

THE move on foot to petition Congress that the Arid lands of Oregon be listed to the state and placed on the market with a proviso that such lands be reclaimed by irrigation, should be closely watched and the object thoroughly sifted and investigated before signing such petition. If the state becomes owner of the said lands without any restrictions as to the manner of disposing of it except the proviso that the land shall be reclaimed by proper irrigation, we will find all of this arid land, in a very short time after being put on the market, in the same predicament of the Re-I-S. and swamp lands of this state. We take it for granted that the move is in the interest of syndicates and corporations, who are desirous of getting possession and then by the same procedure for which they are noted keep back the settlement and development of the country just so long as possible and the actual settler—the hard-working “backbone” of the government—be compelled to step to one side, as usual, and instead of being the independent land owner, as he should be, he will have to take the position of hireling or “underling” to a syndicate whose only brains is money and is favored by congress and the state because of its money.

If Uncle Sam would be more lavish in making appropriations to redeem his arid and swamp lands, after which open up such lands for actual settlers, instead of needless and foolish appropriations so often made by which only a certain class is benefited and the people at large who have this tax to pay are actually injured.

We argue and maintain that the only just and equitable disposition of the question of reclaiming this arid land is, that the government do it by appropriating sufficient money for that purpose and then allow actual settlers either to buy or homestead the lands.

In the long run the government will receive tenfold profit on the money invested, then the people of this government as a whole will be benefited, because an actual dividend reaped by the government is a benefit to the people. But by allowing this land to fall into the hands of a corporation, the corporation of course receives the profits, the government is the loser, the people lose just the amount made by the corporation, the actual settler is deprived of the right to settle or enter such land, the government is stabbing itself and the tax payer, and the poor settler is left out in the cold to become the slave of the few individuals who reap a big harvest through class legislation. Congress is, and has been for 25 years, the tool used by designing men to accomplish the robbery of the honest hardworking people who love and reverence our republican institutions and are at all times ready to risk life in defense of a government which every day allow syndicates and corporations to rob them without mercy.

“Yes,” one will say, “but the object of the petition is to get the lands in shape that the matter can be taken hold on and something

done with this great body of land that is now almost in a worthless condition, and further-more Congress is or will be petitioned to provide that one individual can only buy 320 acres on the conditions set forth in the petition or named by act of Congress.

Now we ask how many ranchers can take 320 acres and properly irrigate and improve the same? We mean actual settlers who are not able to pay the prices asked for improved farms. We answer not one of them have the means whereby to irrigate and make homes of the land in question. This fact is clearly understood by the monied men who desire to possess this land, and another fact is also seen by them, that is if Congress provides that one man shall only buy or enter 320 acres he (the capitalist) will buy or enter a 320 acre tract, then he will furnish the money to poor men, who would like to have a home but is not financially able to do all this work necessary on such a tract of land, consequently in the end the capitalist owns the claim. Not only one extra claim but many of them.

Now we would ask the friends of this move in what way would the poor men wanting a home be benefited if the petition prayed for was granted? Now we reiterate that the only way any material benefit can accrue to the settler wanting a home and is too poor to buy one already improved, is that Congress make an appropriation, redeem this arid land and the government open it up for the actual settlers.

AT IT AGAIN!

A Bloody War is Now Feared.

GUTHRIE, O. T., Jan. 19.—A courier coming in from the Cherokee strip to-night reports that there will be serious trouble on the Osage and Pawnee reservations in the eastern part of the strip. The Osage Indians have been very insolent for a year past, and when a few months ago, their agent, to further his private interests, advised them not to treat with the government commissioners for the sale of their land—that they owned it and should keep it all—they at once became imbued with the idea of running things to suit themselves.

White people traveling through the reservation have been surrounded by Indians, who detain them for hours, dancing around them and going through all the forms of taking scalps. Many woman and children were prostrated with fright. Other travelers have been robbed and beaten, and it is now asserted that some days ago the Indians danced around two little girls and became so excited that they cut a piece of scalp from one's head and cut off the other one's hair. The parents of the children had been tied to their wagon and had been compelled to look on.

Within the last week the blanket Indians of this tribe have been holding a ghost dance which grows larger and more vigorous each day. The participants have now become worked up to such a pitch that it is unsafe for a white man to venture near. They claim that the messiah has promised to come and lead them in a great campaign against the white men, when every one of

the latter will be driven into the ocean across which they first came to America.

Across the river from the Osage reservation the Pawnees are having a dance, and a few days ago a large party of Osages captured some straggling Pawnees, tied them up to a tree and held a mock scalp dance about them all day. The Pawnees are very much incensed over this and threatened to retaliate. Should any number of these two tribes come in contact while they are excited from dancing an open and bloody war will surely follow.

DENVER, Jan. 20.—Devil's Head, a little mountain village of Colorado, far from any railroad, has a mystery. Since Thanksgiving the place has passed through a scourge of poisoning and fire, but its great distance from other inhabited portions of the state has prevented the facts from becoming known until now.

On Thanksgiving night Dan Ecker's barn was set on fire, and the horses and cattle burned alive. A few days later a wood-chopper by the name of Park's used a sack of flour in cooking his breakfast. Several hours after was taken deathly ill and died. An examination proved that the flour contained arsenic.

The mountain village was now thoroughly aroused, and in the midst of the excitement the house and barn of Fred Albans were destroyed by an unaccountable fire.

The charred remains of the cattle and horses of Albans were found in the ruins, but no trace of their owner has ever been discovered. Devil's Head sleeps in huge embankments of snow the most of the year. About a hundred mountaineers make their home there.

In Pike county, Mo., on the bank of the mighty Mississippi, there is a dreary and desolate spot, where is buried an unknown person. No stone marks the last resting place of the departed. No human habitation is near. Nothing breaks the intense quiet of the place but the lapping of the water at the foot of the high, steep bank, the occasional hoot of an owl or bark of a squirrel.

All is still. The current is very swift at this point and has turned in against the bank, slowly but surely eating it away until it has reached and passed the end of the coffin, nearly three feet of which sticks out and hangs immediately over the deep water which seems to wait with open arms to receive it. It is only a matter of time when it will drop and all traces of the unknown will be obliterated forever.

Through a crack in the coffin can be seen the bones of the departed, white and glistening with ghostly distinctness.

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