

The River Press.

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MAY CHANGE LAND LAWS.

Advance notices of the administration program that will be presented to congress are being given by President Roosevelt in his public speeches. On a recent occasion, he indicated his desire for legislation to secure an honest capitalization of railway and other corporations, and in a later address the preservation of the public domain for actual settlers was the subject of his remarks. The president, as will be seen in these extracts from his speech, evidently believes congress will soon make changes in the land laws:

In 1902 the reclamation service began to develop the larger opportunities of the western half of our country for irrigation. The work includes all the states from the great plains through the Rocky mountains to the Pacific slope. It has been conducted with the clear and definite purpose of using the valuable water resources of the public land for the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run; in other words, for the purpose of putting upon the land permanent home makers who will use and develop it for themselves and for their children and children's children. There has been opposition, of course, to this work of the reclamation service; for we have been obliged to antagonize certain men whose interest it was to exhaust for their own temporary personal profit natural resources which ought to be developed through use, so as to be conserved for the permanent common advantage of the people as a whole. But there will be no halt in the work of preserving the waters which head in the Rocky mountain region so as to make them of most use to the people as a whole; for the policy is essential to our national welfare.

The public lands of the United States should be utilized in similar fashion. Our present public land laws were passed when there was a vast surplus of vacant public land. The chief desire was to secure settlers thereon, and comparatively slight attention was paid as to exactly how the lands were disposed of in detail. In consequence, lax execution of the laws became the rule both in the land office and in the public mind, and land frauds were common and little noted. This was especially true when a system originally designed for the fertile and well-watered regions of the middle west and applied to the dryer regions of the great plains and to the mountains and the Pacific coast. In these regions the system lent itself to fraud, and much land passed out of the hands of the government without passing into the hands of the home maker. The department of the interior and the department of justice joined in prosecuting the offenders against the law; but both the law and its administration were defective and needed to be changed.

Three years ago a public lands commission was appointed to scrutinize the law and the facts and to recommend a remedy. Their examination specifically showed the existence of great frauds upon the public domain, and their recommendations for changes in the law were made with the design of conserving the natural resources of every part of the public land by putting it to its best use. Attention was especially called to the prevention of settlement by the passage of great areas of public lands into the hands of a few men, and to the enormous waste caused by unrestricted grazing on the open range; a system of using the natural forage on the public domain which amounts to putting a premium on its destruction.

The recommendations of the public lands commission were sound, for they are especially in the interest of the actual home seeker; and where the small home maker could not utilize the land, it was provided that the government should keep control of it so that it could not be monopolized by a few wealthy men. Congress has not yet acted upon these recommendations, except for the repeal of the iniquitous lie-land law. But the recommendations are so just and proper, so essential to our national welfare, that I believe they will surely ultimately be adopted.

UNCLE SAM MAKES FARMS.

The farmers of the United States will be interested in an article lately published over the signature of C. J. Blanchard, statistician of the United States reclamation service, showing the vastness of the government irrigation projects now being built under the provisions of the national reclamation act for the purpose of making new farms for the rapidly growing number of American farmers.

Mr. Blanchard in his article enumerates a long list of projects actually under construction, and another list held in abeyance awaiting the time when the condition of the reclamation fund will permit their construction. He

shows that the 25 projects now under construction, when fully developed, will add to the crop-producing area of the United States 3,195,000 acres, or a cultivated area equal to the total acreage devoted to agricultural crops in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Florida.

Three of these 25 projects are practically completed; six more will be in service this summer. Work is progressing on all of them, and their early completion may be considered absolutely sure.

Thirteen additional projects held in abeyance have an even greater area than those now under construction, and there are in the west many more millions of acres with water available for irrigation—a great field for further agricultural development, comprising one of the most valuable resources in view of the rapid increase in population and the necessity of continued increase of agricultural production.

The national reclamation act provides that moneys received from sales of public lands in certain western states and territories shall be placed in a revolving fund that is being used to build irrigation systems in the state which provide it. The law wisely provides for the return of the money to the national treasury by the lands benefited, when it becomes available for use in further irrigation construction.

The addition of these millions of acres to the agricultural lands of the country is of interest not alone to the west, but to the entire United States, because of the importance of continued agricultural expansion. It is of interest to the farmers because it gives to their sons an opportunity of obtaining new lands; it is of interest to the business men because it means opportunities for new business; it is of interest to manufacturers because it means a new demand for their products.

The enactment of the law under which this great reclamation work is going on is very largely due to the national irrigation congress, the 15th session of which will be held in Sacramento, Cal., September 27 next. This promises to be one of the most widely represented congresses ever held in this country, both because of the wide-spread interest in this new national irrigation policy, and because of the wide-spread interest in national forestry, which takes equal prominence in the annual meeting of this body.

ORCHARD'S TESTIMONY.

The impression is widespread that Orchard is telling the truth, the hideous and self-destructive truth. At the same time the intelligent justice of public opinion will not rush into general condemnation of the Western Federation of Miners, nor into quick and intemperate animosity against labor unions generally.

If it is true that the "leaders" of the miners' federation plotted murders, hired assassins and planned wholesale slaughter, yet it is incredible that the rank and file of western miners knew of or approved such villainy. Siant-headed, bigoted anti-laborites may find excuse, if not reason, for condemning organized labor upon the mere evidence of such damnable rascals as Harry Orchard. But thinking people will not do so. In the case of the great political parties the fact is patent that some of the most corrupt, the most selfish, the most immoral men of parties have been endowed with "leadership." The gift of gab, a talent for intrigue, almost a genius for subterfuge, for lies and for pretense, have made leaders of men who are unfit to tie the shoe-strings of their honest followers.

It is predicted by some short-sighted and prejudiced wisecracks that the Heywood trial will produce a vast and overwhelming revulsion against unionism and organized labor.

It will do no such thing. Justice will prevail. The rotten leaders who trapped their thousands of followers into ignominious suspicion will be duly punished. But organized labor as an expression of American liberty and justice will survive and prevail at last. New standards of leadership may be fixed, new methods of choosing champions will be fixed, but union labor will continue to go forward thoughtfully, honestly and bravely to a destiny that is above and beyond the selfish machinations of dishonest and selfish "leaders."

And it is high time that organized labor in the United States should realize the fact that its fine principles are most jeopardized by corrupt and intemperate captaining. The dirtiest and most discouraging scandals in the history of American unionism have had nothing to do with the rights and demands of the mass of wage earners. In every instance they have been traceable to the criminal conduct, the vile selfishness, the corrupt chicanery of "leaders" whose only claim to dominance has been hot-air eloquence, flannel-mouth oratory and the devious ability to "do business" in back offices and subterranean saloons.

The most sinister feature in the affairs of union labor in this country is the method, manner and personality of its so-called leaders. It is worthy of note that this Western Federation

of Miners, in convention assembled, openly, evasively and causelessly "bawled-out," condemned and repudiated John Mitchell, the best, the ablest, the decenter and the most informed of all the labor leaders that have come into prominence since Arthur put the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers upon the highest and most enduring plane ever achieved by a union labor organization.

The evil leadership of Shea and Young in Chicago set back the just cause of union labor more than a score of years. Honore Jaxon, who has come into prominence by reason of his letter to Roosevelt which elicited the reply that men like Harriman and Heywood are undesirable citizens, was the fomentor and originator of violence as a "strike argument." He is eloquent. He writes well. He is an "educated" half-breed Indian. An outlaw by his own admission, but he is a "leader" of labor unionism in Chicago, the citadel and stronghold of industrial organization in this country.

Villains have led the political parties in almost every city, state and national organizations in this country; they always lead to ultimate destruction. Union labor has had more than its share of diabolical leadership. That's what's the matter with union labor now.—Helena Independent.

The Farm Is A Bank.

Every farmer has a bank account in the soil on his farm. There is a certain deposit of fertility there which can be drawn out in time by continuous cropping if nothing is added to it. This fertility represents money just as surely as the crops a farmer raises represent money. So if it is wasted it means just that much money wasted. Aim to return fertility to the soil by practicing diversified farming with live stock raising.

Suggests a Difficult Job.

Butte Inter Mountain. It is interesting to learn that a new railway map of Montana is to be published, but it would be more interesting to learn why the taxpayers of Montana should be made to pay for an enterprise of that sort. Now if it was proposed to issue an accurate train time table, that would be different.

Alzen.

A new metal which has attracted considerable attention in Germany, and which gives promise of becoming of no little importance to many branches of industry, has received the name of "alzen," the name being a compounding of the first letters of aluminum and zinc, of which it is composed. It is claimed that it equals cast iron in strength, but that it is much more elastic, and that it has a great superiority over iron in that it does not rust easily and takes a very high polish.

Peculiar and Pertinent.

Largest of all animals that ever lived on this planet is the great sulphur-bottom whale of the Pacific ocean. One specimen which was measured was 95 feet in length and 25 feet in girth. Its estimated weight was 24,000 pounds.

Pittsburg makes enough steel rails each day to build over eleven miles of railroad track. One of the unique features of the smoky city is its wonderful river commerce. It is at the head of navigation on the Ohio river and ships 10,000,000 tons of freight by water each year, although boats can only be handled during the high water stages. If it had a nine-foot stage all the year round there is no telling to what dimensions its river commerce would reach.

Wants Old Trail Preserved.

NEW YORK, June 12.—Ezra Meeker, of Puyallup, Wash., who is traveling to Oyster Bay in a prairie schooner, was in town today to make arrangements for the trip. He left his vehicle, which is drawn by an ox team, in Buffalo, but will rejoin his outfit today.

Meeker, who went west in 1842 in the same prairie schooner in which he is now returning, hopes to interest President Roosevelt, and through him the people of the country, in making a grand boulevard of the old Oregon trail. He wants the old road between the Missouri river and the Pacific coast perpetuated as a monument to the hardy pioneers whose sacrifices and enterprises made the settlement of the west possible. He expects to ask congress to pass a bill at its next session appropriating the money for the preliminary work.

Enforcing Prohibition Law.

CHEROKEE, Kan., June 12.—One of the most drastic moves ever taken to enforce the Kansas prohibition law was taken here this morning when four saloonkeepers, who yesterday pleaded guilty to violation of the law, were fined \$100 each, ordered to pay the cost of the suit, and sentenced to thirty days on the rock pile, effective at once.

ORCHARD IS A HARD ONE.

Principal Witness Against Heywood Sticks To His Story.

BOISE, June 11.—The counsel for the Heywood defense themselves do not hesitate to pronounce Orchard the most difficult proposition they have ever been called on to face in the course of their experience as lawyers. Practically they have given up hope of being able to shake the man's testimony as far as material points are concerned, and they say that the present examination is made, not for the purpose of confusing Orchard, but to place before the jury the statements which they will contradict in detail by their own witnesses.

Attorney Richardson, who is evidently trying to establish the theory that Orchard murdered for murder's sake as well as at the instigation of those who were trying to break up the miners' organization, today drew from Orchard new and startling confessions of crimes, in one of which, at least, Orchard admits that he had neither instigator or accomplice. The state's chief witness admits that he planned the blowing up of a boarding house at Globeville, and the annihilation of 150 Austrian non-union miners. He also confessed to another and heretofore unchronicled attempt on the life of Governor Peabody.

Turning to Steve Adams' wife, who sat in the court room and who has been a constant associate of the woman relatives of the accused, Orchard coolly announced that she had accompanied Adams and himself to Judge Goddard's house to kill the judge, the woman "acting as a blind" while they walked around the house watching for a chance to kill him.

At the afternoon session Richardson took a new tack and asked Orchard a long series of questions as to where and how much Billy Ackerman paid to have his teeth fixed. The witness declared he did not know whether Ackerman had his teeth fixed at a dental college or not. He said he knew Ackerman got money to have his teeth attended to and spent most of it. It was presumed to be Richardson's purpose to show that Orchard, Adams and Ackerman had little money the winter of 1904-05.

After exhausting the subject of Ackerman's teeth, Attorney Richardson returned to the Peabody affair. He carefully carried the witness over the planting of the first bomb in the snow at the corner of Thirtieth street and Grant avenue. This about January 1, 1905. Adams and Orchard were to pull the wire as Governor Peabody passed the place where the infernal machine was buried. This wire was strung to a point a block away, and had to pass in front of an alley. Orchard and Adams stood where they could see Governor Peabody as he came out.

This was the instance when just as the governor passed the bomb, two coal wagons came out of the alley and drove over the wire. The two assassins saw it would be useless to pull the wire and even if they could have done so the drivers of the wagons as well as several other persons passing at the time would have seen them. Orchard said he could not tell whether the wagons were loaded or not.

Orchard declared he got no money directly from either Heywood or Moyer during the winter of 1904-05. There was an arrangement he said, that Adams should draw the money from Pettibone. Heywood participated in the arrangement. As to Moyer, Orchard said he did not see him all winter.

Lumber Dealers Complain.

WASHINGTON, June 11.—A case involving millions of dollars annually to the lumber interests of the far west and embodying the question of joint rates and through routes, is being argued before the interstate commerce commission today. Charged by the Pacific Lumber Manufacturers' association and the shingle mills bureau, that owing to fights between Harriman and Hill systems it is impossible to get lumber and shingles from Washington points through Oregon to Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas or Nebraska points except by paying the local rate to Portland and re-billing.

As a result, millions of feet of prepared timber is awaiting shipment on account of car shortage. A suit against the Northern Pacific, Southern Pacific, Oregon Railway, Missouri Pacific and other lines is about to be brought.

Fugitive Bandit Killed.

SHERIDAN, Wyo., June 10.—While pursuing two Montana horse-thieves yesterday, Sheriff Guy and a posse from Johnson county, shot and killed one of the robbers who held up a Northern Pacific passenger train at Welch recently. The man was cornered and shot on what is known as the "O. W." ranch, forty miles southeast of Sheridan. The second man escaped with the posse still in pursuit, but it is believed he will be captured or shot today.

BUTTE, June 10.—The men run down by Sheriff Guy of Wyoming are undoubtedly the same outlaws recently pursued by the sheriff of Carbon

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county. Recent dispatches told of the pursuit of these men and added that although charged with the theft of horses, they were believed to be the bandits who held up the North Coast Limited train on the Northern Pacific railway at Welch, sixteen miles from Butte. Northern Pacific employes in this city have no knowledge of the matter. It has never been explained on what grounds the officers in Carbon county or in northern Wyoming assume that the men pursued were the bandits who held up the train and murdered Engineer Frank Clow. When last heard from the officers were headed south and it is presumed that after they crossed the state line the Wyoming officers took charge of the chase.

Organize Against Rustlers.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., June 11.—William Moses, sheriff of Butte county, one of the best known peace officers of western South Dakota, who, during the period he has been in office, has proved himself a terror to cattle and horse "rustlers," has returned from attendance at an important meeting of the horse raisers of Wyoming, at which arrangements were concluded for waging an aggressive war of extermination upon the horse and cattle thieves of western North and South Dakota, eastern Montana and Wyoming and the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian reservations of South Dakota.

All the above vast extent of territory has been divided into districts, each one being placed in charge of reliable and persistent sheriffs who are expected to carry on a warfare to the death against the thieves. Western North and South Dakota and the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations have been assigned to Sheriff Moses, and he has been authorized by the horse growers' association of Wyoming to spare no efforts or expense in the work of locating and arresting men who molest the horses of members of the association, or who have in the past handled any of the animals, either as thieves or middlemen.

Rewards as high as \$1,000 have been offered for the conviction of any man who has stolen horses from members of the association. The sheriffs who have been placed in charge of the various districts also have been authorized to engage the services of attorneys to prosecute men whom they may arrest on the charge of horse stealing.

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