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MILITIA EFFICIENCY.

It was recently announced that Adjt.-Gen. Drum had inquired of the Adjutant General of each of the states what proportion of its quota of troops in a call for 200,000 men could be furnished, equipped for service, within forty-eight hours after receiving the notice. This statement Gen. Drum has since denied. The report possibly grew out of the fact that in the autumn the State Adjutant-Generals are in the habit of reporting to him the number and effective strength of their militia forces, in order that he may embody the results in an annual report on the subject which he makes to congress every February, in compliance with the statutes. Nevertheless, it is understood that the subject of securing some sort of reorganization of the state forces is under consideration, and that Gen. Drum's well-known earnestness on this subject may take the form of a definite recommendation to congress.

For the last eighteen years every session of congress, we believe, has had its bill for the improvement of the militia, but not one of the many schemes proposed for this purpose has succeeded. In some cases the failure has appeared to be due to simple neglect; but beyond this there is a serious practical difficulty. The Constitution, in assigning to Congress the duty of arming the militia and prescribing its discipline, expressly reserves at the same time to the states the right of training the militia in accordance with this discipline. This division of privileges and powers has been partly ignored in some of the projects for nationalizing the militia, so that when they are carefully examined in congress it is found that they cannot be lawfully accepted.

Again, the constitution and the early statutes contemplated a general enrollment and drilling of the arms-bearing population under regulations to be made by congress. This system, however, especially with the growth of the country and the gradual diminution of the fears of foreign aggression, proved to be so cumbersome as at last to drop apart by its own weight; in fact, in a few years after its establishment, the original militia system was so fully recognized to be a failure that no attempt was made to enforce the laws of compulsory muster that still remained on the statute book. About half a century ago, volunteer organizations in the various states began to discharge the duties incumbent on militia. The legislatures encouraged them, and at last in nearly all the states, under local laws, these organizations formed the militia system as it exists to-day. It is evident at once that these bodies may have vested rights and privileges which it would be ungracious even if lawful for congress to undertake to overthrow. On the other hand, for congress to ignore these numerous and useful bodies of troops, with their existing appliances, and found a different system, would be a costly undertaking, as well as a needless interference with existing organizations.

Nevertheless, the need of great uniformity in the drill, disciplining, organization, clothing equipping, and arming of the state troops, is apparent. An ingenious plan, which has proved the basis of the more recent bills introduced into congress, proposes to greatly increase the appropriation voted by congress for arming the state troops, and then to make it applicable only to such organizations as shall conform to certain prescribed regulations in drill, target practice, uniforms, and so on. Some doubt, however, exists as to how far this compulsion could be lawfully used to deprive any state of their shares of the public money which is annually devoted to arming and equipping the militia.

As the matter stands, some states report no organized militia at all; others, an absurdly small

force; still others are deficient in regular camps and systems of training, and provide very imperfect arms and equipments; while even in some of the states where the militia is the most prosperous the finest regiments may be seen rigged out in uniforms that are ludicrously unfit for real campaigning. If General Drum can suggest any good plan for lawfully securing uniformity and efficiency in the state militia he will do good service; for it must be remembered that the greater the improvement of the militia the less is the need of a regular army.

The Nehalem Valley.

Nehalem river rises in the mountains west of Portland, and takes a meandering course through a mountainous region to the Pacific ocean, entering it about forty miles south of the Columbia. On the river there are three settlements, upper, middle and lower or bay settlement. I will only speak of the latter. This settlement can be reached by one of three routes, by wagon road from North Yamhill and Tillamook, by steamers from Astoria or by trail from Seaside. The river is navigable for small vessels about twelve miles, when it becomes rocky and rapid. Eight miles from the mouth the smaller fork, heading in Saddle mountain. The valley proper is narrow, from one to three miles wide. Tide lands extend a little above the forks, and is mostly covered with grass. Tide comes over this only in high winter tides. Besides the tide land there is considerable good bottom lands, some light timbered but mostly pretty heavily. The soil of bottom and hill is very good, with a small exception. As a grass country, this is excellent; for grain, like all the coast region, it is not good. Roots and vegetables, except potatoes, yield well; potatoes are subject to blight. Fruit generally will succeed well. The hills and mountains are covered by the finest timber, cedar, spruce, fir, hemlock and alder. Under the hills is an undeveloped coal bed; croppings are pronounced excellent lignite. A good stock and dairy country with inestimable wealth of timber and coal, yet a curse is upon us that prevents our rapid development. We are within the limits of a railroad land grant. It might have been good policy for the government to make land grants, but it is hard on settlers to have the grant without the railroad. Another hindrance to settlement is the want of surveys. Whole valleys here, as rich as any land out of doors, cannot be settled because they are not surveyed, for who wants to make improvements with the chance of finding them on railroad land. There are a few good claims yet to be had on surveyed government land and many on unsurveyed. There are also some good railroad claims for those who want them. Some of the advantages of this section are an even cool climate, the thermometer has not gone above 85 degrees this summer, plenty of fish and game, consisting of elk, bear and deer and wild berries in abundance. Some of the disadvantages are the want of roads, difficulties of getting to market and infrequency of mail communication.—*Corr. Willamette Farmer.*

Lumber Claims.

A circular from the general land office directs that "officers taking testimony in timber land cases must require the witnesses to testify as to the actual character of the soil and to state whether or not it would be suitable for cultivation by ordinary farming process if cleared of its timber, and whether the land is broken, rugged or mountainous, whether thickly timbered or otherwise; whether it would pay to clear it for farming purposes and whether it has any value for grazing purposes or for the water that there may be thereon."

Be Careful About Titles.

Those persons who have taken up homesteads and pre-emption claims, says the *Standard*, will find some of these days that simply complying with the form of the law, having no regard for its spirit or letter, will not give them such a title as to ensure any value to the property when tested. There are a great number of persons who have taken up land and put a shanty upon it, plowed around the tract claimed and perhaps once in six months, when convenient, slept over night on this so-called homestead or pre-emption. This may cover the meaning of the law, but we are of the opinion at some future time there will be a ruling that such claimants obtained their title by fraud upon the government and are not entitled to the property. In order that a person may get an undisputed title to property, he must live upon and cultivate the same, and while there may be no present contest, when property becomes valuable the right to hold it under an imperfect compliance with the law will be raised, and when fraud and non-compliance is established, no title will be found to exist in the person who has failed to meet the spirit as well as the letter of the law. The class of persons who have assumed to hold property in this way are numerous, and they have done so for speculative purposes, which will be a strong argument against them, as the law is intended to give homes to actual settlers, and not to be used by land grabbers and speculators.



DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE.
THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frost-bitten Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.
No Preparation on earth equals Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a safe, sure, simple and cheap External Remedy. A trial entails but the comparatively trifling outlay of 50 Cents, and every sufferer with pain can have cheap and positive proof of its claims.
Directions in Eleven Languages.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS AND DEALERS IN MEDICINE.
A. VOGELER & CO.,
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Work is going ahead on the filling, in Albina. There are at present over 1,000 men employed by the Terminal company on this work alone. It is the aim of the parties in charge to have the temporary railroad shops completed by the 1st of November, and the works as far advanced as possible when the golden spike guests arrive.

SYMPTOMS OF A DISEASED LIVER.

Pain in the right side, under edge of ribs, increasing on pressure; sometimes the pain is on the left side; the patient is rarely able to lie on the left side; sometimes the pain is felt under the shoulder and is sometimes taken for Rheumatism in the arm. The stomach is affected with loss of appetite and sickness; the bowels in general are constive, sometimes alternating with laxity; the head is troubled with pain, accompanied with a dull, heavy sensation in the back part. There is generally a considerable loss of memory, accompanied with a painful sensation of having left undone something which ought to be done. A slight, dry cough is sometimes attendant. The patient complains of weakness and debility; he is easily startled; his feet are cold or burning, and he complains of a prickly sensation of the skin; his spirits are low, and, although he is satisfied that exercise would be beneficial to him, yet he can scarcely summon up fortitude enough to try it.

If you have any of the above symptoms, you can certainly be cured by the use of the genuine **DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS.** When you buy McLANE'S PILLS, insist on having **DR. C. McLANE'S CELEBRATED LIVER PILLS**, made by Fleming Bros., Pittsburgh, Pa. If you can not get the genuine **DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS**, send us 25 cents by mail, and we will send them to you.
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THE LATEST STYLES
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AT B. B. FRANKLIN'S,
NEXT DOOR TO ASTORIAN OFFICE.
A very large Stock from which to select. Window curtains made to order.
My patent Trimmer to cut Wall Paper will be found convenient to my patrons.

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In Shively's we have two lots 9 and 10 in blk 18 that are in a splendid location and easy of access, for \$450.00 each; also lot 4 in blk 25, which is grading, for \$600.00.

In Adair's Astoria we have a number of fine lots on, or near the Roadway travelled by the stages, for sale at reasonable prices.

In Albertson we have thirteen (13) lots which we will sell for \$250.00 each, to those who will improve.

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NOTICE.

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WESTERN DIVISIONS, Oregon Railway & Navigation Co., Oregon & California Railroad Co.

Grand Celebration at Portland, On September 10th and 11th.

Account completion of the Northern Pacific R. R.

Round Trip Tickets have been placed on sale at all ticket stations at 40 per cent. reduction.

Tickets good from Sept. 8th to 13th, both days inclusive.

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We have the only complete set of township maps in the county, and have made arrangements to receive applications, filings, and final proofs on Homesteads, Preemptions, Timber Lands, etc., having all the official blanks therefor. Our maps can be examined in this office, upon the payment of a reasonable fee.

We also have for sale city property in Astoria and additions, and farms and tide land property. Rents, and other collections made, and loans negotiated.

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Rear of Church Building.

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For further particulars apply to REV. M. D. WILSON.