

Let's Broaden the Journal's Horizons

IN 1948 about 500 far sighted range-men formed the nucleus of the American Society of Range Management, a focal point for those possessing mutual interests in Range Management. The general desire for such an organization was immediately indicated by the spontaneous increase in membership once the objectives of the Society were announced. To foster advancement in the science and art of grazing land management, to promote progress in the conservation and greatest sustained use of forage and soil resources, to stimulate discussion and understanding of scientific and practical range and pasture prob-

lems, to provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and facts among members with allied technologists, and to encourage professional improvement of its members; these objectives constitute a very ambitious program indeed. Is this program being undertaken and fulfilled through the medium of this Journal? It is on the subject matter of the Journal that we should like to comment.

Is the Journal as our organ of communication helping to promote the advancement of good range management? Is it a medium of exchange of ideas and facts among allied technologists? Let us examine issues of the Journal published to date.

Coupling careful planning with the new society's impetuosity of youth, the early editions were filled with incentive, inspiration, and high ambition. The establishment of a new society in the face of numerous other well founded organizations that deal with certain phases of range management was justified and the principles of the Journal outlined. The response to membership drives and appeals for contributors was excellent permitting the Journal to both increase the size and number of issues per year. To date many phases and problems of Range Management in both Canada and the United States have been reported resulting in technological and management improvements where similar situations existed in other sections of the continent. The increase in Journal size is, therefore, a step toward the fulfillment of the objective to cover adequately all the material that should be printed and made available to society members since many members cannot subscribe to several other journals and are not located in an area where a library is readily available.

But should we not also increase the scope of the sources of contribution? The reason for such a proposal may be explained by the following two illustrations. First, in the FAO report (1951) "Improving the World's Grasslands" well over half the references listed are from countries outside North America. Without doubt, workers in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are much farther advanced than we in such phases of range management as pasture fertilization, biological control of noxious weeds and range parasite control. Surely these problems are not unique to foreign countries. Secondly, at the Sixth International Grassland Congress held at Pennsylvania State College last year, at least sixty percent of the 250 authorities invited to address the various sections of the

Congress were from foreign countries. It is therefore readily seen that ideas and techniques developed in one country may often find employment as such in other countries or form the basis for techniques in solving somewhat similar problems. To what extent have foreign workers been encouraged to publish in our Journal thereby assisting in our accumulation and exchange of new ideas? At this time of writing the Journal has published over 80 papers and editorials. On breaking this down it may be seen that over 70 articles were written in North America involving North American work, 2 were Hawaiian, 5 were written by Americans visiting foreign countries and only 3 were written by foreign contributors concerning foreign work. Thus, while more than 50 percent of the outstanding references in the FAO report came from foreign authors only 5 percent of the articles in our Journal fall into that category. By our arithmetic, simple as it may be, that does not constitute much of an exchange of ideas outside our own North American sphere. If this situation persists how with our one Journal, can libraryless members avoid the regressive stagnation resulting from inbred ideas and a narrow viewpoint?

If the Journal is to continue to be a worthy medium of exchange of data, techniques and ideas within the Society let us solicit the aid and experience of workers from other countries who have already solved some of the many perplexing problems of Range Management we still face. In this way we may have a Journal that meets all the needs of the Range Manager. It must be remembered that the United States solicited the collective assistance of all the western allies in order to build the Atomic Bomb! The case rests.—*M. A. MacDonald* and *C. M. Williams*, Graduate Students, Oregon State College, Corvallis.