

Journal of RANGE MANAGEMENT

Editorial Men with a Purpose

THESE look like men with a purpose." So remarked a bystander at the Sixth International Grassland Congress at State College, Pennsylvania, in August, 1952. The truth of this statement was evident in the faces of the men in little informal groups around the reception room, men of many nations and languages, earnestly discussing problems of grassland management and use in their various parts of the world.

A similar comment might be made at any annual or section meeting of the American Society of Range Management. For grass managers are men with a purpose. This purpose is aptly stated in the Objectives of the Range Society: "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 problems...and to encourage professional improvement of its members."

What attitudes and actions do these objectives require of members of the Range Society? Far more than paying annual dues, reading the Journal, or perfunctory attendance at annual or section meetings. Membership in the Society not only implies acceptance of the objectives, it obligates each member to actively help carry out those objectives. Ranchers, public land administrators, researchers, conservation and ex-

tension workers, teachers and students, all are expected to serve the organization with mutual benefit to themselves and the grassland resource.

The attitude with which members of the Range Society go about their own and Society business is important. The Objectives imply that range men will seek the facts of any situation, and base their discussions, decisions, and actions on those facts.

The researcher is trained to seek out new facts contributing to the solution of pressing range problems, and to report those facts accurately and impersonally. By virtue of his inquiring mind and devotion to his subject, the true re-



DR. ROBERT S. CAMPBELL

searcher gives to the limit of time and thought in serving range management through his job and through the Range Society.

Range conservation and extension workers and teachers likewise must deal in facts so as to impart a basic understanding of grassland problems and practices to ranchers and to students, as well as the general public. The good range management teacher trains his students how to think, talk, and act on the basis of facts, not personal beliefs or prejudices. Equally important, the teacher must inspire his students with that devotion which is so characteristic of workers in the whole conservation movement, teach them to become "Men with a purpose." A definite part of this training should be student membership in the Range Society, for which special provision has been made to early accustomed students to organized activity in range affairs.

The public range land administrator is bound to supervise the lands under his care with technical skill, fairness to the user, and consideration for the public interest. He must keep up with current advances through the Journal and otherwise. In dealing with his land use problems, he must seek out all the facts on the ground and look at all sides of each question confronting him. Finally, he must work with the range users toward a positive program of grassland improvement and management—a program with endless opportunities.

Rancher members are indispensable in the Range Society. They naturally are eager for facts that will help improve the efficiency of production on their own range lands. But their responsibility goes far beyond the fenced boundaries of their own spreads. Rancher members can and should "foster advancement of grazing land management," by constructive and friendly counsel with the public range land administrators and all other range men. Above all, ranchers must help keep Range Society programs and activities practical and down to earth.

Finally, all members have a duty to support and actively work for the Range Society. The spirit of cooperation developed in Society Meetings can be invaluable to all classes of members in their regular work of planning and carrying out a national grassland program. Acceptance of office and committee assignments, aggressive support and participation in Society work are needed from every member. Enthusiastic section activity is essential to continued growth and alert leadership by the Society in range affairs. The national and section officers, and the Journal can reflect only the activity of individuals and sections. Let each member, like the far-seeing "Trail Boss" on our Journal cover, show himself to be "a man with a purpose."—*Robert S. Campbell*, Chief, Division of Range Research, Southern Forest Experiment Station; and retiring Editor, *Journal of Range Management*, New Orleans, La.