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Prineville, Oregon

Hay Creek Ranch Will be Cut Up.

(Oregonian.)

The famous Hay Creek sheep ranch, located in Eastern Oregon and one of the largest and best-known sheep ranches in the United States, has been forced out of business on account of the Forestry Bureau's policy of conserving the forest reserves. J. G. Edwards, owner of the famous ranch of 27,000 acres, said that he had been forced to the wall by the Government's policy and he had decided to cut up the big ranch and sell it.

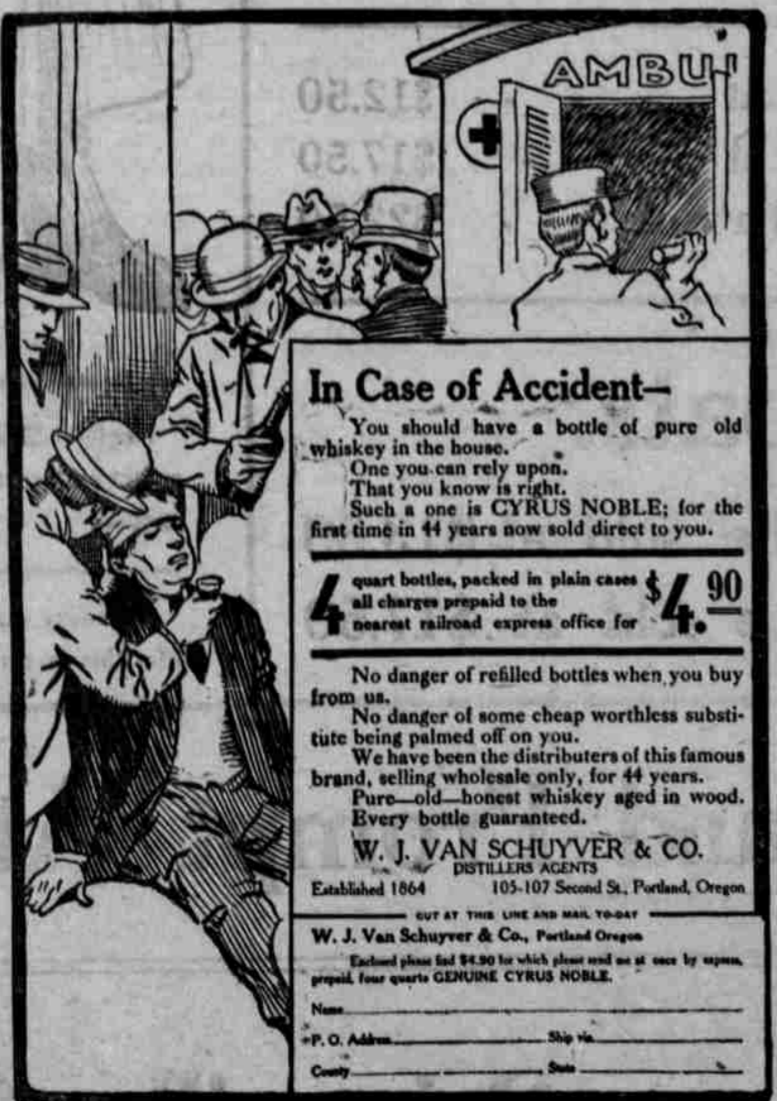
Several years ago Mr. Edwards came to Oregon from Wyoming, where he had a range with 100,000 sheep, the largest in the country. He selected Hay Creek as ideal for a sheep country, sold his Wyoming interests and started the big business in Eastern Oregon. In 1906 he had 40,000 head of sheep, which he wintered on his 27,000-acre ranch and which he kept on the range in the Government forest reserve in the summer months.

That year the Forestry Bureau, in its policy of conservation, cut Edwards' allowance of range to a territory sufficient for only 24,000 sheep. Mr. Edwards sold a large number of sheep and continued. In 1908 came another order for a 40 per cent cut, but this was fought hard by Mr. Edwards, who had it modified to 25 per cent, and he was permitted to continue with 17,000 head of sheep on the range. A few days ago he received notice of another reduction of 30 per cent in his range allotment and now that he can give range to only 12,250 head of sheep he has decided to retire from the business, asserting that unless the sheep business is carried on a gigantic scale it can not be a success.

"It is the Government's policy right through which has forced me out of the game," said Mr. Edwards, at the Portland Hotel. "I cannot continue in business with this small bunch of sheep on the big ranch, and now all I can do is to sell out."

Mr. Edwards believes that the Forestry Bureau policy is bad, not only for him but for the state and country at large. It could have no other effect, he said, than to drive great industries, such as he had built up in Eastern Oregon, out of existence. He had created a ranch which had become famous the country over, was a model in every detail and one of the great producers of the state. There was no expense to which he would not go to build up his line of sheep, he said, and he imported rams costing thousands of dollars and by

systematic breeding produced a sheep which had wool from its nose to its hoofs, the only sheep of its kind in existence. Recently, in anticipation of the death of his business in Eastern Oregon, Mr. Edwards has been investing heavily in Portland real estate and in the last few months has made three purchases, aggregating \$145,000. One of these purchases he made last week, when he bought a quarter block on the corner of Grand avenue and Belmont street, for \$35,000.



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