

THE TERRITORIAL WOOLGROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

There was a meeting of the Territorial Woolgrowers' Association in the A. O. U. W. Hall, on West Temple Street, Saturday, Feb. 27. The meeting was called to order by President Charles Crane. J. E. Clinton acted as secretary.

President Crane delivered the following address:

Gentlemen and Woolgrowers of Utah:

We have met today to protest in no uncertain terms against a monstrous wrong which the Territorial Legislature is attempting to perpetrate upon us as woolgrowers.

A bill has passed through both branches of the Legislature, and now awaits the Governor's signature, which, should it become a law, will drive every woolgrower and his flock from the Territory of Utah. It is a bill to amend section 2264 of the Compiled Laws, making it a misdemeanor to—

First—"To construct or maintain any corral or yard to be used for the purpose of shearing or dipping of sheep within two miles of any stream of water, used by the inhabitants of any town, city or settlement for domestic purposes."

While this bill is a great wrong to us, and its aim is to drive us from the public domain, yet, compared with section 5 of this amendment, it is comparatively harmless. Section 5 reads thus:

"To herd cattle, horses, or sheep, within one mile of any stream of water used by the inhabitants of any town, city or settlement for domestic purposes."

This, gentlemen, is the clause that will annihilate us; note the cunning words of this line: "To herd cattle, horses or sheep." Now to those who know nothing of the methods of handling all kinds of stock it reads fair enough, but to us, who understand this matter, it is destruction.

You know, and the cunning author of this bill knows, cattle and horses are never herded, but are turned on the range to roam at will, and can always be found near or else standing during the day in the stream, their droppings falling into the water thereof. Sheep on the contrary must be constantly under the eye of a herder, and, while not corralled or yarded, have by constant custom been taught to remain near the tent or wagon of the shepherd until taken to feed next morning.

This bill, should it become a law, would prevent our flocks from going to their summer range, for we must follow some canyon (in which there is generally a stream) to reach our lambing grounds, shearing pens, etc., and even if permitted to reach our summer range, no matter how far distant from a village, we could not remain, for water is essential to us and our flocks and no matter where we find it, it flows persistently down hill and though we fortunately own a spring, if of any size, it, too, will flow downward into some larger stream that eventually flows into the valley below. We cannot escape a stream and would not if we could.

It is class legislation for this reason: It gives to horsemen with their cayuses and cattlemen with their long-horned Texans two miles on every stream in Utah.

The sheep men (like Moses on Mt. Sinai) may view the "promised land," but their feet must not press the sacred soil.

Why is this amendment necessary? The section which this measure aims to amend protects now and throws along every stream a safeguard, and prevents the waters from being befouled. It makes it a misdemeanor—

First—To conduct or maintain any cat-

tle or horseyard, sheep pen, stable, pig pen, chicken coop, or other offensive yard or outhouse where the wash or drainage therefrom shall flow directly into the water of any stream, well or spring of water used for domestic purposes.

Second—To deposit, pile, unload or leave any manure heap, offensive rubbish or carcass of any dead animal where the drainage therefrom will flow directly into the water of any stream, etc.

Third—To yard, camp or corral any loose cattle, horses, mules, sheep or swine where the waste or drainage therefrom will flow directly into any stream, well or spring of water used for domestic purposes.

You will observe, gentlemen, this section more than fills the bill; it is equitable to all, and prevents horse, cattle and sheep men alike from maintaining a nuisance on any stream. Then why, you will ask, is not this sufficient? Because, gentlemen, you and they know that almost every corral in every village and town is directly on the stream that flows past their own and their neighbor's door, not miles away in the mountains but within a rod of the stream from which they and their neighbors have to dip the water for domestic purposes.

This amendment is aimed at our industry and no other. It is not to give the people better, clearer or purer water, but to destroy the greatest industry, with one exception, in our Territory.

The number and valuation of sheep within our borders is given as follows:

	Number.	Value.
Sheep.....	1,410,081	\$2,947,547.25
Pounds of wool.....	7,451,252	1,229,456.58

Giving a grand value of..... \$4,177,003.83

Truly a magnificent showing, and one that not only woolgrowers but every taxpayer within our Territory should be proud of, for our sheep occupy our mountain ranges where no other stock can exist, or at least which they have not heretofore occupied. Wool growing brings to our people more money than any other single industry; is more diversified and of all the products of ranch and range is the most valuable.

THE SHEEP INTEREST COMPARED WITH OTHER PRODUCTIONS OF RANCH AND RANGE.

The value of all the other productions of the ranch and range in 1890 were only \$566,767.87. This includes wine, cider, vinegar, sorghum, butter, cheese, honey, apples, peaches, apricots, plums, etc. Stockgrowers throughout our Territory will be surprised to know that the valuation on sheep in 1890 was greater than the cattle interest by \$615,133.83, and greater than the cattle and swine interest combined by \$451,845.83, and greater than the cattle, swine, mules and asses combined by \$246,300.83, and throw in all goats and our sheep interest still has a surplus of \$242,530.83, and greater than all our horses by \$146,903.83, and that by placing a value on the 80,602 horses of \$50 per head, a valuation far in excess of their real value.

Surely these are the "times that try men's souls," for, on the one hand, is a Democratic Congress seeking to place wool on the free list, and saying to us, "If you cannot support your family, educate your children, pay the freight to New York, and sell your wool cheaper than can the barbarian who herds his flock on the heights of Thibet, or in the lowlands of Africa, then we are going to give our patronage to the naked wretch of south Africa or the hereditary paupers in the foothills of the Himalayas," and if that is not enough, the Utah Legislature, which is (as one of them was pleased to inform me) also overwhelmingly Democratic, seeks to further increase our woes by preventing us from pasturing on the public domain, ap-

parently blind to the fact that of the 52,601,600 acres of land in Utah, less than 1 per cent. is agricultural, the balance fit only for pasturage for our flocks.

Every session of the Legislature some such bill has been passed. I well remember in a discussion before Governor Murray one member of the Legislature gave the astonishing information that a herd of 2200 sheep and lambs, in May, drank the entire stream used by his settlement for irrigating purposes; and when I showed him that a stream as large as a lead-pencil would water 10,000 sheep, he frankly acknowledged he knew nothing about what he was talking. At another session a bill passed both Houses prohibiting sheep from coming within two and one-half miles of any public road, village or stream, or within two and one-half miles of any dairy or cheese factory where fifty cows were milked, thus giving a little cow-rancher almost one whole township; hence, we may consider ourselves very fortunate this bill did not include the right to hunt and kill sheepmen on sight. Do you wonder the general government has placed a guardian over such a body of men in the person of our Governor?

But, gentlemen, we must not despair; there surely is a silver lining to the cloud which seemingly hangs over us. We are told the magna charta is the bulwark of English liberty, and I say to you, gentlemen, we also have a magna charta in Governor Thomas, who never yet has been found wanting in all acts of justice to the whole people; while many members of the Legislature may be ignorantly blind to the great injustice they have done us, he will not; there is an excuse for many of them for their shortsightedness, for I feel confident they have not given this bill a second thought. We can say to them as did the Great Shepherd of old—"Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

In all States outside of Utah sheepmen are protected and woolgrowing fostered by wholesome laws. Bounties are paid for scalps of destructive animals, and all sheep killed by dogs are paid for from the county funds, but the wise (?) solons of Utah know what is best, and their peculiar acts only confirm me in the belief that "we are a peculiar people living in peculiar times."

We must today, gentlemen, protest to a responsible governor against the unjust and wrongful acts of an irresponsible legislature, and I feel confident that we shall not appeal to him in vain. He will veto this unjust measure as surely as his great chief in Washington will veto the Springer bill.

Stirring speeches against the sheep bill were made by Messrs. H. J. Faust, L. E. Hall, Heber Bennion, Barlow Ferguson, Major Silva, Elbridge Tufts and others.

PROTEST.

The following protest was unanimously adopted:

To his Excellency, Arthur L. Thomas, Governor of Utah:

The Legislative Assembly of Utah Territory has passed a bill, H. F. No. 65, entitled an act to amend section 2264 of the Compiled Laws of Utah, 1888, by inserting at the end of said section, after subdivision 3, the following subdivisions, to be numbered 4 and 5, as follows:

"To construct or maintain any corral or yard to be used for the purpose of shearing or dipping of sheep within one mile of any stream of water used by the inhabitants of any town, city or settlement for domestic purposes, where the refuse or filth from said corral or yard would naturally find its way to said stream of water through the action of the elements."