

**Bounty Law—Transmission of Scalps from Bounty Inspector to
County Clerk.**

Under the provisions of Chapter 49, Laws of 1905, page 100, the Bounty Inspector should, after his inspection of hides in accord-

ance with the provisions of said law, redeliver the scalps to the bounty claimant for transmission of such claimant to the County Clerk.

Helena, Montana, May 27, 1905.

C. C. Hurley, Esq., County Attorney, Glendive, Montana.

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd inst., making request of this office for a construction of the bounty law of 1905, as to the method of transmission of scalps from the Bounty Inspector to the County Clerk.

After a careful examination of the law in question (Chapter 49, Laws 1905, page 100) I am unable to find any direct provision respecting the transmission of scalps from the Bounty Inspector to the County Clerk, but I am of the opinion that the legislative intent was, that after the hides had been inspected by the inspector in accordance with the requirements of the law, and the scalps severed from the hides and strung upon a wire and sealed, that both, the hides, and the scalps so strung and sealed, should be re-delivered to the claimant, and that to enable the claimant to perfect his claim to bounty, he should transmit such scalps to the County Clerk.

That this is the evident purpose of the law, seems quite clear from the fact that the scalps after inspection are required to be by the inspector, strung upon a wire and the ends of said wire securely sealed with a lead seal, affixed by means of a punch, both seal and punch to be furnished by the State Board of Stock Commissioners, and each punch to contain a letter of the alphabet, and no two punches in the same county to contain the same letter, and said lead seal to be numbered with the number of the particular bounty certificate. This requirement of the law is solely for the purpose of identification of the particular scalps, and is based upon the idea, and necessary, because of the re-delivery of the scalps to the possession of the claimant for transmission to the County Clerk. And further it will be noticed that the only direct provision in the law for re-delivery of the skins or scalps to the claimant, is found in the following language contained therein; the bounty inspector shall "then re-deliver the skin or skins to the persons presenting the same," and the word skin or skins is later on in the law used as synonymous for scalps, and it provides, "the county clerk shall upon receipt of said certificate, file the same in the order in which they are received, and safely keep them until the arrival of the skin or skins mentioned in such certificate, properly sealed as herein provided."

Again it will be noticed upon reading the law that the Bounty Inspector is permitted only to make inspections on the first three days of every month, and he is required to make specific report to the County Clerk of the county in which he resides, as to each and every certificate which he has issued during the month, not later than the 15th of each month, setting forth the names of the persons presenting the skins, with the number of the certificate, and the kind and number of the skins presented. While he is required to transmit such report, nothing is said

respecting the scalps, and the evident purpose and intent of the report is to enable the County Clerk to identify the particular scalp or scalps when presented to him by the claimant."

Yours very truly,

ALBERT J. GALEN,
Attorney General.