

Calumet Baking Powder

Perfect in quality. Moderate in price.

more than one-half million acres of that now under homestead entry would ever pass to patent. The remaining one-half of course would finally revert back to the government as "unappropriated." That added to the 1,314,322 acres, no one wants sufficiently to pay \$14.00 for opportunity of trying to acquire title by five years' residence, would make at least one and one-half million acres in Cherry county alone to be disposed of, and this is the land in question. How shall it be disposed of?

It cannot be sold, since congress rightly thinks that as conditions change due to settlement, that little by little these lands will become subjugated sufficiently for settlement and that every acre of the remaining public domain should be withheld for the actual settler. It therefore would appear that lease say for 30 years, somewhat similar to the leases of state school lands, subject to homestead settlement or other necessary appropriation, would be the most practicable. It cannot be leased to the highest bidder, per acre, since the opportunities would be too great for the owner of large outfits to acquire all the range to the destruction of the "little man." After having spent six weeks at Washington last winter in the interest of a bill I had drawn looking to leasing I have concluded that the land might be apportioned, at say one cent per acre per annum rental, after substantially the following manner:

1st. Referendum: When the voters of any precinct (or precincts) desire that said lands come within this proposed act, that upon a petition signed by one-fifth of the voters of said precinct, the county commissioners be required to submit the question of leasing at any regular election, a majority vote being necessary to carry. That upon the returns showing the same to have carried, the county canvassing board certify the same to the local land office, in which district the land is located, which in turn shall certify same to the general land office.

2d. The general land office shall require that the local office give 30 days notice to all who desire to lease five sections (3,200 acres) or less. Provided always, that none but actual homestead entrymen or owners of real estate or lessees of state school lands contiguous shall be eligible to apply. That upon said day applications shall be opened and the local land office shall proceed to apportion said lands between said applicants, giving each as nearly the amount applied for as conditions will permit, always keeping in mind contiguity, subject to appeal.

Note.—The reason 3,200 acres is named is because it is believed that since the land cannot be farmed in cereal products and must necessarily be devoted to cattle, that it will require at least six sections (one homestead and five leased sections, 3,840 acres) to maintain a family. It requires about 40 acres to graze an animal, and the six sections comprise 96 forties, therefore, would support about that number of cattle in summer, and a part at least of it must in some manner be made to grow forage of some kind, or the problem of winter food is at once a serious question to the future settler. Those already in the country have acquired the hay valleys for winter forage and need the leased lands only for summer grazing.

3d. Those requiring 3,200 acres or less having been provided, 30 days notice should be given to those who desire 6,400 acres or

less, qualifications being same, and land being apportioned in same manner as in former instance. This would enable those having a little larger herds to provide for their requirements in grazing lands.

4th. After the two former classes had been provided for, the remaining lands could be offered and apportioned in same manner to the owners of larger herds. It should be understood that anyone being apportioned lands under any one offering could not in any way participate at any future offering. In this manner the small man would be given preference, both as to location and quality of the lands. In this manner also every acre would come under lease, without the acrimony and fear for the small man, lease to highest bidder would certainly engender.

One and one-half million acres at one cent per annum per acre, would yield an annual revenue of \$15,000. Of this \$15,000, it occurs to me that an equitable distribution would be about as follows:

One half for General Government for reclamation fund.....\$7,500.00
Of the remains on one half of \$7500 one-fourth to State Fund..... 1,875.00
One fourth to the County General Fund..... 1,875.00
And one half (or one fourth of the entire revenue) to the support of schools within the said leased territory, or where no schools are maintained, to the country school fund..... 3,750.00
\$7,500.00

If the vacant lands in a single county can at this very low rental be made to yield \$15,000 per year, why is it not logical they should do so? If that small area can be made to turn that amount into the treasuries annually, what possibilities cannot be looked forward to in revenues, when the entire public domain shall have been leased at the same figure.

Possibly Cherry county contains one-fourth of the remaining vacant lands of Nebraska. If so, the entire leased would aggregate \$30,000 annually, of which one-half should remain in state, to help maintain state, county and school governments.

Perhaps it will be said that Cherry county is an exceptionally large county. True it is, as compared with other counties in strictly agricultural states; but there is scarcely a county as small in Wyoming. In Montana a majority of the counties contain larger areas, and just so to the Pacific.

A liberal allowance is provided for schools within the leased areas, for the reason that more homesteads have been deserted by reason of no schools within their reach than for all other reasons combined. Intimidation so much exploited, will not compare with it. Should this condition be brought about the ranchman will no longer fear to employ a married man with children of school age, for fear least the employee vote a school tax on him.

The government, having in recent years begun the enforcement of the Van Wych anti-fencing law, cattlemen of all degrees of importance have been moving fences until the cost and annoyance has driven many out of business. Where they have not quit, many have been forced to adopt new methods, for instance: A man owning about 150 head of Aberdeen-Angus cattle has sold them at auction and replaced them with grade short horns and herefords, of course at a sacrifice, for no other reason than that with his fences down there is no possible way for him to continue that strain, a mix-up due to open range being inevitable. He would prefer a given amount of land under purchase or lease which he could fence without being an outlaw, protect against prairie fires and feel assured that he could maintain a given number of cattle upon. Although "a little man" in the cattle sense, he deplores present chaotic conditions and longs for some practical solution.

According to the report of the general land office for the year ending June 30, 1906, there still remains 817,527,157 acres of government domain, or public land, of which it is safe to say at least 500,000,000 acres lies within the so called arid or semi-arid district. That land at the small price of one cent per acre per year would yield an annual earning of \$5,000,000. Divided by two the general government would receive \$2,500,000, the estimated cost of the great Belle Fourche, South Dakota, irrigation undertaking. If one year's rental of these lands will pay the entire cost of that irrigation project, in the interval before these lands could be taken by homesteaders (if ever) the entire government outlay for irrigation could be paid for by these rentals, and should be. Add to this the \$2,500,000 which would be added annually for state, county and schools throughout that vast area and it seems to me indefensible to longer continue as at present.

From the standpoint of a citizen with no ranch interest whatever, but with an intimate knowledge of conditions, believe the public lands should be leased, first in the interest of good order and stable conditions; and second, as a source of revenue in which every citizen of this great country has the right to share. I believe the time has arrived when a man should have no more right to take grass from the surface of the lands belonging to all the people, than he has to take hay from his neighbor's stack, without pay. Aside from the revenue feature, the land should be under private control, in order that necessary fire guards be ploughed and prepared annually, thus preventing their improvisement by fire. Also, as at present, those public lands are nothing less than a menace to the ranch property which they surround by reason of the danger of communicating fire. Also, some form of private control is imperative, since so soon as a man is allowed to fence and occupy to the exclusion of others, just so soon will he begin to preserve, perpetuate and increase the grasses, in quantities and varieties and not permit the lands to be grazed to the very grass roots and the grasses then tramped out in endeavor to get more off the land than the other fellow, and as David Harum says, "get it first." Therefore, in the interest of the lands themselves, with a view to occupancy at some future time by the homesteader, they should be disposed of in the meantime as not to invite a free race between cattle, horses, sheep and conflagration. At present a premium is placed upon devasting, and the time has arrived when the intelligence of congress should be invoked in an enactment looking to cash returns and the enhancement in value at the same time.

In an article of this character many matters of detail must necessarily be omitted, but I believe a measure should be enacted embodying the principal features herein, always keeping in mind that the lease should be subject to homestead entry and appropriation by the government for irrigation or other useful purpose.

But the Republican machine in Massachusetts managed by Senator Lodge, the personal and political friend of President Roosevelt, defeated Mr. Foss, the tariff reformer, and nominated a partner of the trust and corporation combine. The money of the trusts and corporations was more powerful with the majority of the Republican voters than reform, and those that were not influenced by money were swayed by their partisan training to vote the trust fostering tariff shackles more firmly on their limbs. All of which shows there is no vestige of hope for tariff revision within the Republican party, and those who earnestly desire reform must join with the Democrats to obtain it.

As long as the Republican machine managers can obtain campaign funds from the protected trusts and monopolists they can control the caucuses and conventions of their party and very naturally will not smite the hand that feeds them and keeps them in power.

W. H. Richie of Kilgore came down yesterday and mingled with friends while attending to business.

Frank Rothlütner and J. A. W. Johnson were in town today from Kilgore.

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you can do more work, enabling you to earn more money, so that you can buy more

Uneeda Biscuit

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NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

REPUBLICAN REFORMERS.

Defeated by Political Machine and Money of Trusts.

There are some lively Republican tariff reformers in Massachusetts, among whom Henry A. Blackwell, who is known thereabouts as the "old man eloquent," in his speeches advocating the nomination of Eugene N. Foss to defeat his stand pat opponent told some truths that sound as if blown by a Democratic bugle. He explained to the Republican voters that—

"Our coal tax is felt in every household. Our lumber tax means higher rents and poorer accommodations. It is harder to live than ever before, although our imports and exports are greater, and we are told that the country is prosperous and that we should let well enough alone. But this prosperity is more apparent than real, because the proceeds of our industries are not fairly distributed. A few thousand stockholders in overprotected corporations get the lion's share. Let me ask you gentlemen who are present a simple question. How many of you are richer than you were last year? How many of you have been able to lay by anything for your old age? How many of you see before you any prospect of improved condition? Not one in fifty. Why? Because we are all subject to great monopolies which by trade agreements have eliminated domestic competition, and by a 45 per cent tariff these monopolies are enabled to charge consumers an advance of 50 per cent upon almost everything that we consume.

"Our coal duty adds a dollar a ton to our fuel bill. Our lumber tax raises our rents. Our tariff on textile fabrics increases the cost of our clothing. Our tax on sugar doubles its cost of importation.

"In order to keep up these excessive rates of duty our government spends lavishly, so that its outlays now amount to \$1,000,000,000 annually. The Drapers and Whitman have patents and protection on their products approximating and exceeding 100 per cent. The iron and steel trust gets a profit of from 100 to 150 per cent. Steel rails, which Mr. Schiwal says he can make without loss at \$12 a ton, were sold recently to the Panama commission for \$29.50 f. o. b. at Baltimore (equivalent to \$49.50 at the isthmus), while a recent sale was made to a foreign customer for \$24 a ton delivered at Tampico. No wonder the cost of living has advanced 42½ per cent! It will go higher. All depends on the tariff. Raise it 20 per cent and prices will go up 20 per cent. Lower it 20 per cent and prices will fall 20 per cent. The exactions made by the trusts are all paid by the labor of the country. In the interest of the consumer we call for tariff revision. In the interests of manufacturer and operator and consumer alike we need free importations of raw materials. Many of our raw materials come free already. Let us add to them coal, iron ore, lumber, hides and wool pulp. Let us reduce our tariff on Canadian products 20 per cent and thereby enable our neighbors to buy more of our manufactured goods."

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Monthly Meteorological Summary.

STATION: Valentine, Nebr.

MONTH: November, 1906

TEMPERATURE		PRECIPITATION		CHARACTER OF DAY	
Date	Degrees Fahrenheit	(Inches and hundredths)			
1	50	0.00	Clear		
2	45	0.00	Clear		
3	40	0.00	Clear		
4	35	0.00	Clear		
5	30	0.00	Clear		
6	25	0.00	Clear		
7	20	0.00	Clear		
8	15	0.00	Clear		
9	10	0.00	Clear		
10	5	0.00	Clear		
11	0	0.00	Clear		
12	5	0.00	Clear		
13	10	0.00	Clear		
14	15	0.00	Clear		
15	20	0.00	Clear		
16	25	0.00	Clear		
17	30	0.00	Clear		
18	35	0.00	Clear		
19	40	0.00	Clear		
20	45	0.00	Clear		
21	50	0.00	Clear		
22	55	0.00	Clear		
23	60	0.00	Clear		
24	65	0.00	Clear		
25	70	0.00	Clear		
26	75	0.00	Clear		
27	80	0.00	Clear		
28	85	0.00	Clear		
29	90	0.00	Clear		
30	95	0.00	Clear		
31	100	0.00	Clear		
Mean	44	0.00			

NOTE: "T" indicates trace of precipitation; "-" below zero; "PC" partly cloudy.

JOHN J. McLEAN, Observer Weather Bureau.

Cherry Co. Teachers' Ass'n.

The program was carried out as published. About 60 teachers were present and much educational enthusiasm evidenced. It is not possible to give a review of the excellent papers presented, but the loyalty of Cherry county teachers to high educational standards marked the whole tone of the meeting. Much pleasure was given by the exercises from the Valentine school children and the songs and recitations presented by the high school students of Cody. Mr. Oliver, a graduate of Sidney University, Australia, told many of the every day experiences of the bushman of that interesting country. The teachers gleaned many facts that would lend zest to their geography recitations. J. J. McLean told us of his observations during a six years' residence in Alaska and added to the interest by showing a book made by his wife illustrating in oil the flowers and fruits of Alaska. Nearly all the principals in the county were present.

The roll call Saturday morning brought out a quotation from each teacher present and proved interesting. A lively discussion was developed by the topic, "A School Exhibit for the County Fair." An attempt will be made to have every school girl and boy in the county represented at that fair by some of his own work. Then the best exhibits will be collected and sent to the state fair. Won't you see that your child prepares something?

All teachers in the city Saturday evening had supper together and then separated until another meeting, expressing their satisfaction in the educational value of the county association. Cordially yours, LULU KORTZ, Co. Supt.

Frank Rothlütner and J. A. W. Johnson were in town today from Kilgore.

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Military, plain box-wood, ebony or stag. Plain or mounted backs. First quality selected bristles. Artistic and attractive shapes. Prices \$1.50 to \$5.00 per pair.

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