

session to put Alaska under the protection of law. Its people have repeatedly remonstrated against our neglect to afford them the maintenance and protection expressly guaranteed by the terms of the treaty whereof that territory was ceded to the United States. For sixteen years they have pleaded in vain for that which they should have received without the asking. They have no law for the collection of debt, the support of education, the conveyance of property, the administration of states or the enforcement of contracts. None, indeed, for the punishment of criminals, except such as are offered against certain customs, commerce and navigation acts. The resources of Alaska, especially in fur, minerals and lumber, are considerable in extent, and capable of large development, while its geographical situation is one of political and commercial importance. Considerations of honor and good faith demand the immediate establishment of civil government in that territory."

The improvement by the national government of our harbors and rivers is a matter of the utmost importance to the Pacific coast, and that congress shall make suitable appropriations for the continuance of work already begun but now suspended for lack of funds will be demanded by our representatives, and we hope not without success. Another demand made by the people of the west is, that the immense Indian reservations be cut down to a reasonable area and as many as possible of them abolished. On this subject Secretary Teller, in his report, recommends that the great reservations be thrown open to settlement and the Indians be allotted lands in severalty. He also calls the attention of congress to the fact that treaty stipulations with Indians have not been carried out by the government, because necessary appropriations have not been made; that the ability of the natives to fully support themselves by the chase has ceased, because of the rapid disappearance of the buffalo and other game, and that unless provision is made for their support and to fulfil treaty obligations serious trouble will ensue. History has repeatedly shown us that between starvation and war the Indian has always chosen the latter, even when he knew that certain defeat and the possible extermination of his tribe would be the final result. From any possible contingency of this character Oregon and Washington are happily free. On this subject the report says of the Crows and Blackfeet: "The Crow reservation is situated in the territory of Montana, and contains 7,364 square miles, or 4,713,000 acres of land. A large part of this is unfit for cultivation, but is the very best of grazing land. These Indians should be located on the Big Horn, with a suitable reservation for agricultural and pastoral purposes, and the balance sold. At least 3,000,000 acres might thus be disposed of, leaving the Indians sufficient agricultural lands to become self-supporting, if they desired to become agriculturists, and a sufficient amount of grazing lands should they prefer to become stock raisers. The 1,713,000 acres that would be left would give nearly, if not quite, 600 acres of land to each individual member of their tribe. The number of Crows has been estimated at 3,500; but it is quite certain the number is much less, and probably not over 2,500 or 3,000. A portion of the money realized for such sale should be at once invested in a herd for the tribes, and cared for by the government until such time as the In-

dians shall be prepared to accept and care for their stock themselves. The proceeds properly used would make the Crows self-supporting in a few years at the farthest.

"The number of Indians on the Blackfeet reservation is about 12,000. Until recently they have been able to support themselves largely by hunting, but the disappearance of the buffaloes is likely to cause great suffering among them during the coming winter and spring, if an additional appropriation is not made for them. Inspector Howard reports from Fort Belknap, on the 17th of October, 1883, that for the first time in the history of the agency the buffalo has failed to visit that region. Heretofore the buffalo meat and hides secured by the Indians have been sufficient, with the limited aid given by the government, to give them fair support. If the Indians fail to secure buffaloes, as it is now quite certain they will, there is great danger of starvation among them. They must certainly starve unless they live off the stock in the vicinity of the agency, but not on the reservation. If the Indians are driven by hunger to kill the cattle on the ranges belonging to herders who are rightfully in that section of the country, there will be great danger of a collision between the herders and the Indians, and if such collision does not occur there will be a great loss of property, for the Indians will doubtless destroy more than they use. These Indians have a fine grazing country and more good agricultural lands that can be utilized by irrigation. A suitable appropriation should be made for their immediate wants, and provision made for stocking the range with cattle, and they will become self-supporting from the growth of such herds."

The Secretary also advises the repeal of the pre-emption and timber-culture laws so fraudulently abused by land speculators, and calls the attention of congress to the existence of lapsed railroad grants in the following language:

"In my last report I called attention to the necessity for some legislation in reference to lapsed grants. It is difficult to make the people understand that the executive department of the government can not declare a grant forfeited when the corporation for whose benefit it was made has failed to comply with the conditions thereof. Petitions are presented to the executive demanding the forfeiture of grants for non-compliance with the conditions thereof. Individual claimants declare themselves outraged because the commissioner of the general land office refuses to allow filings on the odd sections of land within the unforfeited railroad grants. The government is derided as the government of the rich and opposed to the poor, because the executive department of the government does not do what the courts have repeatedly declared could be done only by the legislative branch of the government, that is, declare a forfeiture of a grant. Complaint is made that grants made more than a quarter of a century ago are still treated as valid, subsisting grants, and the settler forbidden to go thereon, although nothing has been done toward the building of the road, which must be built before the railroad company can receive the evidence of the title given to it by the government so many years ago. If the executive department of the government disregard the law and issue a patent to such settler, he takes nothing by the instrument, and is as much at the mercy of the corporation as if he had

not received the government patent. Congress alone can relieve the settler by declaring the grants forfeited. If the grants are not forfeited when there has not been a full compliance with the conditions of the grant, it seems to be just and proper that some provision should be made by which the settlers, who, through ignorance, or because they believed such grants had been or would be forfeited, have made settlement on such railroad lands, can secure a title, either through the railroad company or from the government. It is earnestly to be desired that some means of adjustment of these grants, as a whole, be provided, or some method be devised which shall, under cover of legislative authority, not only remedy the evil suggested, but enable this department to reach a finality as to the titles to be conveyed to these corporations at the earliest practicable moment, and thus relieve an anxious and excited public feeling, already sufficiently aroused upon the various difficult and complicated questions connected with the administration of this momentous and important branch of public affairs. To this end I most urgently recommend that the prompt and serious attention of congress be invited to the foregoing suggestions."

This fully explains the position of the interior department in regard to a matter about which unthinking people have wrongfully blamed the secretary. That there are certain land grants that should be declared forfeited because not the slightest effort has been made to earn them and no definite promise exists that such will be made in the near future, is certain; but it is equally certain that other grants which have become technically forfeited because circumstances have prevented a completion of contemplated lines within the time limited in the grant, should not be too hastily revoked. Bills will no doubt be introduced in great numbers affecting land grants all through the west. If congress will take hold of this matter with the proper spirit of fairness, we have no doubt justice will be done and the spirit of the laws making these grants fairly carried out.

HOW TO GREASE A WAGON WHEEL.

The *Coca Maker's Magazine* endorses the statement that few people are aware that they do wagons and carriages more injury by greasing too plentifully than in other ways. A well-made wheel will endure constant wear from ten to twenty-five years, if care is taken to use the right kind and proper amount of grease; but if this matter is not attended to, it will be used up in five or six years. Lard should never be used on a wagon, for it will penetrate the hub and work its way out around the tenons of the spoke, thus spoiling the wheel. Tallow is the best lubricator for wooden axletrees, and castor oil for iron hubs, but many of the patent axle greases are also excellent, and have the merit of being cheaper and more convenient to handle. Just grease enough should be applied to the spindle of a wagon to give it a slight coating. This is better than more, for the surplus put on will work out at the ends, and be forced by the shoulder bands and nut washer into the hub around the outside of the boxes. To oil an iron axletree, first wipe the spindle clean, wet with spirits of turpentine, and then apply a few drops of castor oil near the shoulder and end. One teaspoonful is sufficient for the whole.