

THE ITEMS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1903.

THE SAVING OF THE PEOPLE'S ESTATE.

The following is in part a very interesting article by William E. Smythe, published in the January "Maxwell's Talisman," a paper devoted to irrigation:

"It would be wholly erroneous for any one to suppose that all the stealing of the public lands has been accomplished under the desert land law. On the contrary, there is not a land law on the statute book which has not been abused to a greater or less extent. Even the beneficent Homestead law—of glorious tradition—has frequently been made an instrument of injustice and a plaything of speculation by means of the notorious 'commutation clause.' The same is true of the mineral, timber and stone laws. All of them have been misapplied by greedy and dishonest men who have looked upon the public property merely as a means of private speculation. But the Desert Land law is singular in this—that there never was even the shadow of an excuse for its existence from the standpoint of the homeseeker. The only approach to a justification which anybody could possibly make in its behalf was the fact that private capital would be tempted to undertake to reclaim our deserts if some sort of a landed subsidy were offered. An argument might be made in favor of such a policy, especially at an earlier stage of development, if put forward on honest grounds. Many people now think it was a mistake to make vast land-grants for the purpose of encouraging railroad-building, but no one pretends that this was not done openly and above board. The Desert Land law, on the contrary, was a hypocritical pretense of benefit to the homeseeking public, when it could not possibly be used for such a purpose in the vast majority of instances."

"Irrigation is always a paying investment from the standpoint of social and economic gains. With private capital large and early dividends are the chief consideration, but the primary object of the investment of public capital is to increase the general prosperity. This is accomplished when the opportunity for home-making is opened for thousands; when the amount of taxable property is increased; when business is created for merchants, manufacturers and railroads. With these benefits to be scored on the credit side of its ledger, the Government may well afford to wait a long time for direct returns from its irrigation investments, but private capital is in no such position."

THE CAMEL'S HEAD.

"Where the camel's head goes his body follows," says an Oriental proverb. It's the same way with disease. A small opening will give it an entrance and when disease once has a place in the body a large number of ills may follow it.

The opening for disease is often found in a "weak" stomach. When the stomach is "weak" the body also becomes weakened by lack of nutrition, and disease attacks the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys and other organs. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery makes the weak stomach strong. It cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition, and so enables the body to resist or throw off other diseases.

Men and women who are sick are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free, and so obtain without charge the opinion of a specialist on their ailments. All correspondence strictly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"For the past two years I have been a very sick woman," writes Mrs. Chesley, of 105 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. "I tried medicines from doctors, and to no avail. At last I decided to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. When I started I was all run-down and had a very unpleasant taste in my mouth. Was choked up, and at times it was very hard for me to breathe. I had severe headaches and cutting pains in my knee joint. Was so weak I could not attend to my work nor walk up or down stairs without the assistance of my brother or some friend. I am now taking the fourth bottle, and am happy to say I feel like myself again. I can go up and down stairs and perform my duties as well as any one. Everything seems to be brighter, and I can assure you that life is worth living."

Accept no substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery." There is nothing just as good for dyspepsia or debility. Biliousness is cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

"The misfortunes which settlers have suffered in dealing with speculative irrigation companies furnish several important counts of the people's indictment of the Desert Land Law.

"Large irrigation undertakings have frequently been started by men whose means were entirely inadequate to the enterprise. Very often they have invited settlement before they had themselves done anything except to make preliminary surveys. They have offered water rights for sale which had no existence except in their imagination. Strangely enough, settlers have often made haste to purchase such paper "rights" and thus to furnish the promoters with capital to be used in the exploitation of those who supplied it. If settlers had thereby obtained water for their lands, even upon these unfair terms, the case would not have been so bad. But usually they did not get water for their lands. The amount of money which could be obtained from settlers in advance of the construction of works was seldom sufficient for the purpose. Thus neither the settler nor the promoter had anything to show for their investment and labor. In this way thousands of people dissipated their savings and lost valuable time. The Western States are strewn with irrigation wrecks of this sort.

"There has been other notable instances where abundant capital was available to build reservoirs and canals, and yet where settlement failed almost entirely. This was due to the fact that promoters and investors had neglected to take certain contingencies into account. They did not realize that settlement would be slow and that for many years the operation of their works would have to be carried on at a loss. They did not know that many problems concerning soil, crops and irrigation methods would have to be solved by a long period of pioneering during which the enterprise could not possibly return profits. In consequence of these unforeseen events the stockholders, who generally lived far away in the East or in Europe, 'got tired and laid down.' Thus settlers were left in the lurch since money was not forthcoming to carry on the enterprise in which they had embarked their own little fortunes.

"In still another way settlers have suffered in their dealings with private water companies. It has often happened that such companies employed incompetent engineers who blundered badly in estimating the amount of available water supply or the character of works required for its storage and distribution. Countless settlers have been victims of such circumstances. They have paid for water rights, taken up land and then proceeded to make improvements. Later they have found that the water could not be furnished because of the engineering blunders of men whose education, experience and ability were entirely inadequate to do what they had undertaken. Settlers have also suffered from bad water laws in many of our States. These laws deprive them of the supply on which they had depended or involved them in costly litigation.

"All the heart-breaking evils from which the settlers of our arid public domain have suffered are due to bad land laws, chiefly to the Desert Land Law and to the commutation clause of the Homestead Act. These laws are totally unsuited for the conditions to which they have been applied. They are a disgrace to the Government and a disgrace to the American people.

"They have enabled wealthy individuals and corporations to carve lordly private estates from the public domain.

"They have permitted a few men to acquire and hold out of use, for selfish and speculative purposes, lands which are needed to make homes for the masses of our people.

"They have encouraged private enterprise to enter a field where, in the nature of things it could not be successful, but could only involve its own capital in a hazardous adventure and thereby do great injury to the irrigation industry and to the West.

"They have furnished the means by which settlers were deluded into investing their capital and their labor in dangerous and often disastrous attempts at home-making.

"They even yet stand in the way of progress by blocking the path of national irrigation and permitting speculators and adventurers to take up lands which will be required in the operation of the new national policy.

"For all these reasons the Desert Land Law and the commutation clause of the Homestead Act should be promptly repealed, as recommended by President Roosevelt in his message to Congress.

"From this day henceforth the Government should not offer a single acre for settlement until it is fit for settlement. Repealing the laws by which land is now acquired in large tracts, and without actual residence and improvement, the Government should proceed to withdraw from entry all lands where there is any thought of applying the national policy. This done, it should go forward as rapidly as possible with actual reclamation. It should bring under thorough and reliable irrigation every acre which it purposes hereafter to open for settlement.

"What would this policy mean to the people of the United States? First of all, it would mean 'a home for every man who wants one.' It would mean that we had stopped looting the people's estate and begun saving the people's estate. It would mean that we had reached the end of the wild orgy of speculation in the natural resources of the West and entered upon a period of sound and sober industrialism. It would mean that when a settler got ready to claim his share of the national heritage he would obtain not only fertile soil, but the water necessary to make it a self-sustaining home, and that that water right was guaranteed by the Government of the United States.

"This is, beyond all comparison, the greatest thing ever attempted by the American people. Let it be done, and let it be done right. The first step in this great and inspiring drama of the future is to stop the stealing of the public domain by repealing the present vicious and inexcusable land laws.

It is an evidence of a small mind to criticize the generous hospitality of President and Mrs. Roosevelt because it causes a slight increase in White House expenditures. The greater part of the burden comes from the President's pocket. He is not rich, and his salary is that of the petty potentates of foreign countries, but he is unstinted in hospitality and bounteous in charity.

The ship subsidy bill was killed probably forever, Monday, by the decision of the House committee on merchant marine not to report it to the House. May its bones rest in peace.

A Flyspeck on the Window.

An exchange gets even with some one as follows:

After you get on your car and make up your mind to stop your paper to make the editor feel humiliated, just poke your finger in water and pull it out and look at the hole. Then you will know how sadly you are missed. The man who thinks that a paper cannot survive without his support had better go off and stay awhile, and when he comes back he will find that half of his friends didn't know he was gone. The other half didn't care a cent, and the world at large didn't keep account of his movements whatever. You will probably find something in your home paper that you cannot endorse. Even the bible is very plain and hits some hard licks. If you were to get mad and burn your bible, the hundreds of presses would go on printing them, and if you were to stop your paper and call the editor all sorts of ugly names, the paper would still be published. And what is more, you would sneak around every week and borrow a copy of your

neighbor. It is better to keep your vest pulled down, your temper under control and your subscription paid up.—Prineville Review.

It Was Evident.
"I see some skates are talking about a six-year presidential term, an' sayin' it's a good thing," said the fat man.

"Well, we wouldn't have so many campaigns in that case," returned the little man. "That's why I favor it."

"Do you favor it?" asked the fat man, scowling at the little one.

"Certainly."

"Well, I don't know who you are, but I'll bet a ten-dollar bill to a copper cent you're not in the saloon business."—Chicago Evening Post.

Advantages of Matrimony.
Mr. Wallace—It seems to me that it ever a bachelor realizes his unhappy lot it must be when he is in bed sick.

Mrs. Wallace—Yes. There is a great difference between a hired nurse and a wife. If he goes to throwing the medicine bottles and things at the nurse when she happens to hurt his rheumatism she will leave.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Usually the Way.
We hire a fair stenographer. And for a time dictate to her. But very soon it makes us "cuss" To find that she dictates to us.

His Life Saved by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

"B. L. Byer, a well known cooper of this town, says he believes Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy saved his life last summer. He had been sick for a month with what the doctors call bilious dysentery, and could get nothing to do him any good until he tried this remedy. It gave him immediate relief," says B. T. Little, merchant, Hancock, Md. For sale by H. M. Horton, Burns; Fred Haines, Harney.

The Chicago Weekly Inter Ocean is the only weekly newspaper published in Chicago in connection with the great daily papers. It contains a judiciously selected summary of the news of the nation and world, the best stories, home, farm, woman's, and other special departments, and fair, patriotic, able editorials, written from a Republican viewpoint. It is by far the best general newspaper of the Western States. The regular price for the Weekly Inter Ocean is \$1.00 and for the Harney Valley Items \$1.50, but subscriptions will be received at this office for the two papers in combination for one year for only \$1.50.

A Remarkable Record.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has a remarkable record. It has been in use for over thirty years, during which time many million battles have been sold and used. It has long been the standard and main reliance in the treatment of croup in thousands of homes, yet during all this time no case has ever been reported to the manufacturers in which it failed to effect a cure. When given as soon as the child becomes hoarse or even as soon as the croupy cough appears, it will prevent the attack. It is pleasant to take, many children like it. It contains no opium or other harmful substance and may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. For sale by H. M. Horton, Burns; Fred Haines, Harney.

Oregonian and Items, \$2.00.

Stop the Cough and Work off the Cold.

Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets cure a cold in one day. No Cure, No pay. Price 25 cents.

Stock Inspectors.

Notice is hereby given that I have duly appointed the following deputy stock inspector for Harney County, Oregon:

A. B. Colenbaugh..... Burns
John Jenkins..... Smith
Dick Smith..... Andrews
NEW T. HOOVER,
Stock Inspector.

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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