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GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN HOME MAKING.

Numerous government agencies are at work in behalf of home making according to a recent report on home education prepared by Miss Ellen C. Lombard of the bureau of education, department of the interior.

The present congress is considering a number of different bills calculated to keep the American at home. They are all land bills, for the question is a land question. Canada has millions of acres of land open to entry, and she has the most liberal kind of land laws.

Contrary to the current impression, the United States also has an immense amount of public land unrepresented. In the eleven farthest western states, you can pick a homestead out of 260 million acres of land.

Now it is desirable that as much of our public lands as possible should be settled by Americans. Out of the 260 million acres open to entry, it is doubtful whether more than half can ever be put under cultivation, but 130 million acres of land is still a good sized block of real estate.

One of the bills before congress provides for a homestead twice as big as the so-called desert claim, which can now be located, and four times the size of the old hundred and sixty acre homestead that made the middle west.

That has been the underlying principle of all our land legislation for the last hundred years: to divide it into the smallest tracts necessary for the support of a single family.

Under the proposed law in this country, the homesteader will not have to begin living on his or her claim until he is twenty-one years old, but he cannot take out a final patent and possess the land until he is twenty-four.

Des Moines, Feb. 17.—Iowa has 2,358,062 population, according to the state census of 1915. This is a gain of six per cent over the federal census of 1910.

More Settlers Wanted

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

Washington, D. C., Feb. 14.—The United States has an emigration problem. All our national life we have been worried over the immigrant, whether to admit him, what to do with him.

In the last ten years almost a million Americans have emigrated to the Dominion of Canada. Their space cannot be filled by any million of the immigrants that Europe sends us so liberally.

The National Wool Growers' association recommends that the interior department classify all the land left open into two classes: that suitable for agriculture and that suitable for grazing.

Then the former should be parcelled out in whatever size units are necessary to support homesteaders, and the latter withdrawn from entry entirely, to be leased for grazing purposes.

Such a proceeding would stabilize the stock business as at present constituted, for under the present system a stockman does not know when his range will be settled on by homesteaders.

On the other hand, the states with public land in them have a strong sentiment in favor of homesteading as much land as possible. If 640 acres will not support a family, they say, then give them 1,280.

Another bill which will have the same effect is one to make it possible for a boy or girl of eighteen to take up a homestead. The present minimum age is twenty-one for anybody who is not the head of a family.

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The Iowa state census just completed indicates that Iowa is growing at a fair rate as regards population. There are about 150,000 more people within the borders of the state than were here in 1910.

Who handles dynamite the more carefully—the trained man or the one who is unfamiliar with explosives? Are men killed in "flipping" cars one-tenth as often as trespassers? The verdict favors the trained man.

Hence the large cattle and sheep owners have their own ideas as to how the situation should be handled. Many of them do not believe that the arid lands still open to entry can support a farmer.

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Dinner Stories

A woman who had had four stalwart soldiers billeted on her endeavored to use as little butcher meat as possible. Day after day



there was served up at dinner time a scanty meal, the chief item of which was tea.

"Ah," she said one day, pointing to a tea leaf floating in one of the cups, "there's to be a visitor today!"

"Well, madam," said one of the hungry four, "let us hope that it's the butcher!"

"I shall never marry," announced the 16-year old daughter.

"I said the very same thing at your age," sighed her mother, "and goodness knows I've often wished I'd kept my promise."

"And you're not the only one who's wished it, either," barked dad, who had entered the room unobserved by the other two.

"Pa, you sing bass in the choir, don't you?" asked Bobby Smithers.

"Yes, my son," replied Mr. Smithers. "And ma sings soprano?"

"That's right."

"Well, there's one thing I don't understand."

"What is it?"

"Mrs. Tompkins says you sing mighty big in public and mighty small at home."

An old farmer down the country, giving instructions for his will, directed that a legacy of \$25,000 be given to his wife.

Being informed that some distinction was usually made in case the widow married again, he doubled the sum, and, when told that this was contrary to custom, he said, with heartfelt sympathy for his possible successor:

"Ay, but him that gets her'll deserve it!"

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GERMANS PERIL LATIN AMERICA, CHARGE



The charge has been made before the senate foreign relations committee that the Germans, before the war, secretly violated the Monroe doctrine by gaining a foothold in the following places in the Western hemisphere: (1)—Haiti; (2)—the Danish island of St. Thomas; (3)—Nicaragua; (4)—Columbia; (5)—Paraguay; (6)—Chile.

CHILDREN'S EVENING STORY

WOOLZIE AND THE LOST GOOSE. "Ho there, Woolzie! Are you in a hurry?" called a voice in the green wood.

Woolzie, fuzzy little boy, who was running home from school, stopped and looked all around. He was late getting out, and that was why he ran, for he had stayed in to help the teacher clean off the blackboards.

"Are you in a hurry, Woolzie?" asked the voice again, and then the boy saw two long ears sticking up from behind a bush, and he knew right away who it was speaking.

"Oh, no, Uncle Wiggly, I'm not in a hurry if I can do anything for you," answered Woolzie, for he loved the rabbit gentleman very much, as all the animal children did.

"Well, I am sure I did not mean to frighten you," said the rabbit gentleman, also politely. "But the truth of the matter is, I started over to your house to bring your mamma some carrot shortcake that Nurse Jane Fuzzy Wuzzy made for my dinner.

"I know she'll be glad to get it," spoke Woolzie politely, and I guess he knew that his mamma would give him some of the cake, also.

"But I find now that I can't get over to your house," went on Uncle Wiggly.

"Oh, that's too bad!" cried the little fox boy, still thinking of the carrot shortcake, I guess.

"You see, I have had the rheumatism quite badly, since I got back from the North Pole," Uncle Wiggly said. "And just now, as I started for your house the pain came on very suddenly and sharply. So I can't go on with the cake for your mamma."

"I'm sorry," said Woolzie, disappointed like.

"So, when I saw you," proceeded the rabbit gentleman, "I called to stop you. I wonder whether you could not carry the cake?"

"Oh, indeed I could!" cried Woolzie. "And not drop it, the way your sister Wizzle dropped the eggs?" asked the rabbit gentleman, smiling.

MASON THINKS HIS TRADE ON DECLINE

Washington, Feb. 17.—Tobias Minick a stone mason of Washington, states that people are seeing the going out of his craft. "It is an immemorial one. We see its effects in the bridges, aqueducts, etc., of the Romans and there has never been a time that the mason's services were not in demand.

But the craft of laying stone in foundations is being superseded by the laying of hollow cement blocks in the lighter buildings," says Mr. Minick. "The only stone foundation this year in Washington county is the Hollingsworth house in Dutch Creek. It was replaced by a new house, and when torn down its stone was used in the foundation of the new house. The stone mason trade is a thing of the past. It is learned by no more. No one serves an apprenticeship to it."

INVESTIGATING DEATH. Cedar Rapids, Feb. 17.—Experts who investigated the explosion that caused the death of John Janda yesterday are unable to agree. Janda was attempting to remove a screw cap from a gasoline tank car when the explosion came. His body was hurled high in the air.

WOMAN CHOSEN PASTOR. Council Bluffs, Feb. 17.—Mrs. John Malory has been chosen the pastor of the First Free Methodist church. Her appointment marks the first of its sort ever made in western Iowa.

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