

REPEAL LAND LAWS

PUBLIC DOMAIN BEING DELIVERED TO SYNDICATES.

Actual Homesteaders Will Soon Find No Available Public Land on Which to Settle — Arguments Favoring Large Holdings for Livestock Purposes Are Exploded.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Land grabbers seem to have fallen upon evil times. Secretary Hitchcock has put his agents on their trail throughout the West and the newspaper dispatches are burdened with stories of fraudulent entries and rumors of indictments. But this is not the worst of it—from the standpoint of the land grabbers. The American people are waking up and demanding the repeal of laws which make the land grabber possible.

Disclosures thus far made indicate that the stealing is going on with two main objects in view. One is to enable stockmen to get firm possession of land which they have formerly used as a free range; the other to extend and to perfect a hard-and-fast monopoly of the timber resources of the West.

Both objects strike straight at the prosperity of the common millions of homeseekers to whom this public property now belongs by every moral and legal right.

The prosperity of the future homeseeker in the Rocky mountain region demands that he shall have an opportunity to enjoy the use of the public range. While he will undertake to handle but few head of stock, in comparison with the great cattle syndicates and corporations, it is nevertheless essential that he shall enjoy his rights in the public pasture.

Every time a quarter section is transferred from the public domain to one of the big companies the opportunity for profitable settlement by genuine homesteaders is curtailed. Carried to its logical conclusion, the present policy of land absorption by monopolies would shut out poor men from the use of the public pasture almost entirely. And this would have a most unfortunate influence upon the settlement of the arid region.

The instruments used in the acquisition of the public domain are the desert land law and the commutation clause of the homestead law. The former requires no residence whatever on the land; the latter a residence of only 14 months, which is frequently merely nominal.

The claim that the present laws are necessary to preserve the livestock industry from gradual extinction through the encroachment of cultivators of the soil is wholly groundless. The figures of the last national census show that Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico, covering 820,000 square miles, had only 4,860,509 head of cattle. On the other hand, the farming state of Iowa, with only 25,000 square miles, had 5,367,630 cattle, or half a million more than the six states and the two territories which follow the range method. There is but one element benefited by the abuse of the laws which is now going on. That is the element which is acquiring the ownership of vast estates to be held for speculation and monopoly.

The absorption of the timber lands strikes another and an even harder blow at the settler. The wanton destruction of the forests which follows impairs the watershed on which the settler depends for the supply of his irrigation ditches. Monopoly imposes a high price for the lumber which the settler must use in making his improvements. Finally, he is deprived of the opportunity to get a little timber on his own account, which he might use in good faith and in compliance with the spirit of the law.

These land frauds throughout the West are open and notorious. They are not always frowned upon by public sentiment in the localities where they are committed. In every Western community there is a strong desire to see the country developed "while we are alive." Capital is required for the work, and if capital must be tempted into the field by the opportunity to make a profitable monopoly of the timber, why, then, nothing could be better than the present laws.

The administration is doing its duty in hunting down the land thieves as rapidly as it can. A healthy public sentiment is beginning to come to the support of those who demand the repeal of the laws. But the remedy lies wholly in the hands of congress. Congress must act, and act speedily, or the most valuable portions of the public domain will be forever lost.—William E. Smythe.

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Lo Appreciated the Song, Though He Had Little to Say.
Judge G. A. Hartman entertained an uninvited guest last night for a short time at his home. Miss Jessie Hartman and her brother Fred, were in the drawing room, playing and singing, when the door opened noiselessly and an Indian in the proverb-

ial blanket and jag, slipped into the room and took a seat. He maintained a dignified silence while the music was in progress, and it was only on turning around at the close of the song that his presence was discovered. Naturally, his hosts were surprised, and on being invited to leave the Indian expressed his appreciation of the entertainment and took a stately departure.

THERE ARE NO FAILURES

Dr. Garfield, of Victoria, B. C., Tells of Three Hundred Cases Wherein He Recommended the Use of Trib. Dr. James G. Garfield, of Victoria, B. C., when asked, do you endorse TRIB as a cure for the liquor and tobacco habit, said: "I do. I have known your remedy long before it was sold to you, and can tell you of three hundred people that I have advised to take it. I never knew of a failure to cure where the party taking it was sincere."

Acker's Blood Elixir positively cures Chronic Blood Poisoning and Scrofulous affections. At all times a matchless system tonic and purifier. Money refunded if you are not satisfied. 50c. and \$1.00.
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Rat, Mouse and Roach Exterminator. No cats, poison or traps needed. In two nights not one will be seen. By mail, 25c. Department B. Pacific Supply Co., Portland, Ore.

Important Notice.
Every dollar paid before 5 p. m., December 24th, entitles you to a ticket. This means on account, as well as cash purchases. The Peoples Warehouse.

The Knights of the Maccabees have about three million dollars in the reserve fund, safely invested. If you want fraternal protection, see J. S. Kees or District Deputy G. A. Graves. You don't have to die to win. It is what you are looking for.

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Our Big Sale has saved hundreds of dollars for customers. We want you to inspect the bargains we offer.

Grand Christmas FURNITURE Sale

AT BASLER'S BIG STORE

Our Annual Christmas Sale of Furniture, Carpets, Stoves, Linoleums, etc., has been started and will continue with unabated push until Dec. 25. During this great special sale we will offer special prices on everything in our monster stock, the largest ever shown in Pendleton.

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Don't put off until the last minute. Come and let us show you through our store and give you prices. This will mean much to economical buyers.

Basler's Big Furniture Store