

THE CENTURY'S GAIN

TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1803.

Four-fifths of the Area of the Country Has Been Acquired by Purchase or by Cession—Louisiana Came First, Hawaii May Be the Next.

The proposition to annex Hawaii to the United States naturally calls up some brief review of our previous territorial acquisitions.

Not including the Pacific group of islands, which may or may not become the property of this country, there have been since the beginning of the present century not less than six acquisitions of territory to the domain of the United States. The first and most important of these acquisitions was made in 1803 and is known as the Louisiana purchase. Mr. Jefferson, who occupied the presidential chair at that time, negotiated the purchase from Emperor Napoleon at a cost of \$15,750,000. While the exact boundaries of the territory thus acquired are not preserved either on the map or in the state records at Washington something over 1,198,000 square miles were added to the national domain, and from this vast extent of territory the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington have since been carved, besides Oklahoma and Indian Territory and parts of Mississippi, Colorado, Minnesota and Kansas.

Sixteen years elapsed before the next opportunity to extend the borders of the United States presented itself. In 1819 President Monroe, at a cost of \$5,000,000, secured the purchase of Florida from Spain. While the acquisition of Florida added 58,680 square miles to the national territory its real value consisted in the fact that it gave to the government one continuous coastline from Maine to Texas.

The next important acquisition was made in 1845, when the republic of Texas became a member of the federal Union. The mere act of admitting Texas into the sisterhood of states cost the government little, of course, but the frontiers of the state were not clearly defined, and this led to the Mexican war of 1845-8, in which thousands of American lives were lost and vast sums of money expended. As the result of the Mexican war, however, the United States made its fourth acquisition of territory, partly by way of indemnity and partly by way of purchase.

Texas added to the national domain some 325,000 square miles, while the territory acquired from Mexico added not less than 650,000 square miles. This latter area has since been carved into the states of California, Utah and Nevada and parts of Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. In addition to the vast territory already mentioned the United States also acquired as the result of the Mexican war a continuous Pacific coast line. Still another result of the Mexican war was the purchase in 1853 of 30,000 square miles of territory at a cost of \$10,000,000. This territory now forms a part of Arizona and New Mexico.

The last extension of our national territory was made in 1867, during the administration of President Andrew Johnson, when Alaska was purchased from Russia, the consideration being \$7,200,000. In this purchase 57,390 square miles were included. Recapitulating, the various acquisitions of territory to the United States have been as follows:

The Gold Cure for an Indian.
From France, in 1803, 1,198,000 square miles; 58,680 square miles from Spain in 1819; 325,000 square miles from Texas in 1845; 650,000 square miles from Mexico in 1848; 30,000 square miles from Russia in 1853; and 57,390 square miles from Alaska in 1867—making a total of 2,829,670 square miles.

In view of the fact that the present area of the United States comprises only 3,602,900 square miles, it is evident that our original territory embraced only 763,920 square miles, or barely one-fifth the area of our present national domain.—Atlanta Constitution.

Rich and Made His Child Beg.
Samuel Salz of Yonkers, N. Y., who, his friends say, is worth \$75,000, was in the police court the other day on the charge of compelling his 12-year-old daughter Rebecca to peddle with a pack on her back and to beg.

He was also charged with violating the city ordinance and was fined \$20. This fine made the old man gasp for breath. He declared he was penniless. Finally he admitted owning a number of houses in Yonkers.

When he found that he would have to go to jail in lieu of paying the fine, he brought forth a massive roll of bills.

A Prison on Wheels For Roughs.
Sunday rows have grown so frequent at Lakeside park and Summit Lake park, near Akron, O., that the authorities have decided to equip a street car as a traveling prison. The roughs who take part in these fights know that the officers at these resorts have no place to put them if they should be arrested until they can be taken into the city, and many escape on this account. Accordingly a street car will be equipped as a prison so that prisoners can be kept in it all day if necessary. This car will also be used in lieu of a patrol wagon when necessity requires.

A Barber Inherits \$250,000.
Linnie Kasson, a Sioux City (Ia.) barber, who has been working at his trade for 14 years, most of the time in Sioux City, and has been in rather poor circumstances, has fallen heir to \$250,000 through the death of his uncle, James Kasson, at Austin. The latter left \$500,000 and had no immediate relatives save Linnie Kasson and his brother, W. F. Kasson, between whom the fortune will be divided.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Rev. C. W. Lee of Vevay, Ind., whom the Republicans have nominated for congress to succeed the late W. S. Holman, is a retired Methodist minister who has become a prosperous farmer.

Professors A. S. Bickmore and D. S. Elmerdorff of the Museum of Natural History of New York are in Colorado securing views to accompany a course of illustrated lectures on Colorado to be delivered next winter throughout the state of New York.

SERMONS BY TELEPHONE.

An Ingenious Method of Hearing Discourses Delivered at a Distance.

In Freehold, N. J., Mr. Bellman's sermons by contract plan recently received a practical demonstration.

Mrs. Margaret E. Forman has revolutionized the church methods of the quiet little New Jersey town. She is a stanch Scotch Presbyterian, and up to a few months ago attended services regularly. Then she was taken ill, and the doctors announced that she was destined to be confined to her house for a long time.

Then a telephone arrangement came into play.

A complete circuit was formed from every room in the church to her sitting room, and now, at rest in her easy chair, Mrs. Forman is sole authority as to what she may and may not listen to. If the sermon be slightly unorthodox and displeasing to the ear of a Scotch Presbyterian, the receiver is hung up and the pastor's voice is stilled.

Even the choir has its critic, miles away, for a reverie rests in front of the choir rail. Perhaps it is an unpleasant reminder that music over a telephone, as through a phonograph, always sounds as if a group of Broadway cable cars had missed the cable and were tearing round Dead Man's curve in an effort to telescope one another, but in Freehold this should be reduced to a minimum, especially on Sundays.

In time the habit may spread to New York, and the nervous and weak hearted who quail before the utterances of the Rev. Madison C. Peters, or Dr. Parkhurst, or the Rev. Mr. Dixon may have a megaphone-like arrangement in their houses, and even the cook and the coachman may listen freely.—New York Telegram.

A VERY QUEER WILL.

A Rich Farmer Devises His Property In Terse, Plain Language.

The will of Samuel Edwards, a wealthy farmer, late of Newtown, O., offered for probate recently, is probably as unique a document as ever went upon the records of the county.

The testator begins as follows: "I want to make another will. I am last June don't suit me. I've been sick and was sort of worried. I feel first rate now, and I know just what I want, therefore I, the said Samuel Edwards, do make public and declare this to be my last will, revoking hereby any and all former will or wills whatsoever by me made. First, I'll begin with the boys again. This has my share already, the 100 acres which I deeded him last spring. I want the other boys to have the home farm of about 256 acres." And so he proceeds in a general, circumstantial way to give it to them in proper proportion.

All the other items of the will are equally informal and are given with a refreshing disregard of the stiff solemnity which has always clothed the supposed last earthly wishes of the testator from the time wills and testaments were first written, and yet it tells plainly his wishes without a cloud of legal physiognomy.

The testator has always been noted for a frank eccentricity in the community in which he lived and died highly respected. The Edwards family, with the Turpins and a few others, were pioneer settlers of the Miami valley and have always been large landholders and wealthy and influential citizens. The Edwards estate is estimated at \$100,000.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

The Gold Cure for an Indian.
They raise all sorts of freaks in New Mexico, but the most novel one recently reported is a calf monstrosity. The cow that gave birth to it belonged to La Cueva Ranch company. The calf had two perfectly formed and fully developed heads joined to one body—that is, there was apparently but one body, but an examination revealed surprising things. It showed that the wonderful calf was practically a double animal. There were two fully developed hearts and two sets of lungs, two sets of stomachs and, in fact, two of nearly all the vital organs, although some of them were merely rudimentary. Another strange thing about this strange calf was that it had a fifth leg, which was attached to the brisket of the animal. Now the calf is dead, and wolves are responsible for the loss to the museum managers of a great drawing card. A pack of wolves attacked and killed both cow and calf. The latter's hide was saved, however, and will be stuffed and exhibited.—Exchange.

A Singular Freak of Nature.

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The X Rays to Detect Smuggling.

The French government recently adopted the X rays as a means of checking the prevailing practice of smuggling.

Director Palaian of the French customs service has ordered that Crookes tubes be kept at all the larger customs offices, and all of the customs inspectors in Paris have been summoned to the chief office to have the method of use explained to them.

Hitherto vast quantities of watches, jewelry and other durable articles of high valuation have been concealed by stowing them in the legs of deal tables and ink receptacles, and have thus escaped the notice of the customs officers. It is believed that by means of the X rays the presence of such articles will be readily detected.—New York Tribune.

Points of View.

We grow giddy, hot and horrid. When the wind is from the south, With a temperature as torrid, As a scorching sun, What sweet sensations thrill us.

What joy to the outer man, When we pause awhile to chill us By a big electric fan!

When the home bound cars are loaded, And the sleeping women there Fill the seats till we are gauded To a tumultuous roar, What sweet sensations thrill us.

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