

The Cowboy.

BY J. M'CAIG.

(Continued from page 187.)

ON THE RANGE—THE SEMI-ANNUAL ROUND-UP.

The work of the cowboy is arduous at times, and these times are at the round-ups. There are two round-ups: one in May and extending into June, the other beginning in August and extending into fall. The spring round-up is to brand the calves, generally a couple of months old at that time, and the fall round-up is to cut out the beef cattle from the bunches to ship them. It must be borne in mind that the cattle of different owners are intermingled and in small scattered bunches all over the country, and that the round-up is a combined movement to either brand the calves and let them go again, or to cut out each man's sale beef. As range is being bought up there is a tendency to limit the range to the land where the cattle belong. If a man owns sufficient range for his stock it is to his interest to keep them near home, as well as to keep other cattle off his range. When a cowboy goes on a circle he covers a great deal of ground. He rides hard for five or six days or more at a time, so hard that one horse is no use to him. He takes with him what is known as his "string" of cowhorses, generally eight or ten, and rides a different one each day. Cattle were formerly branded in the open in the old days, being simply held or herded by the cow-punchers, while one of them rode in after a calf, roped it and dragged it out to where the branding irons were heated. Now the stock associations have corrals in different parts of the range country, and the cattle are branded in these corrals. It is less picturesque and exciting, but is handier, and requires fewer men. Sometimes a calf may be missed on the round-up, and being weaned by next year its owner cannot be known. Such an ownerless animal is called a "maverick," from the name of a man in the early cow days who showed unusual facility in hunting up unbranded cattle and putting his own brand on them. Mavericks are considered the property of the stock associations, and are sold by them to individual cattlemen.

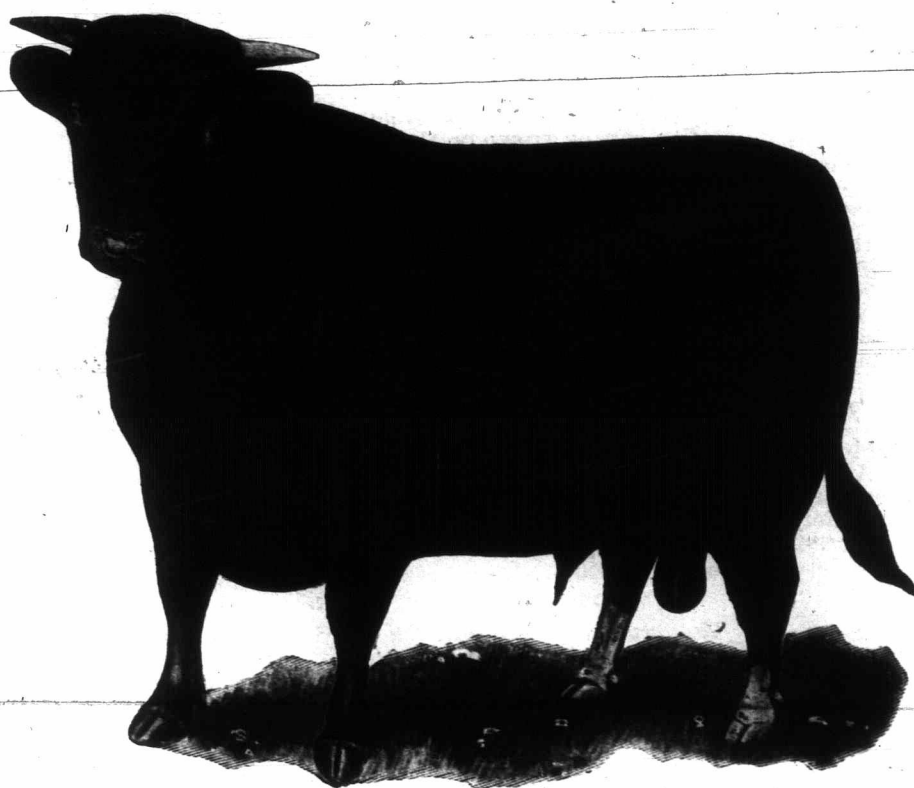
It is in the round-up and branding that the nice work of the cowboy is seen. Much as has been written about it, the operations must be seen to be understood. The converging of the various small bunches of cattle—steers, cows and calves together—at a point presents a curious spectacle. The cattle keep moving after being bunched, and this develops into what is called "milling," or a circular movement of the mass, while the cowboys ride close to the herd. There is a clanking of horns, a strong, murmuring, confused tramping as the motley colors and heads are carried aloft—here the pretty white-faced Hereford with spreading horns, the red or roan Shorthorn, the black, hairy Galloway, and occasional Texan, but all moving, tramping, jostling and excited, like the half-wild things that they are. The beef stuff are cut out and let go generally, and the cows and mothers held for the calf branding. The cowboy rides into the mass of mothers and calves, sees a little calf following close to the mother, recognizes her brand, and prepares to do for the calf. The two are followed to the edge of the bunch so as to be clear; the cowboy already has his rope with a running noose swinging about with a turn of his wrist, and watching his chance. It seems a sort of fatality for the poor calf, this running noose in the poise of the experienced cow-puncher; but roping a calf is an impossible feat to the uninitiated. With a fling of the rope the calf is literally snared by the heels and brought down. The pony, immediately the noose is caught, backs up and almost sits down; after a twist or two the rope is thrown about the horn of the saddle, and then the calf is drawn off to the fire; it is held down and the red-hot iron is applied to the side, hip or shoulder. There is a mixed odor of burning hair and burning beefsteak, and the pretty curly skin is marked for life. An agonized cry from the calf sometimes excites a fond mother, and she is a good kind to keep away from. The branding of heavier steers is more trying work. In cases of sale a "vent" brand has to be made and a new one put on. A steer's hide is sometimes an interesting piece of patchwork, from having changed hands frequently. Heavy cattle are roped both in front and behind. The noose in front is thrown over the head, and usually falls behind one of the front legs also by the stepping forward of the steer. After some plunging and jumping the steer stands still a moment, when a second cowboy strikes the hind leg with the noose, the steer steps into it, both horses draw in opposite directions, the steer loses his support and goes over, and the brand is applied. The steer occasionally becomes enraged, and it is wise for the operators on foot to reach the fence without loss of time after the steer is let loose.

The fall round-up is for the purpose of "cutting out" the beef. All cattle that are to be shipped are cut out and held or carried on from one round-up center to another, and are finally driven to the nearest shipping point to be loaded. Range cattle will sometimes travel twenty-five miles a day. A camp outfit must be carried along with a drive of cattle, and

herders must be on night duty to hold the cattle together. Cattle scatter easily on the prairie. They are not seen in large herds, as might be expected. A drive may consist of five hundred steers, often from a single ranch.

The number of cowboys employed in the summer is much larger than in winter. Summer is the busy season. In winter the chief duty is to keep the cattle from drifting too far from the customary range, as they are apt to do before a storm, and to keep the cattle out of the brush and in the open. The crests of the hills are usually blown clear of snow, and are the surest feeding in rough weather. Cattle that shelter in the brush are likely to get logy and to get snowed up. Winter is a time of considerable hardship, but the tendency is to put up more hay, keep up weak cows and others requiring attention, besides all the calves of the previous spring. Large areas are likewise being enclosed by fences, and the whole ranching operations getting to resemble more the operations of eastern stockmen.

Cowboys receive thirty-five or forty dollars a month, but everyone cannot be considered proficient. It takes time to become valuable. As the life is quite isolated, there is little opportunity or need for spending much, and a steady fellow, by sinking his earnings in cattle and working at the same time, may in the course of a few years find himself with a valuable property. The business of cow-punching has its hardships and drawbacks, but it is free, eager, healthful, and, to a careful man, profitable and satisfactory. The cow-puncher is not a brigand, outlaw or sharpshooter, as he is represented in yellow-backed literature, but a serious, hard-working business man, with a love of freedom and a strong sense of honor, justice and politeness. He is not an ornamental product, but is an evolution of the cattle business and the predominating spirit of that business.



IMPORTED SHORTHORN BULL, GOLDEN FAME =26056= (72610).
OWNED BY W. D. FLATT, HAMILTON, ONT.

The Use of the Whip.

If an expression of a few of the things I have learned from actual experience would lead to an exchange of ideas on the use of the whip in breaking and training horses I shall feel amply repaid for doing—what someone else might have done far better.

In the first place, I think the whip is used too much. It is often used as an instrument of torture. Cases where it is necessary to punish a horse are rare. Of course, a horse that kicks or bites its master should be punished, but a martingale is more suitable than a whip. The noise together with the blow frightens him more than the cut of a whip and he suffers from no after-effects; yet experience proves that he remembers it just as long.

The whip is misused more in the treatment of shying horses than in any other class. A horse is trotting quickly along the road, when a piece of paper flies up. Not knowing what it is, the horse immediately—as in the case of all other unexplained phenomena—attributes it to and associates it with his Satanic Majesty. His driver pulls and shoves alternately on the lines and tries to soothe the frightened animal by roaring "Whoa boy! Whoa boy!" When the paper has been safely passed, he pulls out a rawhide whip, and with an, "I'll teach you to shy!" he begins to belabor the now thoroughly frightened animal. The horse attributes the whipping to the object that frightened him, and the next piece of paper he sees frightens him so much the more. This is not mere theory. I have seen it tried time and again, and always with the same result. Above all things, if you cannot whip a horse without losing your temper, do not whip him at all. But little satisfaction is to be derived from whipping a dumb brute for what was, after all, partly its master's fault. For every horse is, to a certain extent, what some man has made him.

ROTARY.

Judging Dairy Bulls.

RUDIMENTARIES, MILK VEINS, ESCUTCHEON, AND COLOR SIGNS.

BY F. S. PEER.

Replying to a correspondent, who says in the *Jersey Bulletin*, March 14th: "I wish Mr. Peer would tell what are his methods in selecting animals, especially males. I judge he pays no attention to color of ears, escutcheon, rudimentaries, etc." I may say in reply that I judge on points as far as I am able to give a reason for them. As soon as they lead to guesswork I stop.

RUDIMENTARIES.

I am not able to give any good reason for considering rudimentaries, nor have I ever heard anyone attempt to give one founded on facts, why one bull with rudimentaries half an inch long was a better stock-getter than one whose rudimentaries were $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long or simply scars. I remember hearing a judge's apology for awarding a certain ungainly-looking bull a prize: "Oh, but you ought to have seen his rudimentaries, never saw the like of it in my life, nearly an inch long." I ventured to ask what that indicated. "Well—well—it's a good sign," and that was all the answer I received—no reason, only a good sign.

It's a good sign also when you see 13 geese walk in a row all toeing in. I have heard it was a sure sign the children would have the measles light during the coming season.

No, Mr. Dickerman is right; I do not select bulls by signs; I want something a little more tangible. It is safe to say that for the last twelve years I have judged an average of a hundred bulls a year, and in going among the herds in England, Scotland, Jersey and Guernsey, I have had splendid opportunities of observation. I have followed the question closely and have no hesitation in pronouncing it a fad with no foundation of fact.

When you find a bull that is getting cows with good, well-placed teats and are large milkers, look up the sire, and when you find them repeatedly, as I have, with scars instead of rudimentaries, you will begin to lose faith in signs. Some of the worst shaped udders and teats I ever saw were the daughters of a Guernsey bull with long, well-placed rudimentaries. I do not mean to say that long rudimentaries are a sign of a poor-shaped udder. I do not believe the length or placing of the rudimentaries has anything whatever to do with it. If they must take it for a sign, I would as soon take it for a bad as a good one.

MILK VEINS.

I have often found the richest milkers, and many of the largest milkers, instead of having two large tortuous milk veins on the belly, have numerous small veins there and on the udder. I remember seeing some Holsteins at Mr. T. G. Yoeman's farm in Walworth that were giving nearly a hundred pounds of milk a day with milk veins no larger than are often found on heifers with their first calves. I have seen many Ayrshire cows that gave 60 pounds of milk and over a day, with veins of very ordinary size and but few of them externally. I have no way of knowing how many veins are leading to a cow's udder that do not show on the surface. A small, active gland can do more work than large, sluggish ones.

ESCUTCHEON.

This is a subject I have studied with great persistency and one that also fails too often to be worthy of serious consideration. I have read every work published on the subject, but I would never condemn a bull, that suited me in other respects, because he lacked an escutcheon. When we raise a bull calf out of a 22-lb. cow by a prizewinning sire out of a 20-lb. cow, and he has neither escutcheon nor rudimentaries, and a scrub bull out of a worthless heifer has a full flanders escutcheon with thigh ovals and all, it ought to teach us a lesson, but it seldom does. We want to see the sign.

COLOR.

This is another uncertain sign. It comes and goes. It depends upon the condition of the animal. It is invariably more noticeable in animals that are on the gain. Dry cows as a rule exhibit more color than the same cows in milk. Color continues to glow in an animal as long as she is thriving or until she reaches her bloom. A change of diet, a day with looseness of the bowels, a sudden exposure to cold or storm, indigestion, and it fades like a flower.

Again it has been proven over and over that color is no indication of butter-fats. My advice is to look for it in the milk and not in the ears, and when you do, you will find it is not at all in proportion to the color in the ears. I think the reverse is more nearly correct; at least, it often happens that cows with the lighter colored ears give the higher colored milk.

In judging Guernseys it is a point the club wishes to encourage. Therefore, in judging Guernseys, color must be considered and breeders have to take their chances. The color may be there when