A Report from the President

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SINCE we met in January, I have visited range men in Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, California, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas. Everywhere, I found a keen interest in Society affairs. Many members have appointed themselves one-man committees to help increase the size of our organization. Others are at work helping to organize local sections to knit us closer together and everywhere, I found members determined to do everything possible to expand the influence of our Society. With this kind of interest and support, working to advance the interests of the Society has indeed been a pleasure.

Immediately following our Denver meeting the newly-elected officers and Council members present met to consider policy matters and actions needed to carry on the affairs of the Society. The first order of business was to approve the appointment of W. James Anderson, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D. C., as Secretary of the Society. Jim took over these duties immediately and has been a tremendous help in handling the increasing correspondence, in working with Treasurer M. S. Morris in developing the yearly budget, and in many other ways.

By early March, twelve committees had been appointed and were hard at work on Society business. Forty-seven individuals were asked to serve on these committees and it gives me real pleasure to report that every member accepted this responsibility, despite the fact that most of them are exceedingly busy persons.

An Advertising Committee is investigating the possibility of securing a business firm to solicit advertising for the Journal on a contract basis. It is expected that such an arrangement under terms satisfactory to the Society can be made and that some advertising will be obtained before the end of the year. This will strengthen our financial position and speed the time when we can shift from a quarterly, to a monthly Journal.

The Arrangements Committee is hard at work on the preliminary arrangements for our next annual meeting at San Antonio, January 10-12, 1950. As our official headquarters for the meeting, the famous Gunter Hotel has agreed to furnish meeting and committee rooms without charge and our Texas members may be depended upon to show us an interesting time.

A Curricula Committee has undertaken to study college and university courses of instruction now being offered for training men in the field of management and conservation of range resources. Following their study, they will develop a basic curriculum for presentation in the pages of the Journal and consideration by the Society as a suggested minimum standard for undergraduate training in this field.

The Editorial Board, in addition to its
duties in connection with the current issues of the Journal, is developing a set of far-reaching recommendations and standards for future guidance of the Society's publication. It is expected that these will not only facilitate their own efforts to improve the quality of the Journal, but will be helpful to prospective authors.

An Elections Committee has been appointed to receive and count the ballots and report the results of the election of our next set of officers to be held this fall.

A Finance Committee is preparing a brochure about the Society for use in interesting foundations, corporations, and others in "contributing" and "sustaining memberships". They are also working on plans to stimulate "life memberships" and report that one member has already disposed of his annual dues problem for all time by a contribution of $100.00.

The Incorporation Committee has enlisted the services of a public-spirited attorney and is proceeding with action to get the Society incorporated in one of the western states.

A committee on Local Sections is studying the question of jurisdictional boundaries and is preparing recommendations to the Society in this matter. They are also taking action to stimulate the formation of additional sections. Thus far, local sections have been formed in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Texas.

The Membership Committee has set up small sub-committees in each of the western states, the eastern regions, and in Canada, and is coordinating their efforts in a strenuous attempt to meet the Council-approved goal of doubling our membership during the current year. In addition to this increase in general membership, they expect to add at least twenty new stockmen-members from each of the seventeen western states. As of April 20, Treasurer Morris reports 104 new members since January 1, making our present total 857. Although this is a sizable increase, we still have some distance to go.

The Nominations Committee is giving careful consideration to a prospective slate of officers for 1950. All members are urged to take advantage of the provision in our constitution which provides for nomination of candidates by petition. Such petitions should be submitted directly to the committee chairman not later than August 1.

The Program Committee under the direction of our hard-working Vice President is well along with its plans for the program of our next annual meeting. Advance information is that considerable emphasis will be given to actual accomplishments in improvement and conservation of the range and that a number of leading stockmen-members will appear on the program.

A one-man Publicity Committee located at Washington, D. C. where he has daily contact with wire services, radio editors and many other news outlets has done yeoman service in publicising the Society. Present members aren't the only ones who are interested in the American Society of Range Management. There are others, professional people and ranchers, who would join if they knew of the work and objectives of the Society. In addition, there is a great body of people whose ideas form what is called public opinion, who would like to know about the existence of the Society and what its collective judgement is. It is for these people, outside of the organization, that a publicity program is being started. A considerable number of short news items written in the language of main street, not that of the rancher or ecologist, have been sent out to farm paper editors, radio farm directors, and extension editors. We hope
these will be found newsworthy and used in their papers and programs.

Committees appointed for this year are as follows:


**Arrangements**—David Foster, *Chairman*, R. D. Burr, James Parks, Vernon A. Young.


**Incorporation**—Albin D. Molohon, *Chairman*, Floyd D. Larson.


**Membership**—A. L. Hafenrichter, *Chairman*, C. Kenneth Pearse.


**Program**—D. A. Savage, *Chairman*, H. M. Bell, T. Lommasson, Kenneth B. Platt, Jos. H. Robertson, Chester A. Williams.

**Publicity**—Cy Briggs.