MORE BELLE FOURCHE LAND

Second Unit of Irrigation Project is Ready to Enter.

CHANCE TO GET RICH FARM TRACT

One Hundred and Thirty-Two Choice Forty and Eighty-Acre Farms Immediately Available for Homestead Entry.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—(Special.)—The completion of the second unit of the Belle Fourche irrigation project, South Dakota, is anounced in a public notice issued by the secretary of interior. This makes immediately available for homstead entry 132 choice forty and eight-acre farms.

These farms are open to entry under the general provisions of the homestead law and the reclamation act. After visiting the land the settler is required to make his homestead entry at the local land office at Rapid City, or before the United States commissioner at Belle Fourche. The homestead entry must be accompanied by an application for water right. There is no lottery. In addition to the nominal entry fee the settler must pay in advance one-tenth of the building charge, or $3 per acre of irrigable land. A charge is also made of 40c per acre per annum for operation and maintainance. The initial payment for a forty-acre farm will be about $142, and for an eighty-acre farm $279. This is one of the lowest-priced water rights in the west, and it is expected that every farm unit will be taken up before May 1.

The irrigable lands are located in Butte and Meade counties, north and northeast of the Black Hills, one of the richest gold mining camps in the west.

Climate and Crops.

The average elevation of the lands under the Belle Fourche project is 2,800 feet above sea level. The climate is healthful and invigorating. As in other parts of the arid region, the sensible temperature does not vary greatly, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere. The soil is clay loam and sandy loam, exceedingly fertile and free from alkali. Fruits, such as apples, cherries, plums and small fruits do well, especially on the higher portions of the project near the bluffs, and potatoes produce abundantly on the south side of the river where the soil is more sandy. Sugar beets raised in the valley, it is claimed, contain as much sugar as those raised in any other section of the country, and are profitable as a special crop. The pulp is nourishing and cheap as winter food for stock. Preparations are being made for building a beet sugar factory in the district.

The vast country surrounding the valley affords pasturage for immense herds, making that section one of the largest cattle ranges in the United States. As many as 5,000 carloads of cattle have been shipped from Belle Fourche in a year. Large flocks of sheep also feed on the ranges, and 1,500,000 pounds of wool are shipped annually from this region. With the irrigation of the valley and the production of abundant crops of small grain and alfalfa, a new and important industry will be developed in the winter feeding and fattenting of stock.

All the fruits and vegetables that can be raised in the valley can be sold to the mining camps of the Black Hills, where employment is given to thousands of men. Milk, eggs, butter, poultry and garden truck all bring high prices and there is a growing and constant demand for these products. Sturgis, Whitewood, Belle Fourche and other towns have direct connection over the Chicago & Northwestern railroad with Omaha, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, and other large cities. These great markets take all the surplus products, sending in return machinery, household supplies and other manufactured articles not yet produced in the valley. A new railroad is being built the entire length of the project, so that the transportation facilities will be excellent.

Interesting to Engineers.

From an engineering standpoint the Belle Fourche project in one of the most interesting which the government has yet undertaken. Its principal structure is an earthen dam, probably the largest of its kind in the world. This wonderful dike which closes the lowest depression in the rim of a natural basin, is 6,200 feet long, twenty feet wide on top, and 115 feet high in the highest place. The inside face of this structure, which has a slope of two to 1, will be protected from wave and ice action by two feet of screened gravel on which will be placed concrete blocks each 4x6 feet and eight inches thick. The cubical content of this dam will be 48,700,000 cubic feet, of about half that of the famous pyramid of Cheops.

The reservoir created by this dam will cover about 9,000 acres, and will be the largest lake in the state. It will receive water through an inlet canal six and one-half miles long, forty feet wide on the bottom, and capable of carrying the entire flow of Belle Fourche river.

The Belle Fourche offers opportunities in every line of business. The valley is practically a virgin field. The mercantile pursuits are not overcrowded. Manufacturing is yet to be developed, and the professional man has a great opportunity.

The reclamation of 100,000 acres of land included in this project, with a family on every forty or eighty-acre tract, will necessitate the establishment of several new towns and will add greatly to those now in existence. Around the new government town site, and also the new railroad in temporary quarters, ready to move into permanent buildings as soon as the town site lots are on sale. Lands which sold for $5 per acre before the project started are now valued at $50 per acre and are in good demand.

CENSUS SUPERVISOR STILL WAITING FOR ELIGIBLE LIST

Bureau Has Not Forwarded Names of Possible Appointees—School of Instruction to Be Here.

The supervisor of the census for the Second Nebraska district has not yet received back from the census bureau the list of eligibles for census enumerators for the district, though he is looking for the list daily and the full list should be received here not later than March 15.

The enumerators will be assembled in Omaha upon appointment for instructions and this school of instruction may continue over several days in order that the enumerators may be made familiar with their duties.

The questions relating to physical infirmities are liable to meet with considerable evasion and the utmost delicacy will have to be observed by the enumerators. As an instance the inquiry as to blindness applied only when a person is either totally or partially blind in both eyes, so as to be unable to read even with the help of glasses. Only persons who are both deaf and dumb are to be reported under the question "whether deaf and dumb."

The question concerning school attendance any time since September 1, 1909, relates only to persons of school age, between 5 and 21 years old. In case any person outside that age limit actually attended school, the fact is to be noted on the schedule.

Laetare Medal for This Year Goes to Egan

United States Minister to Denmark is Recipient of Coveted Honor from Notre Dame.

NOTRE DAME, Ind., March 5.—(Special.)—The Laetare medal, which is the highest decoration of honor for a lay member of the Catholic church in the United States, and which is annually conferred by the University of Notre Dame on some man or woman who has achieved distinction in art, literature, science or philanthropy, goes this year to the present American minister to Denmark, Maurice Francis Egan, author, educator and diplomatist. The award is made for distinguished services to Catholic literature and education.

For twenty years before this appointment as the representative of the United States at the court of Denmark, Dr. Eagan was occupied as a professor of literature, and during that period he found time to publish several important works on literary criticism which are held in high esteem by university men. He is also well known as a novelist, but his claims to literary distinction rest most on the verse which he has written. In several published volumes he has shown merit as a true poet, and as such, he has been held by critics like Edmund Clarence Stedman and Richard Watson Gilder. The last named placed him among the three best sonneteers in English. Because the literary quality of his work is so fine, and most of all because his themes are wholesome and elevating, the trustees of the University of Notre Dame have selected Dr. Eagan as the recipient of the Laetare medal this year.

The medal takes its name from the title given the fourth Sunday of Lent, the day when the announcement of the award is always made. It corresponds to the decoration of the Golden Rose, which is conferred by the pope every year on some member of the nobility of Europe. The medal is a large disk of pure gold, richly enamelled, and bearing in relief some design suited to the profession of the recipient. A motto in Latin, "Truth is mighty and shall prevail," appears in black enamel surrounding the design. Accompanying the medal is an address of award painted on silk by some artist of renown.

The Laetare medal was first given in 1883. It was then conferred on the historian, John Gilmary Shea. In succession the following were decorated: Patrick J. Keeley, architect; Eliza Allen Starr, art critic; General John Newton, civil engineer; Patrick V. Hickey, editor; Anna Hanson Dorsey, author; William J. Onahan, publicist Major Henry F. Brownson, soldier and scholar; Patrick Donahue, editor and philanthropist; Augustin Daily, theatrical manager; Anna T. Sadler, author; General William F. Rosecrans, soldier; Thomas Addis Emmett, physician; Timothy E. Howard, jurist; John A. Creighton, philanthropist; William Burke Cochran, lawyer and statesman; John B. Murphy, surgeon; Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, merchant and philanthropist; Katherine Eleanor Conway, author and editor; Francis Quinlan, surgeon; James C. Monaghan, publicist and educator; Christine Frances Tierman, author.

Although the name of the recipient and the reasons for the award are made public on Laetare Sunday, the actual presentation of the medal does not take place until some weeks later at a time when dignitaries of the Catholic church and men eminent in the same line of work as the recipient can be brought together. In the case of Dr. Egan, he will probably not be formally decorated with the medal until the latter part of May or June.

Maurice Francis Egan was born in Philadelphia in 1852. He was graduated from La Salle college in that city in 1873. He received the degree of master of arts from the University of Notre Dame in 1878 and of LL. D. from Georgetown university in 1879. In 1891 the University of Ottawa conferred on him the degree of J. U. D., and Villanova the degree of Ph. D. in 1907. In 1878 he began newspaper work and he was successively reporter, sub-editor and editor until 1888, when he was called to the chair of English literature in the University of Notre Dame, where he remained until 1895, when he went to the Catholic University of America in Washington as professor of literature. In 1907 he was appointed by President Roosevelt envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Denmark.

George P. Cronk Sues for Divorce

Comes Into Court Alleging that Wife's Cruelty Has Undermined His Health.

George P. Cronk has begun action for divorce from Mrs. Cora L. Cronk. His petition in district court charges extreme cruelty.

Friends of Cronk have expected that this action would be taken ever since Mrs. Cronk appeared before the grand jury to complain of her husband. The final report of the grand jury which does not find any indictment against Cronk was awaited before the action in divorce was initiated.

Cronk, through his attorney, Thomas D. Crane, states in his petition that he was married in September, 1906, in Chicago. The first specification of cruelty alleged is that Mrs. Cronk, in March, 1907, "in the absence of plaintiff from his home, entertained a number of parties, both male and female, of bad reputation in the home of plaintiff." Next, another charge of evil company is preferred in connection with an automobile ride, mentioning some prominent young society men, and the same allegation is made a third time in connection with still another person.

Another count charges that Mrs. Cronk locked up the door of the plaintiff's bedroom, so that he "was therefore obliged to sit up all night." It is averred that Mrs. Cronk once urged her son, Raymond Patterson, to strike the plaintiff and that Mrs. Cronk herself, in a room in the Millard hotel, threatened him with a revolver.

The petition contains numerous allegations, mentioning the Palm Beach episode, the lurid stories in a Los Angeles newspaper, Mrs. Cronk's appearance before the grand jury to complain of her husband, her effort to prejudice the Elks against him with the purpose of barring him from that order and concludes by stating that his health has been undermined as a result of this.

The petition says that knowing an indictment for improper support of wife or family meant dismissal from the order of Elks, of which he is member, Mrs. Cronk was anxious to sick the grand jury onto her husband and had gone to Arthur C. Wakeley and H. C. Mann, officers of the Elks, with tales on her husband, asking them to prefer charges in the lodge.

Caught in the Act

and arrested by Dr. King's New Life Pills, bilious headache quits and liver and bowels act right. 25c. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.

NEBRASKA FARM MORTGAGES

Matter Worries an Investigator from New York.

CONCLUSION NOT WELL FOUNDED

Superficial Examination by an Eastern Writer Demonstrated to Be Foolish by Facts as They Really Exist.

An eastern correspondent of the New York Times, in a recent issue of that paper, has taken occasion, from information which he is presumed to have gathered while on a trip into the western country, to expose what he regards as an alarming condition of western farm mortgage indebtedness. Nebraska has been selected by him as an example illustrative of the reckless disposition among the western people to buy and mortgage farm lands. The basis of this alarming situation which he assumes to have discovered is upon the following hypothesis. He says:

There is adequate authority for the statement that there are probably more western farms mortgaged now, and for greater sums, than there were in the early '90s, when times were bad and everybody was feeling sorry for "bleeding Kansas." We will add our probability to the above and say that there are many times more farms now in the western country than there were in the early '90s and that these farms are worth from three or four to many times more money than they were in the early '90s.

He further states:

The situation in Nebraska is typical of the whole western country. In 1907 there were filed in Nebraska 16,658 farm mortgages, representing a total indebtedness upon the part of the farmers involved of $36,432,000. During the year 17,890 mortgages of $26,357,000 were paid. During the following year 16,108 more mortgages, representing an indebtedness of $34,408,000, were filed, while 16,094 mortgages, representing only $30,707,000, were paid. Thus in those two years the mortgaged indebtedness of Nebraska farmers was increased $13,776,000.

Fifteen years ago those facts would have created consternation throughout the whole country. They ought to create consternation now among all of those who may be considering the advisability of going west to buy either government land or land that is now under cultivation by individuals, etc.

What does this two-year increase of $13,776,000 of credit or security mortgage mean to the producing ability of Nebraska today? Practically nothing. What would it mean in actual money loan mortgages under present conditions? Nothing.

A Prophet Without Knowledge.

It is fortunate for the buyer and seller of western farm lands, for the public sentiment that is backing the improvement and encouraging the development of western agricultural resources, that they are not under the persuasive influence of this great eastern prophet. It is an old saying and accepted with more or less credence, "that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." In this case we have an eastern prophet witnout knowledge of the western country.

Some of the reasons why western farm mortgages exist and what they represent against the land, from a debt point of view, will be better understood when we explain the basis of transaction creating the great majority of these mortgages. Owing to the scarcity of farm labor and the difficulty of operating farms under these embarrassing conditions, many farmers who have no boys, no help within the family, and who have acquired money ahead are selling or renting their farms and retiring from active farm work.

The renting of the farm is quite often unsatisfactory to the landowner. The tenant, as a cash renter, wants to get everything possible out of the land and is not interested in putting anything back. This kind of experience encourages the farm owner to change his method a little, and this he quite often does, in the sale of the farm to an ambitious homeseeker who can pay a few thousand dollars down, enough to guarantee the sincerity of the purchase, the balance he can have on long time at 5 per cent, the seller being satisfied with the annual interest. The security in present prices of land, is so well established in the mind of the western farmer, that he feels better with the mortgage in his safe than the money in the bank. With the former he is free from any annoyance in getting his money loaned out again on some other man's farm.

Effect of the Transaction.

In this transaction there is secured a good tenant, a man interested in keeping up the fertility of the soil, repairing fences, buildings and looking after the general welfare of the farm. This transaction on a 160-acre farm will probably represent $3,000 or $4,000 paid in cash and a mortgage filed for $12,000 or $13,000. These are not isolated cases, but represent thousands of mortgages that are being filed each year, all over the agricultural states of the west. It does not represent a desire to get rid of the land at fictitious prices, but merely a shifting of responsibility in the care and management of the land, owing to the great problem of hired labor that is confronting the American farmer with greater urgency for solution each year.

Another source of mortgage indebtedness and which need not create any undue alarm or apprehension of extravagance or dangerous speculation, is the growth of home demand for farms to supply the boys, as they are coming of age. Thousands of boys all over the rich farming districts of the west are each year being provided with farms by the assistance of the old homestead. A farm in the neighborhood is bought for the boy, possibly at a strong price. This is added to the resources of the home farm, and the combined efforts of the family are exerted to pay for it, and they are paying for these farms, to which statement every local bank and loan company can attest.

Nebraska farmers are quite generally becoming money loaners, and represent a very large share in the ownership of the mortgages filed on farm lands in the state. Banks in every county in the state hold farmers' money to be applied on the purchase of farm mortgages, and country banks generally accredit 90 to 95 per cent of their deposits as farmers' money. When the western farmer cannot put his money out on farm land security, he then resorts to buying land, another way of getting his money invested in what he believes to be the best and safest security.

Fixing of Farm Values.

As to the western farm values, they are governed just as values are governed in other districts of the United States, or other countries. The producing ability of the land in agricultural districts, determines the value of the land. When this condition has been fully attained on the farm, the price of the land will cease to go higher. When from any cause the producing ability of the land declines, farm land prices will drop down, just as is observed in the worn-out farms of New York and some other eastern states, where lands are being offered at $10 to $35 per acre.

Nebraska farms, however, are not built upon a rock foundation, with a scanty surface soil, but have an uninterrupted depth of soil, that is readily recuperated by use of leguminous crops and without the aid of commercial fertilizers.

The financial condition of the early '90s and those of the present time will not admit of a comparison in any respect, neither in character of indebtedness nor ability to liquidate. The mortgages of the early '90s filed in Nebraska represented eastern money, while the mortgages of today represent Nebraska money. In the early '90s Nebraska was long on indebtedness and short on money, today Nebraska farmers are investing of their surplus millions of dollars each year in the cheap lands of other parts of the United States, Canada and Central America.

In this relation we call attention to a comparison of the state bank deposits of Nebraska in 1895 and 1910. The former $14,200,775.62, the latter $73,283,616.75, showing an increase of $59,082,841.13. On November 9, 1909, the national banks of Nebraska had on deposit $186,080,005.56.

The crop and live stock valuation of these dates are: Live stock, 1895, $55,372,000; 1910, $255,649,000; increase, $200,277,000. Crops, 1895, $43,307,179; 1910, $255,45,000; increase, $211,737,821.

The increase in land values of 1910 over that of 1900 will be something appalling, and yet Nebraska and the western farming districts of all the so-called west is going straight forward producing crops that are paying interest on these reputed high prices of farm land values.

WOMEN CONDUCT BANQUET FOR LAYMEN'S CONVENTION

To Lay Covers for 1,500 on Opening Night of Big Missionary Movement Gathering in Omaha.

Twenty-five women representing the Omaha church organizations have taken in hand the preparation of the banquet to be given on the opening night of the Omaha Laymen's Missionary Movement convention at the Auditorium on the night of March 17. The banquet will probably be attended by 1,500 delegates to the convention. At least 500 of these delegates will come from towns in other parts of the district, while Omaha, Council Bluffs and South Omaha will be represented by a much greater number.

The churches of Omaha will be represented by about 10 per cent of their membership. The committee in charge decided to put this limiation on the local attendance to prevent any possible crowding of those who come from other parts of the district.

A committee of seven men in each church has been named to care for the representations at the convention.

JOHN GORDON HAS THE CHECK

Man with Broken Back Wins $1,000 on Magazine Subscriptions and Gives it Away.

John Gordon, the man with a broken back, who has been soliciting magazine subscriptions for the purpose of winning a cash prize of $1,000 to be given as a donation to the Child Saving Institute, has at last achieved success. He has completed his work and received the check for $1,000.

Gordon now proposes to compete for several other prizes and says that he has a plan for further gifts to charity through his earnings.

DR. DAVIDSON TELLS OF WORK

Says Educators Dealt with Child as Center of Home.

HOME THE BASIC UNIT OF SOCIETY

City Superintendent and Principal Graff of High School Return from Big Meeting at Indianapolis.

Superintendent of Schools Davidson and Principal Graff of the high school have returned from Indianapolis, where they spent the week attending the annual meeting of the department of superintendence of the National Educational association. Superintendent Davidson was chosen president, regarded as a high distinction, this body being looked on as composed of the greatest educational experts in the world.

"The meeting was remarkable for attendance," said Superintendent Davidson. "There were more than 200 in excess of the usual number. It was more remarkable still for the central thought of all the discussion, which was the child as the center of the home, and the home, naturally, as the basic unit of civilized society.

"All the papers and discussions were confined closely to this line of thought, with retardation and advancement of the pupil as the main themes. It was recognized that some children do not seem capable of keeping up with their fellows in the matter of school studies; then, what retards them? To find out this and apply a remedy, that will be the great object of those investigators who are now devoting themselves to a special study of the subject. Here the men working under the Russell Sage foundation will bring their powers of observation and analysis to bear, and the results cannot but prove very profitable. And, by the way, that foundation gives promise of immense usefulness to the school men and, in even more important fashion, to the future citizenship of the republic.

Group Meetings, Too.

"Aside from the general meeting each day, attended by all the delegates, there were group meetings, having to do with gymnasium training, hygiene and medical supervision of the children in school. Experts in these particular branches were present, and their discussions were interesting as throwing intelligent sidelights on the main problem.

"On the question of retardation, the discussions went to the questions of mental alertness or sluggishness, aptitude, power of application, and so on, and also touched the vocational bent of child. Keen observers and deep thinkers gave their opinions, based on observation of the most comprehensive character, taking into account physical conditions as well as mental qualification. From all of these thoughts the expert investigators will undoubtedly secure material that will help them decidedly in their work; and eventually the whole teaching body will have the benefit of their conclusions. Manual training was not overlooked, but was given a great deal of attention in the open discussions."

The next meeting of the department of superintendence is to be held at Mobile, Ala. A dozen cities were after the meeting, and Mr. Davidson says the offers from their representatives were the real flights of oratory of the Indianapolis gathering.

Knew Male Nature.

"Hit's all in de onderstandin' ob de mewel natur," said Ephraim Johnson, with an expansive display of ivory.

He had been backing two mules and a load of brick up a small hill on Twelfth street. It looked unreasonable to Eph, but it turned out to be the mules.

"Dey des wouldn't have it forwards," said Eph. "Hit ain't so much er hill, nuther, but dey didn't like de looks er it en e'vey time I druv 'em at hit, dey des back en back, en——

"Whup 'em? Nossa. Dat ain't no way ter handle er mewel. You gotter onderstan' mewel natur' to handle 'em. Dem mewels wanted ter back, en dey didn't like de looks er dat hill, so I des back 'em up hit."—Kansas City Star.

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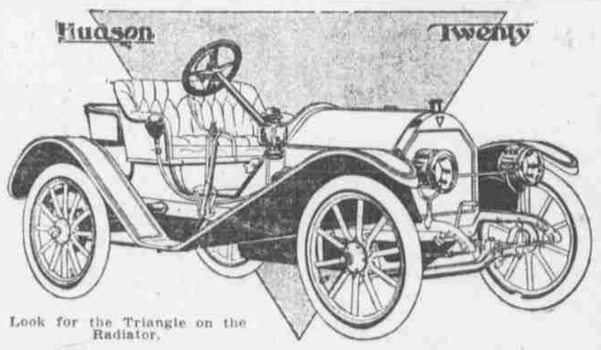

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