

FOR THE SALE OF ARID SOIL

One Way of Solving the Question that is Now Being Agitated.

OPPORTUNITY GIVEN FOR IRRIGATION

Senator Carey's Bill Granting Public Land to be Sold to Settlers Discussed by Commissioner Lamoreux—States that Are Interested.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The senate committee on public lands will probably soon take up Senator Carey's bill granting to each of the arid land states and territories 1,000,000 acres each of the public lands to be sold to settlers in lots of 160 acres each.

The secretary of the interior endorses the bill and the commissioner of the general land office has written a letter, in which he takes advanced ground in favor of the improvement of arid lands by placing the work under the control of the various states. He says: "The bill is clear and general in its terms. It is in the interest of small settlers. The United States holds the title until the lands are actually reclaimed and settled."

He continues: "The prosecution of irrigation work has been found to be very expensive, costing from \$5 to \$30 an acre. Consequently the most successful settlements, notably in California and Colorado, under irrigation canals have been where the land could be procured in bodies, generally within Spanish and railroad grants. Now that the lands along the water courses, as a rule, have been taken, the question arises how can the lands difficult and expensive to irrigate be made available for settlement? The people of the states in which the arid lands are located would like to see the United States undertake the reclamation. This is certainly impracticable now and it is doubtful whether it will ever be otherwise. That additional legislation to induce the reclamation and settlement of arid lands is necessary cannot be denied, and the entire acreage to be reserved under the bill, if all the states to which it is applicable should avail themselves of its provisions, would not be as great as each of the several states acquired under the swamp acts. Congress may well try the experiment here proposed, retaining the title in the United States as the bill proposes so that if the results are satisfactory, which I have no doubt will be the case, like comprehensive legislation may hereafter be enacted to recover other large bodies of land.

The states are highly interested in the reclamation of the arid lands in their borders and the settlement and cultivation thereof by individual citizens. The work is too vast to be undertaken by the general government. Local and community interest under state control will bring about results with far greater zeal and success. The principal proposition involved—reclamation and settlement by individuals in small holdings—merits strong approval, and this bill seems to me to present full opportunity for practical experiment and under proper safeguards. The United States retains title until the reclamation is accomplished and the land occupied by actual settlers. This, if successful, is the great object to be attained.

LOOSE METHODS EMPLOYED.

Reports of Agents Who Have Been Investigating the Appraisers Office at Boston.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Special agents who have been investigating charges preferred by David E. Loorgan, a former employe, against A. L. Dodge, appraiser of the port of Boston, have reported to the secretary of the treasury, who today submitted their report to the senate, in compliance with a resolution adopted by that body February 19. The allegations against Mr. Dodge and one other employe were detailed to police work while drawing pay from the government is not fully established, although it has some color of truth. His further allegations that certain firms were improperly favored in the matter of importations is wholly discredited by the special agents. The report, however, states that there was much direct testimony showing great looseness in the conduct of affairs of the appraiser's office in some respects and utter disregard of the customs regulations. This is found to be particularly true as to the liberties allowed brokers and importers to examine goods other than their own. "The features of Mr. Dodge's administration," says the report, "apparently show a lack of comprehension of the prescribed system of conducting such a department."

HUGE GUNS ARE NO GOOD.

Chairman Cummings Explains Why the Smaller Weapons Fill the Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Chairman Cummings of the house committee on naval affairs is not a believer in huge guns for naval purposes such as were recently tested at Indian Head. "In my judgment," said he, "a ten-inch gun is the largest we should make, as it combines the greatest efficiency with the least disadvantages. At Annapolis I saw one of the thirteen-inch guns similar to the one tested at Indian Head, mounted on an Italian war ship. It was on a raised turret, with delicate machinery for swinging the gun on an eccentric. But the delicacy of the machinery was better suited to a watch than to a heavy gun. A six-pound shot dropped into it would have destroyed this delicate mechanism and crippled the gun. These disadvantages of mounting and handling huge guns quite outweigh any advantage they have in effectiveness. It was established at the Indian Head trials that a ten-inch gun is sufficiently effective to demolish any plate made. That being so there is no need of getting any more effectiveness. All beyond the ten-inch gun is waste."

MORE ACTIVE OFFICERS NEEDED.

Views of Secretary Carlisle on Senator Ransom's Revenue Cutter Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Senator Ransom, the chairman of the senate committee on commerce, today received from Secretary Carlisle a letter containing his views of the pending bill "To Promote the Efficiency of the Revenue Cutter Service." The secretary quotes from the annual reports of several of his predecessors to show the necessity for a provision of law creating a retired list of officers of the revenue marine service. The statute now in force provides that each revenue vessel shall have one captain and a stated number of other officers, but no provision is made for the filling of places made vacant by reason of old age or other physical infirmities. That is, no appointment can be made until there is an actual vacancy caused either by resignation or death. The secretary shows that the retiring order list contains nearly one-third of all the captains in the service, their ages ranging from 54 to 80 years. The secretary says that it is an urgent one, and he recommends that a retired list be authorized and that the places left vacant be filled by promotion, as now.

NEW MONEY ORDER OFFICES.

One Hundred and Thirty-Eight to be Established Next Month.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—There will be 135 money order offices and thirteen postal note offices established throughout the country on April 2. The former will be distributed by states as follows:

- Alabama, two; Arkansas, one; California, three; Colorado, one; Connecticut, one; Florida, three; Georgia, three; Idaho, one; Illinois, two; Indiana, four; Iowa, six; Kansas, three; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, eight; Maine, eight; Maryland, one; Massachusetts, four; Michigan, six; Minnesota, five; Mississippi, three; Missouri, four; Nebraska, four; Nevada, one; New Jersey, one; New Mexico, one; New York, five; North Carolina, two;

TRIPS TO THE NORTH POLE

Searches for the End of the World Showing Unusual Activity.

SOME EXCURSION PARTIES ORGANIZING

Several Projects on Foot for Exploration of the Arctic Regions that Will Start from St. Johns, Newfoundland, During This Year.

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During the winter another expedition under Mr. Stein, consisting of eight persons, proposes going to Smith's sound, also the northern latitude to conduct geological investigations. They will remain three years. Three of this party are Norwegians. One of its objects is to find the Swedish explorers, Hurlberg and Walsten who went north in 1892, on the schooner Rippe, and were supposed to be lost, as the vessel's wreck was found last year.

The third expedition projected will be the largest in many years. The American consul has signed a treaty for a steamer to take a party of sixteen scientists north to a place Franklin has named. The expedition is under the auspices of the American government, and an appropriation of congress is awaited before completing the arrangements. The purpose of the expedition are geographical, geological and meteorological investigations. The party will remain north four years. A steamer is likely to visit them with fresh supplies two years after starting.

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Prince and Poor Man.

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Indianapolis Musical Festival.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 23.—The Indianapolis May Music Festival association has engaged the following artists for its sixth annual festival, May 15, 16 and 17: Emma James, Henri Maréchal, Emma Juch, Clara Poole King, Gertrude May Stein, the English artists Ben Davies, Walker Mills and Antonette Trebell, Max Heinrich, Arthur Freidheim and others. Five concerts are to be given, and the principal works to be presented will be the oratorio of St. Paul and parts of Lohengrin, Tannhauser and Meister Singer.

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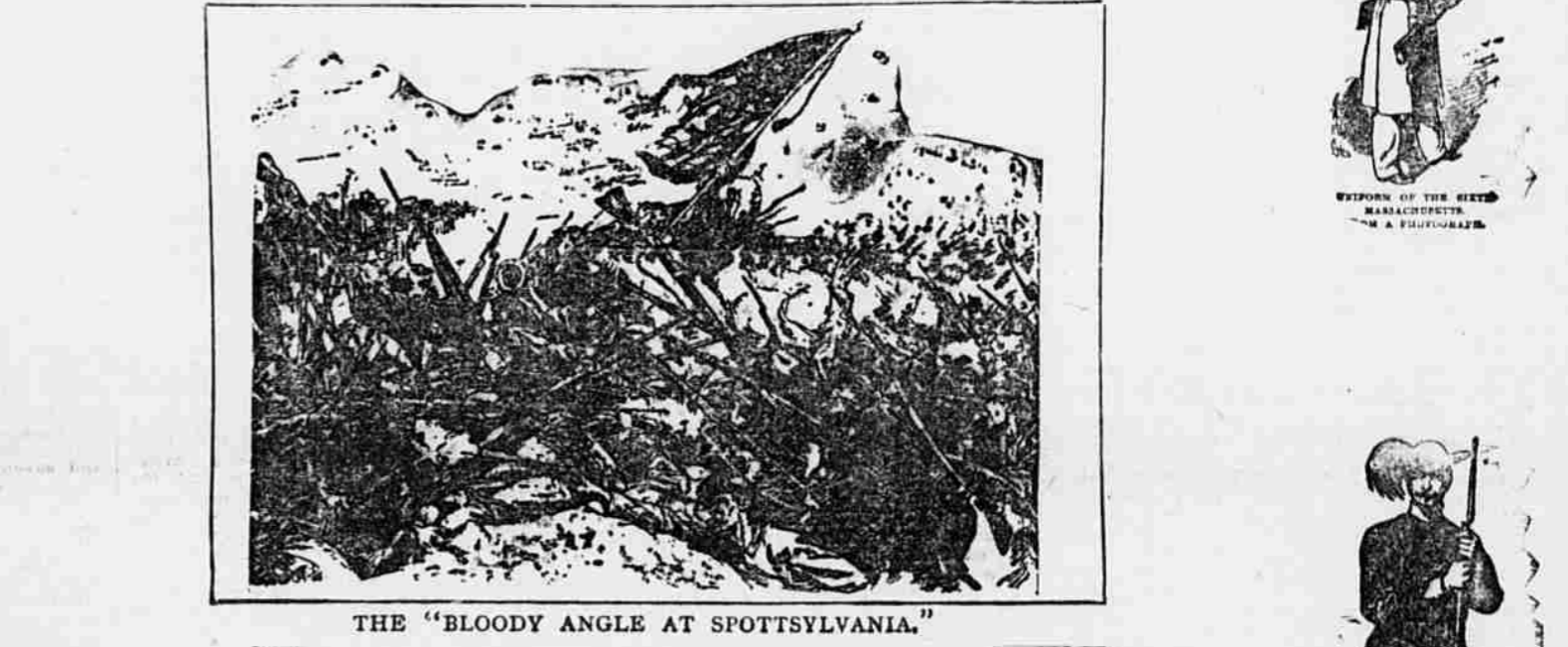


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