

TO STUDY IRRIGATION

Senators Will Examine Reclamation Projects For Public Good.

T. H. CARTER TELLS OF WORK

Experts to Take Careful Survey of Vast Undertakings by the United States Government—Many Acres of Land to Be Reclaimed.

A thorough investigation of irrigation land projects estimated to cost more than \$100,000,000 will be made by a committee of the United States senate which passed through Chicago the other day.

The committee is made up of experts, and includes Senator Thomas H. Carter of Montana, chairman of the senate irrigation committee; Senator Francis E. Warren of Wyoming, Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, Senator George E. Chamberlain of Oregon and Senator Frank P. Flint of California. The investigation will be of great importance and may lead to unexpected developments. It will deal with the methods and character of the work thus far done and will be the basis for further congressional legislation.

Discussing the proposed work of the committee, Senator Carter said before his departure:

"Construction under the reclamation law has been in progress for seven years, and at the last session of congress it was deemed advisable to have a committee of the senate inspect the work and inquire into the administration and operation of the law. No charges of maladministration have been made, but complaints have been received from time to time from various sources, and special legislation is being sought in the interest of individuals or communities.

Guide For Future Work.

"In order to ascertain what has been done and to determine what should be done in the future the committee on irrigation of the senate is now en route to visit the projects, inspect the works on each and to examine such witnesses as have complaints to make or suggestions to offer.

"The entire trip will consume fifty-seven days, but as a considerable portion of the work is to be done in Arizona and New Mexico it has been deemed best to divide the tour of inspection so as to go over the work in the northern states during August and a portion of September and to make the journey through southern California, Arizona and New Mexico in November.

"Secretary of the Interior Ballinger will go with the committee over a large number of the projects.

"Thus far we have invested fifty odd millions of dollars in construction, and the completion of the present projects will require about fifty millions additional. The fund for this work is made up of the proceeds from the sale of public lands, and the settlers are required to pay back into the fund the cost of reclaiming the lands they enter in ten annual installments. It will thus be seen that the fund is constantly increasing and being steadily replenished.

Much Land to Be Reclaimed.

"The present projects contemplate the reclamation of something over 2,000,000 acres of land. The total amount of arid land which can be reclaimed has not been ascertained, but different persons approximate the area extending all the way from 10,000,000 to 50,000,000 acres.

"The size of farms allowed under the irrigation works varies from 40 up to 160 acres, no one being allowed to take up more than 160 acres. Few persons realize that the waste and valueless lands of the public domain increase in value when water is applied with such great rapidity that in some instances sagebrush land has gone up from nothing to as high as \$1,000 an acre, that value being supported by actual earning capacity. Of course this high priced land is of choice fruit producing quality, but land capable of growing thirty bushels of wheat an acre without any chance of crop failure has a fixed value based on earning capacity which clearly warrants its reclamation.

Homes For the Homeless.

"It is the intent of the law that this enterprise shall furnish homes for the homeless and lands for the landless. The conditions prescribed are so favorable that any industrious person possessed of sufficient means to purchase an outfit and erect a house and barn with ordinary industry can meet all payments and in the course of ten years acquire complete ownership of a valuable homestead.

"The demand for available productive government land never was as great as at present. To illustrate the fact I need but call attention to some 40,000 applications now on file for the privilege of taking land on the Flathead and Coeur d'Alene reservations, where less than 1,000 claims are available.

"The high price of the necessities of life at the centers of population has driven many to consider the propriety of owning a patch of land on which the family can be supported at moderate expense.

"The work of the government in rendering its arid public domain habitable and productive is holding out to struggling men and women of limited means the prospect of becoming possessed of desirable estates on terms with which any one equipped with industry and frugality may comply."—Chicago Tribune.

FAMOUS OCEAN LINER.

Cunard Steamship Lucania, Damaged by Fire, Once Queen of the Ocean.

The Lucania, one of the best known ships of the Cunard line, which was recently submerged at the Huskisson dock at Liverpool, England, to extinguish a fire that seriously damaged her, left New York on July 7 on her last trip and was to be thoroughly overhauled before returning in October. The ship, now sixteen years old, was launched from the yards of the Fairfield company, limited, Glasgow, in July, 1893. She is 601 feet in length, 65 feet in breadth and has a depth of hold of nearly 38 feet. Her gross tonnage is 12,952, and her first trips made her the acknowledged "queen of the ocean" at that time.

With her trip of 5 days, 7 hours and 23 minutes for the westward voyage from Daunt's rock to Sandy Hook lightship and her eastward voyage of 5 days, 8 hours and 25 minutes, made in October, 1894, the Lucania was the unbeaten steamship of the world until the advent of the Deutschland, of the Hamburg-American line. The latter steamship wrested the pennant of the Atlantic from the Cunarder, and the Germans kept it with the ships of the North German Lloyd until the last Cunard turbine driven fliers came into service.

The Lucania is an imposing looking vessel with two funnels rising 120 feet in the air. She is amply provided with water tight compartments and cost about \$3,500,000.

One of the features of the Lucania was her big dining saloon, fitted with massive Spanish mahogany, with hand carved panels, and the broad companionway leading from the promenade deck was of the same costly wood. The saloon skylight, which is reported to be destroyed, was fitted with handsome stained glass panes, hand painted by well known artists, which were very much admired when the ship came out. Her lounge, music room and library, on the promenade deck, formed a suite of rooms that was not surpassed in the Atlantic trade until the Mauretania and Lusitania appeared.

In discussing the fire one of the Cunard officials said that the Lucania would now be refitted throughout with cabins built on a different plan and much larger than the old ones. She will also, it was said, be fitted with another deck above the promenade deck, and the dining saloon will be moved up from the main deck to the promenade deck to comply with modern ideas.

The Lucania had heretofore never met with a serious accident. In 1898 a piston rod broke, which delayed the ship on her voyage to New York, but other than many voyages made longer by reason of stress of weather there was no serious happening.

PLAN TO SAFEGUARD TAFT.

Southern Railroads Decline to Have President's Car on Regular Trains.

President Taft will not be able to travel unostentatiously through all of the south on his coming trip this fall, as he had planned, as an example of democracy. The railroads of Texas, however, are not disposed to take the risk of transporting the president's car on the regular trains, but have determined to compel him to accept a special train.

Word reached Washington recently that the Missouri, Kansas and Texas management in Texas has flatly declined to take chances in attaching Mr. Taft's car to the regular fast trains on his forthcoming journey. Instead they will supply a dining car and another to keep the train steady, attach the presidential coach and send the special along as the second section of the regular train. In this way the regular train will act as a pilot, and in case of accident the president's party will escape it.

It is not unlikely that other southern roads will adopt the same policy. The president intended to travel as plainly as possible, eschewing private trains, and to study the people of the south.

Guiding Lights For Aeronauts.

The Aero Club of Berlin has been giving its attention to the question of guiding lights for the use of aeronauts at night. It suggests a combination of letters in vivid colors which will be clearly seen at a distance in the dark and which will be placed at the top of elevated structures. The letters which indicate frontiers or the neighborhood of the sea will be specially distinguished if the Aero club has its way. Germany is to be divided into ninety sections by ninety combinations of letters, and France, it is proposed, should adopt a special sign for each department. The project has been submitted to all of the principal aeronautical societies in France, Belgium, Holland, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Spain, England and America for consideration.

The Children's Santa Claus.

[In memory of Miss Elizabeth A. Phillips of Philadelphia.]
In vain the children at this Christmas tide
Will wait her coming. Ah, the bitter end
That robbed them of their one true, steadfast friend,
Leaving them mournful, with no touch of pride
In saying, "This she gave me"—for she died
Ere she could give again! Stern grief did rend
Her joy to fragments that she could not mend,
And so, the task too great, fate was denied.
Sing not of faith that moves the mighty rocks,
For if it had fled from her silently,
And hope, so long shut in Pandora's box,
Died ere she knew the open sesame,
But still remember as you smooth her locks
The greatest, yea, of all is charity.
—Edward H. S. Terry in Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A SUFFRAGIST ARMORY

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont Erecting Large Building In New York.

ADDITION TO HER TOWN HOUSE

Specially Designed as a Lecture Hall For a Militant Campaign by Suffragettes—Necessary, She Says, if the Cause Hopes to Succeed.

Not content with opening Marble House, at Newport, for suffragist lectures and giving the National Woman's Suffrage association luxurious headquarters on Fifth avenue, New York, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont announced the other day that she is building an addition, to be called the armory, an exact reproduction of a room in the late Mr. Belmont's house, Belcourt, at Newport, in her new house at 477 Madison avenue, New York, which is to be devoted to the cause next winter. This new house is now nearing completion, the architect promising that it will be ready for occupancy on the 1st of January.

"Since the house has been started," said Mrs. Belmont recently in her apartment at the St. Regis hotel, in New York, "I have become an ardent suffragist, and it seemed to me that I could serve the cause in no better way than by providing a large hall in which prominent suffragists might lecture during the winter. So I asked my architect to arrange for this armory, which will be decorated with the armor which hangs in a similar hall in Mr. Belmont's old Newport home, Belcourt. I shall of course use the room for other purposes, but my incentive in building it was to devote it to the cause of woman's suffrage.

"My enthusiasm for suffrage grows all the time. Every one of my children is sympathetic with me in regard to the work. Two of my sons—W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and Harold Vanderbilt—have promised to sit on the platform at the public lectures which will be given at Marble House on Aug. 24 and 28.

Will Try to Interest the Men.

"You see, I believe that one of the weaknesses in the fight hitherto has been the fact that more men were not interested in suffrage. I shall endeavor to interest the men of my acquaintance, if in no other way, at least financially.

"You see, I don't believe in individual work in any case. All the work for a cause like this must be collective, and that is why I have thrown myself into the fight with the existing suffragist institutions. I shall work entirely with the city, state and national institutions. Of course I am getting up a special league of my own, but that is only one small part of this large body.

"Just now I am especially interested in making a success of the lectures which are to be given at Marble House. On the first occasion Dr. Anna Howard Shaw will speak and on the second Professor Charles Zuehlke. The tickets for these lectures are \$5 each, and the money raised will be devoted entirely to the campaign.

"Until now I have always felt that it was best not to open Marble House to public view because it has been used as my private residence, although I should have liked very much to please many art students who have made the request in past years. I am departing from the rule simply because I believe the step may tend to increase interest in the crusade for votes for women.

Favors Militant Methods.

"I have studied the question of suffrage in England thoroughly. I have talked with Mrs. Pankhurst and her daughter, and I have been to innumerable meetings, and I am convinced that more militant methods must be adopted in the United States if we hope to succeed. I do not think it is necessary to go so far as the English suffragettes do, but I do think that we shall have to struggle to gain what we want. I most emphatically believe in street meetings for one thing.

"This winter we hope to have a lecture very nearly every day. Some prominent speaker will be heard in some part of New York at least six days in the week, and the subject will always be 'Votes For Women.' The armory in my new home will be opened for the purpose as often as it is needed.

"Just so soon as the lectures which we have planned for Marble House are out of the way we shall start in to work on plans for the fall campaign. The headquarters are now ready for occupancy, and we shall hold an opening reception in them as soon as people come back to town, early in September. Mrs. Harper has been here all summer, but most of the prominent suffragists are elsewhere now. I myself am living at Newport."

The Beauties of Marble House.

There are many parts of the famous Marble House, which is built of different kinds of marble throughout, which have never been photographed. The side toward the sea is protected from the public gaze by a high hedge, and this part has never been seen except by friends of Mrs. Belmont. The walls on this side are composed of Carrara marble, elaborately carved, and there is a marble terrace 100 feet wide. The interior of the building is famous for its rare art treasures, which will be visible to the public for the first time one hour on each day before the lectures begin.—New York Times.

New Study For Women.

One of the latest forms of feminine commercial enterprise in Paris is a school where women are taught.

MONUMENT TO VALOR.

Veteran to Erect Memorial at Gettysburg Recognizing No Section.

A monument in commemoration of American valor without distinction as to north or south, which will be the "finest memorial on any battlefield of the world," is to be erected at Gettysburg by C. N. McConnell of Chicago. The monument will cost \$150,000, according to a recent announcement made by Mr. McConnell. Telling of his plans, he described what he says is the most remarkable instance of valor on record—the annihilation of one regiment by another.

"The first day of fighting at Gettysburg has been slurred over in the histories," said Mr. McConnell, who participated in the battle, "because it was a decided Union defeat. In that first day the Twenty-fourth Michigan faced the Twenty-sixth North Carolina. At the close of the day the Twenty-fourth Michigan, my regiment, had lost 400 of its 500 men. The Twenty-sixth North Carolina had lost 700 of its 800. No such fighting was ever known to the modern world. None like it has been known since.

"It is to glorify the American valor represented by this little known encounter that my monument is to be put up.

"The monument will be a sort of pantheon, with three domes. The central dome will be gilded and will reach toward heaven. It will face the east, so that the sun's first rays will fall upon it. The right hand dome will be dedicated to the Twenty-fourth Michigan, the left hand dome to the Twenty-sixth North Carolina. The central dome will contain the names of all the soldiers of the so called Iron brigade—the Second, Sixth and Seventh Wisconsin, the Twenty-fourth Michigan, the Fourteenth Indiana and Battery B, United States artillery—who participated in the battle, with the exception of my own name, which will be omitted. It will call special attention to the unprecedented fighting which took place on the first day of the battle and will, of course, be put on the first day's field, where hardly anybody goes at the present day.

"I hope to have the monument done in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the battle—in 1913. Artists in Europe and America are working on the design now. In case I should die before it is completed I have left a provision for it in my will."

SHAH'S ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

Young Monarch Suggested Race, Galloped Ahead, but Escort Caught Him.

Ever since his accession to the throne the twelve-year-old shah of Persia, Ahmed Mirza, has been thoroughly miserable. He declares that he is the unhappiest boy in Persia, weeps continually and says his one desire is to accompany his father into exile. To quiet the child his mother has been allowed to visit him at the palace of Sultanabad. She, on her side, cannot reconcile herself to the loss of her son. She weeps persistently and declares that the Nationalists will end by killing him.

A rumor that the ex-shah, Mohammed Ali, has been plotting to regain the child is current. It is said that through a woman servant the boy was told at his father's instigation of the execution of the reactionary leaders. Then he was warned to escape to the Russian legation, as his life was in danger, and to abdicate and leave the country with his father. A plan was concocted to effect this escape while his youthful majesty was riding in the country.

On Monday, Aug. 9, therefore, the little shah ordered his horses out and once past the precincts of the palace proposed a race with a bunch of his father's household. Both spurred their horses and galloped away. The other attendants thought at first it was merely a boy's game, but when it was seen that the horses were galloping in the direction of Zergundehe they suspected a trick and pursued the shah in hot haste.

A courtier overtook the royal runaway, caught the bridle reins and drew his revolver. "If your majesty does not come down from your horse I will shoot myself on the spot," he said.

When the shah saw that his plan had failed he returned to Sultanabad.

Natural Gas For Train Lights.

An innovation in railway train lighting has been adopted by the Western Maryland railroad, which taps the West Virginia gas fields. Two of its best trains between Cumberland and Baltimore are being equipped with storage tanks for natural gas. If the experiment proves a success the road plans to use only natural gas in all its trains.

Diamond Set In Finger Nail.

A diamond set in the nail of his little finger is displayed by Alphonse Albert Dupuy, an Evanston (Ill.) tailor. The stone is one-third carat. On ordinary occasions the tailor wears a thimble over the bejeweled finger.

The Boys In Olive Drab.

Sham battles are in progress now, and in the glad affray the soldiers practice how to fight against some bloody day. The poets, too, should take their pens, the chance they ought to grab, and practice how to glorify the boys in olive drab. The boys in blue just marched themselves into poetic form, and Britain has her "thin red line" the singer's heart to warm, but it will take a handy bard with mighty gift of gab to work into a martial line the boys in olive drab. —McLanburgh Wilson in New York Sun.



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