

## PUBLIC LANDS COMMISSION REPORT.

The forthcoming report of the Public Lands Commission will recommend that swamp and pasture lands hereafter be surveyed and patented by townships; that better provisions be made for making boundaries of surveyed tracts; that the system of letting public surveys and boundaries between States and Territories be hereafter made under the direction of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. It will also, probably, recommend that the office of Receiver at each local land office be abolished. There are about 95 of these officers. It will also recommend the classing of public lands into five general classes—arable, irrigable, pasture, timber and mineral. It will also recommend the repeal of the pre-emption law, on the ground that its chief use now is to increase large individual holdings. The commission will probably supplement it by another, making arable public lands disposable under the Homestead laws. The commission will probably recommend no limit be placed upon amounts of irrigable land which any one person may buy; that the land be sold at 25 cents per acre, one-fifth to be paid down and the balance at the end of three years, and that no patent to such lands be issued until it is shown that a specified sum per acre, say \$2, has been expended on its reclamation. Lands classed as pasture, will comprise untimbered and new mineral lands, not arable or capable of irrigation.

The commission will probably recommend that the quantity one person may buy be not limited, and that the price be graduated as follows: All lands sold prior to January, 1886, be at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, and all lands sold from the latter date to January, 1890, to be at the rate of \$1 an acre. After the last named date all lands remaining be sold at 75 cents an acre, with a reduction of 12½ cents per acre every three years until the minimum price of 12½ cents is reached. Pasture lands shall be opened to homestead settlement, no one entry to comprise more than 2,560 acres. It will probably recommend that colonies of 20 or more families may enter homesteads either on arable, irrigable or pasture lands, and lay out a village in the center of the tract.

Radical changes will be recommended in the mineral land laws, among them the following: That the time during which a prospector or discoverer shall be able to hold his claim by possessory title shall be fixed and limited by law; that all local organizations and regulations respecting mining titles shall be abolished and the sole jurisdiction of all questions relating thereto be reserved by the United States; that the "lode location," which permits the discoverer to follow a lode any distance, in any direction, whether within the boundaries of his surface location or not, be repealed; that hereafter every mining claim shall comprise a certain number of feet, breadth and length on the surface, and that subterranean property rights shall not extend beyond the surface boundaries thus fixed. It is quite probable that the commission may refrain from the present from making any recommendation as to the area which each location may comprise. It also recommends that a system of official survey and mineral inspection be adopted to prevent blackmail and robbery, and to obviate the necessity of legal contests before claims are patented.

**WHAT STRONG DRINK DOES.**—This was the terribly suggestive statement crayoned on the blackboard which stood on the platform at the Chicago noon prayer-meeting the other day:

It costs \$1,000,000,000 a year in money.

It makes fifty per cent. of our insane.

It makes ninety-five per cent. of our criminals.

It causes directly seventy-five per cent. of our murders.

It sends forth ninety-five per cent. of our vicious youth.

It sends one every six minutes into a drunkard's grave, or nearly 100,000 a year.

## COLD FEET IN BED.

While winter is at hand, and with it the many attendant discomforts and annoyances of a chilly, frosty atmosphere, it is becoming to fortify ourselves against the influences and effects of cold. It is better to be so clothed as to feel a little too warm, rather than not warm enough. One of the common obstacles to personal comfort is cold feet, particularly cold feet at night. When abed one feels that he ought to be comfortable. We may succeed, perhaps, during the day in maintaining a passable degree of calorific in our extremities, but at night we may groan in sleepless torture until the small hours with icy feet. A contributor to the *British Medical Journal* gives a few simple suggestions on this seasonable topic, which we copy here for the benefit of our cold-footed readers:

The association betwixt cold feet and sleeplessness is much closer than is commonly imagined. Persons with cold feet rarely sleep well, especially women. Yet, the number of persons so troubled is very considerable. We now know that, if the blood-supply of the brain be kept up, sleep is impossible. An old theologian, when weary and sleepy with much writing, found that he could keep his brain active by immersing his feet in cold water; the cold drove the blood from the feet to the head. Now, what this old gentleman accomplished by design, is secured for many persons much against their will. Cold feet are the bane of many women. Light boots keep up a bloodless condition of the feet in the day, and in many women there is no subsequent dilatation of the blood-vessels when the boots are taken off. These women come in from a walk, and put their feet to the fire to warm—the most effective plan of cultivating chillblains. At night, they put their feet to the fire, and have a hot bottle in bed. But it is all of no use; their feet still remain cold. How to get their feet warm is the great question of life with them—in cold weather. The effective plan is not very attractive at first sight to many minds. It consists in first driving the blood-vessels into firm contraction, after which secondary dilatation follows. See the snowballer's hands! The first contact with the snow makes the hand terribly cold; for the small arteries are driven thereby into firm contraction, and the nerve-endings of the finger tips feel the low temperature very keenly. But, as the snowballer perseveres, his hands commence to glow; the blood-vessels have become secondarily dilated, and the rush of warm arterial blood is felt agreeably by the peripheral nerve-endings. This is the plan to adopt with cold feet. They should be dipped in cold water for a brief period; often just to immerse them and no more, is sufficient; and then they should be rubbed with a pair of hair flesh-gloves, or a rough Turkish towel till they glow, immediately before getting into bed. After this a hot-water bottle will be successful enough in maintaining the temperature of the feet, though without this preliminary it is impotent to do so. Disagreeable as the plan at first sight may appear, it is efficient; and those who have once fairly tried it continue it, and find that they have put an end to their bad nights and cold feet. Pills, potions, lozenges, "night-caps," all narcotics, fail to enable the sufferer to woo sleep successfully; get rid of the cold feet, and then sleep will come of itself.—*Phrenological Journal*.

**ENAMEL INK.**—We learn from a German trade journal that the drug house of Louis Muller, in Leipzig, has recently put on the market, colored inks which may be used for writing labels on glass, porcelain, ivory, marble, mother-of-pearl and metal. The writing is done with a goose-quill, and when dry, adheres so firmly that it cannot be removed by any liquid. Four different colors are made—black, white, red and blue.

**A MAN IS LIKE AN EGG.** You can't tell whether or not he is good, until he is broken.

## THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HARVESTER PRIZE.

In our issue of February we gave the results of the first competitive trial for the \$20,000 prize offered by the South Australian government for a complete harvester. The last Australian mail brings accounts of the second days' reaping by the contestants, and the result is, as we foreshadowed in our previous article, that none of the machines succeeded in satisfying the conditions of the prize award, namely, reaping, threshing and cleaning of the grain by a combined apparatus. Therefore the splendid prize of \$20,000 will still lie in the Colonial treasury subject to the pleasure of the government, to be withdrawn or held out again as may be thought best.

At the final day's trial there was work of a certain degree of merit shown which, though it fell short of the requirements, was thought by the judges to be entitled to recognition in the shape of small bonuses, from \$150 to \$500, to the different contestants.

What will be the influence of this famous trial of harvesting machinery it is too early to decide, but it will be strange if some good results do not follow from such an effort on the part of so many earnest inventors. The report of the judges seems to indicate that the attempt will not be wholly unproductive, for it says that the judges consider that an extension of time for further trials during next harvest would be but just to those who have expended much time and money upon their inventions, and would be calculated, from the publicity given to the subject by what has been already done, to bring about the desired result. The numerous ingenious contrivances brought out by this competition satisfy the judges that they are fully warranted in expressing the belief that from them some efficient machine will yet be developed which will prove of signal benefit to the community, provided that the offer of the bonus as before be still continued as an incentive and encouragement to inventive minds. The very limited opportunity afforded during a short harvest to an inventor thoroughly to test his invention and bring it to perfection, weighs much with the judges in inducing them to recommend an extension of time. From observation of the above trials, the judges gathered that it would be an assistance to future judges in arriving at a decision to specially consider the following points in their order of sequence: a, most grain saved; b, condition of sample; c, simplicity and durability of construction of machine; d, simplicity in working machine; e, amount of work done; f, cost of machine; g, lightness of draft.

**GLUE** for ready use may be prepared by adding to a given quantity of best glue, enough common whisky to make it of the proper consistency. Put both together in a bottle, cork it tight, and set it away for three or four days, when it will be fit for use without the application of heat. Glue thus prepared will keep for years, and it is at all times fit for use except in very cold weather, when it should be set in warm water before using. To obviate the difficulty of the stopper getting tight by the glue drying in the mouth of the vessel, use a tin vessel with the cover fitting the outside, to prevent the escape of the spirit by evaporation. A strong solution of isinglass made in the same manner is an excellent cement for leather. The hotter the glue when used, the better it will keep the two parts glued together, hence in all large and long joints the glue should be applied immediately after boiling. Glue loses much of its strength by frequent remelting.

**PETROLEUM WELLS IN GERMANY.**—The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that a company with a capital of \$250,000, has been formed at Bremen to work the recently discovered petroleum springs in Hanover, and that a similar company is forming in Berlin.