cattle before shipment. The fact is the majority of stockmen, especially those doing a small business, will not try to help themselves, and give the police little or no assistance in prosecuting these thieves, although they frequently complain of the failure of the police to trace such criminals.

There are several stockmen in the local legislature, and they should see that the ordinances are so amended as to protect the stock owners. Take for instance the Hide Ordinance which compels a man killing an animal to produce the hide for police inspection, but does not make any provision for identifying the same, and there is no doubt that the same hide does duty in some cases for two or three different killings.

In my opinion ranching being such a very large industry, in fact the only interest west of Swift Current, and south of the Canadian Pacific Railway, every effort should be made to get legislation passed that will strengthen the hands of the police.

The system of granting bail to horse and cattle thieves (while I believe it is almost imperative on the part of the judges to grant) is really a premium on this class of stealing. A reputed cattle thief, often with some property, gets bail, say himself in \$1,000 and two sureties in \$500 each. If he is guilty and sure to be convicted, he is likely at once to get rid of his own loose property and "skip," or if his sureties are too sharp for him before leaving, he has the chance of squaring them, so that they suffer no loss.