

Taylor Law Designed To Conserve Range Resources

The following article is by Ira H. Masters, Register of the U. S. Land office at Blackfoot, Idaho. He attended a meeting at Boise, conducted by F. R. Carpenter, federal director of grazing, and has written this article on the high points of the Taylor Grazing Law. Mr. Carpenter also conducted a meeting at Vale in the interests of the Taylor law.

The new regulations on grazing and the use of the public domain are more revolutionary than the New Deal as applied to our political situation. The Taylor grazing act will tend to correlate all of our departments connected with the use of the public domain and eventually our arid lands will be rehabilitated and our hills and mountains will afford feed for great herds of livestock as in the olden days. But this will come through cooperation and sacrifice. Eventually two blades of grass and browse will be growing where one is today, according to Federal Director of Grazing F. R. Carpenter of the department of the interior.

The proximity of grazing and reclamation was brought out very forcefully. Soil erosion is another problem which this New Deal will bring to the fore under this new grazing program. The policy of the past has been to skim the public pastures and get all we can and forget the future. Now we are embarked on a new plan. The individual rating and the pioneer stockmen will have to take their places along with others but no preference will be shown them. Instead our future stockman will be rated on his commensurability and his dependability.

The proper apportionment of range rights is a vital problem to every resident of the state and to the citizens of all the western states. When we perfect this plan and the regulation is effective for our public domain and pasture lands, then we have gone a long way towards the solution of our grazing stability and will make the livestock industry permanent and give it a future among the other industries of our nation.

The greatest problem of today is "The Land Problem and the Relief Problem." When we solve one of these questions we have gone a long distance toward the solution of the other. In the Milk river district of Montana with only 20 inches of rainfall annually \$4,000,000 has been expended for relief because the herds did not produce sufficient to feed the folks in that district. The county agent conceived the idea of moving one-half of these people to some other district and thus save the government \$2,000,000 a year because the other half became self-supporting immediately.

Overgrazing is one of the important causes of propagating the white fly which has destroyed our sugar beet fields during the last few years. When our arid lands are overgrazed the Russian thistle and the mustard weed becomes a host to the white fly and overgrazing tends to destroy the agricultural crops. Many of you folks have watched your bunch grass go in this state and instead you have a number of noxious weeds and pests. But if your grass is given a proper chance it will actually crowd out the sagebrush.

The distressing picture which has overtaken the west in the last few years is due to the lack of moisture. Lands accustomed to getting 15 inches of rainfall a year dwindled to 10 inches and even less. Lands getting 10 inches dropped to six and even less. Land that had formerly had five or six inches fell to one and two inches or nothing. As a result it now requires 640 acres for a cow instead of 160 as in normal rainfall years. The west has 10,000,000 cattle, about 25,000,000 sheep or one-half the total number in the United States. This part of the United States also has about 13 per cent of the horses.

The question now arises, "Who is going to get on these lands for grazing purposes?" The answer is very simple and easy. "Those who can take care of the stock for the other six months when there is no grazing." We are not discussing "conservation" but when we co-ordinate grazing and feeding we will bring about stabilization. We must have some rules of elimination. We will have to define this word "near" as set forth in this new grazing measure. When we come to rate commensurability we will not production basis. We are going to try to take it somewhat as it is now being used. When you raise the leasing rates for this land you stabilize it.

In fixing the grazing fees we will follow the curve which is governing the price of beef and mutton. When these prices go up the rate for the rent on the land will go up in proportion. The county committee of your own people will assist in fixing the number of stock which should be permitted on the land. The split method will be followed in this respect. The committee will consist of seven cattlemen and seven sheepmen with a federal man acting as chairman and in advisory capacity.

Publicity will be given all these leases through the newspapers so that the public can judge whether each of the applicants has commensurability and dependability. Complaints will be heard on both these points, to qualify for a place on this committee the stockman must have had seven years experience in stock raising.

Two factors control the livestock industry. The first is the market, which for the last 14 years has been most discouraging and only two of these years has the market been such that stockmen could make anything like a profit. Marketing therefore is one of our gravest problems. Approximately 70 per cent of our people are engaged in operating industry and this leaves only 30 per cent. But if this 30 per cent are not able to buy then industry stops. The second factor is land. In the past few years livestockmen have had unlimited use of 173,000,000 acres of grazing land. In the future the use of these millions of acres of land will be regulated. We must adopt a policy which will reclaim this land to its normal grazing capacity.

The state land departments are urged to click with the federal land department in this leasing program. Many of the state lands are in a jam and much of this land has been taken over by the counties for taxes. Montana adopted a leasing program a few years ago and the first year netted this department \$77,000 more from leases than under any other method. Co-operation between departments must be had if we are going to solve this problem.

FARMERS URGED TO ATTEND PCA MEET AT BAKER JAN. 14

All Malheur county farmers are urged to attend the first annual meeting of the Baker Production Credit association at Baker, January 14.

"We want every one of our stockholding members to be present at their annual meeting, and we urge that they also invite their neighbors," Secretary Thomas Montgomery says. "Everyone interested in this cooperative credit institution will be welcome, although only Class B stockholders will have the privilege of voting. Class B stockholding members have one vote each regardless of the number of shares they may own, in electing their association's directors for the coming year."

"The Baker Production Credit association is the farmer's own cooperative organization, making production loans to its stockholders—members on a business basis at actual cost," Mr. Montgomery points out. "It isn't a government agency and it doesn't loan government money. The federal government, through the farm credit administration, helped provide the machinery, but it is up to farmers to operate this machinery successfully."

"A full report will be given on the past season's operations, and plans will be made for the coming year. There will be opportunity for full discussion. Everyone is going to have a better understanding when they leave this meeting—and we hope they will become enthusiastic boosters for cooperative credit."

Otto F. Allgair, secretary of the Production Credit corporation of Spokane, will be present to answer questions regarding production credit and other divisions of the farm credit administration system.

It might be expedient to extend the output limitation plan by paying legislators not to legislate.

CORN-HOG PLAN DUE IN OREGON ABOUT FEB. 1

The second corn-hog campaign in Oregon, to give all growers of these commodities a opportunity to sign up again for the 1935 adjustment program, will probably get underway soon after February 1, announces Frank L. Ballard vice-director of the extension service. Start of the new program is being delayed until after one of the regional officials visits the state late in January to complete the final details.

The new contracts, which growers may sign or not, as they choose, are much more simple than the first ones, report W. L. Teutsch, assistant county agent leader, and N. C. Donaldson, AAA compliance officer, who were called to Salt Lake City to attend the western regional meeting where the program was explained in detail.

In general the new plan follows the old one, but it varies as to rate of reduction and benefit compensation, and as to crop restrictions. Growers who signed the 1934 contract will use their already established base will need to reduce their hog production only 10 per cent under that base instead of 25 per cent. The benefit payments will be \$15 a head on the number represented by this 10 per cent, instead of \$5 a head on the 75 per cent allowed to be produced as in 1934.

Corn acreage need be only 10 per cent under the established base though it may be cut 30 per cent, the maximum for which payment was made last

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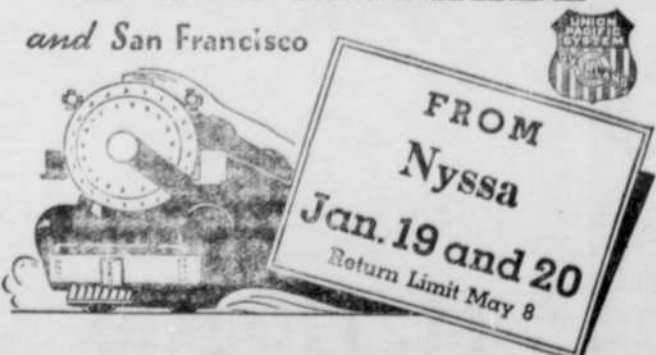
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year. Benefit payments will be at the rate of 35 cents a bushel instead of 30 cents. Both corn and hog benefit payments will be made in two installments instead of three.

Restrictions are removed on what was formerly called contracted corn acreage, as are restrictions on use of other crop land or livestock. No one who has gone out of the corn or hog business since the base was established will sign the 1935 contracts, as the ruling has been made that benefit payments will not be made where less than 25 per cent of the base in either case was produced in 1934, unless the failure

was outside of the grower's control. contracts may sign the new ones. Growers who did not sign the 1934 however.

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