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LAND IN THE WEST.

UNCLE SAM'S BIG FARM, WHERE THE PLOW HAS NOT YET BEEN.

How to Get a Home Out of It—Methods of Obtaining a Title Under the Various Land Acts—It is Comparatively Easy to Get 480 Acres.

There are thousands of acres of vacant land which can be had at almost a nominal price. In most instances it requires only settlement, residence and cultivation for a few years to obtain full and complete title to the land. The situation is much different from what it is in the east, where a young farmer must run in debt to buy a few acres of land and be kept in debt for years. One crop of ten acres will pay the cost for building and tools.

There are several ways of obtaining title to agricultural lands. First is under the pre-emption laws. The first requisite is to make settlement upon the land. Settlement consists of any acts which show the intention of the settler to claim the land as a pre-emption. It may be, for instance, the building of a cellar, or starting the foundation of a house, or building of a fence.

Having this settlement upon the land, within three months the settler must file a declaratory statement in the United States office and pay a fee of \$3. Within two years and nine months he must get upon the land and reside thereon for six months. By a decision of the land office, it is not necessary for a party to live upon the land until six months before he makes final proof, but he must live there at least six months and make final proof before thirty-three months from the date of settlement. He must have cultivated a portion of the land. In six months after establishing residence upon the land he can prove up. He must make application to make final proof at the land office, and advertise in some paper published near the land, also name four witnesses who are neighbors and who are not related to him. He and two witnesses must appear before the proper officers on the day of making final proof and make proof of his residence, cultivation of the land and pay \$1.25 per acre in addition to the fees for advertising, attorney's fees, etc.

HOMESTEAD.

Another method of obtaining title to land is under the homestead act. By this method the first requisite is the same as under the pre-emption laws. A soldier can file a soldier's homestead claim upon the land which he intends for a homestead six months previous to making a settlement upon furnishing his discharge, or other proof of his service; but any party can have six months time to make settlement by going before the register and receiver of the land office; so this right of the soldier amounts to but very little. Within three months after settlement, homestead entry must be made and a fee of \$16 be paid the land office. The party should be not go before the register and receiver, must be residing upon

the land at the time of making affidavit before a clerk of court. He can if he chooses after residing upon the land six months, and cultivating it, prove up as in the pre-emption and pay for the land. Such an act is called commuting a homestead. Should he not desire to pay for it, however, he can live upon it five years and then make final proof. He need not prove up if he chooses for seven years. Upon making final proof he has only to pay the fees for advertising, clerk, and a small fee to the register and receiver, when he obtains the title for his land. If he was a soldier in the war his term of service as such can be deducted from the five years' residence, but he must reside upon the land at least one year. These are all the rights the soldier has over any other citizen in respect to the homestead law.

A person who wishes to take up land under both pre-emption and homestead act should pre-empt first.

There is still another method of obtaining title to land, and that is under the timber act. By this method the party must make a timber culture entry, and show that the land is non-mineral. He must himself be personally acquainted with the land in order to make this affidavit. At any time within one year after making entry of the land, and paying a fee of \$14 to the land office, he must plow for the 160 acres taken, five acres of land. In the second year he must sow the first five acres to a crop and break another five acres. In the third year he must put in tree seeds or set out trees in the first five acres, and put a crop in the second five acres. In the fourth year he must put tree seeds or cuttings in the second five acres.

The trees must be cultivated and kept alive, and at the end of eight years he can prove up and obtain title to 160 acres by paying small fees. This act is a first class law, and many citizens are availing themselves of it and in good faith. It hardly deserves the condemnation the late demoted Sparks placed upon it.

Unmarried women as well as men can avail themselves of the privileges of these acts. It will be seen that at comparatively small expense a title can be had to 480 acres of fine farming land.—Great Falls (Mon.) Leader.

A Question with Two Sides.

Mr. Sheppard, the president of the Philadelphia board of education, says: "It is, in my estimation, a mistake to put a woman in charge of a school. Not that I would cast any reflection upon those who now hold such positions, for their duties are performed as well as they can be by a woman; but in the very nature of things a man would be better qualified to hold the position, and to bring up the pupils in the way they should go, not only from an educational point of view, but from a moral one as well. A man can reason with a boy about matters that some female teachers would not care to talk about." But, on the other hand, a woman can reason with a girl about some matters that a male teacher would not care to talk about.—True Flag.

AMONG THE MOSLEMS.

A COUNTRY WHERE WOMEN ARE TREATED AS BEASTS OF BURDEN.

Maid and Matrons Toil in the Fields. Laziness and Filth a Characteristic of the People—Girls Married When Only 10 Years Old.

A true Arab, when speaking with another in reference to the women of his own country, begins his remarks with "Ajellak Allah." Literally the words mean, "May God elevate you," and in connection with the mention of females is construed as a wish that the hearer may be put above contamination by the subject under discussion. The Moslems have a proverb that runs this way:

A man can bear anything but the mention of his women.

This expresses in the shortest but the most forcible way the prevailing opinion among the male Arabs of the opposite sex. Through Egypt and Palestine women are regarded on much the plane as dogs and donkeys. The birth of a son is an occasion of rejoicing, but when a daughter comes into a family, one of their writers says, the "threshold weeps forty days whenever a girl is born." The more information there is gathered of the actual condition of the females among the Arabic people, the more pathetic their condition appears. Week in and week out the maidens and matrons toil in the fields and mills. They are slaves to be beaten and abused at will. The children as a class are bright, intelligent and capable of being educated as well as the young of any foreign country. But the people are all generally poor and shiftless, and the little ones so ragged and dirty, until they seem to lose all hope or self respect.

THEY NEVER PLANT TREES.

Indescribable laziness controls everybody, and the filthiness of many is in keeping. The footpaths through Syria are bordered usually by cactus and pomegranate trees, and beneath the shade the people sit with their knees up to their chins, lazily the days away. The women do the work. Frequently long processions of women are seen staggering under burdens of brush wood, but no man ever thinks of offering a helping hand. Generation after generation goes on with no advance. The prevailing sentiment is well illustrated by the utterance of one of their philosophers, who said they did not plant trees as they would not live till they were grown, and if their children wanted trees they could plant them.

There are many stories of the overwhelming extent to which deceit and kindred vices prevail among Mohammedans. In Beyroot they say "there are twenty-four inches of hypocrisy in the world, with twenty-three of them spread over Syria." There is a nursery tale of Satan's coming on earth with seven bags of lies to distribute, but falling asleep they were all accidentally opened in Syria. Profanity is much used. They

do not swear in English, but their words mean swear just the same. "Allah" is God; "Yullah" means O God; "Inshullah" means If God will; "Wullah" and "Bismillah," in the name of God, and these words both men and women throw into their talk with bewildering rapidity. It is related by a missionary that when trying to persuade a sheikh not to swear the latter earnestly replied, "Wullah, I will not."

GRANDMOTHERS AT TWENTY.

Greediness for gain is a predominant passion among adult Arabs, and is impressed upon the children from their first hour of understanding. "Back-sheesh" is the cry and leading hope. Women and children are beaten with a view of exciting pity among foreigners, and through sympathy reaching their purse. Every man is naturally a despot, and one of the most sordid, cold and calculating faces to be seen in any country is that of an Oriental pharisee with his philactery on his forehead. One of the notable things is the unvarying way in which things go on, century after century. There has been little change in many of the customs since Bible times. In the sacred book Isaiah has a verse giving the water carrier's cry, as follows: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters."

The water carrier of today goes around with the same cry, the same skin bag and the metal saucers that he claps together in time with his call, as when Isaiah was written. A thing repulsive to Americans is the early age at which girls are married and the domestic arrangements. Girls are married before they are 10 years old, and are often grandmothers before they are 20. A learned doctor of Damascus married his wife when she was 11 years of age. It was his claim that by marrying so young a girl he could train her as he should. Girls are taken from the English schools at 8 years of age to prepare for approaching union with some man as old as their fathers.

The missionaries have been laboring to effect reformation, and, although it is up hill work, the latest accounts tell of progress in the right direction. In some families women are coming to be looked upon more in the light of humans than beasts of the field, and occasional virtues after the example set by resident Europeans are extended them.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Vagaries of Speech.

A writer in The Paris Figaro, who has been making fun of what he calls the drolleries of the French language, might have extended his purview to language in general. There are illogicalities in every tongue. We in England, for instance, do not really, though we constantly say we do, light a fire, boil a pot, blow out a candle, extinguish a lamp, serve a table or drink a glass. In old novels one often comes across exhortations from the witty and wise heroes and heroines to their giddy companions protesting against such incorrect expressions as drinking a glass. These give an opening for a crusty, old-fashioned smartness.

CABLING IN CIPHER.

OUTWITTING THE COMPANIES BY CHEAPENING DEVICES.

There Are Many Codes, but Constant Changes Are Necessitated—The Sharp Eye of the Managers Ever Watching Important Part Played by Competition.

A man who had received a cable message composed of nothing but names of cities went to an expert maker of cipher codes to see if he could throw any light on the meaning.

"Have you made no personal arrangement with any correspondent by which those names of cities are to stand for certain phrases?" asked the expert.

"I have not," answered the man. "I came to you because I thought you might have some code containing the ciphers."

"There is no printed code that contains proper names as ciphers," said the expert. "The reason is this: The cable companies accepted all kinds of business at first, even combinations of letters which spelled nothing. But they soon found that the ingenuity of their merchant patrons enabled them to send almost any message at the cost of but a few words, by devising codes wherein each letter stood for a phrase, and wherein even the juxtaposition of letters and numerals, which in themselves had meanings, indicated still other meanings. Of course this reduced the profits of the cable companies, so they began to make rules. They refused to transmit any combination of letters unless it spelled an actual word. Then they limited the number of languages they would transmit. Then they refused to take proper names, unless the context showed they were a proper part."

"All this, of course, was to make it so hard to get up satisfactory and permanent cable codes that the merchant would be compelled for safety's sake to resort to straight out and out discourse in framing his messages. But as the difficulties increased men began to make specialties of devising ingenious codes, and finally the companies had to come out flat footed and refuse to transmit messages in cipher. Of course this was a severe blow to trade, as a vast quantity of small business could not then be done, because the cost of cabling about it cut off most of the eventual profit."

CARRIE WAS VERY ILL.

"But even then codes were used, but of a curious sort. In one that I know of, for instance, it was arranged that a certain large catalogue of common verbs, nouns, adjectives and prepositions should be understood to have no meaning whatever. The cipher words were made up outside of this catalogue, and the exempted words were used to fill in, giving the semblance of an actual, straight out sentence. Here was a sentence, for instance, that I cabled while a clerk in a shipping house:

"Annie very ill. Tell Thomas prepare nitrate; Ananias going; telegraph Josephine. "That looks innocent; yet this is what it meant:

"The nitrate was to be a sharp rise. "Very—Buy for speculation. "Ill—No meaning. "Tell—No meaning. "Thomas—Sharp rise called dispatch. "Ananias—One hundred tons. "Nitrate—Nitrate of soda (saltpeter). "Ananias—We can sell it. "Going—No meaning. "Josephine—Nine cents.

"So you see I really sent this message: "Market on eve of a sharp rise. Buy for speculation. Ship 100 tons nitrate of soda at earliest dispatch. We can sell at 9 cents. Telegraph.

"That is to say, I sent twenty-six words at a cost of eleven words, while I appeared to the cable company to be merely transmitting a communication that poor Carrie was sick, and that Ananias was going to telegraph Josephine about it. It must have seemed strange to the operators that we should telegraph Thomas, who was 5,000 miles away, to prepare medicine for Carrie, who was presumably in New York, especially as the rate then was about \$3 a word. It must also have seemed strange that Carrie got very ill every time there was a rise in the nitrate market. But the message was straight discourse, and of course the companies had nothing to do but accept the message.

"NO CIPHERS PERMITTED."

"Competition finally came to the merchant's aid. New cable lines, seeking business, offered more liberal conditions, and gradually the merchant acquired, as his recognized right, the power of using a cipher code. Still, most of the original petty restrictions were adopted by all competitors. Among these were the regulations against proper names. As a matter of fact, in the present state of competition, one is tolerably safe in using proper names and ciphers, for each company is afraid of driving custom to a rival by applying the rule. Consequently there are any number of small personal or temporary codes agreed upon between man and man to serve a certain immediate purpose, in which names of towns or persons figure as ciphers. But we professional code makers, who compile and print expensive codes for sale to the public, carefully avoid infringing even dead letter rules, because we do not know when some big cable company may swallow up a smaller competitor whom one of our patrons patronizes and screw down the thumbs on some rule, to the disadvantage of our patron and ourselves.

"Looking over this catalogue here of the cable lines of the world, you will still find a dozen or more companies, chiefly located in the ends of Asia, Africa and Polynesia, who boldly advertise, 'No ciphers permitted.' That means that they have a monopoly of their particular fields and are working their diamond mines for all they're worth. In no line of business is the advantage of good competition shown more strongly than in cabling. Merchants who deal with far off countries will tell you that those lands which are reached by only one cable line are as yet practically undiscovered by trade."—New York Sun.

A bridegroom at Monroe, Ga., being without money, gave the justice a little rabbit dog which he had with him.