

West Shore



Your committee ascertained, with reasonable certainty, that certain noblemen in Europe, principally Englishmen, have acquired and now own in the aggregate about 2,000,000 acres of land within the United States. This alien ownership will, in course of time, lead to a system of landlordism incompatible with the best interests and free institutions of the United States. The foundation of such system is being laid broadly in the western states and territories. The avarice and enterprise of European capitalists have caused them to invest many millions in American railroad and land bonds, covering perhaps 100,000,000 acres, the greater part of which, under foreclosure sales, will, most likely, before many years, become the property of these foreign bond holders, in addition to their present princely possessions. This aggressive foreign policy is not confined to the lands it has purchased, but is overleaping its boundaries and has caused hundreds of miles of public domain to be fenced up for grazing of vast herds of cattle, and set at defiance the rights of the honest, but humble, settler. The bill would prevent any more abuses like that of a Mr. Souly, who resides in England and is a subject of the queen, but owns 90,000 acres occupied by tenants, mostly ignorant foreigners, from whom he receives as rent \$300,000 yearly and expends it in Europe. The Schenley estate, about 2,000 acres, within the city limits of Pittsburg and Allegheny, from the rents of which the Schenleys, who are subjects of the British queen, draw annually not less than \$100,000, is another instance of landlordism in America. A multiplication of the owners of the soil is a corresponding enlargement of the number of patriots, and every land owner in this country should owe allegiance to the United States.—From report accompanying Representative Oates' bill "To prohibit aliens from acquiring title to, or owning, land within the United States."

"WELL, MARIA, THIS IS WUSS 'N' GRASSHOPPERS 'ER LOCUSTS."