

Texans Guard Mexico Border to Curb Spread Of Animal Disease

Meandering Rio Grande Makes Patrolling Difficult; Dr. Dutro's Young Crew Works Hard

By HAL O'FLAHERTY, Times Special Writer

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Jan. 6.—A fantastic, meandering river, the Rio Grande, forms the frontier between the United States and Mexico, from here to El Paso, a distance of 810 miles by highway but more than 4000 miles if you ride the bank of the river.

Old-timers down here such as Dr. E. N. Dutro, a distinguished veterinarian, chief of the Texas Range Riders, estimates the Rio Grande, in its incredible meanderings, is five times as long as the concrete highway running up to El Paso. That estimate is conservative.

There are oxbow loops in the river near here that are 25 miles in circumference. The river nearly meets itself on the return to a narrow neck. These necks are continually being cut by the river, thereby transferring all persons and property from Mexico to the United States and vice versa.

This is the line that must be guarded to prevent the spread of the dangerous animal affliction known as foot and mouth disease. The herds of Texas are entirely free of infection today, but down in Mexico, some 225 miles from Brownsville, an epidemic is in full swing.

Plenty of evidence exists here that this state and the federal government are doing everything possible to prevent the disease from crossing the border. Dr. Dutro, in charge of campaign against foot and mouth disease in this area, has had 35 years of experience with infected animals. He knows what an epidemic means in economic loss and is determined that it must not return.

Dr. Dutro's Range Riders, organized seven months ago, are a picturesque, hard-riding, high-spirited group of men from the Texas ranches. They are scattered in camps from the mouth of the river across the three counties in Dr. Dutro's area and on up through other districts to El Paso.

The Range Rider's job is to patrol the American bank of the Rio Grande daily, seven days a week, watching for stray animals and stray humans known as "wet backs," the type of Mexican or American who wades or swims across the river, usually with some illegal purpose.

While the railroads have failed to pay many dividends in the last 20 years, they have provided hundreds of good jobs for British subjects.

During and since the war, Britain has been forced to sell foreign holdings worth \$4400 million. The sale of the Argentine railroads bring the total up to \$5 billion.

Britain today is trying to halt the trend of liquidating its properties.

The British say frankly that Marshall plan aid is essential to help stop this trend.

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Good Jobs Provided

Both sides indicate satisfaction with the terms of the arrangement, which has been hanging fire for the last two years.

Under present plans, Argentina will take over the properties Feb. 22.

Mr. Peron's political cheerleaders already are playing up the transfer and nationalization as a major achievement of the administration.

British government economists take a melancholy view of the necessity for disposing of the railroad properties. They are convinced that the sale of the rail system is another move to cripple the country permanently.

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39" x 70" \$3.50 54" x 76" \$4.50

Fine quality bleached pure white sheeting covering, zig-zag stitched mattress pads. White cotton filling.

B. Muslin Mattress Covers

Unbleached muslin mattress covers in full or twin size. Tape-bound edges and non-breakable buttons. \$2.98

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Save on these lovely waffle chenille bath sets! Includes 18" x 30" bath mat and matching lid cover. Your choice of blue, rose, peach, green, aqua, gold, orchid.

Distillery Official Raps Grain Order

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (UPI)—Seton Porter, president of National Distillers Products Corp., yesterday made public a letter he sent to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson on Jan. 2, protesting further restrictions on the use of grain for distilling purposes and the method of allocating such grain.

No reply has been received to the letter, copy of which went to President Truman. Mr. Porter told a press conference here, although it has been delivered.

National Distillers was assured by

the administration, the letter pointed out, that there would be no effort to extend the 60-day shutdown when it expired on Christmas Day. However, it continued, the corporation now has been advised that it "will be allowed only enough grain to operate our plants for a total of about six days between the date of our voluntary shutdown on Dec. 26, 1947, and Jan. 31, 1948."

The voluntary shutdown cost his

corporation more than \$1 million in idle plant expense, Mr. Porter wrote. He branded as "completely at variance with the facts" the contention by the citizens' food committee that only 44 persons lost employment because of the voluntary shutdown.

Riders Need Good Equipment

No one can determine how long it will be necessary to patrol the border. If the job is to be done thoroughly, there should be more riders and they should have better equipment. They need binoculars, but so far have none. They need more jeeps, too.

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Red Soap Boxers Lose Court Appeal

CHICAGO, Jan. 6 (UPI)—Federal Judge Walter J. LaBuy yesterday denied a temporary restraining order sought by two members of the Communist party, who charged that authorities had interfered with their street corner speeches.

The restraining order was sought by Meyer Hecht and Samuel Tomash. They sought to prevent Police Commissioner John Prendergast and State's Attorney William J. Touhy from "interfering" with them.

They also asked the court to restrain authorities from prosecuting a case pending against them in which they are charged with disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly.

The first year discussion group of the Great Books Foundation, which has been meeting at Shortridge High School, will meet at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the 38th Street Branch of the Merchants National Bank.

The group is open to new members and will continue to hold its meetings in the bank.

North Side Great Books Group Meets Tomorrow

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