

# The Times-Herald.

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## The Times-Herald.

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## RECLAMATION OF ARID LAND

### PARTIAL TEXT OF BILL DRAFTED BY ENGINEERS AND CONGRESSMEN.

Bulk of Money From Sale of Public Lands to Be Applied to Construction of Irrigation Works—Plan Outlined.

A dispatch of last week from Cheyenne, says:

At a joint meeting of congressmen and state engineers who came here to discuss the best methods of reclaiming arid lands, a bill was drafted which, with perhaps some minor changes, will be presented to congress at its next session. The proposed measure in part is as follows:

"That all money received from the sale or disposal of public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902, excepting money set aside by law for educational purposes, and excepting also the salaries of the registers and receivers of the United States land offices, located within said states and territories, shall be and are hereby reserved for the benefit of the state or territory in which said lands are sold to be kept as a special fund to be known as the 'arid land reclamation fund,' and shall be under the direction of the secretary of the interior for the examination, survey and construction of reservoirs and other irrigation works.

"Any of the states or territories desiring to avail themselves of the provisions of the act shall enact laws accepting the conditions of this act and organize and maintain a state engineer's office with authority to plan and make estimates for reservoirs to be paid for out of the reclamation fund. The officials shall also arrange for the establishment of rights to water from same.

"It shall be the duty of the secretary of the interior to examine plans and surveys submitted by the state engineers for proposed reservoir and irrigation works and approve or reject the same. Having approved the plans, the secretary shall cause to be set aside a sufficient sum of money from the reclamation fund."

Provision is also made in the bill for the segregation from entry of all lands upon which storage reservoirs or other irrigation works are to be built as soon as the application is filed with the secretary of the interior. One of the vital provisions of the proposed bill is that any state accepting the provision of the act may sell the completed works to the actual consumers of such sale to be credited to the arid land reclamation fund of the state or territory constructing such works.

### Give the Potato its Due.

A writer in one of the current monthlies undertakes to enumerate the good things which America has given to the world. He lists maple sugar, the turkey, the tomato, Indian corn, tobacco and a host of other things, but totally neglects the potato, which is in more general use than any other vegetable. And this reminds us that one of the lesser encyclopedias gravely declares that the potato is a native of Great Britain and that it was "brought to the American settlements from Ireland"—a half truth which is quite as reprehensible as a full falsehood.

When the Spaniards penetrated Mexico they found the native eating, as one of the chroniclers of that day quaintly said, "certain roots or bulbs which grew at the ends of stems in the ground and which are called 'batata.'" The standard encyclopedias note that the potato is a native of South America, Mexico and other tropical American countries and that it made its first appearance in Europe when carried there from Peru by Spanish explorers at the beginning of the 16th century. It also was found in Florida and from there was carried to

## REPORT MAY LIVES LAST

### JOHNSTOWN FLOOD RE-ENACTED IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Report Indicates Loss of Four Towns With Probably Five Hundred People—Great Loss of Property.

Bluefield, W. V. June 23.—This section has just been visited by a flood, the extent of which, in all probability will equal or exceed that of Johnstown in 1889 so far as the loss of property is concerned. Early yesterday morning, shortly after midnight, a heavy downpour of rain began, accompanied by a severe electric storm which increased in volume, continuing for several hours. The storm continued throughout the entire day and night and at 10 a. m. while the storm had abated, the lowering clouds threatened another terrific downpour at any moment.

Many miles of the Norfolk & Western railroad tracks, bridges and telegraph lines are destroyed and communication is entirely cut off west of Elkhorn so that it is impossible to learn the full extent of the loss of life and property, but officials of the coal companies located in the district have sent out messengers to Elkhorn, the terminus of both telegraphic and railroad communication and have received a report that a conservative estimate as to the loss of life will easily reach 200.

A great number of coal and coke plants throughout the Pocahontas district are reported practically destroyed and are in some instances entirely washed away. Owing to the very high water which has flooded the region and prevented communication, anything like a correct estimate of the loss of property is impossible, but from the best information obtained at 2 p. m. Sunday the loss of property will easily reach \$2,000,000.

### A Southern Man for President.

A special to the New York Tribune from Washington, says: Congressman John W. Gaines, of Tennessee, in an interview, favors the nomination of a Southern man for president in 1904. He says: "My proposition for the nomination of a Southern man for president in 1904 is taking like wildfire. Since I made it a week ago I have received stacks of letters from all parts of the country commending me. For more than 50 years this country was ruled by the South, and I am satisfied they can again control if we go about it in the right way. The first step in this direction should be the nomination of a straight, old-fashioned Southern democrat for president in 1904. The man who says that the South does not now possess an abundance of presidential timber is a fool. I can name a dozen men or more, any one of whom would make us a winning candidate."

Then Mr. Gaines mentioned these names: Senator Morgan, of Alabama; Senator Cockrell, of Missouri; Senator Carmack and Ex-Senator Turley, of Tennessee; Senators Culberson and Bailey, of Texas; Senator Bacon and Clark Howell, Georgia; Associate Justice White, of Louisiana.

"And," said Mr. Gaines, "you might add to this list the name of John Marshall Harlan, of Kentucky, who, though appointed to the United States supreme court as a republican, has enunciated fine old democratic doctrine from the bench more than once."

"The war is over, and the South is an integral part of the Union, and not an insular possession or a Porto Rico; and besides have not numerous ex-Confederates served on the bench of the supreme court and in other positions of the federal judiciary by appointment of both democratic and republican presidents? Also, have not several ex-Confederates served in the cabinets of both republican and democratic presidents? Congress has been full of ex-Confederates for 30 years. Surely, if ex-Confederates can be trusted to make and interpret laws, they can be trusted to execute them. Therefore, my voice from this time on shall be for a Southern man for president."

### Best Way to Sell Wool.

The wool sale at Shaniko last week marks a new era in the Oregon wool market. That was the first time for any considerable quantity of wool to be put up at auction in the Northwest. A round million pounds was disposed of at 12½ cents per pound, that being the highest figure yet reported this season. All this wool belonged to the Baldwin Sheep & Land Company and part of it was of last year's clip.

Due notice of the sale had been given and a dozen buyers submitted sealed bids, based on samples of wool taken from the sacks on the ground. The highest bid took the wool, and \$125,000 was paid on the spot and the transaction closed.

This is one of the largest sales of wool ever made in the Northwest; it is even said to be the largest ever made by a producer. There have been sales of larger quantities by a warehouse man or other collector of quantities of wool, but no primary sale that exceeded this in amount of wool or money involved. The new plan worked so successfully in this instance that it is likely to be largely followed hereafter. It is found that the producer who has a considerable quantity of wool—all this wool was the finest grade merino—can get the best price and make the cleanest sale by putting it up at auction.

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