

The River Press.

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CO-OPERATIVE IRRIGATION.

One of the measures passed by the ninth legislative assembly is of considerable importance to Montana citizens who may become interested in co-operative irrigation projects.

Parties desiring such aid shall incorporate as a co-operative irrigation association for the purpose of reclamation by their own labor of arid lands open to reservation under the said acts of congress and of the settlement upon said lands.

Thereupon the said board shall, if in the judgment of the state engineer the reclamation of such land is feasible and practicable, cause the same to be reserved and contract with the United States subject to the same limitations as herein before provided.

After water has been available for irrigation of said lands for four seasons the association shall, not later than Nov. 1 of said fourth season, pay to the Carey land act board such additional amount not exceeding one dollar per acre as may have been agreed upon between said board and such association before the reservation was made.

After the state has obtained patent it may issue deeds at any time when the land is paid for in tracts of not less than 40 acres nor more than 160 acres to any stockholder designated by the association, being a settler upon any of said lands.

The money received from the sale of lands reclaimed under this act are to be used, first, to pay the small current expenses of the board; second, to reimburse the state for expenses heretofore incurred, and, third, to pay some of the indebtedness created by the predecessor of the Carey board.

State Engineer John W. Wade is chairman of the Carey board, the other members being Secretary of State A. N. Yoder and State Examiner T. E. Collins.

ST. PATRICK AS AN EDITOR.

Outside of Ireland and among those who are not of Irish descent the common knowledge of St. Patrick's life and labor extends no further than that it was he who converted the Irish to Christianity and that some strange legends of his ministry are believed to the present day by the descendants of his converts.

Yet one of Patrick's most important works in Ireland and one which surrounded him with an undying glory even before his canonization was done in an editorial capacity. He and his associate bishops edited the Breton code of laws, the great ornament of the pagan civilization, so as to make it conform in all parts with the word of God.

A Roman subject, St. Patrick has been praised for his forbearance in re-

fraining from injecting into the Irish code the essence of Roman law, but it is not certain that he was familiar with the latter. Torn from his native Gaul by a predatory Irish band when scarcely sixteen, he became thoroughly Irish in his years of slavery in Ireland. This is made evident by the fact that Latin was to him a foreign tongue when he escaped to Gaul to prepare for the priesthood.

But what Patrick and his Episcopal assistants could do in editing the code was to give special privileges to the clergy. It was not to be altered again, and all was left in their hands. That the new priesthood required new privileges would be the easiest thing imaginable to demonstrate to the new converts.

What was done? In the new Breton law there was the dire fine or fall honor or price which might be imposed on each, according to his dignity, for the heavier offenses, among which, by the way, was lying. There was also the half honor price, which one might be fined for offenses of less viciousness. Refusal of food was one of these. For the second grade offenses no one lost his full honor price until convicted a third time.

THE BENEVOLENT BEEF TRUST.

It is announced from Washington that certain information regarding the alleged beef combine, which was contained in the official report of Commissioner Garfield, has not been made public, and it is assumed that federal officials propose to make use of this part of the report in criminal proceedings against members of the combine.

The report of Commissioner Garfield is the subject of considerable discussion throughout the country. The members of the Kansas legislature made an indignant protest against the statement of profits made by the packers, as shown in the report, and passed a resolution in which is expressed the opinion that Mr. Garfield's report is intended to vindicate the beef trust of extortion and other evil deeds.

According to Commissioner Garfield's report, the big packers who form what is popularly known as the "beef trust" may be regarded as public benefactors, as their books show a margin of profit so small as to defy competition. These book accounts, prepared by the packers themselves, indicate an average net profit of only 99 cents per head for every animal killed—this small profit, it is alleged, being obtained from the utilization of by-products that are wasted by the smaller concerns.

The figures given by Commissioner Garfield as the average profits of the beef trust are challenged by Cathbert Powell, commercial editor of the Kansas City Journal, who is considered a high authority upon livestock market conditions.

Mr. Powell, in reviewing the data presented in his exhibit, submits these conclusions: "It is plain from the figures why the little houses cannot prosper. The small offal and the fats yield the big houses a profit of \$7.82 per head, which is mostly lost by the little killer. And when the value of the cured hide is added, the large packing companies receive a gross income from the side products of \$15.14. Native steers on the hoof averaging 1265 pounds, and dressing 58 per cent. in killing, make 700 pounds of clear meat, and are sold on this market at \$4.75 per hundred-weight, which would make their cost at the yards on the hoof \$37.23. Tak-

ing from this the value of the offal, shown above to be \$15.14, and the cost of the net carcass to the packer is \$42.09.

"Now for this carcass the same date packers were receiving 7 1/2 cents per pound. This would give for the 700 pounds of meat \$52.50 for the average. Killing, the cost of which approximately is 50 cents per head, leaves \$52 net for the carcass. Deducting from this \$42.09, the cost of the live animal after allowing \$15.14, the value of the offal, there remains a gross profit to the packers of \$9.91 per head.

"But there are the general expenses of the plant and extraordinary disbursements to be accounted for, and \$2.50 per head on cattle will be allowed for this, which is a very liberal estimate. Still there remains \$7.41 per head net profit to the packers. "Applying the average profit of \$7.41 on cattle, 20 cents on hogs, 50 cents on sheep and 50 cents on calves to the total number of head killed in a year by the 'combine' packing houses, gives a total profit of \$47,727,412. Figuring upon the total capitalization, undoubtedly heavily watered, of \$110,500,000, we have 43 per cent. profit on the stock."

If Mr. Powell's figures are correct, it is apparent that the "beef trust" is not such a benevolent institution as represented in Commissioner Garfield's official report.

Mukden, the Sacred City.

Mukden, into which the victorious Japanese hosts have marched, is known as China's "Sacred City," the cradle of the Manchu race, which has given the present dynasty to the throne of China. It is the capital of Liaoning, one of the three provinces of Manchuria, and is situated on the river Hun, about 500 miles northeast of Peking.

Mukden is a city of 200,000 inhabitants. It is believed to have existed on its present site 3,000 years, but it never attained importance until the Manchu kings made it their capital in 1630. Two hundred or more years ago it was known by the name of Sinyang, the name of Mukden being conferred by its Manchu conquerors.

Historically, Mukden is invested with a peculiar interest just now, for the fierce warfare between Russia and Japan which has reached its climax in the capture of the city brings into prominence the fact that for thousands of years the place has been one of the world's central battle points. The blood of tens of thousands of warriors has stained the plains about Mukden and the ranges of the Long White mountains.

Small Pay For Soldiers

Some interesting facts concerning the present condition of the war department are brought out in an article, bearing the endorsement of Secretary Taft, in the "inauguration number" of Harper's Weekly. Although the army is costing the people less from year to year, the soldiers of the United States are better paid than in any other army in the world. Our soldiers receive \$13 a month, while the pay of other nations is as follows: Austria-Hungary, 73 cents a month; France, \$1.74; Germany, \$2.50; Great Britain, \$7.14; Japan, 60 cents; Russia, 12 cents.

DAMAGED BY FLOODS

Disastrous Storm Causes Loss Along the Pacific Coast.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 14.—The storm that has raged almost incessantly for the past 48 hours along the southern coast is over. It has been the most disastrous storm experienced in this section for a decade. As far as has been learned but one life has been lost, that of a laborer, who was drowned in the flood waters along the Santa Fe railroad near Cajon pass. The total damage, scattered over a wide stretch of territory, is conservatively estimated at more than \$500,000. The total fall of rain for the storm measures 3.52 inches, according to the government rain gauge in Los Angeles, but at other points in the storm belt a rainfall of 2.40 inches has been measured.

The damage from the flood waters to the streets of Los Angeles is estimated at more than \$50,000. Pavements and curbstones have been torn up and washed away, sewers and storm drains broken and miles of streets covered with a slime of sand, gravel and petroleum washed from the oil regions above the city.

The worst disaster that occurred in the city was the washing out of Seventh street bridge across the Los Angeles river, where 14 people were carried down into the flooded stream and five of them, including one woman, seriously hurt. It was at first reported that two men had lost their lives, but this has not been confirmed.

The WEEKLY RIVER PRESS is a good newspaper to send away to your friends in the east. It will save you the trouble of writing letters

WILL CONTINUE THE WAR.

Russian Authorities Discuss Question of Kuropatkin's Successor.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 14.—According to the information received by the war office, the remnants of Kuropatkin's army have made good their retreat and are now out of the immediate danger of a new turning movement north of Tie pass. The Japanese are reported to be completely exhausted by their long hard fight and are compelled to rest and undertake the task of burying their dead and caring for their wounded, prisoners and plunder.

While Kuropatkin has assumed full responsibility for accepting a battle at Mukden, he has complained to the emperor that his plans miscarried miserably through the failure of two generals whose names cannot be learned to execute his orders. He also throws blame on some of the troops which failed to respond properly at the critical moment.

The war council held at Tsarko-Selo today is understood to have decided the question of continuing the war in the affirmative. Ways and means were discussed, but the decision on some points, it is understood was reserved.

The question of Kuropatkin's successor also was discussed, but the emperor has made no final decision. Grand Duke Nicholasvitch, second cousin of the emperor and inspector general of cavalry is again mentioned and Grippenburg is said to be a candidate.

LONDON, March 15.—The correspondent at St. Petersburg of the Daily Telegraph predicts that the Russian authorities will have to battle with an angry sea of troubles in connection with the mobilization of a new army. The correspondent relates, as an example, that a few days ago an attempt to mobilize Cossacks in the Kuban district of the Caucasus met with flat disobedience, and that the employment of force led to serious bloodshed.

Russia's Financial Troubles.

LONDON, March 15.—The revolt of the French bankers is considered by the London newspapers as the most hopeful and important news of the day, promising an early conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan. Apparently the proposed loan has not been absolutely refused, but only "postponed."

This, however, is regarded here as being tantamount to a refusal, and is expected to speak louder to the Russian war party even than Kuropatkin's defeat at Mukden. With the American and English markets closed to her it is thought that Russia can only turn to Germany, which is not likely to be much more responsive than France, and the only alternative would seem to be to make peace.

Reports are current here that Japan will demand an indemnity of between \$500,000,000 and \$750,000,000.

Will Superintend Canal Work.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Chief Engineer John F. Wallace will be the working head of the Panama canal commission soon after the adjournment of the special session of the senate. This is the plan of the president and to accomplish this end he may soon remove Admiral Walker now chairman of the commission, as announced in a dispatch a few days ago, and Commissioners Burr, Harrod and Grunsky, leaving only George W. Davis, governor of the canal zone, and William B. Parsons, an engineer of New York.

The determination of the president to give Engineer Wallace full power was decided upon when a congressional committee returned to Washington last fall and reported an unsatisfactory state of affairs on the isthmus. President Roosevelt has expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with the work of General Davis and Mr. Parsons, and especially with Engineer Wallace. While he will accept the responsibility for the construction of the canal, he desires Engineer Wallace to be his executive representative on the ground.

Will Be Tried For Land Frauds.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—It is announced that the cases of Senator Mitchell and Representatives Hermann and Williamson of Oregon, for alleged complicity in public land frauds, will be brought to trial at Portland early in June. District Attorney Henry, who secured the indictments, left for Oregon Saturday afternoon after a conference with President Roosevelt, Secretary Hitchcock and Attorney General Moody.

Packing Concerns At War.

CHICAGO, March 13.—War to the knife between the "Big Five" of the beef combine and 26 firms and corporations classed as independent packers will, it is asserted, begin in Chicago March 20, when the special federal grand jury begins its investigation of the affairs of the alleged beef combine. A fund of \$5,000,000 has been raised to carry on the fight against the beef combine and set the claims of the independent packers squarely before the

public. The largest of the so called independent companies, Schwarzhild & Sulzberger is concerned in the movement. The principal plant of the company is in Kansas City, but a large plant is operated by the same company in Chicago and a branch in New York. The independent packers are said to have held meetings in various cities to devise a plan of offensive and defensive action.

Irrigation Project Defeated.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 14.—A bill permitting the government to condemn state lands in the upper North Platte valley and merge the property into an irrigation district was defeated in the senate this morning. The defeat is charged to Rockefeller-Harriman interests owning large tracts in the district. This ends the government project which would have entailed the expenditure of \$5,000,000 in reclaiming the arid lands.

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