

Just as it was believed that the fight against the proposal to lease the range lands of the country had been won, news comes from Washington that new effort is being made in behalf of that project.

There is, indeed, something in the claim that the ranges are suffering from overgrazing, but the conditions are very far from being as serious as the lease promoters have tried to make out; and there is no assurance that better conditions would follow if the lands were turned over to the lease holders.

The objections to leasing the ranges are many. First and foremost, it would tend to prevent the settlement of the country. Lands under lease would practically be beyond the reach of the immigrant.

would find it easy to take up any area he wanted by hiring "dummies" to represent his interests and "hold down" locations for him.

The only claim made for the proposed lease system is that it would conserve the native grasses, but there is no assurance to this end.

In the evolution of the republic from the crude conditions of the beginning, party regularity has heretofore been regarded as an orthodox doctrine, to be denied only by the political unbeliever.

A retroactive policy, such as now is advocated by certain influential publications in Oregon, will not operate to scatter the strength of the independent voters who are not to be lashed into line by the party whip.

"It is principles, not men," runs the argument. Certainly it is principles, not men, that should govern the voter, and that is by no means antagonistic to the independent regime.

No demand that he must vote for a yellow dog will swing in line the man who has determined that he will rebuke money as a dictator over free expression of the will of the elector.

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