

**THE OBSERVER**

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**WILD CAT IRRIGATION.**

Such wild cat schemes as have involved many innocent investors and retarded the development of irrigation in many districts of the west, will be made impossible by uniform state drainage laws that will protect the land owner and the investor in drainage bonds which will be the outcome of a conference which is being held in Memphis, Tenn. The conference was called by John H. Nolen, secretary of the National Drainage congress, and special agent of Missouri in state reclamation work, under the auspices of the National Drainage congress. A tentative uniform bill was agreed upon, as the one to be presented to the legislatures of all states which have swamp and overflow acres. Other conferences will be held to get the bill into shape.

The importance of uniform state laws to govern the drainage and reclamation of swamp and overflow lands in order to protect both the land owner and the investing public, was recognized when the National Drainage congress was organized in Chicago in December. Many of the organizers had been active in the National irrigation congress and were familiar with the setback given to irrigation development because the various states in the arid and semi-arid regions had not taken the initiative in safeguarding the investors in irri-

gation securities and the settlers on irrigation lands.

A resolution offered by E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture of South Carolina, was adopted, that "The National Drainage congress calls upon the legislatures of all those states within the overflowed area to immediately enact state drainage laws and that the laws be as nearly uniform as possible."

It was at first intended to let this phase of the work rest until the next meeting of the congress in New Orleans, April 10 to 13, but because some of the state legislatures would hold their sessions prior to the New Orleans meeting, it was decided to call a conference as quickly as possible. Mr. Nolen, who has taken an active part in giving Missouri a good state drainage law, was asked by Acting President Perkins to call the conference.

The Drainage congress will be asked to approve the bill which will grow to urge its passage by the various out of the Memphis conference, and states. It will be designed to prevent the possibility of misrepresentation of facts about and drainage project, to make the bonds issued to raise funds for accomplishing the work a safe investment, and to insure the settler upon reclaimed swamp and overflow land that he will find things just as represented.

"I am glad the drainage movement has learned from the experience of irrigationists and are profiting by that knowledge," was the comment upon the Memphis conference by Ed. F. Bohm, of Columbus, O., member of the executive committee of the National Irrigation congress. Mr. Bohm has been interested in irrigation development, and securities for a number of years, and had stopped in Chicago on his way to the southwest to see Mr. Perkins. "There isn't any doubt," he added, "but that irrigation has been given a setback by the fact that the laws did not prevent wild-cat schemes. Irrigation securities are not as desirable as they should be because there have been so many people swindled. I was caught myself and I know what I am talking about. Nor is there any doubt as to where the fault lies. The states are to blame for not safeguarding the settler, the purchasers of lands and the investors in irrigation securities."

"The Irrigation congress at its meeting in Chicago last December, started work to remedy these conditions. A resolution which I introduced was passed, condemning them and providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions in the various states and to report a method for correcting them at the next congress in Salt Lake City. "I am glad that the National Drainage congress has started so early to prevent a repetition of such practices in the development of drainage reclamation projects."

**"THIS IS MY 54TH BIRTHDAY."**

Bishop of London.  
Right Rev. Arthur F. W. Ingram, bishop of London, who is now in Egypt to officiate at the consecration of the Gordon memorial cathedral at Khartum, was born January 26, 1858. He is the son of a clergyman of the established church and the grandson of the late Bishop Pepsys of Worcester. Bishop Ingram was educated at Marlborough college and at Keble college, Oxford, and was graduated with honors. For a few years he was a private tutor and in 1885-89 was private chaplain to the bishop of Lichfield. Subsequently he was chaplain to the archbishop of York and the bishop of St. Albans, and prior to his elevation

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to the episcopate he was a canon of St. Pauls cathedral. For a time he was bishop of Stepney, suffraged to the bishop of London. He has been bishop of London since 1901, and is dean of the Chapels Royal. Bishop Ingram is the author of several well known volumes on religious topics.

Congratulations to:—  
George T. Oliver, United States senator from Pennsylvania, 64 years old today.

James H. Higgins, former governor of Rhode Island, 36 years old today.  
Prince Augustus William, fourth son of Emperor William, 25 years old today.

George Shiras, Jr., former associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, 80 years old today.  
Frank O. Lowden, former representative in congress from the 13th Illinois district, 51 years old today.

Right Rev. Daniel S. Tuttle, bishop of Missouri and presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church, 75 years old today.

B. F. Keith, veteran American theatrical manager and pioneer in the field of vaudeville entertainment, 65 years old today.

Sir Edouard P. C. Grouard, a native of Canada, who has risen high in the British colonial service, 45 years old today.

**THIS DATE IN HISTORY.**

- January 26,
- 1500—Vicente Yanez Pinzon discovered Brazil.
- 1692—Acadia (Nova Scotia) became a part of Massachusetts.
- 1764—Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, one of Napoleon's generals who became king of Sweden, born in Pau, France. Died in Stockholm March 8, 1844.
- 1802—Albert Gallatin of Pennsylvania became secretary of the treasury in the cabinet of President Jefferson.
- 1815—The United States purchased Thomas Jefferson's library of 7,000 volumes for the use of congress.
- 1823—Dr. Edward Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination, died. Born May 17, 1749.
- 1837—Michigan admitted to statehood.
- 1856—President Pierce. In a special message to congress, recognized the pro-slavery legislature in Kansas.
- 1860—Additional political privileges granted to Jews in Russia.
- 1861—Louisiana adopted an ordinance

of secession.  
1863—New Chestnut street theatre in Philadelphia opened with Edwin Forrest and John McCullough.

1871—George Ticknor, American historian, died. Born Aug. 1, 1791  
1885—General "Chinese" Gordon killed before Khartum. Born Jan. 28, 1833.

1911—The Canadian reciprocity agreement was sent to congress by President Taft.

**STEEL DEBATE STARTS.**

Underwood Calls up Steel Tariff Revision Bill in House Today.

Washington, Jan. 26.—When the democratic house leader, Underwood, today called up the house steel and iron tariff revision bill, Palmer (Pennsylvania) opened debate for the democrats. He referred at length to the differences of opinion among experts as to the necessity of any tariff on iron or steel, owing to the immensity of the companies and their productiveness.

**Wolverines to Dine.**

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 26.—Members of the Michigan society of Chicago have completed elaborate arrangements for their banquet to be given tomorrow night in the gold room of the Congress hotel. This annual festival is held on this date in honor of the admission of the state of Michigan to the union. This year the society is a have Chase S. Osborn, governor of Michigan, as the guest of honor and the principal speaker. The other speakers of the evening will include Professor J. R. Angell, of the University of Chicago, and Mayor Carter H. Harrison of this city.



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