#### THE PLUMB IRRIGATION BILL

C' Report of the Minority Members of the Senate Committee.

WIDE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

The Majority's Statement of Facts Disputed-Its Recommendations Declared Impracticable-Winning the Arid Wastes.

WASHINGTON, May 14, [Special to THE BEE.] -The minority members of the senate committee on irrigation have submitted the fol lowing report on the Plumb irrigation bill "The undersigned members of the select committee on irrigation and reclamation of arid lands, have considered the matters re ferred to it by the senate, and having made as exhaustive an examination of the general questions relating to irrigation in the arid lands as the time would permit, have reached conclusions which they desire to submit to the senate. While the report of the majority of the committee contains much valuable information, we find ourselves unable to agree with many of its statements of fact and with some of its reasoning, and we wholly disagree with most of its important conclusions and recommend congressional action which is diametrically opposed to that recommended by the majority.

"The following report is arranged in sections, each one of which treats of a distinct topic. In them the principal facts relating to the subject under investigation by the committee are arranged in order, so as to lead gnaturally to the conclusions that are ultimately reached. Then follow, numbered in sections, the recommendations which it is desired to make. And finally, still in numbered sections, the bills and the report submitted by the other members of the committee are examined in detail and the reasons set forth for dissenting from the An abstract of all the sections is here given, numbered to correspond with the sections "1. The arid lands embrace an area of 1,

340,000 square miles. Of this amount 1,000,000 acres can be redeemed for agriculture through the agency of irrigation by using the total supply of the perennial streams.

"2. The water of the arid lands is to be

derived from the streams, which are their chief source; from the storage of storm waters, which is the second source in im-portance; from pump wells, which are the third source of importance, and from artesian wells, which have a slight value for horti-cultural and stock-raising purposes.

"3. The sub-humid region lies between the arid region of the west and the humid region of the east, and embraces an area of about three degrees in width, equal to 250,000 square miles. Disaster has always come to the farmers who have attempted to settle in this region and carry on agriculture without

"4. When the system of applying the water is good and the cultivation is thorough, waters used in irrigation are consumed. "5. It would be greatly to the advantage of the farmers on the irrigable lands if a proper system of measuring the waters with which they are supplied were adopted, and great waste would be avoided.

"6. Experience proves that the arid and sub-humid lands are very fertile when irri-

The forest lands are of limited extent and are being rapidly burned, and need protection. These forests are distant from the frrigable lands where the agricultural population must be established in homes, but the farmers are dependent upon them for their supply of wood and lumber. They are also dependent upon them for their full supply of water for irrigation. Therefore, in the interest of the farmers the forests should be

8. There are great areas of pasturage lands which furnish a scant but valuable supply of food for flocks and herd, and the farmers engaged in irrigation can utilize this pasturage to the best advantage. But it is also being destroyed and needs protection, and the farmers with permanent homes are the people primarily interested in its pr

9. The lands that can be irrigated are nar rowly limited in area, so that only a small portion can be redeemed when all the waters are used. The best lands lie at the foot of the mountains and near to them, and should be chosen for this purpose. The mountain lands are not good agricultural lands, and the lands far down the streams can be used only by a great waste of waters. The irrigable lands should be carefully selected. "10. The irrigable lands should be segre-

gated, and declared such; and the right to use water on them should be established, and a prohibition should be put to the use of water on all other lands.

"II. The irrigated lands are of great value, varying from \$25 to \$200 per acre.

"12. The size of the homestead should be reduced to thirty acres, and perhaps forty would be better, that the public domain may be distributed among the greatest number of

people. "13. Water rights are often established to impede the development of agriculture and are greatly obstructive.
"14. International conflicts in relation to

water rights are impending.
"15. Conflicting rights to the use of waters in different states are being established, and bitter conflicts have already begun. These rights are of great magnitude, involving hundreds of millions of dollars. The general problem, therefore, is a national problem.
"16. Many conflicts are arising between

communities in relation to the use of water on land and between individuals in the same cammunity. The waters should be divided by some just method

Speculative water rights, where work of value has not actually been done and lands irrigated, should be summarily extin-"18. Existing water rights should be main

tained, but those that are improvident and obstructive must ultimately be condemned and the owners justly remunerated.
"19. Waters that are to be stored have to be divided among the communities

20. In many regions the people are devel oping agriculture where it cannot be per-manently maintained, and the foundations for large claims against the general govern-

ment are being laid. "21. Both the waters and the lands of the arid region are rapidly being aggregated in the hands of a few persons or in the possession of great corporations. Thus a result is being secured unfavorable to the welfare of the great

body of people who perform the labor on the farms—the actual famers themselves. 22. The government need not construct irrigating works. The increase given to the lue of the land is more than sufficient for

It is possible to divide the arid region dependent upon perennial stream waters into irrigation districts, so that each one may have a catchment area and a corresponding have a catchinent area and a corresponding irrigable area where the waters of the dis-trict can be used to the best advantage and where water rights can be permanently maintained. Such districts have been pro-visionally planned and mapped by the di-

rector of the geological survey,

"24. Irrigation districts should be composed of compact bodies of irrigable lands, with the pasturage and timber lands of the catchment area about them, and the farmers on the irrigable lands should control the

catchment areas with all their values,

"25. Interstate complications make it necessary for the general government to proessary for the problems; and the vide a solution of the problems; and the United States and the several states are inerested in the waters and lands; hence the Inited States and the several states must alike make concessions and reach an agree

26. The population in each of the irrigation districts planned seems usually to be sufficient to take charge of the interest lavelyed in such district in relation to the use of waters, forests and pastures. The district with the smallest population is that of Bill Williams' Fork in Arizona. The district with the largest population is that of the Upper South Platte, which includes the city of Denver, and probably has a population of more than one hundred and forty-two thousand people.

The solution of the foregoing problems is very simple. It consists in organizing natural irrigation districts through the agency of a survey by the general government and nec-

essary legislation by the states, and all turn-ing over the problems of irrigation to such

"28. The present irrigation survey is performing its duties in compliance with law and in an efficient and therough manner, and the work under it should proceed at a reasonable rate of progress until it is finished. It is estimated that the irrigation survey will cost \$7,000,000, but that in making the maps it will save \$4,000,000 to the geological survey. Thus the real cost of the irrigation survey is but \$3,000,000 over and above the cost of the geological survey. The work performed in two years demonstrates that this estimate was

"29. The survey needed for the sub-humid "29. The survey needed for the sub-humid region of the great plains is purely a geological survey based on topography. It should be made as rapidly as possible, in order to serve the wants of the farmers of that region, who are already suffering by reason of their neglect of irrigation. Another reason for its prompt completion is to give to new settlers in these regions necessary information of the conditions under which success and prosper. conditions under which success and prosper-ity may be secured.

"30. To accomplish the solution of the prob-lems by the methods proposed, a bill has been drafted, which is printed with this re-

31. An analysis of the bill is made by sections and the effect of each section pointed out. The sections may here be characterized sum-marily. Section 1 of the bill provides for a survey of the arid lands into natural irriga-tion districts. Section 2 of the bill provides for the segregation of the irrigable lands, Section 3 of the bill provides that lands al-ready irrigated shall be declared irrigable for ne purposes contemplated in the bill. Section 4 of the bill provides that certain of the rrigation works shall be constructed only on tes designated and reserved therefor in order to protect water rights and to conserve the waters for beneficial purposes. Section 5 of the bill provides for the division of the waters the districts. Section 6 of the bill among the districts. Section 6 of the bill provides for the organization of districts situ-ated in two or more states or territories. Sec-tion 7 of the bill provides that the non-irriga-ble lands shall remain in the possession of the general government-as forests, and pasturage reservations and catchment areas for the irrigable lands, but it provides for the disposal of the irrigable lands to homestead cettlers in tracts not greater than eighty acres. Section 8 of the bill attaches the acres. water rights to the homesteads of the irriga-ble lands. Section 9 of the bill makes it unlawful to construct unauthorized irrigation works. Section 10 of the bill provides in general terms a plan for the organization of irrigation districts. Section 11 of the bill gives to the commissioners of the irrigation districts the authority to provide laws and rules for the use of the waters belonging to the districts and for the protection and use f the forests and the protection and use of he pasturage. Section 12 of the bill makes lawful for the states and territories te provide general legislation relating to the use of the waters and forests, and the pasturage, nd provides methods by which the capital for the construction of irrigation works may be obtained. Section 13 of the bill makes it lawful for the states to provide a board of irriga-tion commissioners to supervise and approve

of the works authorized and the contracts made by district commissioners. Section 14 of the bill provides that cities and towns may be excluded from the irrigation districts, and gives the states and territories authority to esignate the water which such cities and towns may use. Section 15 of the bill pro-vides a method for obtaining the consent of the states and territories to the legislation proposed in the bill, and refuses the rights and benefits otherwise granted to any state or territory which fails to give its con "32. The general effect of the bill is to turn over the control of irrigation to the states and the districts, the general statutes to be made by the states and the specific rules by the districts. Therefore it will ac-

complish local self government in relaxation to irrigation and the forest and pasturage administration. It relieves the general gov-ernment of all subsequent legiglative and administrative duties except only to com-plete the irrigation survey of the whole and the linear survey of the irriand the linear survey of the irri-gable lands, and also to adminis-ter the homestead laws, coal land laws, mining land laws and the townsite land laws through the general land office.

\*33. The bill reported by the majority of the committee is in the interest of the great cattle companies that pasture their animals on the public domain and opposed to the interests of the farmers making homesteads on the lands. Its effect is to give the companies access with their animals to all nat-ural waters, whether the same be running streams, lakes, pools, ponds, springs or other surface bodies of water, or subterranean streams, pools or underflows produced by natural scepage or drainage in disregard of the authority of the states. It is also in the interest of the great irrigation companies rapidly developing in the west, turning over all water rights for irrigation to them and practically excluding the poor settler on the and wishing to obtain a homestead. There

fore it is disapproved. 934. The creation of a new bureau of irrigation in the agricultural department is necessary and unwise; therefore it is not rec-

"35. The director of the survey has expended a portion of the fund for a portion of the topographic work as a part topographic work as a part topographic work. This is necessary irrigation survey. This is in compliance with the It is also in compliance with the the plan for the survey submitted to congress by the director prior to the enactment of the law. It is strictly in compliance with the representations made by the director to the committee on appropriations and published by that committee in its report to the senate explaining the bill. Three months after the passage of the bill the director reported to

congress how his work had been organized and was being prosecuted, showing that it was strictly in compliance with the law and that topographic work had been begun. The topographic work is necessary, economical "36. The recommendation to discontinue the topographic work of the irrigation survey

is believed to be unwise. It is deemed that through this method catchment areas, sites for diverting works, canal sites and irrigable lands can be discovered with the greatest economy and thoroughness. It is also believed to be the proper basis for a hydro-graphic survey.

37. The hydrographic branch of the irris gation survey should not be turned over t-the signal service. The stations oo the signal service in the arid-landf are not at the places where these streams should be gauged. A new corpe of men would be necessary, and it is believed that the measuring of the waters to be used for irrigation can be most economically and mptly done by the irrigation survey through

the topographic work.

38. The two bills are diametrically opposed in theory, purpose and effect. The bill recommended by the minority is in the interest of the farmers themselves; the one by the majority in the interest of companies. The one proposes to continue the present irrigation survey, while the other proposes to create a new bureau of irrigation, and a second

geological survey.
"39. Director Powell does not suggest that irrigation works should be constructed by the general government, but he has consist ently for a long term of years urged that the industry of agriculture by irrigation should under the control of natural irrigation dis-

"40. No delay in the operations of irrigation survey is caused by the operations of the geological survey, but wherever maps are made in the arid and sub-humid regions for the geological survey, they serve the purposes of the irrigation survey and forward its work. "41. The legislation already accomplished by the act of October 2, 1888, which reserves the sites for irrigation works in the hands of the general government, and reserves the lands made susceptible of irrigation thereby for homestead settlement, is wise and should not be repealed. The desert-land laws, the timber-culture laws and the pre-emption laws, 40. No delay in the operations of irrigation

timber-culture laws and the pre-emption laws, which are in effect repealed by this act, should not again be made operative, for by their agency large tracts of land have hereofore been aggregated in the hands of individuals and corporations, "42. Experimental boring for the discovery

of artesian water is unwise. The experience of the world demonstrates that the supply of artesian waters is always imadequate to the wants of agriculture and of insignificant amount, though such fountains are valuable for domestic and horticultural purposes. Especially is it unwise to create a new geological survey to discover artesian waters."

PERRY S. HEATH.

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#### MACAL'S NEW YORK LETTER

Latest Gossip Anent the Knights of the Squared Circle.

AUSTRALIAN MURPHY'S EXPERIENCE

McAuliffe's Ambition - The Brooklyn Handicap and the Yachting Season, Etc.

New York, May 16. [Special Correspondence to The Bee. |-Sporting matters have been dull the past week, nothing of much importance happening in the pugilistic line. Billy Myer has sent a dispatch to Frank Ste venson of the Puritan athletic club, stating that he would like to meet either Jack Mc Auliffe or Charley Norton in a twelve-round go before the club for a suitable purse, the men to weigh 135 pounds. It is reasonably certain that McAuliffe will not accept, as Jack at present is interested in horse races, and as long as he has money he will not bother his head about fighting. He has been quite successful on the turf so far, and if his luck holds out until the end of the season it is dollars to doughnuts he will never enter the prize ring again. As he remarked one day: "I ain't in the business for glory. I obtained that long ago. I only fight when necessary, and as long as I can live comfortably without fighting I will do so, as

I am not stuck on the business."

Jack has provided a comfortable home for his mother and sister, and he will never want

while he has men like Phil Dwyer and Dick Roche behind him. The Occidental Athletic club of San Francisco has offered a purse of \$1,500 for Austin Gibbons and Mike Cushing. The battle will hardly take place in the west, as Mike said some time ago that he did not care to go to California to fight. He says that a purse of \$1,000 or \$1,500 can be raised in the east for them, and they can settle their dispute without making such a long journey. Cushing, like McAuliffe, is interested in the turf busi ness, but the lightweights will hear from

Mike in the fall.

Australian Murphy left New York for Frisco today. He took along with him the Police -Gazette belt emblamatic of the featherweight championship of the world. I had quite a talk with Murphy over his past history. He told me when he left Australia history. He told me when he left Australia he had but \$1 in his pocket, and he still car-ries the coin to this day. He was engaged on the steamer as general utility man and worked his passage over to America. He had quite a hard time of it on the boat, varying his labors from waiting on the table and cleaning out the store-room to scrubbing up the deck. was an apt worker, however, and the chief steward took quite a fancy to him. When the ship landed the steward gave him \$10 and told him that any time he needed a dollar to go to him. Everybody knows how he de-feated Griffen. Murphy and Weir, and the little man that landed on our shores six months ago penniless now returns home with at least \$10,000 to his credit. Speaking of the belt, this is the first time an Austral ian ever took home an American beit. Murphy will return in the fall and endeavor to show some of the little uns that he is the real champion.

Nothing new has occurred in the prospec tive Joe McAuliffe-Jake Kilrain match. Kil rain's sentence does not expire until next month and nothing will be done until Jake comes north. In the meantime Billy Madden is hustling trying to arrange a fight with his protege and some of the big fellows in the east. He has made offers to Jee Lannon, George Godfrey or anybody of his weight. The Puritan athletic club has offered a \$3,000 purse for McAuliffe and Kilrain, but Madden says he will not fight for less than \$5,000. By the time this is read the Brooklyr by the time this is read the Brooklyn handicap will have been run and won. All of the candidates showed up well in their trials, especially Sir Dixon, Fides, Budge, Los Angeles and Come-to-Taw. The race on paper is an open one, but I think that the race will

to the Dwyers with Come-to-Taw and Fides next in order. The yachting season has opened and the bay is resplendent with the white-winged flyers. I paid a visit to the Larchmont yacht club's grounds at Larchmont manor last week and I was struck by the beauty of the place. The club is without doubt the foremost of any yacht club, which is but a yacht club in name without any grounds or anchorage for the vessels. The Larchmont club is fitted up with every contrivance necessary to a vacht members are the best in New many of the New York yacht club's members being enrolled.

Erysipelas and salt rheum was driven en tirely away from Mrs. J. C. Anderson, Pestitigo, Wis., by Burdock Blood Bitters. No equal as a blood purifier.

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#### "NIGGER MINSTRELS" IN LONDON America's Burnt Cork Comedians

Have Come to Stay in England. A popular English writer thus pays tribute to the stronghold which negro

minstrelsy has obtained and is likely to hold in London: The pleasant suburban gardens of Ranelagh, Vauxhall and Cremorne have vanished. A Londoner sighs in vain on the hottest summer day for a convenient open-air place of re-freshment where he can dine, listen to music and smoke a cigar. The character of the music-hall entertainments has been completely changed. We have no such songs as disgusted Colonel Newcome, no mock trials to gratify prurient

The tragedies of Sheridan Knowles and the comedies of Douglas Jerrold are no longer in vogue, while only a few of Tom Taylor's many dramas manage to survive. In private life the polka rose and fell, and rose again, and has finally disappeared. Corquet came, was popular for a time, and is now almost forgotten. Lawn-tennis reigns new

English opera has had many vicissitudes during the last sixty years; at one time the rage, then tabooed, now again popular. What is called "the sacred lamp of burlesque" has been bright and dim by turns, and now flickers once more. The circus has had its ups and downs; sometimes with two or three in London, until last year Barnum came among us with the "greatest show on earth.

Yet through all these changes the "negro minstrels" have kept their hold on public favor. They came and stayed, "not single spies, but in battalions. Rival companies have permeated the united kingdom, and London has its permanent camp of established singers. Their songs, their dances, their puns, their queer sayings, their bits of spoken or acted farce, their "wheezes" and their jokes, new and old, still excite laughter.

A Pleasing Sense

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SHAVING WIDOWS. A Question that is Agitating the

Barbers of Bombey. Shall the widows be shaved? asks the Belfast Weekly Examiner. That is the great question that is at present causing agitation amongst the burbers of Bombay? To western ears the subject sounds a trifle comic, but in the land of the orient it has a very different meaning. In India it has always been customary to shave the heads of widows immediately on the death of their husbands. Of late murmurs and protests have been heard. and the native journals have been calling for reform. The barbers have com-menced to coincide with these more enlightened views, and it is expected will refuse to perform the required tonsorial operation.

The Brahmans have threatened that they will use the scissors themselves, but this is believed to be impossible, as it would result in their losing caste-a very important consideration with a re ligious, self-respecting Brahman, Upcountry, says an Indian contemporary the practice of shaving the widow's head is not so persistently enforced as in Bombay. The hair is allowed to grow again, and the widow has only to submit to a renewal of the unwelcome operation when she visits a shrine of special sanc-

In Bombay widows are shaved regularly once a week, and this causes them deep distress. It would really appear as if the widow in India was regarded with the same touching affection and rever-ential regard as the mother-in-law in lands that lie more in the direction of the setting sun.

In advanced age the declining powdrs are wonderfully refreshed by Hood \* Sarsaparilla. It really does "make the weak strong."

#### A CONSOLING THOUGHT.

Yan Phon Lee Will Not Contest His Wife's Divorce Suit.

Yan Phon Lee asserts, with tears run ning obliquely down his cheeks, that he is a victim to his wife's mother, says the New York Morning Journal. Yan Phon Lee came to America in 1873

to study our language and customs. In studying the language he also studied the chief users of the language—our young ladies. He found the occupation a very interesting one, and had advanced to a point where he could conjugate the verb "to love" when he was rudely interrupted. The emperor of China had learned that his subjects here were learning other things than grammer, and he at once recalled every Chinaman in America. Those in the business of taking in washing or giving out 'dope refused to obey the edict, for they ap-preciated the blessings of our institutions. But the students, of whom there were a number, packed up their paja-mas, let down their pigtails, and returned to the flowery kingdom. Yan Phon Lee was one of the obedient ones, But Yan displayed so much new knowledge that he surprised the emperor. The latter was particularly pleased by a sure way to win at fan-tan his Americanized subject explained to him. He at once ordered Yan Phon

entered New Haven society He was catered to, feted, lionized. At every dance he was a conquering hero. Fair maidens fought for the honor of his hand, while the male decendants of a hundred years of successful whale fish-

Lee to return to America. Yan obeyed,

came and entered Yale college. He also

ing stood by in silent rage.

The German was rechristened the Chinese, in deference to his nationality, and the favors were always sweet almonds, a poetic allusion to the shape of his eyes.

Among the pretty New Haven maids

was Elizabeth Maud Jerome. Yan saw her, danced with her, loved her, proposed to her and married her. Elizabeth had an \$80,000 marriage portion. Yan thought himself a very lucky

Alas! he had reckoned without his host-that is, without his mother-in-law. Yan says his mother-in-law smiled serenely upon him at first, but then she began to suspect that one of his eyes was slanted in the direction of Etizabeth Maud's money, and she at once became uglier than the homeliest dragon that ever adorned the walls of a Joss house.

Yan says that she looks so to him. Bit by bit husband and wife were estranged, and soon they were as far apart as Hong Kong and New York. Yan went to San Francisco to clerk in a bank, but Mrs. Yan was not satisfied there. She insisted on going home to her mamma, and did go. Yan followed

But Mamma Jerome was not pleased with the presence of her son-in-law. She found him once laughing uproariously over a mother-in-law joke in a paper supposed to be funny, and she grew

Yan then came to this city, where he is now the editor of the Chinese Advocate. A Journal reporter called on him yes-

terday at his editorial office.
"Yes," said Yan, with a sigh, "my
wife has sued me for absolute divorce. She says that I was unfaithful to her. It is not so. She was the star of my existence. But, alas! I am like many other wretched men. I have a mother-in-law. It is she who is persecuting me; it is she who has instigated this divorce. But I shall let the suit go by default, because,

though I lose my wife by the divorce, I

also lose my mother-in-law. That is

some consolation, at least.'

Henry Schoenhals, foreman Henry Krugs Packing Co., St. Joseph, Mo., uses Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil with his men for sprains, cuts, bruises, chapped hands, etc. It is the best.

#### Shade for Poultry.

During the hot, sweltering days of summer the poultryman should take special precautions to avoid the dangerous effects on his stock, resulting from an undue exposure to the sun's rays. Where fowls have their liberty, as on the farm, there is no need of providing artificial shade, says the Nebraska But when they are confined in Farmer. yards; shade of some kind must be pro vided, or the result will be most detri-mental to the flock. A very convenient mode of providing shade is to build a roof over one corner of the yard, next the house, where we few additional boards on one side will keep out the sun during the whole day. The enclosure should be of such a size as to accommodate the flock all at once, although the whole number would seldom go in it at the same time. In this enclosure it is an excellant plan to scatter grain occasionally. They will often sprout and afford a dainty morsel for some inquisitive biddy when the tender blades appear above the ground. At any rate the lock will get some good exercise in scratching after them when thrown down.

A recent writer commends very highly the fir tree. This tree is a very rapid grower; the lower branches are widespreading and droop to the ground in such a manner that the tree, though trimmed to a height of three or four feet forms a sheltered bower, under whose cool, refreshing shade the hens can rest in comfort. It also affords protection from winds in winter.

By setting a few of these trees in the fowl yard the desired shelter from the

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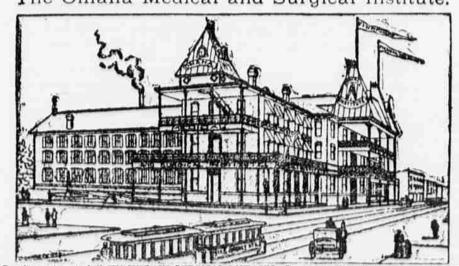
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