

Stockmen Stirred Over Fee Proposal

(Continued from First Page)

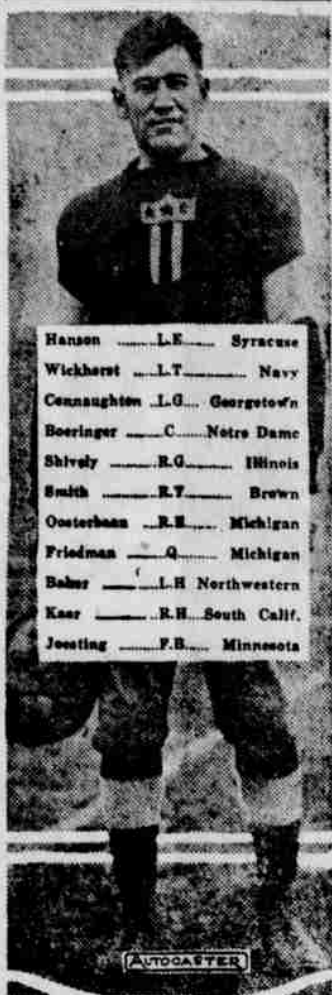
ly to those involved in it. Intense rivalry between cattle and sheep interests and consequently high competitive bidding for forage are cited in explanation by some, while others mention the enlarged homestead act as partly responsible for a condition which has forced them to rent lands of little value at relatively high rates. Here, also, as elsewhere, it is commonly urged that the necessity of renting private acreage to accommodate unpermitted remnants of herds and flocks essential to the proper utilization of dependent lands has forced stockmen to pay unwarranted prices for private tracts. Also it is stated that privately owned timber lands, often within forest boundaries, have been leased by speculators and subsequently subleased before coming into possession of actual users, at a great advance over the original price.

Whatever may be the cause, the fees proposed by the Report are clearly out of line with those recommended for nine of the eleven western states and apparently reflect the existence of conditions surrounding the leasing of private lands which must have been abnormal and more acute here than elsewhere. While there might appear to be a certain measure of justice in bringing home to reckless speculators the plain issue of their acts, as the appraisal fees in some cases clearly would, it should be remembered that some of the most flagrant optimists have already suffered heavy penalties and that the great bulk of permittees in this locality are victims of circumstances beyond their control.

640 Acre Homestead Law

My investigation has led to personal opportunities which I deeply appreciate and has revealed many most encouraging facts bearing on the relations existing between permittees and the Forest Service and on the very real accomplishments of the Service in cooperation with forest users. It will not be out of place to refer here to the beliefs I have formed on certain matters relating to the forests and public domain, and to legislative proposals designed to deal with them, which beliefs have been confirmed by observations made in the course of this investigation. I think it is apparent that the so-called grazing homestead law has fallen far short of accomplishing such results as could have been the only reasonable excuse for its enactment. In practice it has plainly failed to benefit permanently or substantially those who, under its provisions, have filed on 640-acre tracts. I have seen none on which the original claimant still

1926 All-American



Hanson — L.E. — Syracuse
Wickham — L.T. — Navy
Connaghan — L.G. — Georgetown
Boeringer — C. — Notre Dame
Shively — R.G. — Illinois
Smith — R.V. — Brown
Oosterbaan — R.M. — Michigan
Friedman — Q. — Michigan
Baker — L.H. — Northwestern
Kear — R.H. — South Calif.
Jostling — F.B. — Minnesota

Ten great football coaches co-operated with Grantland Rice, nationally known sports authority, in the selection of the mythical 1926 All-American football team for Collier's weekly which appears in the current week's issue, Dec. 6 and as printed above. Glenn Warner of Stanford, Robert Zuppke, Ill.; C. O. Woodruff, Georgia; Knute Rockne, Notre Dame; Wallace Wade, Alabama; Capt. J. J. McGowan, Ohio; W. A. Alexander, Georgia Tech.; Howard Jones, Southern Calif.; E. P. Madigan, St. Mary's, Calif.; and Dan E. McGinnis, Vanderbilt are the coaches who co-operated with Mr. Rice. Geographically, the West predominates in the selections, securing seven places against four from the East.

resides. Practically all are abandoned. Many are leased for less than the taxes assessed against them and doubtless the Act in numerous instances has abetted the contemptible business of blackmail. It has to no useful purpose diminished a public asset long shamefully neglected and abused but still possessing potential grazing values, which could be restored and augmented under intelligent direction and control by government. It has doubtless postponed the passage of any measure looking in this direction and will render more difficult the administration of such a measure when and if passed.

It must be admitted that there are good reasons why the present seems an inopportune time to increase grazing fees, since it is evident that the range business has not fully revived from the great depression and it will undoubtedly seem to many inconsistent for government to favor the extraction of increased fees from its tenant stockmen on the Forests at a time when the belief appears to be quite general that agriculture and the livestock industry are in such an unfavorable position as to require aid through extraordinary legislation. Temporary expediency and the wish to comply with the desire of forest users would doubtless counsel the further postponement of any definite decision leading to an increase in fees. For reasons undeniably sound and proper your two predecessors have refrained from taking action on the Report, and conditions underlying the motive which restrained them have not yet undergone a very impressive revision. This, as repeatedly stated, is more notably true of the cattle business.

Under the former head I recommend an arbitrary deduction from the appraisal fees for Oregon and California to bring them to the same general level as the average fees proposed for Districts 1, 2 and 4, while frankly admitting that the findings of the Re-

port truly present a moderate view of the facts in their commercial aspect. No reason for conspicuously high fees is apparent here either in the rating of the ranges or in unique advantages accruing from their utilization, and I can not, except on purely commercial grounds, justify to my own satisfaction fees higher than would result from approval of the above recommendations.

This general and joint reduction I would compute not on the fees in their entirety but on the figures denoting their increase over the corresponding fees now in force. It should, in my judgment, reduce all increases from 10 to 40 per cent, averaging in the aggregate 25 per cent, and should be applied in the manner that will best adjust any unwarranted differences and discrepancies and in general conformity with the views stated in paragraph 5 above mentioned, i. e., by varying reduction percentages appropriately with the exactness or inexactness of the comparisons on which fees in different districts are based, according to the comparable lands lying within or outside the Forests and as Forest Service restrictions are operative more or less thereon.

Permittees are united and forceful in their demand that adequate appropriations be made by Congress for range improvements. They certainly deserve far greater consideration in this regard than they have ever received. More fences and water development would contribute largely to the proper conservation of the Forests, to their greater usefulness, to the profits of the permittees, and to government revenues derived from

grazing. To withhold the means needed to make these improvements appears to be an absurd and shortsighted policy. Permittees would cheerfully pay increased fees if they could be assured that a sum equal to the increase would be made available for range improvements.

A further recommendation is that the resulting fees become effective in installments, their complete inauguration covering a period of four years, 1927 to 1930. I also recommend that, subsequent to the latter year, fees for grazing shall be related to prices paid for products of the ranges and shall vary from year to year proportionately therewith. For example, I would suggest that the sheep fees for 1931 bear the same relation to fees paid for 1930 that the average price of range lambs on certain markets during certain months during the four-year period 1927 to 1930. Thereafter the fee for each year would vary as the price for the previous year varied with that for the year preceding it.

MORGAN

Miss Mattie Wilson spent the week end at Morgan with relatives.

Mildred Morgan spent the week end in lone visiting her sister.

Mr. and Mrs. George Mahoney were calling in lone Monday.

Clark M. Smith of The Dalles and Rev. J. A. Tiffany of Portland, held services the past week at the school house. There was a large attendance each evening.

Earl Morgan is driving a Dodge car which he purchased recently. The Odd Fellows shingled the hall

Monday. The Rebekahs served hot lunch to the men.
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bauernfiend and Mattie Wilson were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Ely Sunday.

Miss Viola Parker spent the week end with Ellen Ely.
A few of the young people attended the dance in Heppner Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bauernfiend were calling in Heppner and Lexington Sunday.

Rev. Parker attended the church meeting Friday evening.
Mr. Smith and Mr. Tiffany were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Harrison Sunday.

TOYLAND AND GIFTLAND

Now Open

Make your selection early

Peoples Hardware Co.

Santa Claus Headquarters



Old Time Dance

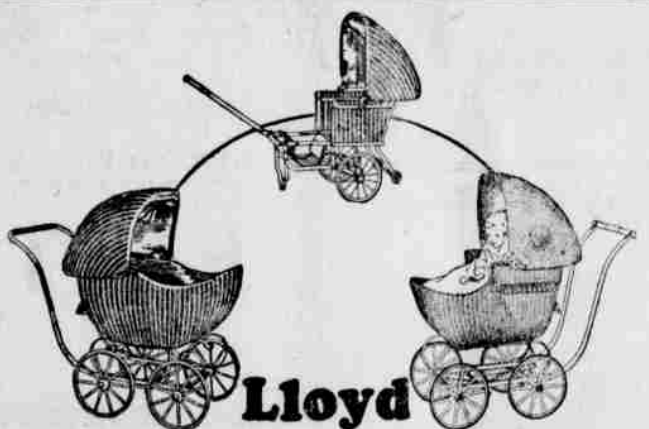
Elks' Club

Saturday, December 18

All Elks and Ladies

Non-members Admitted by Invitational Card Only
Feed following dance

Proceeds to go to the Community Christmas Fund



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Case Furniture Company



The Easiest Car for Her to Drive

If you're choosing a low-priced car that has to meet with feminine approval—be guided by the experience of tens of thousands, and buy a Chevrolet!

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It is easy to start, steer and stop. It is simple and safe to handle under all conditions. And, best of all, it offers the inimitable smartness, elegance and luxury of bodies by Fisher on all closed models.

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Cash—\$645
Cash—\$735
Cash—\$765
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Heppner, Oregon

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THURSDAY and FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 and 10:

TOM MIX and TOND, THE WONDER HORSE, in

"THE YANKEE SENOR"

With a supporting cast including Margaret Livingstone, Oliver Borden and Alex B. Francis, from the novel "Conquistador" by Katherine Gerould. A peppy romance of the old Rio Grande—the tale of a gringo who wouldn't be vanquished. A Western starring the famous cowboy ace in a most appealing story, numerous scenes of which have been reproduced in technicolor.

Also Edna Martin in THE HAUNTED HEIRESS, two reel comedy, and 9th episode of THE RADIO DETECTIVE.

SATURDAY, Dec. 11

H. B. WARNER, LILLIAN RICH
JOHN BOWERS and LILYAN
TASHMAN in

He Tried to Close
His Heart Against Her! Whispering
Smith

from the novel by Frank H. Spearman. The compelling story of the fight of a railroad company to push its road across the Rocky Mountains and of its battles with organized bands of wreckers and looters. Don't miss this absorbing railroad picture.

Also TRAPPED, two reel comedy western, and INTERNATIONAL NEWS REEL.

SUNDAY-MONDAY
December 12-13:

"THE TEMPTRESS"
SEE CUT.

Also Earle Fox in THE REPORTER, two reel Van Bibber Comedy.

Children 20c, Adults 40c

TUES.-WEDS.,
December 14-15:

MARGUERITE DeLAMOTTE
and ALLAN FORREST in

FIFTH
AVENUE

from Arthur Springer's Saturday Evening Post story.

The social standards of Fifth Avenue and Main Street are as different as Gold is from Silver, yet both have much in common. Exquisite, charming, vibrant with thrill and appeal is "Fifth Avenue," a most unusual picture of the world's most fashionable highway—a romantic theme splendidly developed.

Also comedy, TAKING THE HEIR.

NEXT WEEK

William Haines in BROWN OF HARVARD

Buck Jones in THE GENTLE CYCLONE

Carol Dempster in SALLY OF THE SAWDUST

Conrad Nagle in CHEAPER TO MARRY

WATCH FOR BROWN of HARVARD

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real college life—its
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