

It is time a policy were adopted relative to the so-called arid lands of the United States. These possessions have an important bearing on the progress of the country. They are not to be disposed of as are lands that are in condition for immediate cultivation or valuable for timber or minerals, or by reason of riparian location. They are not in their natural condition capable of yielding a living to civilized man, and are not, therefore, to be offered to settlers with any hope that their acceptance will carry benefits to anybody. Some provision must be made for getting water upon these lands before they will become of practical value.

From the experiments that have been conducted, it appears clear that it is within the legitimate functions of the government to provide for watering the arid lands, for this necessarily implies control of the water sources. In these wide, dry areas, he who controls the water supply has the land at his mercy. It is frequently the practice of private owners to get the tracts on which springs are located, or through which streams flow, by which device they govern the use of vast areas. Those who cannot get to water must leave the country, and the water owners thus hold it all. Of course, this practice cannot be permitted to prevail. It is not only rank injustice to citizens, but it keeps the country from development and is thereby injurious to the state. Congress has already enacted laws that practically remedy this difficulty, but they do not actively promote the improvement of the arid areas. A way is provided whereby monopoly of water sources may be prevented hereafter; but this hardly reaches the real need of the situation.

At best the arid regions are not inviting to settlers. Something should be done not only to make it possible for homebuilders to enforce certain rights against water-owners, but to bring the country into a condition that shall make it attractive to tillers of the soil; for it is they who need encouragement, who make the state rich, who are the groundwork of social order, the basis of civilization. So long as the risk is great and it is necessary to take these lands in vast tracts in order to use them, there will be no popular movement to occupy them. They will remain vacant or fall into the hands of irrigation companies or livestock syndicates, who will, of course, use them to their own ends. Another feature of the problem is the matter of getting water upon arid land so situated that it cannot be seasonably covered from natural sources of supply. Strong reservoirs are necessary in such cases, and they are not only too expensive for ordinary farming communities to undertake, but require higher engineering skill than settlers in a new country would be likely to find available.

Senator Warren, of Wyoming, has formed a plan that is entitled to serious consideration. It is to devote the proceeds from the sale of arid lands to projects that will secure water for them—storage reservoirs, irrigating ditches, etc. These could be established and controlled for the general good. At most the government would risk only the receipts from the sale of land that would be practically worthless without such improvements, and the assurance of the government that the improvements would be provided, would command the confidence of home-seekers and contribute to rapid settlement of the country. Here is a good plan to elaborate and build on.—Oregonian.

It is evident that there will be a strong effort made by the Ariz-

can Cattlegrowers' Association to get a land leasing bill passed by congress. Resolutions to that end were adopted by the convention held in Denver last week, a report of which appears on our first page. Even though there are millions backing the proposition the people will surely not allow such an infamous bill to pass without fighting it to a finish. The people of this section should keep an eye on the matter and not permit it to pass. Representative Moody knows the sentiment of his constituents and it is expected he will work and vote against any such legislation. We should also let Senator Mitchell know that all of Oregon East of the Cascade mountains, with the exception of a few large cattlemen, oppose the leasing of the public lands. It would be the death of the small stock grower. We would have no use for stores, school houses or anything else in Harney county. We would simply be shut out by the big stock companies and instead of this valley being settled up and the land doing something toward making a living for the people, it would be one vast field used to pasture the stock of two or three big stock concerns. Coyotes would roam the streets of our little city and our business men would all be bankrupt. This is a matter that concerns every resident of Eastern Oregon and should be taken up right now. The people who favor this bill are not going to make child's play of it. They are earnest, determined men, who are looking out for their own interests. Those who oppose the measure should be just as determined. In the interests of your homes and your children, don't allow these corporations to grab the whole country.

In conversation with Hon. I. S. Geer in regard to the new scalp bounty law, we find it to be as follows: The old law was in effect, of course, until the new law went into effect and scalps taken prior to the date of the new law should be counted, etc., as before by the county court and will be settled by the Secretary of State. The scalps taken since the date of the new law must be presented to the county clerk by the person who killed the animal and receive a county warrant.

A newspaper's appearance is considered an index to the town's desirability as a place of residence and business. Thus the hearty support of the advertising columns of a local paper helps along the growth of the town and adds to your business. It is discouraging to a newspaper to continually advocate the doctrine of buying from home merchants unless they show they are interested by catering to the home trade by advertising in its columns.—Lakeview Examiner.

The Oregon legislature has adjourned without giving Lakeview or Burns a single graft. We fully expected a branch penitentiary, insane asylum or some other institution, and Burns wanted a high school and \$10,000 in its stocking. We shall remember these Solons—that we will.—Lakeview Examiner.

There are those who declare that food has much to do with a person's character, disposition and mental capacity. If this is true then the hand that molds the biscuit rules the world. We are what the cooks have made us. Bad cooking will without a doubt affect one's disposition and often cause a strong development of the oratorical faculties. Some imagine that particularly successful men must eat something different from the common herd, but it is not so. The statement is just out that J. Pierpont Morgan's favorite dish is corned beef and cabbage.

Mrs. Casey (reading war news) Was soldier war mortally wounded, an his last words were "Gimme whiskey."

Mrs. Nolan (whose husband is

at the front)—Hivin hlp me fath-erlies childer; that wor Pat.—Grit. "Of course, John," said his wife "I'm obliged to you for this money, but it isn't nearly enough to buy a real fur coat." "Well," replied the brutal man, "you'll have to make it go as fur as you can."—Ex.

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