

**EFFORTS BEING  
MADE TO SAVE  
PUBLIC DOMAIN**

**New Laws Regulating Acquiring of Coal Lands an Aid to the Government—Leasing Power Sites.**

By Frederic J. Haskin.  
Washington, March 8.—Uncle Sam is at last succeeding in his efforts to protect the coal, phosphate, oil beds and water power on lands still owned by him. He has parties in the field making extended, detailed surveys of tracts down to the smallest legal subdivision, and when deposits are found he proposes to dispose of them at a price commensurate with at least an approximation of their value. He is now willing to sell coal lands on a fee simple basis, but if the views of the responsible authorities are accepted by congress, the oil and phosphate deposits and the water power will be leased on a 25-year lease. Leasing of coal is also urged because it will afford a better method of controlling waste.

**Value of Geological Survey.**  
When a man can, by the expenditure of less than ten cents an acre—and in some cases less than one cent—enhance the selling value of his land from \$20 per acre to as much as \$465 per acre, he is something of a genius. Yet that is exactly what the geological survey has been doing since 1898. There still remains some 70,000,000 acres of coal land in the possession of the government, about 600,000 acres of phosphate having been taken up. The old law, which was passed in 1872, set forth that all coal land should be sold under certain terms, and limited the amount any individual or corporation could buy. All such lands within 15 miles of a railroad should be sold at "not less than" \$50 an acre; and all over 15 miles should be sold at "not less than" \$10 per acre.

**The Making of Coal.**  
Under the interpretation of the law the "not less than" was entirely omitted, and \$10 and \$50 were made the maximum and only prices. Then the regulations of 1898 were prepared, and they took cognizance of the "not less than." Thereafter coal lands should be sold on a basis of their coal deposits. So the land was ordered classified. Each foot of territory was gone over carefully, and the quantity of coal estimated. The coal beds are the fossilized swamp growth formed just after the land emerged from the bottom of the sea. Some of these swamps were of enormous extent, and the many different kinds of vegetation growing in them accumulated for many ages, and gave rise to beds of coal of great regularity over wide areas.

**Measuring the Field.**  
The geologist takes an outcropping, measures its thickness at many points, and where he finds this uniform he knows the coal will continue of an approximately even thickness all through the bed, unless it happens to be broken by faults in the rock. By following well established geologic laws he is enabled to tell just what coal is there as well as if he used a diamond drill every 20 feet. After finding the quantity of coal on each tract of forty acres, and plating it on the official maps, the sale price of the land is computed. There being no provision for disposing of it on a royalty

basis, it must be sold outright. So a price is fixed that will allow every one who takes a tract to make a good profit from it, yet which is high enough that purchase for mere speculative holding may be discouraged. It is figured that the life of the usual coal mine will not exceed 20 years, and that it will take that long to get all the coal out of a tract.

On this basis the actual cash value of the customary 10 cent royalty would be cut down to one half that amount. Then to err on the side of generosity toward the entryman, the present day cash value of the prospective royalty is again cut in half. That would make the average coal about 5 cents a ton. But all the coal is not of uniform quality, and Uncle Sam wants to encourage the development of the cheaper grades. To accomplish this he puts a present day cash value on the coal in the mine down to 1/4 cent a ton on the cheapest and up to a cents a ton on the best coal.

**And Cheap at That.**  
As about two thirds of the 70,000,000 acres of coal lands contain the cheaper grades, it will be seen that the major portion of the total tonnage will be sold on a basis of 1/4 cent a ton, and the average coal in the country will average around 5 cents a ton. In the commercial market that royalty is usually about 10 cents a ton at the mouth of the mine, no matter whether it is the finest bituminous to be found or the cheapest lignite. Therefore in the majority of cases the coal operator who buys government land will get coal for 1/2 cent a ton that would cost him 10 cents if he bought from private parties, the only difference being that in the former case he pays cash in advance.

**Government Makes Money.**  
But even at this price the government gets much more out of it than under the old terms of sale. The maximum value of a single township in Wyoming under the old regulations, was \$949,000. Under the present regulations it is \$9,500,000. In the case of eight widely separated townships the maximum value under the old regulations was \$2,058,400. Under the new regulations their value is \$15,777,668. Probably not over a third of the coal lands have been surveyed in detail yet, but when it is all done Uncle Sam will have hundreds of millions of dollars to the good by the operation.

**Burdensome Features.**  
There are some features of the existing law which are thought to be rather burdensome. An individual can take up only 100 acres of land at the prices fixed. A firm or corporation can take up 1000 acres, and if at least \$5000 is spent for development they may take up an additional 250 acres adjoining, providing no one has done so already. In practice this provision seldom gives a corporation or firm the opportunity of acquiring the additional 250 acres. It is plain that where a company wants to spend a quarter of a million dollars for a railroad outlet, and a million more for equipment, a 250 acre tract scarcely justifies such expenditure.

**To Protect Phosphate Beds.**  
The protection of the public land phosphate beds in the west is deemed absolutely essential to the welfare of the nation. There are three things as necessary to the growth of crops as water, food and rainfall are essential to human welfare. These three things are nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. Each is absolutely essential to plant growth. Potash exists in the rocks in sufficient quantities to supply every need when it cannot be bought or made more cheaply from other sources. The leguminous plants, with their little chemical laboratories at their roots, can grab enough nitrogen from the air to supply the wants of the fields. But when the phosphate beds are gone no one has solved the problem where to get phosphorus.

With this situation in view the administration wants to preserve and protect the phosphate beds. It is seeking to have a law passed by congress which will enable it to lease the lands on a royalty not exceeding 10 per cent of

**POPE'S BENEDICTION  
ON ROCKEFELLER**

**His Holiness Says All Men Doing Good Merit the Blessing of the Almighty.**

(United Press Special Wire.)  
New York, March 8.—Representatives of John D. Rockefeller were informed today that the pope had pronounced a blessing upon him for his resolve to devote a great fortune to the benefitting of mankind. The pope ordered a cable-message sent from the Vatican praising Rockefeller and declaring him worthy of the gratitude of mankind. "Although it is true these American millionaires are Protestants," his holiness is quoted as saying, "I give them my blessing nevertheless, because all men doing good merit the blessing of God."

The value of the phosphate at the mouth of the mine. This would give opportunity to provide in the terms of the lease that none of it should be exported or wasted.

The proposed law sets forth that the lessee shall pay a rental of 25 cents per acre for the first year, and increasing 25 cents each year thereafter until the annual rental is \$1 per acre. These rentals are to be deducted from the amounts due the government in royalties, thus encouraging the working of the properties. Surveys during the past year have resulted in the withdrawal of 2,640,000 acres of public land pending legislation by congress on the disposition of phosphate deposits. In other words, the executive departments think that this land ought not to be disposed of under existing statutes, so they are holding it until congress can have an opportunity to act in the matter.

**Gypsum a Desiderable.**  
Oil comes under the old placer gold mining law. A man must discover some mineral before he has a right to the land. If a man thought he had found oil and had begun to bore for it, some other fellow could run in and bore under him, and the one who got oil first had the right to the property by discovery. Consequently it was not a profitable thing to gamble on finding oil under such circumstances. The result was that subterfuges were resorted to. Gypsum deposits that are worthless on a commercial standpoint are to be found in the oil territory in California. An oil prospector finds gypsum on the land, and preempts it by right of discovery. The law requires that a hundred dollars shall be spent in development on each tract, and one may travel through the oil country and see magnificent gypsum stairways standing in the open. They lead nowhere but to a perfect title for oil lands, and are a standing joke on the technical fulfillment of the law and the absolute violation of its spirit. There are today 2,457,000 acres of oil lands withdrawn from the right of acquisition until congress shall make a plan for its disposition. It is the hope of the authorities that this shall take the form of a royalty lease, with a stipulation that the government shall have first chance at the oil for its oil burning bathtubs.

**To Lease Power Sites.**  
The withdrawals of power sites to date include 1,500,000 acres of land, lying in 11 states and situated on 97 rivers. It is not the aim of the administration to prevent the development of the sites, but that it shall be done under long term leases instead of perpetuity. It is held that these fabulously valuable franchises belong to the people, and that

when they are acquired as a gift the people are forced to pay dividends on what they gave away for nothing. By leasing the sites for a term of years it leaves the ultimate control in the hands of the people themselves, the while giving the nation a reasonable profit for the concessions.

(Tomorrow—"Curing by Hypnotism.")

**M'CREIDIE'S SUCCESSOR  
WEARS THE GOWN**

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
Kalamazoo, Wash., March 8.—Judge Donald McCredie opened court here Monday morning, wearing the "official gown." This is the first time the gown has been worn by a judge sitting on a bench in this county. Judge McCredie refused to purchase a gown, and his successor, Judge McGraw, ordered the gown. It is to be paid for by the several counties in this district.

F. G. Barnes of Silver Lake appeared in superior court and asked for a continuance of his case until the May term. He is charged with furnishing supplies for the school district while acting in the capacity of school director. This is an old statute, one that is violated almost daily in nearly all the districts of the county.

The state case against Jessie Platter for selling liquor on Sunday was continued to the May term of court.

**FIGHT TO CONTROL  
PITTSBURG COAL CO.**

New York, March 8.—Financial circles are awaiting with considerable interest the results of the annual meeting of the Pittsburgh Coal company in session in Jersey City today. For nearly a year a fierce fight has waged for the control of the great corporation. A strong syndicate was organized by Pittsburgh and New York financiers with the object of buying control of the company. Within a few months the syndicate threw no less than \$10,000,000 into the enterprise. When the officers of the company became aware of the plans of the syndicate they entered the battle with all the business ability they could command. The officers promptly declared a dividend of 14 per cent, which has since been paid. This effectively stopped the buying of stock by control and it is believed that the annual meeting will result in a victory for the officers of the company and the final rout of the syndicate.

**50 U. S. FARMERS MAY  
LOCATE NEAR EUGENE**

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
Eugene, Or., March 8.—There are good prospects of locating a colony of 50 American farmers near Eugene this spring. J. T. Craighead, a colonizer of St. Louis, Mo., has made inquiries of the character and price of land in this county, and he has been answered by the manager of the Eugene Commercial club. Every inducement will be made to secure the colony for this county, and Mr. Craighead seems to be favorably impressed with Eugene and Lane county as a desirable location.

**Mme. Tetraxini III.**

(United Press Special Wire.)  
New York, March 8.—Mme. Tetraxini is confined in her home on West End avenue following a collapse last night just after she had finished the mad scene in "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the Manhattan opera house. Mme. Tetraxini had responded to several curtain calls. As the curtain dropped for the last time she became hysterical. She was taken to her dressing room, where she swooned. Her physician, who was in the audience, was called and after reviving her had her removed to her home. Mme. Tetraxini had been ill for several days and she went on the stage last night against her physician's orders.

**PEOPLE DO NOT  
NEED TO FEAR  
THE CENSUS MAN**

**All Information Given Enumerators to Be Held in Strict Confidence—Severe Penalty for Disregarding Rule.**

Washington, March 8.—Letters from the census supervisors to the United States census bureau show the erroneous apprehension of a considerable element of the population that their answers to the enumerators' questions in the next census, beginning April 15, this year, will cause increased taxation, legal punishments, or injurious consequences to their persons and property.

In order to quiet such unfounded fears, which would, unless removed, materially affect the accuracy of the census, the bureau has prepared an official statement relative to the decennial census, its origin, purpose, and uses.

This statement should furnish complete assurance to those concerned that information given the enumerators is held by the census bureau in the strictest confidence with reference to the identity of the informants, as required by the policy of the bureau and commanded by the law of the United States. The bureau earnestly hopes that clergymen, priests, physicians, schoolteachers, employers and other public spirited citizens who come in contact with large numbers of people, will cooperate with the bureau in telling persons who are believed to entertain erroneous opinions of the census the real facts and urging them to give full replies to the enumerators. Teachers are particularly requested to speak of the census to the school children and ask them to tell their parents about it.

The statement issued by the bureau explains that the constitution requires a census of the population to be taken every 10 years in order to reapportion state representation in the national house of representatives. It is the means also to ascertain the increase in the population, agriculture, industries and resources of the nation since the last census.

**Nothing Published.**  
It is emphatically declared, by the statement, that the information sought from the people of the United States is used for general statistical purposes. It will neither be published nor used in any other way to disclose facts regarding any individual or enterprise. The census, it goes on to say, is not

**HOPE FOR ECZEMA PATIENTS**

The oil of wintergreen compound for eczema—known as D. D. D. Prescription—can be secured at present from Skidmore Drug Co., 151 Third street, in a 25 cent bottle.  
This offer is especially made to convince those skin sufferers who have not yet tried the remedy. One bottle will suffice to cure a mild case, and the first application will instantly prove to you that you get relief at once from the itch. The moment you wash the skin with this mild, soothing liquid, the itch is gone.  
If—upon our special recommendation—you want to try a bottle of this proven eczema cure (D. D. D.) at 25 cents, telephone or call at our store.  
Skidmore Drug Co., 151 Third street.

never has been, and cannot be employed to obtain information that can be used in any way in the assessment of property for purposes of taxation, or the collection of taxes, either national, state, or local; or for deportation proceedings, extradition measures, army or navy conscription, internal revenue investigations, compulsory school attendance, child labor law prosecutions, quarantine regulations, or in any way to affect the life, liberty, or property of any person.

**Penalty for Talking.**  
It points out that replies to the enumerators are and must be held by the census bureau in strict and absolute confidence. All the bureau officials, supervisors, clerks, enumerators and interpreters, before entering upon their duties are obliged to take a solemn oath not to disclose any information they may obtain, except to the census bureau, and a violation of this oath means a \$1000 fine or imprisonment for two years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

**BIG LIDS BARRED  
FROM TAFT BANQUET**

(United Press Special Wire.)  
Chicago, March 8.—Women who have purchased expensive headgear to wear at the banquet to be given President Taft by the Irish Fellowship club here March 17, are peeved because the committee has announced that no women will be allowed to wear hats in the banquet hall. Following the announcement of the edict, Chairman James O'Shaughnessy said:  
"I can imagine how a woman feels who has bought a \$150 hat to wear on such an occasion. It was made for the committee to bring itself to issue the edict, but it had to be done. There is only a limited amount of space in any hall. We figured it up mathematically that one woman's hat takes up the space of two and a quarter persons. There would be no room for the waiters to get around."

**TO DISCUSS RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION AT NASHVILLE**

Nashville, Tenn., March 8.—With an attendance of college presidents, theologians and religious workers from all sections of the country, the seventh general convention of the Religious Education association assembled in this city today for a three days' session. The objects of the association in brief are to promote the interests indi-

cated in its name by giving attention to the religious aspects of education and to the educational side of religion.  
Among the one hundred or more scheduled speakers at the present convention are included many men of national reputation in religious and educational work. Among the number are President Faunce of Brown university, President Thompson of Ohio State university, Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt university, President Moffatt of Washington and Jefferson college, President Snyder of Wofford college, Bishop Hendrix of Kansas City, Bishop McDowell of Chicago, Bishop Atkins of North Carolina, and Professor George A. Cox of Union Theological seminary.

**Dorothy to Mimic Her Mother.**

(United Press Special Wire.)  
San Francisco, March 8.—Dorothy Russell, daughter of Lillian Russell, the actress, will sing at The Breakers, a music hall on Mason street, run by Samuel McNaughton, according to McNaughton. A month ago Miss Russell visited San Francisco and was entertained lavishly by many of her friends from New York. For the last year her home has been at Pasadena. It is understood that one of her principal stunts will be to imitate the acting of her mother.

**Check That Cold**

It is a great mistake to let a cough or cold run unchecked. Aside from the unpleasantness and discomfort there is a real danger in the resulting irritation of the throat, lungs and bronchial organs, which leaves them sore and very susceptible to pneumonia and consumption.  
It is not our purpose to recommend any particular brand of patent cough medicine. A simple, inexpensive and very effective remedy can easily be prepared at home by mixing two ounces of glycerine and a half ounce of Virgin Oil of Pine compound pure with eight ounces of pure whiskey. This formula is frequently prescribed and is highly recommended by the Leach Chemical Co., of Cincinnati, who prepare the genuine Virgin Oil of Pine compound pure for dispensing through druggists.  
If it is claimed that a teaspoonful of this mixture four times a day will break up a cold in twenty-four hours and cure any cough that is curable.

**Portland Has 70 Miles of Paved Streets**

The above includes the number of miles of hard-surface paved streets on both sides of the river which were in place on January 1, 1910. Of this 34 miles were on the East Side, while 36 miles are on the West Side. This does not, of course, include any new contracts for paving which were not laid then. The largest paving contract ever awarded in Portland was for Laurelhurst streets. Just think—there will be almost as many miles of paved streets in Laurelhurst alone as all of the East Side.

**LAURELHURST HAS 26 MILES OF ASPHALT STREETS**

A large part of which will be completed by August 1, 1910. This 26 miles is not laid out in the old-fashioned square block style, but in a magnificent system of boulevards which conform to the contours of the land, thereby preserving its natural beauty. Just think of it—one can drive or ride without going out of the limits of Laurelhurst. But this is only one of the many excellent features which make Laurelhurst the most magnificent residence section of Portland. However, 26 miles of asphalt streets is significant of what Laurelhurst will look like in a few months, when one realizes that

**This Means 52 Miles of High-Class Homes, All Conforming to a Strictly Enforced Building Restriction, All Set Back 20 Feet From the Line—It Means 52 Miles of 9-Foot Parkway, 52 Miles of Cluster Lights, Shadé Trees and Cement Walks.**

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And then the lot that would cost you \$1000 now will cost you \$200 to \$300 more. Take Montavilla or Rose City Park cars direct to the property. Both lines run to and through Laurelhurst. Or phone us what day and hour to call and we will show you the property in our automobiles. Deal with any of our authorized agents if you prefer. But remember

**Prices Will Positively Advance March 15th**

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Collins and Harlan.  
(b) "Wild Cherries Rag" Snyder  
Victor Orchestra.  
No. 16473—(a) "Dollar Princess Waltz" Fall  
Victor Orchestra.  
(b) Waltzes from "A Chocolate Soldier" Strauss  
Arthur Pryor's Band.

"The Dollar Princess" and "A Chocolate Soldier" are by far the greatest comic opera successes of the year. "The Cubanoa Glide" is a hit from "The Follies of 1909," and "That Mesmerizing Mendelsohn Tune" and "Wild Cherries Rag" are—come in and hear them; they're irresistible.