

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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Isn't it about time for another chance in the style of our 2-cent postage stamps?

A cat has fled a Connecticut town that voted dry. It probably was scared away by a blind tiger.

One trouble with a universal language is that so many men could not stay at home long enough to learn it.

A Boston woman is suing for divorce because her husband threw a pie in her face. It must not have hit the right spot.

The people of France are drifting around to the point where they are in favor of more babies—for other people.

Tradition seems to have sustained a hard jolt through the fact that it was not the German empress who talked too much.

How the Czar of Russia must despise the Emperor of Germany for permitting a legislative body to lay down rules of conduct for him!

A Kansas man who married a school-teacher complains that his wife always assumes a dictatorial attitude whenever she hears the school bell ringing.

Now who would ever have suspected that such a kindly disposed old soul as Uncle Edward of England would have taken the trouble to pester anybody?

We can see no reason why anybody should seek to kill the Kaiser by wrecking the royal train, or in any other way. He is a good and obedient monarch.

A fellow doesn't always know where to place his sympathy. A Massachusetts man with fifty children was arrested for non-support of recently arrived twins.

John D. Rockefeller's testimonials to his non-coercive methods in acquiring rival companies as the "kind I have always used; I have used no other," will sound familiar to the readers of soap advertisements.

Prince von Buelow refers to Germany as a parvenu among the nations. There are many people who will find it difficult to understand how Germany can feel hurt owing to the fact that she is blamed for being young.

Sometimes a man proves that he is great through his ability to recognize greatness in others. It is in this way that Boswell won his fame. The city of Litchfield, England, the birthplace of Johnson, has lately erected a statue of Boswell near that of Johnson himself. Boswell's "Life of Johnson" is still regarded as the greatest biography in history.

China can never go back into the dark. It has been brought too far into contact with the world of ideas and action now to revert to the ancient type. It may be several generations before western ideas are firmly planted in the Chinese soil, but, nevertheless, there has been a great work of preparation there to insure an eventual rooting of civilization as the West conceives the term.

Cooking schools are an old story, and special courses in domestic science have been in operation for some years in more than one city. Probably the first institution, already established for general culture, to undertake household economics for women is King's College, London. The university housewife will receive her degree for three years' work in all that a mistress of a home needs to know, from laboratory practice in scrubbing to the theory of home decoration and the law of landlord and tenant.

When George Grey Barnard's statues were exhibited recently in the Boston Art Museum, one piece, "The Hower," was set up outdoors on a plot of green. This is said to be the first case of a temporary exhibit of statuary in a public square, and it establishes a suggestive precedent. Will not more people see a work of art if it is placed on a thoroughfare than in a museum, and may not the time come when exhibits of statues will pass from one public park to another throughout the country?

What can be done with intensive farming and irrigation is shown in a circular recently issued by the Commercial Club of North Yakima. Wash. One farmer received ten thousand dollars for the apples from his fifteen-acre orchard. Apples sell for a dollar and a quarter a box, and the yield runs from five hundred to two thousand boxes an acre. The man who raised the ten-thousand-dollar apple crop sold

the yield from fifteen cherry trees for two hundred and forty dollars. Another received forty-five hundred dollars for the peaches which he raised on three and a half acres; a third sold his nine-acre pear crop for the same amount, and still another got eleven hundred and fifty-five dollars from three acres of potatoes. The Yakima valley is peculiarly adapted to fruit-raising, but there is no reason why farmers elsewhere may not increase the yield of their land by adopting some of the methods successfully used there.

They have a "banker's row" at Joliet prison, and it has been Chicago's fortune to furnish most of its inmates. Stensland is there. Van Vlissingen is now there. In Van Vlissingen's case the machinery of the law had no obstacles. No high-priced lawyers fought to save the culprit from punishment on flimsy technicalities. The guilty man's conscience saved the state the time and expense of a long trial. These tragedies in the business world read their own lesson. A career of crime can only be prolonged to a certain limit. It is fortunate when the crash comes before innocent victims have widespread hardship and misery inflicted on them. But the crash will come sooner or later. Like others of his class, Van Vlissingen's first wrong step led him to take others. His "endless chain" of irregularities was not endless, after all. In his case the losers are fortunately not small bank depositors. But a man of his type is as demoralizing to the business world as the robber of bank savings or the swindler of widows and orphans. It is a high tribute to the general integrity of the financial world that moral lapses, as in Van Vlissingen's case, evoke no maudlin sympathy. Swift and stern justice is the only safe deterrent for others with a tendency toward dalliance with temptation. A felon's cell must be made a grim reality for crimes of this nature. The higher the former estate, and the greater the fall, the more certainly is the adage that "The wages of sin is death" proved true.

At the rate scientists are discovering the germ causes of various diseases, pretty much every kind of food of human consumption is likely to become a serious question how a man may eat at all and maintain a healthy body. The vegetarians have done their best to depict the terrors of a meat diet, and now the vegetarians are confronted by a Buffalo physician who has it all worked out that vegetables cause cancer. Cancer, off and on, has been laid to tomatoes, oysters and lager beer. Now this physician, in a paper read to the Buffalo Academy of Medicine, lays it to cabbage, celery, onions, lettuce and the like. His contention is that the common garden worm is the source of the parasite which produces cancer. The worm crawls over the vegetable, infecting the plant. Even boiling, it is declared, will not kill the parasite. Based on every hand by some terror, it seems to be a problem in this poor, old, germ-infected world whether to starve to death or take one of the parasite or bacilli routes. There certainly is reason in nature, if we must accept all the theories and "discoveries" for the new school of psychological dietarians which holds that the cravings of appetite and the inner man may be satisfied in the main without any tangible, physical form of food. Once the psychological theory is established on a practical basis, however, watch out for somebody to discover the germs of measles, diphtheria, appendicitis and a lot more ailments in the psychic waves that operate to appease hunger.

Fear of the Law.

The literal strictness of German rules and regulations has always been a matter of amusement to other nations which do not insist so rigidly on the letter of the law. A writer in the Washington Star recently told a story illustrating this point. Two men, Schmidt and Krauss, met one morning in the park.

"Have you heard," said Schmidt, "the sad news about Muller?"

"No," said Krauss. "What is it?"

"Well, poor Muller went boating on the river yesterday. The boat capsized and he was drowned. The water was ten feet deep."

"But couldn't he swim?"

"Swim? Don't you know that all persons are strictly forbidden by the police to swim in the river?"

History in July.

In at least four countries perhaps the most important event in their histories was recorded in July—namely the establishment of their independence. In our own history we have the memorable Fourth of July, while the patriotic efforts of the liberator Simon Bolivar for the independence of Venezuela were consummated on July 5, Colombia ridding herself of the Spanish yoke on July 20. Then there is France, with her July 14, marking the date when the suffering French people stormed the famed and fearsome Bastille. The Spanish forces at Santiago, Cuba, capitulated on July 16.

There is entirely too much remedy in this country that is not applied.

UNCLE SAM'S PRODIGAL GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Government Has Given to Settlers 112,000,000 Acres, and Has More than Enough Left to Make Four States as Large as Texas—Vast Projects of Irrigation.

No wonder the world calls us rich. What other country could make the prodigal gifts to its people which Uncle Sam has made from the public domain. This government has already given to settlers 112,000,000 acres of land.

But what the government has given away is only a small garden in comparison with what it has to give. The public domain, taking into consideration land of all sorts, good and bad, amounts to the colossal sum of 754,805,286 acres—more than enough to make four states as large as Texas. It is true that almost half of this vast area is in Alaska, where farms will always be about as valuable as they are at the north pole. But it is also true that there 260,000,000 acres of public land in the United States proper that, sooner or later, will be devoted to agricultural purposes. In the arid West it is all a matter of getting water on the land. In the cut-over timber regions of the lumbering states all that is needed is to keep off the forest fires and give the soil an opportunity to recuperate.

Water Did It All.

The United States government owns, in Utah, for instance, more than enough land to make another state as large as Michigan. Nobody who has ever climbed the foothills of the Wahsatch Mountains and seen what Brigham Young and his followers did for

in the irrigation business. It is pouring out money like water for the purpose of getting water. At this very moment the government has under way twenty-eight tremendous irrigation projects, as the result of which water will be turned on to more than half a million acres of land this year. At Roosevelt, Ariz., for instance, public funds are being expended to throw across Salt River a dam 284 feet high that will hold back enough water to put a slice two feet thick over the whole state of Rhode Island. The dam will not be finished until 1910, but when it is completed it will convert into gardens 210,000 acres around Phoenix that are now good only for the buzzards to fly over. The agricultural department has analyzed the soil and found that it is remarkably fertile; the climate cannot be excelled, and, as soon as the water comes, no region will be more productive.

Then there is California. Anyone who has ever entered the Golden State at the little southern town called "The Needles" doubtless remembers his amazement that the state should be called the "land of sunshine, fruit and flowers." The sunshine is there, all right, but the fruit and flowers can be found only in the dining car. Outside there is only sand, sand, sand—millions of acres of it, as far as the eye can reach—and cactus bushes. It's the lower end of the Mojave Desert. Fur-



DRAWING NAMES FOR LAND ALLOTMENTS.

Salt Lake Valley need be told what the rest of Utah will some time look like. When the Mormons went to Utah the country around Salt Lake was as desolate as the mind could picture. Now the River Jordan winds through as beautiful a country as lies outdoors. Water did it all—water from the river and water from the mountains that was sluiced over the land. And in that state the United States government owns more than 36,000,000 of other thirsty acres.

The national government also has large holdings in twenty-four other states and territories. Uncle Sam owns enough land in New Mexico, for instance, to make two states almost as large as New York and Indiana; enough in Montana to make another commonwealth far exceeding in area the great State of Illinois, and enough in Nevada to make twelve states as large as New Jersey. He could carve out five states as large as Massachusetts from what he owns in Idaho, and seven Vermonts from his unused lands in Arizona. And that is saying nothing about his 2,000,000 acres in North Dakota, his 17,000,000 acres in Oregon, his 3,000,000 acres in Washington, and his 3,000,000 acres in California and his 24,000,000 acres in Colorado.

Some of this land has nothing but gold and silver in it. The rest of it is heavily freighted with the latest possibilities of potatoes, alfalfa, wheat, oats, corn and fruit. All that this latter class of soil needs to make it productive is water. In the old days this seemed to be an insurmountable difficulty. Arid land boomers talked to their prospective customers in vain.

"This land needs only water and good society to make the country a paradise," said one of these gentry, according to an old joke.

"That's all the infernal regions need," retorted the traveler from the East, who had Kentucky relatives.

Busy with irrigation. But things have changed since then. The government has become very busy

ther to the north is Death Valley, and as one looks out the car window he occasionally sees a mirage that may be anything from a green-fielded farmhouse to a ship sailing in the clouds bottom side up.

Government's Great Projects.

However, all this is to be changed. At Yuma the government has made a start toward supplying water to the desert, and while the task may not be completed for years, part of the arid land will be reclaimed within the next two years. The undertaking now under way consists of damming the Colorado River at Yuma and diverting its waters into two channels by means of which the adjacent country on both sides of the stream will be watered. About 84,000 acres of land will be made productive by this work alone. By similar means 12,000 acres will be reclaimed in northern California.

The government has also done something and is doing more to bring back to life some of Nevada's 61,000,000 dead acres. At Truckee the melting mountain snow is diverted to the parched tracts far below in the valley. The work has already progressed so far that water has been turned on to 50,000 acres, and within a few months irrigation ditches will be ready to supply 1,000 more eighty-acre farms. This is only a start, of course, and does not amount to much. But when the fact is considered that the government has enough arid land in Nevada to make two states as large as New York it is evident that the small start that has been made is but the forerunner of a great finish.

Conduit Through Mountains.

Out in what is known as the "Gunnison country" in Colorado, another gigantic undertaking is under way. At the bottom of Gunnison canyon is a picturesque little stream called the Gunnison River, that up to this time has served no other useful purpose than to increase the beauty of the scenery and hold speckled trout to lure

fishermen hundreds of miles. But the Gunnison River will soon be known no more to the fishermen. Within a year, probably, it will be shunted off into a tunnel. This tunnel will take the turbulent little stream through the heart of a mountain and dump it over 140,000 acres of land. The conduit through the mountain will be almost six miles long. Work has been going on for four years, and five miles of the tunnel are already completed. Forty-five miles of canals will also irrigate 60,000 acres of land in Grand Valley, in the western part of Colorado.

Then look at Idaho. When the census of 1900 was taken, the government enumerators found in that state only 1.9 persons to the square mile. In Idaho the United States owns almost 27,000,000 acres of land. Think what will happen to the population of that state when the work now under way is completed and water is turned on to 372,000 acres of land. The Payette, Boise and Snake rivers, in the southwestern part of the state, are simply being turned out of their beds. The work is so far advanced that settlers are already beginning to file on some of the land that is to be benefited. At Mindoka, another point on the Snake River, a huge dam will divert water to supply 130,000 acres. The work is already practically complete and water will be turned on next spring.

Others of Importance.

An extensive system of irrigation devices that extend along the North Platte for nearly 500 miles will, when completed, supply water to 200,000 acres of land in Wyoming and an equal area in Nebraska. In fact, water was turned on to 40,000 acres this year. Settlers are taking up land rapidly.

Besides all this, work is under way to put water on to 200,000 acres in Montana, 40,000 acres in North Dakota, 30,000 acres in New Mexico, 10,000 acres in Kansas, 220,000 acres in northern California and southern Oregon, 270,000 acres in Washington, 40,000 acres in Utah, and 100,000 acres in South Dakota. And, as a people, we are just beginning to realize that it is good public policy to spend money for the irrigation of arid lands.

Those who are best able to judge believe that, in this way, we shall reclaim from 50,000,000 to 150,000,000 acres of land. In fact, the experts incline toward the larger figure. And what does this mean? It means that we shall put under cultivation 234,575 square miles. Figuring the population at the same density as that of Kansas—eighteen to the square mile—it will mean that the government land will provide homes for more than 4,000,000 persons. And, using the same multiplier, more than 3,000,000 persons are now living on land that the government originally gave to settlers.

For Intensive Tillage.

But the possibilities of what might be called the near present are dwarfed by the probabilities of the remote future. Some day stern necessity will compel us to be economical in the use of our land, as we are just beginning to learn that we should conserve what remains of our coal, timber and iron. Some day we shall learn that no one can really till 200 or 300 acres of land, or even 40 acres. We shall become masters of intensive agriculture and produce more from a few well-tilled acres than we do now from the great tracts that we cultivate with little or no realization of the great opportunities that we overlook. We shall learn a lesson, perhaps, from the French peasants, who let not a foot of ground escape untilled and make the fences hold up the grapes for the sun to ripen them.

And when that time comes the land that the government yet has to give to settlers may support a population of hundreds of millions. Scientific agriculturists say that Texas alone has enough land to support five times the present population of the United States.

The Modest Third.

Early in the Congressional career of Mr. Blaine, says a writer in the New York Tribune, when Thaddeus Stevens died, who for ten years had dominated Congress, Mr. Blaine, who entered the House the same year as the late Senator Allison, remarked to a friend in the rotunda of the Capitol, "The death of Stevens is an emancipation for the Republican party. He kept it under his heel."

"Whom have you got left for leaders?" queried the friend.

"There are three young men coming forward," was Mr. Blaine's reply. "There is a young man to be heard from, 'pointing to Allison, who was passing. 'James A. Garfield is another."

There was a pause, and the friend asked, "Well, who is the third?" Mr. Blaine gazed up in the dome, and said quietly, "I don't see the third."

Quite the Contrary.

The Sympathetic Friend—it must be very hard to lose money at the races. Smith (a plunger)—Hard! Hang it, old chap, it's the easiest thing in the world!—London Opinion.

A man who has fished much can readily detect a lie in a fish story.