

CATTLE RUSTLER GETS ONE YEAR

JUDGE ENGLERT HEARS CASE OF YOUNG DOVER MAN— LOSSES SETTLED

One year in the county jail of Griggs County, was the sentence passed by Judge Engbert, of the District Court in session at Valley City Monday in the case of Elmer Hanson who pleaded guilty to the charge of having stolen and sold ten head of cattle belonging to Erick Heir-dahl, a neighbor, residing in Dover township. The young man has been returned to Cooperstown, where he has been held since he was taken in-to custody last week, a number of days after he had sold the stolen cattle.

The court debated the advisability of directing a decision that would send young Hanson to the state penitentiary for a year for his act. The decision directing that the penalty be one year in the county jail was reached after the judge had expressed a desire that the sentence be served where it would in later years be little as possible a stone in the path of the unfortunate young man's career.

The action of young Hanson, who is but 24 years old, is hard to understand. He took the cattle willfully and drove them to Wimbledon where he sold them to a butcher well acquainted in the Dover community, took the money and invested part of it in a new automobile for which he also traded in his old one. He made no attempt to get away, from the community of his home and was easily located when the discovery of his act was made.

The prisoner in the local jail far from looks the part of a dangerous man. It is likely that his act was prompted more by more or less innocent instinct than by any criminal impulse. And such seemed to be the opinion of the court, Judge Engbert ruling that the young man be given opportunity to get out and around, assist the janitor about the building and grounds and perhaps work out for others. It is likely that good behavior will win freedom for the young man before his term is out.

Christ Hanson, father of Elmer, has stepped in and cleaned up the whole deal in which the cattle were involved, so that no one stands as a loser in the unfortunate affair.—Sentinel-Courier.