STATEMENT OF CATTLEMEN

Their Side of the Grazing Land and Fencing Question Set Forth.

LANDS OF NO VALUE FOR AGRICULTURE

Denial that Fencing Operates to Advantage of the Big Live Stock Owner and Against the Interests of the Small One.

ALLIANCE, Neb., Dec. 10.—To the Editor of The Bee: At a meeting of the Business Men's club of this city I was requested to forward to you the enclosed article for publication, the subject being of national interest at this time.

THE BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB.
By F. W. BROOME, Secretary.

The reported encroachments of the "cattle barons," as they have been styled, on the government lands of western Nebraska have so varied from the truth that it is deemed necessary by the parties interested to set before the public the real facts and the conditions of the country to which allusion has been made. At the outset we would say that the articles written upon the subject have all been founded upon an assumed state of affairs which the real conditions do not support. These articles have been based upon the assumption that the lands of the west are agricultural in character. It has also been assumed that there has been a great demand for these lands in recent years on the part of eastern farmers, who wish to locate upon them for farming purposes. The articles have also been based upon the assumption that the cattlemen have intimidated settlers to keep them out of this territory. To prove that these statements above referred to are erroneous is the purpose of this article.

There has also been severe criticism on the part of the eastern press in reference to bills that have been introduced by western men for the purpose of affording a practical disposition of the grazing lands of the west, and these proposed measures have been termed "innocent schemes of the cattlemen." The object of these bills was not to retard or check in any manner the workings of the new irrigation law, or to withdraw any portion of the public domain from settlement by actual bona fide settlers or actual bona fide homesteaders, nor to promote any land schemes, but was intended to further the purposes for which these lands are adapted, and thus assist the natural development of the west.

Only Fit for Grazing.

That the lands of western Nebraska that are not already irrigated are only fit for grazing purposes is well known to the people who reside here or who know the character of these lands and their history since the time that there has been any attempt made to settle them and bring them under cultivation. The history of Box Butte county, which is located in the central part of western Nebraska, fairly illustrates how these lands have been settled and time has demonstrated that they are not adapted to agriculture. We refer to this county as a fair illustration, as its soil is better adapted for farming, as a rule, than the majority of lands in the counties in the western part of the state. In 1884, 1885 and 1886 the farmers from eastern Nebraska and Iowa, and as far east as Michigan and Ohio, flocked to this county, and at the outset were entranced with the appearance of the soil, which they believed only needed cultivation to induce rainfall, which would eventually make it as productive as eastern Nebraska. These lands were pre-empted, homesteaded and taken by timber culture entries to that extent in those years that fully 80 per cent of the lands in the county were occupied by actual bona fide settlers, who took the land with the intention of making it their homes and to engage in general farming. Later, when these people became disappointed with their crop failures they negotiated loans of from $200 to $400, fully believing that nature would subsequently smile upon them with a bountiful harvest and release their mortgages. The railroad companies, by their literature, and the government, by representing these lands to be agricultural, were the inducing causes which started these people in this direction. They believed they were going to farming lands, but as the years rolled by disappointment followed disappointment and the settlers began to leave the country, until finally, in 1893, it is safe to say that of the 80 per cent of the lands that were originally taken in the county during the years referred to, not more than 20 per cent were occupied, and the people were moving away.

Not Rain Enough for Crops.

And why was it? The principal cause was that there was not sufficient rainfall to raise crops, and the people saw that there was no hope of ever having these lands brought under irrigation. Those who have remained have found a living could be had in the raising of live stock, thus utilizing the grasses which nature has by time adapted to this country. It was found that cultivation by the early settlers ruined the lands for grazing by destroying the grasses, leaving a few weeds, and on account of the loose nature of the soil it was blown about by the winds, leaving it in such condition that no benefit could be derived for several years thereafter. As the mortgages matured they were foreclosed and the lands were bid in by the loan companies or the mortgagees, and in many instances these lands when sold only brought the amount of taxes that had accumulated against them during the time since mortgaged. Ninety per cent of these lands in this county changed owners for a few hundred dollars and passed to the hands of others who attempted to farm them, and who later by force of circumstances became stock growers. These people are now thriving to a certain extent because they have found the purposes for which these lands are adapted and are using them for that purpose and have wholly abandoned the farming idea. It is safe to say that this experiment has cost the people of Box Butte county $1,500,000, which has been thrown away because of a misconception of the adaptability of these lands.

The people who came into western Nebraska during the great rush of 1884, 1885 and 1886 located upon and homesteaded those lands which from their outward appearance were believed to be the best agricultural, and the lands which are now left open to settlement are those which they did not think were farming lands, but which the eastern people now have been led to believe are adapted to farming.

These lands of western Nebraska that are still open to settlement are not farming lands, and we challenge the denial of this statement on the part of any one who may wish to know the truth, and we invite and urge that congress send a committee to investigate these conditions and determine the character of these lands and the truthfulness of these statements.

Decrease in Population.

The vote in Box Butte county in 1888 was 1,325, while the number of votes cast at the last election, on November 2, 1902, outside of Alliance, which has come into existence since 1886, is now but 407. Even this latter number includes many people who are railroad or other employes and not engaged in agricultural pursuits. At the time the voting population was greatest there was not an incorporated village in the county, and settlers were almost entirely engaged in tilling the soil. If these people could have supported their families and made a living by farming they would have been there today and instead of having a rural vote of only 407 in a county containing 1,080 square miles, which Box Butte county contains, with natural growth the vote would have been above 3,000.

For the eastern press to now assume that these lands are agricultural and fit for other purposes than grazing is not borne out by experience, and to a resident of this section is simply a ridiculous statement. Time has shown that the homestead laws passed in 1862, which were intended to secure actual, bona fide settlers upon the government lands for a period of five years for the purpose of developing and improving them from an agricultural standpoint, were very good for the middle west, but are not applicable to a particle of the lands remaining subject to entry at this time, for no man can go upon a single quarter section of government land in the west today without irrigation and support himself, to say nothing about supporting a family. A new set of conditions and circumstances has arisen, and the sooner the eastern people and the government recognizes this fact and amends the laws to meet the present requirements of the west that much sooner will development and progress proceed in accordance with the laws of nature and existing conditions. Congress has already, in a measure, recognized the fact that some of the old land laws were not practical, could not be enforced and were a mere farce. Such was the final fate of the timber culture law, which was repealed by congress in 1891. The law which was intended to encourage the growth of timber on the western prairies did not grow any trees or induce any rainfall, and as applied to the western lands at that time was of no force and effect. It is just a matter of time that congress will see the homestead law is equally as impracticable as a means of settling the range lands of the west, except where there are small tracts that might be brought under irrigation.

In Favor of Irrigation.

The people of the west are not opposed, but are very much in favor of the new irrigation law, but there are immense tracts of land that this law does not reach and which cannot be irrigated and which is only fit for stockraising, and which must be disposed of along some line suitable to the adaptability of these lands. As to these land laws, the same as any other law, you can frame them which way you will, but their enforcement and tenure depends upon whether they meet the conditions, necessities and requirements of the people, and whether they are supported by the masses.

By this we do not mean to be understood to advocate the repeal of the homestead law, but we do ask for the passage of some equitable act providing a method whereby the government may lease the range lands at some price commensurate with their worth and under such regulations as the department may deem practicable and suitable to the country. There are millions of acres of the public domain that are worthless except for pasturage purposes and at present there is no law suitable to carry out such objects. The leasing of these lands would bring a large and perpetual revenue to the government and at the same time does not in any manner conflict with the existing homestead law.

What Fences Are For.

Much criticism has been made against men who have fenced pastures from the public domain, and to this we would say that the fences have grown out of the necessities of the business and have been constructed not for the purpose of keeping out settlers, but for the purpose of each man keeping his stock separate in such a way that he may care for it, both winter and summer, and by the use of the best breeding animals in the past few years he has made wonderful improvement in the quality of his cattle, which improvement never would have taken place had his cattle been allowed to run at large. That these fences are an absolute necessity to the business is well known by all the people of the range country, and are indispensible to the improvement of the herds and for the further purpose of preventing the range being overstocked and ruined. The government lands thus fenced are utterly useless for any purpose other than grazing.

It is a well known fact that since the lease law went into effect in the state of Texas and the leaseholders have a proprietary interest in the land, that they have guarded against the destruction of the natural grasses and the quality of forage has increased fully 100 per cent, and where six years ago it took seventy acres to support a steer it now requires but twenty acres. The same would be true of western Nebraska if the parties who used the lands had a future interest in them. They would not be permitted to be overstocked, such as is the case where the range is open to all.

Not for Big Cattlemen.

It has been stated that this agitation is that of the large cattle grower only, who is seeking to force out the small cattlemen, but this statement is not true and is not supported by the conditions and the true facts. If the fences were removed the large cattleman could afford his range riders and pursue the old-time roundup, with his mess wagon and branding outfit, and would thus claim all the mavericks of the little fellows or small cattlemen, who could not afford so expensive a method of looking after his stock, as the returns from his small herd would not warrant the expense. Besides, the small cattleman must borrow the money for his business from his home bank, which will not make the loan with the fences down and the range being gradually ruined. The statement that this is the move of the large cattlemen is not true, as it is the small stock grower who has his all at stake and who is most vitally interested. He knows that should the fences be entirely removed it means his retirement from the business.

It is proposed by the new irrigation law to put farmers in the valleys that are susceptible of irrigation in the west, and let us ask at this time what will become of the products of their farms and rough feed if they cannot sell it to their near neighbor, the cattleman? Increased farming of the west should be supplemented by the business of the stock grower, as the distance of the farmer from the markets of the east is such that unless his products can be consumed at home the cost of transportation would be equal to their value at the market.

The eastern press is also mistaken in its suggestions that the present unoccupied government lands of the west possess great value. Dr. Peters, state veterinarian of the University of Nebraska, whose knowledge on the subject has been acquired by travel and actual experience in the west, made the statement at a recent cattle convention that the natural grasses of the west must be protected, and that the range lands should not graze more than one cow to twenty-five acres of land, which usage would make the land worth not to exceed 50 cents per acre.

The facts are that the value of these lands has been misjudged, and all that the people of western Nebraska ask is that congress send a fair and unbiased commission to investigate their values, determine their adaptability and ascertain that they are not agricultural lands and the people here will be satisfied with their solution of this question.

THE GOLDEN STATE LIMITED

CHICAGO - KANSAS CITY
LOS ANGELES - SANTA BARBARA
SAN FRANCISCO

Newest, finest and most luxuriously equipped train in America.

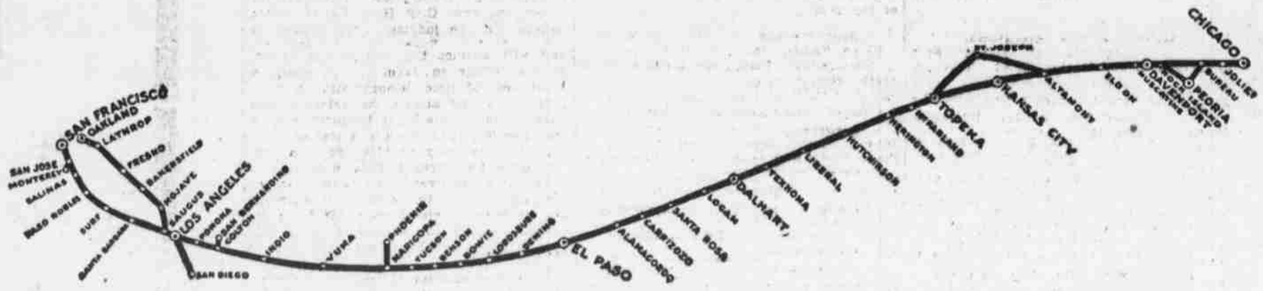
Only 53 hours Kansas City to Los Angeles, 57 to San Diego; 59 to Santa Barbara.

Everything to make you comfortable—electric lights, electric fans bathroom, barber-shop, booklover's library, compartment and standard sleepers, dining, library and observation cars.

Runs over the El Paso-Rock Island Route and Southern Pacific.

Easiest grades, lowest altitudes and most southerly course of any line across the continent—the map shows.

Leaves Kansas City at 10:40 a. m. daily, and makes as fast time as any other train to Southern California.



Berths can be reserved at any ticket office in the United States, or by communicating with

C. A. RUTHERFORD, Division Passenger Agent.
1323 Farnam Street, Omaha, Neb.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY.

Genuine

Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Must Bear Signature of

Brent Good

See Fac-Simile Wrapper Below.

Very small and as easy to take as sugar.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. FOR HEADACHE. FOR DIZZINESS. FOR BILIOUSNESS. FOR TORPID LIVER. FOR CONSTIPATION. FOR SALLOW SKIN. FOR THE COMPLEXION

Purely Vegetable. Brent Good

CURE SICK HEADACHE.

HAND SAPOLIO

FOR TOILET AND BATH

Fingers roughened by needlework catch every stain and look hopelessly dirty. Hand Sapolio removes not only the dirt, but also the loosened, injured cuticle, and *restores the fingers to their natural beauty.*

ALL GROCERS AND DRUGGISTS

SOUTHERN PACIFIC SCALE

New Schedule for Switchmen, in Which Pay is to Be by the Hour.

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 10.—The Southern Pacific company has granted a new wage schedule for switchmen, which establishes a straight rate per hour instead of the former wage rate of $75 per month for day men and $89 and $90 per month for night men.

The new rate is as follows: Day helpers, 28 cents an hour; day foremen, 31 cents an hour; night foremen, 33 cents an hour.

The schedule provides for "no Sunday off," but there is a rumor at the West Oakland yards that the switchmen will endeavor to have the company allow two Sundays a month, with full pay added.

The engineers and firemen have presented a demand for increased pay and it is reported that an increase of 8 per cent will be granted.

JUDGING FRUITS AND CORN

(Continued from Eighth Page.)

ing this judging pavilion. Other improvements are needed on the state fair grounds. The buildings are now nearly all about sixteen years old and made of wood and many repairs are needed and much rebuilding. To make the state fair still more popular Secretary Simpson would have the society publish a catalogue of the stock exhibits so that visitors might know the pedigree and other facts concerning every animal on exhibition. He would also abolish the penalty of 10 per cent of the premium money exacted from every prize winner. Iowa is the only state which does this now. With that removed the only expense to exhibitors would be an exhibitor's ticket.

Preparing the Year Book.

The work of preparing the year book for this year, the third one ever issued, is now under way. It is hoped to have it printed in three months or less. Last year although a copy was furnished the state printer by the first of the year, yet it was not delivered until in May, owing to the legislative work crowded upon the printer. The year book will be improved over its predecessors. It will be handsomely illustrated. Several pages will be devoted to farmers' institutes, which under the new law, must report to the secretary and which may now send delegates to the state meetings. The report of the weather and crop service will be included. In addition there will be some special papers from farmers on the relative value of wet and dry seasons as shown by the experience of the past two years. Some papers on the silo will be included, also some information in regard to alfalfa in Iowa, on both of which subjects there appears to be considerable fresh interest. The work of the school of live stock judging and school of corn judging at the State college were warmly commended by Secretary Simpson. The attention of the department was called to the exposition at St. Louis and members urged to co-operate in securing a fine agricultural exhibit for the state.

The report of President J. C. Frasier of Bloomfield was brief and to the point, complimenting the department on its work. Mr. Frasier was not present, but W. M. Morrow of Afton presided. Later in the day Mr. Morrow was elected president and Mr. Simpson was re-elected secretary without opposition.

The Park and Forestry association re-elected the old officers, Prof. MacBride of Iowa City, president, and Prof. L. H. Pammel of Ames, secretary.

The state agricultural department elected W. W. Morrow of Afton president and J. C. Simpson of Knoxville secretary and C. E. Cameron of Alta vice president. This election made it necessary for him to quit the directory board, and H. A. Pike of Monona county was elected to represent the Eleventh district. All other directors were re-elected.

Crofford Case Appealed.

The papers in the appeal case of Dr. J. W. Crofford of Decatur county were filed with the supreme court today. The case has been before the public a great deal in recent months. Dr. Crofford owned and managed a sanitarium at Lamoni and Miss Maud Stone went there for treatment. She died soon after leaving the place. Crofford and one Hammond were jointly indicted for causing the death of the girl. Crofford on conviction was sentenced to thirteen years in the penitentiary. When it was decided that he should appeal the case the discovery was made by his attorney that the law was defective in not allowing bonds in such cases. The law was changed and Crofford gave bonds. Then he sought the privilege of continuing the practice of medicine pending appeal and second trial and the State Board of Health was appealed to. The board decided that in view of the fact that Crofford had at one time been convicted of connection with counterfeiting in Missouri the revocation of his certificate should stand.

Crowded at Soldiers' Home.

The Iowa Soldiers' home is now reported to the state board as overcrowded, though there will be some slight relief when a few of the new buildings are occupied, which will be soon. There are at present in the home 832 persons, of whom eighty-four are women. At this time of the year the home increases in population rapidly, as many who have spent the summer with friends on furlough return there and the hospital becomes crowded with the sick ones. At present there are ninety-two in the various wards of the hospital and more of them should be there and would be if there was room. An additional home for the female help will give room for sixty more in the hospital.

Coal Operators Employ Reese.

The coal operators of district No. 13, embracing Iowa and Missouri, turned the tables on the coal miners by the employment of John P. Reese to represent the operators in their settlement of disputes with the miners over wages and other things. Reese was until last fall the president of the mine workers' union for the district. He resigned when he was nominated for congress in the Sixth district, for he confidently expected to be elected. But the miners did not stand by him at the polls. This left him without any employment and when the operators found he could be had he was employed by them at a salary of $2,000 a year as commissioner for the district in settlement of disputes. The operators also named a scale committee, which will meet with the miners in March next to decide on a scale of wages for next year.

Would Try Damage Case Again.

A motion for a new trial in the damage case of Tate against Clarkson was filed today. The jury decided in favor of the defendant, refusing to give damages for the alleged libel, as published. The instructions were so strongly in the direction of a verdict that the defense expected a judgment against them. It is alleged on behalf of County Clerk Tate that the verdict was so contrary to the evidence and the instructions that a new trial should be had. If a new trial is granted a change will be taken to some other county.

THIS BLUE SIGNATURE
J. Liebig
GUARANTEES
LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT OF BEEF
BEWARE OF "JUST AS GOODS"

MISSOURI LAWYER IS DYING

End Very Near for Judge John W. Henry, Prominent Jurist of State.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 10.—Judge John W. Henry is dying at his residence in this city after a long illness. At 1 o'clock this afternoon dissolution was expected momentarily and the family had gathered around the jurist's bedside.

Judge Henry formerly was chief justice of the state supreme court and for several years has been judge of the circuit court at Kansas City. He is one of the most eminent members of the bar in the west.

Heir to a Fortune.

VICTOR, Colo., Dec. 10.—William Parr, who is in charge of timbering at Stratton's Independence mine, has been notified by cablegram of the death of his uncle, Sir Thomas Pitkin, in England. Parr is one of nine heirs, among whom the estate, valued at $7,500,000, will be divided.

More Gold for South America.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The local agency of the London and River Plata bank, limited, will ship $500,000 gold to Buenos Ayres tomorrow. The transaction is a special one and makes a total of $2,000,000 shipped by this bank since August last.

Last season's toys will be closed out Saturday at half price. Orchard & Wilhelm.

It outsells all others—

Swift's Jersey Butterine

More Jersey sold than any other Butterine, because it excels all others in quality and appearance.

Put up in 1 and 2-lb. prints in printed paper wrappers like cut. Ask your dealer.

Kansas City Omaha St. Louis Swift & Company, Chicago St. Joseph St. Paul Ft. Worth