

LAST GREAT LAND TAKE PLACE

A Million and a Third Acres of Rich Homesteads For Settlers.

WHEN spring suns melt the snows now covering Montana that state will be the theater of a typical American scene staged for the last time. Thousands of women and men from all parts of the country will assemble in Poplar to benefit by Uncle Sam's last great distribution of farm land. It will be a home-stand crush rather than a rush. The picturesque race of a former day that marked the throwing open of government land to settlers has given way to the more prosaic method of drawing lots. He who draws No. 1 is entitled to the first selection of a 320 acre allotment, the winner of the second ballot gets the next choice, and so it goes until all the land has been awarded to the lucky ones among the contestants, for there will be several times more applicants than farms.

There will be excitement a-plenty in spite of the new manner of distribution. Success will depend not on fleetness, but on luck. Under the former system the prospective homesteaders were lined up, and at a signal they began a rush that was one of the most thrilling sights in the modern west. Oklahoma was settled in that way. It was a race assuredly to the swift. Men on horseback—yes, men and women—spurred their mounts to distance others who sat in buckboards or farm wagons behind fleet trotters or galloping bronchos. He who reached the goal first staked out the best claim. Those who followed took the leavings. For the majority, including practically all those who traveled afoot, nothing was left.

Million and a Third Acres.

It is no small section Uncle Sam will give away in Montana this spring—nothing less than a million and a third acres. The tract is the major part of the big Fort Peck Indian reservation at Poplar. Wise men in Washington have decided that Poor Lo has had the place to himself long enough. They think he will be better off with a few thousand white neighbors, and they also deem it time to lower the cost of living for the hundred million or so of palefaces sprinkled over the United States. It is figured the necessities of life will be made a little cheaper by opening the reservation to homesteaders, since the quick agricultural development that is sure to follow is expected to add 20,000,000 bushels of grain to the nation's annual production.

There are 2,068,693 acres in the Fort Peck tract, but the interior department has allotted 723,693 to the Mandans and Sioux now settled there, leaving 1,345,000 acres to be taken up by the descendants of the pilgrim fathers and other immigrants. It is about the richest land in the dry farming region, as is proved by the results obtained in the 3,800 acres now under cultivation. Two years ago the whole tract was bare prairie, and even last year the cultivated area was only 1,500 acres. In twenty-four months the land has been improved, without irrigation and with little rain, to the point where flax has run eighteen to twenty-six bushels to the acre, wheat twenty to twenty-five and oats sixty to eighty-five.

Tract Could Supply Nation.

Professor Thomas Shaw, agricultural expert, is authority for the belief that the million and a third acres to be given to white men will grow enough grain to feed a nation. The big yield thus far is a result of cultivation by Indians alone. What the harvest will be when palefaces get busy with the soil makes interesting reckoning. That it will be far greater than the redskins' best achievement is certain, although it must be admitted that Lo has made fine progress as a farmer in recent years.

"On the supposition that the unoccupied land were devoted to the growing of wheat on the summer fallow plan," said Professor Shaw a short time ago after a visit of inspection to the reservation, "which would mean that one-half the area would be in crop at one time, and on the further supposition that the wheat would yield twenty-five bushels per acre, which is a moderate estimate for yields on land thus prepared, the aggregate production would be 19,312,500 bushels.

"If this land were entirely devoted to the growing of barley on the summer fallow plan the yield would be 30,900,000 bushels, as barley grown on such land should average forty bushels per acre. If the entire area were devoted to the growing of oats on the same lines the total production would be 38,625,000 bushels, as fifty bushels per acre would not be an extravagant estimate for land thus farmed.

"There is another way of showing the immensity of the possible production of this fertile tract of land," the professor continued. "On the supposition that one-fourth of the entire acreage were devoted to the growing of fodder corn the yield at the moderate estimate of two and a half tons per acre of cured fodder would amount to 840,625 tons. If winter wheat were drilled in the fodder at the proper sea-

OPENING TO IN MONTANA SOON

Great Tract Could Produce Sufficient Grain to Feed the Nation.

son, which is August, and if the yield were the same as on the summer fallow, which would be reasonable to look for, the production in wheat would amount to 8,406,250 bushels.

Great Flax Crop.

"If one-tenth of the land were devoted to the growing of flax and the yield were ten bushels per acre the flax crop would amount to 1,345,000 bushels. If one-tenth of the land were also devoted to the growing of barley, putting the yield at thirty bushels per acre, which would be high enough for land not summer fallowed, the production would be 4,035,000 bushels. If one-tenth of the land were devoted to the growing of oats at forty bushels per acre the yield would be 5,380,000 bushels.

"This," Professor Shaw added, "would still leave one-fifth of the land for other kinds of production, such as alfalfa, vegetables and pasturage. The estimated possible production then would stand as follows for each year after the first year:

Fodder corn	840,625 tons
Wheat	8,406,250 bushels
Flax	1,345,000 bushels
Barley	4,035,000 bushels
Oats	5,380,000 bushels

"This," he said in conclusion, "would still leave ample room for other lines of production."

Poor Lo's progress as a farmer has been forwarded by a man who not only is a great believer in the future of the northwest, but who also thinks the one time savage can be made a really useful member of civilization instead of being herded in reservations on a footing of mere tolerance. This promoter of Indian advancement is Louis W. Hill, son of James J. Hill, founder of the Great Northern railway. He himself is chairman of that road's board of directors. Young Hill, with Mrs. Hill and their four children, passes much of his time in the big outdoors. He has made many visits to the Fort Peck reservation and has studied closely the possibilities of the Sioux and Mandans.

To Instruct Indians.

The result of his observation was a conviction that it would pay in a sociological sense to have the Indians instructed in the agricultural methods of the whites. He obtained permission from the department of the interior to send a delegation of redskins to the land show in New York a year ago. The Indians were so much impressed by the evidences of advanced agriculture they saw in New York that on their return to the high plains of Montana they voluntarily became instructors of their brethren in scientific farming, with the logical outcome that the reservation yielded a bumper crop last autumn.

"The figures are rather surprising," said Hill to the writer in St. Paul recently, "for they show that since these Indians returned from New York twice as much acreage has been cultivated on the Fort Peck reservation as was planted last year. It simply goes to show that almost anybody will improve his condition if he gets a helping hand in the right direction."

That comment was made when Louis Hill and his interviewer had returned from the first county fair ever held by Indians, at Poplar, which is about as prosperous a little town as can be found in the country. A big agricultural exhibit had demonstrated what Lo could do as a farmer, and at the same time a great gathering of chiefs and braves and squaws and papooses had shown what a tribal reunion meant. More than 2,000 Sioux, Mandans and Blackfeet were camped in a circle a mile in diameter. For five days they entertained visitors with pony races, war dances, medicine making and other features of life in the open and then switched to a football game between the Mandans and a team of Blackfeet from Glacier National park. The palefaces came away with increased esteem for a race that could grow in a generation from the savagery of the tepee to the civilization of the frontier farmhouse.

DETECT CHECK RAISING BY ULTRA VIOLET RAYS.

New Method Shows Up Faintest Signs of Erasures.

Changes in documents or checks made after the use of a chemical ink eraser may be detected by photography with the aid of ultra violet rays, according to Dr. Robert W. Wood of Johns Hopkins university, who announced his discovery recently.

Dr. Wood exhibited a check raised to \$2,400. The words originally were "twenty-four dollars." The change was made by an expert in a manner that made it impossible to discover the change even with a high power magnifying glass.

The slip of paper was placed under the ultra violet rays for a ten minute exposure. The result was that a heavy smudge appeared after the words "twenty-four," clearly showing that there had been an erasure and something else written in.

HOW BIG DAM WAS BUILT IN JUNGLES

Four American Engineers on Project.

USE 300 NATIVE LABORERS

Odd Experiences Met in Construction Work Through Wild Country—Colombians Ape Clothes and Actions of Newcomers—Odd Labor Troubles Arise—Many Alligators Found.

Broadway, New York, looks good to four engineers who recently returned from the Colombian jungle, where they spent two years among a thousand laborers of all nations building a big concrete dam and power house in connection with a project to develop the mining wealth of the region. S. H. Gifford told the story of their experiences:

"Labor troubles? You don't know what they are until you tackle a job, as we did, of building a dam across San Juan creek, 375 miles from the Atlantic coast.

"There were fifty Americans on the job, and we put up a dam 85 feet high, 290 feet across the crest and containing 18,000 cubic feet of concrete. A similar job would have taken one year in the States, but it took two down there.

"To begin with, we had about 300 natives, but it was impossible to do anything with them. They never had seen a piece of machinery before, and every time we swung a derrick around they'd take fright and run half a mile, and it would take 'em half an hour to recover sufficiently to return to work.

"We finally educated them by bringing down laborers from the canal zone, who had been trained in American methods. These men were in responsible positions, and as the natives were good imitators they soon 'caught on' to the American way, and things began to hum.

Natives Great Imitators.

"The natives carried their passion for imitation further, often with humorous results. For example, at first they wore very few clothes. After we had imported the men from the canal, all of them reasonably well clad and wearing shoes, every native on the job took to watching them closely. They soon found out that the invaders were getting more money, and they figured out a connection between wages and clothes.

"At once it became the ambition of every native to own a pair of shoes, and all of them promptly bought, traded for or stole a pair. Ostentatiously they would wear the shoes out to work so that their American bosses could see them, but when they arrived on the job they would take them off. They couldn't stand the pinch of civilization.

"Those natives were finished performers in the drinking line. They would drink anything they could get their hands on and would spend almost every cent of their pay envelope to get the stuff. Their favorite beverage was 'aguadiente,' which is mostly alcohol flavored with anise.

"And this particular brand of 'booze' had a very interesting effect on them, though an inconvenient one for a laborer's camp. As soon as they had had three drinks they would start out at once in search of those whom they disliked. They all carried machetes or revolvers, and I never knew a pay day to pass but what three or four of them were killed.

Big Alligators.

"One of the sights that impresses an American in penetrating into the interior of Colombia is the populous colony of alligators on the banks of the Magdalena river. They literally cover the sandbars. I counted 200 on one bar alone. Here and there along the river the natives have built little half moon shaped stockades into the water, made by driving stakes into the sand, where their women can come down to fetch water and bathe safely.

"It's so commonplace for people to be eaten up by alligators that no one thinks anything about it.

"There in the heart of Colombia, 375 miles from the Atlantic, is an immense area that is a wonderfully rich mining proposition. But it is not a poor man's country; it will take a lot of capital. Development must be on an immense scale. It is low grade placer mining, but the vast area of gold bearing 'dirt' will make it a paying proposition. For 300 years the district has been mined by the Spaniards by hand.

"The dam and power house which we built was in connection with the first large modern dredge in Colombia for gold dredging purposes.

"Colombia needs to reform some of her laws. She wants to open her country to foreigners more. The freight rates on the steamers up the Magdalena river are exorbitant, and, in addition, the Colombians levy a tax of \$4 a ton for dredging the river—which is never dredged. Every piece of our stuff—derricks, cable ways, donkey engines and electrical equipment—was brought from the United States."

Italy to Have Panama Show.

The Italian government has announced in the chamber of deputies that Italy would participate officially in the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco and asked for an appropriation of \$400,000.

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[First Pub. Feb. 20-6t]

Mortgage Foreclosure Sale.

Default having been made in the payment of the sum of thirty and 40-100 dollars, which is claimed to be due and is due at the date of this notice upon a certain mortgage, duly executed and delivered by Peter Nelson, single, mortgagor, to The First National Bank of Mille Lacs, mortgagee, bearing date the 28th day of June, 1910, and with a power of sale therein contained, duly recorded in the office of the register of deeds in and for the county of Mille Lacs and state of Minnesota, on the 20th day of September, 1910, at 1 o'clock p. m., in book 2 of Mortgages, on page 188, and no action or proceeding having been instituted, at law or otherwise, to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby given, that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises described in and conveyed by said mortgage, viz: The northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section twenty-four (24), township thirty-eight (38) north of range twenty-six (26) west, in Mille Lacs county and state of Minnesota, with the hereditaments and appurtenances; which sale will be made by the sheriff of said Mille Lacs county at the front door of the court house, in the village of Princeton, in said county and state, on the 5th day of April, 1913, at 10 o'clock a. m. of that day, at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, to pay said debt of thirty and 40-100 dollars, and interest, and the taxes, if any, on said premises, and twenty-five dollars, attorney's fees, as stipulated in and by said mortgage in case of foreclosure, and the disbursements allowed by law; subject to redemption at any time within one year from the day of sale, as provided by law. Dated February 18, A. D. 1913. First National Bank of Mille Lacs, Mortgagee.

By J. A. Allen, Cashier. Charles Keith, Attorney.

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