

# EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

## To Stop Land Heits.

**I**f well-informed people are to be believed the only way to save the remnant of the public domain in the United States from cattle barons and land sharks is to repeal the desert land act and the commutation clause of the homestead act, which permits the settler to gain title by cash payment instead of actual residence. If this be not done it is predicted that next decade will witness the acquisition of all the available government land by the corporations and syndicates mentioned, leaving no territory open to actual settlers.

Within the last six years the government has parted with 80,000,000 acres of its domain, and of this great tract more than one-half has been allotted during the two years ending June 30, 1903. It is notorious that bona fide settlers have secured very little of this land. It is easy to see that at the rate of 160 acres to each homesteader 500,000 settlers would have found homes in the West, and it is safe to say that not one-tenth of that number actually took up claims and lived upon them. The speculators, the timber companies, the town-site boomers, the cattle kings and the other land-grabbers simply secured people willing to perjure themselves, and these people, having acquired title to the lands, passed them on to the inheritors which suborned the perjury.

It may be said and with some truth that it would not be necessary to repeal these land laws if government officers would enforce them. Unfortunately, recent events in Oklahoma, in Indian Territory, in Oregon and in other regions of the West have shown that the very men charged with enforcing the land laws are the men who are most active in violating them.

There is a pleasing possibility that some of these faithless functionaries may go to the penitentiary, but it would be idle to hope that their successors will be any more faithful or that the public domain will be any better protected under one set of officers than under another. The moral fiber of land attaches appears to degenerate from the moment they assume their official functions.

The only way to remedy the abuses which have grown up is to repeal all land laws save the homestead act and to confine the operation of this latter statute to settlers who actually reside on the land they pre-empt for the full four years originally required. Even under this restriction there will doubtless be some evasive efforts to much less than it has been during the past six years and it will, moreover, be so dangerous that few people can be found who will take the risk involved in a fraudulent entry.—Chicago Chronicle.

## The Pleasures of Winter.

**W**INTER is harsh, rough-visaged, rigorous. Yet, like many men, he conceals a kind and generous heart behind a forbidding exterior, and provides many wholesome and delicious enjoyments for those who learn his peculiarities, bear philosophically with his petty tyrannies and treat with forbearance his eccentricities of behavior. In the country and in the city it is during his reign that most of the social pleasures of the year are enjoyed. Summer drives thousands away from their homes. Winter brings them back, and takes a hand in renewing the agreeable acquaintanceships and friendships which separation has partly broken off.

There is one class of people to whom winter brings special gratification. He suggests to book-lovers a quiet book by a quiet lamp; and these alone are sufficient to compensate for all the pleasures that the hard old tyrant drives off. What if the birds are gone, and the leaves have fallen, and snow is descending, and the wind howls through the night like a thing possessed, if one can stay indoors, pull up a comfortable chair, cock his slippered feet on another chair, and enjoy the company of his favorite authors? They are better men and wiser than any whom he probably would meet if he went out. They do not bore him; or, if they should, he could kick them out without hurting their feelings. They give no advice which is not sought. When he wants instruction they do not "jolly" him. When he wants amusement they do not put on a smug countenance and talk theology, or a wisecracking one

and talk political economy or ethics. He does not need to go to the theater for a drama. Shakespeare will afford him a better. He need not hunt out a lecturer on evolution, or ethics, or history. Cicero, or Macaulay, or John Fiske can better instruct and entertain him with discourses on these subjects than anybody he would likely find. He has Hamilton and Bryce to teach him the principles and constitution of his country. Milton to raise his thoughts to the sublime. Winter restrains him from going out into the world, but it impels him to stay where a large part of all there is in the world that is witty and wise will come in and entertain and improve him without money and without price.—Kansas City Journal.

## Women Who Work.

**T**HE irrepressible question of woman's invasion of man's field of work is profounding and agitating the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, and he is out with a warning to those of his sex to have a care that they are not superseded by their sisters. He cites one case where a woman qualified by experience to fill a certain position did the work of her male predecessor at a salary \$15,000 less than what he received. The grave reproach of "cheapening labor" evidently, according to Dr. Hillis' way of looking at the matter, lies against the women.

Now, if Dr. Hillis really feels that he has been ordained to deliver a message on the subject of laborers and their hire, let him reason with himself about the sins of the employers. If a woman can do a man's work, why should she not be paid a man's wages? That is the whole question. Of course, there are plenty of inefficient women workers, just as there are hordes of inefficient men workers. In certain occupations, even, women are preferred because they are quicker, defter of hand and more attentive to duty. There is no hard and fast rule of superiority. The test lies in the work done, and, according to the value of the work, whether it be done by men or women, men and women should be paid without distinction of sex.

That two scales of wages, one for men and one for women, are so often enforced in the same field of industry only shows how eager the employer is to put money in his own pocket at the expense of justice. Necessity on one hand and selfishness on the other are the warring forces which prevent a true adjustment of the relations of employer and employed.—New York Daily News.

## Agriculture, Not Iron.

**I**T is the farmer, not the financier, who is king. He is riding while merchants and manufacturers walk. Taken collectively, it is probable that the American agriculturist never before enjoyed so prosperous a season. Notably in the South, where, for the first time, perhaps, the cotton planter finds himself in a position to get ten cents for a staple which it doesn't cost him more than six cents to grow. At the Northwest, in the great spring wheat regions, the story is intensified by the explanation that the farmers have enjoyed six successive years of prosperity. The question of reaction or depression does not appeal to them. There is nothing to react or depress. Over-production to them is a relative term. It carries no such proportionate increase of costs as in industrial lines.

It is not to the billion-dollar steel combine alone or to the other huge capitalizations of recent years that one must turn in order to find munificently expanded totals following the dollar mark. The domestic yield of Indian corn alone, at present cash prices, would furnish a sum sufficient to buy and pay for all the stock and bonds of the United States Steel Corporation twice over at present quotations, and leave a handsome sum for working capital. The hay crop, estimated as worth \$550,000,000, offsets the annual gross earnings of the Steel Trust, and the like is true of the wheat and of the cotton crops. Taking the staple crops at their current money value, approximately \$5,000,000,000, and we find it to be twice the amount of the estimated depreciation in security values within a year, or a sum sufficient to take over 80 per cent of the railways of the United States at market prices of their shares. Is it any wonder that the agriculturist refuses to be a pessimist?—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

so conducted that there will be an exchange of relics. In Mexico they have a superfluity of Aztec sculptures and pottery which they would be willing to exchange for some relic of the aborigines of our own country. South America is, of course, rich in archaeological relics, and they are deeply interested in the plan to make a study of the early races and the antiquities of these two continents.—Washington Times.

## The Notable Exception.

There recently appeared in the corridors of the Capitol at Washington an Englishman who is visiting this country for the purpose of studying its political economy.

The Briton was introduced to Speaker Cannon, who, at the time the foreigner appeared, was conversing with a constituent, a great, burly man from Illinois, with extremely definite ideas upon things in general.

A conversation between the three ensued, during which the Briton rather haughtily remarked that to him the laws of the United States seemed defective, in that they did not protect the poor man from the evils of monopoly. "Now, in Great Britain you know," said the Englishman, "there's but one law for every one, be he prince or be he pauper."

The large man from Illinois broke in with: "Same way here, old man! In this country it makes no difference whether a man is a beggar or a millionaire, he's got to obey the law—unless he's got a pull!"

## Not Such a Bad Shot.

Gayboy (time I a. m.)—I say, old chap, isn't this a little late for you to be out? Aren't you afraid your wife will miss you?

Snipek—I hope she will, but she can throw pretty straight for a woman.—Illustrated Bits.

## Its Delivery.

"You delivered your speech in a manner that was most timely and effective."

"Yes," answered the political orator. "I had to be particular about the delivery of that speech. It was a c. o. d. transaction."—Washington Star.

## Science AND INVENTION

The illuminating power of the sun at zenith is estimated by M. Charles Fabry at one hundred thousand candles.

In recent European experiments, corpses have been kept for a certain time in a bath of chloride of calcium heated to 123 degrees, then taken out and steeped for twenty-four hours in a cold solution of sulphate of sodium. The bodies are transformed into perfect mummies, to be kept indefinitely.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce, who has been studying the strange "sleeping sickness" which affects many of the inhabitants of Uganda, ascribes the spread of the infection to a species of the famous tsetse fly, whose attacks are fatal to horses and cattle in Africa. These flies are found to be infected with the parasite that causes the sleeping sickness by entering the blood and the cerebro-spinal fluid, and the well-defined areas of country to which the flies are confined correspond absolutely with the distribution of the disease. Where this species of tsetse fly is not found sleeping sickness is unknown.

A second blossoming of trees late in the season, after the usual forming of buds for the next year, may result from some injury, such as removal of the leaves, if the inference of M. E. Apert is correct. In October, 1903, this observer saw a white lilac in full bloom, the bush having small green leaves and beautiful clusters of white flowers, while some hundreds of feet away was another bush of the usual autumnal appearance. Investigation showed that worms had eaten off the leaves of the first bush several months before. A return of the worms in July, 1903, was followed by a partial reproduction of the phenomenon, and M. Apert believes that a second flowering of a fire-injured tree, reported by M. Jolly as a result of the action of heat, was really due to destruction of the leaves. It is proposed to test the theory by removing the leaves of apple trees, pear trees, etc., in July or August.

It is an old question, "Are the 70 odd chemical elements really elementary, or are they compounded of something still more elementary?" In the light of the recent discoveries about radium Prof. F. W. Clarke recurs to a theory, advocated by him many years ago, that as the planets were evolved out of the original nebula which gave birth to the solar system, the chemical elements themselves were also evolved out of something far less complex than themselves. The fact that existing nebulae are very simple in composition, while stars in various stages of evolution exhibit more and more complexity, until, in solidified bodies, like the earth, a great number of chemical elements with a myriad of compounds are found, is regarded as strongly supporting this theory. The phenomena of radium lead to the additional suggestion that as in the development of the heavenly bodies we seem to see the growth of the elements, so in radio-activity we witness their decay.

## FIND HIDDEN WEALTH.

People Discover Treasure at Unexpected Places and Times. Hidden treasure has an irresistible attraction for the human race. On the slightest hint from seer or fortune teller some one is sure to dig where the hidden treasure is supposed to be, and disappointment does not discourage another attempt when another "tip" is received. Very few have ever come upon hidden treasure, and the few have found it unexpectedly.

Take, for instance, that romantic earthing of 200,000 coins in the bed of the River Dove, in Staffordshire seventy-two years ago. Some workmen were engaged in removing a mud bank which had formed in the center of the river, when one of them was amazed to find on raising his spade that it glistened with silver coins. Attracted by the digger's exclamations of astonishment and delight, his fellow workmen hurried up, and in a moment half a dozen men were scuffling and fighting for the treasure feverishly filling their pockets, their hats and beer cans with silver coins which were worth their weight in gold for they were of the time of the first two Edwards, and had lain in the river for 500 years. That the bulk of the treasure trove was ultimately claimed by the Duchy of Lancaster matter little, for its finders had already appropriated scores of thousands of precious disks.

Only two years later a few village boys were playing at marbles on Sunday afternoon in a field near Beaworth in Hampshire, when one of them caught sight of a piece of lead projecting from a cart rut in a rough rut that crossed the pasture. Tugging at the strip of metal he disclosed a hole and through the exposed opening he saw a pile of glittering coins, bright as if fresh from the mint. To fill his pockets and those of his playmates was the work of a few moments, and so little did the youngsters appreciate the value of their discovery that of their way home they amused themselves by flinging the coins into the village pond.

Ultimately nearly seven thousand coins were recovered from this buried treasure chest, and they proved to be of the reigns of William I. and William II. and in a wonderful state of preservation.

A similar discovery was made near Wetherby, in Yorkshire, when a heavy cart, passing over a country road, struck

fast in a rut, and on being released disclosed a number of silver coins, which had escaped from the burst lid of a chest laden under the roadway. It was assumed that the chest of coins had been buried there in the perilous days of the civil war, and that the gradual sinking of the road and the weight of the passing cart had at last brought it again to the light of day.

In the year 1846 a most valuable deposit of treasure was revealed in the strangest fashion at Cuerdale, near Preston, in Lancashire. Some laborers were digging near the banks of the River Ribble when the pickaxe of one of them struck something harder than earth and more yielding than rock. On removing his pick he found transfixed at the end of it a large ingot of silver. Plying his tool with renewed vigor he soon discovered wealth, consisting of scores of silver ingots weighing in all over 1,000 ounces.

Similar fortune befell a couple of laborers who were digging in a ditch near Gladstonbury, in Somersetshire, when they unearthed an ancient chest full of coins of the days of the Stuarts. They took samples of the coins to a neighboring antiquary of wealth, who not only paid the men a large sum for their treasure, but purchased a score or more acres of land adjacent to the lucky ditch. And here the irony of fortune is well illustrated, for although the antiquary spent thousands of pounds in buying and excavating his land, not a single coin was discovered beyond those which a stroke of the spade had revealed.

This is the kind of trick fortune loves to play on designing men. Not very many years ago, when the thatched roof of an ancient cottage near Ripon was removed a rich nest of 5-guinea gold pieces was discovered hidden away under it. When the news of this treasure trove came to the ears of a neighboring land owner he was so fired by the lust of gold that he forthwith purchased a dozen similar cottages in the district and had them all pulled down, but not a solitary coin was found in exchange for the £3,000 the experiment cost him.

## Grow Young as You Grow Old.

Next to air and food in the human economy comes exercise. We may have plenty of fresh air, and a proper allowance of the right kind of food, and yet, without helpful daily exercise these will not avail to keep the body in good condition. In answer to the question, "Why do we grow old?" a French writer gives these three reasons: "We do not get enough physical exercise in the open air, we are poisoned by microbes, which the phagocytes have not succeeded in destroying, and we are depressed by fear of death." Of the three reasons it will be noted that he gives the place of first importance to lack of exercise. There is nothing else which can take the place of physical activity as a preserver of youth and energy. "Grow young as you grow older by cultivating a moderate love of good, healthful, honest sport," is sound advice. Walking, running, jumping, rowing, playing golf, tennis or croquet, or any other mild form of exercise in the open air keeps the muscles supple and prevents the joints from stiffening, fills the lungs with life-giving oxygen and keeps the blood from becoming sluggish or the liver torpid. In short, it is exercise that keeps the body in tune and "up to concert pitch," just as exercise keeps the voice or a musical instrument in perfect tone.—Success.

## Possoms Show Cunning.

John Toussaint of Cahokia declares he is the first man to discover how opossums ravage hen roosts, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. He states that for years the farmers of this vicinity have lost their chickens and could not account for it. Mr. Toussaint says that he was sitting at his window early in the morning, when he noticed a "possum steal along the fence and enter his poultry house. He believed the animal would soon return and secured his shotgun. The animal did return in a second or so, and as it came in sight Toussaint fired. He killed the "possum and went to secure it, finding one of his fine chickens firmly grasped in the "possum's tail. Mr. Toussaint says that the animal visits the henroost regularly, and that no chicken ever screeches, because its breath is cut off by the pressure of the animal's tail. When the tail is safely stretched around the neck of the chicken the "possum starts off, dragging the fowl after him.

## The Poor Composit r A ain.

There was trouble between the proprietor of the Daily Trumpet, published in Slowbury Center, and one of the prominent citizens of the town. The citizen is Orlando Vance Jones, who writes occasional verses for the "Poet's Corner" and pays for space in which to advertise his dental surgery. The trouble arose soon after the birth of Mr. Jones's grandson. Being much gratified by the resemblance to him which many of the diplomatic mothers in Slowbury detected in the features of Orlando Vance, third, Mr. Jones composed a tender poem which he entitled, "A Pigmy Counterpart."

When he opened the paper, of which he had ordered one dozen copies, he saw at the head of the column his poem under the title, "A Pig My Counterpart."

Good Reason. She smiles and laughs the livelong day; I say do not think her simple—She'll laugh at anything you say Because she has a dimple. —Yale Record.

When a woman imposes on her husband with kin, how the people roar! But the woman never knows it; they are very careful to do their talking behind her back.

## TO LIVE 500 YEARS.

Singular Idea Which is Finding Believers in England.

Can man live for 500 years? There is a large number of people who believe that they are going to live that length of time.

Their leader is one of London's well-known editors, E. J. Kibblewhite, a man ordinarily credited with wisdom and common sense.

The people who have not been converted to the new theory and hope of longevity are standing aside and pool-pooling the whole idea. The biologists and chemists—all scientific men, in fact—are advising the undertakers to get coffin measurements for these people at once, for they are dabbling with dangerous drugs and doing other things that are called unwise if not perilous.

But Kibblewhite and his friends expect to be here when the millennium begins. They are enthusiastic. They declare the doctors, the preachers, and the grave diggers are facing sorry times. These men have not been stamped up to date.

The people who hope and believe they will live as long as they want to have been studying the habits of the whale, the pike, frogs, and lizards. The whale lives 300 years. The pike often lives to be 250 years old if some hidden hook does not draw him from his favorite stream. Frogs live an indefinite period. They are found sealed in rocks that must have been centuries in forming. Lizards, likewise, have an almost eternal lease on life.

Why not man? That's the question the live-for-ever theorists are asking. The secret of long life lies in the liberal application to the skin of glacial acetic acid, according to the unsolentific Britishers. Persons who have dabbled in chemistry are aware of the fact that acetic acid has an effect upon the epidermis. Acetic acid baths restore the hardened and wrinkled skin of octogenarians to the freshness and softness of a child's skin, say the believers. It routs death and all the signs of approaching death. In short, it makes a man over. It is a revised idea of the fiction for which Ponce de Leon sought in vain.

Kibblewhite claims to have cured various cases of disease which were pronounced "incurable" by doctors and really believes that glacial acetic acid is capable of prolonging life.

THESE BOYS WORK. Raise 540 Acres of Corn, for Which They Receive \$4,154.52. By industriously tending a patch of corn all last summer three Missouri boys earned not only the handsome sum of \$4,154.52, but sufficient distinction to have the fruit of their industry selected to be one of the features of Missouri's exhibit at the World's Fair, and to cause the commission to place their photographs in a place of honor in the Missouri building.

The boys are John, George and Joseph Christian, aged 18, 16, and 14 years respectively. They are the sons of C. A. Christian, and their home is in Tarkio, Atchison county. The work was all done between May 1 and Nov. 1, and the boys are now in school. The Christian boys accepted an offer from Davis Rankin of Atchison county, Missouri, who is the most extensive cattle feeder in the world. Mr. Rankin has 30,000 acres of land in Atchison county, and each year he raises corn on from 15,000 to 20,000 acres.

When the Christian boys applied for a tract of land on which to raise corn Mr. Rankin promptly turned over a tract of 540 acres and agreed to pay the boys 12 cents for every bushel of corn they would raise.

Hitching six Missouri mules to a miter the boys went to work. This machine plows, barrows, and seeds all at one operation. They worked like Trojans and soon the 540 acres were all planted. Then the boys had a breath spell. When the corn began to grow another task appeared for them, and three times the growing corn had to be cultivated. Again was a requisition made on the Missouri mule, and six were attached to each of three two-row cultivators. The weeds were kept down, the soil loosened, and the corn grew. This work was gone over three times. Meanwhile the grain grew and ripened, and when November rolled around the harvest was begun.

Up to this time the work of making the crop had been done altogether by the three boys. Extra help was employed in the harvest, however, and when the corn was gathered and measured into Mr. Rankin's great corn bins it was found that the boys had grown 34,621 bushels of the grain. At 12 cents per bushel this netted the sum of \$4,154.52. And Mr. Rankin gave them a check for that amount.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Or American Mailships. On all the American mailships nowadays there is a regular postoffice in charge of three postal clerks from the New York postoffice, who live abroad and assort the mails just as is done by the clerks upon the railway postal cars.

Electricity in Farm Work. The use of electricity in connection with farm work is being strongly advocated. The idea that the light is deleterious to vegetation is said to be all wrong and that the contrary holds good.

A nice, worthy, ambitious and capable woman, married to a worthless man, is a pitiful sight.