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SENATOR CARTER EXPOSED.

The San Francisco Call declines to credit Senator Carter with patriotic and unselfish motives in talking the river and harbor bill to death. Senator Carter, it seems, did not oppose the bill because it was a steal but because it did not steal enough. He made a strenuous fight to couple with it an appropriation of many millions to irrigate arid western lands, and failing in this determined to defeat the bill. The Montana senator believes the government should not only give the people land upon which to build homes but should see that the land is properly watered and fertilized.

The Call thus points out the inconsistency of the senator's position and the injustice of his policy to eastern farmers:

"The taxpayers would be glad to see the objects of expenditure decrease rather than increase, and will by their representatives soon open a more active campaign for the limitation of taxation. We are not ambitious to hold the ribbon permanently as the costliest government on earth, though we do not insist that the cheapest is necessarily the best. But a billion dollars is a lot of small change, and the expenditure of that sum per year is already in sight unless congress puts on the brakes.

"It is well for the whole country to examine the policy for which Senator Carter spoke thirteen hours without stopping. It is proposed to ask federal appropriations to build irrigation works in the arid region, in order that soil now barren for lack of moisture may be made fertile.

"Leaving out of the question the erratic nature of such appropriations, their wasteful expenditure, and forgetting such experiences as the venerable proposition to make a harbor in Oakland, a western man may well put himself in the place of the eastern farmer and taxpayer. That distant but good fellow citizen of ours has had no help from the government. He has planted and reaped and gathered into barns, while the government has been indifferent to his rainfall or the fertility of his fields. Outside the public land states that taxpayer had to put up a high price for his land, and acquired it by no such cheap and easy method as the pre-emption or home-

stead law. He feels taxation and the burden wears upon him. He gets tired and rests one leg while he stands on the other. Senator Carter desires to tax him to aid farmers in the west who under the homestead law can get land for nothing, provided the government will water it for them, at the expense of the unaided eastern farmer, for whom the government does nothing. Is it any wonder that heads are shaken and discontent is voiced in those eastern farm-houses?

"Again, the eastern farmer is a citizen of the republic and part-owner of the public domain. He used to keep sheep on his farm, under fence, and found them profitable farm stock. That part of his business is broken up. On his property, the public domain, out west, sheep are grazed without paying him anything for what they eat. To raise them costs nothing in comparison with the expense of raising them on his inclosed farm. He cannot compete. He has parted with one valuable means of diversifying his industry and turning an easier penny, and he sees his rival getting rich rapidly on pasture that does not cost a mill. So these two western visions disquiet him. The property of which he is part owner is used without rental, and its use is destroying its sole value, and he is called on to pay taxes to water another man's land. Honor bright, is such a situation just to our hard-handed fellow citizen, and is it creditable to American statesmanship?

"What would an individual business man do under such circumstances? He would solve both problems at once. He would make the stock grazer pay rent for the public property he pastures and would devote the proceeds to irrigation works.

"The arid ranges, under leasehold control, would yield nearly \$10,000,000 a year.

"An idea of the proportion in which such a fund would be earned in and allotted to the states and territories may be obtained from the amount of public domain remaining in each. Of their total area the following percentage is public land:

California	58 per cent
Arizona	76 per cent
Montana.....	78 per cent
Utah	89 per cent
Nevada.....	95 per cent
Wyoming	86 per cent
Idaho.....	89 per cent

"An examination of the above shows that the public domain remaining in federal ownership rises with aridity and falls with moisture. The states and territories most needful of irrigation, therefore, have the greatest amount of public domain to rent for provision of the means of irrigation. California, needing the least, would get it.

"Putting the total revenue from the leasing of the public ranges at \$10,000,-

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