

# The Times-Herald.

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BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, APRIL 12, 1922.

NO. 20.

## The Times-Herald.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
One Year \$2.00  
Six Months \$1.00  
Three Months .75

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## STILL HAVE WAR-PAINT ON HARNEY COUNTY STOCK ASSOCIATION TO KEEP UP FIGHT.

**Will Place Petitions in Every Post Office in The County—No Lease Bill Will Pass If It Can Prevent It.**

The stock association at its meeting last Saturday afternoon re-elected the same officers for the ensuing year and discussed plans for the spring ride.

The matter of land leasing was taken up and it was determined to make a more vigorous fight against the passage of any bill. The members feel that the protest against such a measure should be kept up and work should not be allowed to relax. The association feels much encouraged by the political organizations in their state conventions and all counties east of the Cascades taking steps against the scheme by passing resolutions condemning it.

The Harney county Stock Association will get up petitions to be circulated and placed in postoffices all over the county as well as other Eastern Oregon counties for the purpose of getting the signatures of the taxpayers and stockmen praying the Oregon delegation to use every possible means to defeat any bill on that line.

The people of Eastern Oregon have so far blocked the scheme of the cattle kings, but because a victory has been gained is no reason to rest on our oars. They have a paid lobby in Washington looking after their interests and the people must keep everlastingly at it or the bill will be passed.

The petitions will soon be sent out and it is not necessary to urge stockowners to sign it for they realize the calamity that would befall them should a lease bill pass.

### Local and Personal.

J. W. Sayer went up to the mill this week.

Bluestone a limited quantity at Schwartz & Budelman's.

Prof. Finn will devote his time during vacation to raising celery. He is now preparing hot beds at spare moments.

The first man that will bring a mess of trout to this office can have any kind of a fish story he desires and we'll vouch for it.

N. A. Cornish and wife expect to leave immediately after circuit court for San Francisco where they will likely make their home.

"Mother" Bowen was a caller at this office last Wednesday afternoon. She is looking after the home place and will put in considerable grain.

The backward spring is causing the seeding of ground to be retarded. On ordinary seasons the spring seeding would have been completed by this time.

Luig Bros' teams passed through Burns Wednesday loaded with implements and seedgrain enroute to their Soldier creek ranch where they will put in considerable wheat, rye, oats and barley.

One of the worst wind and rain storms ever experienced visited this section last Sunday night, while it did no material damage, it shook things up considerably and blew down a few fences.

Commissioner R. J. Williams and family arrived from Malheur county Sunday. Mr. Williams had spent the winter near Ontario where he fed his beef cattle for the early spring market. While he received good prices for 100 head he sold February 1st, \$49 per head, he did not do so well with those sold Mar. 20 and 24 head were not sold at all, not being in shape for beef. He says that he did not lose anything, but would have done just as well had he turned off his stock last fall and invested in young stuff. Mrs. Williams and children went on to their Silver creek home Tuesday, Hob remaining to attend the regular April term of county court.

## IRISH TAKES US TO TASK

**THE COL. TAKES EXCEPTIONS TO A RECENT ARTICLE.**

**Claims He Has Been Misquotted On The Land Leasing Question—His View of The Proposed Bill.**

Washington City D. C., March 29, (To the Editor)—I have read in your issue of the 15th inst. a discussion of the proposition to lease the stock ranges on the public domain, now open to free use as commons. I do not take to heart your personal characterizations, as I am persuaded that you cannot know personally the truth of what you say, but prefer personalities to a discussion of reasons why the men who now use public property and extract its wealth, should be made to pay for it, and the funds so derived devoted to settling the country by using it to irrigate every acre that can take the plow and help to support a home. My personality has nothing to do with the issue. Nor do I care to attempt any defense in that matter, preferring to leave my reputation in the keeping of those who know me better than you possibly can. Your statement of my reasons for leasing the arid grazing lands is exceedingly incorrect. I have not said that six hundred million acres of forest land should be reserved, for there is no such area of forest land on the public domain. I have not said that forty million acres of arid grazing land, at a rental of two cents per acre, would produce a fund of eight million dollars, for it would not. I have not said that the arid ranges were being "developed" at the rate of five million acres a year, nor have I said that range murders amount to fifty per year.

As you have published within quotation marks and attributed to me all that I did not say, will you in fairness publish what I do say? That is this: It is estimated that west of the Missouri there are six hundred million acres of public domain; that of this, one hundred million acres are timber land, which I believe should be reserved, the ripe timber thereon harvested for economic uses, but the oncoming crop preserved to protect the water sources, and make our forests permanent; that one hundred million of acres may be irrigated and subjected thereby to tillage to support homes, and that when irrigated, with the exception of localities, the most profitable use of a majority of it will be the production of winter feed for stock, and that the stock to consume it in winter must have a summer range; that the remaining four hundred million acres, as far as can now be seen, will find its best use as grazing land for the stock that will consume the winter feed produced by irrigation. This brings the proposition up to the range. Its free use in common is rapidly destroying its potential wealth. Its forage is being exterminated. Its capacity to carry stock is rapidly decreasing. You know this to be true as do all the readers of your paper. You know that the public pastures of Eastern Oregon are eaten out by over grazing and will soon be gone. I would save them by the protection of a lease hold. The bill for that purpose now before congress provides that the lease shall not bar any settler nor mineral entryman. The homesteader can make his claim on any leasehold and it is cancelled out of the lease. The agricultural freeholder has a first preference to lease ten acres to one of his freehold, of abutting public land, that he may protect as a range for his domestic stock, which is now deprived of pasture by wandering sheep that graze down to his freehold line.

The pastoral freeholder is to have a like preference to a like amount, not abutting, but anywhere in the county where his stock grazes. After these preferences are satisfied such grazing lands as they do not exhaust, shall be leased to the stock growers who were in actual use of them at a date fixed, such in proportion to his interest in and

## IRISH TAKES US TO TASK

use thereof. So if you, Mr Fitzgerald and I have stock on such range, you with 5,000 head, Mr. Fitzgerald with 2,000 and I with 1,000, each of us will be entitled to as much land, in its present condition, as our stock requires.

The public range in Texas was so far destroyed that it required 100 acres to support one steer. Seven years ago Texas protected her range by leasing it, and now the forage is restored so that 100 acres supports five steers. So; granting a like rate of restoration, your share in due time would enable the increase of your herd to 25,000. Mr. Fitzgerald's to 10,000, and mine to 5,000. You will observe that this law expels no settler, but protects him; creates no monopoly, but prevents it, and makes the production of winter feed more profitable by a summer range which carries more stock to consume it.

The rental is to provide the storage and distribution of water for irrigation, and all lands that may be irrigated are cancelled out of the lease without compensation to the leaseholder.

Now if to preserve instead of destroy natural resources is right; if to make the users of public property pay for it, is right; if to use an existing public asset to produce an irrigation fund to bring more settlers and give them a better living when they come, is right, then this policy is right.

You may accuse me of sinister motives in advocating it, but I have none. And, after all, it is not a question of motive, but of reason. Thanking you in advance for fair play in publishing this, I am, very truly,

JOHN P. IRISH.

## IRISH TAKES US TO TASK

The city council last week contracted with J. S. Locke to repair the Huntington-Burns road from Huntington to Willow Creek, a distance of twenty miles. The work was completed early this week, and teamsters arriving from the interior report the road to be in fine shape. —Huntington Herald.

A little boy from the country was trying to find the Giraffe Stables the other day. The different livery stables were pointed out to him, but he was not satisfied. He had a little ent if clothes under his arm and a pair of fine shoes in his hand. After wandering about the street some time he found the sign "Griffin & Staples." This was the place he was looking for. It seemed his mother had been purchasing a family supply of shoes and boys clothing in this establishment, and gussing on what would fit this little fellow had got them too large. She had told him of Griffin & Staples. —Ontario Democrat.

## PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED HIS ATTITUDE ON IRRIGATION BILL PROBABLY KILLS IT.

**The Least That Can Be Done Is To Delay Further Consideration Until States Amend Their Charters.**

A recent dispatch from Washington says: The president's attitude regarding irrigation, as expressed to Senator Hansbrough and Representatives Moody, Metcalf and Reed on last Saturday, probably means the death of irrigation legislation, at least for the present. The president holds strenuously to the position that if the general Government appropriates money for irrigation works it should own and control these works. At the same time the constitutions of several of the irrigation states provide for state control of these facilities, and the general government when it admitted these states to the Union accepted the constitutions.

But the president does not care one cent for these constitutional provisions. Unless there is to be government ownership and control, he says, there will be no irrigation at all, so far as the general government is concerned. Should the bill pass finally with the objectionable provision stricken out, which is improbable, the president will sign it, and will then proceed to delay the beginning of work in the several states referred to until such time as they get around to an amendment of their constitutions. Even were these states eager for amendment, which they probably are not, nothing could be done until a year from this time, and the amendments could not go to the people for ratification until the general elections of 1924; so at the best the beginning of the work will be delayed until after the next presidential campaign is over.

The Western states which are interested in cattle-raising are strongly committed to the idea of state ownership and control of irrigation works, and their Representatives in congress have fought for it during all the present session. The Hansbrough bill was originally

drawn with a provision for government ownership and control, this being the North Dakota gentleman's theory of irrigation work, but he was overruled by the committee of Western members which agree on a general bill, and finally was compelled to yield to their demands. He did so the more willingly because of the constitutional provisions in existence it really made no difference what the bill, to be passed by Congress provided regarding ownership and control. But the president insists upon the elimination of the offensive section on the ground probably, that if it is taken out he will be in position to dictate to the irrigation states concerning amendments to their constitutions.

It is thus seen that the actual commencement of any general irrigation project is still a long way in the future. The cattle states want state ownership and control because it will be the easier through this system for them to acquire monopolies of state lands and reservoirs and ditches. The work of buying up legislatures in the wild west is not usually a very difficult task. The president and Senator Hansbrough, on the other hand, insist on general government ownership and control, because it is in the direct interest of the rapidly filling up of the arid and semi-arid regions with prosperous settlers. The cattle industry, demanding large tracts of open country, is diametrically opposed to the settlement proposition.

This is the rock the irrigation measure is going to pieces on. Attention was called to it earlier in the session, while the committee of Western members was trying to get together in favor of some plan. The fight came up then and the lines were clearly drawn between the cattle interests on the one hand and the interests on the other which desire rapidly to populate the irrigated region.

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