

The last national stockman's convention, recently adjourned, reiterated their old rotten chestnut by passing a resolution recommending the leasing of the public lands for grazing purposes.

Who are these men who want this law passed? Why do they want it passed?

The editor of this paper during the past 12 months has traveled all over Eastern Oregon, the main stock raising section of this state, and has met the principal stockmen of the state, personally. In these travels and interviews he has met but one man who was in favor of leasing the public lands for grazing purposes and that was a drummer from Western Oregon, who hoped to make a hit in this country. But when he met the blizzard prevalent on his side here he closed up like a clam.

Then if the ordinary stockmen of this country are not in favor of the leasing system, who are and why should they be?

They are rich stock holders of the gigantic livestock associations, who have no practical knowledge of stock raising, or sympathy for the man who rides and toils in the sage brush, but merely figure on the profits and dividends brought about by those who endure the hardships of the industry, and who, by their means and leisure have been able to attend the national livestock associations and control them, while the real stockraisers in overalls and boots are riding the ranges.

They wish to lease the public domain because there is big money in it for them. In every position it is a question of dollars and cents with them without regard for the rights of others. For a few cents per acre and a small sum additional they can lease and fence every acre of the public lands of this country. What matters it to them if they take in every foot of ground about the premises of the rancher or small stockman, or even inclose a few small ranches in their large enclosures? It would possibly result in starving the small men out or running them out of the way.

Or, if they should not enclose the premises or immediate range of the small men they could turn their vast herds upon the open range and eat it out while their own is protected by a network of barbed wire fences.

During the Sixties these cattle barons got possession of the public lands of Texas and fenced them in. The small stockmen and ranchers could not visit one another or go about their premises for the wire fences. They purchased "clippers" and rode every night and they cut wire fences as they rode. The barons employed desperadoes to shoot them, but about as many desperadoes were found dead along the fences as ranchers. A reign of terror set in and a special session of the legislature was called and the barons succeeded in getting a law passed making it a felony to cut a wire on a fence post. But the depredations on the fence went on, and the next legislature repealed all laws pertaining to the matter and the barons retired to other fields of speculation.

These gamblers in stock and bonds will attempt anything for speculation, but they cannot win over the sacred rights of the pioneers and settlers of the country.

This class in Oregon, to a man, is opposed to the proposed leasing system. Then let the people get to work. Petition your representatives in Congress to oppose the matter and if they ignore your appeal let them take the consequences. —Vote Democrat.

Few people realize the extent of the magnificent empire embraced in Eastern Oregon. Of late, the state newspapers have

been printing a statement, borne out by the facts, asserting that Harney county has 9986 square miles of territory, or six times as much as is within the boundaries of the state of Rhode Island. In this tremendous extent of country are few people. Very large tracts of land are in single ranches which some day will be cut up into smaller farms for a greater number of people. Harney county, now poor in assessed wealth but rich in natural resources, will in the future have a population which will make the present one appear like only an advance guard.—East Oregonian.

It is stated that J. Pierpont Morgan, Marcus Aurelius Hanna and others have benevolently fathered a scheme to buy the outstanding Panama canal shares and finish the canal. This "labor of love" they will do provided the government will not interfere with their little snap by building the Nicaragua canal.

It is stated that several of them have been in conference with President McKinley in an effort to interest the executive in their project.

This act on the part of these syndicators more and more proves the necessity for a thorough American canal, owned and controlled by the American government, and fortified at its pleasure.

We want no private canal schemes supported by this government. It is better for us even to build the Nicaragua canal and have it at the mercy of Great Britain than to refuse to build any canal, protect these schemers in the canal which they propose to build, and have this government forever at their mercy.—Sacramento Bee.

A contractor by the name of Newton Heydon died at Honolulu and it was reported that he had left in estate valued at \$2,000,000. Heirs sprung up all over the country, and there was a prospect of much litigation until it was ascertained that his entire assets were less than \$40. Several alleged widows now have mourning gowns for which they have no use.

Rules of Health.

Who is that sad, disconsolate looking fellow?

He is a man who has made a study of rules of health.

Whose rules of health? Everybody's rules of health. That's the trouble with him. He has been trying to live up to them.

What does he do? Everything he is told to do and when he isn't doing anything else he worries because the rules are so conflicting.

And is undermining his health? Sure. It would undermine any one's health.

What are some of the rules?

Well, here are two of them: "Eat only a light breakfast," and "Breakfast should be the best meal of the day."

What are some others?

"Run or walk two miles before breakfast," and "Never attempt to do anything on an empty stomach."

Any more?

"Take a cold bath the first thing in the morning," and "Remember the shock to the system of suddenly encountering heat or cold is very injurious."

Anything else?

"Never use a pillow," and "The most refreshing sleep is had when the head is somewhat elevated."

Is that all?

Oh, dear, no. There are hundreds of these rules. For instance: "Do not get in the habit of sleeping in the daytime" and "Always take a short nap in the afternoon;" "Eat only at meal-times" and "Eat whenever you are hungry;" "Eat no meat" and "If you would be strong eat plenty of fresh meat;" "Get up at 5 o'clock every morning" "Sleep until thoroughly rested, no matter how late it is."

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