

## CROWD RANGES OF THE WEST

The Native Grasses Are Fast Disappearing Throughout the Entire Western Country.

### ADVENT OF SHORT LIVED GRASS

The Range Herds Are Rapidly Obliterating the Better Class of Prairie Grass.

The ample rains that have fallen this spring have worked marvelous change in the condition of the ranges of the west and with proper usage the effect should be noticed for more than one season. Those who have given thought to the matter realize fully that over stocking not only causes loss of cattle and sheep from starvation in time of drouth but it causes the rapid extermination of the most valuable of the native grasses, and forage plants. In any pasture the grasses first eaten are those most nutritious or the most palatable. Unless the pasturage is fostered and these best grasses are protected by resting or by artificial care and cultivation they are soon reduced in number and soon become unimportant factors. They are prevented from ripening seed and are eaten so close that often the roots are killed by the exposure. The first result of over grazing is the disappearance of the best grasses that is, a lessening of the potential carrying capacity of the pasture. If the best grasses cover twenty-five per cent of the range, the loss from over grazing will be at least that amount. If the pasture is still over stocked a similar process is continued with the remaining species until at last not a blade or fragment of a stem is left to support any grazing animal. The young shoots are eaten off as rapidly as put forth and the vitality of the plants are sapped so that they are unable to endure the extremes of temperature or shortage of water supply to the same degree as when growth has been uninterrupted. It has been noted that very often in times of drouth the best grazing grasses such as sedge grasses, needle grass, grama and curly mesquite, which will ordinarily withstand the hardest usage, are destroyed root and branch by being eaten into the ground. Not only is the grass destroyed but the ground over extensive areas is trampled and compacted by cattle until the grass that grows upon it breaks up and is blown away. Following the distribution of the valuable perennials, the low annuals, such as the six-weeks' grama comes in and supply almost the only food. At the same time that the valuable grasses is disappearing the land is invaded by a large number of rampant weeds which are not eaten by any grazing animal. It is the opinion of a majority of stockmen that the loss in what may be called the capital value of the grazing lands has been enormous within the past few years. The land made poor by this stripping process suffers actual decrease in fertility through exposures of the surface layers to the sun and air. Soil covered with verdure is always fertile and those which lack a protecting plant covering are sterile and deficient in life. Over grazing also subjects the soil to the destructive action of torrential rains. When rain falls upon any field thickly covered with grass or other vegetation the surface drainage is much retarded because the total surface of the retention of water is largely increased but when the grass is eaten off or destroyed in any other way, not only is less rain fall absorbed but the full force of the rushing waters is exerted upon the surface and vast quantities of the finest and richest parts of the soil covering are washed into the stream. The denudation of land by the destruction of grasses, while perhaps not so familiar as that following from the destruction of forests nevertheless is quite rapidly in a number of the places in the west. The washing away of the soil proceeds less rapidly on the plains where the slopes are less abrupt than in the mountains, but the result is just as sure, although the obvious destruction is less marked. Wherever grasses are allowed to fully mature and are not entirely eaten down, we see a decided difference in the amount and rapidity of the drainage. Less water runs into the streams in the form of floods and more is absorbed into the soil. These are the various results of the evil course of over stocking the grazing lands of the west, which if persistently continued will surely supply another example of the transformation by human agencies of a fertile land into a desert waste. A rest of two or three months during the growing season in the early spring would enable the early grasses to ripen and shed their seed, thus perpetuating such species. After the seed has fallen the cattle can be turned on the grass for two or three months and again transferred to a fresh pasture. In the same way autumn and winter pastures can be secured. Several stockmen who have employed this method on a large scale for a number of years say that their ranges are constantly improving in marked contrast to the deterioration where the old methods were practiced. —Denver Field and Farm.

You cannot afford to be without the premium map issued by the Fergus County Democrat. It tells you how far you are from any given point in the state, gives you range numbers, county lines and a lot of information that you have been wanting for the past ten years.

## DUNN'S VIEWS OF BOUNTY LAW.

Mr. Dunn Explains How the Woller is Getting the Worst of Deal.

On March 6, 1905, there was enacted by the state legislature of the state of Montana, a law providing for the extermination of the wolves and coyotes. The law provides money for bounty on said wolves and coyotes to be paid for each scalp. The rates are, old wolves, \$10; pups, \$3; old coyotes, \$3 and pups, \$3. It does not take long before wolf pups are killing as much as the full grown animal, for about four months from the time of pupping the old wolf takes her pups and teaches them to kill. They do not stop at killing just what they want to eat at that time but kill for the purpose of teaching the pups how it is done. It does not look reasonable that \$10 should be paid for old wolves and only \$3 for pups. The cattlemen claim that it takes from \$75 to \$100 per year to keep a wolf. A wolf will live for about twelve years if unmolested, which would make his board bill about \$900 for his natural life. This is figuring very low; what is true of the wolf is true of the coyote, except that it costs the sheepmen less to feed them.

It looks like the state legislature was raising Cain when it put a bounty of from ten to three dollars on wolves and then put a fine of ten cents per head on them to protect them. I have talked with a few stockmen in Fergus county and they say that the bounty law does not suit them at all; that it is not high enough for most of the wolf tribe and there is too much red tape attached to it. Then there is another thing to be considered; how can the stockmen expect anyone to go out and hunt wolves and coyotes under the present bounty, pay a fine of ten cents per head and then discount the claim twenty or thirty per cent? What is the matter with the state when its paper is not worth its face value? That must be because some of us have not got a good pull, but that is another matter which we will not monkey with at present. If anyone catches a coyote that is supposed to be worth \$3, he takes it to the inspector and has it punched. That costs him ten cents. This is the fine of which I speak. Then he goes to the county clerk and gets his bounty claim. If he wants his money he goes to the bank and they discount it twenty per cent at least, which makes sixty cents; add the ten cent fine and that makes seventy cents. That leaves the man that killed the coyote the enormous sum of two dollars and thirty cents for his little bit of trouble.

It is claimed by some that there are wolves brought from Canada to the states for to get the bounty on them here. Why should they go to the trouble of bringing them from Canada here when the bounty in Canada is from ten to twenty-five dollars?

I think that at the present time the wolves and coyotes are protected as effectually as the antelopes are. At the next session of the legislature will they put in time in passing a law that some city gun club has drafted and introduced, or will they act for the good of the state and the people? (Signed) GEORGE DUNN.

### THE OREL WAS BADLY BATTERED.

Russian Battleship Was Simply Riddled With Shot and Shell.

Tokio, June 7.—6 a. m.—A correspondent of the Associated press has been permitted to inspect the Russian battleship Orel, now lying at Malsura. The Orel received a terrible battering. Her hull shows forty gaping holes, pierced by large shells, and many smaller ones where she had been hit, while the superstructure, her upper works and upper decks were riddled by shells, steel fragments and splinters. The starboard forward twelve-inch gun was smashed ten feet from the muzzle, either by a shell or by an explosion. A fragment of the gun went over the bridge, smashing the rail, and after carrying away the breach of a twelve-pounder, buried itself in the signal locker. From the main deck upward the condition of the vessel was terrible to behold. Steel particles were smashed, the gangway was broken and stanchions were wrecked. Gear of various kinds covered the decks, and the state of the alleyways shows that the ship was afire several times. The mark of the flames increased the scene of desolation. The main armor belt is intact. The turret armor generally withstood the battering from shells, although two of the six-inch turrets were rendered unserviceable by shots which struck close to their base. Several smaller guns were dismounted and smashed. A gruesome sight was a bulkhead besmattered with blood, fragments of flesh and hair.

The Orel is sound structurally, although it will be necessary to practically reconstruct her from the water line up. The condition of the ship shows that the crew underwent a terrible ordeal before they surrendered.

**Like a Whale.**  
"You cannot keep me down," shouted the great orator at a public meeting; "though I may be pressed below the waves I rise again. You will find that I come to the surface, gentlemen." "Yes," said an old whaler in the audience, "you come to the surface to blow."

Thin people should bathe as often as possible in warm water. Warm water is absorbed by the skin more readily than cold.

**The Contrary Dog.**  
"Can dogs find their way home from a distance?" is a question frequently asked. It's according to the dog. If it is one you want to get rid of he can find his way back from Africa. If it is a valuable one he is apt to get lost if he goes round the corner.

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1:25 "	Lenep.....	11:40 a.m.
2:00 "	Martinsdale.....	11:10 "
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