

# THE TROUBLE IN WYOMING

## AN ATTEMPT TO RID THE STATE OF CATTLE THIEVES.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR HAS DIRECTED THAT TROOPS BE SENT TO AID THE GOVERNOR—MORE FIGHTING IS EXPECTED.

GILLET, Wyoming, April 13.—An invading squad of not more than fifty well-mounted and armed men left Listdale's Ranch, Johnson County, Wyoming, late Friday night for Nolans, fourteen miles away, to kill such rustlers as might be found at that place. The party hid in the willows along the creek to wait for daybreak. The first man to come from the cabin was one of two trappers, after water. He was held up, and a companion who followed to learn the cause of the delay was also made a prisoner.

It is learned from these men that Nate Champion and Jack Ray, notorious freebooters, were in the house. Champion appeared at the door and was fired upon. He fell, wounded, but crawled back.

During all of Saturday an effort was made to dislodge these men. Instead of surrendering they made a most desperate fight, having their shooters and Winchester and plenty of cartridges. The pursuing party kept out of range and none was hurt. A constant fusillade rattled on the sides of the cabin. In the midst of the shooting Jack Flagg, a daring member of the head council of the rustlers, rode up to call on his friends, and with a knowledge of the trouble he took in the situation at a glance, and fled. He galloped off in a shower of 200 bullets.

After this he studied the scene for several minutes from a safe place among the rocks. Then he rode away to send the alarm and he sent first news.

For a distance of 100 miles every rustler and sympathizer was notified of trouble within twenty-four hours. When Flagg escaped short work was made of Champion and Roy. A wagon loaded with hay was used to fire the cabin. Champion came out, and made for a gulch. A shot disabled his right arm, and the gun fell to the ground. He reached for his six shooter with his left, and an expert rifleman sent a bullet into the left shoulder. As Champion staggered back, he was half filled with lead.

The Coroner hasn't had time to get the body and coyotes have eaten nearly all of it. Champion made a great fight for his life. Roy did not come from the burning cabin. He was certainly wounded, and probably killed, by bullets. Of his corpse there is left but the skull and part of the shoulders. He was a hard case. Saturday night the invaders camped at Nolan's. Early in the morning, somewhat harassed by arrived rustlers, a move was made to a Western Union ranch, where a hundred horses had been led up for use. The animals were gone.

Continuing fighting while moving, the party reached the Dr. Harris, or Ford ranch, called the "E K," late in the afternoon to bivouac. In the forenoon they were completely surrounded by the enemy, and great was the consternation to discover that the three wagons, with food, grain, ammunition, and beds, had been secured by the rustlers. This was a body blow.

Since early Monday morning the campaign has simply been a siege. Sheriff Angus appointed about 200 deputies, providing all the rustlers with stars. He could do nothing with them, and claimed he was unable to command them. There was only a little shooting on Monday. Yesterday advances were made to within a few hundred yards of the building by shoving bits of hay forward. It was planned to thus fire the buildings, but for some reason this project was abandoned.

During yesterday and to-day they have been shooting as occasion offered. A party of twenty tried to leave the ranch and was driven back. The loss is three to five.

There are fifty men and Fort's family. Twenty of these men are from Texas, New-Mexico, Indian Territory, and Idaho, commanded by Capt. Tom, a daredevil. Thirty men are volunteer citizens of this State, and many are prominent in business, politics, and socially. They fear that capture means torture and will not surrender.

The fighting rustlers do not number thirty, but, with the upper hand, they get recruits hourly. Thieves have come out from Converse, Weston, and Nation Counties. The rustlers, if left to themselves, would drive every hoof from the State.

There is likely to be much bloodshed yet. Two or three companies of cavalry from Fort McKinney could stop the remarkable battle in an hour.