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RANGE POLICY.
Western States Will Have to Face
Something New.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 24 — Western
states will be compelled to face a range-
leasing policy in due course of time, if
the present trend of events in regard to
public domain continues. No such a
law will get through the present con-
gress, as the leaders of the two houses
are not ready to precipitate discussion,
but it is apparent to observing men that
the time is not distant when such will
be the case, and leading stockmen are
already preparing for the issue. Those
given to careful research are endeavoring
to get facts for presentation. Texas,
in her career of liberal and independent
treatment of public lands is a shining
example for the range leasers. Wyom-
ing's experiences are also being ex-
ploited. The customs of the entire
country based upon the principles of
getting public land into the private
ownership of the individual, are being
offered on the side of those opposed to
the leasing system.

Since the public land commission re-
ported in favor of leasing that part of
the public domain adapted to range
purposes, the policy is regarded as hav-
ing administration backing. President
Roosevelt's reference to the subject in
his message was the last endorsement,
which was expected to force the ques-
tion this congress. As the first session
draws toward its close there seems no
room for range-leasing before the sum-
mer adjournment. The next session
will be short, and unless the administra-
tion presses urgently for consideration
of this measure, or pro-leasing interests
perform the same service, it is hardly
probable that the short term will create
the law that is bound to have broad in-
fluence upon the entire west.

In whatever is done, there are sure to
be provisions that will facilitate the
homesteader. Some advocates of leasing
believe that the homestead entry-
man should have the right to enter
upon land during the term of even an
annual lease, after proving his bona fide
home purpose. Others are inclined to
think that settlement of the country will
be amply safeguarded by providing that
the homestead entryman shall be given
access to the land only after expiration
of a range lease. Champions of the
small stockman will also insist that an
entryman taking range land, shall be
insured a good range acreage about his
homestead, which others cannot lease.
The range homestead has been suggest-
ed as a law that would encourage the
cattle industry at least, if not the sheep,
and recognize the semiarid condition of
the country. This suggestion is to let a
man take a large range acreage as a
single homestead, the limit being such
probable yield of forage as the average
agricultural homestead yields.

All of the solutions proposed could
not be enumerated in a limited space,
but enough have been advanced to
prove that when the question must
finally be decided, there will be a wide
diversity of courses offered. Western
states should begin a careful study of
the situation. They will be most vitally
affected and unless their rights as states
and industrial commonwealths are ably
championed in the formative hour of
lawmaking, theories that are utterly
impracticable may be forced upon them.

There has been such a stir throughout
the east in regard to the public domain,
that radical action might be expected if
the true status of the west is not made
the subject of constant education. Many
eastern people regard the acquisi-
tion of more than 160 acres of public
land by one person or company as "land
grabbing." They do not realize the
necessities of a range country. When
informed on the timber acreage required
by a large lumber concern before erect-
ing a mill, they are inclined to style the
business precaution a public outrage.
To meet such views as these and have
whatever legislation is enacted kept
upon a plane permitting the most rapid
and permanent western development,
many western people are already antici-
pating the discussion by gathering data.

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tra fine cider vinegar on tap. . . .
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To make a perfect buckwheat cake, and
a thousand other dainty dishes, see the
"Royal Baker and Pastry Cook." Mailed
free to any address.

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Range Wars at an End.
Prineville, Ore., Feb. 21.—Central
Oregon's range wars, which have caused
the loss of thousands of dollars' worth
of live stock during the past few years,
are a thing of the past. In view of the
interior department's recent rulings re-
lative to the grazing of stock in the
forest reserves and the payment of a
nominal fee by the stockmen to the gov-
ernment for the range privileges and
protection during the grazing season, it
is not believed that there will be any
more clashes on the public domain
brought about, as in the past, by the
sheep and cattlemen in their struggle
for supremacy in the grazing districts.
Both the latter interests express no
small degree of satisfaction concerning
the new rulings of the forestry depart-
ment, and this year's regulations, which
are a radical departure from those in
vogue for years past, have been received
with favor.

Stockmen in this section generally
look upon the payment of a fee to the
government as the solution of a harass-
ing problem, which has assumed each
year, as the ranges become more con-
gested, a more disagreeable aspect, al-
though it was not until after the appli-
cations for grazing allotments had been
made and filed last month, and Forest
Supervisor S. C. Bartrum had explained
in detail the new methods to be em-
ployed by the government that local
stock men came into a full appreciation
of the advantages to be gained through
the new rulings. Up to that time a de-
cided stand had been taken against the
proposition to charge for the grazing
privilege. Now there is a reversal of
opinion in that respect and Grant
county, along with Crook county, has
expressed, through its stock associa-
tions, an indorsement of the govern-
ment's new policy. Belief is commonly
voiced that the forestry officials them-
selves have practically settled the range
difficulties, so far as Central Oregon is
concerned.

Missionaries in Danger.
Cincinnati, Feb. 23.—In answer to a
letter from F. M. Rains, correspond-
ing secretary for the Foreign Christian
Missionary Society, to the State Depart-
ment at Washington regarding the
situation in China, Acting Secretary of
State Robert Bacon sent the following
letter to Mr. Rains:
"The condition of affairs in China is
causing this Government much anxiety,
and, while nothing is known here which
would justify the immediate withdrawal
of missionaries from the interior, it
would appear prudent to the depart-
ment for the heads of the missions to
warn all on lying stations of the apprehen-
sion caused by their exposed con-
dition and to advise them to take early
steps to remove to places of safety at
the first cause for alarm even if such
cause should appear insignificant and the
danger not imminent.
"This Government is disposed to
afford every protection in its power to
its citizens in China, but in case of an
outbreak such protection would be
much facilitated if American citizens
were congregated in accessible locali-
ties."

SHEEP IN THE UNITED STATES.
Number Average, Price and Total
Value of Sheep in the Country.

The Bureau of Statistics of the United
States Department of Agriculture has
completed its estimate of the number
and value of sheep in the United States
on January 1, 1906, by separate states.
The totals are shown in the table pub-
lished herewith. The figures in relation
to sheep as reported in the table rep-
resent, as nearly as are obtainable without
an enumeration, the department claims,
the actual numbers on farms and ranges
on January 1, and are not strictly com-
parable with similar data published
heretofore, the present figures being the
result of a very careful investigation by
correspondents and field agents in
every state without exclusive reference
to the relation such figures should bear
to those of previous years:

States & Territories.	No. Av. price sheep per hd.	Value.
Maine.....	270,025 \$4.02	\$1,084,826
N. Hampshire 76,757 3.74	286,880	
Vermont.....	220,878 4.08	900,078
Massachusetts 42,859 4.26	182,792	
Rhode I-land..	7,970 4.17	33,234
Connecticut..	33,905 4.88	165,456
New York....	995,335 5.07	5,051,325
New Jersey..	44,644 4.61	205,587
Pennsylvania 1,102,058 4.63	5,102,529	
Delaware.....	11,984 4.06	48,626
Maryland.....	164,873 4.30	708,130
Virginia.....	497,341 3.33	1,656,145
N. Carolina..	219,574 2.69	590,654
S. Carolina..	60,034 2.59	155,488
Georgia.....	273,893 2.15	588,867
Alabama.....	105,474 2.22	233,888
Florida.....	195,597 2.10	409,776
Mississippi..	192,926 2.07	399,357
Louisiana... 180,135 2.14	385,489	
Texas.....	1,649,468 2.52	4,160,784
Arkansas....	347,930 2.33	801,677
Tennessee... 344,954 2.58	891,706	
West Virginia 538,305 3.99	2,146,491	
Kentucky.... 733,599 3.54	2,595,106	
Ohio.....	2,991,162 4.48	13,400,406
Michigan.... 1,970,836 4.48	8,834,272	
Indiana.... 1,123,423 4.87	5,471,070	
Illinois..... 719,465 4.86	3,494,801	
Wisconsin... 930,848 3.96	3,681,504	
Minnesota.. 494,253 3.62	1,795,306	
Iowa.....	670,383 4.59	3,073,707
Missouri.... 816,560 3.88	3,166,212	
Kansas..... 233,581 3.75	875,346	
Nebraska.... 444,499 3.72	1,651,314	
South Dakota 822,838 3.59	2,958,989	
North Dakota 695,267 3.45	2,398,671	
Montana.... 5,751,746 3.48	20,016,076	
Wyoming.... 4,575,042 3.43	15,703,832	
Colorado.... 1,677,361 3.59	6,018,250	
New Mexico 3,999,443 3.15	12,598,246	
Arizona.... 734,527 3.33	2,449,047	
Utah.....	2,625,401 3.17	8,321,685
Nevada..... 1,480,770 3.49	5,170,194	
Idaho.....	3,722,585 3.21	11,958,893
Washington 840,618 3.03	2,556,467	
Oregon..... 2,397,595 2.86	7,422,628	
California.. 2,398,439 3.03	7,275,296	
Oklahoma.... 57,240 3.39	194,187	
Indian Ter... 28,439 2.99	84,972	
U. S.	50,631,619 \$3.34	\$170,666,144

Kennewick will build an \$11,000
school house this year. It will be of
brick, two stories and with a basement
and with eight rooms.

S. E. CARR, Pres. B. F. CULP, Vice Pres. W. S. WHARTON, Cashier

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received
The Bank of Heppner through its large connections is in a
position to extend large accommodations and the greatest safety
to all its depositors

FOUR PER CENT INTEREST PAID ON TIME DEPOSITS

Notice of Final Account.
In the County Court of Morrow county, State
of Oregon.
In the matter of the estate of Margaret Dun-
can, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned
administrator has filed his final account in the
above entitled matter and court, and that said
final account will come on for hearing and
settlement at the Court House in Heppner,
Morrow county, state of Oregon, at 10 o'clock
A. M. Any person interested in said
estate may file objections to said account on or
before the time fixed for the hearing of the
same.
This notice is published in pursuance of an
order of the Hon. F. W. Ayers, Judge of the
above entitled court, duly made and entered in
said matter on the 28th day of February, 1906.
GEO. H. HENRIKSON,
Administrator of the estate of Margaret Dun-
can, deceased.