

they get their "beef" in for sale. Now, if the range disappears, these people will not be able to "hold" their cattle on their small piece of land, and you can see the situation they will be in. The ranchers who own considerable land keep their cows and calves under fence, but let their steers go on the range; and they will likewise suffer.

Now, the "outfit" to which I belong have managed to buy considerable land in sections close together, and we are cropping the land at the rate of about two hundred acres per year. We raise one crop of green feed, then a crop of oats; and seed out to timothy and broomis grass, with the result that if the worst comes to the worst we can eventually take in our thousand steers from off the range and "hold" them under fence with the fifteen hundred she-stock now there.

I may say that we have two ranches; one in the foot-hills which we use as a winter ranch, and the other about fifteen miles out on the prairie; the latter is a summer ranch and contains about eight thousand acres, all under a four strand barb wire fence. We raise a great quantity of green feed and put up as much hay in the foot-hills as we can. This year we got an outfit to put up six hundred tons on the prairie outside of our fence; the reason we contracted so much was because we have been led to believe, and from the evidence of our own eyes we consider that this will be the last year that hay can be put up on the prairie, as all the available land is homesteaded or bought in the immediate vicinity. This hay costs \$3.00 per ton in stacks with fence of wire and a ploughed fire-guard around them.

As I mentioned before, we are "holding" about fifteen hundred head of she-stock and will probably brand about four hundred calves this year; and, as a great number of our breeders are young, we will in all probability brand nearly twice that number next year. Now, of the four hundred head branded this fall, 200 will be steers and 200 heifers;