

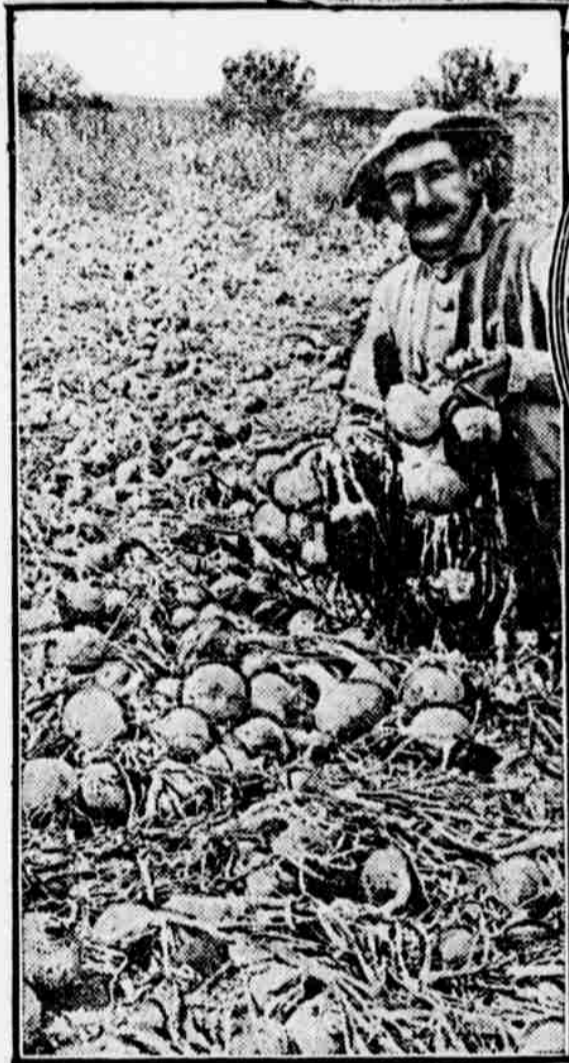
Reclaimed Land to be Soldiers' Heritage

By Robert H. Moulton

Millions of Acres, Especially in West and South, Available for Farm Homes if Properly Developed



PRODUCTIVE WISCONSIN FARM WHICH ONCE WAS A SWAMP



RECLAIMED LAND IN COLORADO BASIN WHERE GOVERNMENT PLANS FARMS FOR SOLDIERS



IRRIGATION PRODUCES FINE FIELDS LIKE THIS ONE IN NORTHWEST

TO MAKE part of the farm wealth of the nation an assured heritage of the men who fight the nation's war against Germany is the plan of Secretary Lane, who urges a vast reclamation scheme to meet the requirements for returning soldiers after the war.

It is Secretary Lane's belief that the time has come when thought should be given to the preparation of plans for providing opportunity for these men. And because his department has handled similar problems in the past, he has made it his duty to bring the matter to the attention of the president and congress. He points out that every country has found itself face to face with this problem at the close of a great war. From Rome under Caesar to France under Napoleon down even to our own Civil war, the problem arose as to what could be done with the soldiers mustered out of military service.

At the close of the Civil war America faced a somewhat similar situation. But fortunately at that time the public domain offered opportunity to the home-returning soldiers. The great part of the veterans of that war played in developing the West is one of our epics. The homestead law had been signed by President Lincoln in the second year of the war, so that out of our wealth in lands we had farms to offer the military veterans. It was also the era of transcontinental railway construction. It was likewise the period of rapid, yet broad and full, development of towns and communities and states.

To the great number of returning soldiers in the present war land will undoubtedly offer the great and fundamental opportunity. The experience of wars points out the lesson that our service men, because of army life, with its openness and activity, will largely seek out of doors vocations and occupations.

This fact is accepted by the allied European nations. That is why their programs and policies of relocating and readjustment emphasize the opportunities on the land for the returning soldier. The question then is, "What land can be made available for farm homes for our soldiers?"

We have not the bountiful public domains of the sixties and seventies. In a literal sense, for the use of it on a generous scale for soldier farm homes as in the sixties, the public domain is gone. The official figures at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1917, show that we have unappropriated land in the continental United States to the amount of 230,657,755 acres. It is safe to say that not one-half of this land will ever be cultivated in any sense. So we have no land in any way comparable to that in the public domain when Appomattox came—and men turned westward with army rifle and roll blanket—to begin life anew.

While we do not have that matchless public domain of '65, we do have millions of acres of undeveloped lands in the Northwest, lake states and South, and also swamp lands in the middle West and South, which can be made available through the proper development. Much of this land can be made suitable for farm homes if properly handled.

But it will require that each type of land be dealt with in its own particular fashion. The arid lands will require water, the cut-over land will require clearing and the swamp land must be drained. Without any of these aids they remain largely No Man's Land. The solution of these problems is no new thing. In the admirable achievement of the reclamation service in reclamation and drainage we have abundant proof of what can be done.

Looking toward the construction of additional projects, Secretary Lane announces that plans and investigations have been under way for some time. A survey and study has been in the course of consummation by the reclamation service on the great Colorado basin. That project, undoubtedly, will appeal to the new spirit of America. It would mean the conquest of an empire in the Southwest. It is believed that more than 3,000,000 acres of arid land could be reclaimed by the completion of the upper and lower Colorado basin projects.

It has been officially estimated that more than 15,000,000 acres of irrigable land now remain in the government's hands. This is the great remaining storehouse of government land for reclamation. Under what policy and program millions of these acres could be reclaimed for future farms and homes remains for legislation to determine.

acres can be reclaimed and made profitable for agriculture.

The undeveloped swamp lands lie chiefly in Florida, in the states along the Atlantic and gulf coasts, in the Mississippi delta and in Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and California.

What amount of land in its natural state unfit for farm homes can be made suitable for cultivation by drainage only through surveys and studies will develop. It is known, however, that authentic figures show more than 15,000,000 acres have been reclaimed for profitable farms, most of which lies in the Mississippi river valley.

The amount of cut-over lands in the United States, of course, it is impossible even in approximation to estimate. These lands, however, lie largely in the south Atlantic and gulf states, lake states and the Northwestern states. A rough estimate of their number is about 200,000,000 acres—that is, of land suitable for agricultural development. Substantially all of this cut-over or logged-off land is in private ownership. The failure of this land to be developed is largely due to inadequate method of approach. Unless a new policy of development is worked out in cooperation between the federal government, the states and the individual owners a greater part of it will remain unsettled and uncultivated.

The undeveloped cut-over lands lie chiefly in the Pacific Northwest (particularly in Washington and Oregon), in the lake states (Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin), and in the south Atlantic and gulf coastal states (Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas).

Any plan for the development of land for the returning soldier will come face to face with the fact that a new policy will have to meet the new conditions. The era of free or cheap land in the United States has passed. We must meet the new conditions of developing lands in advance—security must, to a degree, displace speculation.

There are certain tendencies which must be faced frankly in our consideration of a policy for land to the home-coming soldier. First, the drift to farm tendency. The experience of the world shows without question that the happiest people, the best farms and the soundest political condition are found where the farmer owns the home and the farm lands. The growth of this tendency in America shows an increase of 32 per cent for the 20 years between 1890 and 1910.

Second, the drift to urban life. In 1880 of the total population of the United States, 29.5 per cent of our people resided in cities and 70.5 per cent in the country. At the census of 1910, 46.3 per cent resided in cities and 53.7 per cent remained in the country.

It is evident that since the war in Europe there has been a decided increase in the trend toward the city because of industrial conditions. The adoption by the United States of new policies in its land development plans for returning veterans will also contribute to the amelioration of these two dangers of American life.

A plan of land development whereby land is developed in large areas, subdivided into individual farms, then sold to actual, bona-fide farmers on a long-time payment basis, has been in force not only in the United States under the reclamation act but also in many other countries for several years. It has proved a complete success. In Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand and the Australian commonwealth it has completely

changed the land situation. One of the features of this plan is that holders are aided in improving and cultivating the farm. In a word, there is organized community development.

Its beneficial results have been well described by the Canadian commission which was appointed to investigate its results in New Zealand. There, the commission reported, the farmers had built better houses or remodeled their old ones, brought a larger acreage of land under cultivation that would otherwise have remained lying idle; had bought and urged more labor-saving machinery on the farms and in the houses. They kept more sheep and pigs and had so largely increased the revenue from their farms that they were able to meet the payments on the mortgages and to adopt a higher standard of living and a better one. Throughout the country a higher and better civilization was being evolved; the young men and women who were growing up were happy and contented to remain at home on the farm and found ample time and opportunity for recreation and entertainment of a kind more wholesome and elevating than can be obtained in the cities.

It may be said that this country, outside of Alaska, has no frontier today. Of course, Alaska will still offer opportunity for pioneer life. And, of course, Alaska likewise has yet unknown remarkable agricultural possibilities, but unless we make possible the development of this land by the men who desire a life in that field we will lose a great national opportunity. Furthermore, this is an immediate duty. It will be too late for these things when the war is over, and the work of definite planning should be done now.

The plan outlined by Secretary Lane does not contemplate anything like charity to the soldiers. He is not to be given a bounty. He is not to be made to feel that he is a dependent. On the contrary, he is to continue, in a sense, in the service of the government. Instead of destroying our enemies, he is to develop our resources.

The work that is to be done, other than the planning, should be done by the soldier himself. The dam or irrigation project should be built by him; the canals, ditches, the breaking of the land, and the building of the houses should, under proper direction, be his occupation. He should be allowed to make his own home, cared for while he is doing it, and given an interest in the land, for which he can pay through a long period of years—perhaps 30 or 40 years.

The farms should not be turned over as the prairies were—unbroken, unfenced, without accommodations for men or animals. There should be prepared homes, all of which can be constructed by the men themselves and paid for by them under a system of simple devising by which modern methods of finance will be applied to their needs.

THE VOICES OF BULLETS.

One hundred steps more would have brought me inside of Cantigny. But I was doomed never to enter Cantigny; just then I went into a shell hole. The reasons that made me drop into the shell hole were, I think, two. For one, there was in the crater a wounded boy, a boy shot through the shoulder, together with three hospital corps men who were starting to dress him, and I went in with some vague idea of offering help.

But also something was after me by that time. I had not noticed it at first; that is, when finally I became aware of it, it was the knowledge that it had been going on for quite a while. Little "zips" were passing by me; small, short whistles, hardly "zipping" the volume of sound, and gone almost before they were heard—discrete, quick, little zips like the lightest of pencil strokes—zip, zip, zip, and zip.

Now and then, though, just as brief, one reached a higher volume of sound, something like a short cat meow, but more resonant. Pee-a-oo-oo!—thus—a spiteful cry. Some sharpshooter was after me, some ambushed Boche who did not approve of Collier's Weekly. That is really why I dropped into the shell hole. I think—not so very much to help the three hospital corps men.—James Hopper in Collier's.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. F. E. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright, 1918, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 27

ISAAC'S MARRIAGE TO REBECCA.

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 24.
GOLDEN TEXT—Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.—Proverbs 3:3-4.
DEVOTIONAL READING—Ephesians 5:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Genesis 23:19-24; Proverbs 11:16-21.

I. Abraham's Solicitude for a Wife for Isaac (vv. 1-9).

He knew that Isaac's success in life would much depend upon what kind of a wife he should have. Man's welfare in this life and that to come largely depends upon his wife. For Isaac to have an idolatrous, Canaanitish wife would be fatal to his posterity, would subvert the plan of God as expressed in his covenant with Abraham. It would have been perilous to Isaac himself. To have married a woman in that land would have made him in a sense an heir to the land through marriage, and would have tended to divert his mind from the heirship through the covenant promise.

1. The Servant's Oath (vv. 2-4). Abraham committed to his trusted servant the matter of securing a wife for Isaac; therefore, he made him swear that he would go to Abraham's country and kindred to get a wife for him. He doubtless regarded his servant more competent to select a wife than Isaac was to select one for himself.

2. The Extent of the Servant's Responsibility (vv. 5, 8). Before the servant would take the oath he must have clearly defined the extent of his responsibility. If the woman would refuse the invitation, the servant would be clear of responsibility. The minister's obligation ends when he has earnestly and intelligently made known to sinners the will of God.

3. The Servant's Helper (v. 8). Abraham assured him that God would send his angel to make the mission successful. The servant found this to be true. God sends his Holy Spirit to make the message of the minister successful.

II. The Servant's Obedience (vv. 10-40).

1. He Took Ten Camels (v. 10). These were to carry presents to the bride, and to conduct her and her companions back to his master.

2. His Prayer for Guidance (vv. 12-14). He asked that the Lord would guide him to the woman whom he had chosen for Isaac. Earnest prayer for guidance should be made in the selection of a wife.

3. His Prayer Answered (vv. 15-27). Before he had done praying, the answer was realized to be in the process of fulfillment. The answer was according to the request, even in the matter of fulfillment. God does definitely answer prayer.

4. The Servant's Message (vv. 33-49). The Lord had prospered the old servant's way. He now was face to face with Rebecca. Supper was ready, but the delivery of his message was more important to him than eating when he was hungry. He said, "I will not eat till I have said my errand." Good were it if all ministers were as much interested in delivering the good news in Christ. (1) His master was rich (v. 35). God the Heavenly Father is rich. The silver and gold and the cattle upon a thousand hills are all his. (2) All his riches have been given to his son (v. 36). All the riches of heaven, God the Father has given to Jesus Christ, his son. (3) Opportunity was given Rebecca to become the wife of Isaac (v. 49). He not only gave the opportunity, but he urged her to accept the invitation.

III. Rebecca's Relatives Begging for Postponement of Action (v. 85). They did not object to her going sometime, but they desired that she postpone action for a time. What folly to remain and water sheep when she had the opportunity to become the bride of a rich man's son.

What folly for sinners to remain servants in the world when they have the privilege of becoming the bride of Christ.

IV.—Rebecca's Glorious Decision. (v. 85).

When the decision was referred to Rebecca she said, "I will go." Good judgment would not allow her to refuse nor delay.

V. The Meeting of Isaac and Rebecca (vv. 64-67). Isaac was waiting for the return of the servant with the woman who was to be his wife. Isaac was joined to her in marriage, loved her, and was comforted in her after his mother's death.

Spirit of Christ.
The longer you read the Bible the more you will like it; it will grow sweeter and sweeter; the more you get into the spirit of it the more you will get into the spirit of Christ.—Romaine.

The Cross Is Peace.
The Cross is peace, aft that sumps up the part;
The Crown is joy and that my future auma;
I need but simple faith, faith that shall last,
The hope that liberates and overcomes.

WOMAN IS HELD FOR WITCHCRAFT

Medium Is Arrested on Charge of Urging Children to Steal.

Los Angeles.—Because she is alleged to have dealt in witchcraft with the two minor children of William S. Solomon, a storekeeper, urging them to steal money from their parents with which to pay the "spirits" to bring about the reconciliation between mother and father, Matilda Welsman, a spirit medium, has been taken into custody and is being held pending an investigation. She has been charged



There Were Ten-Cent Spirits.

with contributing to the delinquency of Morris Solomon, twelve years old, and his sister, Hattie, ten years old.

Mrs. Welsman is said to have induced the two children to go to the store of their father and take the money from the cash drawer. It is alleged that the medium had arranged a regular schedule of prices with the children "for keeping the bad spirits away" from the Solomon household, and for prevailing on the "respectable spirits" to effect a reconciliation between their father and mother, who have been separated for some time.

Evidence gathered from the stories told to the police by the children read like a chapter from the Orient. For different spirits the medium is alleged to have had different prices. There were "ten-cent" spirits and "three-times-50-cent" spirits, the children disclosed. On Saturdays the "spirits" demanded 75 cents to be appeased.

Although the children and their mother desired a reconciliation, the spirit medium was said to have informed Morris and Hattie that the best way to bring it about was through the father's cash drawer. They confessed that they had extracted money from their father's till for two months, giving it to Mrs. Welsman.

WHITE DOORKNOB FOOLS EGG-EATING SNAKE

Albany, Ga.—Discovering that snakes were eating the "nest eggs" where his hens were laying, J. P. Gill replaced the initial eggs with white doorknobs. A snake was soon found which had swallowed one of the knobs but could not "get away with it." The reptile was slain and the doorknob replaced in the nest.

DECIDE THEY'LL GO TO WORK

Long Sentences for Two Idle Girls Get Results in Atlanta Work-house.

Atlanta, Ga.—"You can't make us work," declared Nellie Atkins and Ruth Warf, both seventeen years old, sentenced to work at the stockade. And they punctured their remarks by breaking out window panes. The girls again faced the recorder.

"Thirty days more," said Judge Johnson. "It is just possible that we can't make you work, but we can keep renewing your sentence."

The girls thought it over. They are now industriously occupied in the stockade laundry.

An Old Man Fights.

Kansas City, Mo.—For the third time in eight years John Riggs, seventy-one years old, of Kansas City, Kan., was held up the other night. Two negroes attempted to rob him, but they were given the same lesson that their predecessors on the same mission had learned, that Riggs is some fighter. The extra highwayman was more than Riggs had been accustomed to contend with, and although he successfully defended his valuables Dr. H. L. Rieger was later called upon to give him treatment at police headquarters.

To Keep Off Evil Spirits.

Highland Park, Ill.—Togo Serikawa, a butler by profession, and a Japanese by instinct, was found recently one morning under the bed of Mrs. J. D. Purdy of this town. Mr. Purdy, disturbed by sounds uncanny, found him. Togo looked surprised when Purdy demanded an explanation. "I sleep under the bed every night to keep evil spirits away," was his explanation—which, strange to say, did not satisfy.