## NO TIME TO ACT ON LAND REFORM

Congress Will Defer Whole Subject to Next Long Session.

NEW DEAL TO COME FIRST

Garfield Will Succeed Hitchcock and the House Committee Will Be Strengthened - Timber and Coal Are Hard Problems.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash-OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 1.—Lack of time, as much as anything else, will prevent any modification of the public land laws this session of Congress. There are other factors to be reckoned with, it is true, but the principal obstacle in the way of reform is lack of time. Were this a long, instead of a short session, something could be accomplished along the lines indicated by the President in his various dicated by the President in his various messages to Congress, but land legislation has been allowed to drag from the very remaining few days are not ample to

Importance.

Before there can be satisfactory reform of the land laws the complexion of the House committee on public lands will have to be changed. As now constituted, that committee is not in harmony with the President. It is not a strong committee, from any standpoint and le wholly incompetent to deal with such a vast subject. The President is fully aware of this and has had talks with Speaker Camnon and other House leaders, with the probable r, suit that, when the new House of Representatives is organized next Deof Representatives is organized next De-cember, the public lands committee will be readjusted in a way that will increase its efficiency and insure action on legis-lation which is demanded by the people of the entire West.

### Can Stifle Army Bill

But there are other obstacles in the way of land legislation this session. A number of Western Senators do not con-cur in the views of the President, either in regard to the coal-land laws or the laws permitting the use and development of public timber land. These Senators have it in their power at this late day to stiffe any bill which does not have their approval. From now until the end of the session little can be accomplished except the perfection and passage of the appropriation bills. There is no chance propriation bills. There is no chance whatever for important legislation that has not yet passed either branch of Congress. Not a single bill proposing an important modification in the public land laws has yet passed either the Senate or

The cause of land-law reform has suffered to a great extent because few men in Congress are enthusiastic on the subject. Some will join the President whenever the time comes for action, but not many are sufficiently in sympathy with the reform to take the initiative and push through bills that will so modify the laws as to reduce the opportunities for graft.

## Hitchcock Aroused Antagonism.

One great difficulty about reforming the land laws is to arrive at a com-mon conclusion as to just what sort of legislation will best serve the purpose sought by the President. Not many Senators and not many Representatives are opposed to reforming the land laws are opposed to reforming the land laws because of any desire to permit the continuation of graft. It may be that a few are endeavoring, in a quiet way, to protect "interests" which have been enabled to enrich themselves under the existing laws, but in the main that is not the motive that has blocked action. It is rather the failure of Western men to compromise their con-flicting views. flicting views.

It can not be denied that Secretary Hitchcock has been an obstacle in the path of land-law reform. There was never a Cabinet officer more unpopular with Congress than the present Secretary of the Interior, and time and retary of the Interior, and time and again Congress has legislated contrary to his recommendations, largely because his onemies have had the power to thwart his plans. The Secretary has been a pronounced advocate of the most radical reform in the land laws, and has lost no opportunity to place obstacles in the way of men who have sought to obtain title to parts of the public domain during the past three or four years. Lacking in discrimination, the Secretary, in order to catch a few thieves, has humiliated thousands of honest men, and these insults, when reported to Senators and Congressmen have but added fuel to the fames and made the enemies of the fiames and made the enemies of the Secretary, the more determined to block his reforms,

## New Secretary, New Committee.

When the next Congress assembles when the lext congress assembles there will be a new Secretary of the Interior, who has not aroused the enmity of Congress and yet who will be an enthusiastic advocate of land law reform. This very fact will aid materially form. This very fact will aid materially in bringing Congress around to a reason-able view of the situation. Secretary Garfield is in perfect harmony with the President on public land questions, and will exert his influence to have the recommendations of the Public Land Commission carried out. But his methods are mission carried out. But his methods are not the methods of Mr. Hitchcock; it is not his intention or policy to humiliate every honest entryman in order to detect a few who are crooks. He is too practical for that, and for this reason will have friends in the Senate and

lands, a new Secretary of the Interior and a general desire to get together or land law reform, there is some prespecfor remedial legislation next session. The next session will be a long one; there will be ample time to consider the various bills in connection with the findings of the Public Lands Commission and and ample time to readjust the conflicting yiews of Western men of influence. The reforms may not be as radical as have been recommended by the President, but they will be a great improvement on the existing law.

and quality of the timber. The morpractical idea yet advanced is the sal of the timber at its stumping value, may be that the bill will be amended i provide for the sale of the land as well a

the timber, but this question has not yet been determined, because the bill has never been brought to a vote. If the land, as well as the timber, is sold, much of the objection to the pend-ing bill would be removed, for few men ing bill would be removed, for few menobject to a change in the law which will
permit the Government to recover something like the actual value of the timber land disposed of. If, on the other
hand, the bill is adopted in its present
form, Senator Fulton, of Oregon, and
other Western Senators will insist on the
retention of the Fulton amendment, requiring that 25 per cent of the receipts
from the sale of timber shall go to the
county in which the timber is cut.

States Must Have Taxes.

If the Government timber land is sold, t becomes subject to taxation as soon If the Government timber land is sold, it becomes subject to taxation as soon is it passes to private ownership, but, if the title remains in the Government, as proposed by the pending bill, the land will never be subject to taxation, and the counties will be deprived of a certain revenue which would otherwise come to them. There has been some misunderstanding of this Fulton amendment, it having been charged in certain quarters that it would operate to relieve lumber companies from the payment of taxes. That is not the purpose at all. It has quite a different effect, in that it enables the counties to recover from the purchasers of timber one-fourth of the money which they pay to the Government, whereas, if this amendment was not adopted, he counties would get neither taxes nor any other compensation. The lumber companies would still be subject to taxation under state laws for the lumber is their product, whereas the land will never be.

So it may be set down that the present timber and stone act will ultimately be repealed and that in lieu thereof Congress will substitute.

be repealed and that in lieu thereof Congress will substitute a law providing either for the sale outright of timber land at its appraised value, or for the reservation of public timber land and the sale of only the timber.

### Coal Land Hard Problem.

The coal land problem will be as hard o solve as the timber problem. There is , wide range of opinion as to the best nethod of controlling the remaining pubmethod of controlling the remaining public land which contains marketable deposits of coal, oil, lignite and gas. The
President favors a leasing or royalty plan,
but the House public lands committee
is opposed to the idea, and the Senate
committee is of the same opinion. While
the next House committee may be favorable, there is no assurance that the
Senate committee will change its views.
But what sort of compromise will be But what sort of compromise will be reached is difficult to predict. There is a strong sentiment in favor of amending the coal land law so as to provide for the outright disposal of the land for a fair consideration, but there is no small element in Congress that prefers the

May Raise Cost to Consumer.

The opponents of land law reform, o The opponents of land law reform, or at least the opponents of radical land reform, point out truly that, if the Government raises the price of its coal land and increases the price of its timber land, the price of lumber and of coal will instantly take a rise on the market and the consumer, or the common people, will pay the difference. These men are looking at this question from the stand-point of the entire people, and up to tiffs looking at this question from the stand-point of the entire people, and up to this time they have been unable to appreci-ate the merits of the pending bills, inas-much as they are certain to raise the price of coal and lumber, and thereby ncrease the profits of the coal and lum

As pointed out above, both these probas pointed out above, both these prob-lems are of such vast importance that they cannot be adjusted in a week or a month, and the probabilities are that, when the next Congress opens, the Rep-resentatives and Senators from the West will get together, as they did in fram-ing the National reclamation law, and agree upon a system of land law reform that will be mutually satisfactory and ac-ceptable allie to the President and to Congress. Naturally ony such bill must

STROTHERS' LAWYERS CRY EMOTIONAL INSANITY.

Whole Day Spent in Framing Question for Submission to Expert. Rebuttal Evidence Begins.

CULPEPPER, Va., March 1 .- Comnonwealth's Attorney Keith today began the presentation of his evidence in rebuttal in his attempt to shatter the plea of justification advanced by defense for James and Philip Strother, on trial here for the murder of William F. Bywaters, their brotherin-law. The defense had called as witness, Dr. Chelf, one of the physicians who attended Mrs. Viola By waters, who was declared by her brothers to have been the victim of a crim inal operation performed in Washing-

inal operation performed in washington at the instance of Bywaters.

Although the names of the witnesses
for the rebuttal have not been announced, they will be called mainly
to show that when Bywaters marriedViola Strother, he made full reparation for the wrong he is alleged by
the defense to have done her and the defense to have done her, and

that the shooting was therefore not justified.

Dr. C. H. Clark, of St. Elizabeth's Government Asylum for the Insane in Washington, was the first witness

Mr. More of the defense submitted a lengthly hypothetical question reciting all the facts of the case as claimed by the defense and concluding by asking the witness how he would obstractive the act of homicide com-

Mr. Keith objected that the question did not recite all the facts, especially that the defendants were armed and had all along intended to do, under certain conditions, that which they did

The jury was withdrawn in order that the court might hear arguments upon the admissibility of the question. The effort of the defense to establish emotional insanity as a plea evidently did not surprise the prosecution.

At the afternoon session a hypothetical question to be put to Dr. Clark was agreed upon. The arguments took up too much time to permit the examination of the witnesses to proceed today, and court adjourned.

## HAVE FEW FRIENDS

Beveridge and McCumber Unpopular Senators.

### TILLMAN SITS ON HOOSIER

McCumber's Threat to Speak Causes Adjournment-President's Power Over Congress Shown - Jews Who Have Been Senators.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washngton, March L-There are two men in tically without friends and certainly without admirers—Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, and Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, Mr. Beveridge is unpopular because he is so domineering and so self-important. Mr. McCumber is disliked because he is a nuisance. Mr. Beveridge holds the record for rapid talking, and Mr. McCumber breaks all records in the other direction.

rapid taiking, and Mr. McCumber breaks all records in the other direction.

Since the statehood bill was packed on ice, Mr. Beveridge has deemed it a part of his duty to participate in the important legislation of the Senate and he makes a speech on every bill that comes up. Usually he has only a superficial knowledge of the subject under discussion, but he will take issue with the brainlest men in the Senate, even on topics which they have studied for years. Mr. Beveridge has the nerve to question the legal knowledge of such men as Senators Knox and Spooner. Naturally, his continual interruptions are annoying to men of acknowledged attainments.

Only a few days ago Senator Tillman was talking about immigration in the State of Scuth Carolina. Mr. Beveridge interrupted and, like most men who tackle Mr. Tillman, was "stung."

tackle Mr. Tillman, was "stung." Tillman told Mr. Beveridge he would like to enlighten him on the South Carolina situation, and the In-diana man replied in sarcastic tones that he was always ready to be en-lightened by such a worthy man as Mr.

"Well" retorted Mr. Tillman, 'if you will shut up for a minute I'll shine on you a bit."

## Cold Snub to McCumber.

Mr. McCumber on the same day re-ceived as cold a snub as has ever been dealt to any Senator. The agricultural bill was up and the Senate was dis-cussing an amendment to increase the salary of Chief Forester Pinchot. When the subject had been threshed out and was ready for a vote, Mr. Mc-Cumber rose and objected saving in

power of Theodore Roosevelt when it comes to framing legislation for the pub-ic good. The committee overturned its own judgment, for it feared to place its judgment against that of one man.

## Sixth Jewish Senator.

Guggenheim of Colorado will be the sixth Jew to occupy a seat in the United States Senate. He will not be the Senator of that race, for Mr. Rayner only Senator of that race, for Mr. Rayner of Maryland is of that falth and is now in office. The first Jewish Senator was David Yulee of Florida, who served from 1840 to 1833. His real name was David Levy, but it was changed before he entered the Senate. Judah P. Benjamin of Louisiana was the second Jewish Senator. Benjamin F. Jones, another Louisianian, although not of Jewish name, was of Jewish blood and was the third on the list. Joseph Simon of Oregon was the fourth, and Mr. Rayner the last up to the state of the state o

Contrary to general belief, a Senator is not handicapped because he happens to be a Jew. The Senate does not draw race lines, and some of the Jewish Senrace lines, and some of the Jewish Sen-ators have been numbered among the most prominent members of Congress. Mr. Rayner, for instance, stands well in the Senate today and Judah P. Benjamin in his time was a mighty factor in his party and in the Senate. Some Jews in public life have rather sought seclusion and have in consequence left little im-pression on the Senate, but it has been of their own choosing rather than be-cause of any discrimination against them on the part of other Senators.

### on the part of other Senators. Not Bothered by His Boom.

Secretary Taft does not look like a mar Secretary Tatt does not look like a man who is losing sleep over his presidential boom. During the past few weeks the Secretary of War has been an almost daily visitor at the Capitol, getting about At the arternoon session a hypothetic and question to be put to Dr. Clark was agreed upon. The arguments took up too much time to permit the experiment of the witnesses to proceed to amination of the witnesses to proceed today, and court adjourned.

Timber Land Problem.

How to solve the timber problem is a question that will have to be worked out. Recently the Senate committee on public lands recommended a bill proposing to reserve every remaining acre of public timber land and provide merely for the sale of the timber at not less than its stumpage value. There is objection to this bill in many quarters, but, with time and effort, it is probable this objection can be overcome. Congress realizes that something must be done to put an end to the injustices that are legally committed under the existing law. The flowermonent is now selling its timber at a nominal price, when it might be realishing ten to a hundred times as much, according to the location of the land.



about the driest performance now running in Washington. All the life has been taken out of the affair since the close of the debates in the open Senate and since the Senate virtually sustained the President in the course he had taken. The examination by the committee is going over old ground that has been covered. going over old ground that has been cov ered in great detail in the public prints, and not even the Senators on the committee are manifesting any interest in the inquiry. As an indication of the duliness of the proceedings, it is related that the venerable Senator Pettus, of Alabama, went sound asleep during a recent session and the next day a reporter supposed to cover the proceeding. posed to cover the proceedings for a press posed to cover the proceedings for a press association, interrupted the committee by snoring. The committee investigation does not promise to unearth any new facts and is really nothing more nor less than an imposition on the Senators who are obliged to devote their time to it. What makes it worse, the inquiry will probably drag out for several weeks after Congress adjourns, thereby compelling a number of Senators to remain in Washington well into the Spring.

### TEHUANTEPEC ISTHMUS.

Steady Stream of Freight Now Flowing Both Ways.

Mexican Herald.

The Mexican Isthmus route, lately in-augurated under such auspicious circumstances is entering upon its career as a great artery in the transportation chan-

a great artery in the transportation channels and your of Chief Forester Pinchot. When the subject had been threshed out and was ready for a vote, Mr. Mc-Cumber rose and objected, saying, in his peculiar drawl:

"There are several Senators who would like to be heard before a vote is taken."

"Does the Senator mean by that that he is going to speak?" asked Senator Proctor, in charge of the bill.

"That would be a proper interpretation of the laws of Tehuantepec there has been a constant movement both ways, sugar from Hawaii brought by the Arizonan going north to Puerto Mexico (Coatzacoalcos) and reshipped aboard the Lewis Luckenbach for Philadelphia and the general cargo brought from New York by the latter steamer going south to be carried to American Pacific ports by the Arizonan, Naither has these here delay in the senate adjourn." And the Senate, glad of an opportunity to avoid a speech by Mr. McCumber.

Naither has these here delay in the transportation channels of the world with a volume of business surpassing to the layman and living up to the expectations of the men who had a hand in the creation of the facilities, the value of which will not be long in becoming known to shippers. Since the first car of freight was sealed by President Diaz and sent across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec there has been a constant movement both ways, sugar from Hawaii brought by the Arizonan going north to Puerto Mexico (Coatzacoalcos) and reshipped aboard the Lewis Luckenbach for Philadelphia and the general cargo brought from New York by the latter steamer going south to be carried to American Pacific ports by the Arizonan going to the apparation of the world with a volume of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a hand in the creation of the men who had a han

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Oregonian, 8000 tons; Isthmian, 8000 tons;
Nebraskan, 8000 tons; Nevadan, 8000 tons
In addition to these 2 number of other In addition to these a number of other steamers have been chartered for service on the Atlantic side until such time as the regular ships of the company, which have been making the trip around South Amer-

## THE MONEY WE HAVE.

the Year 1896.

Harper's Weekly.

Have we enough money? meaning, omnown york, having arrived at Puerto Mexico (Coatzacoaloss) the day following the departure of the inaugural trains. This intention being to gather information which would enable the money are shown in the work of the weekly and problem, it is intention being to gather information which would enable the work of the weekly and the committee or the public coal land of the remaining public coal land of the remaining public coal land of the week. Hearings were held three times a week for upwards of two months, and the committee reached the conclusion that it would be unwise to hold the fact it ordered a report on a bill provising for the outright sale of the remaining coal land at a fixed price per acre.

The next day the President sent in a puerial message urging the adoption of well and the House committee promptly d a special session, reversed its opinion that a fixed price per acre.

The next day the President sent in a puerial message urging the adoption of will land; the House committee promptly d a special session, reversed its opinion that after the numerous hearings and reted a bill directly in line with the unmendations of the President. The committee oversult was a provided the control of the committee oversult was an actual circumstance of the country and in Europe, and the country and in Europe, and the volume of business also. In the mere matter of colon, the United States is conting annually about \$25,000,000; and Japan more than 180,000,001. In this country the amount October 1, of gold and aliver coins and The schedule of the American-Haustian is a precision of the president sent in a puerial message urging the adoption of the provided sent the country that the service of the precision of the president sent in a puerial message urging the adoption of the provided sent the pr

"The Mexican War." in the Metropolitan Early in the action, Santa Anna, seeing his men falling on every side, had mounted his horse, crying: "D—n these Americans; I believe they will shoot us all, and had taken refuge in flight. When been making the trip around South America, can be placed into the service without unnecessary inconvenience.

But not all the freight destined for transit over the Mexican Isthmus route will be carried on the bottoms controlled by the American-Hawaiian. Ships from all parts of the world will put in at the two great ports and warehouse facilities have been provided for the storage of freight in case a tramp brings in a cargo rustic, with a skin cap, blue cotton pant-

aloons and a round jacket, but beneath peoped out the fine lines shirt, and more obtrustive still and not to be mistaken, were the manners of "El Presidente." He than many Mexican armies.

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THE OREGONIAN

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