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FRIDAY, - - DECEMBER 27, 1895

### A NEEDED MEASURE.

Representative Ellis has introduced into the house of representatives a bill for the relief of the settler upon our western lands. The measure is eminently a just one, and should receive the favorable consideration of congress at an early date. As can be seen from a perusal of the bill, the two vital points are, first, that actual residence shall not be required in order to obtain a patent; and secondly, that tracts of land not contiguous may be purchased, provided they do not exceed 320 acres in the aggregate. Both these provisions are equitable, and Mr. Ellis will confer a substantial benefit upon intending purchasers of railroad forfeiture lands should he succeed in having his bill become a law. The text is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to forfeit certain lands heretofore granted for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads, and for other purposes,' approved September twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, and the several acts amendatory thereof," approved December twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows: That section three of an act entitled 'An act to forfeit certain lands heretofore granted for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads, and for other purposes,' approved September twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety, and the several acts amendatory thereof, be, and the same is, amended so as to extend the time within which persons entitled to purchase lands forfeited by said act shall be permitted to purchase the same in the quantities and upon the terms provided in said section, at any time prior to January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven; Provided That actual residence upon the lands by persons claiming the right to purchase the same shall not be required where such lands have been fenced, cultivated or otherwise improved by such claimants, and such persons shall be permitted to purchase two or more tracts of such lands by legal subdivision, whether contiguous or not, but not to exceed three hundred and twenty acres in the aggregate; and provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to interfere with any adverse claim that may have attached to the lands, or any part thereof, prior to the settlement, cultivation or improvement made by the person seeking to purchase.

The house of representatives acted promptly upon the revenue bill prepared by the ways and means committee. Upon a strict party vote, with two exceptions, the bill passed by a vote of 205 to 81. Upon the subject of wool, which is the important one to the people of Eastern Oregon, the bill is in line with the wishes of wool-growers, and restores sixty per cent of the McKinley rates on wool and woolsens. By their prompt action the Republicans have shown themselves ready and willing to act for the country's good, and the effect of the emergency bill will be to restore confidence throughout the country. The present bill is a good forerunner of the one which will pass when the Republicans are again placed in control of the government, which the Democrats have so terribly mismanaged.

The ways and means committee strikes at the root of the matter when it says that it "regards the chronic deficiency of revenue for the past two years and half as a potent cause of the difficulties which the treasury has encountered; an important factor in the creation and promotion of the serious distrust which has paralyzed business and dangerously shaken confidence, even in the financial operations of the government." The language is strong, but it could be made stronger. The lack of revenue caused by a democratic tariff reduction has been the destroying disease from which the country has suffered, and nothing but a return to the tariff conditions that existed just prior to 1892 can be of permanent benefit.

If the dispatches can be believed, the Cuban insurgents have Havana almost within their grasp. The success of the revolutionary party has been greater than even its leaders anticipated, and

challenges anew the admiration of the world. Spain is about to lose another of her western prizes and Cuba will be knocking for admission to the circle of American republics.

The safe arrival of the steamer Strathnevis at Port Townsend is almost a miraculous deliverance from the sea. The announcement of her arrival will relieve the tension of shipping people on the coast, who had given the steamer up for lost. The anxiety is transferred to the Miowera, which it is possible, found destruction in an attempt to save the Strathnevis.

The curious anomaly exists in congress of the Republicans assisting in carrying out the president's suggestions, while the effort is being bitterly opposed by the Democrats. Cleveland has very little in common with his party anyhow, except long association.

### LITERARY NOTES.

The January Forum, among many other interesting features, will contain an article by Col. Carroll D. Wright, superintendent of the Census, on "The Federal Census;" an article by Mr. William Ordway Partridge, the sculptor, entitled "The Development of Sculpture in America," and a paper by Mr. James H. Penningham of Philadelphia on the "Criminal Crowding of Public Schools."

The first edition of the January McClure's is 300,000 copies—an increase of 170,000 in three months. It is easy to understand these great strides in circulation when one has read, in this number, the remarkable story of Lincoln as the manager of Denton Offutt's sawmill and country store at New Salem, the victorious wrestler against the champion of Clary's Grove, the student, between whites, of Kirkham's grammar, a candidate for the legislature, and a captain of raw recruits in the Black Hawk war; and when one has inspected the twenty-five pictures which help to vivify this most engaging chapter of Lincoln history. We have been advised heretofore that the history of Lincoln's early years was lost. This can be said no more; for Miss Tarbell has recovered it for McClure's down to its smallest detail.

A. E. Kilpatrick, of Fillmore, Cal., had the misfortune to have his leg caught between a cart and a stone and badly bruised. Ordinarily he would have been laid up for two or three weeks, but says: "After using one bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm I began to feel better, and in three days was entirely well. The peculiar soothing qualities which Chamberlain's Pain Balm possesses I have never noticed in any other liniment. I take pleasure in recommending it." This liniment is also of great value for rheumatism and lame back. For sale by Blakeley & Houghton, Druggist.

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