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LEASE RANGE THE REMEDY

SAN FRANCISCO GALL CLAIMS THAT IT WOULD BE A BENEFIT.

Cause of High Beef Mainly Due to Rapidly Decreasing Supply of Range Cattle --Committee to Draft Bill.

When beef advanced 40 per cent last winter those who do not seek for causes said it was due to the season of the year. That rise has remained, became permanent, and is now followed by another rise of 3 cents per pound right in the height of the grazing season, when the spring grasses are at their best and the conditions affecting the production of beef are in their most favorable phase. No sorcery is needed to find the cause of this permanent rise in an important food article. It is found in the decrease of the supply. The most economical production of beef is on the ranges, in the arid region west of the ninety-ninth meridian. The cattle industry there has supplied the domestic demand and kept the slaughtering centers busy packing for a growing foreign demand. But in the six years last past the range cattle have decreased 60 per cent, the supply has fallen off more than half, while domestic demand increases with the population and the foreign demand spreads with the increase of our foreign export trade.

Cattle men know that today there are no big steers left in the United States. The stock has been gleaned down until the animals are slaughtered younger than ever before, and the calf crop is invaded to supply the butcher's block. It takes three years to produce a big steer, and with the younglings sent to the poleax the crop of full age animals is cut off.

This condition is brought about by the decrease in range cattle, and that in turn is due to the destruction of forage on the arid ranges of the public domain. As these were used in common there has been no disposition to preserve the grasses. Each herdsman has eagerly secured what he could in the present and without regard to the future. Finally, the ranges are being finished by sheep, which drive the cattle off and tramp and feed the forage clean, leaving neither root nor seed for renewal of the crop.

The remnant of the cattle interest is in battle array to protect grass enough to feed what cattle are left. The sheep have destroyed the fine public pastures in southern Utah, and are now being driven into Colorado and Nevada to encroach on the cattle ranges. The day that beef rose 3 cents a pound in Chicago cowboys at Gunnison, Colo., surrounded 5,000 Utah sheep, made prisoners of the shepherds and killed 2,500 sheep. Similar war in Idaho and Wyoming, Montana and Arizona, has already been commented upon.

The sheep first drive out cattle and then destroy what is left of the pasture, and have to be driven on to repeat the operation, leaving the country a desert behind them. It is a struggle for existence on public property, for the use of which there is no law nor regulation except poison and the Winchester.

The sheep men enjoy the benefit of a wool tariff, get the feed for their sheep for nothing and destroy cat-dog-egrow, to the injury of the beef eater, who must pay higher prices. They inflict, therefore a triple exaction upon the people—the wool tariff, the destruction of public property on the ranges, and higher price for beef. The remedy is simple, easily within reach, and does no injustice to the sheep or cattle interest. It lies in the leasing of the arid ranges, under such regulations as protect the small and large stock owner, the mineral prospector and the agricultural homesteader. Then those who use this public property will pay for its use; each stock man will keep his sheep and cattle on his own leasehold; each will take an interest in the renewal of the forage; the ranges will carry more stock; the beef supply will increase, benefiting both the producer and consumer, and the wool tariff

THE INTULAR CASE DECISIONS

QUESTION WHETHER THEY VINDICATE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

Clearness is an Element in Which They Are Much Deficient--Court May Have to Explain Itself.

Recent dispatches from Washington say the decision of the United States supreme court in the insular cases affecting Porto Rico, is claimed by the government to be a vindication of its position, and just as firmly held by those opposing that the decision affirms the contention that the constitution does not follow the flag. Sifting the elaborate decision of the majority of the court, it would appear that Porto Rico and other insular possessions of the United States do not come under the constitutional limitation which provides for uniformity of tariff duties as between the states of the union. The substance of the decision may be stated thus:

Porto Rico has not been since the treaty of Paris a foreign country, but territory of the United States, and that, consequently, duties levied under the Dingley tariff act, applying especially to the products of foreign countries, were illegally collected upon importations from Porto Rico.

While Porto Rico is territory of the United States, it is not included within "the United States," as those words are used in the uniformity of duties clause of the constitution, and that, consequently, the Foraker tariff act for Porto Rico is constitutional, and the duties levied under it upon Porto Rican importations are legal. Duties under the Dingley tariff act are therefore to be refunded.

An Irishman's Will.

In the name of God, Amen! I, Timothy Delona, of Barrydown-derry, in the county of Clare, farmer, being sick and weak in my legs, but of sound head and warm heart; Glory be to God!—do make the first and last will the old and new testament; first I give my soul to God, when it pleases Him to take it; sure no thanks to me, for I can't help it then; and my body to be buried in the ground at Barrydown-derry Chapel, where all my kith an' kin that have gone before me, an' those that live after, be-longing to me, are buried; pace to their ashes, and may the sod rest lightly over their bones. Bury me near my godfather, Felix O'Flaherty, betwix and between him and my father and mother, who lie separate altogether, at the other side of the chapel yard. I have the bit of ground, containing ten acres—rare old Irish acres—to my oldest son Tim, after the death of his mother, if she survives him. My daughter Mary and her husband Paddy O'Ragan are to get the white sow that's going to have twelve bonifs. Teddy, my second boy that was killed in the war of Ameriky, might have got his pick of the poultry, but as he is gone, I'll leave them to his wife, who died a week before him; I bequeath to all mankind fresh air to heaven, all the fishes of the sea they can take, and all the birds of the air they can shoot; I leave to them the sun, moon and stars. I leave to Peter Rafferty a pint of fupoteen I can't finish, and may God be merciful to him.—Ex.

Jack Bernard, who started his band of sheep for the summer range in the Coast Range mountains about the 24th of April, suffered the loss of his entire band of 1,500 sheep, which perished from extreme cold and absence of food, says the Red Bluff News. The snow fell thick and fast and obtained a depth of 8 feet, through which the sheep could not move. The loss falls very heavily on Mr. Bernard for his flock of sheep represented the returns of his labor for a number of years. By hard work he had increased his little band to a number that made the business profitable and in one night his whole little fortune disappeared.

Yesterday morning J. S. Locke was thrown from his buggy near Durbin's ranch and received injuries which will confine him to his home for a couple of weeks. Mr. Locke was driving along the road, leading a horse behind his buggy, when one of Durbin's dogs ran out and frightened the horses and they began to run. In the mix-up that resulted, the buggy was tipped over and Mr. Locke was hurt in the back and shoulders.—Huntington Herald.

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