

NO LONGER A DREAM

The Desert Will Be Made to Blossom as the Rose.

Irrigation Bill Recently Passed by Congress Will Stimulate the Rapid Development of the Arid West.

[Special Washington Letter.]
It is said to be possible to irrigate a large portion of the great desert of Sahara by making openings for the Mediterranean sea and flooding the vast acreage; but by retaining control over the waters so that the desert shall not become an additional sea. All things are apparently possible to modern civil engineering and some of us may live to see the desert blossom as the rose.

When the fathers and mothers of today were school children they studied geographies which showed upon their maps of the country west of Omaha and Kansas City, a vast territory then unknown and denominated "The Great American Desert." That was only 35 or 40 years ago. Just think of what an immense empire has been developed in that short space of time. Ever since the railroads penetrated the wilds and vastnesses and stretched their arms to the golden gate our people have been approaching the problem of reclaiming "The Great American Desert," by irrigating its arid millions of acres so that happy homes may be built of peoples comprising a tremendous population.

It is a well-known fact that forestry and irrigation must receive simultaneous attention. It is not too soon for the general government to take cognizance of the palpable fact that the destruction of the forests in the great lake region has affected the Mississippi river within one generation. Unless the trees shall receive protection the river will run dry and become a glorious reminiscence; and future generations may place the "Father of Waters" among the myths of the aborigines.

There was a time when the valley of the Jordan was the most fertile and beautiful in the then civilized world. Solomon, reputed to have been exceptionally wise, began the destruction of the forests in the hill country of Lebanon. His successors continued the crusade against the trees until the hills became barren, and the Jordan a miserable creek. The plain of Esdraelon, which was famed for its fertility and beautiful grandeur, became as it is today, almost a blissing and a byword for its barrenness.

Having a broad view of the lessons to be learned from the past, and to be applied to the present and immediate future, President Roosevelt in his message to the congress last December, said: "The forest reserves should be set apart forever for the use and benefit of our people as a whole and not sacrificed to the shortsighted greed of the few. The forests are natural reservoirs. By restraining the streams in flood and replenishing them in drought they make possible the use of waters otherwise wasted. Forest conservation is therefore water conservation. The forests alone, however, cannot fully regulate and conserve the waters of the arid region. Great storage works are necessary to equalize the flow of streams and to save the flood waters. The storing of the floods in reservoirs at the headwaters of our rivers is but the enlargement of our present policy of river control, under which levees are built on the lower reaches of the same streams. The government should construct and

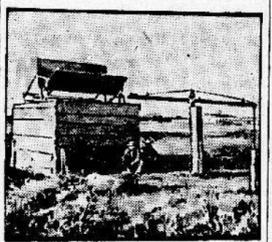
maintain these reservoirs as it does other public works."
The committee on irrigation of arid lands, in the senate and house of representatives, proceeded promptly to consider the recommendations of the president. The senate committee was the first to formulate and report a bill, and the measure was passed and sent to the other branch of the congress, so that it was received in the house of representatives on March 4. The senate bill was reported to the house from its committee on irrigation of arid lands on April 7, and placed on the calendar. Speaker Henderson caused June 12 to be set apart for public discussion of the measure, and it was passed by the house of representatives June 13. The bill, as adopted, contained numerous amendments, but substantially all of them were accepted by the senate.

The enactment provides that all moneys received from the sale of public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming shall be set aside as a special fund to be known as the "reclamation fund," to be used for the "storage, diversion and development of waters for the reclamation of arid and semi-arid lands in the said states and territories."

The report of the house committee shows that 535,486,731 acres of land are available for public entry in the states and territories named in the bill. Kansas and Nebraska contain no arid lands, although nearly one-

third of the western portion of each state is semi-arid, and susceptible of improvement by irrigation. More than one-third of the public lands within the states of North and South Dakota are in the arid or semi-arid belt. The portions of the states of Oregon and Washington east of the Cascade range are either arid or semi-arid. This condition exists over two-thirds of California, a fact surprising to all who have not investigated the subject. One-third of Oklahoma is arid.

All of the other states and territories are in the arid belt, and can only be made agricultural by scientific irrigation. It is estimated that upwards of 50,000,000 acres of barren land may be made fertile. The development of this empire will prove not only beneficial to those rearing millions of the future who shall dwell thereon, but have an ef-



KANSAS IRRIGATING WHEEL (Simple Device Which Supports One Family in Comfort.)

fect upon the humidity of the contiguous country, and also add to the wealth of the entire country by sustaining artisans and other producers of labor's valuables.

In 1900 the national platforms of the three political parties declared in favor of irrigation by national direction. Referring to this fact, the committee's report says: "With confidence in the desire of members of all parties to fulfill the pledges of their national platforms, greatly encouraged by the earnest and vigorous recommendations of the president, the members of both branches of congress from the arid and semi-arid states met in the early days of the present congress and appointed a committee of one from each state and territory, with Senator Warren as chairman, and proceeded to formulate a suitable bill. This work having been accomplished, the bill was introduced in the senate by Mr. Hansborough, and in the house of representatives by Mr. Newlands. No legislation presented to an American congress has had all of its provisions more carefully and thoroughly considered in all their bearings.

The special committee mentioned in the report did diligent work. Each member of the senate and of the house of representatives kept the matter before the legislators, so that when the time came for voting everyone knew the provisions of the measure and its ultimate object. Where all did well it is almost invidious to make any distinction; but it is generally admitted that Congressman Reeder, of Kansas, was exceptionally hard at work all winter and spring in this behalf. He talked irrigation to everybody and all the time, in season and out of season.

Senator Warren, the chairman, infused his energy and earnestness into the senate, until every senator realized that Warren was after water, more water, and keeping them all in hot water, on account of his irrigation bill. The North Dakota senator, Hansborough, was like unto him. Mr. Newlands, of Nevada, told everybody that with irrigation Nevada would support a population of 60,000,000 as easily as now she supports a population of only 60,000. Senator Clark, of Montana, the richest man in the world, and Senator Dubois, of Idaho, one of the poorest men in public life, sided with each other in praying for the irrigation of the arid lands of their states.

And yet, with all this missionary work done before he bill came up for discussion in the house of representatives, there were members actively opposed to it, on various grounds. A score of amendments were offered, all of them designed to defeat the object of the bill. One after another they were voted down, and the bill was finally passed by a vote of 146 yeas to 55 nays.

It is expected that upwards of 200,000 acres of land will be annually reclaimed under the provisions of this law, until all of the millions of acres of the desert shall have been reclaimed and peopled with home owners. Irrigation is not an experiment. It was practiced before the dawn of recorded history. Man attained his first high degree of civilization under its practice. Through its efficiency the great nations of antiquity established and maintained their might and glory. Egypt, Assyria, India, China and the great empires of old. We are taking a new departure by following in the footsteps of the wisest ancients.

MOST ANCIENT OF CROWNS.

The Iron Crown of Lombardy, Which Is Said to Contain a Nail from the Savior's Cross.

Among the crowns preserving the ancient form more than any others now worn is the so-called iron crown of Lombardy, which is the most treasured national possession of the Italian kingdom, says an article by the Duke of Argyll, in Leslie's Monthly. It is of golden "plaques," or panels rather than of gold, and is small in size, so as not to rise above the top of the head. They form, indeed, only a jointed band of foliage, embossed relief-work, and one narrow wire of iron binds them together in the inside—this wire having the reputation of being hammered out from one of the nails of our Saviour's cross. It was the enlargement of these panels in the crowns which led to the cross-band or "closure" of the crown. Look at the German crown and the Austrian, both adaptations of that of the old emperors of the "Holy Roman Empire." The "arch of empire" became the result in the crown of the necessity for fastening panels for protection for the head from any stroke from above delivered in war.

THE BEAR'S TRACKS.

A Charming Bit of Chemehuevi Indian Folklore.

Woman Story Teller Explains Peculiar Formation of Foot-Hill Country in a Genuinely Poetic Manner.

[Special Arizona Letter.]
ON the California side of the Colorado river I was camped one night with a band of Chemehuevi Indians. I had roved down about 75 miles, and after visiting several ranches on the Arizona side, as night set in, I saw a large campfire a mile or so down the river on the opposite side. It was with some difficulty that I reached the camp, for it was back from the river nearly a mile. This mile wide of sand was a bank deposited by the sand-and-silt laden water of the river, and would be completely washed away—the Indians told me—when the summer floods came, only to be deposited again when the tide ran slowly. On the bank overlooking this sand stretch the camp was formed. There were several "kans" or houses, and when the supper was served there came a score or more of men, women, young men and maidens, and children, who all evidently felt at home. An Indian had helped me up with my camera, bedding and grub-box, and as I contributed a can of beef, some fruit and other things to the commissary department, I sat with the rest, helping myself mainly from my own supplies, while the meal was in progress.

Across the river the Chemehuevi mountains loomed up, purple and grand, against the rapidly darkening sky. Southward a long stretch of gently-sloping foothills reached along down to the valley and river, and at regular intervals on the ridge of these foothills there were to be seen peculiar circular prominences, as if a row of small craters had once been active in violence. I called the attention of one of the Indians to these and asked what these promi-

ences were. He and several of the old men began to talk among themselves, evidently settling what they should tell me, when an elderly woman—not by any means an old Indian hag—but a well-preserved woman of, say, 50 years of age, broke in and said she would tell me all about it after supper. It was not many minutes before the meal was concluded, and taking out a couple of packs of tobacco from my overcoat pocket, I handed them around, and in a few minutes more the woman began her story. It was a weird scene, worthy the brush of a great artist. A camp fire in a rather narrow enclosure, a tall and rude windbreak to the north, dense growth of willows to the south. To the east the steep bank descending to a mile-wide sandflat which led to the lazily-flowing Colorado, and to the west the willow and mud "kans" of the Indians. Not more than ten feet from the bank the campfire was burning brightly, throwing its ever-



A GROUP OF CHEMEHUEVI INDIANS.

the bear and made a quiver for his arrows from the skin. Not the fox got all ready and the rattlesnake made the quiver, for he and the fox were relations. "Then the fox said: 'I'm going away to-morrow, down to the Yavapai, and I'm going to eat some prickly pear.' 'Don't do that,' counseled the snake, 'at least, don't eat any until you come into the middle of the patch. Don't touch the first ones you come to, and I beg of you do not, under any circumstances, but your bear-skin quiver down on the ground!'"

"The fox promised and set off. "When he got into the middle of the cactus patch he was so hungry for the ripe fruit that he forgot all about his promise and set his quiver down, and climbed up one of the trees. (The cactus referred to is undoubtedly the giant cactus, or sashuro). As he ate the fruit, he heard a sound from the quiver. He looked down and saw a lizard. Then the sound came again, and as he looked he saw a lizard creeping out. "Look at that fellow!" he exclaimed, and descending the tree, he caught it and threw it away. Now he picked up the quiver and, walking to another tree, deposited it at its foot, climbed the tree and began to eat again. Again he heard a sound, and this time a great lizard, nearly as big as a Gila monster, came out. He came down, caught it and threw it away, and again placed the quiver on the ground in another tree, and again ascended another tree. This time when he heard the noise he refused to pay any attention to it. He cared nothing for the lizards and was angry at their fooling him so. But this time the noise increased, and soon sounded strangely like a roar, so, looking down the tree, imagine his fright at seeing there the Bear shaking the tree he was on and vowing he would kill him. Terrified almost out of his wits, he sprang from the tree and dashed away over the foothills yonder, the Bear in hot pursuit. The novel was young then and the ground soft, so at each great stride he made the Bear's feet squeezed into the soft ground and made those tracks, which, as the ground hardened, remain there until this day.



CHEMEHUEVI WOMEN.

changing light and shadow over a score or more of sitting and reclining forms. The story teller sat on one side of the fire, squatted on the sand, but with considerable animation and gesture as she told her story. I sat on my grub-box opposite her, writing in the light of the fire as she spoke.

"It is for me to tell you that those marks on the foothills are the tracks of a running bear. In the long time ago, when man and animals could all talk and understand each other, a bear lived on one side of the Colorado river and a fox on the other. The fox was an impertinent little fellow, and fond of teasing the bear. He would stand on the bank and call out: 'You great clumsy bear! What are you good for?'"

PRESENT VOLCANIC ACTIVITY.

Regions of the Western Hemisphere That Are the Most Liable to an Uplavol.

The active volcanic groups of the western hemisphere occur in five widely separated regions, says Prof. Robert T. Hill, in Century.
1. The Andean group of volcanoes of the equatorial region of western South America.
2. The chain of some 25 great cinder cones which stretch east and west across the south end of the Mexican plateau.
3. The Central American group, with its 31 active craters, extending diagonally across the western ends of the east and west folds of the Caribbean corrugations, fringing the Pacific side of Guatemala, San Salvador and Costa Rica. This is separated from the Mexican group on the north by a large nonvolcanic area, the isthmus of Tehuantepec, and on the south from the Andean volcanoes by the isthmus of Panama, where no active volcanoes are found.
4. The chain of volcanoes of the Windward Islands, marking the eastern gate of the Caribbean sea, standing in a line directly across the eastern termini of the Caribbean mountains, trending east and west, and parallel to the Central American group similarly situated at their western termini.
5. The volcanoes of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.
The Retort Courtneys.
He—My dear, these biscuits don't have the true ring.
She—Well, your teeth are false.—N. Y. Times.

ARP ON THE SWISS.

Reminded of Them by the Story of William Tell.

Hits All the Innocents—Says They Are Trying to Tear Down All the Idols the People Have Worshipped.

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How the old people cling to the stories and traditions that charmed their childhood. Good old Mother Akim came to see me and to comfort me in my sickness. She has had her trouble, but she is always bright and cheerful and brings sunshine with her. Somehow the story of William Tell came up, and when I remarked that it was now generally set down among the critics as a myth or a pretty fable she said "she would not read aly such heartless scandals nor did she believe them." The world is full of these innocents who would break up every idol that we have worshipped. The story of William Tell is one that is fit to be believed and handed down from generation to generation. Voltaire started that fable theory because he did not like the Swiss. Many books have been written on both sides, but the old family traditions that have come down to us for 600 years are still as much the faith of the Swiss people as is in their religion. William Tell is as much to-day their national hero and the founder of their republic as Washington is of ours and the little chapel on the lake where he was drowned is still preserved to commemorate him."

Well, whether this is a fact or a fable it is one of the prettiest stories ever told and ought to be repeated to the children of every household. It was in the fourteenth century when Austria had overruled and conquered Switzerland and had stationed her tyrant bailiffs in every nook and cranny to humiliate the people that one Gessler placed the ducal cap upon a pole in the public place and ordered everyone who passed to uncover his head and bow to it. Tell refused and was seized and condemned to death, but as he was known to be the best bowman in Switzerland he was offered the alternative of shooting an apple from his son's head. The boy was his idol and he begged for some other alternative, but Gessler refused. Sixty yards was measured off, the boy stationed and the apple placed. Gessler and his cohorts looked on while Tell bowed his knees in prayer. Biting his lip he looked to heaven and then let fly an arrow and pierced the apple in its center. The boy ran to his father and leaped into his arms, and another arrow that had been concealed fell upon the ground. "What was that arrow for?" said Gessler. "To shoot you, my brute, had I slain my son." For that he was condemned to prison and Gessler took him in a boat on the lake, but a violent storm came up and Tell was unchained to steer the boat. He made for the shore, leaped to a rock, and with a pole shoved the boat back into the army waters. Hurrying along the lake he procured a bow and arrows from a countryman and shot Gessler as the boat passed. "Tell's Leap" and "Tell's Rock" are still known to every child in Switzerland. Later on he lost his life while saving a lad from drowning. What is unreasonable about this story? We had a Gessler in Rome at the close of the civil war. His name was de la Mesa, a Spaniard who came over to fight for pay. He did not hoist the ducal cap, but he stretched the flag over the sidewalk and our female "Tells" some of whom are flying yet) would not walk under it, but crossed over to the other side. Then he stretched another across the whole street and they walked around the block. It was not so much of disrespect to the flag as it was contempt for the foreigner who unfurled it. He refused to let our wives and daughters receive or mail letters unless they came before him and took an ironclad oath of allegiance. He had ten of our young men and several young ladies arrested for acting

BARBARIC IDEALS.

The Spirit of Conflict That Is Encouraged in Literature and Athletics.

Literature, Journalism and Art have All Been Aiding in this Process of Rebarbarization.

For a long time, says Herbert Spencer's Facts and Comments, there have flourished novel writers who have rung the changes on narratives of crime and stories of sanguinary deeds. Others have been supplying boys and youths with tales full of plotting and fighting and bloodshed, millions of such having of late years been circulated. As indicating most clearly the state of national feeling, we have the immense popularity of Mr. Rudyard Kipling, in whose writings is joined with nine-tenths of real paganism; who idealizes the soldier and glories in the triumphs of brute force, and who in depicting school life brings to the front the barbarizing activities and feelings and shows little respect for civilizing culture.

More and more the spirit of conflict has been exercised by athletic games, interest in which has been actively fostered, first by the weekly press and now by the daily press, and with increase of the honors given to physical prowess there has been decrease of the honors given to mental powers. Meanwhile literature and art have been aiding. Books treating of battles, conquests and the men who conducted them have been widely diffused and greedily read. Periodicals full of stories made interesting by killing, with accompanying illustrations, have every month ministered to the love of destruction, as have, too, the weekly illustrated journals. In all places and in all ways there has been going on during the past 50 years a recrudescence of barbaric ambitions, ideas and sentiments, and an increasing culture of bloodthirst.

Too Grasping.
"I like to see people economical," remarked Eliza, "but when a man cuts his stogies in two in the middle and gets ten smokes for five cents, as Tye-Phit does, I think, by George, he's a little too penurious to live!"—Chicago Tribune.

MONKEYS ARE CLEVER.
Stories of Simians That Learned from Men How to Perform Some Very Smart Tricks.
Monkey cleverness has long been famous. They are past masters in the delicate use of their fingers. A titi was wont to steal specimen insects from the cabinet in which they were kept. A marmoset could pick a lock, undo a knot, or take off a ring. Livingstone's Soko was just as smart with fingers and thumb. A macaco opened boxes, and a marmoset turned over the leaves of a book which it pretended to read. A squirrel monkey which disliked tobacco used to whip its master's cigars out of his mouth. There once was a gorilla in the zoo at Dresden which would take off its keeper's boots and put them on again. A capuchin removed the hinges of the door of its cage by extracting the nails and screws out of the wood. In Benares, where the monkeys are "spoiled," they play all sorts of tricks on passers-by, besides pelting them with missiles. Even the orangutan has descended to untie the knots in his chain. The monkeys that act as detectives in Monkeydom must have a very busy time of it.

Solitude Misdirected.
In a London safe deposit vault recently the renter of a safe, anxious for the spiritual welfare of one of the janitors, said, while they were in the vault together: "Are you prepared to die?" For answer the janitor instantly pinned the questioner to the wall by the throat. Assistance arrived and the unfortunate renter was carried out, half "throttled." Explanations ensued and it was then discovered that an inquiry after his spiritual welfare had been construed by the janitor as the preliminary to a murderous attack.

Proposal Postponed.
"I suppose you suspect what I came for?" he said, as he prepared to ask her father for her hand.
"Oh, yes," replied the father; "you want to borrow money, but I haven't a penny to bless myself with."
And the young man deferred his proposal.—Tit-Bits.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

Shalecliffe church, Kent, England, has a communion chalice which dates back to the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The present status of the work of medical missions is such as to encourage the prosecution of this form of evangelism.

Dr. M. E. Koonce, a missionary at Rampart, Alaska, drove 1,200 miles in a dog sled on his way to attend the Presbyterian anniversary held in New York recently.
Prof. Michael I. Pupin, of Columbia university, inventor of the ocean telephone, began his career in America as an attendant in a Turkish bath parlor in Brooklyn.

There are, it appears, in British Columbia, more Buddhists than Baptists, more Confucians than Congregationalists, and nearly as many pagans as Lutherans.
New York city has a school budget of nearly \$20,000,000 this year—a larger sum than is expended for purposes of education by any other city in the world and very much larger than expended by many countries.

Charles M. Schwab attended the commencement exercises of the Pennsylvania state college at Bellefonte, Pa., and was impressed by the address of Daniel Webster Strayer, of York, on "The Pennsylvania Germans." When Mr. Schwab learned that the pupil had been compelled to decline a scholarship of \$400, as he felt called upon to make his living, the steel man went to York Strayer and said: "If you will stay and complete this postgraduate course I will pay you \$1,000." The young man accepted the offer. He is making a special study of chemistry.

In the Roman Catholic church 238 archbishops and bishops are members of religious orders. Of these 41 are Franciscans (Friars Minor), besides 14 Capuchins and 6 Conventual Franciscans, 23 are Dominicans, and also 22 Lazarists, 19 Jesuits, 15 Benedictines, 14 Augustinians, 14 Orders of Mary Immaculate, 9 Fathers of the Holy Ghost, 7 Marists, 6 Carmelites, 6 Oratorians, 6 Salesians, 5 Redemptorists, 4 Brazilians, 4 Picpuitans, 4 Fathers of Issoudun (Sacred Heart), 3 Canons Regular, 3 Missionaries of St. Francis of Sales (Apostles), 2 Antonians, 2 Cistercians, 2 Passionists, 2 of the Scuola Pio, 2 Priests of the Precious Blood, and, finally, one each of the following: Oblates of St. Francis of Sales (Troyes), Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, Priests of the Holy Cross, Society of the Sacred Heart (Verona).

VISION TOO RESTRICTED.

The Eyesight of City Residents Suffers from the Continuity of Many Objects.
"Speaking of the practice of wearing glasses," said a well-known optician in Canal street, "there is a curious thing about the human eye that the average person is constantly overlooking. We talk a great deal about the influence of color, about glare and all that sort of thing. Unquestionably color has a great deal to do with the weakness of the human eye at this time. Glare figures as an important factor in the impairment of the human sight. In the matter of color there is so much rioting in these latter days that the eye is kept in an almost constant strain.

"Red is violently red, green violently green, and so on, until the eye is simply strained beyond the normal in an effort to visualize the hue, and hence the optic nerves are in a measure strained and injured. But this is not the greatest danger when we come to think of modern tendencies so far as the human eye is concerned. There are other conditions than the matter of color. The glare is bad enough, too. The electric and incandescent lights are simply fearful on one's eyesight.

"But the thing I quarrel with more than any other influence is the condition which limits the scope of one's vision. The eye should have a broad range. One should have the opportunity of seeing a long distance. We are denied this opportunity. We are hemmed and hedged in until the distance we are capable of seeing is very short indeed. This is why I am a strong advocate of parks and promenades. Green is naturally a restful color," said the optician in conclusion, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "and if the city could be provided with long avenues and splendid parks where one's eyes could stretch out in a long vista it would be a great thing."

HE WANTED THEM TO THROW.

His Successful Rival Was Going to Get Something to Remember for Life.
The young man entered the boot-maker's establishment hastily, after having glanced cautiously round to see that no one was about. He hurried past the assistant to the farther end of the shop, where he produced a small brown paper parcel from under his coat.
"See these slippers?" he asked. "I want a good pair of heels put on."
"But—er—h'm!—these are very old slippers, very much worn," objected the man. "They will hardly stand heating."
"Only want them for one occasion," replied the young man. "Only for a minute or two. But I want a good, solid pair of heels, hard leather."
"They will hardly be a creditable pair, continued the assistant, "even if you only wear them for a few minutes. Certainly a cheap new pair would be—"
"I'm not going to spend money on a new pair for that," said the owner, doggedly. "I want some good, thick, hard heels on these—you can make them of iron or stone or anything you like, so long as they are hard."
The man stared at him, in doubt whether his customer was in full possession of his senses, says the London Tit-Bits.

"You don't understand," said the customer, looking round the shop, and speaking in a low voice. "I'll tell you what I want 'em for. I was courting a pretty girl, and Black cut me out. They are going to be married to-morrow, and I'm going to throw a pair of slippers at him—for luck, you know—and if I don't give him something to remember his wedding day by, you can set me down as a heathen Chinese."