

WILD HORSES

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We learn from Col. R. Ballinger, who recently met Mr. Fulton at Garden City, the following in relation to the mode of capture of wild horses in Kansas:

In 1877 he caught fifty-five head of wild horses on Beaver creek, a tributary of the Canadian river in the Indian Territory. In 1878 Mr. Fulton and his men captured two hundred and fifty head, making three hundred and five head for the two years. About two hundred head were captured near the String Lakes, in Scott county, Kansas, and about fifty head were captured in Arrapahoe county. Sixty-five head was the largest herd brought in at any one time.

The mode adopted for the capture of these horses, is continuous pursuit; getting them on the prairie, following them from daylight until dark, and continuing the same for a week or two, it requiring from seven to fourteen days to get them under control. The young colts get foot-sore and are frequently left behind. Of course, Mr. Fulton has horse feed and provisions for men which he either takes along or leaves in camp on the range. Mr. Fulton claims that these horses are the American breed, so no Broncos or mustangs among them, and are probably the offspring of escaped animals from the old Santa Fe trail. Their colors are brown, or bay, unlike the motley colors of the mustang. They are easily domesticated; several captured ones were no sooner caught than saddled and made to perform duty in pursuit of their wilder comrades. A few mules were captured with them, and in 1878 Mr. Fulton caught a fine American horse weighing 1,700 pounds, apparently as wild as any of the herd. In following these horses sometimes the men are without food and water for two days at a time, and instances are known where they have been lost and had to abandon the herd; and many instances could be written, thrilling and truthful, about the capture of wild horses on the western prairies, that would take a good sized book to put them in.