

MISSISSIPPI LEVEES.

People Along the River Want Them Done Away With

Methods Suggested for the Protection of Farms and Towns in Flood Times—Opinions of the Sufferers.

"The levees must go." Such is the expression heard on every side during a trip along the Mississippi river from Cairo to Vicksburg from steamboat men, planters, residents of river cities, river prophets and the oldest and youngest inhabitants of the districts which are in or contiguous to the flooded districts. Probably the only class of people who do not concur in this assertion are the government engineers and members of the levee boards in the different states. Even they admit that the levee system has proved a failure this year, so far as giving protection to the lands behind them is concerned, and the only defense they can offer is that the high water of 1897 is without precedent, so that no calculations based on conditions of previous years could be taken into account in coping with the floods. To this argument the disgruntled populace reply: "What has brought about the unprecedented high water but the extension of a levee system to keep the water pent up in a narrow channel, contrary to the intent of nature?" Year after year the broad bottom lands to which the river had found access have been shuoff from the Mississippi; periodically it has broken from the restraint put upon it and entered the forbidden lands.

A system of outlets has been tried, but found wanting, and now the people along the river declare that the same is true of the big levee system. These people are not skilled in the science of engineering, but they appear to compose a majority of the better class of citizens, and base their conclusions on their observations in years of previous overflows. They are the class who place notches on the corners of houses and in tree trunks to mark the extreme height of the water, and who are familiar with every crook and bend in the river, its tributaries and lakes and bayous.

And what do they offer as a substitute for the great embankments which a liberal government has helped to create? They have many things to offer, but few subscribe to any substitute for the levees. On the contrary, they say that we welcome the overflow, with its resultant rich deposit of silt on their impoverished land. The horrors of the crevasses, the resistless current which uproots trees and sweeps houses from their foundations are not characteristics of an overflow, but are the creatures of the levees, produced only when the big embankments fail to hold the river in its course, and, having increased its pent-up fury, finally allow it to wreak death and devastation with the force which the levees alone created. "Let the periodical overflows come," they say, "and we will welcome them and approach and permit them to enter our fields and plantations unresisted."

Then they point to the great mounds which a prehistoric race have erected on both sides of the river commonly called "Indian mounds," and declare that this was a method a former race had of meeting the waters. Many of these mounds have been taken possession of by the planters, and where they do not exist the planters have already begun their erection. On these houses and barns are built, cattle pens are erected, and they serve as most effective havens during the time of overflow.

Another method which is already employed, even behind some of the largest and strongest levees, in which the people have no confidence, as a result of years of experience, is that of building small private levees about the few acres included in their orchards, gardens and plots of ground surrounding their homes and those of the hundreds of employees on every great plantation.

Some of the people who are opposed to the continuation of the levee system are advocates of the "straightening of the river" theory. This class declares that the money now being expended by the government in levees could be applied to much better advantage in straightening out the crooks and bends which the erratic Mississippi takes, and materially decreasing the distance between Cairo and New Orleans, deepening the channel and allowing a free access to the gulf. But here the opponents of the levees lose the support of their adherents, the steamboaters, who say that such a stream would have so swift a current as to render navigation practically impossible.

Much of the dissatisfaction which exists among the people where the levees are not under the control of the government is due to their belief that the state boards are honeycombed with corruption, and that the funds appropriated by the states serve as a grab-bag for those intrusted with their distribution in the form of high official salaries, expensive clerical forces, exorbitant expense accounts and open connivance with the contractors who work and bid under their direction and approval.

Hardly a town of any size can be visited between Cairo and Vicksburg where such accusations are not made openly, and citizens who have the weight of business success or high official standing are eager to gather statements derogatory to the probity and good faith of the local levee boards. For the "water fighters," who work night and day along the river front in the actual labor of battling with the river, they have the greatest respect, and only words of praise are heard for their honest efforts. It is against those who direct and limit their work, the power behind the throne, that the odium is cast.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Sara Bernhardt has always had a morbid dread of fire, and this has led her to direct that all her stage dresses shall be made of fireproof material.

Spain's Greatest Need.

Mr. R. P. Oliver, of Barcelona, Spain, spends his winters in Aiken, S.C. Weak nerves had caused severe pains in the back of his head. On using Electric Bitters, America's greatest blood and nerve remedy, all pain soon left him. He says this grand medicine is what his country needs. All America knows that it cures liver and kidney troubles, purifies the blood, tones up the stomach, strengthens the nerves, puts vim, vigor and new life into every muscle, nerve and organ of the body. If weak, tired or ailing you need it. Every bottle guaranteed, only 50 cents. Sold by Bloem Drug Co.

FARMS ALMOST FREE.

Small Homesteads in Pennsylvania Very Cheap.

Deserted Homes with Good Accommodations That May Be Had for One Dollar a Month.

A traveling man who returned from a business trip by wagon through east Pennsylvania said to the Sun correspondent:

"There is no need for any eastern man to go west for a free farm. In my travels just ended I passed more than a dozen deserted homes in the country—good homes and stables, with not a sign of an occupant. Some of these homes have a dozen fertile acres each, a good spring, some woodland, and fences still in fair condition. At other places the acreage was not so large. At one place there were 15 acres.

"In the northern part of Berks county, where the soil is dark and good, I came across a two-story frame house with five rooms and an out kitchen, a bake oven, pigsty, and a small farm barn. There was a garden, too, all overrun with weeds. No one had lived there for two years. I asked the owner of a big farm near by what the matter was. He said there was nothing the matter with the place, only the right man had not come along yet. It had ten acres, and the farmer was working those acres along with his own rather than let them be overgrown with weeds and Canada thistles, to spoil his own land. The owner gets no rent. The house and barn are nailed shut and everything is going to decay. 'They have a good well of water, too, and a good spring down there under the willow trees,' said the farmer. 'The man who lived there last moved to town, saying he could not make living and pay the rent of \$24 a year. Think of a nice country home like this for \$24 a year, and yet not rented! Any good man and wife can get along on such a place, yet people are not renting it. They ought to be able to make ends meet on ten acres. A man could keep a horse, a cow or two, chickens or ducks, and could raise a good many things on ten acres. It's a slow man who can't pick up odd jobs in the country to make his rent and have a little besides.'

"Notwithstanding all that the farmer said, the fact remains that dozens of such little country homes in eastern Pennsylvania are entirely deserted and nailed shut. I have now in my mind a very nice house with a front yard, grape arbor, garden with picket fence, back oven, outhouse, stable, and nine acres of ground, located on a hillside overlooking a beautiful valley. That place has been deserted for two years. The man who last lived there got a job in the city and now pays ten dollars a month rent, whereas he couldn't pay \$15 a month in the country. It is a puzzle to me why men can't get along on ten good acres like that. I can only conclude that they are too lazy to work.

"The other day I doubted the road and noticed that a formerly deserted house near Churchtown was occupied. It surprised me. I stopped and learned that a city family on a vacation had taken the house for two weeks, and were having a picnic in the country. The housewife said it was a shame that such a nice house should be tenantless and deserted. Twenty dollars would fix up the kitchen and chimney, and a smart man could make the ten fertile acres blossom like the rose, but the great trouble is to find the smart man who wants to leave the city and live in the country as a small farmer.

"The other day two good houses, new frame stable for two cows, 12 acres, good garden, fruit trees, good well of water, grape arbor, bake oven, and all, sold for \$150. The buyer paid \$25 cash and gave his note for a year for the balance. The place had rented for one dollar a month, and the tenant cheated the landlord out of a year's rent, so she sold the farm rather than have it among the deserted.

"An able-bodied man with a few hundred dollars can buy a good little home at many nice places in eastern Pennsylvania, and if he makes up his mind to pitch in, be saving, and work when it doesn't rain, he can live comfortably. The trouble seems to be that so many men would rather loaf than earn a living."—N. Y. Sun.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The checks become pale from fear because the mental emotion diminishes the action of the heart and lungs and so impedes the circulation.

A HORSELESS-CARRIAGE FACE.

Awful Visage That Will Surpass the Bicycle Face.

The "bicycle face" will now yield the palm to that awful visage known as the "horseless-carriage face." That expression known as the "bicycle face" is caused by anxiety, apprehension and actual dread lest the owner run over this east of countenance, brought about by anxiety lest some bad accident occur, apprehension that the rider may be the victim, and positive, downright dread that some one else may be injured. These varying and powerful emotions, constantly playing upon a sympathetic soul, are reflected through ocular and nervous lines in the countenance technically known as "bicycle face."

This east of countenance, brought about by the most humane emotions of a sympathetic soul and reflected through the mirror of eyes and expression, is the opposite of that glare soon to become known as the "horseless-carriage face." When the modern moloch is in full operation the face of the rider undergoes an awful change. The lines of the mouth become set, rigid, immovable, and stony grim—just the opposite of the sympathetic bicycle face, in that it reflects a determination that if anybody is killed it won't be the owner of the "horseless-carriage face." There is also a look of fear—not fear that he may run down somebody, but fear that he won't. The eyes have a fixed and steely glare, while over the whole satiric face is the impress of horror, a faint but ever-present shadow that shows the modern moloch is impelled to pursue his work of devastation by some potent hellish power. Once seated in this powerful engine of destruction, with a firm grip on the lever, even the fairest countenance takes on some attributes of this "horseless-carriage face."—Pittsburgh "Dispatch."

The most curiously decorated graves in the world are the negro graves in South America. Some of these mounds are garnished with the bottles of medicine used by the departed in their final illness, and the duration of the malady is easily guessed by the number of bottles.

—Dr. Charles Frederick Wulfford, the oldest physician in Ohio, still keeps up his practice, despite his 93 years and his name. He says every member of his family for the past 300 years has lived over 100 years, and his grandfather, at the age of 106, crawled wheel for three days in succession.

—The Salonic correspondent of a Turkish newspaper announces that at the departure of the last train of wounded for Constantinople Mr. Blunt, her majesty's consul, was at the station and gave cigarettes and sugar plums to the men. The Jews of the same town presented each of the wounded with a watch.

THE MALTREATED STORE CLERKS.

They are Subjected to Great Injuries by Women Shoppers

The reputation which some large stores get for being obliging to their customers or having civil clerks could in the majority of cases be traced directly back to the shoppers themselves," writes Edward Bak, of "Systemless Shopping," in the November Ladies' Home Journal. "I make no claim of perfection for the clerks who stand behind the counters of our great stores where women shop. They are only common mortals, full of faults. But considering what they are called upon to go through and endure at the hands of thoughtless women, the constant wonder is that they are so civil and obliging. If the truth could be known it would be found that they suffer far more than they inflict suffering. If the roll could be called of hard-working, innocent girls who have lost their positions because of ill-founded complaints made by 'influential' customers whose accounts the firm could not afford to lose, it would be a roll of disgrace to American shoppers. The girls behind the counter are human—although from the actions of some women we might believe otherwise—human in their faults, but also in their finer feelings. Very often they represent better families, better breeding, than that which is revealed to them from the other side of the counter."

RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

The success of free rural delivery is an instance of results being obtained by government far exceeding the expectation of any but the most sanguine. It did not seem possible upon first thought that the department could attempt the carrying of letters and papers to farmers, miners and other country dwellers without doubling or trebling the annual deficit of the postoffice, and the first experiments in rural delivery were watched without much enthusiasm; but the official reports on the results are surprising.

For example, a test has been made in Montgomery county, Indiana, where the routes radiated about twelve miles from a central postoffice at Crawford. During the first month mail matter delivered by rural carriers averaged about 1000 pieces per carrier. At the end of the year it had increased to about 5000 pieces per month. On the other hand the collections at the beginning were only from eight to ten letters per day, while twelve months later they were from fifty to sixty letters per day, besides newspapers and other matter. Daily newspapers are destined to be among the largest gainers from rural postal delivery, and in Montgomery county it was found that the Chicago and Indianapolis newspapers increased their circulation considerably. It is even claimed that the convenience of having mail matter brought to every farmer's door has created such a good feeling among the country people that the value of farm property has made a sensible advance.

The report is confirmed by others, upon experiments made in different parts of the country, all tending to show that rural delivery increases the volume of mail transmitted several fold. The probabilities are that before many years rural postal delivery will be established throughout this country, as it already is throughout Germany and some other European countries.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Thankful words written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart, of Groton, S. D., "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs, cough set in and finally terminated in consumption. Four doctors gave me up saying I could live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet them in heaven. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery and getting ready to return to Canyon City, Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave."

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that is afflicted with the scab and will have to be dipped before Deputy Stock Inspector John Blackwell will issue a permit so Mr. Brown can move them to his range.

L. B. Conner purchased last week of J. A. Wallace, of Eagle Valley, their 350 acre ranch on Fox Creek, paying therefor the sum of \$1600. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who have been visiting in this community for several weeks, have returned to Richland, where Mr. Wallace is in the drug business with Dr. W. T. Miracle, for whom Mr. Sloan paid no learned.

Henry Walker and family were over from Fox Valley last Friday. Mr. Walker has not fully recovered from the injuries he received when his team ran away near Heppner some time ago.

John Newman is closing up his business here and getting ready to return to Canyon City. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave.

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that is afflicted with the scab and will have to be dipped before Deputy Stock Inspector John Blackwell will issue a permit so Mr. Brown can move them to his range.

L. B. Conner purchased last week of J. A. Wallace, of Eagle Valley, their 350 acre ranch on Fox Creek, paying therefor the sum of \$1600. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who have been visiting in this community for several weeks, have returned to Richland, where Mr. Wallace is in the drug business with Dr. W. T. Miracle, for whom Mr. Sloan paid no learned.

Henry Walker and family were over from Fox Valley last Friday. Mr. Walker has not fully recovered from the injuries he received when his team ran away near Heppner some time ago.

John Newman is closing up his business here and getting ready to return to Canyon City. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave.

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that is afflicted with the scab and will have to be dipped before Deputy Stock Inspector John Blackwell will issue a permit so Mr. Brown can move them to his range.

L. B. Conner purchased last week of J. A. Wallace, of Eagle Valley, their 350 acre ranch on Fox Creek, paying therefor the sum of \$1600. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who have been visiting in this community for several weeks, have returned to Richland, where Mr. Wallace is in the drug business with Dr. W. T. Miracle, for whom Mr. Sloan paid no learned.

Henry Walker and family were over from Fox Valley last Friday. Mr. Walker has not fully recovered from the injuries he received when his team ran away near Heppner some time ago.

John Newman is closing up his business here and getting ready to return to Canyon City. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave.

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that is afflicted with the scab and will have to be dipped before Deputy Stock Inspector John Blackwell will issue a permit so Mr. Brown can move them to his range.

L. B. Conner purchased last week of J. A. Wallace, of Eagle Valley, their 350 acre ranch on Fox Creek, paying therefor the sum of \$1600. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who have been visiting in this community for several weeks, have returned to Richland, where Mr. Wallace is in the drug business with Dr. W. T. Miracle, for whom Mr. Sloan paid no learned.

Henry Walker and family were over from Fox Valley last Friday. Mr. Walker has not fully recovered from the injuries he received when his team ran away near Heppner some time ago.

John Newman is closing up his business here and getting ready to return to Canyon City. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave.

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that is afflicted with the scab and will have to be dipped before Deputy Stock Inspector John Blackwell will issue a permit so Mr. Brown can move them to his range.

L. B. Conner purchased last week of J. A. Wallace, of Eagle Valley, their 350 acre ranch on Fox Creek, paying therefor the sum of \$1600. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who have been visiting in this community for several weeks, have returned to Richland, where Mr. Wallace is in the drug business with Dr. W. T. Miracle, for whom Mr. Sloan paid no learned.

Henry Walker and family were over from Fox Valley last Friday. Mr. Walker has not fully recovered from the injuries he received when his team ran away near Heppner some time ago.

John Newman is closing up his business here and getting ready to return to Canyon City. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave.

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that is afflicted with the scab and will have to be dipped before Deputy Stock Inspector John Blackwell will issue a permit so Mr. Brown can move them to his range.

L. B. Conner purchased last week of J. A. Wallace, of Eagle Valley, their 350 acre ranch on Fox Creek, paying therefor the sum of \$1600. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who have been visiting in this community for several weeks, have returned to Richland, where Mr. Wallace is in the drug business with Dr. W. T. Miracle, for whom Mr. Sloan paid no learned.

Henry Walker and family were over from Fox Valley last Friday. Mr. Walker has not fully recovered from the injuries he received when his team ran away near Heppner some time ago.

John Newman is closing up his business here and getting ready to return to Canyon City. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have made many friends during their short residence in this city, who regret to see them leave.

Red McPhail, Neal Daley and Charlie Kimsey stayed in town over night last Friday. They were enroute home to Prairie City from Pendleton, where they had been to deliver a band of beef cattle sold to Seattle parties.

Charles Brown, of Lone Rock, was in town Tuesday. He has a band of sheep a few miles west of town that