

Live Stock Sanitary Board OF THE TERRITORY OF ARIZONA.

Lochiel, Arizona, December 28th, 1898.

C--8879.

Hon. H. L. Vail,
Rosemont, Arizona.

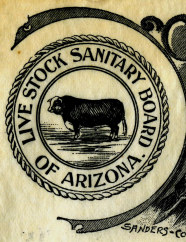
Dear Sir:--

I said very little at the cattle meeting because it had not gone on very far until I was satisfied that no good whatever would come of anything that was done or said there. Mr. Donau is as unpractical and the schemes he has in mind are as impracticable, from a cow man's standpoint, as you would expect the theories of a drygoods merchant to be. I do not believe that driven herds should be inspected by a Territorial inspector, only in the case where the owner would refuse to allow the cattlemen through whose range he was going, to inspect the herd.

I have learned much from your brother Walton, and one of the things that I have heard him say, in a little different language from you, is that we do not want, if we could, to make laws that will run our ranches, brand our calves, and such other things as every individual should do for himself.

I am satisfied and convinced from my personal experience, from my observation and from my correspondence with all sanitary authorities in the United States that have anything whatever to do with inspection, that our live stock sanitary laws should not be changed in any particular. The brand inspection law, as far as the shipping of cattle is concerned, is perfect, except that cattle shipped by rail from one point to some other point within the county should not be subject to inspection; I have in mind the shipment of your brother from Calabasas to Sonoyta. But these kind of shipments are made so seldom that it is hardly worth while to change the law to meet that particular instance. I believe that it would be a good thing to compel the butchers of every town in the Territory where there are more butchers than one, to do their slaughtering all at the one place, and then compel the inspector to inspect the cattle immediately before they are killed and tag the hides immediately after they are skinned. I have no objection whatever to their making the stealing of cattle under the value of \$25.00, petit larceny under the provision of law set forth by Judge Wright; but as for going over the cattle bill passed by the Nineteenth Legislature section by section and changing it throughout, as suggested by that nincompoop Stratton, it is the baldest nonsense.

I do not propose to spend any time on this matter (and I would suggest that you look at it in the same light) until the Legislature meets and the committee on live stock is appointed, then let us--you and I and such others as think as we do--go before this committee and tell them that the cattle laws of the Territory, as far as they go, are all right, that we do not want any change except as to butcher inspection. The statute defining larceny is not in the cattle law, and the cattle law



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does not need to be changed to change that. I agree with you as to lobos and am satisfied that the bounty should be \$15.00. Every colt we had in 1898 was eaten. Many, many of the calves are eaten. The thieving on top of the loss from wild animals has taken twenty-five per cent of all the calves dropped on the San Rafael range.

It seems to me that an attorney who knows the effect of law ought to be able to draw up a bill so that a man who has twenty-four calves and only six cows can be made to show how he came by those calves or be punished for stealing. The same ought equally to be true of a man who has calves branded on a portion of the range where he never had cows within ten miles.

There is another thing that during this legislature should be looked after, but it has nothing to do with the cattle law. There are a lot of cowardly creatures in this vicinity, and I see them more or less all over the Territory where the Americans are in the majority, who carry a pistol day and night. You never see them without one. If they take their pants down to attend to a call of nature they lay the pistol before them. They hold it in their teeth while pulling up their pants. They lay the pistol in their lap while eating their dinner. They carry it in the corral where they endanger their own worthless lives and the lives of decent vaqueros by reason of accident. The Territory should take the ground that a man who has committed a crime and is afraid to live without a gun in his hand should leave the Territory, and that the man who is honest and decent and not afraid of his neighbor because of some wrong done him should not be permitted to carry a gun at any time, and especially not in any cattle round-up or in any gathering of people. There was, perhaps, a time in this Territory when it was necessary to carry a pistol, but that time had passed away before I came here and the best men that I see about the town or country are not making and have not for years been making a walking arsenal of themselves. I intended to speak of this at the Tucson meeting, but concluded that it would do no good and had better be left, as I have written of other things, until a later date. Mr. Jim Finley, although he does not profess to be a cattleman, has better ideas concerning the wants of the cattle industry than the majority of these fellows who know it all.

Yours truly,

Colin Cameron