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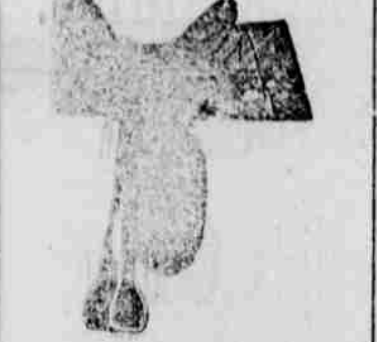
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Washington Letter. (From Our Regular Correspondent.) May 23, 1890.

There is a very common impression among the American people, especially those who disdain to bother themselves with the tiresome details of congressional action and public finance, that the U. S. treasuries are filled with available loads of gold and silver, and that the problem of "reducing the surplus" is the great urgency of the times. All manner of schemes have been suggested to this end, and by those who should know better. A few billions for sea-coast defenses, with a neat fortune for every soldier, and a good farm, modestly stocked, for every poor man, it is thought would somewhat relieve this bulging state of affairs. But it remained for Senator Plumb, of Kansas, to bring out the most fantastic remedy. He has introduced two bills in congress providing for an organization called the "Grand Army of Labor." All citizens of 21 years of age are entitled to membership. No one shall work more than four hours a day, nor more than five days a week, nor more than six weeks without an intermission of two weeks. Every county in the United States is to be provided with a governmental farm. The government is also to undertake public enterprises for the purpose of providing labor for members, whose daily recompense is to be \$4.

Where is all this money coming from? The last statement from the treasury showed the amount of available cash on hand to be about \$35,000,000. Senator Gorman, a member of the appropriation committee, stated before the senate that the pension payments from 1891 for several years will amount to \$200,000,000, and nobody contradicted him. The new tariff bill is said to reduce the public revenues about \$71,000,000. This will leave for all public purposes, except pensions, about \$180,000,000 of the annual revenue, and which is also about the size of the deficit that will be found in the treasury at the end of the next fiscal year, if the bills calling for expenditures which have passed one house and are likely to pass the other, are perfected. Besides the importers are organizing and are determined to cut down the rates on every article in the tariff schedule.

A delegation of 250 representing all the wholesale importing houses of New York City, will besiege the capitol this week, and the importers of other cities will also be on hand. In view of the indifference of the majority in congress to money matters these visiting delegations will no doubt be graciously received and accommodated.

One hundred and eighty-five pension bills have been passed by congress this session.

Senator Ingalls has introduced a bill to put the minimum rate for invalid pensions at \$4 per month.

Senator Sherman has introduced a bill providing for a special pension of \$25 per month to the surviving soldiers, sailors and marines who were on board the steamer "Sultana" when her boiler exploded April 27, 1865. Two thousand three hundred enlisted men who had been prisoners in the South were packed on board and sent North. About 8 miles above Memphis, the boilers of the steamer exploded at 2 o'clock at night. About 1700 were killed or drowned, and about 300 died next-day for exposure in the water. One hundred and forty-one survivors have signed a petition for the passage of the bill.

Senator Butler presented the petition of the heads of nine families, aggregating 72 persons, that congress appropriate \$100 per capita to enable them to emigrate to Liberia and maintain themselves six months. The petition had a printed heading, and it was said that an organized movement in the South indicated a scheme of wholesale deportation of the colored people of South Carolina. If these are not good and respectable citizens they

have no claim upon public charity. If these are good citizens why should the government pay \$500 or \$600 to get a family of them out when it lets any number of bad citizens in, and charges them nothing?

Who Will Find It?

In the year 1820, it is reported that a Spanish vessel came into Nehalem bay with a large amount of treasure on board consisting of six boxes of Spanish money, each box requiring six men to move it, and the total value was \$1,500,000. The captain being a pirate and closely pursued, put into Nehalem bay, and finding a lonely place agreed with his crew to bury the money and valuables on a certain side of the river where a small creek put in, and between two certain trees. They each agreed with their captain by binding obligation that they would never reveal the place where the treasures were buried, with a penalty of their lives, unless all were agreed, and to share the treasures equally.

In the year 1852, one of the survivors, whose life was saved by a man at that time living near Portland, afterwards on a deathbed made the above confession.

Some 70 years have passed away and still this large sum of money lies buried in the shady nook of the Nehalem. Last week the old man came to town that this confession was made to, and quietly wended his way toward the majestic Nehalem in pursuit of the long hidden treasure. This is not the only man that is in search of these buried treasures, but for several years past, men have come to Tillamook county, and in the vicinity of the Nehalem have dug large holes and tunnels for the same purpose. Time no doubt will reveal many hidden mysteries. But who will find the hidden treasure on the Nehalem river?

The Fossil Coal Deposits.

Chas. S. Miller and Mr. R. Norton, the coal mining expert who accompanied him, spent three or four days among the coal beds near here last week. Friday they drove into town, and brought with them a large box of coal samples which they obtained in several openings to the coal mines. While on their return trip we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Norton, and he informed us that his mission was a secret one. He said the people he represented paid him a good salary, and their business required the information for themselves alone. The box of specimens that was left here was marked to "R. Norton, Hotel Portland." Mr. Norton has been in the employ of the Northern Pacific as a coal expert for several years, but whether he came out here for that company or not, we cannot say. It is probable, however, that he came in the interest of the Hunt railroad men, as The Dalles people are in conference with Hunt in regard to building The Dalles Southern, one branch of which will doubtless come through here, on its way to the mines of the Upper John Day. Mr. Norton will doubtless be compelled to report a superior quality of coal—perhaps the best on the coast—and plenty of it in sight, one vein being eleven feet in thickness. We expect to hear some good news before long, as there are too many railroads figuring on tapping this country, and its resources are becoming too well known to long lay undeveloped.

The house judiciary committee favorably reported a constitutional amendment giving women the right of suffrage. The reformers often win little preliminary successes like this, but we fear that the foxy members of the house judiciary committee, in yielding to the blandishment of the feminine lobby, had in mind the reassuring fact that before their amendment could become a law it would have to receive a two-thirds vote in each house of congress and pass the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.—S. F. Examiner.

FREE HOMES In The Great West—A Remarkable Offer—Read It.

Akron, Colorado, has probably within the past three years experienced the most rapid growth of any city in the West. It is surrounded by a country unsurpassed by any on earth for the richness and fertility of its soil and the beauty of its climate. Any and everything that can be raised in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana or Ohio can here be grown in the greatest profusion. Wheat grown in the near vicinity of Akron, took a diploma for using the best grain of the kind exhibited at the Nebraska state fair, held at Lincoln, in September 1889. And all crops grown in this latitude can be raised here as successfully as anywhere on earth.

GOVERNMENT LAND.

There are yet thousands of acres of government land vacant, which can be taken under the homestead, pre-emption and timber culture acts, when a person can have for the taking. A bountiful government will make you independent in a few years if you will but act now. The surface of the country is nearly a perfect level, but still sloping enough to afford good drainage. No breaks or draws such as ruin or deface so many Western farms. No protracted struggle with rocks. Your first glance at the country would remind you of one vast meadow, only waiting the plow of the husbandman to transform it into an Eden of beauty and productivity.

The citizens' advertising committee of Akron, have placed in the hands of the West Side Improvement Company, one thousand city lots that are to be given away for advertising purposes, and any person who will aid them in advertising their advantages can have one of these lots free of charge by directing a communication to J. Faehndrich, Sec'y at Akron, Colorado, and sending the names of ten people who are interested in the West, and liable to be looking for a Western location and sending four cents in stamps for return of deed. These lots are now worth from \$50 to \$125, and will, in the course of a year, if the predictions of knowing ones prove true, be worth four times what is now asked for them. It is an opportunity never before offered to secure an absolute title to a piece of property in an enterprising and growing Western city.

The lots referred to are each 25x 132 in size and all the streets upon which they are about are 60 and 80 feet wide. They are in what is known as "Glenwood," an Akron, Colorado, suburb, and the citizens' committee through Mr. Faehndrich, its secretary, guarantees them to be smooth, level and upon a slightly elevation, overlooking the town of Akron. The title is also guaranteed to be absolutely perfect.

Akron contains a set of business men who are alive to her advantages as well as her interest, and this year \$30,000 is being expended by them to induce people looking for a Western location to settle amongst them. They want and are determined to have 50,000 people in this city by 1895.

They want laborers in their coal mines, they want capitalists to develop their silver and gold mines.

Akron is to-day the largest and most prosperous city in the state east of Denver. It is a division station of the B. & M. R'y and is the southern terminus of the Akron & Holyoke R'y, which will, in all probability, be built to Colorado Springs in the near future. Akron is in the line of the Northwestern R. R. building into Denver, and is sure to catch it, and the Beaver valley branch of the B. & M. will also be built to Akron. The B. & M. shops are there and material is now on the ground to greatly employ them. The railroad employs 250 men at that point now. The city is and will be the railroad center of that portion of the state. The population is now nearly two thousand and by January first next, they believe it will be 5000. A

U. S. land office was recently located at that point which means much to that city. It will bring every settler upon the public domain in that section to the city. It will be, and is, head quarters for land seekers for that entire portion of the state.

COLORADO EXCURSIONS.

On May 23d, and in June, excursions will be run from all points of the east and south to Akron. The rate will be one fare for the round trip, over the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific from Chicago and intermediate points, and over the Missouri Pacific from St. Louis and the South, to Omaha, Nebraska. From Omaha take the B. & M. R. R. to Akron.

The above offer of a free lot applies only to those who will, prior to June 20 aid them in a reasonable way, in making these excursions a success.

When Tenderfoot Are Dangerous.

The man to be feared for the trouble that he can make in the West is not the "dead shot" who has killed a dozen men," said an old timer from Arizona at the Midland last night, "but the young blood, a combination of the cowboy and tenderfoot. The former is usually quick, cool and level headed, and when he shoots he shoots to kill. The latter is in a hurry to get into a fight and will never listen to reason or common sense. The moment he gets into trouble he thinks that his duty is to draw a revolver and commence shooting. He may probably hit the man he is trying to kill. He is like the fool-friend that we are constantly praying to be delivered from. His capacity for mischief is unbounded, but his plans for getting out of a scrape are never matured and are sure to fall through. I don't object to taking a hand in a fight when a lot of experienced men are on the ground, but when a lot of greenhorns commence shooting I don't object to hunting up a new location."

Had Not the Sand.

A few days ago a citizen called upon a well-known athlete and engaged him to give lessons in boxing, and after about a month the teacher said to the pupil:

"You are in good shape now, and you needn't be afraid to put up your hands with any of the boys."

Two days after, the pupil returned with a pair of black eyes and a nose with the bark all off, and the instructor exclaimed:

"Great Scots! man, have you been in a fight?"

"Yes."

"And got licked?"

"Yes."

"How was it?"

"Why, there was a fellow I wanted to lick. That's what I came here and graduated for. I met him yesterday and sailed into him, or started to sail into him, when—"

"When his crowd pitched into you."

"Oh, no. I found I hadn't the sand. Indeed, I tried to run away, and he hammered Halifax out of me. You are a nice man!"

"What about?"

"To take my money and get me licked."

"Licked! Licked! Why, you rabbit, do you think learning to box gives you sand? If you had only told me that you lacked grit and yet wanted to lick some one, I should have taken another tack. I should have taught you how to sit on a high fence and punch him in the eye with a long fishpole as he went past."

The state teachers' institute will be held in Salem, June 30. Many teachers will probably go thence to the national association, which will convene in St. Paul, on July 8. It is proposed to establish headquarters for this state at St. Paul. These headquarters will be maintained during the week of the association, and will include a bureau of information, relative to Oregon, for the information of visiting teachers from other states.