Twelfth State Legislature

Senate

December 6th 1913,

WM. C. IRVINE Ross

Dr. Churchers B. Pennen, Philesdiephin. Penne,

"uny dues doctor." Them finally got to where I can evenimed on the second or addition of very littles, but hinds and y heraces when I write have finished it . you are no doubt familias with conditions as they existe in the whole range country for years prior to 1892. How the cattle interests had have forged upon , How those intersted had first recorded to the law, spending thousands and hundreds of thousands of dallars in our efforts to promet steading, but are in vaine, At I he percentage of committeens was exactingly secale , and the trials so expensive that love county attomuys , while admitting we had good cares , would refuse to proceets coulors we would agree to pay the experiences of trial, although on ever two the payers cand comity, giving as an excuse their countries were the four to stand the expense, In fact a Johnson las. attorning halle Plussed some somety fire cases at one time for such a mason , there conditions want from had to to worked give species que balder and balder, with the worked give species, for worked the country post a band of them of a count of and fillowind our toward ups , and V at the same third gring to and and the same the round is at the lass of the same third gring to an ange for their same corrying their times mark tones the same third after and the same the same and the corrying the cattle of the same and to the same the same the same and the same the s The objective there was a fight, and the Rustler around win becausey in such members that they got away with the fight, Soon the men working for the cattle out fits

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secured to how an understanding arong themselves that they were bring paid so which a worth for worthing , not fighting, and it was step to the owner or reconceges to do this own Jegthing, For some years prior to 1892 there was counder able Falking and dis eastion among those who could be truthed, as to what could be done to provent the concerne stealing of our property, and the acception was no . made by some that none but unbecilio would go on from year to year allowing our property to be taken away from tes without an effort afor our fact to promote, and that idea Amund to sink into many of us Al 1891 we I made up our runds to do something, and the Hyoung con-Angent (the names you have) and those of their friends they could trust talked friely , and finally decided that an Expedetine of some kind was to be sent into Johnson bornity and Mr. Spaws, them then be costing tyo. State Frounds Classociation, was instructure to enter into & correspondence with such parties as he saw f. t. , whom he thought could receive for us the mumber and trend of cum for the figh, and it was through Us, yans, when we terrise secured the services of a Service by the name of Som Searth, who in turn collected the Levans, and who acted as their captain and species and through the centric time they were in our company, I we that you are decided that we placed you art former les encourse during after the advantation of the Rege the Course of the Rege the Course of the Rege at the course areate companies for us to work our read areate companies for us to work our rauch horses at that time of year, we decided To purchase an entire new out. fit and to the back of buying them R. S. Van Takkele and rangelf were assigned

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Senate A V. My They you probably have no edea of how we were bring robbed, to give you an instance Frank lenton who now love in Calorado, but way them a cattle buyer in Myo, told use years after, that he bought in me tunch from a sixteen grat old girl eighty calors, Captain Junks, who lived turker Timber East of Purk about 175 miles south east of here, an ald Chegeune friend of rime, and we who was foundary with "my brand, wind use, come down to my rouch at once, about twenty fin of your cours with severe bags In very parties, do not know how they got them sound at once taking the theriff of our county with rece, The found tarenty one lows, I drow the cours to first and part them into ydink of the theor, the theriff thade a circle around with of Abothing for caloro, He found a bunch hid in a bollow 15 mens north of Fusk, the man who seemed to own them was disinclined to those them, but the charff a determine sort of a fellow took the calors and the read too, The turned the trunch of calors into the cause per with the Cows at Susk, and minitum out of twenty one want to sucking the cows. The man I sunt to the See . atthough I Training several letters warning rue not to appear against there I let this time in the proceedings it had not him decide Consta ring at which we de eided counting chouse be done, I was sur-"prived to have John Minterling more that all owners recompose who a oned possibly do so OVER

chould go with the Texans, for the survel orarous, an follows. to show the way, to point out those we wanted ' To give the expedition prostinger, and last to prevent installes This rection was a surprise to me, but in order to bring it up before the recenting & recorded it, and after some discussion it was carried, The "moment it was carried personally put the question to sorry quetter in the room Wile you go and received a reply that they would from server Then then bet all God Brath and Fronge M.Barter, Antoling who was in Cheyenne until shortly before we started, wante to his house at in Sheridan Co. Rig Red. Rauch, a head of us, assuring us he would be on deck at the proper time, He did not show up at se notice the standing our meanurger to him from the TA ranche to the advicing him of our need of n inforements, trached team and succeeded in Taturning to us.

Э. R R The State of Wyoming Twelfth State Legislature Senate at the start our intention was to organize and start from aucha, and as I remember - to, Od. Prott. George the Rayter and very self cours appointed as a committee to an. Wrange for the transportation of use Turners and loggage. Thaturally we first called upon Mr. Burt of the F. C. Hu. J. R. P. Who was afterward Privident of the Union Pacific, It took I come time for it to loak into him what we would, but He & loken our real abject finally dawned on time, I wish you Could have seen and heard him, He tan his fright Sthrough his hair and exclaimed, greathern, quitten, this railroad will have withing to do with an expedition Is of that third, not will I and very advice to you gentlement I is to knop it. We gave this to understand plainly we were I not then recting advice but transportation, and if his I road could not accoundate us we would go elsewhere 3 for it, Me the called on Us, Heldnidge of the BHLE. R. R. He interity to us without a word unter we were through, is und them and without a word unter we were through, is your interitions are, but that is as office of union of this is trade, for performent a met your all I know you a sol toads, I day portoundly a equinated with you all I know you go is to the response and and in the sources that is in the good of the termines the termines that is the training our "Then two days notice and it will be furnished , Theorem I have a serien take in, and says up a situation quicker at letter, and I have always had a great administrine for Holdindys ear 3. I since, Bater boucers, it was assured better to bunch 2. Sour Luxans in Denver, and directly worth from them then to be worth from them to Chequine, then are via Coin Junction to Caxper.

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of the Wytoming Stock Envers assoc. WM. C. IRVINE Ross as the annual meeting was early in april much was to to done in the mean time, Van Tarrele II. bought the horses in balorado and thipped them to the start yards at Chey's where they war branded, and grained for some days prior to our start, which as I start in the word dates ofter the adjournment of the cureting " and the word had been given at the start the second of the dood had been given out to the forth fue to walk down to the shoek yores unsuchatly after the meeting was one in two r threes to as not to exaite attention, as soon as they arrivation they want part into the horse thable, In the reconstructed with so a ground old secont for anything that requires asterne. I have had not one horses and bag googs all looked on the case coating for the arrival of Major Holeath who had gove to Decora to bring up the Timans which was beautifully done, The train pulled with Chargenne with the time here filed down, and as tholeatt had ordered his more to they in the case and true quint, they are not actual at alle, and were at once backed to the strate yords where we hooked on to the horses and baggings, climbed about and fulled at not and pulled at ant, without a single recome tring warst What was going on unless it was some friend of ours whom we had taken into very coupdance, In arrived without any receives hay at Orin question, thereby before our arrival them Walcott said to me, come up to the Station with me I am going to see if David has done his work. He give said to the Exercities please case up the ligent at Douglas and ask tim to get Buffelo, He soon total us that the works were down between Druglas Muffalo, The same the Unigor got me Chadron probably col Can

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get a mustage arround that way . The operator pounded away on his customent for lowe mentes and said daeun it I can't got Chadron Esther, them a sind came on the old man face and he whepend to use I guess arrything is all right, and to the operation he that is too bad, as I was river augious to Read a currend of Them we arrived at the It. Fisthrow Stock yords we were with the David who was there with two haddle horses for Nolcoth. The opened one of ears and put the horses in , but David dia north accompany us , much to my disgust , as I had had a time cost him in Cheyeun countries before, He was then trying to kick out of going, giving as an excuse The comed not a guar himself with his wife, and I asked him how in ticle are I to square recysed with any one and fin children, adding it is a dacund poor more who gots behind his corp. This remark beend to put him on the motel and he again assured we he would go, and as I want to be propally just to David Since boy that in very openion, He would have suppt his word, had not Eleajor Willouth and - otructed him to stay up in this country and cut the works of Sature boughas Ruffals and East of Com Junction which the did , and did it downed write , as he came up her and took my formen Chambers into his confidence, who assisted him and they would take but the wire between two poles, hitch one End of the price to the horn of a soddle and drag at three unles away and lide it in the heles . Two boursons, much drugomed, and disappointed in his faluer to go. as

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Sconce plainly an them, how unportant at rought be to "us, to have barrys representation with us, and I think Walcoth was wrong a giving David buch untructions without consulting the rest of us and them keeping the arrangement to timesilf centre at was too late to change it, as any good wan could I have out those wires, On the way up to Carper there was considerable work to the done with our baggage in order to have time in getting accord from the Carper Strok Jords, and Poleoth who was otherwisely in command orchard sorry one out of the baggage car Except those he wanted to help kim. Whether Frank Conton Ruces of the order of not, I am unable to say, but after order was reade, he came into the car, and was promptly ordered out, This was the thisk of a batter feeling between the two which gave us consider. - able Trouble later, as for built and banton was friends, and the Firmens reaturally followed Smith . I "after and take given the run their eadder forms" Upon and arrival at Corper Pens, the Mayor ordered run to the to take his men and ret up and load the wagons , while he got out of right with our main force, This proved to be a very difficult job, as our work homes while good ones, had never her het ale together , lowe Terfusice to puce, and one team of your tan away, and had at not here for the skill and staying qualities of the driven, we would have been up a though right at the start. But as finally got hapley through Casper and

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WM. C. IRVIN north of the Reatte River, which Eucouraged us to feel we wire write on our way, but at noon that very day, some of our run foolistly turned their horses love with the ropes on them, which caused a stampede of our horned, sever of which we never did record, awang these Rost was the Reporters horse, blover (as bland) by name, who recendentely took one of the fixans horse and insisted it was this, I howard took the torse away from, and reads this ride on the wagon, white cometine during the day we run with a bunch of lary. Raddle horses, and we rounded them up and took three as Freember it. That have night deschwater and others cause to use and said I would have to talk to Walky in regard to the trouble that was brucing, and I did to in ted, as he alight with the, not having a ted of his own. The next morning at breakfast, or about that time, he wende a very recardly speech resigning command of the sypedition for the hake of peace and havenany, that we war out you a distinct purpose, and that the feelings of 200 one man should the be allowed to should in the way of our all cars. From that time until, we other the Should and this party Frank bout was in commence and for In - member we count into Rob Tridales much in a sure w storm the record night. Scan were men for Touse who way suffiring terribly with Piles. Ha starrup, are

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too long and I exchanged horses with him , and some then he suffered intensity, and when adamson and I would lift him off and on as we did source times The would beg us to been time, That same night Welcatt got lost and elept in a hoystock. The next day led Mether him the frighter, and legalesta Dad. Allowed up, and When they understand the nature of our gathering the Sector was very aurenes to go back and fied his runles, and agailable bad tis cat. Finformed them both however, that bother the under and the cat would have to fast for a while, It was this day I think that This Showing smed and advised us that fourture Ructions were at the TCC & rough that aring, and we immediately commenced to the the the commenced of the second to get ready to renow. Right her as the place to say what I am going to say abount 16. T. Davis, I could say concidenable, but I will say writing , The all have the Eight report and Esterne for this wife and formily, and when Mrs Davis who got wind of how Minter actra, we want to Fra Hesse and asked him A Frad for the same of the feeling hind, and the most of us have backed Fired up in his lie for the Have Tratous. J of course do not know just what Some Smith told the Segues in Lexus , as to the nation of out Expedition , but I am quite lun he understood perfectly well what we intended doing and I think the others did also. Wes the Expedition got out of Chequeene without it

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at being generally known, The Union Pacific Officials who furneled transfortation for us from Secure to Casper were fully informed as to our intentions, as it was discussed very fully in Super. - tendante Andersons offices a number of times , and & a & recease I wind them, alederen quite gragewith report to tease use, which was, just you hand us at Caspy and we will do the work The date we left Cheeperne was Upl 5 \$ 1897. arrived at Cosper Peus. Easter apre 6th 1892. State night of apre 7 40 Camped Brtween Casper and Tiddles rought of of lipe 8th arrived at fixedales rauch. Major Nolcath was supposed to be the real head of the party when we started, He near was appointed, but We all conceeded him to be the brotherman for the place, and it was generally understood. He accepting the Texponsibility conclusingly, and our conclusions in this re--epect were sound, as notwithstanding his manner to home, and his actions at trues, He was unquestionsby the Best cure in any party for the praction, lifter learno findales rauch Frank Canton was supposed to be in accumand, but he had little to say, and in fact that eath within took the lead at the TK lo rough where directed the placing

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WM. C. IRVINE might enquire It We Know Reservation , & to tell any one who suggested , that they are cooking for a surveying party, and if they are able to get there to camp on said Preservation and remain these unte they were sent fri. As it was our intention them to go right into Buffelo, and as our Ruffelo contingent were excudingly envious about their fronds then, The intended to travele faster than the traces could go, and as we had no recent to spare to send a guard with theme, we concluded to let them have their chances in getting through, In this connection let rue hay , that the wagons pared in plane view of the TA just before they were captured, and we should, and could have provented and Capture, had we had the gumption to do so, but those of us who should have attended to it wire so completely tind out, and done up for the worth of shep that we neglected to do it. For instance that morning when the word come to us the wagon's wave passing a charge of a very few run I who had bother them about a rule away, we had just been leated at the table for trucking and while as waited a remate as two to be served of noticed Heajon Noleatty head bink down with his face flat in his platen the these driving our wagoes were not turned over to the military, but as I recember corre held in Buffale for the purpose of bring used as int. "russed against us. They were not confine with us at any

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WM. C. IRVINE "non where they tried with us, and were constructly turned I think the only reason the Using officers of 6 of Factures Type were against up, was that many of the Rusters war good spenders, and have fellows will rent a Ruppe from time to time, and boing it whichen for them , The others, I think " we are of the others thing an against a with any of us, and moth east of their ground , took the says pear and runained away from as. It was not generally to our friends throughout the state that the Extredition was to take place. The reast of our inter-- Fions was carefully quarted for fear it would reach the Ears of those whom we did not want to know about what we contemplated doing. Ido more not Herow what finally to came of Jones + Walter, but the got all that was coming to them, and much more, to start with, and afterwards gave us an Endlies amount of trouble and expense, being willing to sell out to either eide, In the first place, you will remember my saying a my other letter, that where it because light enough for us to see the recorning we surrounded the tr. b. rauch, that we were informed by Mise horning that the spring wag on thunding in growt, and classe

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5 to the rauch, did not belong there, and that it was his opinion that it belonged to some me who came there late the coming before, and the chances cours it was the property of some one whom we were not after. The That wagon the harness, a fiddle and home traps , to long my to the Impress ware burned. Then we started so hastily north after dispring of Champion & Robey. We sent those two Trappens couth, as they wire starting away they complained of their losses. Chastic leampbree, took them arise, and upon very asking them what their lover, one of theme put his own Value on each asticle burned and I added them up unt and gave him dollar for dollar for every dollar the claimed we had destroyed for them, except for the grat for which I gave them an order on Boh Tasdales rauchum, asking tim to furnish it to them. 50 after they had started away perfectly vaterfied appar. aj - sertey the younger fellow said, and very hat was burned and " too, I have no bot, I muse diately handed him muse, and put on and old for ap that I had tid to surg Laddle for use in viry add weather, These cause fellows de afterwards turned up in Cooper, and did considerable talking against us . Later they appeared in Douglas, and the way throught best to get rid of them , This was taken

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WM. C. IRVIN as then was so reach interformer from the antiade that they were constantly changing their comments, Our representions finally had to bake them away by force. They wan heed in Gauford, again in Chadron, and finally we had a special train count there and book there to Queato, when some truck of a case was Trumption up against is order to have them , Then Strey al - man book there to less york thate, when they hapt for months, and some years afterward I had a letter from some fellow in bolorado tiling me that unless I print come checks issued by one Hugo Dowychur to certain parties the Theory fork on banks that menny existed he would open up some old sorry, I replied that I was not responsable for the actions of Hugo Dougelium or any other man, and when he got mady to proceed as he thereatured To do, he did not have to have very consent, Friend Second from him afterward, around but I understand that there, E. W. Whiteauch and , In this connection , while we were trung trade in Cheganne, two lawgers who claimed we were undertak to them on the yours there got away business appeared in the city, it was very wident the time was chosen for the purpose of intrinclating is into giving them a lat of money, to have being both. Tradinaday and ringered ware appointed to her them, which we did in the presence of State Theory attomy

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in Stales office . The spokesmany the two renade as a spench and informat 45 we owerd them including three hundred one attorney F.H. Hearry had promised and to taken 17 and 18 Thereadored dollars, France to Mr. Harry and asked him. did you promise the shiriff 200 the auxward yas, I asked him again , how much die you pay there two quitteman? He autwend 350. all I had, I asked him how werel time was required to do the work of they did you you? I the augurend about twenty or therety minutes, I then turned to the Chadron attorneys and said, to for as I am concerned gentlemen, as a mucher of this commenter, I am coreing to pay the account out attorney promined to pay the sheriff and no more, The conferned Ended in their accepting the doc.", are of which they high themsers, not giving the theory our cent. As the theory at Guadron wax at that time was Jun Dahluman, un Ex-cow-- Juncher, who was later on M.J. Bryans right bower politically He is now serving this record later as they of linear the and asked we himself come yours afterward why is had reat pine time the three tendered, Itold him of the above uniterned confirmen, and office to hope him to the Stock Froures Mature Bank and dig up the da draft that was used in paying the recovery to those lawyers, but the declined to have me do it. In referring to your letter I see I have one looked your question number & sutiney, Rundy! What form was followed in deciding what Rusters should be ried & E YC. I an glad + to auxwes, and it would have sported the whole story such to have done to.

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Those of us who were in the field and came in personal contract with what was going on, of course had out indevidual experiences, and we ware perfectly familias with names and actions of certain undeviduals in our curendiate neigh bookord, reports ware sent into Mr. H. B. Syan, Contere of the Hype State Fronte attor from all over the state, The also had much ex--perieuce in collicting Evidence for the prosecution of the there theors, man Who in addition had taken there have of the former to cords of all the run we twen to be action as priging upon our intersto, and you will be suspined to know perhaps, that go yo of these our fugities from justice from others thates, murders horse & Gattle theirs and all round bad men, Jake Wiele Whey, for unthance, He was notorious as a thing on the Plath Thing in west. - Som Nebrasha, the former range of the Equeula hand He lee. (this company) In 1888 laid company moved up here, the following success R Ley appeared, the scene, and the was Known to say, the legallala was good preting an norarka, and he could not see why it would not be as good in Agoing, This same fillow, walked into this rough with his arm in a sling . Daying his horse had fallen with and broken his colear bone, He layed around for

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for two days apparently in great pain, the third morning The was gove, to was a sure five black horse from out East pastore, Then came another fellow from writern Nebraska by the name of Hagnes, and we had pointing Revoroledge that this fellow, and they took out of this Country diversal times from one to two hundred gradings in a drive, of course out information through Hebrasha lowers and long after the transaction, This fellow Wagness brother Town Wagnes, was located about of they or surety fire meles East of A here. He was me of the most successful themes the country core know, Our morning three men Called on and them took from the midst of his family, and hanged certa his own rope within a few windes of his home, He had accumulated out 1200 horres, and had 17000. the cash in a bank at New castle, There was no room for doubt in our minds as to the quick of these une, corry one of whom we had the names, with a record of their duds in this state, and of many of them in other states, all the side an in the hands of the, Djours was from time to time submitted to the Execution locumenter of the Thys. SHe Growers lesson which was compared of two recembers from such county in the state, which committee was glad to call into it's deliberations any one who could aid in the work. it was no close corporation proposition, on the contrary we welcound every one who showed a disponstruction to treepe

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who we were not suspensives of the comme nothing of the Think was decided by correspondence. As widened of men would accumulate their reasons were batue by Us, I jams and later on submitted to the committee and many others in order to be sure we write right, and the result has proved that care was Exercised in proparing that lest, as not a single unitake was made, not a man was Heled who did not deserve hilling . the only trouble was we did not get enough of them. Had those fourture reported to be at the K. O. the coming before our arrival, had only remain I lift as a hundred . it was too bad they did not remain, Jack Flags excape was another missfortune, However, what letter we accomplished , noticathetanding the Expedition was considered a unitable, and unsuccessfull, it had a good effect. It put the better people to thinking , and guines in Johnson los commende to connect, in fact at was rest long until a thing who was tried in Johnson too. was sur of course. -tion if there was a case against time. The aucions to impress upon your time that the Surstion was not a minitake, on the contrary was an absolute me county, and that the minit is the surstient of the state the county and that see mistake lours recade in telling the run we telled , That there of us who took part in at , did so from a bigh luse of duty, and because after recording to the laws for protection, the commetion was forced upon us that the laws of the state extens could not an would not protech cas.

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History teaches us, that whereas conditions in the past, such as existed in our state at the time of, and prior to the Quereion , have existed, that the people will invariably rise and pro--test themasters, This is as it should be, and I want to further impress upon you, that those of who still his, have who was of the Ngo, contingent, and those who have gone before, have not, and men have tod the slightest removes of conserver, or worry, show dor we wan a count of the part or played, and we never have , and never that that the Alightest apology for our action public or private, on the Controng we feel from de of it, and I am quite sure, judging from the attitude of the Setter people of our state toward us that they have long since come to the conclusion that the du - vasion was the natural as outcome of the conditions, then Existing in our thate, and it had to come corner or later, Personally my chief regat is, that we wan not more

(This is South) are Hires The State of Wyoming Twelfth State Legislature Senate IRVINI door where Rhay & he c- th to I directed the aff sit mes from to a stro Her de Fred tharfed. Charlie Ford stord he shart at Flagge, here whe Floor asker to wh you he and at Time sheet was fire Have where we can the trass nong. north

The State of Wyoming Twelfth State Legislature Senate

December 6th, 1913

W.M. C. IRVINE Ross

Dr. Charles B. Penrose, Philadelphia, Penn.

My dear doctor,

I have finally got to where I can commence on the second addition of my letter, but Lord only knows when I will have finished it.

You are no doubt familiar with conditions as they existed in the whole range country for years prior to 1892. How the cattle interest had been preyed upon. How those interested had first resorted to the law, spending thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars in our efforts to prevent stealing, but all in vain. The percentage of convictions was exceedingly small, and the trials so expensive that some county attorneys, while admitting we had good cases, would refuse to prosecute unless we would agree to pay the expenses of trial, although we were tax payers in said county, giving as an excuse their counties were too poor to stand the expense. In fact a Johnson Co. attorney noll-prossed some seventy-five cases at one time for such a reason. Hence conditions went from bad to worse.

The Rustlers grew bolder and bolder until he worked quite openly, followed our round ups or worked the country just ahead of them and openly cut large calves and mavericks from the round ups after our men had rounded up the cattle at the same time going to our wagon for their meals, carrying their beds on pack horses. If any one objected there was a fight, and the Rustler crowd were usually in such numbers that they got away with the fights. Soon the men working for the cattle outfits seemed to have an understanding among themselves that they were being paid so much a month for working, not fighting, and it was up to the owner or manager to do his own fighting.

For some years prior to 1892 there was considerable talking and discussion among those who would be trusted, as to what could be done to prevent the wholesale stealing of our property, and the assertion was frequently made by some that none but imbeciles would go on from year to year allowing our property to be taken away from us without an effort after our part to prevent, and that idea seemed to sink into many of us.

In 1891 we made up our minds to do something, and the Wyoming contingent (the names you have) and those of their friends they could trust talked freely, and finally decided that an expedition of some kind was to be sent into Johnson County, and Mr H. B. Ijams, the then Secretary Wyo. Stock Growers Association, was instructed to enter into correspondence with such parties as he saw fit, whom he thought could secure for us the number and kind of men for the job. And it was through Mr. Ijams who secured the service of a Texan by the name of Tom Smith, who in turn collected the Texans, and who acted as their captain and spokesman throughout the entire time they were in our employ.

It was decided that we should start for Johnson Co, immediately after the adjustment of the next Annual meeting of the Wyo. Stk Growers Asson. Early in April, as we well knew it would create suspicion for us to work our ranch horses at that time of year, we decided to purchase an entire new out-fit and to the task of buying them R.S. Van Tassell and myself were assigned .

Why you probably have no idea of how we were being robbed. To give you an instance, Frank Benton who now lies in Colorado, but was then a cattle buyer in Wyo. told us years after that he bought in one bunch from a sixteen year old girl eighty calves. Captain Jenks, who lived twelve miles east of Lusk, about 175 miles south east of here, an old Cheyenne friend of mine, and who was familiar with my brand, wired me. "Come down to my ranch at once, about twenty-five of your cows with swollen bags in my pasture, do not know how they got there." I went at once taking the sheriff of our county with me. We found twenty-one cows, with bags swollen. I drove the cows to Lusk and put them into a pen there. The sheriff made a circle around north of Lusk and Jenks ranch, looking for calves. He found a bunch hid in a hollow 15 miles north of Lusk. The man who seemed to own them was disinclined to show them, but the sheriff a determined sort of a fellow took the calves and the man too. We turned the bunch of calves into the same pen with the cows at Lusk and nineteen out of twenty-one went to sucking the cows. The man I sent to the Pen, although I received several letters warning me not to appear against him.

At this time in the proceedings it had not been decided upon that owners and managers should go. And at this meeting (held in Omaha), at which we decided something should be done, I was surprised to have John Winterling move that all owners & managers should go with the Texans, for the several reasons as follows. To show them the way, to point out those we wanted, to give the expedition prestige, and last to prevent mistakes. This motion was a surprise to me, but in order to bring it up before the meeting I seconded it, and after some discussion it was carried. The moment it was carried I personally put the question to every man in the room. "Will you go" and received a reply that they would from every man there except old Col Pratt and George W. Baxter.

Winterling who was in Cheyenne until shortly before we started went to his house in Sheridan Co. Big Red Ranch, ahead of us, assuring us he would be our dick [detective] at the proper time. He did not show up at all. Notwithstanding our messenger to him from the TA ranch advising him of our need of reinforcements (and urging him to come with all the men he could get) reached him and succeeded in returning to us.

At the start our intention was to organize and start from Omaha, and as I remember it, Col. Pratt, George Baxter, and myself were appointed as a committee to arrange for the transportation of our horses and baggage. Naturally we first called upon Mr. Burt, then superintendent of the F.E.M.V.R.R. [Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad] who was afterward President of the Union Pacific. It took some time for it to soak into him what we wanted, but when our real object finally dawned on him, I wish you would have seen and heard him. He ran his fingers through his hair and exclaimed, gentlemen, gentlemen, the railroad will have nothing to do with an expedition of that kind, nor will I, and my advice to you gentlemen is to drop it. We gave him to understand plainly we were not there asking advice but transportation, and if his road could not accommodate us we would go elsewhere for it. We then called on Mr. Holdridge of the B & W R.R. [Burlington and Western Railroad]. He listened intently to us without a word until were through, and then answered instantly, gentleman I think I understand what your intentions are, but that is no affair of mine or of this road. I am personally acquainted with you all. I know you to be responsible men & we are common carriers in business for the money that is in it. When you need the train give me two days notice and it will be furnished. I never saw a man take in, and size up a situation quicker or better, and I have always had a great admiration for Holdridge ever since. Later however, it was considered better to bunk our Texans in Denver, and they came directly north from there to Chevenne, then on via Orin Junction to Casper. (Text written on left side of page: I forgot to say that we had no trouble arranging transportation with U.P. Official, who treated us exceedingly well, meaning our train through to Casper over the F.E.M.V.R.R. from Orin Junction, so far as I know without their consent or knowledge.)

As the annual meeting of the Wyoming Stock Growers Assoc.) was early in April, much was to be done in the meantime. Van Tassell & I bought the horses in Colorado and shipped them to the stock yards at Chevenne where they were branded and grained for some days prior to our start, which as I stated before was immediately after the adjournment of the meeting at Chevenne. The word had been given out to the faithful to walk down to the stock yards immediately after the meeting was over in twos & threes, so as not to excite attention, as soon as they arrived there they were put into the horse stable. In the meantime old Van, who is a grand old scout for anything that requires action, had had our horses and baggage all loaded on the cars waiting for the arrival of Major Wolcott who had gone to Denver to bring up the Texans, which was beautifully done. The train pulled into Cheyenne with the sun blinds pulled down, and as Wolcott had ordered his men to remain in the cars and keep quiet, they were not noticed at all and were at once backed to the stock yards where we hooked onto the horses and baggage cars, climbed aboard and pulled out, without a single man being the wiser to what was going on unless it was some friend of ours whom we had taken into our confidence.

We arrived without any mishaps at Orin Junction. Shortly before our arrival there Wolcott said to me, come up to the station with me. I am going to see if David has done his work. He first said to the Operator please call up the Agent at Douglas and ask him to get Buffalo. He soon told us that the wires were down between Douglas & Buffalo. Well, said the Major, get me Chadron, probably we can get a message around that way. The operator pounded away on his instrument for some minutes and said damn it I can't get Chadron either. Then a smile came on the old man's face and he whispered to us I guess everything is all right, and to the operator he said, that is too bad as I was very anxious to send a message. When we arrived at the Ft. Fetterman Stock Yards we were met by Ed David, who was there with two saddle horses for Wolcott. We opened one of the cars and put the horses in, but David did not accompany us, much to my disgust, as I had had a time with him in Cheyenne sometime before. He was there trying to kick out of going, giving as an excuse he could not square himself with his wife, and I asked him how in hell am I to square myself with my wife and five children, adding it is a damned poor man who gets behind his wife. This remark seemed to put him on his metal and he again assured me he would go, and as I want to be perfectly just to David I will say that in my opinion, he would have kept his word had not Major Wolcott instructed him to stay up in this country and cut the wires between Douglas & Buffalo and east of Orin Junction and keep them cut for several days, which he did and did it damned well. As he came up here and took my foreman Chambers into his confidence, who assisted him and they would cut the wire between two poles, hitch one end of the piece to the horn of a saddle and drag it there miles away and hide it in the hills. I was however much chagrined and disappointed in his failure to go as I could plainly see then how important it might be to us later to have Carey's representative with us, and I think Wolcott was wrong in giving David such instructions without consulting the rest of us and then keeping the arrangement to himself until it was too late to change it, as any good man could have cut those wires.

On the way up to Casper there was considerable work to be done with our baggage in order to save time in getting away from the Casper Stock Yards, and Wolcott who was ostensibly in command and doing the work ordered every one out of the baggage car except those he wanted to help him. Whether Frank Canton knew of the order or not, I am unable to say, but after the order was made, he came into the car, and was promptly ordered out. This was the start of a bitter feeling between the two which gave us considerable trouble later as Tom Smith and Canton were friends, and the Texans naturally followed Smith.

Upon our arrival at Casper Pen, after we had given the men their saddle horses, the Major ordered me to take six men and set up and load the wagons, while he got out of sight with our main force. This proved to be a very different job, as our work horses, while good ones, had never been hitched together. Some refused to pull, and our team of four ran away, and had it not been for the skill and staying qualities of the driver, we would have been up a stump right at the start. But we finally got safely through Casper and north of the Platte River, which encouraged us to feel we were well on our way, but at noon that very day, some of our men foolishly turned their horses loose with the ropes on them, which caused a stampede of our horses, seven of which we never did recover. Among those lost was the "Reporters" horse, Clover by name, who immediately took one of the Texans horse and <u>insisted</u> it was his. I however took the horse away from him and made him ride on the wagon, until sometime during the day we ran into a bunch of Carey's saddle horses, and we rounded them up and took three as I remember it.

That same night Teshemacher and others came to me and said I would have to talk to Wolcott in regard to the trouble that was brewing, and I did so in bed as he slept with me, not having a bed of his own. The next morning at breakfast, or about that time, he made a very manly speech resigning command of the expedition for the sake of peace and harmony, that we were out for a distinct purpose, and that the feelings or wishes of no one man should be allowed to stand in the way of our success. From that that time until the night we struck Sheriff Angus and his party Frank Canton was in command.

As I remember we went into Bob Tisdales ranch in a snow storm the second night. I can well remember poor Ed "Towse" who was suffering terribly with Piles [hemorrhoids]. His stirrups were too long and I exchanged horses with him, and even then he suffered intensely, and when Adamson and I would lift him off and on as we did several times he would beg us to leave him. That same night Wolcott got lost and slept in a haystack. The next day Old McGeehee the freighter, and Ogallala Dad showed up, and when they understood the nature of our gathering, McGeehee was very anxious to go back and feed his mules and Ogallala Dad his cat. I informed them both however, that both the mules and the cat would have to fast for a while. It was this day I think that Mike Shonsey arrived and advised us that fourteen Rustlers were at the KC ranch that evening, and we immediately commenced to get ready to war. Right here is the place to say what I am going to say about H. W. Davis [Henry Winter Davis]. I could say considerable but I will say nothing. We all have the highest respect and esteem for his wife and family, and when Mrs. Davis who got wind of how Winter acted, went to Fred Hesse and asked him about it. Fred for the sake of her feelings lied, and the rest of us have backed Fred up in his lie for same reasons.

I of course do not know just what Tom Smith told the Texans in Texas, as to the nature of our expedition, but I am quite sure he understood perfectly well what we intended doing and I think the others did also.

Yes the expedition got out of Chevenne without it being generally known.

The Union Pacific officials who furnished transportation for us from Denver to Casper were fully informed as to our intentions, as it was discussed very fully in Superintendent Anderson's office a number of times, and a remark I made then, Anderson quite frequently repeated to tease me, which was, "just you land us at Casper and we will do the rest." The date we left Cheyenne was Apl 5th 1892, arrived at Casper Pen early Apl 6th 2891. Night of Apl 7th camped btween Casper and Tisdale ranch, night of Apl 8th arrived at Tisdale ranch.

Major Wolcott was supposed to be the real lead of the party when we started. He never was formally appointed, but we all conceded him to be the best man for the place, and it was generally understood. He, accepting the responsibility willingly, and our conclusions in this respect were sound, as notwithstanding his manner to some, and his actions at times. He was unquestionably the best man in our party for the position.

After leaving Tisdales ranch, Frank Canton was supposed to be in command, but he had little to say and in fact Walcott even then took the lead at the KC ranch where he directed the placing.

Ft McKinney Reservation, to tell any one who might enquire, that they were cooking for a surveying party, and if they were also to get there to camp on said Reservation and remain there until they were sent for. As it was our intention then to go right into Buffalo, and as our Buffalo contingent were exceedingly anxious about their friends there. We intended to travel faster than the teams could go, and as we had no men to spare to send a guard with them, we concluded to let them take their chances in getting through. In this connection let me say that the wagons passed in plain view of the TA just before they were captured, and we should and could have prevented said capture had we had the gumption to do so, but those of us who should have attended to it were so completely tired out and done up for the want of sleep that we neglected to do it. For instance that morning when the word came to us the wagons were passing in charge of a very few men who had taken them about a mile away, we had just been seated at the table for breakfast and while we waited a minute or two to be served, I noticed Major Wolcott's head sink down with his face flat in his plate & soundly asleep. The men driving our wagons were not turned over to the military, but as I remember were held in Buffalo for the purpose of being used as witnesses against us. They were not confined with us at any [time] nor were they tried with us and were eventually turned loose.

I think the only reason the Army officers of Col. Fechets type were against us was that many of the Rustlers were good spenders, and hale fellows well met in Buffalo from time to time and bought whiskey for them. The others, I think at least many of them being unacquainted with any of us, and not being sure of their ground, took the safe plan and remained away from us.

It was <u>not</u> generally known to our friends throughout the state that the expedition was to take place. The secret of our intentions was carefully guarded for fear it would reach the ears of those whom we did not want to know about what we contemplated doing.

I do not know what finally became of Jones and Walker [Ben Jones and William Walker] but I do [?] they got all that was coming to them and much more to start with, and afterwards gave us an endless amount of trouble and expense, being willing to sell out to either side. In the first place, you will remember my saying in my other letter, that

when it became light enough for us to see the morning we surrounded the K. C. ranch, that we were informed by Mike Shonnessey [Shonsey] that the spring wagon standing in front, and close to the ranch, did not belong there, and that it was his opinion that it belonged to some one who came there late the evening before, and the chances were it was the property of some one whom we were not after. Well, that wagon, the harness, a fiddle, and some traps with some grub belonging to the Trappers were burned. When we started so hastily north after disposing of Champion and Rhey [Ray] we sent those two trappers south, as they were starting away, they complained of their losses. Charlie Campbell and I took them aside, and upon my asking them what their losses were, one of them put his own value on each article burned and I added them up and gave him dollar for dollar for every dollar he claimed we had destroyed for them, except for the grub which I gave them an order on Bob Tisdales ranchman, asking him to furnish it to them. After they had started away perfectly satisfied apparently the younger fellow said, and my hat was burned too, I have no hat, I immediately handed him mine, and put on an old fur cap that I had tied to my saddle for use in very cold weather. These same fellows afterwards turned up in Casper, and did considerable talking against us, later they appeared in Douglas, and it was thought best to get rid of them. This was easier said than done as there was so much interference from the outside that they were constantly changing their minds. Our representatives finally had to take away by force. They were held in Crawford, again in Chadron, and finally we had a special train sent them there and took them to Omaha, where some kind of a case was trumped up against them in order to hold them. Then Donzelman took them to New York state, where they were kept for months, and some years afterward I had a letter from some fellow in Colorado telling me that unless I paid some checks issued by one Hugo Donzelman to certain parties in New York on banks that never existed he would open up some old sores. I replied that I was not responsible for the actions of Hugo Donzelman or any other man, and when he got ready to proceed as he threatened to do, he did not have to have my consent. I never heard from him afterward, but I understand that Mr. E.W. Whitcomb did. In this connection while we were being tried in Cheyenne, two lawyers who claimed we were indebted to them on the Jones & Walker get away business appeared in the City of Chevenne. It was very evident the time was chosen for the purpose of intimidating us into giving them a lot of money. Charlie Campbell, Teshemacher and myself were appointed to see them, which we did in the presence of Stoll & Harvey attorneys in Stolls office. The spokesman of the two made us a speech and informed us we owed them including three hundred our attorney F.H. Harvey had promised the sheriff at Chadron between 17 and 18 hundred dollars. I turned to Mr. Harvey and asked him did you promise the sheriff \$300.00. He answered yes. I asked him again how much did you pay these two gentlemen? He answered \$350.00 all I had. I asked him how much time was required to do the work they did for you? He answered about twenty or thirty minutes. I then turned to the Chadron attorneys and said, so far as I am concerned gentlemen, as a member of this committee, I am willing to pay the

amount our attorney promised to pay the sheriff and <u>no more</u>. The conference ended in their accepting the \$300.00, all of which they kept themselves, not giving the sheriff one cent. As the sheriff at Chadron at that time was Jim Dahlman, an ex-cow-puncher, who was later on W.J. Bryans [William Jennings Bryan] right [bower?] politically. He is now serving his second term as Mayor of Omaha. He was well known to me and asked me himself some years afterword why we had not paid him the three hundred. I told him of the above mentioned conference and offered to take him to the Stock Growers National Bank and dig up the old draft that was used in paying the money to those lawyers, but he declined to have me do it. In referring to your letter I see I have overlooked your question number 2 entirely, namely what form was followed in deciding what Rustlers should be killed & etc. I am glad to answer, and it would have spoiled the whole story not to have done so.

Those of us who were in the field and came in personal contact with what was going on, of course, had our individual experiences, and we were perfectly familiar with names and actions of certain individuals in our immediate neighborhood. Reports were sent into Mr. H.B. Ijams Secretary of the Wvo. Stock Growers Asson. from all over the state, who also had much experience in collecting evidence for the purpose of prosecuting these thieves, who in addition had taken great pains through correspondence and otherwise in informing himself of the former records of all the men we knew to be active in preving upon our interests, and you will be surprised to know perhaps that 90% of them were fugitives from justice from other states, murderers, horse & cattle thieves, and all round bad men. Take Nick Rhey [Ray], for instance. He was notorious as a thief on the Platte River in western Nebraska, the former range of the Ogallala Land & C. Co. [Ogallala Land and Cattle Company] (this company). In 1888 said company moved up here, the following summer Rhey [Ray] appeared on the scene, and was known to say, the Ogallala was good picking in Nebraska, and he could not see why it would not be as good in Wyoming. This same fellow walked into this ranch with his arm in a sling, saying his horse had fallen with him and broken his collar bone. He layed [sic] around for two days apparently in great pain, the third morning he was gone, so was a very fine black horse from our east pasture. Then came another fellow from western Nebraska by the name of Wagner, and we had positive knowledge that this fellow and Rhey [Ray] took out of this country several times from one to two hundred of yearlings in a drive, of course our information was through Nebraska sources and long after the transaction. This fellow Wagners brother Tom Wagner [Waggoner] was located about fifty or seventy-five miles east of here. He was one of the most successful thieves the country ever knew. One morning three men called on and took him from the midst of his family and hanged him with his own rope within a few miles of his home. He had accumulated over 1200 horses, and had \$17000.00 in cash in a bank at Newcastle.

There was no room for doubt in our minds as to the guilt of these men, every one of whom we had the names, with a record of their deeds in this state, and of many of them in other states. All the evidence in the hands of Mr. Ijams was from time to time submitted to the Executive Committee of the Wyo. Stk Growers Asson. which was composed of two members from such county in the state, which committee was glad to call into its deliberations any one who could aid in the work. It was no close corporation proposition, on the contrary we welcomed every one who showed a disposition to keep who we were not suspicious of. Nothing of this kind was decided by correspondence. As evidence of men would accumulate their names were taken by Mr. Ijams and later on submitted to the committee and many others in order to be sure we were right. And the result has proved that care was exercised in preparing that list <u>as not a single mistake</u> was made, not a man was killed who did not deserve killing. The only trouble was we did not get enough of them. Had those fourteen reported to be at the KC the evening before our arrival, had only remained there, we would have got them and immediately scattered as fourteen would have had the same effect on what was left as a hundred. It was too bad they did not remain.

Jack Flags [Flagg's] escape was another misfortune. However, what little we accomplished notwithstanding the expedition was considered a mistake and unsuccessful, it had a good effect. It put the better people to thinking, and juries in Johnson Co. commenced to convict, in fact it was not long until a thief who was tried in Johnson Co. was sure of conviction if there was a case against him.

I am anxious to impress upon your mind that the Invasion was not a mistake, on the contrary was an absolute necessity and that no mistake was made in killing the men we killed. That those of us who took part in it, did so from a high sense of duty, and because after reporting to the laws for protection, the conviction was forced upon us that the laws of the state either could not or would not protect us.

History teaches us that wherever conditions in the past, such as existed in our state at the time of and prior to the Invasion, have existed, that the people will invariably rise and protect themselves. This is as it should be, and I want to further impress upon you, that those of us who still live, who were of the Wyo. contingent, and those who have gone before, have not, and never have had the slightest remorse of conscience or worry, on account of the part we played, and we never have, and never shall make the slightest apology for our actions, public or private. On the contrary we feel proud of it, and I am quite sure, judging from the attitude of the better people of our state toward us, that they have long since come to the conclusion that the Invasion was the natural outcome of the conditions then existing in our state, and it had to come sooner or later. Personally my chief regret is that we were not more successful.

(FINAL PAGE) A sketch of the KC Ranch, including the road on which Jack Flagg rode, the door in which Ray and hunters came out, and the horse stable that the Invaders used to hide and shoot.