

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 8 [Thursday, July 5, 1916], page 1, column 2

NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS

Skelly Brothers, of **Ralph**, own and operate a farm of 640 acres. Their specialty is blooded stock of which they wintered 225 head. The Hereford cattle is [sic – are] their favorite. In a recent interview **Joseph Skelly** said: [“]The Hereford herd is our hardiest and best rustlers. “[sic] Our cattle have rustled for themselves on the range since April 18th and they did fine. We are making money in the business and like it very much.”

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 38 [Thursday, February 7, 1918], page 8, columns 1-2

PERSONAL

Supervisor Skelly, of **Ralph**, is a visitor in the city. He came down yesterday and was introduced to **Elkland** last evening.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 38 [Thursday, February 7, 1918], page 8, columns 3-4

NEWS FROM RALPH.

Charles Skelly went to **Iron Mountain** to attend a meeting of the Elks. We hope he will be well treated.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 41 [Thursday, February 28, 1918], page 2, column 2

A Start in Sheep.

The question of making Michigan a great sheep growing state must be put squarely up to the state of Michigan itself. Here is a war industry that will continue profitable long after the war ends and enrich the land year after year besides. But Michigan must lend a hand financially if it is to gain this valuable asset.

There will not be much need to extend financial aid to the western sheep men who, it is hoped, will choose to bring their flocks to the vacant cut-over lands. They are successful men already, know their business from A to Z and known how to secure such banking facilities as they may need. But that is only one phase of the project. It is desired, too, to start little flocks on all the cultivated farms where they can be handled to advantage. The returns from this source will be in aggregate larger than from the big sheep ranches and here is where state aid should step in.

Other states have been quick to realize the value of the movement started in Michigan and the Indiana war board, it is stated, has voted to buy 30,000 sheep to be distributed among the Hoosier farmers. It may be doubted whether this is the wisest way to help, but Michigan can and should lend substantial aid to any farmer who knows sheep breeding, but has not the needed money for the initial outlay. He should be tided over until after the first wool clip and probably through the first year, when his flock will have practically doubled.

What will the Michigan war board do for this big prospective industry? Probably just what it has done with the potato marketing problem, which is nothing. But we shall see. – Grand Rapids Press.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 41 [Thursday, February 28, 1918], page 8, columns 1-2

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PERSONAL

Wesley A. Stanger arrived last Monday morning from Milwaukee to take charge of the office of the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company**.

Col. F.P. Chaffee, who has been in the city for several weeks engaged in organizing the **Cloverland Sheep and Wool company**, will return this evening to Milwaukee. Col. Chaffee has every confidence in the success of the enterprise. Otherwise he would remain in the city for a longer period.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 42 [Thursday, March 7, 1918], page 5, columns 2-3

NEWS FROM RALPH.

Joseph Skelly, of **Hancock**, has returned home after a short visit with his brothers at their ranch.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 42 [Thursday, March 7, 1918], page 6, columns 1-2

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK

Promotes [sic – Promoters] of the Sheep Ranch Are Confident of Success.

From all parts of the country the eyes of the people have been turned toward **Cloverland** since the inception of the movement here for the establishment of [a] **10,000-acre sheep ranch at Iron Mountain**. Literally millions of people are looking to Cloverland to supply them with

the wool that they must have for clothing and for the meat that is so essential to life. With the world in a state of almost abject wool and mutton poverty, it is only naturally [sic – natural] that they should look to this section where the great movement has started. It is a patriotic duty, as well as an opportunity, that has been presented to **Iron Mountain** and surrounding towns, to take hold of this work, help out in this crisis, and at the same time build up a rich industry that will make northern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula known the world over.

With the demolition of the sheep ranches in the west, the total destruction of sheep in practically every country in Europe, the depletion of one-half of the normal supply of sheep in Australia and the slaughter of every sheep that can be found in Asia, it is up to the United States, which to-day [sic – today] has just one-third the sheep population it should have, to get behind the movement and make it the greatest thing ever attempted in either Michigan or Wisconsin. It is up to Iron Mountain and the people in this vicinity to get together, see that this sheep ranch goes over to a big success, and that this great section of country shall blossom out, not only as a great sheep and wool section, but as a great manufacturing district as well.

There are 10,000,000 acres of cut-over hardwood lands that are ideal for sheep. Sheep here will raise more wool than any place else on the continent; they weigh heavier as meat and they bring higher prices. The nearness to the great market – Chicago – means that every sheep shipped from here will weight ten to twelve pounds more than western sheep, as the short ride does not cause them to lose weight. Everything is favorable to the greatest sheep industry one can imagine and this part of the country is destined to be the

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greatest mutton and wool section of the entire world. Climate is right. Natural clover hay is the great food, the hills, streams and fresh water all tend to make it the ideal place. There are no poison weeds here, there are no sheep diseases here, and the department of agriculture vouches for these statements. Sheep grow better and are more valuable when raised under these ideal conditions than when raised anywhere else in the world.

There is another side to it also. There are hundreds of women and girls who leave this part of the country every year because they can find no suitable employment. With the establishment of this ranch will follow the erection of factories for carding the wool, manufacturing yarn, blankets, clothing and other products of wool. Work in woolen plants is not only pleasant, but it is profitable. Wool workers get high wages and the work is essentially women's work. The great woolen cities of England employ thousands and thousands *[sic – thousands]* of women, and when war broke out the woolen industries were less effected by the taking away of men than any other industry, due to the fact that practically all of the work is done by girls. The few men engaged in the woolen mills were employed at work that women could not do, and were considered essential to the success of the war, so it may be said that the woolen industry has not suffered from the war as far as help is concerned, but it has suffered for the want of material with which to work.

This movement is of greater interest, *[sic]* to the women and girls, and they should encourage the men and boys to support it with dollars and see to it that this ranch is started so that as soon as the sheep herd begin *[sic – begins]* to supply wool, that the erection of such plants as have been described are built.

Even a hundred dollars invested in this ranch will bring very appreciable returns. It

is figured by men of the highest standing that this ranch should pay a return of not less than 36 per cent a year on the investment. This means that a man having \$100 invested in it would have an income off of that hundred of \$36.00 per year. This is a very nice sum to have come in at the end of the year without any work having been done by the person who receives it, except to have saved his money and invested it in the **Cloverland Sheep and Wool** stock. If the women of this community will get after the men, the men will wake up to their great opportunity, Cloverland will answer the call of the world and provide the sheep and wool that is so badly needed.

A good example of what it means to the person investing can be seen by the illustration that follows: This is based on the investment of \$5,000. If a man invests \$1,000 he can divide these figures by five and find out what it would mean, or if he puts in \$500 he divides it by ten, or if he invests \$100, divide all of the figures by 50, and this will show you exactly the return that any one *[sic – anyone]* would get for any amount he may want to invest. He will also see that he not only gets the dividends described, but at the end of ten years gets his original investment back on the preferred stock, retaining his share in the common, which will continue to pay him a certain specified sum of money every year indefinitely. He may leave this to his children and his children's children and the return will continue as long as there are sheep. The sheep earn the money and the man who invests gets it. The following example as stated above gives a concise explanation of the result of an investment:

Suppose a man invests, \$5,000 for instance. On estimates which has *[sic – have]* been declared to be ridiculously low by men who have had years of experience in the business, he would at the end of the

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tenth year have received back all of his original \$5,000, with a profit of over \$1,500 a year, and after the tenth year his holdings in the common stock would then earn him continuously, over \$3,900 per year. Also, it might be well to remember, that with this company capitalized, as it is, at \$260,000, that the assets at the end of ten years would show that, after paying an average profit of 36 per cent per year on the investment for ten years, and having repaid all the money invested, the assets of the company would be as follows at the end of the 10th year:

10,000 acres of improved land with buildings and improve- ments	at
\$30.....	\$300,000
45,000 breeding sheep	at
\$9.....	<u>405,000</u>
Total assets at end of 10th Year, and free of all incum- berance.....	\$705,000

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 42 [Thursday, March 7, 1918], page 8, column 1

PERSONAL

Myron R. Churchill, of Milwaukee, president of **Churchill, Fierlien & Company**, promoters of the **Cloverland Sheep and Wool company**, was in the city last Saturday.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 43 [Thursday, March 14, 1918], page 8, columns 1-2

PERSONAL

Col. E.P. Chaffee came up from Milwaukee last Tuesday to assist in the organization of the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company** and will remain for several days.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 44 [Thursday, March 21, 1918], page 2, column 2

Aid Sheep Raising.

The state war board has appropriated **\$10,000 to buy sheep for farmers**. Purchases in large lots will be made by **J. Halliday**, state live stock [sic – livestock] commissioner. The state will act as a distributing agent, but at the same time will give farmers the advantage of purchasing at a price obtained only in buying large shipments. In **Upper Michigan** many farmers desire to start in the sheep raising business on a small scale and have sufficient funds to make such a start, but few sheep are available. By this plan sheep can be sold in as small lots as five to a single farmer. The farmers have not asked the state to secure sheep on credit. It is thought that by starting in small lots in various sections of the state the sheep industry can be built up. Other plans are now under way by corporations and syndicates on a much larger scale.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 44 [Thursday, March 21, 1918], page 8, columns 1-2

PERSONAL NEWS NOTES.

Wesley A. Stenger, of the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company**, returned last Tuesday from Milwaukee.

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Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 44 [Thursday, March 21, 1918], page 4, column 3

PERSONAL

Col. E.P. Chaffee, of the **Cloverland Sheep and Wool company**, addressed the members of the **Menominee Commercial club** last Monday.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 46 [Thursday, April 4, 1918], page 1, column 6

Meeting for Sheep Men.

This evening, at the court-house, residents of Iron Mountain and the surrounding country will listen to several talks on the sheep question. **H.C. Abbott**, one of the largest sheep herders of the west, who will be the **active manager of the Cloverland ranch** when completed, will be the principal talker. Mr. Abbott was **formerly president of the Sheep & Wool association of New Mexico**. **D.D. Cutler**, **general live stock [sic – livestock] agent of the North-Western road**, will also speak. **A.L. Fierlein**, of the **Churcehill-Fierlein [sic – Churchill-Fierlein] Co.**, of Milwaukee, and **Wesley A. Stanger**, who is **organizing the Cloverland ranch**, are other speakers on the program. There should be a large attendance.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 46 [Thursday, April 4, 1918], page 8, columns 1-4

PERSONAL

Myron R. Churchill was a business visitor from Milwaukee last Friday. *[involved in sheep ranching]*

L.C. Bevans arrived last Monday morning from St. Louis, Mo., to assist in the organization of the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company**.

Mitchell Dykes was in from his ranch the first of the week.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 47 [Thursday, April 11, 1918], page 1, column 3

OUR SHEEP RANCH

Court-House Meeting Was Addressed By Two Expert Shnep [sic – Sheep] Men.

H.C. Abbott, vice-president of the **New Mexico Wool Growers' association**, who spoke here last Thursday night, at a meeting in the court-house, has signed a contract with the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company**, through **Churchill, Fierlein & Company**, to take charge of the **10,000 acre ranch property** now in process of organization.

The meeting at the court-house was well attended, over 200 citizens of Iron Mountain and vicinity being present, and much enthusiasm was evidenced. The meeting was opened by **Andrew Bjorkman**, who immediately turned it over to **Wesley A. Stanger**, of Chicago, chairman.

D.C. Cutler, **general live-stock [sic – livestock] agent of [the] North-Western road**, gave a very glowing account of his experiences in investigating this section of the country as to its sheep raising possibilities. He was very enthusiastic over what **Iron Mountain** could expect from the

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development of a property of this type and magnitude and urged the people to get behind the movement and push it to success.

Mr. Abbott, in the course of his talk, said:

“Out west the sheep industry is passing away. It is passing because the U.S. has passed a law taking our grazing away from us, and we must go somewhere else to raise them. I have been all over the country and looked at sheep prospects everywhere and I can say that I have never in my life seen anything to equal what you have right here. I never saw such grass, such fodder, such water, such natural advantages. When I came here your people talked about this land as cut-over and I thought that it might be stumpy or that it might need clearing. This land is ready right now to pasture sheep just as it is without a bit of work, and I only wish that I had about 5,000 ewes on it, now. I would show you something in sheep.

“We never have anything in the west like this for grass. We never have seen grass so luxurious or as heavy as here. We have to drive our sheep for miles and miles all the time, and here you have enough grasses in their present condition to support all the sheep you want to put on it. Out west we figure that we can put a sheep on from three to four acres; here it is impossible to say how many, but it is easily four sheep to one acre, and probably more.[”]

D.D. Cutler’s talk was very interesting and was a distinct boost for the upper peninsula country as a live-stock [*sic* – *livestock*] center. He said in part:

“This afternoon I was out looking over the acreage where you propose putting your ranch. I have never seen anything like it in my life. I saw acres and acres of feeding land that is the finest in the country. Right now you could turn out sheep into this

pasture and have no more worries about feed. Out in the west where they raise sheep, they have never seen anything like it. Not only have you this wonderful grazing land, but the topography of the country itself is especially suited to sheep. The water is all that they want and there is no reason why this should not be the greatest sheep country in America, if not in the world.”

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 47 [Thursday, April 11, 1918], page 5, columns 3-4

NEWS FROM RALPH

Reeves Brothers’ herd of dairy cattle has arrived at **Ralph** from Oconto. These gentlemen are hustlers and will make things go.

Skelly Brothers’ ranch does not seem to be the same place since they **disposed of all their cattle**. It looks lonesome. The cattle used to fill the landscape, as it were, with life. Now all is quiet and those intelligent white faces are greatly missed. It is not known at this writing whether the firm intends buying more cattle or not.

Messrs, [*sic* – *Messrs.*] Harney, Potter and Pratt, the **sheep men**, were visitors in our locality last week. It is understood that Mr. Pratt will locate here and will bring in a large flock of sheep. He informed the writer that he just sold his championship ram for the largest sum of money ever received for an animal -- \$9,500. Mr. Pratt stated that he had 5,000 sheep of the same strain.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 48 [Thursday, April 18, 1918], page 6, columns 1-2

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

A.F. Brackett and family, accompanied by **Richard Simon** and **Joseph Gauthier**, motored to the **Skelly ranch near Ralph**, last Sunday. Their's [sic – *Theirs*] was the first car through this spring.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 49 [Thursday, April 25, 1918], page 1, column 2

The Sheep Ranch.

M.L. Churchill, the promoter of the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company**, was in the city last Monday, and was accompanied by **H.C. Abbott**, who has signed a contract to manage the ranch. It is understood that sufficient stock has been sold to insure the success of the enterprise. This means an immense amount of work. As soon as the work is well underway a portion of the lands will be fenced in. The Press understands that a deal has been closed for the sheep and that the first flock will arrive here in the near future.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 49 [Thursday, April 25, 1918], page 1, column 3

Another Sheep Ranch.

The Press hears that a **second sheep ranching company** is in process of organization in which Milwaukee, Marinette and Menominee capital will be interested. The enterprise will be capitalized at several hundred thousand dollars. The company will acquire by purchase and lease several thousand acres of **land along the Wisconsin & Michigan road, in Menominee and Marinette counties and may extend north to Dickinson**. We are told that **Miscauno Inn**, the property of

John Marsch, will be included in the deal and utilized as headquarters for the company.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 52 [Thursday, May 16, 1918], page 1, column 1

CONTINUE TO WORK

Adequate Support is Guaranteed the U.P. Development Bureau.

President – **L.C. Harmon**, Manistique.
Vice-President – **F.H. Vandenboom**, Marquette.
Treasurer – **H.W. Reade**, Escanaba.
Secretary – **G.W. Rowell, Jr.**, Marquette.

DIRECTORS

G.S. Collins, Alger county.
Hubert Brennan, Baraga.
B.T. MacKillican, Delta.
S.J. McGregor, Dickinson.
J.T. MacNamara, Houghton.
E.S. Coe, Iron.
R.P. Bronson, Marquette.
J.T. O'Mara, Menominee.
S.R. Smith, Keweenaw.
M.E. Beuerman, Luce.
W.E. Hotchkiss, Mackinac.
August Wallen, Ontonagon.
Benjamin Gero, Schoolcraft.
R.A. Douglas, Gogebic.

The officers and directors named above were selected to serve the **Upper Peninsula Development Bureau** for the current year at the annual meeting held in the city hall at **Marquette** recently, and a decision was reached that it is feasible to raise the \$5,000 necessary to carry on the work of the bureau to the close of the year, so there is **assurance that the sheep**

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grazing project will not be dropped at a time it is just getting ripe, but will be carried on with the necessary vigor during the summer months.

The meeting was not as large as it should have been, says the Mining Journal, in light of the aggressive management the bureau has been given the past two years and the importance of the projects it now has on hand, but deficiency in numbers was measurably made up for by the immediate response of the men present when it was asked what they proposed to do to see that the work of the bureau was supported. A telegram from **J.M. Longyear** was read pledging \$500 to the necessary fund. **Gero**, of Schoolcraft, announced that he would become personally responsible for raising 10 per cent of the required \$5,000 in his county. **Roger M. Andrews** recommended a detailed report of the bureau's activities to the various boards of supervisors, asserting confidence that they would see fit to help further with the work if they were properly approached in the light of the evidence that the bureau's money is being expended to good purposes.

The demand for the continuance of the work was so pronounced, and the interest and willingness to co-operate in raising the required money was so evident, that the question: "Shall the bureau continue?" was settled out of hand in the affirmative.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 52 [Thursday, May 16, 1918], page 1, column 6

A Mormon Colony.

From a dependable source The Press learns that **an organization of Mormons is now negotiating for 100,000 acres of lands in the Sagola district.** Several representatives of the organization have

recently visited Sagola for the purpose of investigating the lands and conditions and expressed themselves satisfied. The lands desired are owned by the **Sagola Lumber company, Sawyer-Goodman company** and the **Keweenaw association.** Information regarding the plan of the organization could not be learned, but it is supposition that the syndicate contemplates colonizing the tract and also to engage in a general ranching business.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 52 [Thursday, May 16, 1918], page 2, columns 3-4

NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS.

Skelly Brothers are making arrangements to place **several hundred head of cattle on their ranch in West Branch township.**

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 52 [Thursday, May 16, 1918], page 2, column 5

PROFITS IN SHEEP

High Value of Wool and Mutton Give Boost to Sheep-Raising.

High value of wool and mutton will place farm sheep business in a new light, and the continuous development of the industry will contribute materially to the nation's food and clothing supply. War conditions have brought about a renewed interest in sheep growing in the United States, according to "Sheep and Intensive Farming," a recent publication of the United States department of agriculture. Federal statistics show a

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decline of 8 per cent in the number of sheep kept in this country between 1910 and 1917, but the net result in 1917 is reported to have been an increase of 2 per cent over that of 1916.

The mutton sheep, says the publication, is a necessary instrument in highly intensive and self-supporting agriculture. The still more intensive use of land in farms, an effort to secure the most economical use of every acre, every facility and available labor, all of which are necessary under the present conditions, necessitate the general inclusion of sheep in our system of mixed farming and live-stock [*sic* – *livestock*] production. This gives the raising of sheep a new appeal in older farming areas.

The main factor in determining the cost of other animal products is the value of gain and mill feeds; pasturage and roughage are important, but both beef and pork require a considerable use of concentrated feeds. The production of lamb and mutton require a very much smaller use of grain than is required in these other meat animals. Sheep are able to get a good portion of their feed from rough, permanent grass pasture and at the same time keep it clean of weeds. This increases rather than decreases the cattle-carrying capacity of the pasture. As sheep require comparatively little of the owner's labor, the labor cost per dollar's worth of wool is lower than in any other farm-animal product. While the labor required in raising sheep is not heavy it is continuous and somewhat different from that required in the care of other stock.

Many of the obstacles that have hindered the progress of sheep-raising in intensive farming districts have been or are being overcome, says the publication. The competition given sheep growing on farms by the production of sheep on lower-priced range land is being removed. A second but

only temporary obstacle to a quick increase in sheep production lies in the fact that comparatively few farmers are as well qualified to care for sheep as for other classes of stock. The needs and habits of sheep differ from those of horses, cattle and swine, but present no problems that will not be met by interested study and observations supported by satisfactory returns.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 52 [Thursday, May 16, 1918], page 7, column 1

WAS ENTHUSIASTIC

Utah Sheep Rancher Predicts Great Future for the Peninsula.

C.A. Nebeker, of **Salt Lake city**, an extensive **sheep rancher**, who spent several days here recently and inspected the holdings of the **Cloverland Sheep & Wool company**, was very enthusiastic regarding conditions. He came here a skeptic relative to the claims that had been advanced for this section as a sheep country, but he now agrees with **Frank H. Hagenbarth**, president of the **National Wool Growers' association**, that the **upper peninsula could be developed into the greatest sheep and cattle country in the United States, if not in the world.**

"You have the land and the opportunity, and we have the sheep. Getting together will make us both rich. One of the best sheep men in the country, **President Abbott**, of the **New Mexico Sheep Growers' association**, is coming into the upper peninsula to take charge of the big

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Cloverland ranch, and I have arranged to bring 5,000 of my sheep here at once. There are hundreds of thousands more coming, if you will help us and let our experts handle the actual work with the flocks.

“We want large acreage. We are used to plenty of room, and when these acres are covered with healthy sheep the cities will see woolen mills and other factories springing up. Whether we live to see this development here depends on how vigorously we take hold of the proposition while mutton and wool are high, as they will be for years to come, and while we can combine the patriotic side of this business, as we are now called on to do, with the opportunity for making large financial returns.

“The Kincaid law, giving 640 acres of western land to homesteaders, has removed over 60,000,000 acres of our sheep range country. The homesteader naturally takes the land whereon our scarce water supply is located and leaves us literally high and dry. We are to-day [*sic – today*] face to face with a choice of either selling our flocks to the butcher or finding new and suitable pastures. You have them here in plenty, if you only realized it. I expected to find corduroy roads and stumps and am amazed at your fine highways and splendid grazing lands, rich in clover or able to grow it in abundance. **Your road system has added \$25 to every acre of land you have.** Here a rancher can shear two pounds more per lamb that we can.

“I don’t believe the people of the peninsula realize the great natural resources which they have at their disposal for the raising of sheep and cattle. There are numberless acres of cut-over lands, especially adapted for sheep raising, and also plenty of water.

“There is a vast difference between the west, which has been made famous by sheep raising, and this part of the country, with conditions all in your favor. The one industry which has made the upper peninsula of Michigan famous, the lumber industry, is now about through, and the landholders of the once famous timber tracts will be up against a mighty serious proposition within a few years. The sheep raising business is one in which profit is guaranteed, and so industry which is bound to make the country bigger and richer.

“I have been all through the lands which I consider ideal for sheep raising, and vastly different from the west, I find that at least four sheep could be raised to the acre in this country, while it takes three to four acres for one sheep out west.

“The government has commandeered all the wool in the country, but this action does not affect, but on the contrary improves, the investment of the sheep raiser. The government’s action is merely to do away with the middle man, or the profiteer, who has become rich on the commissions realized in buying wool from the producers, and selling it turn to the government at a big profit. The government has placed the price on wool, which was that paid in July, 1917. This is a price which is satisfactory to every wool grower in the country, as it guarantees him a reasonable return on his investment.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 1 [Thursday, May 23, 1918], page 1, column 2

Ralph, Dickinson County.

The Mining Journal – and other upper peninsula papers – will please take notice that **Ralph is in West Branch township, Dickinson county, not in Delta county.**

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Delta county, by and with the consent of the Chicago & North-Western road, swiped about \$20,000 of our Liberty loan subscriptions and also included in its Welfare association drive a goodly number of residents of Dickinson county. However, we draw the line at Delta county stealing our real estate.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 1 [Thursday, May 23, 1918], page 1, columns 3-4

RALPH ON THE MAP

Rapidly Becoming Hub of Cattle and Sheep Business of State.

Just at this time the little village of **Ralph – Dickinson county – is attracting more attention than many of the principal peninsula centers of population and industry.** The reason for this prominence is the **influx of cattle and sheep ranchers from the western ranges.** The Ralph district seems to be particularly well favored as a grazing country. The natural crop of grass is a large one. The soil is well adapted to forage crops and there is a large acreage of cut-over hardwood lands that can be bought or leased at reasonable prices. The owners have been enterprising in calling attention to the favorable conditions.

The pioneers in the cattle ranching business are the **Skelly brothers, former residents of the copper country, who located at Ralph some six or seven years ago.** The brothers had excellent success in the cattle business and their success was largely instrumental in in *[sic]* attracting attention to the district.

Last season, the **Quinn Bros., of McHenry, Illinois, who specialize in goats, secured possession of a large tract of land in the district and brought in about 3,000 animals.** The herd flourished wonderfully on the grasses and when the shipment was made to Chicago the goats had not only increased notably in number, but had made a wonderful gain in flesh.

In order to cinch the merits of the Ralph district as a grazing country, it is only necessary to state that, **this spring, a Wisconsin firm shipped a considerable herd of well-bred milch cows to Ralph and is now shipping the cream from his diary *[sic – dairy]* to the Iron Mountain creamery and is making a fine success of the venture.**

This spring the Ralph district has received a more critical investigation at the hands of western cattle and sheep men. The conditions were found more than anticipated, as advertised, and as a result these experienced ranchers are now arranging to ship in large flocks of sheep and large herds of cattle.

As will be seen by an article in another column, **J.L. Gray, a resident of Buhl, Utah, has acquired a large acreage near Ralph and has gone home to arrange for the shipment of 19,000 ewes and lambs to the district.** He will unload at Ralph and will make that place his headquarters.

Frank M. King, editor of the Arizona Cattleman, published at Tucson, who recently toured the peninsula with a number of western cattlemen, in a letter to **George W. Rowell, Jr., secretary of the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau,** tells of several cattlemen who intend locating in the Ralph district. Following is an extract from Mr. King's letter:

"W.B. MacBeath, one of our most prominent cattle raisers of Tucson, and W.E. Thwaits, a cattleman from Silver

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

City, New Mexico, thought so well of the country as a grazing proposition, that they came home and immediately arranged to make considerable shipments of cattle to a point near Ralph at once. Mr. MacBeath will ship eighteen cars of mixed cattle from here in May and Mr. Thwaites will load out of Silver City, *[sic]* one train of steers, for the same place in May, while myself and association will ship one or two train-loads very soon.

"We are considered, in this country, expert range cattlemen and know what good feed is. The fact that, after a thorough investigation, we are going to back our judgment with cattle and money, *[sic]* shows you what we think of your country. We consider your climate and feed sufficiently good also to winter cattle there profitably."

The first train-load of cattle – the MacBeath herd – arrived at Ralph last Sunday.

The Press has information of several Iowa cattlemen who have secured ranches in the Ralph neighborhood, and that village is destined to be the center of a cattle business of large proportions. Ralph folks complain to The Press that they are being fully recognized by nearly everybody but the **Dickinson county road commission and county board**. They have been pleading for several years for a good road connecting with Iron Mountain and other county towns. Their pleas, however, have been unavailing. The influx of cattle and sheep men makes Ralph well worth cultivating from a dollar and cents standpoint. The trade is worth while *[sic – worthwhile]* reaching out for. Iron Mountain is the logical trading point for that district. And Iron Mountain should go after this trade. Unless we do so, it will go to Escanaba with which city the district has a direct railroad connection. **Iron Mountain**

people should use their influence with the road commission to improve the road to Ralph. The present road is a very crude one, but we understand that it could be wonderfully improved by an expenditure of a few thousand dollars. Ralph people favor Iron Mountain as a trading point. Ralph trade is worth cultivating. The county road commission has ample means to improve the highway. It is good business to improve the road now. The Press hopes that it will be done.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 1 [Thursday, May 23, 1918], page 4, column 1

WESTERN SHEEP MAN IS COMING.

J.L. Grey, of Buhl, Idaho, Will Ship Flocks to This County.

The first western sheep owner actually to locate in **Cloverland** will be **J.L. Grey**, of Buhl, Idaho, who will **bring 19,000 ewes and lambs** to this *[sic – this]* district within the next five weeks.

All arrangements for moving his flocks to Cloverland were completed by Mr. Grey at **Escanaba** and he has gone to his home to arrange for the shipment of the stock.

The sheep will be unloaded at Ralph, West Branch township, Dickinson county, near which place they will be grazed[.] The sheep will be run and herded in exactly the same manner as they are handled in the west. Mr. Grey will bring his herders, horses and camp outfits and will be prepared to locate permanently in the district. He will make his headquarters at Ralph.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Appreciating, after a full investigation, the opportunities for sheep raising in this section and realizing the desirability of every farmer having a small flock of sheep on his farm, **Mr. Grey the coming fall will prepare to sell to the farmers of this district between 10,000 and 12,000 high grade ewes.** He will place his surplus lambs and cull ewes on the Chicago market and then will begin the sale of good breeding ewes in lots of from 50 to 200 to farmers of this territory. The past few years it has been almost impossible for farmers of this territory to buy breeding ewes.

After securing literature on Cloverland from the **Upper Peninsula Development Bureau**, Mr. Grey quietly came to the district, unknown to any of the bureau officials and made a tour of its counties. He found conditions far more favorable than even the bureau's literature had pictured them and became convinced that the peninsula is an ideal sheep grazing country.

Last week he met a group of prominent men of **Escanaba** and officials of the Development Bureau, and a deal was closed by which he will send in his flocks at once. He will be provided with free pasturage for the summer and in the fall will purchase sufficient land, on which he has already been given an option, for his future needs.

"After the investigation I have made I am satisfied that Cloverland is all that has been claimed for it," said Mr. Grey. "Your literature looked good, but I will admit that I was skeptical. I decided that I would come out here on a still hunt and see for myself without letting anyone know my plans. I went through all of this territory and to say that was pleasantly surprised is putting it lightly. The best answer to the conclusions I arrived at concerning your Cloverland is that I am going home as fast as the trains can get me there and I am coming back

with 19,000 ewes and lambs just as soon as I can get them loaded."

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 1 [Thursday, May 23, 1918], page 5, column 4

RALPH NEWS REVIEW.

Mr. and Mrs. Burch, from New Mexico, were prospecting in West Branch for a few days and were delighted with the country. They intend to make their home here in the near future.

Seventeen carloads of cattle, owned by Mr. MacBeath, were unloaded at Quinn Bros.' ranch, two miles from Ralph. It is a novelty to see real cowboys herding the cattle. We wish them success in their undertaking.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 1 [Thursday, May 23, 1918], supplement, column 3

Big Sheep Ranch.

J.L. Gray, of Buhl, Idaho, has announced that he will ship **19,000 ewes and lambs** to **Dickinson county** within the next five weeks. Mr. Gray has secured a large acreage in **West Branch [township]**, in Dickinson county, and will make his headquarters in **Ralph**.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 2 [Thursday, May 30, 1918], page 8, columns 2-3

County Agriculturist Ballard was here with a sheep man, who wishes to buy land for a large ranch.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 3 [Thursday, June 6, 1918], page 1, column 6

CATTLE AND GOATS ARRIVE.

Quinn Bros. Have Arrived at Ralph With Another Flock of Goats.

Quinn Brothers, of McKenry, Ill., who pastured several thousand goats in the vicinity of Ralph last season and made great success of the venture, arrived last Sunday at the same point with another flock, estimated to contain about five hundred. Another consignment is expected at an early date.

W.B. MacBeath, who recently unloaded about seven hundred head of cattle at Ralph, is so well pleased with the progress the herd has already made, that he left last Sunday for Tucson, Arizona, where he will load a second consignment. He told several before leaving that he would ship in a thousand head if he could secure the cattle.

J.L. Gray, of Buhl, Idaho, is now engaged in locating sixty carloads of sheep for shipment to the lands he has secured in the vicinity of Ralph. The consignment includes 7,000 lambs and 12,000 ewes.

The Ford River farm, which was operated last season as a potato plantation and proved a failure due to adverse weather conditions, has been sold by W.T. Carpenter to Paul Schenk, an Indiana operator of coal mines. The farm contains more than five hundred acres and it is said that the new proprietor intends planting the most of it to oats.

W.E. Thwaits, who had secured a considerable tract of grazing land near

Ralph, and expected to ship in nearly a thousand head of cattle, was killed while preparing to load out at Silver City, New Mexico. His heirs may decide to conclude the deal, although his untimely death may delay matters.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 3 [Thursday, June 6, 1918], page 2, column 4

“SHEEP AND VICTORY”

A Mass Convention Will Be Held at Escanaba June 12th.

“Sheep and Victory” meeting will be held at the Delft Theatre, at Escanaba, at 2:30 o’clock, Wednesday afternoon, June 12th, according to an announcement made for Gov. Sleeper by Roger M. Andrews, of Menominee.

Every chairman of county boards and two others from each board have been accorded a special invitation as representatives of the counties, while about 500 special invitations to individuals will be sent out. In fact, every patriotic person in Cloverland is invited to this great “Round-Up,” which will be one of the greatest war gatherings the peninsula has ever seen.

County war boards, food preparedness committees, officers and directors of the Development Bureau and others having to do with some special line of war work, [*sic*] have been asked to meet in Escanaba on that date. This “Sheep and Victory” meeting will be only one of several to be held.

The meeting will be a general war session at which war topics will be discussed. It will deal specifically with

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the great grazing impetus which Cloverland has received this year through extensive work carried on by the Development Bureau. But few persons realize what an exhaustive campaign the bureau conducted and what wonderful [sic – wonderful] results have already been obtained. This will be fully explained at the meeting.

Besides the governor, there will be several other able speakers and the meeting promises to be one of the greatest of its kind ever held in Cloverland. The speakers will be announced later.

Col. Andrews is chairman of the committee in charge of the meeting. His assistants are **F.H. Vandenoorn**, of Marquette, **Leo C. Harmon**, of Manistique, **Charles H. Chipley**, of Sault Ste. Marie, **Charles McGinley**, of Iron River, **H.W. Reade**, of Escanaba, and **George W. Rowell, Jr.**, of Marquette.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 3 [Thursday, June 6, 1918], page 7, columns 1-2

RALPH NEWS REVIEW.

Joseph Skelly has arrived in town and went to **Skelly Bros.' ranch**.

County Agent Ballard visited the **Reeves Bros.' ranch** and other farmers in this vicinity last week.

Messrs. Skelly, Oldfield and Curto, also **Mrs. Brill**, motored to **Norway** and **Iron Mountain** recently. **Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Brackett** accompanied them back and spent a day at **Skelly Bros.' ranch**.

Messrs. Andrew and Leisner passed through **Ralph** the other day. A trial was held at **Skelly Bros.' ranch**. **Judge Curto** presided in the case and rendered judgment against **Rev. Marvin**, amounting to \$25.00 and costs; also giving him a

severe lecture to observe the game laws in future.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 4 [Thursday, June 13, 1918], page 5, columns 4-5

RALPH NEWS REVIEW.

Lawyer Brackett and family, of **Norway**, spent last Sunday at the **Skelly ranch**, returning home in the evening.

Mr. Bowers has arrived from Iowa to spend a few days at the ranch of his brother, **L.T. Bowers**. He has bought two sections of land here.

W.B. MacBeath, **Ralph's prominent cattleman**, has informed your reporter that he will give, free of charge, in October month, **one of the largest and best steers for a barbecue for the benefit of the Red Cross**. The good people of **Ralph** will furnish all the other necessities for a grand dinner. A nominal charge will be made. A good speaker will be secured to address the people and we hope to have a great occasion. Hurrah for **Mr. MacBeath**.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 4 [Thursday, June 13, 1918], page 6, columns 1-2

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

Charles Skelly, of **Ralph**, was over from the ranch last Friday.

Attorney Brackett has interested a number of sheep men from **Arizona** to come here this week to look over a **3,000-acre tract of land adjoining Hamilton Lake**.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 5 [Thursday, June 20, 1918],
page 1, column 6

More Cattle Arriving.

W.A. MacBeath is due to arrive to-day [*sic – today*] at **Ralph** from Arizona with **twenty carloads of cattle. The shipment is estimated at 1,200 head.** Mr. MacBeath already has 650 [*head*] of cattle grazing in the Ralph district and the additional shipment is evidence that he is thoroughly satisfied with conditions. **The Press hears that the gentleman has added very largely to his land holdings in West Branch township and that he now has under control many thousands of acres of land. He is employing a crew of typical western cow boys [*sic – cowboys*] to do his herding.**

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 5 [Thursday, June 20, 1918], page 2, column 2

W.A. Colt and **S.E. Lee**, of Colorado, sheepmen, will be located in **Chippewa county. The Chippewa tract will consist of 12,000 acres and will be divided among the men as they see fit. By the end of June these westerners will have 2,000 sheep grazing,** according to their announcement.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 5 [Thursday, June 20, 1918], page 5, columns 1-3

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

Mayor Anton Anderson, and son **Martin, Walter Dudy** and **Frank Convioux**, of this city, and **W.W. Thompson**, of **Iron Mountain**, motored to **Skelly's ranch** last Sunday.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 6 [Thursday, June 27, 1918], page 1, column 3

ARRIVAL OF SHEEP

Twelve Thousand Sheep Arrived Last Tuesday at Alfred Station.

Forty-five cars, containing 12,000 sheep, arrived at Alfred, West Branch township, from Chicago on Tuesday and are now grazing on the fertile pastures of **Northeastern Dickinson and Southern Marquette counties.**

J.L. Grey, of **Buhl, Idaho**, is the owner of these sheep and is the vanguard of what is expected to be a mighty shipment from the west to **Cloverland.** The sheep came through from Idaho in excellent shape and attracted great attention all along the way.

In addition to the forty-five carloads of sheep there was one carload of camping outfits, like those used in the west for herding purposes, and one carload of horses used by the herders in real western "cowboy style." Ten expert sheep herders came in with the animals.

All day Tuesday the sheep were unloaded at **Alfred** and immediately there was a rush for the green grasses and clover. The sheep paid no attention to the crowd of curious folk who watched the unloading operations or to the great change in geographical positions. They were interested only in the green food before them.

"Some grass," was the expression of one tall and lanky "cowboy." "Some grass. What a feast for the famished. Believe me, Jake, these sheep are facing the greatest banquet they ever dreamed of."

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Eight thousand of the 12,000 sheep will be kept in Cloverland this winter and many of them will be sold to farmers and other grazers. The rest will be shipped to the Chicago market.

[“]Cloverland looked good to me on my first trip here several weeks ago,” said Mr. Grey. “But it looks much better now after I have been west and compared it with the dried up pastures there. You have a great country, greater than you dream of. We western fellows will be here in force. Just watch our smoke.”

“Have just loaded thirteen cars of sheep and four of cattle. Coming to Cloverland as soon as possible.”

This was a telegram received by the **Upper Peninsula Development Bureau** from **C.R. Coffin**, of **Hope, New Mexico**. Mr. Coffin was in Cloverland three weeks ago and after looking over the grazing lands here he went right back to New Mexico and loaded his stock. Dried up western pastures there compared with those in Cloverland brought about his quick action.

W.B. MacBeath, of **Tucson, Arizona**, was the first westerner to actually ship stock to Dickinson county this spring. One month ago he unloaded **650 head of cattle at Ralph**. He is so well pleased with results that he is now loading seventeen more cars and they will arrive shortly.

There is a steady flow of western grazers to Cloverland on tours of inspection. Seventeen have now been located and others are here looking over the country. A representative of one of the largest grazers in America is now here hunting for 50,000 acres of land. He says that 3,000 sheep will be shipped at once and that thousands more will follow, if he can find what he wants.

Farmers having hay for sale in large lots are asked to report to their county agents so that the grazers may be furnished with winter food. Clover hay only is wanted.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 7 [Thursday, July 4, 1918], page 1, column 6

Train of Cattle.

A train of cattle passed through Iron Mountain over the St. Paul road last Tuesday morning. The cattle were owned by W.A. MacBeath and were enroute [sic – en route] from New Mexico to Ralph, West Branch township. It is estimated that the cars contained over **1,200 head**. The cattle were not in very good condition, but will soon fatten up on the rich grasses in the Ralph district. This is the second consignment of cattle shipped to Ralph by Mr. MacBeath, the first containing 650 head. He has recently added largely to his land holdings in West Branch township.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 7 [Thursday, July 4, 1918], page 8, columns 1-2

PERSONAL

C.V. Ballard, county agriculturist, motored to Ralph last Saturday with a western cattle man who was desirous of securing a large tract of land for grazing purposes.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 8 [Thursday, July 11, 1918], page 1, column 5

COUNTY RANCHING

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Over 19,500 Sheep and 2,000 Western Cattle Are Now Grazing.

There are 19,500 sheep and 1,700 head of cattle now grazing in the Ralph district, according to figures submitted to the board of supervisors last Monday by George P. Rowell, Jr., secretary of the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau.

Mr. Rowell might have included in his estimate the several thousand goats on the Quinn ranch, and the herd of dairy cattle of Reavie Bros., now being pastured in the same district.

Mr. Rowell, in addressing the supervisors, had in mind the securing of an increased appropriation for the bureau from the board, and in this he was successful, the members going on record with a pledge to vote \$1,000 at the October session. There was not a single objection to the proposed enlarged appropriation and the additional \$500 would have been voted at once had not the prosecuting attorney interposed a legal objection in response to a question by a member.

Mr. Rowell reviewed the work of his bureau at length for the benefit of the members and the showing was an excellent one. **He stated that the campaign to induce cattle and sheep ranchers to locate in the upper peninsula – Cloverland – had resulted in securing sixteen herders to date. Dickinson county, it was shown, had benefitted most materially. The first to locate was W.A. MacBeath, an Arizona cattleman. Mr. MacBeath's first shipment contained 650 head of cattle. This consignment was followed a few weeks later with 1,200 additional head, making a total of 1,850 head now grazing on his ranch in West Branch township. The cattle shipment was followed by two train-loads of sheep – total of 15,000 –**

unloaded at Ralph by J.L. Gray, of Buhl, Idaho. The latest rancher to locate in Dickinson county is C.R. Coffin, of Hope, New Mexico. Mr. Coffin's shipment passed through the city last Monday enroute [*sic – en route*] to Ralph. It was given the right of way over passenger trains by the St. Paul road. The shipment included 4,000 sheep, one hundred head of cattle and a carload of horses. Mr. Rowell stated that many more ranchmen could be secured could the necessary acreage of lands be secured in blocks. He had in mind one cattleman who was desirous of obtaining 40,000 acres of land for grazing purposes. It was no longer a question of securing grazers – the great problem was to secure the lands wanted by the grazers who were anxious to bring their herds and flocks from the west to Cloverland.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 8 [Thursday, July 11, 1918], page 2, column 3

RALPH CATTLE RANCH

The Last MacBeath Head Reaches District in Poor Condition.

One thousand head of cattle – the largest shipment ever made to the cut-over lands in the middle west – reached Ralph in good condition, considering their long trip, and are now waxing fat on the grass and clover in that district.

W.B. MacBeath, of Tucson, Ariz., is the owner of the cattle. Six weeks ago he shipped 650 head. Since that time some of his cattle have gained as much as 400 pounds while the average gain has been 250 pounds.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

“My cattle arrived looking as though they had never had a square meal,” said Mr. MacBeath. “To-day [*sic* – *Today*] when I came here with my second shipment of twenty-seven carloads the increase in weight of the first one was almost impossible to believe. I am now grazing 1,650 cattle in Cloverland and will continue to increase the herd. I am here to stay, for I believe I have found the greatest grazing spot in the world.”

The grazing movement toward Cloverland is the result of a movement started by the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau. Vast acreages of cut-over lands lying idle with immense amounts of food while western grazers were crying for feed, [*sic*] brought about the movement. It has the approval of the government and a federal sheep expert is assisting the work.

There have been seventeen grazers located in Cloverland. Most of them are sheep men. The first ship [*sic* – *shipment*] of sheep from the west arrived in Ralph about three weeks ago, when J.L. Grey brought in 12,000 “woolies.” He will bring 7,000 more in another week.

Four thousand sheep arrived last Friday for C.R. Coffin, of Hope, N.M. Other western grazers will ship later in the month. It is expected that there will be 35,000 sheep brought in this summer and at least 5,000 cattle. Grazing tracts are going fast and in a short time the Development Bureau will be compelled to discourage more grazers coming in this year owing to a shortage of available lands.

“We are facing the most unexpected thing,” said **George W. Rowell, Jr.**, secretary-manager of the bureau. “We never looked for a shortage of lands and yet that is just what we now fear. **We will have to get the state to burn over large areas in order to supply the needs and desires of the westerners. We have**

thousands of acres of land which will be fit for grazing if it is burned over. The campaign has been the greatest thing I have ever participated in. I think we are beginning a new grazing empire here in Cloverland and believe that we are doing a patriotic work by increasing the food supply.”

The recent frost which hit the middle west did some damage in Cloverland, but nothing in proportion to that in Lower Michigan, Indiana and other cities. This is due to the lightness of the frost and the fact that the crops are not as full grown as in other places.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 8 [Thursday, July 11, 1918], page 5, columns 4-6

FELCH NEWS NOTES

County Agent Ballard, of Iron Mountain, and A.P. Farrell, of Hardwood, in company with several sheep men from the west, were looking over some cut-over lands in this vicinity this week with a view of interesting these men in the purchase of land for ranching sheep.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 8 [Thursday, July 11, 1918], page 8, column 1

PERSONAL

W.C. MacBeath, of Tucson, Arizona, who recently placed 1,700 head of western cattle on his recently acquired **ranch in West Branch township**, near **Ralph**, spent last Tuesday in the city getting acquainted with our people. Mr. MacBeath expressed himself as being exceedingly well satisfied with his venture.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 9 [Thursday, July 18, 1918], page 1, column 5

Ford River Farm.

Schenk & Miller is the name of the firm that has purchased from W.T. Carpenter the Ford River farm in West Branch township. Mr. Schenk is a western cattleman and Mr. Miller a Chicago cattle broker. At the farm the firm has over four hundred acres under cultivation, mainly forage crops. In addition, they own about 14,000 acres of grazing lands. As yet no stock has been placed on the place, but The Press hears that the firm is planning upon wintering a large herd.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 9 [Thursday, July 18, 1918], page 7, columns 1-3

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

The **Solheim and Wickstrom families** motored to **Skelly's ranch at Ralph** last Wednesday.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 10 [Thursday, July 25, 1918], page 1, column 1

FREE PASTURAGE

Sagola Lumber Co. Offers Western Rancher 15,000 Acres of Land.

It is possible that **Stanfield Bros.**, of Stenfield, Oregon, whose representative,

John C. O'Neill, has been looking up desirable grazing lands, will send 30,000 sheep to this district within a few weeks and place the flock on lands near **Sagola**.

Mr. O'Neill has met with such fine encouragement from extensive land owners and others, and he is so well pleased with the looks of the lands he has inspected, that he wired his firm to send on sheep at the earliest possible date. He has not yet been informed whether the sheep will be forwarded, but he feels pretty certain that his advice in the matter will be taken, as the pastures of Oregon are in such condition that the sheep now feeding there will not be on good condition when the market times [*sic – time*] comes in the fall.

The grazing of the 30,000 sheep between now and November will not cost the Stanfield Brothers anything, so far as land rentals are concerned, as the land owners have offered Mr. O'Neill free pasturage during the remainder of this season. The **Sagola Lumber company** has offered sufficient pasture to take care of 15,000 for a period of two years, without cost to the Stanfield Brothers and a tract of sufficient size to fatten 10,000 sheep between now and November has been offered near **Michigamme**.

"The grass that is going to waste in the upper peninsula would feed millions of sheep every year, and they would thrive better here than anywhere that I know of in the west," said Mr. O'Neill in an interview printed in the Mining Journal. [*"]*Sunday I drove 190 miles by automobile, and on that trip I saw enough fine grass along the highway right of way to feed 1,000 sheep through a winter. I also noticed abundance of grass along the railway right of way, to say nothing of the fine grass that can be found on waste lands in every direction you look.

"When I make my report as to conditions here, I feel that my people will hardly

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

believe me. Men who have never paid a visit to the upper peninsula cannot realize what you have here in the way of pasture lands. Cattle of all kinds would thrive here. When the cattle and sheep raisers of the west begin to realize what you have to offer they will begin flocking this way. The land owners I have met are eager to help get the cattlemen into this section. My firm will have no difficulty getting all the grazing land they want at most reasonable terms. When land owners offer tracts free for a period I am satisfied that they would be reasonable in their leasing terms.

“The herding of sheep, while a little more difficult than in the west, would be comparatively easy in the upper peninsula. As a rule, the sheep do not scatter very much, once they are turned loose, and one herder can care for an average of 2,000. The herders would be sent with the sheep and they would remain with them until November, when the stock would be loaded into cars and shipped to the Chicago markets. Our people would not erect sheds or other buildings this fall, but if their experiment proved a success they would locate permanently in this section. They would want a pretty large tract, as it takes a good deal of grazing land to herd from 50,000 to 100,000 sheep. The sheep could be herded in the fields without shelter until the cold weather sets in.”

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 12 [Thursday, August 8, 1918], page 1, column 1

BIG RANCH IS SOLD.

**W.A. MacBeath Closes a Deal
for Skelly Place Near Ralph.**

W.A. MacBeath, who recently brought a herd of nearly 2,000 steers to the county from his western ranch, has just closed a deal for the ranch of **Shelly Brothers** near **Ralph**, in **West Branch township**. This ranch contains 640 acres and is well equipped with buildings for caring for about three hundred head of cattle. It is understood that Mr. MacBeath will make the Skelly place his headquarters and will make large additions to the plant in the way of buildings. The purchase indicates that Mr. MacBeath is thoroughly satisfied with the peninsula as a cattle country and Dickinson county is to be congratulated upon securing him as a citizen. The addition of the Skelly holdings to his holdings makes him one of the largest land owners in the county. The Press hears that the consideration for the ranch was about \$17,000.

The Skelly ranch was the pioneer ranch in the upper peninsula. The firm was composed of three brothers, residents of the copper country. It is understood that the firm has been dissolved. **Charles Skelly**, who was in charge of the ranch and represented West Branch township on the board of supervisors, has announced that he will continue in the cattle business and will make Dickinson county his home. He is now in the market for three sections of land upon which to establish another ranch and expects to close the deal at an early day. As soon as acquired the necessary buildings will be constructed preparatory to bringing in a herd of cattle in the spring.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 12 [Thursday, August 8, 1918], page 1, column 3

HUNTING FOR LAND

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHING

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Five Cattle and Sheep Men Desirous of Locating in Dickinson.

County Agriculturist Ballard has been busily engaged during the past week in piloting cattle and sheep men around the county. Included in the number were Messrs. French, Riley and Coffin, from New Mexico, and Messrs. King and Johnson, from Arizona. **C.R. Coffin** already has 4,000 sheep grazing in **West Branch township**, near **Ralph**, but is desirous of securing a large tract of land upon which to place cattle next season. **Messrs. French and Riley** are cattlemen and want to lease or buy a large block of land. **Messrs. Johnson and French** were in the city on their second trip last Tuesday. **Mr. Johnson** is one of the largest ranchers in Arizona. He is desirous of securing a block of not less than 50,000 acres and was pleased [*sic – pleased*] with a tract shown him near **Waucedah**. All the visitors were delighted with conditions and predicted that the upper peninsula would become a great cattle country in the near future. **According to reliable information, there are now over 16,000 sheep in the two flocks feeding in Dickinson county, in the Ralph district. J.L. Gray has over 12,000 in his flock.** In addition there are many small herds. Dickinson county also leads in cattle. **W.B. MacBeath has 1,650 head in his herd, C.L. Bowers nearly 400, Mr. Burz about 125 and Reeve Bros. about 50 in a dairy herd.** Mr. Bowers added three carloads of splendid steers to his herd last Saturday. **In addition to the cattle and sheep, the Quinn Bros., of McKenry, Ill., are pasturing several thousand goats.** The cattle, sheep and goats are thriving splendidly on our grasses and the owners are immensely pleased with conditions. **Schenck & Miller**, who

recently purchased the **Ford River farm**, have about two hundred acres under cultivation and are planning upon bringing a large herd of cattle in the spring. **Stenchfield Bros.**, cattlemen, are still negotiating for 15,000 acres of land with the **Sagola Lumber company**. It is safe to say that a number of large deals will be closed before many weeks and that the herds will be brought east in the spring.

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SHEEP INDUSTRY ON LAST LEGS?

Nouguier [*sic*] Decides to Take Stock to Chicago Mar- ket or To Utah

Within the next few days, unless new arrangements for feeding stables are made, the 1,000 sheep at the Spread Eagle ranch will be shipped to the Chicago stock yards [*sic – stockyards*] or to Price, Utah, where Nouguiere brothers own a large acreage of grazing lands. The Nouguieres had planned to winter the 1,000 sheep at Spread Eagle, but the recent destruction by fire of the large stables has necessitated the proposed change of plans. Although apparently of incendiary origin, Joseph Nouguiere said today he had no definite knowledge of who fired the farm. The firm

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recently shipped 1,000 sheep from the ranch to the Chicago markets. Nouguiere Bros., several years ago, leased the property from the Cloverland Sheep & Wool company, a corporation composed of local business men [*sic – businessmen*]. They had made a success of the venture and are confident that local conditions are favorable for the sheep ranching business.

May Return Here.

In deciding to ship the remainder of their sheep to market or the Utah ranch, the brothers have no intention of withdrawing from the field permanently. They have acquired title to a considerable acreage of land in the Metropolitan district and may start a ranch in that neighborhood another year.

Five or six years ago, there were four or five large ranchers in Dickinson county, but circumstances have closed them all. In addition to the sheep, of which there were nearly 10,000 in pasture, there were several large cattle ranches and one goat ranch with a band of more than 1500 "billies." For various reasons, the ranchers departed for other fields and an industry that gave promise of reclaiming thousands of acres of cut-over land of the upper peninsula has now almost ceased to exist.