

CATTLE AND SHEEP INTERESTS

Representatives of Either have a Hearing Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

WERE VERY ACRIMONIOUS. Cattlemen made no Defense of Charges of Violating the Law—Letter From President.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The government policy in regard to the control of grazing land in the public domain and interests of large and small cattlemen and the sheepmen and the effect of protection of stockmen upon that a hearing before the senate committee was held on agriculture. The hearing was a bitter one.

The cattlemen and sheepmen criticized each other and defended their own motives. The cattlemen made no defense of the charges that they had been violators of the law, and the sheepmen asserted that they were necessary for the protection of the public lands.

The president's letter to Senator Warren follows: The White House, Washington, Feb. 11, 1907. My Dear Senator Warren—In accordance with our recent conversation, I am very glad to send you this statement of my position regarding government control of the range.

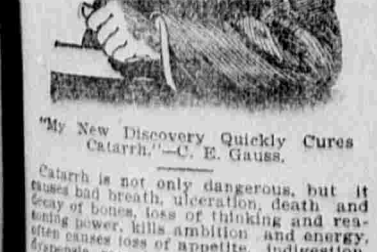
The grazing fees should be small, especially so for the small stockman. The government should get no revenue from grazing on the public range, but only enough to pay for administration and improvement.

As soon as a bill for range control is passed, it goes without saying that such control should not be taken hurriedly, but gradually, as grazing districts can be organized.

I cannot consent to a clause containing for a year or any length of time, the present illegal fencing. The utmost I will consent to, so far as my power extends in the matter of legislation, is to continue such fences, as in my judgment it is right and proper for me to continue.

I want to plead guilty for myself and my neighbors," said C. E. Meritt, of Christad, N. M., who then admitted that cattlemen in his section had fenced tracks 100 miles wide east and west, 300 miles north and south, and that the fences had been up 25 years.

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BERRY WOULD EXCLUDE SMOOT

Arkansas Senator Very Partial to Disclaim Any Political or Religious Prejudice. ADMITS IS NOT A POLYGAMIST.

Opposition Seems to Rest on the Simple Fact That Utah Senator is Member of Mormon Church.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Senator Berry of Arkansas addressed the senate today in opposition to Senator Smoot's retention of his seat. Mr. Berry disclaimed any personal feeling against Mr. Smoot.

Mr. Berry confined his argument primarily to a discussion of the constitutional power of the senate to expell Mr. Smoot, holding that any senator could be "excluded" by a majority vote of the members of that body.

Mr. Berry also had said that members of the Mormon Church did receive revelations from God and that if such a revelation should come to him (Smoot) which was in conflict with the oath he had taken as senator he would leave the country before he would obey the senatorial oath.

Mr. Berry gave the history of the Mountain Meadow massacre, which he said was committed by Mormons and Indians at the direct command of Mormon Church leaders.

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CORRUPTION IN VENEZUELA

Rudolph Dolge, Secretary of U. S. Commission on Venezuelan Claims Makes Charges.

Caracas, via Willemstad, Island of Curacao, Feb. 11.—The boldest attack on alleged Venezuelan government corruption ever recorded has just been made by Rudolph Dolge, the former American agent here, resident director of the Orinoco corporation and secretary of the United States commission on Venezuelan claims.

Mr. Dolge is the son of Alfred Dolge of Dolgeville, Cal. Gen. Antonio Paredes, who has been preparing a revolution against President Castro, and who is reported to have landed in Venezuela, is said to have impressed a number of coast guardsmen into his service.

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