

Texas forts were taken over by the Confederacy. They were occupied for about a year but troops were so badly needed in other localities that they were abandoned, the country reverting again to the unrestricted control of the savage Apaches. Some years before Miguil Musquiz had established a farm in Musquiz Canyon from which he furnished Fort Davis with beef, hay and vegetables. In 1862, while he and his family were visiting at Presidio, the Apaches drove off all his stock and killed all his men except one, who escaped to Fort Davis to give the alarm. From the small garrison there, Lt. Mayes took some fifteen soldiers and civilians and followed the trail away down into the Big Bend. The whole party was ambushed and every man was killed except the man who had reported the raid at Fort Davis, he again escaping, this time to reach Presidio.

After the Civil War, the Trans-Pecos posts were re-occupied and the war of subjugation of the Apaches was undertaken in earnest, lasting until 1880 when Victorio and his band were all either killed or captured. During all this time the region was sparsely settled, the few so intrepid as to venture outside the forts, being in constant danger of their lives. But the cattlemen who lived east of the Pecos looked with longing eyes upon the virgin Trans-Pecos ranges and, as the net was constantly tightened on the Indians, the more daring of them began to move across the Pecos, establishing themselves near the several forts. They were encouraged in this, as the Indians were gradually confined to reservations in New Mexico, but for some years there was danger from the periodical raids into the region.

THE LONGHORNS COME

The first cattle of this movement, so soon to reach enormous proportions, were mostly Longhorns. They resembled the Davis, Spencer and Faver cattle in their long legs and horns and their many colors—black, red, brown, blue, white, grey, roan and spotted. They were very hardy and tough and their long legs enabled them to go long distances back into the mountains from the water holes for grass. They were wild and would fight their shadows, being fully adapted to wrest a living from a wild rough country and protect themselves from the panthers and wolves that abounded.

But even at that time some of the cattle brought into the Big Bend showed the refining influence of Shorthorn blood. A Mr. Brennen had a herd of well bred cattle at Fort Stockton in 1878. Charles Mulhern had established his ranch near Fort Davis the same year. In 1879, John Beckwith had a herd of three hundred high grade Shorthorns, which he herded near Fort Pena Colorado, just south of the present town of Marathon. Capt. Pat Dolan established a herd of Shorthorn cattle on Limpia Creek above Fort Davis about 1880.

About this time, the Goulds and Huntingtons were staging a railroad building race into the Trans-Pecos from the east, their goal being El Paso and the control of a trans-continental railroad. The Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway reached Alpine in 1882 and Marfa a few months

later. The last Indian fight had been fought in the Diablo Mountains in 1880 and, with the death of old Victorio, the Indians were never more to be a menace to the region. With the coming of the railroads, the ranges were rapidly filled, water now being the determining factor in the location of ranches.

A cattleman would settle at some permanent, or in some cases intermittent, watering place and his cattle would scatter over the surrounding country. Sometimes, drift fences were built but usually the various herds mingled. At branding or shipping time the ranchmen joined in great roundups, each with his wagon, horses and men, and worked together. At the end of the roundups, the various brands were cut out and returned to their home ranges.

The land had been largely located by the railroad companies who received it from the State of Texas at the rate of sixteen sections for each mile of road built. The law required that, in locating their lands, alternate surveys be surveyed for the free schools of Texas. The first real efforts at control of the ranges came with the leasing by cattlemen of the alternate railroad sections, the school lands being used mostly for nothing. About this time fencing was begun. With the fencing of the ranges the improvement of the herds began. Therefore many of the bulls were turned out of their own herds, though Shorthorns were bought to supplement them.

THE SHORTHORN

The Shorthorn blood brought to the Texas Longhorn qualities badly needed of Texas cattle were to compete in the beef markets of the country. It shortened the legs and horns and thickened the loin and hind quarters, where the choice cuts of beef are found. And the rainbow colors were rapidly replaced by red or roan. The disadvantage in the use of Shorthorns lay in the reduced hardness of the cross, they being less inured to cold weather and scant pasturage. Another drawback lay in the fact that, though Shorthorns were found in red, white or roan colors, stockmen would have none but red bulls, often at the risk of having to use inferior individuals.

THE HEREFORD

Hereford cattle had come into favor in the pastures of the middle west and their white faces were mingling with the red, white and roans in the winning of premiums at the leading live stock shows. They were tried on the western ranges and found to be hardier than any other breed. For some years, however, stockmen thought that a Shorthorn cross was essential to the maintenance of scale in their cattle. But time showed that with the proper selection of Hereford sires, quality and hardness were assured.

Many fine Hereford bulls and breeding cows were brought into the Highland Country at an early date. About 1888, Jim and Beau McCutcheon bought a thousand head of Hereford cows in Missouri for their Limpia Canyon ranch in the Davis Mountains. During the last decade of the nineteenth century, many other ranchmen bought Hereford bulls or established breeding herds. Among them