

UNCLE SAM'S FARM.

The Biggest Thing of the Kind on the Face of the Earth.

THE HUMID AND ARID REGION.

Although Over 700,000,000 Acres Have Been Sold and Donated, 1,150,000,000 Remain in the Market.

Since independence was achieved the United States government has been the largest owner of arable land on earth. The total area of the public domain, sold and unsold, amounts 1,849,072,587 acres, and constitutes 72 per cent. of the area of the United States, including Alaska.

This vast landed estate, says Joseph Nimmo, Jr., in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, was acquired by the war of independence; by the purchase from France in 1803 of the enormous area known as the Province of Louisiana, extending from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean; by the purchase of Florida in 1821, from Spain, by the treaty of peace with Mexico, in 1848, and the supplemental treaty of 1853, which gave us California and brought our southern boundary line down from Oregon to where it is now; by purchase of border lands from Texas in 1850, and by the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. The cost of the public domain for purchase, quieting Indian occupancy titles, surveys, and sales, has been 17 2-5 cents per acre. The prices at which the public lands have been sold have ranged from 12 1/2 cents to \$2.50 per acre for agricultural lands; \$2.50 to \$5 per acre for mineral lands—except coal lands, which are sold at \$10 and \$20 per acre, according to location with respect to land grant railroads. The governmental balance sheet on account of public lands on June 30th, 1880, stood thus:

Table with columns for Expenditures, Receipts, and Total. Expenditures include Purchase and cessions, Surveying and sale, Indian occupancy titles, etc. Receipts include From sale of lands.

Excess of expenditures \$21,346,747. This excess of expenditures, however, is offset by the 780,000,000 acres of land, exclusive of Alaska, still in the possession of the government. The value of this remaining part of the public domain is valued at \$800,000,000. If all these lands or the proceeds from their sale in excess of the present balance against the government shall be appropriated to the reclamation of the arid region by means of irrigation, such action will be entirely in harmony with the policy pursued by the national government from the beginning, viz: to regard the public lands not as a source of revenue, but simply as a public trust, with the object steadily in view of transferring them to actual settlers at the lowest possible cost and as rapidly as may be consistent with a healthy national development.

In our homestead, pre-emption, tree culture and desert land laws—the humane and beneficent features of all our public land legislation—the poor frontiersman has been accorded a vantage and a protection which have guarded him against the encroachments of influence and of wealth. Our public-land policy has also been just and generous toward the Indians, paternal and kindly toward the soldier and sailor, while always honest and upright toward the public interests.

For the erection and sustentation of schools, seminaries and agricultural colleges the magnificent donation of 78,650,000 acres of land has been made. There have been granted to the states for public improvements 7,800,000 acres of land. One of the wisest and in its results beneficent features of our policy has been the granting of about 51,375,000 acres of public lands for the construction of wagon roads, canals and railroads, chiefly the latter. Within certain limits the government has given half the land in alternate sections to railroad companies; but at the same time it has doubled the price of its remaining lands within such limits. No other expedient has so effectively helped to promote settlement, or to secure the development of the resources of the country, and especially of that vast area toward which the attention of the country is now turned with such interest—the "arid region".

The method of dividing the public lands into townships six miles square and numbering the square miles or "sections" of each town-

ship in the same uniform manner from one to thirty-six was devised during the period when our national government was a confederacy. The bill which enacted it is dated May 20, 1785, and was reported by a committee of which Thomas Jefferson was chairman. Such, briefly, are some of the more important historical facts in regard to "Uncle Sam's Farm". And now let us turn from the past to the present and future. Great questions of administration and of public policy confront us, and demand solution at the hands of the generation which now controls the destinies of the nation.

The national domain is divided by nature into two distinct areas, sometimes designated as the "humid region" and the "arid region". The former embraces all lands upon which agriculture may be carried on by means of the natural rainfall, and the latter the area in which agriculture can be successfully prosecuted only by means of artificial irrigation. The physical characteristics of the arid region affect the national economy in important particulars, and constitute conditions which demand certain modifications of our public land policy.

The arid region of the United States extends from about the 100th meridian of west longitude to the Sierra Nevada range and the Pacific ocean. Approximately its dimensions are 1,200 miles from north to south and 1,300 miles from east to west. It contains, in round numbers, 100,000,000 acres of land. According to Maj. John W. Powell, Director of the Geological Survey, it embraces about four-tenths of the total area of the United States, exclusive of Alaska.

For many years the arid region was known as the "Great American Desert". This designation, with respect to characteristic, was apparently correct—its rainfall is not sufficient for the needs of agriculture. But in other important particulars it is glaringly incorrect and misleading. When supplied with water its soil is highly productive. Besides, throughout this area, and suited to its conditions, nature, out of her fecundity, has planted a variety of nutritious grasses, which cure in the open air and retain their nutritious properties through the storms and atmospheric changes of two, and even three years. No hay gathered into barns is so well preserved. The principal grasses of the arid region are buffalo grass (Buchloe dactyloides), gramma grass (Bouteloua oligostachya), and "bunch grass" of various species. When these fall animals have recourse to sage brush and greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus), and shrubs which grow along the borders of streams. For untold centuries these grasses, herbs and shrubs afforded abundant pasturage for millions of buffaloes, elk, moose, deer and other gaminivorous animals.

In another important particular the designation "Great American Desert" is glaringly incorrect. The lands of the arid region become surprisingly productive when irrigated by turning water upon them from the rivers and smaller streams. A given amount of labor and capital expended in agricultural pursuits in the arid region will, by means of irrigation, produce much larger results than in the rainfall area. This is an economic and commercial fact of the highest importance. Large portions of the arid region, however, cannot be irrigated, and for all time will be of value only as pasture-land. Other extensive areas are valuable only as forests.

For a while the opinion was generally entertained that the arid region is available only for pasturage and that it must be forever treated as such. But this is a mistake. Another great change is taking place. It has been proved that by means of irrigation lands of that vast area are susceptible of an enormous and splendid agricultural development, and the result is that the cowboy has been forced to the confession that when the man with the plow comes the man with the spurs has got to get out. Neither the savage nor the nomad can resist the forces of civilization. The severe winter losses, the failure of the supply of natural grasses on the ranges through overstocking them, the high price of young cattle in Texas and low price of beef cattle in Chicago have led to the conviction that henceforth pastoral pursuits must be carried on chiefly as adjuncts of agriculture. The economics all point in that direction.

This new area summons the nation to the solution of such problems of development as have confronted the countries of Asia, Africa and southern Europe, in all ages—problems, the solution of which depends upon the establishment of a wise and beneficent system of irrigation. From the earliest ages much the larger part of the human family has been dependent for food upon the product of irrigated lands. But such has not been the case on this continent. The early settlers, and for many years almost all the immigrants to this country, came from Great Britain and Ireland, and from the countries of northern Europe, which have an abundant, and to some extent a superabundant, rainfall. Besides, our ancestors landed here on the eastern shores of by far the largest area on the earth's surface within which agriculture is possible without artificial irrigation: an area extending from the Atlantic seaboard to about the 100th meridian. This meridian passes through western Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Thus the United States grew to be a great nation, with irrigation practically a last art. As the tide of emigration rolled westward the border and of the great arid region was at last reached. Here nature seemed to call a halt. But the insubordinate spirit of adventure and the wild fascination of gold and silver mingled the more adventurous to invade even that vast and inhospitable region.

Soon the brave frontiersmen who composed this host of fortune-seekers were driven by the sheer force of circumstance to agriculture by irrigation. Thus a wealth of soil was discovered far in excess of the wealth of mine, and within the last year the important fact has dawned upon the country that the reclamation of the agricultural lands of the arid region opens up the last and perhaps the most important chapter in the history of the subjugation of wild lands to the uses of civilized man upon this continent. The area of agricultural lands susceptible to reclamation by means of irrigation is variously estimated at from 125,000,000 to 200,000,000 of acres. Even 125,000,000 acres is sufficient for the agricultural area of a mighty empire. It is nine times the area of the improved land in farms in Pennsylvania, eight times that of New York, and 60 per cent. more than that of all the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida combined. But every acre of irrigated land is about twice as productive as lands dependent upon the natural rainfall. This has been demonstrated beyond all doubt by thousands of brave settlers, who, under the provisions of our desert land law, have already reclaimed about 7,000,000 acres of land by means of irrigation.

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IN AN ICE FLOE.

Arrival of the Thetis from the North—A Chilly Five Days' Run.

At an early hour Saturday morning the United States steamer Thetis, which had been expected for some time, arrived in San Francisco after a long trip of seven and one-half months in the Arctic ocean. The Thetis left San Francisco about the middle of last April. Her mission was to follow the whaling fleet and keep within the call of danger. That she has done this to the entire satisfaction of the whalers has been learned long since. She has also rendered valuable aid to the Hydrographic office. She made the longest voyage of any vessel which went north this season, having been the first to leave for the Arctic and the last to return, waiting there until the last of the whalers was out of the sea. The Thetis traversed the Alaskan coast line from Fort Tongass to Demarkation Point and followed the whalers farther to the eastward than any steamer of her class that ever went to the Arctic, getting as far to the northwest as Herschel Island. This latter, Cap. Stockton says, is about 500 feet in length. The vegetation is confined to grasses and small flowers. On the east side of the island is a snug harbor which has been called Paulina Cove, capable of receiving a vessel of less than sixteen feet draft. An open bay on the same side of the island was found to give fairly good anchorage with westerly and northwesterly winds.

In speaking of the Thetis' experience when caught in the ice, Capt. Stockton praised his officers and men very highly. Of the Thetis he also speaks well. He had feared that she was too clumsy, but he is now more than satisfied with her behavior as an ice boat. Her only mishap on the voyage occurred on August 18th, while she was returning from Herschel Island to Point Barrow. The wind shifted to the westward bringing down the ice from Cape Halpet. The Thetis put on all speed and escaped the floe. There was heavy ice resting on the shore to the windward of Tangent Point, and the Thetis in endeavoring to work inshore got into shoal water, and when she attempted to get out all headways were closed. The ship was in the greatest danger, as she was likely to be crushed by the ice at any time. The Thetis "rammed" away at the closely packed ice and the officers and men worked like heavers. For five days it looked like a hopeless task, but toward the end of the fifth a small break was made and this was followed up with a will, and the following day saw the vessel safely out of danger.

The Thetis will go to Mare Island to be overhauled and repaired before going on her next trip.

Disarming an Unseen Foe.

"This was sometime a paradox," as Tamlet says. Since, however, the people of America and other lands have been enabled to pit Hostetter's Stomach Bitters against that unseen foe, malaria, it is no longer a paradox, but an easy possibility. Whatever malaria evolves its misly tenet to poison the air, and decaying unwholesome vegetation impregnates the water, there, in the very stronghold of miasma, is the auxiliary agent to disarm the foe and assure excellent protection. Fever and ague, biliousness, dizziness, dizziness, dizziness, no matter how tenaciously they have fastened their clutch on the system, are first forced to relax their grasp, and eventually to abandon it alto-gether. But it is preventive force that should chiefly recommend the Bitters to persons dwelling in malaria-ridden localities, for it is a certain backer of defence against which the enemy is powerless. Cures, likewise, dyspepsia, rheumatism, kidney and bilious ailments.

Piles! Piles! Piles!

Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment is the only sure cure for blind, bleeding or itching piles ever discovered. It never fails to cure old cases of long standing. Judge Coons, Maysville, Ky., says: "Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment cured me after years of suffering." Judge Colburn, Cleveland, O., says: "I was cured by experience that Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment gives immediate and permanent relief." We have hundreds of such testimonials. Do not suffer an instant longer. Sold by druggists at 25c and 50c per box. Sold by Foshay & Mason, Albany, Oregon.

We have just opened another invoice of clocks, and we feel confident that we can suit everybody, both in style and price. W. E. Read.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS. The Elegant Display at Julius Gradwohl's Bazaar Store.

One of the most extensive and elegantly stocked establishments in the Willamette valley is to be found in the Golden Rule Bazaar store of Julius Gradwohl in this city. In order to accommodate his early customers he is in the field early this year, and has already commenced receiving his immense line of beautiful goods for the fall and winter and for the holidays, and has one of the most gorgeous and dazzling displays to be seen in any Golden Rule Bazaar in Oregon.

The line carried comprises a bewildering assortment of fine china, queensware and glassware of the latest styles and most delicate designs. The beautiful china and glassware, together with the decorated and fancy wares, novelties, elegant stand and hanging lamps, toys, boys' wagons and general bazaar goods, present a scene well worth one's time to visit.

Here may be found a complete line of table cutlery of the celebrated makes, Roger Bros' silver and silver plated goods and Bohemian wares of every variety, while his stock of dolls, toys, toilet and fancy goods, in plush and silver, and novelties for the children will be larger than ever before. Mr. Gradwohl has enlarged his stock in such a complete manner that his Golden Rule Bazaar is not only a credit to the city of Albany but to the entire Willamette valley, being one of the most extensive establishments of the kind in Oregon. The most important feature to purchasers is in prices, and when we assert that his prices are as low as any house in the state, and that his goods are sold at figures that cannot be equaled in the Northwest, it is but the recital of an absolute fact. It will be to the interests of the country merchants to purchase their holiday goods from this establishment, and orders should be sent in at once.

Mr. Gradwohl has long since proven his adaptability to this business, and it is taking no risk to say that this emporium of elegant fancy and decorative ware is the most complete in the Willamette valley. Those who deal at the Golden Rule Bazaar, will find a large assortment to choose from, and a square, reliable gentleman to deal with.

Better Than Ever.

I am now better prepared than I have ever been to suit my customers in the shoe line. I have just received a large invoice of the celebrated Laird, Schober & Mitchell fine shoes for ladies. There is no manufacturer who claims anything better than these shoes. I intend to keep a full assortment of them in all prices, widths from A EE, and can suit the most fastidious in fit and price. I also received another invoice of the popular aloe, E. P. Reed's in waukenphast and patent leather tip. These shoes are well known in Albany as a first-class nice style shoe. Orders from the country filled with care and satisfaction guaranteed. Samuel E. Young.

For the Ladies Only.

I am now prepared to do all kinds of stamping and have over two thousand designs to choose from. Also a nice line of embroidery materials, such as arraberry, crewels, No. 1 and 2 embroidery, chenilles, princess chenilles, etc. And the finest pompons, tassels, crescents, cords, plushes, felts and fancy work materials ever in the city. Zephyr is going at five cents an ounce. Miss Minnie Colwell has charge of this department, and has had several years experience in all kinds of fancy work and stamping. At the store of G. W. Simpson, Albany, Oregon.

Save Money

By buying your holiday goods at the new drug store. It is wonderful how a little money will go that store. Call and be convinced.

The Celebrated French CURE

Warranted to cure APHRODITINE or money refunded.



THE GENERATIVE ORGANS OF EITHER SEX, whether arising from the excessive use of stimulants, tobacco or opium, or through youthful indiscretions, gonorrhoea, etc., such as loss of Brain Power, Waken'ness, Bearing Down Pains in the Back, Seminal Weakness, Hypertrophy, Nervous Prostration, Nocturnal Emissions, Lumbago, Dizziness, Weak Memory, Loss of Power and Impotency, which if neglected often lead to premature old age and insanity. Price \$1 a box; 6 boxes for \$5.00 sent by express on receipt of price.

A WRITTEN GUARANTEE is given with every \$5 order received, to refund the money if a permanent cure is not effected. We have thousands of testimonials from old and young, of both sexes, who have been permanently cured by the use of Aphroditine. Circular free. Address THE APHRO-MEDICINE CO., Western Branch, Box 27, Portland, Oregon. For sale by Foshay & Mason, wholesale and retail druggists, Albany, Oregon.

Best of All!

Instead of offering a prize that only benefits the lucky one, or sending out conditional slips as bait, we propose to openly offer the citizens of Albany and vicinity choice goods at rock prices and give

For each one such dollar's worth at regular retail prices, until Jan. 1, 1890. Highest prices paid for chickens, eggs and butter. Thanking you for your past patronage and soliciting your trade for the future, I beg to remain as your servant, J. M. BARDEE.

G. W. SMITH,

(SUCCESSOR TO W. H. McFARLAND)

The Largest Line of Stoves and Tinware in the Willamette Valley. Pumps, pipes and plumbing.

Advertisement for Garland Stoves and Ranges. Includes illustration of a woman and a stove, and text: 'SUPERIOR COOKS AND HEATERS. MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED different styles and sizes... Beware of fraudulent imitations...'

Cotton and Rubber Hose. Tin, Granite and Copperware. All Job Work Promptly Attended to.

CONRAD MEYER

PROPRIETOR OF THE

OLD AND RELIABLE STAR BAKERY.

A Full Stock of Staple Groceries, Fine Glassware and Crockery Kept Constantly on Hand.

Fresh Baked Bread Every Day, Pies, Cakes, Etc., Etc.

RED CROWN MILLS.

ISOM, LANNING & CO., PROP'S.

Most Approved Process Flour and All Grades of Meals.

Conveniently located for shipment by river or rail.

ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED.

Advertisement for Red Crown Mills. Includes illustration of a mill and text: 'SUPERIOR FOR FAMILY AND BAKERS' USE. SOLD IN ALL PARTS OF THE NORTHWEST.'

ALBANY, OREGON