

THE FIELD AND FARM

IRRIGATION OF ARID LANDS.

From present indications the United States government will soon settle on a policy of national irrigation of arid lands. We believe the policy can be established on the same grounds as the improvement of rivers and harbors, for which the government has expended hundreds of millions of dollars. Under the constitution of the United States congress may do what it deems wise and expedient to further the general welfare of the country, and there is no public work productive of more good and of more benefit to the country at large than the reclaiming of vast areas of public lands now a barren waste, and making them fertile and valuable to the people. The government owns millions of acres of such lands lying in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Texas, New Mexico and other States and Territories. At present these lands are unproductive. Only artificial irrigation can make them of any value, and by that means they can be made exceedingly productive and profitable, and can then be easily sold at the usual price of public lands. It was in this way that the arid lands of Utah were reclaimed and made to produce abundant crops by the Mormons. In fact, the splendid results of artificial irrigation on the arid lands of the West have been such as to establish in the minds of all interested the fact that irrigation is no longer a theory but a necessity. But the reclaiming of the vast areas referred to is too much of an undertaking to be successfully accomplished by private individuals or corporations, and can only be effected with the great success it deserves by the systematic methods and inexhaustive resources of the general government. The necessities of our rapidly increasing population, soon to exceed a hundred millions, demands that all the waste places be reclaimed, and by carrying out this work the government will not only open up new territory for settlement, but add greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the country. It looks now as if the establishment of such a policy would be made very soon, perhaps at the next session of congress.—Epitomist.

ADVERTISING PURE-BRED STOCK.

The advertising of pure-bred stock of all kinds is an important factor in the income of many of the leading agricultural papers. It is a class of advertising unlike that of any other business. Most publishers, for no reason under the sun, make a "special rate" for live stock advertising; many publishers take it at any old rate, and are glad to get it at that. The advertising is seldom if ever handled by an agency, and as a usual thing is just about as poor as type can make it. It pays—and in a majority of cases it does pay—not from any intrinsic merit, but simply because the wide-awake, up-to-date American farmer is out looking for good things, and if the breeder doesn't go to him, he goes to the breeder and clamors to pay over his money.—Agricultural Advertising.

There is much truth in the above, as applied to many papers. We find some contemporaries in the Northwest who give advertising space to stock and poultry breeders at cost, and even less, and then await the breeder's pleasure as to payment. This publication makes the same equitable rate to live stock and poultry breeders as to other advertisers, sells no space at a discount, and gives no one free advertising. Every advertiser in our columns receives exactly the same treatment. We give them good service, by making sales of stock and building up for them

reputations that are valuable. We carry no advertisements of any sort that we believe are unreliable, or that don't pay us the cash when it's due. If a breeder can't afford to pay our rates, which are reasonable, it's because he has not reached the position which entitles him to recognition among purchasers of pure-bred stock.

R. N. SUTHERLIN SAYS:

The reclamation of millions of acres of Western lands by irrigation is no longer a sectional issue; it is a national one. It is time that the subject should receive the attention its importance demands. It is legitimately the work of congress. That body should attend to it.

* * *

There are in the pent-up hives of industry in the Eastern states and cities millions of men who, if the opportunity were afforded them through an opening of the West by irrigation, would swarm out of those hives and cover the Western fertile plains and valleys with an intelligent and industrious population.

* * *

We urge our rural people to give themselves and their families a good living, set a good table, dress well and be sociable and neighborly. It is the only way to live right. Stinginess begets cussedness and must be avoided. A man can be economical and saving without being stingy. Economy means not to waste, but save on every turn, while generosity is lending a helping hand to the needy and to institutions for the general welfare.

HANLEY, THE DEMAGOGUE.

Hanley, the would-be organizer of a world-trust in agricultural products, has announced in the daily papers a convention of farmers to be held in St. Paul this month, and he publishes a list of speakers, including all the "big guns" not only of St. Paul but of the nation. We have had the curiosity to inquire how many had really agreed to speak at such a farcical convention, and have written to all on the list, of any respectable reputation. Without exception, our replies show that not only had they not authorized the use of their names, but they had no notion whatever of appearing in such company. The whole scheme appears to be a trap to catch suckers, and farmers who have work to do at home should waste no time with such demagogery. We venture to predict that no speakers will be there except possibly a few chronic calamity howlers and socialistic cranks, even if the convention does not "die a-bornin'," as is most likely.—Northwestern Agriculturalist.

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