

LAND FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS MAY BE RECLAIMED BY THE BOYS

In his annual report, made public recently, Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, explains in considerable detail his plan for providing work and land for returning soldiers. In this connection, he states that a systematic development of our 200,000,000 acres of arid, swampy and cut-over land can be made to provide immediate jobs for discharged soldiers and thus prevent the major markets from being demoralized by a surplus of labor, and that furthermore many Americans "will be affixed permanently to agricultural occupation, and great areas of land now neglected and valueless will be brought into use."

Continuing, the secretary says: "As an immediate program we should first offer an opportunity upon our present irrigation projects for all who wish work at clearing and leveling the land not now cultivated, but for which water is available or to which water can be brought under the present irrigation system, and that such tracts shall be developed under an appropriate land-settlement plan. This we can do at once and meet whatever labor problem may be immediate."

"As a second step I would urge an appropriation for one or more of the largest irrigation schemes for which surveys are in an advanced state. Concurrently it would seem to me wise to undertake the draining of the most promising project—government owned land preferred, but, if privately owned, the land to be bought at an appraisal made by the Farm Loan Board and subject to the approval of the Department of Agriculture."

"There is an alternative method of dealing with private lands which already has the approval of Congress, being incorporated in the reclamation act. Under this, a private owner agrees to sell his land to whoever gets the water right at an appraised price as a condition precedent to our undertaking the construction of irrigation work. Under such a plan there would be no difficulty whatever in securing control of any sized bodies of cut-over or swamp lands that might be desired; the government would not buy the land, but the owner would look to the new settler for the price, and take it on such terms as the government itself would exact for its own expenditure upon the land. Supplementing this, there should be an opportunity given for the co-operation of all the states upon limited tracts which would be dealt with under state control and subject to the closest federal supervision."

"After a soldier has returned to his home, if his old position is not open and he wishes to turn to an independent life, there would be laid before him a number of projects which the government had undertaken in the different sections of the country. Let us assume no more than three, one an irrigation scheme, another a drainage project, a third the development of a body of cut-over lands. The one would need to have great dams constructed to impound and divert waters, a hydro-electric plant, miles of canal and tunnel, perhaps, thousands of acres to be cleared and leveled, fenced and broken. This would mean years of work at good wages, work in the open under housing conditions that would seem palatial to the soldier of the trench, and at the end a piece of land on which would be erected a house and barn, a farm home in a group of farm homes. For this he must pay. But already he has received wages out of which he can have saved the necessary first installment on his place of 10 or 15 per cent. The balance, with interest, he can pay in forty yearly installments, or earlier if he can."

It is estimated by Mr. Lane that approximately one-half of our troops now in Europe came from farms, and would probably be glad to take up agricultural work after their return to this country. Mr. Lane also suggests that in selling farms to these men, the government should limit the size and impose such restrictions as would protect individuals from aggregating the land into large estates. With reference to the matter of the cost of carrying out his plans in this matter, the secretary says:

"Would it be unreasonable to ask that we spend in the next two years on these veterans of the great war as much as it cost us to conduct the war for a single week? Would a people who gave out of hand, but of a noble sense of charity, to quasi-public organizations, \$500,000,000 for entertainment and care of these boys hesitate to buy the bohd of this country for a like amount to provide peace work, home work, and homes for these same boys?"

Secretary Lane's views on this subject are certainly enlightening and seem to be worthy of prompt and

careful attention by Congress, for if, as he suggests, it is practicable, at a cost which would not be prohibitive, to redeem many millions of acres of lands now utterly useless, and thus provide farm land for our returning soldiers, and if it is practicable to start such projects at once so that these soldiers can take up, immediately upon their discharge and at reasonable wages, the work of redeeming these lands and can continue such work until the lands are ready for their occupancy, there should certainly be no delay in putting the plan of redeeming these lands into effect. We are not, however, in accord with the secretary's suggestion that the land so redeemed should be divided into millions of small farms, with their wasteful multiplicity of fences, small individual dwellings, barns and outhouses of various kinds, farm wagons, machines, implements, etc., since such plan would cause an enormous and useless waste of labor and material. It is, of course, desirable to prevent any single individual from monopolizing a large area of this land, after it has been redeemed, and there may be no serious objection to the granting of title to small sections of the land to individual soldiers; however, it would seem that, instead of carrying out the wasteful plan of constructing millions of diminutive farm buildings of all kinds, or purchasing tens of millions of unnecessary farm implements, appliances, etc., and of erecting hundreds of millions of miles of useless fencing, provision should be made in connection with this land-redemption project for co-operative management, community warehouses and homes, proper sanitation, education, entertainment and other modern welfare and conservational measures which will serve to make the lives of these prospective farmers healthful, contented and worth-while in every way. This would seem to be much better than to duplicate the unfortunate conditions of isolation, waste, insanitation, illiteracy, selfishness and discontent, which are now so common throughout those sections of the country where small, individualistic, unprofitable farming methods prevail and from which sections millions of discontented people have for years been flocking to our cities.

It is, of course, very important for the welfare of the country to stimulate agriculture and, moreover, it will be a splendid thing if large numbers of our returning soldiers can be immediately employed on and eventually given title to these now useless lands, but unless they are established on these lands under conditions which provide fully for their health, happiness and prosperity and thus insure the country that the will become permanent agriculturists and will not sell and abandon their farms as soon as the novelty of rural life wears off, it would certainly not be worth while to incur the heavy expenditures which will be necessary in order to carry out Secretary Lane's plans. If then, this extensive land-reclamation scheme is to be undertaken, there should go hand in hand with it, in the interest of the welfare of the country as well as of the soldiers for whose benefit it is proposed, a comprehensive plan which will insure, through co-operative and other conservational methods, permanently beneficial results to all concerned.—General Welfare Bulletin.

MADE BUSINESS TRIP
Sam Davis made a business trip to New Orleans last week, returning to Bogalusa Tuesday evening.

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Here's Grandmother's Recipe to Darken and Beautify Faded Hair.

That beautiful, even shade of dark, glossy hair can only be had by brewing a mixture of Sage Tea and Sulphur. Your hair is your charm. It makes or mars the face. When it fades, turns gray or streaked, just an application or two of Sage and Sulphur enhances its appearance a hundredfold.

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