

Women's Ailments

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WHERE CATTLE AND SHEEP MEN WAR.

The chorus to a song heard often in the sheep camps of the Western States quavered out on the crisp winter air of the Rockies. It was sung by a camp cook—a man whose humorous cast of eye and mouth was at variance with the belt of cartridges about his waist and the Winchester propped against a tree near at hand. There were other men moving restlessly about, mostly Mexican herders, and all of them had full cartridge belts and guns. On the surrounding hills were men standing sentinellike. They also had cartridge belts and guns. And all about were sheep and more sheep, and the tink of sheep bells and the "baa" of lambs filled the air.

It was the great sheep army moving from the summer range in the Rocky Mountains in western Colorado to the winter range on the high plateau of eastern Utah. And the cartridge belts and the guns and the guards on the surrounding hills were all evidences of the fact that this great mass of 21,000 sheep was being trailed through a hostile cattle country, where the cowmen had sworn to exact vengeance from any sheepman who crossed the "dead line."

No such daring move has ever been made in the history of the West. For years the unorganized sheepmen have suffered depredations at the hands of the well organized cattlemen. The country divided by the Colorado-Utah line has been one of the battlegrounds between these conflicting interests of the open range. Time after time when herders have crossed "dead lines" draw by the cattlemen cowboys have visited the camps of the offending herders and have killed the sheep, burned the wagon, and driven the men back with stern orders never to return.

The climax was reached in April of last year, when one night on Indian Creek, in western Colorado, Peter Swanson, a young sheep herder, was murdered by cattlemen. Swanson was accompanied by his brother and a man named Gourlay. These two men

were in camp with Swanson when a band of armed cattlemen rode up and called to them to surrender. Gourlay and Peter Swanson's brother were bound hand and foot without resistance, but Peter hesitated. But before the herder had a chance to draw a weapon he was shot, one of the horsemen getting down out of his saddle in order to get a better shot at the herder. After shooting the man the horseman rode away in the darkness, leaving two of the herders bound hand and foot and the other fatally wounded. Finally the men who were bound managed to get themselves free and carried Swanson to the nearest ranch house, but the young herder died in a few hours.

Swanson's killing aroused the sheepmen of Colorado to frenzy. The Western Wool Growers' Association offered \$4,000 reward for the apprehension of the slayers of the herder. A strange organization was affected among the Sheepmen, and in January of this year, when it was determined to move the sheep from the summer range to the plains where they feed in winter, the sheepmen decided to adopt strenuous methods for mutual protection.

The sheep feed in summer on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains, but in winter they are moved back to the plains, where they find subsistence until the spring snows melt the deep snows from the mountain ranges. It is necessary to trail sheep many miles across a country where the cattlemen are strong and where many sheep killings have occurred. So the sheepmen hired one hundred of the best gun fighters in all the western country to act as guards while the herds were being moved. The sheep were divided into three divisions of 7,000 each. Generally sheep travel in bands of not more than 2,500. The massing of more than 20,000 was a sight not soon to be forgotten. The divisions moved slowly down the mountain road from Montrose toward Grand Junction. Everything was done with the utmost precision and vigilance was not relaxed an instant. Guard mounts were changed with military regularity. Scouts were sent ahead, and at night there were armed watchers surrounding every division to guard against surprise.

The camping outfit for the "army" was of large proportions. Scores of burros carried the provisions, tents, etc. The packers, herders, and guards swelled to total number of men to more than two hundred—and every man was armed to the teeth and ready to do battle to the death.

When the sheepmen reached the scene of Swanson's shooting an impressive sight was enacted. The young herder is buried where he fell, in a wild and lonely spot in the mountains. The sheepmen erected a great monument of stones over the herder's grave. On this monument they posted a notice offering an increased reward of \$10,000 for the apprehension of the men responsible for Swanson's death. Leaving this notice on the monument the cavalcade passed on. Swanson's brother was one who assisted in putting up the monument over the grave of the young sheep herder.

On Monday, January 13, the sheep army encamped across the river from the thriving town of Grand Junction, Col. Next day it moved across the town and out toward the ranges of Utah. After leaving grand junction it was frankly in hostile territory, as this part of the range is all given over to cattle business. Sheep move slowly under the best of circumstances, and it was possible for the cavalcade to make only twelve miles away. It took five hours for the procession of sheep to pass a given point.

No demonstration was made by any hostile interests, and the sheepmen reached their summer range without incident. Indeed it would have taken a small army of cattlemen to defeat such an organization of well armed and determined men.

Cattlemen contend that the sheep "feed out" the cattle range and that they are helpless against wandering sheepmen who do not pay local taxes, but who run their flocks where they will, and who have ruined many a cattleman by their actions. "Dead lines" have been drawn, and sheep have been slaughtered by thousands, and

in some instances herders killed for their temerity in disobeying the mandate of the cattlemen.

MAIZE IN NATAL.—The attention of the grain trade in regard to the increase in the world's production of cereals of all kinds is almost exclusively fixed upon the two great exporting countries, the United States and Argentina. There are, however, other countries in which the extension of the area under cereals, though not of such large importance, is nevertheless of real interest. Such is the case in South Africa, where the cultivation of cereals has been making great progress for some year past. The cultivation of maize, in particular, has recently extended largely in South Africa. It is estimated that maize to the value of £600,000 will be exported this year from the Port of Durban. The Government of Natal and also the Governments of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony do everything to encourage this export trade. They have recently instituted on the railways special reduced rates, so that now it costs no more to transport a ton of maize over a distance of 800 kilometres than to take it 80 kilos. Hitherto the rates have been 30s. in the one case and 4s. 4d. in the other; now the rate is the same for both distances, namely 9s. 10d., including the cost of shipment at Durban, which is about 1s. 4d. per ton. This tariff, which favors the more remote districts somewhat at the expense of the lands in close proximity to the coast, for which, in many cases, a high price has been paid, has not escaped criticism. It should be added that maize of inferior quality is excluded from the advantage of this tariff. It is hoped in this way to place the export trade in maize on a solid basis. THE MILLER.

PILES

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