

SOLUTION OF LEASE LAW

Pass Proposed Desert Amendment and Range Question is Settled

DO NOT PERPETUATE IDLE LAND

Make it Possible for Home Builders to Take Land Under Right Laws, Compelling Cultivation--Present Range Methods do Not Produce Stock in Proportion to Cultivated Sections.

The advocates of public land leasing are still active and persistent as evidenced by the printed program of the American Live Stock Association which met in Los Angeles this week. Dwight B. Heard, president of the Arizona Cattle growers, is down for an address on "Federal Control of Public Grazing Lands," and this is followed by general discussion of the subject.

This is a matter of considerable importance to the public land states and deserves attention, as it is not in the interest of stockraising and development, but should such a law be passed it would have a contrary effect and retard the settlement and development of the only portion of the United States where public land still remains for homeseekers.

Such unreasonable suggestions as a leasing system is on a par with others of a similar nature issuing from the theorists of government officials connected with the land departments.

To those familiar with conditions throughout the range districts of the West the proposed lease law is a farce and most obnoxious. It is entirely in the interest and for the benefit of the big grower, who is selfish and desires to control the entire range to the exclusion of the small stockman and actual settler. This has been the history of the past and would be that of the future should such a bill be enacted. There is positively no other view to be taken of such a move.

It is known that every spring and watering place throughout the range districts are in private ownership and almost if not entirely under the control of the big grower, therefore these big fellows would have absolute control of the range, as without the water it is out of the question for the small man to receive any benefits. Besides, these big men would make it most disagreeable for any new man to attempt settlement upon any of this leased range, regardless of any provision made by the theorists to the contrary. The big stock man wants it all and such a law is entirely in his interest. Such a law would be most disastrous to the intent of our present land laws and would put Eastern Oregon back 50 years instead of encouraging settlement and the advent of transportation lines. It would mean that Southeastern Central Oregon would not only remain in its present wild and undeveloped state, but would retrograde--place it all in the hands of the stockmen and prevent its advancement. Railroads have said in the past, or rather maintained indifference, because the only product of any consequence has been livestock and this could walk to market--this state of conditions would continue under a land leasing system.

Present methods of stock raising are antiquated. We must change and the spirit of progress demands it; necessity demands it. The stockraiser of today must have the finished product for the market in order to receive the just profits of the business. Range stock are not finished and consequently the range man is not getting more than one-half of what he should.

Harney county has the reputation of being the greatest stock county in Oregon, yet a comparison of the area as that of sections where there is no free range puts it to shame and show how utterly foolish it is to perpetuate present methods in the range counties. By taking the number of horses, mules, cattle, sheep and wine on the assessment roll of

rested by the forestry officers for ranging his stock without permission within the confines of the Deschutes forest reserve, and was fined \$50 for the offense, which he paid under protest. A month or so later the cattleman drove about 20 head of his stock through the reserve without permission, and was again obliged to feel the iron hand of Uncle Sam in the shape of a criminal complaint. Although the privilege of driving stock through Government forest reserves costs but 35 cents a head, amounting in Combs' case to not more than \$7, he scorned the right of the Government to collect the toll, and in consequence has been forced to submit to various expenses in connection with his declaration of independence aggregating fully \$200, as he has had to make two trips here from his Eastern Oregon home to face the charges against him, besides engaging an attorney and finally submitting to the payment of damages as indicated. --Portland Telegram.

ARE YOU ONE OF THESE?

To The Editor--Are you aware that the young people of Burns have organized for the purpose of making a study of the bible?

Our first meeting was held at the home of J. O. Cawfield, Rev. A. J. Irwin being present as one of the teachers and helped with making a successful organization. Thirty-one scholars were enrolled and officers were elected.

The second meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Tom Allen where eleven more were added to the enrollment making a total of 42. A recent meeting of the executive committee arranged for two teachers, Rev. Holloman and Rev. Irwin. Each have a substitute in case of absence.

The class meets at the private homes of members and the present interest shown is quite encouraging, and gives us reason to believe the organization will be a great help.

A MEMBER.

DON'T LIKE WATER CODE.

Much is being said by the press about a water code, whatever it may mean, and it looks as though some people have become obsessed with the idea that they cannot have health or happiness without a "water code."

Now, a "water code" may be necessary somewhere in this big state, but, as I have not been over the state much, cannot say where this "water code" is needed.

Who are these men clamoring for a "water code"? Certainly not the farmers of Eastern Oregon. They do not want or need any "water code." They came out into this land of sunshine, saw the land, saw the water and realized the necessity of getting the two together; obeyed the law, and in a very practical and common sense way tapped the stream and thereby conveyed the water to the land, put it to a beneficial use and to that extent appropriated the waters of the stream. No, lawyer, no fees, and a very wise supreme court made that the "water code" of the State until--the meddlers--the great law makers of the State--conceiving an idea that Oregon, being without a water code must needs have one. Since then your poor devil of a settler must hire an engineer; a lawyer, and unwind a lot of red tape, pay out his money in fees and go to a lot of trouble besides, ere he can make a legal appropriation of the water necessary to wet his garden.

And he never asked for this law. Necessity and opportunity were sufficient for him, and just so long as neither he nor his neighbors acted the hog all went well, otherwise a lawsuit followed and rights were finally adjusted.

Now why the necessity of a "water code," why the necessity of a State Engineer, why the necessity of all the annoyances and expense, all of which falls either directly or indirectly upon the shoulders of the producers?

The more law the more litigation. Now who is it wants a "water code"? We don't. SUBSCRIBER.

FEDERAL AID IS POSSIBLE

Commercial Club Responds to Inquiry of the Irrigation Congress

DEMONSTRATE ARTESIAN FLOW

Preamble and Resolutions Setting Forth Conditions in Southeastern Central Oregon--Secretary of Interior Has Full Authority to Prosecute Such Work Under Present Laws.

The Burns Commercial Club received a letter from Arthur Hooker, secretary board of control seventeenth National Irrigation congress, which meets in Spokane, August 9-14, 1909, in which he asked in what way the congress could be of the greatest benefit to this section of Oregon. In reply the club passed the following resolutions at its last meeting which were forwarded to Mr. Hooker:

"Dear Sir--The Burns Commercial Club, preliminary to any requests it has to make in the interest of this large part of the semi-arid portion of Oregon, desires to thank you and, through you, the important organization you represent, for the deep interest you manifest in our advancement, as indicated by your letter of January 11, 1909, addressed to Platt T. Randall, Secretary, Burns Development League, asking in what way the Irrigation Congress can be of greatest benefit to our section.

"Pursuant to your request, this matter has been carefully considered by the Burns Commercial Club, which represents the entire County of Harney, and after due deliberation the Club submits for your consideration the subjoined statement and resolution, with the hope and request that it will receive the careful attention of the Congress and a recommendation from that body to the Interior Department to accede to the requests therein made:

"WHEREAS, Harney County, in the State of Oregon, with an area of ten thousand square miles, contains one of the largest bodies of semi-arid lands in the United States, there being within its confines vast valleys of fertile soil, upon which the successful production of crops and the building of homes can be materially aided and encouraged by the use of water for irrigation purposes; and

"WHEREAS, The physical contour of Harney County, Oregon, is such that its surface and visible waters are neither available nor sufficient to be utilized by the Government in any extensive system of irrigation, and that the greater part of said water has been previously appropriated by private parties; and

"WHEREAS, The published reports of the Government, as a result of investigation heretofore made, proclaim the existence in the valleys of Harney County of a generous artesian flow of water at a reasonable depth; therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That we recognize this artesian supply as the only reliable source of water for reclamation purposes upon which settlers in Harney County can



Residence of C. F. McKinney, Burns. From a photograph taken a few years ago before the shrubbery and trees had grown to any size. The Pacific Livestock

ing rains. I passed through snows four feet deep, through flooded trails and over icy bridges and muddy roads--to reach the great Harney valley in ethereal midland during a spring shower!

"I can say but a word about Burns, the metropolis of Central Oregon, but it is a thriving city of some twelve or fifteen hundred people--a city destined to become one of the populous centers of Oregon, for the great Harney valley is more than a "section"--it is an empire.

"I have not been around much, but have been busy absorbing information, studying statistics and looking over agricultural exhibits, taking note of the resources and possibilities of this great land of peace and plenty. "And what a study it is! What a region for the poor man, and what openings for capital! I do not suppose there is a land in the West where the muscle of the laborer, the brain of the student or the pulse of the rich can meet with safer or surer reward than in this wonderful Harney empire. "And there is but one want, one crying need--a railway! Every where I am introduced is from "the outside." In other words the people here are out of the world, so to speak, all of which can be changed by the magic sound of the whistle of the locomotive.

"And soon the whistle will be heard! Soon the iron horse will rumble through this valley, and then the riches of Oregon will be so multiplied as to astonish all the West. "But to those seeking homes, to those seeking openings for brain or brawn or money, now is the time to get a foothold, for values here are now low and opportunity stalks up and down, over and across the valley offering rich rewards to all who will come and make their homes in this favored land.

ADDISON BENNETT." SUBSTITUTE FOR MATRIMONY.

"Successful business girls and women," says Mrs. Anna Steese Richardson in Woman's Home Companion for February, "are too well off financially to want to marry.

"The girl who earns twelve, fifteen or twenty dollars a week sets for herself a standard of living, dress and small luxuries which would require a husband earning twenty-five, thirty, and fifty dollars respectively. She regards as necessities what her mother considers luxuries. If a man who is earning only as much as the girl and a few dollars more a week asks her to marry him, he knows that the girl must either deprive herself of some things she has grown to regard as necessities or she must continue to work. And there is many a home-hungry young man today too proud to allow his wife to work.

"Through agitation and her own honest effort at desk, counter and loom, woman is rapidly nearing the goal of equality in work and wages with men. Her services are worth today as much as those of the man who might marry her--if her services were worth less.

Colds contracted at this season of the year are quickly relieved with Bees Laxative Cough Syrup. Its laxative quality aids the system of the cold. Pleasant to take. Best for children for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. Sold by The Welcome Pharmacy, Burns, Ore., Fred Haines Harney, Ore.

Superintendent Gilerest, of the P. L. S. company, is in the city in order to inspect the several thousand cattle which are feeding in this vicinity. Mr. Gilerest informed the Argus that there is no truth in the report, which has been widely circulated in the press, that Miller & Lux have sold out to eastern capitalists. --Ontario Argus.

Came Near Choking to Death. A little boy, son of Chris. D. Peterson, a well known resident of the village of Jacksonville, Iowa, had a sudden and violent attack of croup. Much thick stringy phlegm came up after giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "I think he would have choked to death had we not given him this remedy. For sale by all good dealers.

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