

TO FARM THE SWAMPS

Great Government Drainage Projects. Enlargement of the Old Homestead Idea

[GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL]

The man who can provide homes for industrious and strong-armed citizens is a benefactor to the race. If Representative Steenerson of Minnesota can push his swamp reclamation measure to enactment into a law, he will be deserving of the praise of not only this but future generations. His bill is a practical extension of the old homestead idea, or rather, perhaps, an application to the vast areas of our swamp lands of the idea embodied in the National Irrigation law.

There are in the neighborhood of 100,000,000 acres of swamp lands in the United States, some 70,000,000 of which have been surveyed, and the great bulk would make splendid farms if the excess of water were drained off.

The Steenerson bill provides for the beginning of the work of reclamation of these huge areas. The measure is framed after the irrigation law. It provides that the receipts from the sales of public lands in the non-irrigation states shall constitute a "drainage" fund to be expended by the government in great drainage works, and further, that the cost of such drainage shall be prorated among the land benefitted and paid back by the settlers into the fund to be used over again for additional reclamation work.

WOULD CREATE THOUSANDS OF HOMES

This plan of developing the internal resources of the country and making homes of waste places, is splendid in its scope, and appears to be entirely practicable and profitable. Take for instance, the single example of the swamp lands of the Kankakee river basin in Indiana and Illinois. Here are some 400,000 acres of the very richest of bottom lands, but subject to overflow. They are worthless except where they have been reclaimed through expensive private drainage works, when they have become worth \$100 and \$150 an acre. Yet it is estimated by the government surveyors and engineers that the entire system could be effectively drained at a cost in the neighborhood of \$10 an acre. The same can be said of the lands of the Red River Valley in Minnesota. These include the finest grain and farm lands in the northwest except that they are frequently overflowed. It would be worth millions of dollars to the farmers and settlers who would occupy these lands in small tracts, to have a perfect system of drainage provided. These extensive systems, however, especially where they are interstate, seem to be feasible for handling only by the general government.

The Steenerson bill places the entire management of the work in the hands of the Reclamation Service and the plan of operation follows very closely the irrigation work now being done by that branch of the Interior department. Government lands, ceded Indian lands and private lands may be included in any drainage project, but in each case the cost of the drainage improvement is to be borne by the owner of the land and no settlers can have drainage provided for more than 160 acres, thus insuring the division of the tracts into small farms which must be actually settled upon and tilled.

DRAINAGE WORK ALREADY IN PROGRESS

The work the Reclamation Service is qualified to do at this very moment. While primarily an engineering bureau it has in all its great irrigation projects to deal directly with the farmer. It must outline a comprehensive drainage system for each irrigation project, since there is as much danger from too much irrigation as too little, and to do this the Service has its own farm and soil experts. Some of the irrigation projects have distinctively drainage features, in fact are almost as drainage as they are irrigation. In the Klamath project 136,-

000 acres, or more than half of the area of the total project, is rich tule land covered by eight or ten feet of water, and is to be drained and converted into over a thousand farms. The topographic branch of the Geological Survey, of which the Reclamation Service is also a branch, has already run its lines over many of the great swamp areas of the eastern states and as soon as the Steenerson bill becomes a law the Geological Survey engineers will be ready to launch out into immediate activity in drainage projects.

WOULD START WITH A MILLION DOLLARS

The fund provided by the bill would be small as compared with the irrigation of fund; it would approximate half a million dollars a year and would start off with about \$1,000,000, the receipts from the sales for the fiscal year 1905 being included, but on the other hand the cost of drainage would not be so great as that of irrigation.

The importance of this work of wholesale drainage, in order to provide homes for increased population, is scarcely second in importance to the irrigation work. It means that tens of millions of acres of the most fertile land imaginable, which has lain idle for ages, may be converted from dismal and pestilential swamps and useless bogs into highly prosperous homes, to become the garden spots of the nation.

The Dutch have reclaimed vast areas in Holland from the encroachments of the ocean. Thousands of families live and farm below sea level, gaining their security by magnificent feats of engineering and persistence. They now contemplate the drainage of the Zuyder Zee, reclaiming some 1,350,000 additional acres of meadow land. American drainage in most cases would be far more simple and less expensive; it is simply a question as to whether the nation will see the wisdom of setting its hand to this work.

ANOTHER INLAND EMPIRE

In Florida the everglades alone, almost solid muck beds, would afford an empire of some 7,000,000 acres; in New Jersey and Virginia are vast swamps, among them the famous Dismal Swamp. In Illinois, which is generally regarded as a well-settled agricultural state, there are 4,000,000 acres of swamp land; in Michigan there are nearly 6,000,000 acres. Fertile Iowa has about 2,000,000 acres of swamp land. In Minnesota there are almost 5,000,000 acres of rich surveyed swamp lands and huge swamp areas not yet surveyed. Arkansas has tremendous swamp areas which could be drained and made habitable, and in all there is a swamp area in the eastern half of the United States which is equal in extent to the great agricultural state of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, with three or four smaller eastern states thrown in.

If the Steenerson bill demonstrates that the government can transform swamps into fertile farm land and that the settler or owner will pay back to the government the relatively small cost of the improvement, there seems to be no reason why this work of creation of value out of worthless waste should not go on indefinitely and provide homes for millions more of rural population.

I have 160 acres of unimproved land near El Centro that is an ideal place for cantaloupes and grapes. The land is level and very choice. Don't fail to look this up if you want quality. Bert R. Chaplin, Imperial.

Is the Moon Inhabited

Science has proven that the moon has an atmosphere, which makes life in some form possible on that satellite; but not for human beings, who have a hard enough time on this earth of ours; especially those who don't know that Electric Bites cure Headache, Biliousness, Malaria, Chills and Fever, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Dizziness, Torpid Liver, Kidney complaints, General Debility and Female weaknesses. Unequaled as a general Tonic and Appetizer for weak persons and especially for the aged. It induces sound sleep. Fully guaranteed by all druggists. Price only 50 cents.

Colorado River Gage Taken At Yuma

Day	March		April	
	Gage Height	Discharge	Discharge	Gage Height
1	19.00	8,500		
2	19.00	8,500		
3	19.00	8,500		
4	19.00	8,800		
5	18.95	8,700		
6	18.90	8,600		
7	18.95	8,700		
8	18.95	8,200		
9	18.90	7,730		
10	18.85	7,500		
11	18.85	7,200		
12	18.85	6,740		
13	18.90	7,000		
14	20.20	14,000		
15	26.20	54,300		
16	27.55	66,700		
17	25.50	42,300		
18	23.20	35,000		
19	22.65	33,560		
20	22.85	34,000		
21	22.05	24,620		
22	21.70	23,500		
23	21.60	23,000		
24	21.50	22,380		
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				

About Rheumatism

There are few diseases that inflict more torture than rheumatism and there is probably no disease for which such a varied and useless lot of remedies have been suggested. To say that it can be cured is, therefore, a bold statement to make, but Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which enjoys an extensive sale, has met with great success in the treatment of this disease. One application of Pain Balm will relieve the pain, and hundreds of sufferers have testified to permanent cures by its use. Why suffer when Pain Balm affords such quick relief and costs but a trifle? For sale by all dealers.

Devil's Island Torture

is no worse than the terrible case of Piles that afflicted me 10 years. Then I was advised to apply Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and less than a box permanently cured me, writes L. S. Napier, of Rugles, Ky. Heals all wounds, Burns and Sores like magic. 25c at all druggists.

Notice to Tax-payers

A statement of all property owned on the first Monday in March must be rendered to the County Assessor or his deputy.

Where there is no title to real estate the personal and poll taxes must be paid on demand.

If the poll tax, \$2.00 is not paid before July 1st, 1906, one dollar extra is added to same.

G. W. JORRES, Co. Assessor.

by C. F. EMERY, Deputy.

North of Calexico, Bert R. Chaplin has 129 acres of very choice land for sale. 80 acres has been in crop. The rest is easily leveled. If this does not suit you tell him what you want and he will dig it up for you.

The Very Best Remedy for Bowel Troubles—No Family Can Afford To Be Without It

"I regard Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as one of the very best remedies for bowel troubles," says Mr. J. W. Hanlon, editor of the Despatch, Ocala, Georgia. "I make this statement, after having used the medicine in my family for several years. I am never without it." No family can afford to be without a bottle of this remedy in the house. It is certain to be needed sooner or later. For sale by all dealers.

"Your Uncle Fuller" and Your Friend Aten

Want to show you some of the BEST BUSINESS PROPOSITIONS that are to be had in the Imperial Valley, to wit:

320 acres, has been in crop, 2 1-2 miles of El Centro.

160 acres, 120 has been in crop, 1 1-2 miles of Imperial.

80 acres, fairly well improved, now in barley, 1 mile of El Centro.

80 acres, cheap, 1 1-2 miles of El Centro.

2 unimproved 80 acre tracts, 2 1-2 miles of El Centro.

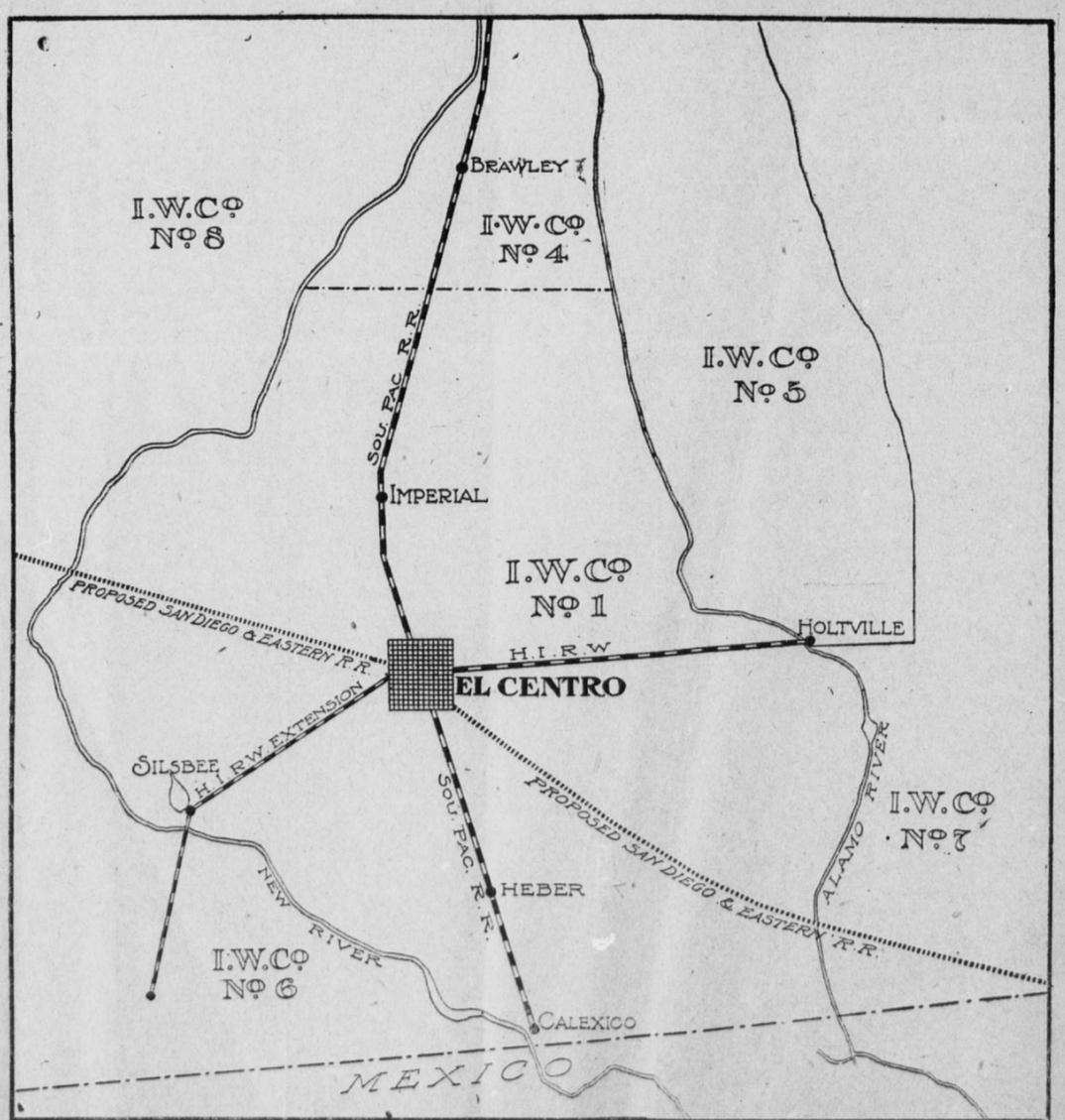
80 acres, well improved' all in alfalfa, 1-2 mile of Imperial.

420 acre ranch, well improved, 4 miles of Imperial.

Also some good relinquishments.

These BARGAINS can be bought on easy terms.

FULLER & ATEN
El Centro, California



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 and El Centro Town Lots
Chaplin & Payne
 El Centro, Cal. Selling Agents