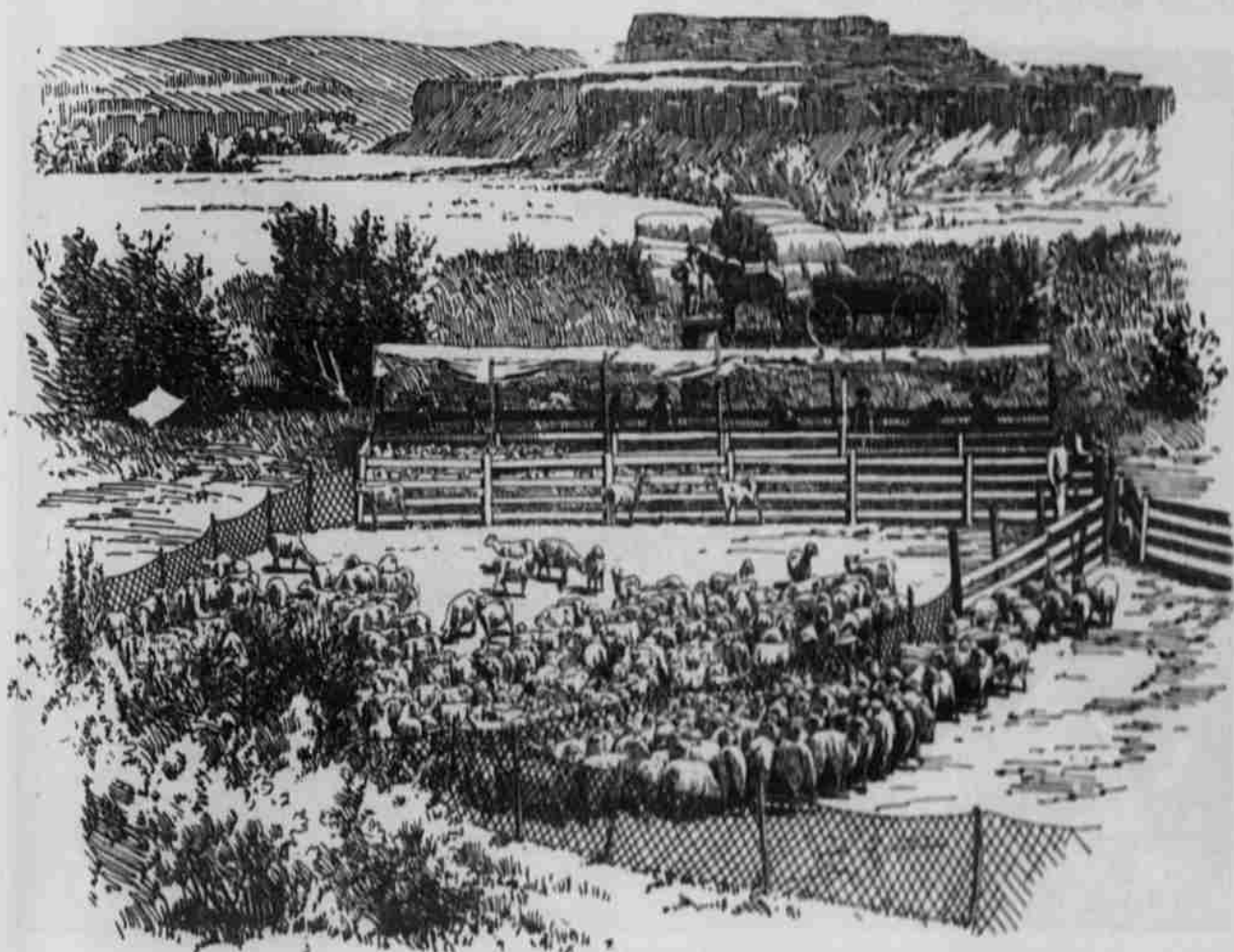


Ordinarily one man will shear from fifty to 150 sheep a day, there being a great difference in the growth of wool, which makes it very easy to shear some sheep while others require more time. Under proper encouragement some shearers will admit having shorn anywhere from 200 to 300 animals between suns. There are, however, well authenticated instances where one man has shorn 200 in one day, catching his own sheep and tying his fleeces. Several shearers work at one station, and the season lasts two or three weeks, beginning about the first of May.

When the fleeces have been stripped off the journey to the summer range in the mountains begins. If the feed is good along the way progress may be slow; the

duration in the mountains. In October the higher elevations are forsaken, and the bands begin their return to their winter quarters. Their speed in returning is governed by the same conditions that govern the spring migration—the abundance, or dearth, of food. Winter quarters are selected with reference to the shelter afforded from possible heavy storms and the proximity of food, both hay and pasture.

The sheep herder has a lonely time of it. He has his tent and a few cooking utensils. The earth is his couch, and, when migrating between winter and summer range, he wraps himself in his blanket and lies with his flock and his dog in the open air. A camp tender accompanies two or more bands, whose duty it



A SHEEP SHEARING CAMP NEAR SPRAGUE, WASH.

sheep man does not voluntarily forsake good pasturage. But if the country is occupied by settlers and the pasturage destroyed the sheep have to travel rapidly in order to reach good food before starving. Four or five miles a day are usually traveled by a flock in good feed, and three times that distance if going through a section that is under cultivation. On reaching the mountains the custom is to remain in the foothills for some time and to ascend to the higher parts in midsummer. The tops of the mountains are covered with snow till late in the season, so that when the plain below is baked in the sun and vegetation withered there is plenty of moisture and spring ver-

is to furnish the herders supplies and convey the camp equipage from place to place as the flocks may shift their feeding grounds. In the mountains the camp tender resorts to pack animals to move supplies and camps. The herders have only to look out for their bands of sheep; the camp tender must supply provisions and see to moving the herders' quarters. A herder gets about \$30 a month besides his supplies. As might be expected, some of these fellows are not aesthetic. They share their meals and their beds with their dogs "share and share alike." Others will be found intelligent and well informed men. Their tents are kept neat, their food is skillfully prepared and they