

cattle require in winter sheltered spots with little snow on them.

We are inclined to think that the natural pastoral capabilities of this part of the Province have been overrated in loose talk. The stock is not numerous—probably not more than a dozen men have over 1000 head each, yet the settlers strive already for good wintering places. As above said, the bunch grass is largely eaten off in some parts, though probably there are extensive bunch grass tracts in the back mountains, suitable for summer pasture which we did not see. The grass varies much in quality in different parts, and the pasturing of stock on originally fine pasture seems to be more destructive in some places than in others, perhaps owing to the different character of the soil, and the greater or less hold which the grass has in it. What mainly governs the stock farmer's business as at present carried on, and what will continue to do so until higher prices for cattle enable him to cultivate for the production of winter food, is the extent of natural winter ranges owned by him, or within his reach upon the public domain. It is useless to pasture cattle in summer, if they are fated to die for want of food and shelter in winter. The natural winter ranges in the southern interior are not so extensive as to justify any great addition to the stock now in the country. It is believed that most of these ranges are known though so many causes affect the character of winter ranges that few men, even residents in the district, care to express an opinion about the suitability of places which have not been tested by experience. The aspect and lie of the land, its openness to winds which sweep the snow from the surface, and its nearness to night shelter when the winds are too keen, have all to be considered. The cattle themselves generally find the best places in a rough sort of way, preferring, of course, places to