

DIETRICH'S BILL FOR LAND

Compromise Between Cattleman and Man Who Wants Homestead.

APPLIES ONLY TO STATE OF NEBRASKA

If the Law Operates Well in This State Its Terms May Be Made to Apply Elsewhere.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, March 9.—(Special Telegram)—Senator Dietrich has introduced a land leasing bill which is destined to attract widespread attention. It is a reconstructed and enlarged edition of the bill which he introduced in the senate during the last regular session. The new features embodied in the bill are expected to make it a popular compromise measure, both with the homesteaders and the extensive cattle growers.

Bodies authorizing the leasing of public lands, the bill contemplates increasing the homestead right from 160 acres to 400 acres, the issue of the patent, however, to be contingent upon five years' actual residence upon the premises. As the purpose of the bill is to provide for the economic use of public lands which are adapted only to grazing purposes, the terms are made to apply only to Nebraska, the senator and all others who have given the land leasing problem any thought believing that this is the easiest way to determine whether such a system of leasing may be justly and advantageously inaugurated and maintained, rather than by the passage of a general law which would apply to all grazing land owned by the government.

It will be remembered that the bill presented by Senator Dietrich last session was quite strenuously opposed by the homesteaders, who insisted that it was designed altogether for the benefit of the large cattle growers. Singular as it may seem, the cattle growers opposed the bill for the reason, they asserted, that it discriminated in favor of the homesteader. According to the bill just introduced a person can enter 400 acres. This is one of the salient features of the measure. No greater improvement will be required upon the enlarged tract than now required upon a homestead of 160 acres.

Provisions for Leasing.

The provisions as to leasing are similar to those contained in the bill of last winter. In brief, they authorize the secretary of the interior, in his discretion, to lease for live stock grazing purposes not exceeding twenty sections in any single lease and for a time not exceeding ten years. The rate of rental, which must be paid in advance, is left to the discretion of the secretary. Not more than one lease shall be directly or indirectly made or held by the same person, and no lease shall be transferable except with official approval.

A feature of the bill which has received the commendation of the interior department and others who have striven to solve the leasing problem is the provision that, so far as practicable, actual and bona fide owners and homestead settlers of lands shall have a preference in leasing the adjoining lands. Thus it will be seen that a man who homesteads 400 acres will have first choice in the leasing of adjoining lands, as will also the private occupants of homesteads and owners of private lands.

The disposition of rents from the leasing of land is one of the interesting parts of the bill. It is provided that after deducting the expenses of administering the act one-fourth of the total amount received shall be paid into the treasury in the leased land, one-fourth to the state and

the remaining one-half will be credited to the fund for the reclamation of arid lands.

Amount of Land Affected.

According to the latest reports of the interior department there are approximately 9,000,000 acres of unappropriated government land in Nebraska. Much of this land is of value only when used for grazing purposes in connection with land which adjoins natural water. The increase of the homestead to 400 acres gives the poor man a chance to secure a large tract of land without cost and also to lease additional land at a nominal rate. The bill applies to grazing land only.

Persons who have watched the growth of Nebraska are aware that the dairy business is now one of the principal industries. In all sections of the state are farmers who depend entirely for their livelihood upon their sales to dairies and creameries. Not as much land is required for a good-sized dairy farm as for the growing of beef stock, nor is as large an investment required. In the grazing sections, however, it is often found that the homestead of 160 acres is insufficiently large to maintain enough stock for dairy purposes with profit to the settler. The proposed increase in the homestead right is calculated to benefit that particular class of settlers who wish to raise stock upon a small scale, or for dairy purposes. The leasing provision will also make it possible for the larger stock growers to acquire the necessary land to carry on their business.

Senator Dietrich's bill is intended largely to encourage and develop the growth of the dairy industry, which has added so much to the wealth of the state. The leasing feature of the bill the interior department has already expressed its favor in a report written upon the measure presented last year. Commissioner Richards of the general land office reported to the senate committee as follows:

I think the bill makes a wise disposition of the net proceeds accruing from the leases. The people of the public land states have long considered it to be a hardship that no revenue should be directly derived from the large area of public lands lying within their boundaries, for the control and protection of which it is necessary for them to furnish all the machinery of government. Under this bill one-fourth of the net receipts will go to the county and one-fourth to the state, while the remaining one-half goes into the fund for the reclamation of arid land which promises so much for the development of the arid and semi-arid regions.

Notwithstanding it is prohibited by law, it is a fact that considerable areas of land in several of the public land states and territories have been inclosed with fences and are used for grazing purposes by private parties, associations of individuals, and in some instances by communities. In some instances the summary removal of those fences would work a hardship disproportionate to the benefit which the public would derive from such removal. Various unsuccessful efforts to obtain legislation upon this matter have been made and others are now contemplated, but owing to the near approach of the end of the session of congress it is probable that unless this bill becomes a law there will be no legislation of this character during this session. In which event this office will have no discretion in enforcing the act of February 25, 1888.

May Extend Application.

It will be observed that this act applies only to the state of Nebraska, in which state there is a large area of public land which is only valuable for grazing purposes, where it is thought that an experiment of this character can be tried with perhaps less danger of injury to the public interest than in any other of the public land states or territories. If the experiment proves successful it will furnish a basis for enactment of laws of a general application for the final settlement of the vexed question of the proper disposition to be made of the public grazing lands.

A provision of the bill which should not be overlooked is that which makes all land under lease subject to entry at all times. In other words, it is declared that notwithstanding the lease the land shall continue to be subject to settlement, entry and acquisition by qualified persons who in good faith will go upon it for the purpose of making actual settlement and maintaining actual residence thereon.

It is hoped by friends of the measure that its enactment will solve the leasing problem, and put a stop to the disturbances which have been so prevalent upon the western plains. There has been actual bloodshed over the illegal use and fencing of government land, and by such violation the law many homesteaders have been practically forced out of business. Under the present law the leasing of land is impossible. The only way for the large cattle growers to acquire sufficient tracts to carry on their business has been by means of the fence.

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FORECAST OF THE WEATHER

Fair and Much Colder for Nebraska, Followed Friday by Warmer Weather in West Portion.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Forecast: For Nebraska—Fair, and much colder Thursday, Friday, fair and warmer in west portion.

For Iowa and Missouri—Rain and colder Thursday, Friday, fair.

For Wyoming—Fair and warmer Thursday, Friday, fair.

For Kansas—Fair and decidedly colder Thursday, Friday, fair.

For South Dakota—Fair and much colder Thursday, preceded by rain or snow in early morning, Friday, fair.

For North Dakota—Fair Thursday, preceded by snow in south portion, Friday, fair and warmer.

For Montana—Fair and warmer Thursday, Friday, fair except rain in west portion.

For Colorado—Fair Thursday and colder in southeast portion, Friday, fair and warmer.

Local Record.

OFFICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU, OMAHA, March 9.—Official record of temperature and precipitation compared with corresponding day of the last five years:

Table with 5 columns: Year, Maximum temperature, Minimum temperature, Mean temperature, Precipitation.

Record of temperature and precipitation at Omaha for this day since 1871.

Table with 5 columns: Year, Maximum temperature, Minimum temperature, Mean temperature, Precipitation.

Report of Stations at 7 P. M.

Table with 5 columns: Station, Temperature, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER.

Table with 5 columns: Location, Weather, Temperature, Wind, Clouds.

T indicates trace of precipitation.

L. A. WELSH, Forecaster.

JAPAN'S STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

Significance of the War Pointed Out by the Field Marshal of the Empire.

THIRD EPOCH IN A NATION'S PROGRESS

Marvelous Transition of a Race Typified by an Oriental Cincinnati—Impressions of an American Correspondent.

(Copyright, 1904, by Collier's Weekly.)

Mr. Frederick Palmer, special war correspondent of Collier's Weekly in Japan, writing from Tokio, under date of February 7, gives the following account of an interview had on the eve of war with Field Marshal Marquis Yamagata:

This morning, after Tokio had slept one good night on the fact of actual war, it was my good fortune to have an hour's talk with Field Marshal Marquis Yamagata, the man behind the cabinet, who, more than any other, is responsible for the step Japan has taken. The appointment with him had first been made for a week ago. When the day set arrived the general was hastily summoned to one of their urgent sittings, and, in the language of his secretary, his excellency was "very busy." From the moment when negotiations were broken off and war preparations were openly carried on throughout the land the older statesman has a breaking spouting-frenzy about to begin. One of them with true samurai courtesy signified his leisure by not forgetting the request of a foreigner.

The drive to the marquis' house took me to the furthest suburbs of the city. We passed many small, two-wheeled army carts drawn by ponies and the still smaller ones drawn by coolies. Splashes of red of the stripes of infantrymen's new caps or trousers showed through crates that were piled high in contrast to the compact little boxes that contained ammunition. The reservists from outlying districts were on their way to town. With each one were his nearest friends. The road became a procession of groups. If your servant is absent in Japan, the death, the sickness or the marriage of a "friend" calls him. It is a matter of groups of friends. All the cronies of his age see the recruit into the army and see the recruit, become reservist, back into it again. The parting with his wife or his mother or his sweetheart is usually at the door.

Development of a Soldier.

If you look away from the soldiers and the policemen on the boat, at the shops with their sliding screens pushed back, making windows and doors and show-windows and show-room into one; at the ideographic signs and the marb of the daily workers, other nearby in the fields, the vista still had everything in common with the Japan of forty years ago, which knew no world but her own. It was strange that on this morning of all mornings I was going to see the man I was. He had grown to manhood under a regime as different from ours as that of the Chinese from the ancient Greeks. As a youth, if he had not of his gues, he would have been debased from his rank as a gentleman. If he had attempted to leave his native country he would have suffered death, which the Shogun thought a fit punishment for a crime against the isolation which was the gospel of the land.

His first experience of war was as a feudal swordsman clad in armor, who fought according to the Japanese counterpart of the etiquette of the Knights of the Round Table. Clan warfare, the only kind known, was that of the Chinese from the ancient Greeks. As a youth, if he had not of his gues, he would have been debased from his rank as a gentleman. If he had attempted to leave his native country he would have suffered death, which the Shogun thought a fit punishment for a crime against the isolation which was the gospel of the land.

Changes of a Lifetime.

If I had gone to see him forty years ago when I could not have gone unless I had been a Japanese and would have had two swords—we should have sat on mats with our legs crossed, in houses without windows, doors or chairs. Profound would have been our bows, delicately worded our compliments. Today I drove into a tremendous yard that was entirely Japanese, surrounded by a wall of stone and iron, which was distinctly occidental. (The Japanese have found our houses more comfortable, if less artistic than their own. Their sylvan effects they most wisely retain.) I was ushered into a reception room that might be that of a well-to-do person with distinction of taste at home.

Yamagata has in his age the versatility and the classic simplicity of being soldier and statesman in one that we associate with another age. A field marshal by right of his victories in the field; one of the field elder statesmen; the mikado's councilor in civil as well as in military affairs, and the head of the political coalition responsible for the present cabinet, he stands for the policy and the administration that brought on the war. He is not of the school of radicals, but of the old school of Japan, a Tory rather than a Whig. The manners of these days in a general are reflected in him as the manners of other days in America are in an old time southerner.

It was Yamagata the country gentleman, the statesman, not Yamagata the soldier, whom I saw; this slight, elderly man in a frock coat, with his broad face and his high cheekbones, his good homely eyes, and hair turning gray, in his person bringing one nearer the old Japan, and in his military power to the modern Japan, than any other man. His secretary, Mr. Nakayama, who interpreted for me, is a Harvard graduate. But he is young and born to this regime; he has about him the air of the Occident. The marquis belongs at once to this regime and to the one before. As we slipped our ceremonial tea, he talked of the war which was only six weeks old; the war on which he had staked his reputation; the war which he wanted to see people more than their political future—their future as individuals. He spoke of it simply and as calmly as if it were an everyday affair. Nothing in the shrewd face showed that he had been under continuous strain for weeks.

United Army.

I spoke to him of the two things which made me marvel most. The first was the organization into a united, thoroughly disciplined army of classes which formerly had never associated; of clans that had always been at the sword's point; of the "groups" of friends ever ready to become factions. One might as well have expected to make a Scot a good Englishman within forty years after the border wars, as to make a unit out of the Japanese in 1868. The army, absorbing all clan rights, seems today one man and one mind, keeping its secrets as one. It is not this, bringing it to me, that I wanted to hear the explanation from the field marshal who had seen the

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