

738 cows, 2,110 mares, 469 rams, 518 sheep, 670 horses and 67 mules.

This increase of Indian-owned stock already has decreased the areas of grazing ranges for lease. This fact, in conjunction with the high prices of beef, mutton and wool and the great demand for horses and mules, has materially increased the number of bidders for Indian Reservation and is the explanation of the advanced prices for grazing privileges.

Surveys have been made by the stock experts of the Indian Office of the average value of horses, mules, cattle and sheep upon Indian reservations in 1913 and 1915. These figures, contrasted with the estimated average value of high grade "farm stock," follow:

Average value of Indian reservations in 1913: Horses, \$22.50; cattle, \$24.95; sheep, \$1.87; mules, \$40.

Average value of Indian reservations in 1915: Horses, \$31.20; cattle, \$40.30; sheep, \$1.90; mules, \$58.

Average value of farm stock at present prices: Horses, \$140; cattle, \$60; sheep, \$4; mules, \$145.

Since the liberal purchases of high-grade bulls, heifers, stallions and rams began some two and one-half years ago, the average of the Indian animal has advanced remarkably.

"It is a beginning toward remedying an economic crime," said Commissioner Sells the other day. "For years thousands of acres of prime Indian lands have served merely to graze tens of thousands of unsalable native ponies, scrub cattle, goats and burros. It costs as much to feed a worthless animal as it does a good one. Such a condition involves not only waste for the Indians but loss to the nation. A cure is practicable, even easy, which promises not only double returns to the Indians but several times more than a double contribution by the Indian to the nation's food supply. The Indian grazing lands together with agricultural lands in Indian ownership will safely carry several times the number of livestock now on them."

Of course each reservation presented a separate problem. Roughly, however, the invoice made by Mr. Sells and above referred to justified two conclusions:

First, that much of the very best grazing land in America, if used by Indians at all, was devoted to "scrub" that gave little or no profit.

Second, that the lands, when not used by the Indians, have either not been used at all or have been over-used at ridiculously low rental by white lessees.

Radical action has been taken to cure the latter condition also.