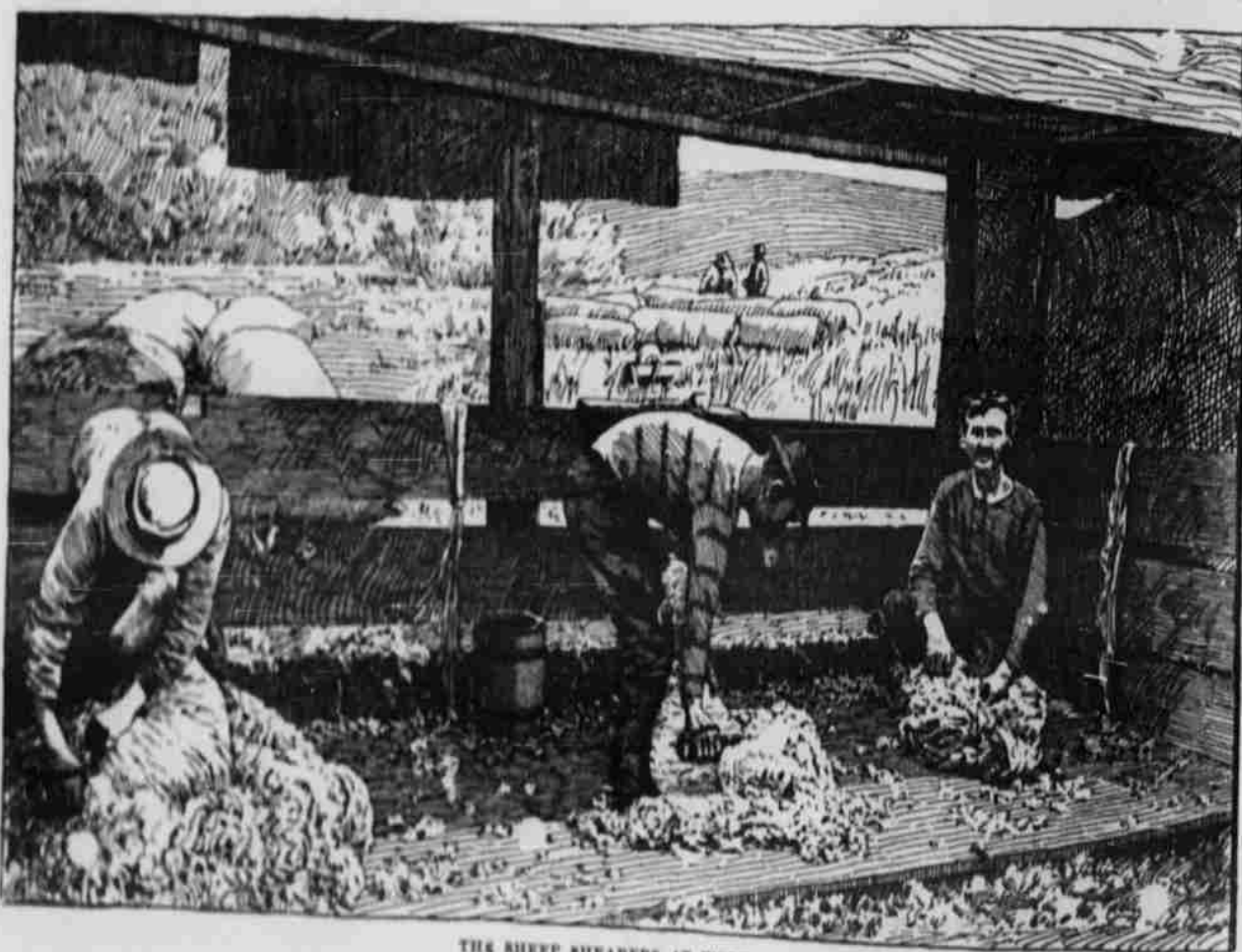


live very decently and comfortably. One may find under their pillows a few standard books that are read and studied during the watches in the mountain or prairie solitude. There are as distinct individualities among the shepherds of the ranges as in any other walk of life.

Most of the bands that winter on the Snake river go east to the mountains of Idaho for summer pasture. South of the Snake they go to the Blue mountains. Farther north, in Franklin, Adams, Lincoln and Douglas counties, they go to the Colville mountains. Along the eastern border of the state the Cœur d'Alenes offer the most attractions for summer range. The Cascades on the west and the Blue mountains on the east are the summer resorts of the flocks of Eastern Ore-

"What are the greatest difficulties met in conducting sheep from range to range?" was asked of an experienced sheep herder at Sprague. "The farmer and his shot gun," was the prompt reply. Then the gentleman told how farmers would sometimes band together, load their rusty fowling pieces and advance on an approaching flock of sheep with a mighty show of indignation and the evident intention of slaughtering the innocents. He once met a company of forty farmers on such an errand. In such cases discretion is the better part of valor, and the herder finds it expedient to choose another route. However, single handed objectors are not considered a serious obstruction to the course of the grazing band. The diplomacy of the herder is fully equal to that of the rancher.



THE SHEEP SHEARERS AT WORK.

gon. The available sheep range is rapidly disappearing as the country becomes settled. Pastures very materially shrink in area from season to season. The great antipathy toward the sheep man is another difficulty. Sheep feed much closer than any other grazing animal, and, as a consequence, neither horses nor cattle can get a living where sheep have been. In unfavorable seasons, when every foot of grass land is valuable, the sheep have decidedly the advantage, and they incur the hatred of the other stock owners. Sheep men are by no means bashful either, and the farmers sometimes suffer by their feeding down pasture that the farmer regards as justly belonging to his own few cows or horses. The sheep incur enmity all around.

The man who can make the biggest bluff is most successful.

There are other difficulties, however, encountered by the flock masters. Renegade Indians often like to steal sheep as they do cattle and horses. These depredators are not warlike braves, but plain thieves. Coyotes belong to the same category. They will steal sheep if the herder is not watchful. In the mountains cougars sometimes create trouble. But all these depredators do their work sneakingly, and they slink away on the appearance of the herder. The cougar will fight if wounded or cornered, and if he has half a chance will come off victorious. If sheep are put in a corral nights coyotes will not trouble them there.