

### THE ROUND-UP

One spring, several years ago, there was a herd of about 1,500 head of cattle put on the Blackfoot reservation, bearing different brands; all belonging to W. G. Conrad, a stockman well known through all parts of Montana. As these were all "straights," that is, not belonging on the reservation and not having I D, the reservation brand, on them, the owner had to pay taxes on them. In order to have the calves of the herd branded and ear-marked, and the beef cattle gathered, it was necessary to have a "round-up."

At a "round-up" a large number of cowboys ride over the range for the purpose of rounding-up and branding all of the spring calves. In the fall round-up, which I am describing, there were about one hundred and twenty cowboys, including a very important person, the cook.

These cowboys were assembled and started from Browning, Montana. They first went to Milk River, on the north side of the reservation, where they found a suitable spot to pitch their tent and a place to build a corral. After this was done they were ready to commence gathering the cattle. About four o'clock in the morning the cook was up preparing breakfast. While he was thus engaged the horses wranglers were out rounding-up the saddle-horses. By the time the horses were brought to camp the other cowboys were ready to catch their ponies. As it was very early in the morning the air was generally chilly, the saddle-blankets frosty. There were usually several bucking contests. Breakfast being over the cowboys were then ready for the day's work. Instead of leaving camp in one body they went in bunches of ten or twelve each, and in as many different directions, gathering the stock into small herds as they moved along. When the noon hour came you could see riders from all directions making a bee-line for the cook tent.

After dinner they changed horses and started out for the afternoon's work. In the evening each bunch brought the stock that they found during the day to the camp. There the small herds are put together as one herd. After supper seven or eight of the boys were assigned to night herding, which is very easy work. After the cattle are driven into a "villon," which is done by one of the boys riding around and around the herd until those on the outer edge commence to follow him; others follow until nearly every animal is going around in a circle. Moving in a circle for about half an hour causes them to become drowsy and sleepy. They soon commence to lie down and in about twenty minutes the entire herd is lying down, with the exception of a few in the center. After this is done the night herders' duties are over until about two o'clock in the morning when they are relieved by another detail. About four o'clock the cattle commence to move about and by