

Christmas Presents For All



Christmas time is spending time. Jolly old St. Nick can successfully manipulate the key to our purses when all other attempts fail. Let us suggest the advisability of buying all your Christmas presents from the largest and most reliable stock in the world selling direct to the user and saving you the jobbers', dealers' and agents' profits.

Our prices are always the same—the lowest. We cannot take advantage of the liberal Christmas spirit and advance our prices as some do, for our regular catalogue figures must stand for all seasons. We can send you everything you want in one shipment, saving you endless effort and delay in buying from several sources.

By purchasing your entire Christmas needs from us we believe you will save almost one-third of the regular Christmas prices you would pay elsewhere.

It is easy to order from our 1128-page Catalogue No. 72, with fine pictures of the articles you desire, and you can do it all in one evening with scarcely any effort.

Once your order is mailed you need not think of it again until you get the goods, for we will take care of it promptly and carefully, guaranteeing safe delivery and perfect satisfaction.

Your neighbors who know will tell you it is a pleasure to deal with us.

We mention here a few suggestions, all taken from our Catalogue No. 72.

Thousands of other desirable presents for every member of the family, from the hired man down to the baby.

If you have never seen our big catalogue you have missed a great treat. It's never too late to begin, however. Fill in the coupon and mail to us to-day. Don't wait until it is too late to get your goods before Christmas. Although the catalogue costs us almost one dollar each, we make no charge for it, only asking you to send 15 cents to bear part of the postage expense of sending it.

Montgomery Ward & Co.,

Michigan Ave., Madison & Washington Sts., Chicago

44

32 years World's Headquarters for Everything.

For Men:

- Pair of slippers.
- Smoking jacket.
- Smoking set.
- Half dozen dress shirts.
- Half dozen colored shirts.
- Silk umbrella.
- Pair of gloves.
- Dozen initial handkerchiefs.
- Morris chair.

- Shaving cabinet.
- Leather couch.
- Shaving set.
- Neckties.
- Match box.
- Suit case.
- Watch charm or fob.
- Half dozen pairs half hose.
- Pair of suspenders.
- Pocket or bill book.
- A good warm cap.
- Heavy overcoat.
- Muffler.

- Fleece lined mittens.
- Warm overshoes.
- Magnifying glass for reading purposes.
- A pair of boots.
- Buckskin mittens.
- Sweater.
- Banjo or guitar.
- Box of collars.
- Meerschaum pipe.
- Box of cigars.
- Shot gun.
- Cigar Jar.
- Hunting jacket.

For Women:

- A pretty apron.
- Dress pattern.
- Wrap or bonnet.
- Toilet set.
- Manicure set.
- Sewing machine.
- Piano or organ.
- Hat.
- Handkerchiefs.
- Pair of fine shoes.

- Boots.
- Leather purse.
- A new carpet or rug.
- Piece of cut glass.
- Tableware.
- Pair of glasses.
- Warm mittens.
- Medicine cabinet.
- Easy chair.
- Bible.
- Cut glass flower vase.
- Jewelry.

- Silverware.
- Fine clock.
- Bronze parlor ornament.
- Set furs.
- Up-to-date suit or jacket.
- New stove.
- Dining table.
- Box stationary.
- Talking machine.
- Pair of gloves.

Cut this slip out and send it with 15c in stamps Today.

MONTGOMERY WARD & Co., Chicago.
Enclosed find 15 cents for partial postage on catalogue No. 72, as advertised in Lincoln Commoner.

Name _____
(Be sure and write very plainly.)

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GIGANTIC LAND FRAUDS

Under date of Washington, D. C., October 23, the correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald sent to his newspaper the following:

According to the admissions of officials of the department of the interior, made for the first time today, the investigation of the public land scandal, now going on in the states of the Pacific coast, involves the most tremendous of all government "grafts" and cause the "hot air" affair in the postoffice department to pale into insignificance.

Persistent inquiry has developed the information that present investigation, which has been going on over four months, is entirely independent of the Indian land scandal, and involves money-making transactions to the extent of between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000 and collusion between organized "grafters" and state and federal authorities in the matter of land allotments in some fifty-four forest reserves, which cover altogether 60,175,765 acres of land.

Secretary Hitchcock alone knows the full extent of the frauds now under investigation, and he says that he will divulge nothing until the whole inquiry has been completed under his direction.

This reticence by the head of the department has made the spread of all sorts of alarming rumors possible, in which the names of men in high public places have already been mentioned here and in the states where the investigation is going on. Rumors have come from the west that five United States senators have already been reached by the investigators and are seriously involved in the scandal. In fact, one story had it that official reports already in the hands of Secretary Hitchcock had already named these senators. The most positive denial, however, is made at the interior department that any senators are so far involved.

Thomas Ryan, the first assistant secretary, stated today that no such report had been received at the department, and William A. Richards,

commissioner of the general land office, made the same statement. Secretary Hitchcock was not at the department this afternoon and it was announced that he was confined to his residence by a slight illness.

While it is generally accepted that no United States senator is being involved, it is not denied at the department that some western representatives have already been found to be suspiciously connected with these land scandals, and before the inquiry is finished some railroads and their connection with the great forest reserves may receive unpleasant mention.

The present investigation on the Pacific slope covers the administration of Binger Hermann, former commissioner of the general land office and a new member of the house from Oregon. Five years ago the forest reserves of the United States government embraced only 18,000,000 acres. The annual report of the commissioner for the year 1902 shows that there are fifty-four reserves, including 60,175,765 acres, showing that over 42,000,000 acres were proclaimed during Mr. Hermann's term of office. Since this report was made a few more reserves have been added, bringing the present acreage up to about 62,000,000. The method of the "graft" has been very simple, and in large part consists of advance information by means of collusion with federal authorities in Washington and the land offices in the states concerned.

If the investigation should disclose that \$20,000,000 had been made out of the irregularities it would not mean that the government had lost this sum, but it would mean that persons in and out of the government service had made this money through collusion and illegal transactions.

Whenever a forest reserve is proclaimed by the president, according to the general land law of congress, all persons having land allotments thereon are entitled to receive from the government a similar amount of territory outside of the forest reserves, or on what is known as the good land.

The forest reserves are wild territory and the land sells at \$1.25 per acre. The land outside averages between \$5 and \$6 an acre, so that a man finding himself in possession of territory within the forest reserves, after the boundary has been laid, is so much better off when he receives his allotment outside, according to law.

The belief of the interior department officials that there were many men in the west locating on the territory which they had reason to believe would soon be proclaimed reserves for the purpose of exchanging for better land led to the present investigation. Only preliminary reports, informal in character, have been received as yet, but it is said enough has been shown to lead some of the officials of the department to believe there has been a regular organization at work to make fortunes out of irregularities of this character.

Reserve proclamations by the president are made on petitions of the residents of the regions, and only follow investigation by the forestry bureau of the agricultural department, a report from the geological survey and final decision by the general land office of the interior department. Political influence and congressional pressure are brought to bear to have certain reserves proclaimed.

The United States senators, whom rumor connects in an indefinite way with the present land frauds are said to have used such pressure while at the same time lending their political power to the protection of land officials who have been charged with transactions in the scandal.

One congressman has been found to have a more direct interest. Less than a year ago he was among the petitioners for a certain forest reserve on the Pacific slope, and on investigation it was found that he had many land allotments in the territory. He not only petitioned for the proclamation, but used his influence as a representative to this end. The final decision of the land office was not given. The reserve was not established. The congressman has since been disposing of his land as best he could, and is said to have suffered loss.

In each township on a forest reserve the state in which it is located is allowed two of the thirty-six sections, or one-eighth of the whole. Thus the various states would have at their disposal nearly 4,000,000 acres. Collusion with state authorities by the land schemers, who have obtained the state sections for the purpose of exchanging, is also charged. The alleged illegal transaction on the part of government officials include advance information of great value to the "land sharks" in locating within the proposed reserves, yielding to "influence" in reporting on the advisability of reserves petitioned for and establishing the boundary line to include territory in which the "sharks" have already located.

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Don't take medicine—most medicine isn't fit to take—but let us send you **50¢ approval**, without a cent in advance, a pair of Drafts to be worn on the soles of your feet. If they help you they send us one dollar. If they don't, send us nothing. They cure nine out of ten cases—on an average—probably they'll cure you. You certainly ought not to hesitate to risk a stamp or a postal when we are willing to risk the drafts. 50,000 persons wore Magic Foot Drafts last year, and we are still sending them on approval to every sufferer we can hear of.



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