

LAND LEASING PROBLEM

EDITOR TIMES HERALD:—In astuteness and boldness of conception; scope and magnitude of the undertaking; the baneful results it will accomplish in retarding the development of all the arid region of the Great West—lands arid, only, by reason of requiring artificial irrigation to render them productive of vegetation, other than the natural meat producing bunch grasses—and involving, as it will, all of the arts and methods so universally employed by the concerted wisdom and power of the beneficiaries of this gigantic land leasing scheme—advocated as it by such masterful hands and ready tact—renders it the most important question in state economics, as well of immediate local concern, which for the last decade has been presented to our people for consideration and to our representatives in congress for action.

On the part of those who so strenuously advocate the wholesale leasing of the public domain, it is only human nature asserting itself in the unvarying direction of self-interest, and stimulated by its ever increasing and controlling desire to monopolize and increase the mastery over all enterprises in which its aggregation of capital may be invested and to—so far as its influence can—carry its proposed measures into execution; and if law will permit, to beat down all opposition or hindrance to the full play of its colossal operations.

In every country, in all ages, and for all time, contests have been and will be waged between conflicting interests. Political, economical and social. Not only in the formative periods but often more intense in the transitory; the ever changing conditions of civilization and development of the human race.

In the history of our own country we have ample proof of the correctness of the foregoing statement. Before Independence was achieved, the English nobility had mapped off their territory, granting in some instances colonial possessions, and in others plantations bounded only by rivers and mountain chains, described by meters and bounds in leagues and miles. All west of the Alleghenies—according to the famous Quebec act of 1774—was designated as a vast game preserve for the great fur trading companies, and as late as 1812 America's incipient aristocracy revived the same notion of a reserve for traffic in peltries and fish.

But the sturdy yeomanry and faithful wives, with indomitable will and courage, forced their way over the mountain's crest, with trusty rifle, axe and small belongings; with brawn and brain, planted a new empire; founded themselves a home, redeemed a trackless wilderness by cultivation and set afloat a vast commerce upon the Father of waters and the bosoms of our Great lakes and the dreams of the nobility and incipient aristocracy was never realized.

A peculiar phase of the foregoing anticipations and disappointments were repeated scarcely over a half a century since, when the Hudsons Bay Fur Trading Co dominated the Pacific from the Arctic ocean to the Isthmus, with Fort Vancouver as its base of operations and its banking and supply institutions in London, England.

But when the first American government was organized on the Pacific coast, May, 1843, at Champeog, and with the consequent inflow of immigration, the departures and arrivals of Governor McLoughlin's brigade of Indian traders and trappers soon became a thing of the past.

Ideal schemes for obtaining control of large bodies of lands, with unlimited range privileges, have in the past been numerous,

and in most instances successful, as the records of our state disclose. In this county we already find that two cattle corporations have patents, derived through the swamp land grant, for one-hundred and ninety-two thousand acres, and the military road grants of 350,000 acres, all with their principal offices in San Francisco.

And while the public is now apprised, for the first time, of the definite shape that this particular scheme is assuming, yet it is a fact that in a general way it was outlined and conceived as long as ten years ago at the time of the repeal of the pre-emption and timber-culture laws, thus cutting down the rights of actual settlers to acquire title to only a limited quantity of land. It being urged for the accomplishment of coup d' main; that our real state builders and home makers were obtaining title to too much of the public domain, thus lessening the acreage too rapidly and, in some cases, perpetrating fraud, although not more than 320 acres could be entered at any of the land offices by any one person. Yet it seems that this was the first step taken with a view of placing under the control of a syndicate of cattle kings, who demand that a vast empire of lands be set aside for their exclusive use at only a nominal rental, wholly exempt from taxation, and vesting in them the right of possession under the flimsy guise of a lease hold, sufficient, and for the real and only purpose of clothing them with legal recognition and enabling them to enforce their claim of possession and incidental issues, by official authority and as a matter of course, too, a stepping stone to ultimate ownership, and without sharing the burdens of other persons engaged in like or other pursuits.

Another feature appears, in the fact that no one, save those who are managers, or stockholders, or engaged as attorney for some cattle corporation, is urging this scheme to consumation on any pretext whatever. Yet many of our people are as much a part of the body politic with all their interest centered here and presumably have as much concern in preserving the range grasses and increasing and reclaiming our vast body of arid lands.

Any kind of wholesale passing of the public lands to personal control—it not appearing as yet the modus operandi by which this is all to be brought about—would operate as a permanent check to the further development of all the inland empire.

One of the rights most highly prized by many of the young men of moderate means is of procuring 160 of land under the homestead act, and the advent of such into any country, and their transformation into residential, is of incalculable value.

It is the veriest sophistry to claim that a law can be framed as to not interfere with practical workings of the present homestead act—as well undertake to mix oil and water; the two are as incompatible as light and darkness; as well expect the Hudsons Bay Co. to continue to propagate beaver in this valley after its invasion by the cattle kings. No one acting in good faith would be fool-hardy enough to enter into the area of a lease-hold to acquire a homestead. It would, besides being a waste of time in making the attempt, be a hazard of property and life. Hence no one, save possessed with a dare-devil spirit of adventure, coupled with a dishonest motive in the way of a "graft" by an advantageous compromise, or for hire by a lessee, but never with the bona fide intention of making a home, would avail himself of an unwise provision of a thoroughly vicious law.

Is there any progress in the domain of absolute stockdom? For the past quarter of a century I have lived continuously on the Western frontier, and from personal observations of its varied conditions and resources from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the British possessions, and nowhere

where cattle interests predominate is found any advancement in the conditions of the country—the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. It is not the business of stock syndicates to found states, nor take an active interest in their admission as such; nor organize counties, or school districts; build cities or highways, establish post routes; to raise cereals, fruits, vegetables or swine; to build mills or manufactories; encourage facilities for expeditions transportation throughout the land, nor produce anything that cannot carry itself to a distant market. But to the contrary, the object of such corporations is to prevent upbuilding of the country by the makers of homes and to that end we believe this law, if enacted, will prove a brilliant success.

Besides having a paralytic effect upon all the industries tending to promote the welfare of a country, leased lands would contribute nothing in the way of taxes for municipal government, and if carried to its logical results would only assist these syndicates in carrying out their design and encourage their insatiable greed for extending their now all too large possessions. Enabling them to raise more cattle to get more lands to raise more cattle and so on ad infinitum and to root out and to monopolize all other progressive and upbuilding industries.

The launching of this question at this inopportune moment is the unwary method pursued when laws of a doubtful or dangerous character are sought to be enacted. In none of the arid land states is there to be held a general election, hence their can be no such public discussion of this question as would follow the selection of a legislature or congressman and no expression be had of the popular will through the ballot. So, with skilled advocates, trained lobbyists, and the peculiar influence that can be brought to bear—the voice of the people stifled—no one should be surprised if any scheme, however pregnant with evil, may be brought forth under the sanction of law.

We must, therefore conclude that, until recently, the policy of our government has been to protect and foster the builders of homes on its vast area of public lands. Therefore it will be well to pause at this time and consider if this scheme would not be too radical; not only vicious in its effect but dangerous as a precedent.

Desert Land Selection No. 1.

W. E. Burke, who has been appointed by the state as selecting agent, this week sent to the local land office at this place, Desert Land Selection, No. 1, under the Carey act. Nothing has been done in the matter as yet, however, as Mr. Burke failed to send the required amount of fees. From reading the application it appears that a company has been formed under the name of the Portland Company, to reclaim and irrigate 8,751.82 acres of land in Harney county. The following lands have been selected:

All of section 3; ne 1/4 of sec 4, and ne 1/4 of sw 1/4, se 1/4 of nw 1/4, and lot 3, section 4; sw 1/4, w 1/2 and se 1/4 section 5; se 1/4 sw 1/4 section 6; all of sections 7 to 10 and 15 22 inclusive, in township 24 south range 33 east.

The register and receiver of this land office have not investigated to see if any of the above land has been filed on or not.

The Big Irrigation Project.

The Portland Telegram of recent date published a column on the big irrigation project of Hanley, Webster and O'Reilly. According to an interview Mr. O'Reilly says it is the intention of his company to irrigate by the waters of Silvie's river 175,000 acres of arid land. The land is divided into three classes, that owned by the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Military Wagon Road, obtained from the original land grant; land owned by the state and land already owned by the individuals. The former comprises about 30,000 acres. The main canal will be 75 ft wide at the bottom and 47 miles long. The company has made application for the use of 300,000 inches of water at the present time. As soon as the work of the surveyors is completed the construction of the main ditch will be begun and the promoters hope to have the work well along that they will be able to irrigate considerable land next season. Colonel C. E. S. Wood, who had been reported as connected with the irrigation company, said: "I am only interested to the extent, as representative of the land grant held by the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Military Wagon Road Company. They own 30,000 acres of land lying within the territory under proposed irrigation. The value would necessarily be greatly enhanced and the land benefited materially. The very thought of turning that immense Harney valley, abandoned and almost worthless today, into a vast field of hay and clover, of settling up the entire county, building railroads and cities, makes me think that it can and will be done, and

Sheriff's Sale.

Under and by virtue of a Warrant issued out of and under the seal of the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Harney, I, the undersigned Sheriff of said county, do hereby give notice of the delinquent tax and interest on the following named lands, to wit: That the amount of taxes charged on the following named lands, to wit: ...

that Southeastern Oregon will merit a worthy position among the fertile rich sections of the state."

Religious Services.

Christian Science services at H. L. Briscoe's residence every Sunday 11 o'clock a. m. and 8 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Meeting is also held each Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. All are cordially invited to attend. Subject for tomorrow: "Soul."

Rev. A. J. Irwin will preach at Harney the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sabbath school every sabbath at 2 p. m.

There will be preaching services at the Poison Creek school house every 4th Sunday at 2:30 p. m. Rev. A. J. Irwin, pastor.

At the Presbyterian church Burns, Rev. A. J. Irwin pastor Devine services the third and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sabbath school at 10 a. m. every Sabbath morning.

Preaching services at the Baptist church every 1st and 2nd Sundays, morning and evening Sunday school every Sunday at 11 a. m. prayer meeting every Thursday evening.

Sealed Bids.

Bids will be received by the directors of Burns school district No. 1 to grade the school grounds, block No. 58. The grading to be done according to stakes set by Surveyor Johnson. Bids will be opened at 2 o'clock August 12, 1901, at the school house. Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. C. G. SMITH, Clerk.

We wish to call the attention of our local horsemen to the date of the race meet at Long Creek which commences September 2d and continues five days. There will be \$800 in purses. For further particulars write T. D. Williams, secretary, Long Creek, Ore.

JOHN GEMBERLING, Jeweler and Optician. Open for repairing and optical work.

NEXT DOOR TO P. O.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

LAND OFFICE AT BURNS, OREGON. July 12, 1901. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Register and Receiver at Burns, Oregon, on August 26, 1901, viz: John Crossman, H. E. No. 1270, for the SW 1/4, NW 1/4 and lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Sec. 18, Tp. 20 S., R. 20 E.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Simon Lewis, Gerald Griffin, Fred Haley, H. E. Elliott, all of Harney county Oregon. Geo. W. Hayes, Register.

SUMMONS.

In Justice's Court of Burns Precinct, Harney County, Oregon.

N. Brown, Leon M. Brown and Ben Brown, Co-Partners as N. Brown & Sons, Plaintiff, vs. A. Gittings, Defendant. To A. Gittings, Defendant: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled action on or before the 15th day of August 1901, and if you fail to answer, for want thereof, plaintiff will take judgment against you for \$100 for goods sold and delivered to you in Burns, Harney county, Oregon, at your special instance and request.

This summons is published by an order of the Justice of the above entitled court, made and entered on the 12th day of July, 1901, which returns the first publication thereof to be made July 26th, 1901.

D. JAMESON, Justice of the Peace, Burns Precinct, said County and Parish, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

OUR NEW STOCK OF SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS

Is now arriving OUR DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT never more complete than at present. We are preparing this year to make all former efforts and continue the leading Fancy Dress Goods and Furnishings. Our spring stock is up-to-date and consists many new novelties in ladies wear. Men and boys clothing, hats, shoes, etc. Headquarters For Fashions and Fashionable Goods. Our line of fresh GROCERIES. Also find favor with our many customers. LUNABERG & DALTON

CITY MEAT MARKET P. G. SMITH, Prop., Burns, Oregon. Fresh Beef Pork, etc. in any quantity desired. Bologna and Sausage of all kinds always on hand. Your patronage solicited.

White Front Livery, Feed & Sale STABLE. McClain & Biggs Proprietors, Burns, Oregon. This Stable is located on the corner of First and B. Streets, and kept in grain on hand. Has competent help. Runs a Job Wagon, Takes orders to any part of the Country.

M. FITZGERALD, PRESIDENT F. S. RIEDER, SECY AND TREAS. BIGGS & TURNER ATTORNEYS. Eastern Oregon Title Guaranty Co. INCORPORATED. Abstracts Furnished and Title Guaranteed. To all Lands in Harney County, Oregon. REAL ESTATE Bought and Sold on Commission. Office in Bank Building.

THE CAPITAL SALOON, TRISCH & DONEGAN, Proprietors. Burns, Oregon. Make This Headquarters.

Commercial Hotel (French House building) MESDAMES HOUSAM & JORDAN, Proprietors. Beard by the day, week or month. Large, clean and comfortable rooms. Everything under the personal supervision of the landladies. TRAVELING MEN'S HEADQUARTERS Centrally located with Sample rooms in connection.

PLANO LIGHT RUNNING Harvesting Machines Sell Solely on their Merits. Not because they have once served someone's "Granda", but for what they'll do for you. Not because the price is lowest (they cost more to make than any other) but because they "fill the bill." They have roused the bitterest opposition from competitors. You'll see the reason why if you but try them. They are thoroughly up-to-date and practical farm implements from tongue to tire—save time—save money—save work and worry. Come in and look them over—'twill pay you to be posted. Binders, Mowers, Hay Rakes, Sickle Grinders, Binder Twine. C. H. VEGTLY, Burns, Oregon. Sole Agent for Harney County.

