

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

BY GLEASON & BACON.

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SOME LAND FIGURES

Leslie's Weekly presents in a recent issue some interesting figures on the Nation's land including that under cultivation, that which is wild but available for cultivation and that which is classed as irreclaimable. The figures are gathered from the reports of the Department of Agriculture. Land under cultivation comprises about 27 per cent of all the available land for crops. It is estimated at approximately 311,000,000 acres which, if lying in one farm would cover an area about equal to the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. The land that is tillable, but not under the plow, nor included in improved farms comprises 832,000,000 acres and if included in one vast farm would cover all the states east of the Missouri and the Mississippi Rivers. Those lands not available for crops, but that may be used for range and pasturage make up a total of 399,000,000 acres, which equals in area the states of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. Irreclaimable land, which takes into consideration only that which cannot be used for agriculture either now or in the future foots up 399,000,000 acres and is equivalent in area to all the Pacific Coast.

Generalizations like these are not to be accepted as absolutely accurate, nevertheless they are illuminating, as they are sufficiently near the facts to bring to our minds in a definite way the tremendous productive possibilities of the country in which we live. Should the time ever come when all available land in the United States is under cultivation, we will have a cultivated area three and three-quarters times as great as that tilled at

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present. This would mean, if we should preserve the same ratio between the use of land and the population of the country that now exists that the limit of the supporting capacity of all the arable land in the United States would be about 375,000,000. Figure a little and we will have the calculation that this limit will be reached in 186 years, assuming that population will increase 20,000,000 every decade. Upon the basis of this computation it would seem that we are driving rapidly on the lee shore of Malthusian over-population.

But there is no need to grow careworn because of this prospect. Under existing conditions there are approximately three acres of land in cultivation for every man and woman and child in the country. California has its colony of "Little Landers" that make an acre support a family. The entire country cannot be put on the "Little Landers" basis, but between three acres for each individual and one acre for a family there is a wide gap, and genius and intensive farming will fill much of it.

It is clear, however, as one of the great economic facts to be considered that we cannot go on forever hiving and cave-dwelling in the cities and expect to maintain living conditions that will be tolerable by the average citizen. We must use the land more and more, and at the same time more and more intelligently or the discrepancy between what will be available for the proper support of the people and what they need will become a trouble making burden.

Recognizing this necessity it will further devolve upon us to make the idle land of the country available in fact as well as in theory. We must loosen the grip of land speculation, and let opportunity follow willingness to use the land. We must guard the interests of the soil tiller and the home maker. We must open the way for the one-acre fellow or the ten-acre fellow, or the man who can cultivate any greater number of acres to get out in the open and secure the land he needs, though muscle and brain comprises pretty much all his capital. All things considered, this is one of the most far-reaching problems we have to face. It will not settle itself, we may rest assured of that.

MILLIONS OF WASTE SAVED

At the first annual banquet of the National Association of Waste Material Dealers, held in New York City this week, it was brought out that by collecting and utilizing waste products the members of the association transact an annual business of \$700,000,000. The utilization of cotton-seed oil and of cotton seed

until very recent years a mere waste product of the cotton crop, it was pointed out, is now valued in the United States alone at \$50,000,000 a year. Curtis Guild, ex-Ambassador to Russia, noted that we are now exporting sisal strings to Europe to be turned into tooth brushes; that we are using the worn-out printer's brush, soaked with white lead, by cleansing and using the worn bristles to provide inexpensive and durable scrubbing brushes, while exporting American cotton stockings to Europe, where they are unraveled and used as a cheap packing in the manufacture of graphophones and electrical machinery, while the patched and darned European stockings, not having any other use, are exported from Europe to this country for their only possible use as paper. The exports and imports of waste material are not yet thoroughly reported, by the department, and even the commencement of their appearance in the official publications of the United States Government dates back but a few years. For the calendar year 1913 we exported cotton rags to the value of over \$500,000, paper stock other than cotton rags to the value of over \$800,000, woolen rags to the value of \$1,000,000, scrap iron to the value of \$1,200,000 old and reclaimed rubber to the value of \$1,600,000 and scrap brass to the value of over \$2,000,000. The figures of the imports of waste materials from foreign countries are even more striking. In the year 1913 we imported scrap iron to the value of \$500,000, old copper to the value of \$1,000,000, silk waste to the value of \$3,000,000, old rubber to the value of more than \$3,000,000, cotton rags to the value of \$3,000,000, and other paper stock which was neither cotton rags nor wood pulp to the value of nearly \$5,000,000.

ASBESTOS, THE UNIQUE MINERAL

Asbestos is one of the great surprises in the mineral kingdom. On account of its finely fibrous, flexible, incombustible character it is spun into yarn and woven into cloth for the clothing of firemen and foundry men who are exposed to heat that would burn ordinary clothing. It is extensively used for theater curtains and has saved many audiences from the horrors of conflagration. A report by J. S. Diller, of the United States Geological Survey, on the production of asbestos in 1913, now in press, shows that while the United States produces little raw asbestos, it is the largest producer of objects manufactured from asbestos. Canada is the heaviest producer of raw asbestos, and more than half the world's supply is brought into the United States from Canada and manufactured into various commercial products.

In 1913 the United States produced 1,100 short tons. There were two producers in Georgia, both furnishing asbestos of the amphibole type, and one in Arizona is just beginning to produce chrysotile. The difference between the two types is merely in chemical composition.

A notable event of the year in the asbestos industry of the United States has been the opening of this new locality in Arizona, about 30 miles northeast of Globe, for the high-grade chrysotile such as occurs in the depths of the grand Canyon. In occurrence, origin, quality, and quantity this deposit is essentially the same as that of the Grand Canyon district, but it is much more accessible, being in a canyon about 800 feet deep and within 30 miles by trail and wagon road from the railway. It is associated with limestone and in this respect is strongly contrasted with the asbestos of Canada, which is found in serpentine rock, derived from peridotite.

The remarkable fiber from Arizona when twisted to a yarn 0.03 of an inch in thickness will support an average weight of 15

pounds. Its content of iron is decidedly lower than that of the Canadian fiber, and for that reason it is better for insulating purposes. The Survey report on asbestos contains a map and section of the Arizona deposit. Copies may be obtained free about June 15, on application to the Director of the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

DOMICIO DA GAMA



Domicio Da Gama, Ambassador to the United States from Brazil, one of the Mediators endeavoring to settle the Mexican troubles.

Brief News of the Week

Kansas needs 61,950 men, and more than 6000 extra teams and 2260 extra cooks to harvest its big grain crops this season.

Kansas City captured the heat record for the year, the thermometer registering 97. A number of prostrations were reported.

Damage amounting to \$10,000,000 was caused in Los Angeles county, Cal., by the recent floods, says a report of the engineers.

California horticulturists will prepare resolutions asking the postoffice department to prohibit the sending of vegetables infected with pests through the mails.

More than \$20,000 damage resulted from a thunder and rain storm at Evansville, Ind. The First Avenue Presbyterian church was wrecked, at a loss of \$10,000.

The poll tax law of Utah was declared null and void because of the fact that it conflicted with the state constitution which guarantees equal rights to men and women.

First stake has been driven in the survey of proposed railroad routes in Alaska. The route undertaken is that between Chitina and the Matanuska coal fields.

A severe wind, lightning and hail storm swept the northern part of Ohio, Missouri and Kansas report a heat wave and in Kansas the public schools were dismissed on account of the heat.

An anti-American demonstration at Tampico, started by some drunken peons, was put down by Mexican rebels, according to information sent to Washington by Rear Admiral Badger from Vera Cruz.

Imports have been increased and exports reduced, according to figures given out by the department of foreign commerce of the United States. Many beef cattle are coming in.

People in the News

The record of the Harry Thaw case has been filed with the supreme court of the United States.

President Wilson will attend the reunion of the Princeton class of '79, of which he is a member, at the college June 13.

Secretary of State Bryan will deliver a series of Chautauqua lectures this year, his first public appearance being at North Carolina, July 4.

Kermit Roosevelt, son of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, was married at Madrid, June 10. The religious ceremony was performed June 11.

The corner stone of New Haven's new marble postoffice was laid by ex-President Taft. The building will cost about \$1,500,000.

Ex-Vice President Adlai Stevenson, who suffered a nervous breakdown following the death of his wife six months ago, is said to be in a serious condition in the hospital at Chicago.

Prices of food articles are soaring in Vera Cruz and Brigadier-General Funston may open an army food market and appoint Mexicans and American army men to investigate the trouble.

By spelling 1400 words without missing, William Boselarger, aged 11, of East St. Louis, won the spelling bee. Thirty-five boys and girls of the sixth grade took part and the contest lasted 11½ hours.

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Integrity Fairness in all dealings.

Efficiency The best of service.

Quality Our goods are of highest standard.

Prices The lowest consistent with high quality goods.

Experience Our years of practical experience is your guarantee that in our store your drug wants are cared for in the most proficient manner.

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 High grade boxed candies our specialty

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While we have been telling you about Spray Pumps, Spray Rigs, Gas Engines, Wind Mills, Wagons, Buggies and Hacks our harness man has been busy. If you will drop in he will talk harness and show you how they are made.

Call and see our stock and get prices. Our guarantee back of our goods. Yours for business,

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