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Stock Interests Against Enlarged Homesteads.

It becomes more evident each day that the large stock interests of this state, as well as those of other public land states, are violently opposed to the passage of a liberal 640 acre homestead law. The same interests were mildly opposed to the enactment of the 320 acre law, being very much afraid that through this liberality Uncle Sam would soon become a landless pauper; but the law was passed, and thousands of people acquired homes who otherwise would not have availed of the bounty of our paternalistic political Uncle.

These large stock interests, and many smaller stockmen, see dire calamities which will follow in the wake of the enactment of the Ferguson 640 acre homestead bill but this time the calamities are going to befall the settler who is so foolish as to undertake to make a living on 640 acres of arid land. Right here in Chaves county are many stockmen who have grown rich through grazing stock on the public domain, who are now urging the passage of a law which would be a reversal of the public land policy of the government. They seem to forget that the public domain has always been regarded as the heritage of homeless Americans, and that had it not been for that policy civilization today would not extend west of the Father of Waters.

The homesteaders are the pioneers of development in all the west, and if New Mexico ever becomes a thriving, prosperous state, it will have to be brought about by the actual settler. We believe the enactment of the Ferguson 640 grazing land homestead law would be the greatest factor in the settlement and development of New Mexico of any legislation ever passed by congress. It would bring thousands of citizens to the state and make possible for them to establish homes and contribute toward the building of one of the greatest states in the union. During this week we have talked to several dozen citizens, business men farmers and small stockmen, and without a single exception every one of them endorse the passage of a law permitting the homesteading of 640 acres of land. It is the one great opportunity of New Mexico to secure the immigration so much needed. —Hagerman Messenger.

The Barn Owl.

The Department of Agriculture has a good word to say for the barn owl. It has discovered that this odd bird of prey destroys gophers and other soil and orchard enemies, and it thinks the farmer will do well to cultivate him.

Every time the scientific folk at Washington make an investigation into the history and habits of a bird, they find that bird to be of some service

(Continued from page one.)

Events of Interest from the Seat of Government
By J. E. JONES.

But worse still are the demagogue statesmen who have attempted to make bubble reputation by destructive methods rather than by constructive programs, in reference to the upkeep of the Nations capital.

Alaska Coal Leases.

Alaska and its problems is a progressive study, and the views of the Interior Department in reference to coal leases have been embodied in bills that are now before Congress. The Geological Survey estimates that there are 16,000 square miles of coal-bearing lands in the territory. The plan is to lease these lands in areas of forty acres or multiples thereof, but in no event can any of the big operators acquire more than 2,500 acres.

Washington and Mexico.

What does Washington think about Mexico, the "independence" of Texas, and the operations of the "rangers?" Washington rarely thinks—preferring rather to follow the sentiment of the rest of the country. And since there is a studied patience throughout the land in reference to the "watching and waiting" policy, Washington has not allowed itself to become the least whit excited because of a few fiery speeches in Congress.

The Department of Agriculture is trying to eliminate the danger to cattle from poisonous plants on national forest ranges. Of these plants, larkspur, loco weed, death camas, and water hemlock are the most poisonous. Larkspur does the most harm, because it is so widely distributed and is particularly bad for cattle. Ordinarily, horses will not eat larkspur, and sheep can eat it without apparent injury.

Fixing the Trust Bills.

Before the anti trust bills are to become "really and truly" Administration measures, they are to be materially doctored under the direct supervision of that able physician of legislation—Doctor Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

The Judiciary Committee of the House has been having its hearing, and this has resulted in the President taking Chairman Clayton and his colleagues of the committee into a White House conference for the purpose of pointing out to them that there are big and dangerous holes in the legislation they have contemplated. Therefore changes will follow in accordance with the President's plan before the bills are passed in the House,

to agriculture. Recently, they made a sort of survey of the crow family, and they found so much to its credit that they issued a special bulletin in its defense. They discovered that a lot of the prejudice against the bird is wholly unwarranted.

The department ought to keep up the work. It is on the right track. The birds were made for the farm, and their destruction is a mistake. Even in the cases of birds which have a healthy appetite for fruit and grain, it has been discovered that the total exacted is but inadequate compensation for the work the birds do in destroying insects and rodents. Since the bird's livelihood depends largely on developed grain and fruit, he is naturally interested in protecting growing plants. In this respect, his and our interests are mutual.

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