

A LAND BILL.

It is Probable the Present Land Laws Will Be Changed.

On Thursday last the House of Representative committee on public lands took action on the Senate bill relating to public lands, by means of which it is hoped to secure legislation at this congress that will greatly modify the public land policy of the government. The house passed during the last session a bill repealing the pre-emption and timber culture acts, and otherwise amending the land laws, but no action has been taken by the Senate. In order to facilitate the passage of the essential features of this general land bill, the house committee took up the land bill passed by the Senate in December, providing that public lands of the United States, now subject to private entry, shall be disposed of under the homestead laws only.

After making numerous amendments to the bill, Holman was instructed to report it to the House and ask its early consideration. It is the purpose of the committee in this way to endeavor to throw the proposed land reform into the hands of the conference committee of the House and Senate, and secure if possible, the substantial changes desired to be effected in our land laws.

The bill agreed upon by the committee provides that public lands chiefly valuable for agriculture, not subject to private entry, should be disposed of under the homestead law only, and that the pre-emption law shall be repealed. Persons who have made pre-emption or homestead entries of land, but have not perfected title thereto, are given the right to make another homestead entry. Whenever a settler upon the public domain is unable, on account of destruction of crops or casualty to secure support from lands located upon, the local land officers may grant leave of absence from the claim to the settler for not exceeding one year. Homestead settlers who have made entry to less than one-quarter of a section of land are given the privilege of making another entry, the aggregate quantity under the entries not to exceed 160 acres.

Something For Nothing.

From the Louisville Courier Journal.

The theory of protection is that the law can create something out of nothing. It assures that by subtracting something from the wealth of one class in the community we increase the aggregate wealth. By compelling the consumer to pay more than an article is worth, that the same consumer is promised in a vague way and at some indefinite time "he shall receive his reward."

Protection may be "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," but this evidence rests on something less than the promise of omnipotence, though nothing less than omnipotent power could redeem it.

But it is urged that manufactured goods are cheaper than before the war. That is true, but they are cheaper in England where free trade exists than with us.

Steel rails cost to-day \$27 in America but in England they cost only \$18. This reduction must be due to influences operating in both countries, and it is folly, therefore, to attribute it to a tariff which is necessarily operating in America.

If the tariff should really lower prices, the manufacturers would at once demand its repeal.

If the low prices of to-day were due to the tariff, manufacturers would not go about organizing trusts, syndicates and combinations to stifle competition; they would simply go to Congress and demand free trade.

Instead of asking a reduction of the taxes on the cutlery, cotton ties, guns, woolen goods, etc., the manufacturers are now trying to force through Congress a bill increasing taxes on all these articles.

If these men believe, as some of their advocates claim, that the tariff stimulates competition, would they ask for a higher tariff, in order to have more competition?

This pretense is on a par with that other claim, that the tariff increases wages.

If the tariff did actually increase wages, the manufacturers would all be free traders. So, if the tariff lowered prices, the manufacturers would be opposed to the tariff.

The whole system rests on these two false pretenses.

Down with the war tariff.

History Repeating Itself.

From the N. Y. World.

The senior protection organ had yesterday a sad plaint over the "misproduction" in a great many departments of industry in this country, "causing depression in each."

The shutting down of iron works, nail mills, carpet factories, mines and many other "protected" industries is an old story, history repeating itself. For the past twenty years there have been alternations of brief booms and long-continued periods of depression and stagnation. And the main reason is that our tariff laws put a premium upon the increase of "misdirected" and excessive production.

When the government offers a bounty to certain favored industries, it is natural that many persons should crowd into them, anxious to share in the bounties. As a result the business is overdone, a glut ensues, a trust or other combination is formed to limit production, and maintain prices. To secure these ends labor is ruthlessly thrown out of employment and consumers are fleeced.

Oh! yes; the "campaign of education" continues.

What on Earth

The reason people will not, can not, or do not see any difference in cheap nostrums pushed by cheap John houses or irresponsible parties at enormous profits, rather than take a medicine of world wide reputation and one that is giving universal satisfaction at a low price? No medicine in the world is giving such universal satisfaction for relieving the blood as BEECHER'S OLD PURIFIER & BLOOD-MAKER and every bottle that does not to its work will cost you nothing. F. J. Donaghy, Druggist.

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Portland, Oregon.

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READ THIS!

It is of interest to Every Taxpayer in Oregon.

DEAR SIR:

Would say in reply to yours of even date that the sum of \$77.00 paid to me by the Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Portland, Oregon, for School Tax in District No. 1, represents more money than paid to this office by all the Foreign Insurance Companies doing business in this city.

FRED A. DALY,
School Clerk District No. 1.

THIS PROVES OUR ASSERTION

That to protect yourself you should give your Insurance to the Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Portland, Oregon—organized under the laws of Oregon. Has a guaranteed capital of \$500,000 for your protection, which is ten times the amount of deposit required of Foreign Insurance Companies, who pay NO taxes, and send all the profits out of the State, thereby increasing your taxes. Think of this and give our Company a part of your INSURANCE.

Yours, respectfully,
JOHN A. CHILD, Secretary.

Office: Second St. Next Door to Child's Drug Store

Subscribed Capital, \$500,000.



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Jacob Wortman, Pres. First Nat'l Bank, McMinnville, Oregon.
R. M. Wade, Vice-Pres. Knapp, Burrell & Co, Portland, Oregon.
John Hale, Railroad Contractor, Palace Hotel, S. F.
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W. T. Wright, Cashier First National Bank, Union, Or.
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