

Raid On Public Lands.

A wholesale raid is in evidence at Washington designed upon the remaining western public lands. Already this session two bills have been introduced by Representatives Martin and Brooks allowing a man to take up a square mile of government land in South Dakota and in Colorado respectively and permitting those who may have already made a 160-acre homestead entry to make an additional entry of 480 acres.

The claim has been persistently made by western land men that a man can not make a home and living on 160 acres anywhere in the west, and so this square-mile-home-plan is brought forward as a means of getting the public domain into private ownership as rapid as possible. The question is, even assuming that 640 acres is not too large a farm for the government to give a citizen, to whom will this land go?

The bills above mentioned are modeled after the Kinkaid law, which applies the 640 acre unit to western Nebraska and was slipped through Congress at the tail end of last session. Yet it was not thirty days before it was charged that under this law the Nebraska cattlemen had secured about all they wanted in Nebraska. The Kinkaid law and the above bills provide that where a man has a 160-acre entry, or a mere filing on 160 acres, he shall have the preference right to enter an adjoining 480 acres, and in Nebraska the cattlemen are alleged to have "entered," through their employes, their choice of the lands, so that as soon as the law passed, they simply had to apply in each case for the contiguous 480 acres. It takes but a few such entries they can be made half a mile wide and two miles long—to control a vast territory of country.

It was foreseen that similar bills to the Kinkaid Nebraska law would be immediately introduced at this session and it is understood that a number more such measures will follow to include other states. If Congress is to get further in this matter, the issue must be met squarely and frankly, the present homestead law overturned and a square mile made the homestead unit for the entire country, instead of the present 160 acres.

Apparent safeguards are provided in these bills, authorizing the secretary of the Interior to immediately withdraw any such lands as he may deem fit for irrigation under the national irrigation law. Some such lands have, of course, been withdrawn, and they have been and are constantly being withdrawn, under the irrigation law itself, from speculative entry by use of the desert land law and the commutation clause of the homestead law. These withdrawals are being made from time to time but only after investigation and survey to determine which may be irrigable lands. Active as the Geological Survey has been in its western investigations, it is more criminal than absurd to assume that the government is in possession of sufficient accurate information regarding the billion or so acres composing the entire western half of the United States which would enable it to intelligently withdraw what may later prove to be irrigable lands. With the utmost activity and the most energetic surveys it must be ten if not fifteen years before the government can possibly know what are all its irrigable lands.

In the meantime, under the proposed plan every acre will have been taken up in these 640-acre tracts, and as provided in the Brooks bill for Colorado, commuted, after the fiasco of a fourteen months' residence has been gone through with, and then transferred to syndicates or corporations in single tracts as large and monopolistic as desired.

This entry on the public domain of 640-acre homesteads with the privilege of commuting is even a more bold-faced fraud than was the old desert land law with its 640-acre provision, which later was with a great flourish of reform trumpets, cut down to 320 acres. To legally comply with the commutation clause, all that is necessary is for a stock herder, for instance, to file on a homestead in the fall, say October. He need not visit his claim for six months. Then in March he can put up a shanty and purport to live in it during the following eight months while he is herding his stock in the neighborhood, sleeping in it once a month or less. At the end of eight months he can prove up and get his title to the land from the government and immediately transfer it to his employer, receiving probably as a bonus \$50 for the use of this land privilege. He has fully complied with

the law, and his position cannot be legally attacked.

As applied to even 160 acres, the commutation clause has been an outrage. Utilizing it for 640-acre filings would more than quadruple its evil for it would cast off practically all restraint from those interests which are every day rapidly acquiring enormous land holdings, running up into the hundreds of thousands of acres. Nebraska was foolish enough to blight the future of the western half of the state by allowing the passage of the Kinkaid law. Statesmen representing interests which control the policies of other western states are apparently desirous of making this plan applicable to their states. The country should rigidly confine this plan to Nebraska.

There is great danger to the west and to the nation in this Nebraska law and its proposed application to various other states, one at a time, as quickly and expeditiously as possible. Congress is apparently willing to legislate for this state and that, senatorial and congressional courtesy playing an important part, and allow such local laws to pass, where a general law applying to the entire west would not be considered. The move is an insidious one and is a shrewd game on the part of the big land men to get piecemeal legislation which they realize they can not secure as a whole. Land dealers and speculators are warmly enthusiastic in their praises of the Nebraska Law. It will be more interesting to note how the real prosperity of the state is affected in the next two or three years, how many homes will be built under the Kinkaid law, how much the population of the section affected will be increased and how much real farming will be done.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Corder Items.

Wm. Groves was in Higginville Wednesday.

R. C. Frerking of Alma was in our city Monday.

Ed Lise of Concordia was on our streets Wednesday.

Ross Chapman was in Higginville Tuesday morning.

C. L. Wilson left Wednesday morning for Old Mexico.

Miss Byrd Hackley went to Marshall Monday for a short stay.

H. F. Kleinschmidt transacted business in Kansas City Wednesday.

Miss Ella Haas spent Monday with her sister Mrs. R. C. Frerking in Alma.

Rev. Ginn and family went to Higginville to be the guest of D. J. Waters and family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Gaines entertained Mr. and Mrs. Willard Simms at dinner Sunday.

Mrs. C. C. Shusbeh is in Kansas City with her daughter, Mrs. Ernest Shusber who has been very sick but is improving.

Misses Margreta Corder, Lucile Reynolds and Kathryn Ginn spent part of last week in Higginville, the guest of Miss Susie Waters.

Quite a crowd of Corder people went to Higginville Sunday to hear Evangelist Law who is holding a big revival at the M. E. church at that place.

Wellington and Vicinity.

(BY LEALMA.)

Emmet Flournoy is at home this week.

Tom Carter had business in Lexington Monday.

Miss Bettie Slade is spending this week with the home folks.

H. G. Larberg transacted business at the county seat Tuesday.

W. S. Griffin, Herman Schoppenhorst and Fred Rogge were in Kansas City Monday.

Earl Mahan has moved to town, renting rooms from his grand-father, Josiah Mahan.

Misses Nellie Steigal and Jennie Hines of Ray county were in town shopping Monday.

Frank Woodard had one finger on his left hand broken while at work at the Daisy mines Wednesday morning.

John F. Larkin has purchased the tools and tinware stock of John O'Rourke and will carry on the business.

Earnest Steigal who was so badly cut about the head by Frank Jennings has sufficiently recovered to return to his home in Sunshine.

Dr. O. C. Haldeman, a dentist of Kansas City, has made arrangements to visit Wellington every alternate Saturday, beginning January 28.

Died, at his home at the Labor Exchange mines, Charles Mignery, aged 80 years 7 months and 7 days. The deceased had lived in and near Wellington for about five years, and was

respected by all. He left a wife and five children. The funeral rites were conducted at his home by Rev. S. P. Clayton and the remains laid to rest in Mount Olive cemetery Monday.

R. L. Mann has leased a site off Benjamin Homer and will shortly begin the erection of a store room at the Lansing-Harris coal mines.

The Kansas City Bridge Co., expect to have the bridge that they are erecting over the deep ravine, one and a half miles south of town, known as the Varner bridge, completed this week.

TONIC TO THE SYSTEM.

For liver troubles and constipation there is nothing better than DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous little pills. They do not weaken the stomach. Their action upon the system is mild, pleasant and harmless. Bob Moore of LaFayette, Ind., says, "No use talking, DeWitt's Little Early Risers do their work." All pills I have used gripe and make me sick in the stomach and never cured me. DeWitt's Little Early Risers proved to be the long sought relief. They are simply perfect." Persons traveling find Little Early Risers the most reliable remedy to carry with them. Sold by Crenshaw & Young, Druggists. 1-7ml

For Sale.

Coal mine for sale. Two foot vein good coal and good demand. Coal sells at \$3.25 per ton at mine. Write for information.

CARAHAR & GRAVES,
Casper, Wyoming.

Box 175.
1-20d&wt2

W. J. Bandon, the newly elected cashier of the Commercial Bank came in from Kansas City Thursday evening to assume the duties of his position.

"The Irish Pawnbrokers" which will be seen in this city soon, is headed as usual by the farce comedy star-triumvirate, Wesley and Mack and Mazie Trumbull. This trio are so well known to theatre goers that they need no introduction. The company surrounding them this season are capable, as usual, and the scenic investiture is promised all that could be asked.

One of the quaint naturalistic pieces in which men and women move and do things and talk just as they do in life, with no set of heroism to lift them above the common-place, and yet with a story of great interest and a way in its telling that holds the auditor until the finish, is "The Hills of California," which will appear at the New Grand Saturday, January 21.

Miss Nannie Chinn left here Friday morning for Columbia. She will visit her sisters there for a few days, then go to St. Louis for a short stay with her aunt, Mrs. George McGrew. From there she will go to Boonville, Miss., where she will be joined by her friend, Miss Annie Stanley, and to gether they will visit New Orleans and the principal points of interest in the South.

Local theatre-goers will be delighted with Mr. Haerle's announcement of the engagement of W. B. Patton as one of the season's best offerings. Each year Mr. Patton has added popularity to his long list of admirers, who have witnessed his performance of "The Ministers Son." Very few people are aware that he is the author of this piece. He is also the author of "The Last Rose of Summer," a new bright comedy that he will be seen in at the New Grand, Jan. 26.

It is with pleasure that Manager Haerle announces the engagement of W. B. Patton in his new comedy, "The Last Rose of Summer," at the opera house January 26th. Mr. Patton is the author of this, as well as "The Minister's Son," and other well-known successes. "The Last Rose of Summer" is a refined high-class comedy, a play of worth, of naturalness, a play that is uplifting and one that competent critics have seen fit to say, "One is better for having seen."

Mr. Frank Bacon, the star of the company which will present "The Hills of California" at the opera house Saturday night, is a sterling actor of broad experience, his methods are the quiet ones of the natural humorist, his comedy is delicate, and enjoyable because it is not strained or boisterous; his pathos is the natural outpouring of heart too full to longer contain its grief. Mr. Bacon is supported by an excellent company, including Mr. Wilfred L. Roger and Bessie Stuart Bacon.

FOR SALE CHEAP.

Charles Dickens' works in thirty volumes and the Universal Dictionaries in four volumes. All are neatly and substantially bound in cloth. Will sell at a bargain if called for at once. Apply at this office.

RETOUCHING PHOTOGRAPHS

Points Which Are Shown to Amateurs for Giving Expression to the Eye.

The eye is the dominant feature of the human face and its expression as impressive as the language; therefore its treatment demands careful consideration. In an art school where painting is taught, says the Brooklyn Eagle, it is generally pointed out the formal differences assumed by the eye at various periods of life; the progress from childhood to youth and from youth to old age; but here we dispense ourselves of these instructions, as we presume that every photographer more or less knows at least how to light each one of his subjects according to their eyes being deep set or full, etc. We will simply point out a few difficulties which are commonly experienced in making a photographic drawing.

There is a marked difference of character between the eye of men and that of women; the former is epic and full of energy, while the latter is formed soft and brilliant; only for the expression of tender sentiments; a skillful retoucher ought to preserve this difference.

In retouching the eye the most important point is to determine on the correct shade of it and guard with great caution against getting it too dark; when every minute portion of the structure of the eye is visible every line must have its place in the drawing and every part must be signified, but without any degree of severity.

Every part of the eye must be balanced and adjusted with the most unquestionable accuracy, in order to preserve the necessary impression of the original.

The eyebrows must not be made as a hard and solid mass, cutting the brow with a sharp line. All that has been said in the way of caution against severity of line in drawing the eyes is applicable also to the eyebrows. It is frequently a strong feature, especially after middle age, and mostly in men. The drawing, therefore, must be extremely careful. We know that the eyelids are fringed with hairs, which are called eyelashes; no attempt must be made to describe them as formed of hair, however. At the distance at which one looks at a photograph, especially large ones, the upper eyelash has the appearance of a well-defined line, but always less strongly worked at the inner corner near the nose, while the lashes of the lower lid are but very slightly marked. The pupil of the eye is another difficult and important part. It requires great nicety of drawing, formed of very delicate circles only as strongly marked as the natural shade of the subject.

ANIMALS SURE TO "GO BAD"

After This Stage Beasts Are of No Use to Circus Men—Never Return to Old Ways.

No man living knows all about animals, or more than a very little about them, declares McClure's Magazine. Some who are dead thought they knew. That is the reason they are dead. Only those who realize their ignorance and supplement it with untiring watchfulness last long in this queer business that I'm in.

Sooner or later, most animals of the cat kind become utterly intractable and remain so. "Going bad" is the professional term for this. Rarely do they return to their old, amenable ways. Henceforth they are of no use as performers, and are relegated to the exhibition cages, for any man entering the cage of a lion or tiger that has gone bad is instantly attacked. This is one of the terrors of the trade. Symptoms of the change of heart are apparent enough sometimes, particularly in animals who are growing old. Occasionally, however, some young beast, formerly as obedient as you could wish, will turn murderous without cause or warning. If her trainer gets out alive he is lucky. If he ever enters her cage again he's a fool.

Men of Finest Physique.

According to a classified list of measurements the men of the finest physique appear to be in the limestone districts of northwest Yorkshire, Westmorland, Cumberland and the North of Ireland.

The Best Excess.

There is no better excess in the world than the excess of gratitude.—La Brugere.

WINTER SPORT IN THE ALPS

Switzerland Is Actually Becoming the Playground of Europe in the Cold Months.

Switzerland has long been the summer playground of Europe; but in recent years it has become the winter playground as well. Indeed, its popularity in that character is steadily increasing; and skating enthusiasts rush eagerly to a land where they can enjoy their favorite pastime in bright sunshine under a blue sky and free from the fear of an untimely thaw.

No one who has not experienced them can fully appreciate the delights of a winter in Engadine. The clear, dry, frosty air fills even the idlest visitor with an enthusiasm to exercise in the daytime, and with an overwhelming sleepiness in the night time. The prosaic business of everyday life is forgotten. Skating becomes every man's most serious occupation, and the performance of elaborate figures his highest ambition. He retires to remote corners of the skating rinks to conceal his innumerable failures; then, suddenly, having attained perfection, he comes forward to be admired of all men for his intricate turns and spirals. When he is weary of solitary preeminence, he can join a merry band of his fellows at a curling match or take part in a game of hockey or bandy.

But if skating is the serious occupation of a Swiss holiday in winter, "coasting" is its wild delight. It is the champagne of the feast. The long, slow, toilsome climb to the top of the run only gives a keener edge to the enjoyment which follows. To rush down the long, snowy slopes, shooting sudden drops, flying at full speed round dangerous corners on a coasting sleigh, is to taste the full joy of living. It is the rapture of rapid motion.

And besides the delight of such sports, for the lover of beauty is added the wondrous spectacle of Alpine scenery. Around the lakes where the ring of the skates and the tinkle of the sleighbells make pleasant music in the frosty air, the heavy pine woods stand out dark against the glittering expanses of snow, while far above the majestic crests of the snow-covered mountains are sharply outlined against the pale blue sky.

INDIAN POLITICAL METHODS

Effect of Education on Redskins Has Been to Revolutionize Their Systems.

The effect of education upon the Indian has been to revolutionize politics, and the Indian has taken to the white man's method; the campaign committee has taken the place of the barbecue, and campaign literature the place of the stump speech, says the Kansas City Journal. The Indian takes to politics like a mosquito to a swamp. He can tell the effect of a policy upon his people quicker than a white man, and an Indian politician, if one can get him to tell the truth, can make an accurate estimate of the result of an election long before it takes place. The Choctaws, while they do not show so much progressiveness in other lines as the Cherokees, are the best politicians of the Five Tribes.

The Choctaw Indians have dropped the old Indian campaign, and now the winning party wins on a basis that would do credit to any political machine in the states. A regular campaign committee is appointed. It has plenty of money. From the time it is appointed until the campaign is over it devotes its entire time to the campaign. The greatest part of the work is compiling and distributing campaign literature. Every issue that is involved in the election is gone over thoroughly and every argument is answered. This literature is printed in English and Choctaw. The party that has adopted the new method has won every election in the Choctaw nation. The party that clings to the old Indian method is defeated.

A Woman's Mission.

An odd mission for a woman has just been undertaken by Miss Gwendolyn S. Hamilton. She has gone to Kingston, Jamaica, at the behest of the new British Cotton Growing association to report on the possibilities for cotton growing in the West Indies. She is only 24, but has written considerably on scientific topics.

WOMEN WHO "INVESTIGATE"

Insincerity Is Supreme Fault of Some Who Look for Positions, But Never Take One.

When the woman in the brown walking suit had left the room, relates the New York Press, the man at the desk by the window called out:

"Bright-appearing woman, that I hope you hired her."

"Well, I didn't," said his partner.

"Why not?"

"Because she didn't want to be hired."

"Then what did she answer our advertisement for?"

"You tell me and I'll tell you," was the enigmatic reply. "Why do any of those people that don't really want a job go around looking for one? A lot of them do. I suppose that the different women who make a fad of answering advertisements found in the help wanted column are actuated by different motives. Possibly some of them really think they would like a situation, but when they get inside a business office and gain some idea of the amount of work to be done they back out."

"Then there is another class of insincere investigators. They drive a hardworked business man clear up to the brink of strong drink and sometimes right over it. They are the women who belong to freak societies organized for the purpose of improving mankind. Usually they begin on the man who has advertised for a clerk or stenographer. They think he is a bad lot, and in order to find out just how infamous he can be they answer his advertisement. In that way they find out what wages he pays and the degree of respect accorded to the prospective employee. Afterward they scorch him in a club paper. I have furnished copy three times, and I expect I'll be written up again. I think that woman who just went out was looking for material."

The man at the desk by the window was clearly perplexed.

"What a queer fad," he said.

THE POPULATION CENTER.

That of the United States Has Been Going Slowly Westward for Several Decades.

The "center of population" of the United States, as fixed under each federal census, travels slowly westward, and is now a little north of the valley of the Ohio river, and has been for several decades in southern Indiana, says the Washington Post. The present center of negro population, however, as fixed by the same bureau, is now at DeKalb county, Alabama, on the Georgia border, a few miles south of Tennessee. That is, while the center of white population moves westward, that of the negro population moves steadily southwest, and has been doing so for more than 100 years, having traveled through Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia in turn, and now having crossed to Alabama. The divergence between the two centers grows greater with each decade. At the close of the reconstruction period it was expected by many people that there would be a vast influx of southern negroes into the north, until the whole west would be overrun with refugees from the southern plantations. Actually, through the natural operation of the law of selection, the negro population gravitates toward the Gulf of Mexico, and particularly to the cotton raising states. The colored population of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri, border states, is not increasing considerably. Instead of coming nearer together the two races seem to be getting further apart.

A Personal Remark.

"No, madam," said the ladies' tailor, "I can't take a penny off the price of that coat. The figure I quoted just now is the lowest possible."

"But," protested Miss Borgen, "as I told you, I figure that it can—"

"Madam, your figure is simply ridiculous."

"Sir!!!"—Philadelphia Press.

The Collector.

Goodley—Why don't you go to work?

Beggar—I am workin'. I'm a collector o' rare coins.

Goodley—But a nickel is not a rare coin.

Beggar—It is to me.—Philadelphia Ledger.