

# PHOENIX HOST TO STOCKMEN

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## Western Stockmen Meet in Phoenix—Greater Unity and Closer Cooperation the Sentiment of Meeting—Chas. O'Donnell of New Mexico Unanimous Choice For President of Association

A NOTABLE gathering of stockmen representing the great stock industry of the west assembled in Phoenix recently, the occasion marking the 29th Annual Convention of their official organization—The American National Livestock Association. Not since 1913 has Arizona had the rare pleasure of entertaining this national body of stockmen. The intervening period of thirteen years has witnessed a checkered career of the industry these men represent. The inevitable forces of nature and periods of inflation and deflation following the war have in fact placed the cow man in the most trying predicament of his history. The casualties have been heavy, yet despite its setbacks, the cattle business continues to carry on without sacrifice of importance or prestige as a major industry. There could be no better evidence of this condition than the genuine optimism and fighting spirit which prevailed at the meeting of the American National Livestock Association in Phoenix last week. To Mr. Fred Bixby, veteran president of the National Association, no little credit is due for championing the cause of the Western cattlemen. Through his assistants and with the support of the subsidiary organizations in the various states of the national organization he has succeeded in securing a more considerate recognition from Congress toward the livestock industry.

In his annual address President Bixby reviewed the work of the Association and emphasized the need for concerted action to reduce the present freight rate schedules. He called attention to needed legislation that would legalize grazing on the public domain and national forests at moderate fees and on long time contracts. A more vigorous and efficient enforcement of the Packer and Stockyard Act was urged, as was the enactment of a higher protective tariff on hides. The formation of a livestock board and the California cooperative system of marketing cattle were strongly endorsed—also the

work of the Biological Survey in the eradication of predatory animals.

Able speakers, prominent in livestock circles and in intimate touch with the industry, presented their views on different phases of the cattle business. Of chief concern to the convention delegates was a report by G. K. Bowden, attorney for the Senate subcommittee on public lands, relating to the status of the plan to legalize grazing on the public domain and national forests. After several years of fruitless effort to prepare a suitable measure and to secure favorable action by congress, Mr. Bowden assured the stockmen of his confidence in the future of the new grazing bill. The measure is intended to stabilize the range industry by providing for the continuance of the national forests and public domain under regulated control for long periods of time at nominal fees. Provision is made for the localization of control of the grazing lands, and the establishment of a board of appeals. The new bill is the outgrowth of a series of hearings held with stockmen in the Western states by the Senate subcommittee on public lands.

A closer and more complete organization was the theme of an address delivered by J. M. McFarlane, President of the State Cattle and Horse Growers' Association. He stressed the need for team work among the stockmen if they were to be recognized in Congress and urged the support of an orderly system of marketing.

F. M. Plummer, General Manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition of Portland, Oregon, told of the work of the Meat and Livestock board and its campaign in encouraging the standardization of retail meats in order to enable the purchaser to distinguish between different classes of meat. It is proposed to designate each retail cut of meat by the use of a roller stamp that will identify the kind of carcass—whether cow, heifer, steer or bull. Although this method will not distinguish the different grades of meats, it should create a demand for better beef.

An interesting explanation of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1923 was made by T. H. Ramsey, President of the Pacific National Agricultural Credit Corporation of San Francisco. Ex-Governor Carey of Wyoming gave a resume of agricultural conditions and some suggested remedies. He warned the cattlemen not to expect their ailments to be remedied entirely by legislation but that readjustment and improvement must come largely through their own efforts.

The value of purebreds was very ably presented before the convention in an address by J. M. Hazelton, editor of the Hereford Journal. E. N. Wentworth, director of Armour's Livestock Bureau spoke very interestingly of the relationship between quality and price of meat. He prefaced his remarks with a review of the cycles through which the cattle industry had passed.

Throughout the entire convention there was a strong undertone of sentiment for a larger and stronger organization of livestock producers. Every speaker called for greater unity and more cooperation among the cattlemen. The cow man is falsely independent. He is dictated to by every agency in the universe. It behooves him to organize, support the local cattle associations, readjust his business to conform with changing conditions and inject a little bit more business into the business if he is to keep above board.

The visiting stockmen were royally entertained at various social functions by the people of Phoenix. A big ball and celebration was held in the Shrine Auditorium, Wednesday night and the following day after an elaborate barbecue at the Arizona Packing Plant, the guests were taken on a tour of the Salt River Valley, visiting the Mesa Experiment Farm and other places of interest.

Chas. O'Donnell of New Mexico, was the unanimous choice for president, and Luke Brite, of Marfa, Texas, was made vice-president.

Salt Lake was chosen for the 1927 annual convention.