## INCREASE WEALTH **URAINING SWAMPS**

Senator Flint Proposes Government Loan for Great Enterprise.

#### MANY STATES INTERESTED

Suggests Revolving Fund to Reclaim About \$0,000,000 Acres and Make Them Worth Billions. Obstacles to Overcome.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 26.—Is the Government of the United States justified in making a temporary loan of a few paltry millions out of the Federal treasury when by so doing it can add to the arable area of the Nation surroyimately 80.00 000 acres. the Nation approximately 80,000,000 acres of land, thereby increasing farm values anywhere from \$2,500,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000? That is the question raised by the men who would have the Federal Government advance money for draining the swamps of 37 states, just as it is now advancing money to reclaim the arid lands of the West. Under the drainage plan the Government is safeguarded against loss, as under the reclamation act, and ernment is safeguarded against loss, just as under the reclamation act, and every dollar advanced will be returned to the treasury. There is this difference: The drainage advocates propose to repay every cent of Government money with interest at 3 per cent; the reclama-tion fund is a loan without interest.

#### States Must Cede Swamps.

There is but one vital difference be-tween the proposed plan of Federal re-clamation of swamp land and the adopted of reclamation of arid lands, but difference is so essential as to en-ler material opposition to the prod law. The irrigation act permits use of Federal funds for reclaiming ic arid lands or lands held by individcal settlers. The drainage law would pro-vide for the reclamation of land that is almost entirely the property of the re-spective states. Under our dual system spective states. government there is a serious con-Government can undertake a general swamp-land drainage proposition it must surmount this substantial difficulty. The only practical method so far suggested is to have the swamp-land ceded back to the General Government for purposes of the General Government for purposes of reclamation, and no such plan can be carried out except by action of the respect to the conference Mr. Miller carried out except by action of the re-

ective state Legislatures. Certain it is that in its present overflowed condition, the swamp-land is of no value to any one. The states can not dispose of it; they can, therefore, col-lect no taxes on it. The individual will not buy it, for usually the swamps are of such dimensions that private capital cannot afford their drainage, notwithstanding the large profits insured. Yet these 80,000,000 of acres can be turned into farms by the use of money, and this vast domain, greater in area than Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, could not only be made to support two to three million families, but would add annually to the farm output of the Nation something like \$2,000,000,000. And all this can be ac-complished by borrowing money from the Federal Government at 3 per cent per annum, the Government being adequately

#### Flint's Scheme of Drainage.

Advocates of a National drainage law will concentrate their efforts next Win-ter to secure the passage of the bill prepared and introduced by Senator Flint, of California. This bill makes a direct initial loan from the Federal treasury of \$2,000,000, and provides that money de-rived from the sale of public land in states not contributing to the National reclamation fund shall, be added to this \$2,000,000 from year to year. It is proposed to take the eccipts of the past three years, which with the \$2,000,000 would provide about \$5,000,000, to start. As land is reclaimed and sold, the cost of drainage is paid back into the fund, just as under the reclamation act, the fund being revolving, yet constantly increasing in size due to the annual re-ceipts from public land sales. The Plint bill would not permit any conflict with the work of reclaiming arid land, forthere would be two separate and distinct funds, each independent of the other.

#### Kill Disease, Create Wealth.

A National drainage law is advocated not only because it will give value to lands now valueless, but be-cause it will render healthful vast areas that are today disease-breeders. The elimination of the swimps means the elimination of the mosquito, and the elimination of the mosq alto means a great reduction in the number of cases of malaria and yellow fever; some scientists believe it means the extermination of the latter disease, which they maintain results entirely from the bite of a particular breed of mos-quito. But the passage of a drainage law is based largely upon the sound business principles underlying

the contemplated legislation. The Government has expended or is expending about \$40,000,000 in reclaiming arid land, and the results so far attained have been profitable and satisfactory. Swamp land can be reclaimed much cheaper than arid land. The latter costs an average of \$25 per acre; the swamps can be reclaimed at an average cost of \$3.25 per acre. Here are \$0,000,000 acres of land which at an expenditure of \$3.25 per acre can be sold readily for \$30, sometimes \$40 and even \$50 per acre, yet today every acre is valueless. Add to the value of the reclaimed land the value of improvements in the way of houses, barns, fences, horses, cattle, etc., and barns, fences, horses, cattle, etc., and the benefit to the states is immediately apparent. Where they now derive no taxes, they would then collect taxes on property ranging from \$50 to \$160 to the acre. Certainly such an invest-ment would seem to be justified, no matter what the course of the money.

#### Danger From Speculators.

There is one danger ahead-the speculator. Unless the various states effectively lock up their swamp land, the speculator will jump in and buy at bedrock prices the minute he be-comes convinced that Congress is go-ing to act. General speculation of this sort, if detected, might prove disas-trous to any bill before Congress, for then it would be virtually the loaning of Government money to enrich an army of shrewd speculators. Public sentiment would never stand for such

Large sums of money have been thrown away by individuals and cor-porations in draining swamp land. Either the projects were too large or impractical methods were employed. Drainage differs from irrigation in that large areas must be reclaimed to make the work profitable, and moreover it is necessary to drain an entire swamp if any part of it is to be reclaimed. He claimed in the Palouse, the chief injury being bleaching. Wheat in sacks is drying nicely and the yield will be no more successful than reclamation nominal,

become a factor, and when politics is injected the practical work is de-stroyed. Then, too, many of the larg-er swamps lie in more than one state. Such swamps could hardly be re-claimed by the states themselves.

#### Other Nations Did It.

Holland, Germany, Great Britain and other European governments have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in the reclamation of their swamps, and always with the most beneficial results. That is used as an argument why the United States Govern ment should do likewise. Moreover, it is argued that reclaimed swamp land, under a proper system of colonization, would afferd homes for the great influx of foreigners who are no longer able to find land on the public doman, except the high-priced irrigated land, which is beyond their reach. The scheme proposed by the Flint

bill is a large one, and will take years to carry to conclusion. Naturally the work cannot progress rapidly when the total cost of reclaiming all the swamps in the country is \$250,000,000, and the bill provides only \$5,000,000 to begin with. This fact will be urged as a reason why the Federal Government should try the experiment: it could lose nothing, yet the Nation as a whole has much to gain.

The Senate public lands committee acted favorably on the Flint bill late last session; with a good early start this Winter something may be accom plished, if public sentiment through-out the country is favorable. There are 37 states vitally interested in this leg-

## ROADS WILL LEND A HAND

HARRIMAN LINES TO HELP SE-CURE WINTER FUEL SUPPLY.

Should Coal Run Short in Eastern Oregon, Low Rate Will Be Made on Slabwood From the South.

SALEM, Or., Sept. 27 .- (Special.)-At a conference yesterday with the Oregon Railroad Commission, representatives of the Harriman lines in Oregon agreed that the Southern Pacific and O. R. & N. roads will do their part toward relieving any fuel shortage that may be experlenced this Winter. The railroads were represented by W. W. Cotton and R. B. Miller, the latter as freight agent of the Harriman lines having given the fuel problem a thorough investigation. The chief matter under consideration

investigate. At the conference Mr. Miller said that he had secured reports from specially low freight rate on siab wood from Southern Oregon, provided the saw-mills of that section will make a low rate on slabwood loaded on cars. Southern Oregon sawmills have no market for their slabwood at present. The proposal their slabwood at present. The proposal of the Harriman lines to grant a low rate is conditioned upon the mills making a low rate on slabs for the special purpose of relieving any fuel scarcity that may be suffered. Presumably the low rate would not be granted if the mills were to get the benefit of it and not the fuel consumers.

FINDS NO TRACE OF OSBORNE

#### Family Confident Man Was Mur-

SPOKANE, Wash., Sept. 27.—(Special.)

After a search of 51 days in every nook and cranny of the Puget Sound country, the family of S. A. Osborne has failed to find the slightest clew of the missing merchant. The search goes on however, and D. T. Osborne, brother of the missing man, declares that he will spend his last cent to find the body of his lost

brother and the persons responsible for his disappearance. The family and friends of air. Osborne feel certain he was murdered in Mount Vernon. Skagit County. It was there that the missing man sold a carload of horses and was known to have about \$1500 in cash upon his person. He was not seen to leave Mount Vernon.

#### Steel's Bond Up to \$600,000.

SALEM, Or., Sept. 27 .- In accordance with the provisions of section 2222 of Hill's Annotated Code, an additional surety bond of \$200,000 was yesterday afternoon furnished by State Treasurer George A. Steel, which approved by the Governor and ordered placed on file. This brings the total amount of surety bonds furnished by amount of surety bonds furnished by Steel up to \$600,000, the Treasurer Steel up to \$600,030, the largest bond ever required of a state official in this state.

#### Establish "Pole-Yard" at Canby.

CANBY, Or., Sept. 27.—(Special.)—Can-by has been made a "pole-yard" by the Western Union Telegraph Company, Poles are being shipped here from the Columbia and unloaded, and will be sorted and reshipped to various parts of the country as needed. This is practically a new industry for Canby, as it means the employment of a number of men and a small payroll.

#### Machinists Will Not Strike.

TACOMA, Wash., Sept. 27 .- (Special.) -The leaders among the machinists in the South Tacoma shops deny emphatically that they have any intention of striking in sympathy with the boiler-

"I don't know where this report originated, but it is altogether untrue," said Mr. Lee, one of the machinists,

#### Child Falls, Fracturing Skull.

NORTH POWDER, Or., Sept. 27 .-Word reached here today of a serious accident to the 10-year-old son of Frank Bowen, of Rock Creek, while visiting at the home of J. O. Maxwell, on Muddy Creek. While at play the child fell and struck his head with such force as to fracture the skull. Dr. Biswell, of Haines, found an operation necessary.

#### Begin Work on Astoria Hotel.

ASTORIA, Or., Sept. 27 .- (Special.)-Work was commenced this morning on the construction of the concrete foun-dation for the Weinhard-Astoria Hotel that is to be erected at the corner of Twelfth and Commrcial streets. About three months will be required to complete the foundation.

#### Some Wheat Was Bleached.

COLFAX, Wash., Sept. 27 .- (Special.) -Threshing outfits are drawing in for the season. Rain damaged grain very

INITIATE 1145 NEW MEMBERS IN CHICAGO.

Parade Led by Two Elephants With Camels, Horses and 4000 Masons Goes to Collseum.

CHICAGO, Sept. 27.—(Special.)—The greatest initiation in point of numbers and spectacular features in the history of the Mystic Shriners was celébrated toof the Mystic Shriners was celebrated tonight at the Collseum, when 1145 neophytes were admitted to the order. This
gives Medinah Temple, of this city, a
membership of 6600, the largest in the
world, surpassing Mecca Temple, of New
York, which had long held the honor.
Two monstrous elephants dragged the Two monstrous elephants dragged the candidates tied by ropes through the slippery streets a mile to the Coliseum to the accompaniment of brass bands, red fire and the jeers and taunts of immense throngs and nobles of the order, mounted on camels and horseback. Four thousand Masons of lesser degree marched in solid formation the entire route. Special trains brought thousands of members of the order from every part of the United States. The managers of the affair had been warned that men who desired to learn the secrets of the initiation had secreted themselves in the vast recesses of the Coliseum. Under police superivision a barrel of sulphur was burned in the tightly locked building this morning, driving out or sufficating every living creature, after which all entrances were closely guarded.

#### SUBSCRIBE FOR \$50,000

Depositors of Involved Savings Bank Take Telephone Bonds.

Efforts on the part of the depositor n the suspended Oregon Trust & Savings Bank to reorganize that institution received substantial assistance yesterday, when more than \$50,000 worth of Home Telephone bonds were subscribed for Telephone bonds were subscribed for.
This increases to \$300,000 the subscriptions by depositors to capital stock in the proposed new bank. The officers of the Depositors' Association are confident that this total will be increased by another \$100,000 before the bank closes its doors for the day tonight. For the aclin and a force of assistants will remain at the bank until ,9 o'clock tonight, to enable creditors to submit proofs of their laims against the Mank.

claims against the bank.

The progress that is being made towards reorganizing the bank is especially gratifying to representatives of the
depositors, who have volunteered their
time and labor to consummating that
undertaking. Non-resident depositors are
very generally responding to the appeal
for subscriptions to the capital stock and for subscriptions to the capital stock and letters have been received from other than creditors of the bank, who inquire if they can be permitted to subscribe for stock in the new bank.

In submitting these requests the applicants comment on the fact that a bank organized on such a bask should prove a

organized on such a basis should prove a

#### Exploding Oil Kills Three Men.

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—James Cooper, James Reilly and Richard Smith were killed instantly early today by the ex-plosion of an oil tank from which they were drawing crude petroleum into a sprinkling cart for use on the Morris Park race track, where a 24-hour automobile

race track, where a 24-hour automobile race began this evening.

It is supposed that a lantern carried by one of the men ignited some loose off under the tank. The explosion which followed tore off the top of the tank and hurled it into the yard of the Catholic protectory near by, shattering many of the windows in the protectory.

#### AT THE HOTELS,

AT THE HOTELS,

The Portland—Emery T. Smith, Minneapolis; S. B. Corly, New York; E. N. Davis. Chicago; E. M. Sweeley and wife, Twin Falls, Idaho; W. J. Gallon, New York; T. H. Spedory, San Francisco; D. L. Haas, Philadelphia; Carl French, Bremen; Murguerite Kirshlaum, Seattle; H. R. Davidson and wife, New Westminster; Fred H. Levy, San Francisco; R. D. Covert, Pittsburg; C. R. McWilliams, Boston: Edward Hagan, Chicago; W. M. Jardins, Washington; D. Y. Smith, San Francisco; J. J. Hundley, New York; J. A. Cranston and wife. Cincinnati; T. Lowey, San Francisco; Albert S. Strauss, Cincinnati; A. Berry, New York; I. N. Parker and daughter, Salt Lake City; A. C. Churchill, Newberg; H. J. Dudley, Grand Rapids; R. W. Wise and wife, Sacramento; Mrs. F. R. Dougail, Detroit; Fred Blanckencie, New York; H. L. Jones, Sydney; C. L. Houston, Astoria; C. Dominick, New York; R. E. Hume, Minneapolis; Charles D. Buil, Chicago; I. J. Kester, San Francisco; M. N. Arncid, New York; G. C. Wattles, Detroit; A. J. Heins and wife, Milow; Frand M. Wells, George J. Gambley, Edward S. Harvey, New York; G. C. Wattles, Detroit; A. J. Heins and wife, Milow; Frand M. Wells, George J. Gambley, Edward S. Harvey, New York; R. D. Hoyt, St. Louis; R. T. Reid, C. K. Warren, Seattle: Charles E. Aratlong and wife, Denver; W. N. Kramer and wife, New York; F. W. Lord, Boston; W. C. Evans, Oak-



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Clarence Thompson and wife, Eugene

The St. Charles—G. D. Steart; Kelso;
Daniel Roberts, J. D. Roberts, Klamath Falls;
W. Bell and wife. North Bend; F. Willson,
Vancouver: Mrs. A. Fleicher, Tilliamook; F.
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Ziemer, Portland; Charles Ewing and wife,
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City; Bert Hard, Dayton, Or.

The Lenox—L. Winternitz, Chicago; John Cardana and wife, L. W. Arata and wife, city; O. J. Anderson, H. D. Keyes, Boston; H. T. Wright and wife, Dreckerson, C. Semble, Rainier; Miss Emma Hervy, Aberden; Miss Lena Wirds, Vancouver; A. A. Price, D. J. Lawrence, H. H. Lawrence, Seattie; P. J. Armstrong, New York; J. R. Cogswell ands wife, Independence; George W. Oit, Philadelphia; A. N. Schuster, Denver; J. L. Lee and wife, Kansas City; J. E. Smith and wife, Seattle; J. L. Paterson, The Dalles; H. Goodman, Los Angeles; Mrs. C. F. Walch, Miss Nell E. Utzinger, Astoria; J. W. Reeder, C. H. Davis, Lake City, Mich.

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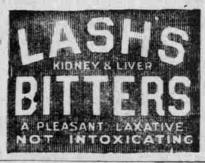
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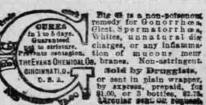
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