CARTER ON IRRIGATION.

The Distinguished Montanan's Views on the Treatment of Arid Lands.

Thomas H. Carter in the New York Recorder.

Very little desirable public land remains unappropriated outside of the boundaries of what may be termed the arid region. That the demand for homes on the public domain is greater than ever before in the country's history may reasonably be inferred from recent experience in the opening of Oklahoma Territory for settlement. On an average there appeared upon the ground, within twenty-four hours after the land was thrown open for settlement by the president's proclamation, at least two qualified entrymen for every desirable quarter section of land in the territory. In consequence of the abnormal demand and the limited acreage conflicting claims arose which have resulted in long, vexatious and expensive contests. This unusual demand for land in Oklahoma did not arise because of any special preference for the climate or soil, but because of the very limited area of public land remaining upon which a settler can raise crops without artificial irrigation. There are millions of acres of land in the arid region with soil equal if not superior to that found in Oklahoma, in sections of the country where the climate is equally desirable, upon which no one attempts to settle, for the reason that a water supply for irrigating purposes cannot be secured at such expense as the settlers are able to undergo.

It has been demonstrated that these arid lands, when reclaimed by a sufficient water supply proper for irrigation, produce abundant crops for an indefinite period of time, and with unfailing regularity. Water conducted from streams or reservoirs to the land and distributed over its surface in the process of irrigation seems to act as a powerful fertilizing agent.

Generally speaking, the water supply in the flowing streams is inadequate during the irrigation season—which usually covers the months of June, July and August—to irrigate any great extent of country. The supply thus available has been to a very great extent appropriated by early settlers on what is termed the first or creek bottom lands. In consequence it is manifestly necessary, in order to secure a water supply for the extensive plateaus which stretch many miles on either side of nearly every stream, that the flow of water through the entire year should be stored and conducted from the reservoirs in canals during the irrigating season to the lands to be cultivated.

Owing to the elevation of these plateaus above the level of the streams, it is frequently necessary to construct canals many miles in length on a slight grade in order to conduct the water of the stream to the highest point on the land to be reclaimed. Again, in order to store the water supply of the entire year, for use during the season when it is needed, reservoirs of great capacity must be constructed, and of such strength as will insure the safety of persons residing in the valley below. Until such reservoirs and canals shall have been constructed the reclamation of the great body of arid lands cannot be accomplished, and until this is accomplished settlement and cultivation cannot take place.

While an individual settler might reclaim a small tract of land situated on the first bottom, and little above the level of the stream, he cannot with his limited means successfully accomplish the same result on the bench or uplands. It is therefore clear that persons contemplating settlement cannot cope with the situation. It is equally clear to my mind that congress can never be induced to appropriate money from the public treasury to construct necessary reservoirs and canals. Congress will not pass any law likely to result in transferring title to such large bodies of these arid lands to corporations as would induce private capital to embark in this stupendous undertaking as an investment.

The genius of our institutions and the universal desire of our people to own homes stand alike in stubborn opposition to the acquisition of title to extensive tracts of land by corporations. Landlordism, as known in other countries, can never expect sympathy or support in this country.

The government should see to it that every honest man devoted to the flag, who is willing to make an industrious effort to secure a home of his own, should have every encouragement, and as few impediments as possible left in his way. The patriot proved himself a statesman by saying that it was a difficult thing to induce a man to take up a shotgun in defense of a boarding house. But we have reached a point where settlement on the public domain has been checked by a great natural difficulty, with which the individual settler cannot successfully grapple and the general government will not appropriate money to overcome.

Is it sound policy for the government to remain inactive while home-seeking citizens are exhausting each other's strength and substance in a fierce struggle to obtain title to the small remaining area on which the rainfall is sufficient—while it may be possible, through a wise policy, to enable every one seeking a home to secure it on the face of the reclaimed desert? There can be but one answer. The problem is a serious one, and its prompt solution is quite as important as its wise solution. There are two ways open: First, to pursue a policy indicated in a recent act of congress, encouraging private capital to engage in the enterprise. This policy must necessarily result in passing the ownership of water, and consequent control of the land, to corporations. A wiser plan, it seems to me, would be the transfer of the land and water to the direct control of the states, subject to such limitations and restrictions as would insure the reclamation of the land by the states, and the transfer of title from the state in the first instance to actual settlers.

CABLE FLASHES.

Small Items of News From Different Foreign Countries.

LONDON, Aug. 24.—The Right Hon. Cecil Raikes, postmaster general, died to-day.

BUENOS AYRES, Aug. 24.—Gold is quoted here at 2,24 premium.

PARIS, Aug. 24.—All the English bookmakers have been ordered to quit Boulogne and Calais within a fortnight.

BERLIN, Aug. 24.—The grain market here opened dull and unchanged.

PANAMA, Aug. 24.—It is announced that the Venezuelan congress has rejected the reciprocity treaty proposed by the United States.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 24.—The operation of the imperial ukase prohibiting the exportation of rye from Russia has been extended to Finland.

PARIS, Aug. 24.—General Obruchelf, chief of the Russian staff, has arrived at Bergerac. The streets were decorated in his honor and he was received with a popular ovation.

GENEVA, Aug. 24.—Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Stanley left Muerran to-day for Paris. Stanley seems to have almost recovered from the injury to his leg which he sustained through a fall while at Muerran.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 24.—A communication has been received here from Stanley Falls intimating that Emin Pasha has been successful in his operations in Africa. Emin appears to have reoccupied all the old stations in the equatorial provinces and to have completely cowed the Dervishes.

The Chinese do not permit their women to be photographed.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Ups and Downs in Market Values on the Stock Exchange.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—The stock market was hampered at the opening to-day by a partial interruption of telegraphic communications. To-day stocks which of late monopolized such a large share of attention, lost prominence. The market developed a strong upward tendency, which the later spread to even special stocks. The close was firm, at about the highest figures of the day. Union and Northern Pacific preferred, each advanced 1½. Rock Island, one.

Government bonds, firm.

Closing stocks:

U. S. 4' registered.	17½	N. W. preferred..	36¼
U. S. 4's coupon..	17½	N. Y Central.....	1¾
U. S. 4½s reg.....	109⅞	Oregon Impmt....	24
U. S. 4's coupon..	109⅞	Oregon Short Line	24
Pacific 6's.....	9	Oregon Navig'n...	68
Atchison.....	27¼	North American..	....
Americ'n Express	....	Transcontinental.	....
Canada Pacific....	73½	Pacific Mail.....	34¾
Canada Southern.	52½	Reading	50⅞
Central Pacific....	30½	Rio Grande Wes'n	37
Burlington.....	79½	Rio Grande p'fd..	6¾
Lackawana.....	27½	Rio Grande firsts.	75
Denver & R. G....	45¾	Rock Island	79½
D., L. & W	....	St. Paul.....	67⅞
Erie	27	St. Paul & Omaha.	27½
Kansas & Texas..	14½	Terminal.....	1¾
Lake Shore.....	135½	Texas Pacific	13¾
Louis & Nash.....	75⅞	Union Pacific.....	37
Michigan Central.	84½	U. P. preferred...	....
Missouri Pacific..	76⅞	U. S. Express.....	47
Northern Pacific..	2½	Fargo Express....	38
N. P. preferred...	69	Western Union...	82
Northwestern	94½	Am. Cotton Oil...	22¾

Boston Stock Market.

BOSTON, Aug. 24.—The following were the closing quotations:

Atch & Tpk 1st 7s..	71½	Mex. Cen. Com....	21
Atch & Tpk ind gtd	....	" bond scrip....	....
Atch & Tpk railr'd.	....	" 1st mor. b'nds	....
Burlington	89½	San Diego	....

Money Market.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—Money on call easy; closed offered 2 per cent.

Prime mercantile paper, 5½@6½ per cent.

Sterling Exchange — Steady; 60-day bills, $4.83¾, demand $4.86½.

Bar silver, 98⅛.

London Money Market.

LONDON, Aug. 24.—Closing. Consols: 95 13-16; Money, 95 13-16 account; United States 4's, 120; 4½s, 12½.

Bar silver, 45 3-16d. per ounce.

Money, ½ per cent.

Petroleum Market.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. — Petroleum, closed 64½.

THE NEW YORK MARKET.

Closing Quotations for Metals and Mining Stocks.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—The closing quotations for to-day are:

American Flag.	1 65	Homestake.....	10 50
Alice.....	1 60	Horn Silver.....	3 35
Adams Con.....	1 00	Helena.....	.....
Aspen.....	4 00	Holyoke	.....
Amador.....	1 00	Independence ..	.....
Belle Isle.....	1 50	Iron Silver.....	1 00
Belcher.....	1 75	Mexican.....	2 25
Best & Belcher.	3 40	Mono	.....
Bodie	1 00	Mutual.....	2 20
Brunswick.....	.....	Mt. Diablo.....	2 00
Chollar	1 75	N. Com'wealth.	.....
Colorado Con....	6 25	Ontario	7 50
Caledonia, L. H.	.....	Ophir	5 40
Crown Point.....	1 70	Occidental.....	1 00
Colorado Con....	1 00	Plymouth.....	1 75
Con. Cal & Va..	6 75	Potosi.....	5 75
Celtic.....	1 00	Phœnix, Ariz....	2 00
Commonwealth.	1 00	Savage.....	1 75
Belmonte.....	.....	Sierra Nevada..	2 10
Deadwood Ter..	1 00	Standard	1 20
Eureka Con.....	3 00	Sutter Creek....	1 10
Father DeSmet.	25	Small Hopes....	.....
Freeland.....	.....	S. M. L. V.....	.....
Gould & Curry.	1 40	Union Con.....	2 00
Hale & Norcross	1 80	Yellow Jacket..	1 50

Copper, Tin and Lead.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—Copper—Firmer; lake, August, $12 15.

Lead—Easier; domestic, $4 42½

Tin—Easy; straits, $19 95.

Markets in England.

LONDON, Aug. 24.—*Mark Lane Express*: The recent rains have caused tremendous damage, not only to the standing crops, but to the stacks that are not yet thrashed. Rust and mildew are spreading in northern France and have appeared in counties of England. Old English wheat is quoted at 40s while 45s is paid for special qualities. Foreign wheat continues to advance. The increase for week is two shillings; flour is one shilling better. Prices demanded for corn are easily obtained. Oats, barley and peas also advanced.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The Vatican contains 208 staircases and 1,100 different rooms.

New York city consumes daily about 50,000 bunches of asparagus.

The cost of burying the late Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia was $200,000.

A silver casket from the queen is said to be one of the most treasured household gods of Mr. Spurgeon.

A deed conveying a piece of land from Kish-Ka-Nuck-Kuck to Sho-Me-No-Po was recorded the other day at Atchison.

A Portsmouth, N. H., woman recently found a 1-cent piece in an egg which one of her hens had laid, and later on a hen laid an egg with a 10 cent piece in it.

Thomas Morris, a colored man of Stuart, Va., claims to be 110 years old. He is the father of 48 children and has been married five times, but all his wives are dead.

On the summit of Ben Lomond may be seen the smallest tree that grows in Great Britain. It is known as the dwarf willow, and is, when mature, only about two inches in height.

M. Tisserand has said that there are in France 6,913,500 cultivators, who are divided into 3,165,600 proprietors, farmers and metayers, and 3,062,900 ordinary laborers, bailiffs and farm servants.

A philological statistician calculates that in the year 2000 there will be 1,700,000,000 people who speak English, and that the other European languages will be spoken by only 500,000,000 people.

The artificial incubation of eggs originated in Egypt, where it is still carried on. According to a consular report no fewer than 75,000,000 eggs are hatched in this way every year on the banks of the Nile.

The largest grapevine in the world is that growing at Oys, Portugal, which has been bearing since 1802. Its maximum yield was in 1884, in which year it produced a sufficient quantity of grapes to make 165 gallons of wine.

Divers in the clear waters of the tropical seas find that fish of different colors when frightened do not all dart in the same direction, but that each different kind takes shelter in that portion of the submarine growth nearest in color to that of the fish.

The biggest doctor's fee of the age is the 200,000 marks paid by Her von Donner, a Hamburg merchant, for Dr. Mitchelsen's cure of his wife. The money wasn't given to the famous Wiesbaden practitioner, however, but, at his wish, to found a hospital in Hamburg.

When Inventor Edison was an unknown telegraph operator in Boston one of his pastimes in leisure moments was the slaughter of cockroaches by electricity. He rigged a little arrangement on the wall of the office, which was infested with these vermin, made of two squares of tinfoil from tobacco packages. These squares were pasted on the wall very near together, and between them was daubed some molasses. Each piece of tinfoil was connected with an electric current by a fine copper wire. The cockroaches, attracted by the molasses, would march in procession up the wall, and as the bugs reached the sweet stuff they would connect a circuit between the pieces of tinfoil, the demise was swift and sudden.

The ancient Egyptians were not particular about the wraps in which to shroud their dead. Old napkins, old skirts and other cast-off clothing were so utilized. It is said that an unpaid dentist bill was found on the person of a lately exhumed mummy, whose teeth were in an extra fine condition.

The hide of the former Cincinnati elephant, Old Chief, which was shot last February, has been stuffed, and with the mounted skeleton of the brute, will be housed in a special building at the Cincinnati Zoological garden. The hide weighs 1,100 pounds, and it has been stuffed with oakum.

There is a boy in St. Clair county, Ill., whose hair curls just three days before a storm. He is called the "Boy Barometer," and is in constant demand by the surrounding population.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CUT TIMBER on the public domain—In accordance with the requirements of section 8, of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, May 5, 1891, notice is hereby given that at the expiration of 21 days from the date of the first publication of this notice, the undersigned will make written application to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior for authority to cut and remove all the pine, fir and tamarack timber suitable to be manufactured into lumber, from the following described tracts of land, in Missoula county, state of Montana, to-wit: Section 2, township 15, north of range 22 west, containing 640 acres, and on which there is about two million five hundred thousand (2,500,000) feet of lumber trees, principally pine trees, with a small quantity of fir and tamarack; also from the east half of the southeast quarter of section 12, township 15, north of range 22 west, containing 80 acres, upon which there are two million (2,000,000) feet of lumber trees, being principally pine, with a few fir and tamarack; and also from the south half of the southeast quarter, and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 14, township 15, north of range 22 west, containing 120 acres, and containing five hundred thousand (500,000) feet of lumber trees, principally pine, with a few fir and tamarack.

That all of said lands are non-mineral in character, and located in the county and state aforesaid, mostly rocky and broken foothills, and not suitable for agricultural purposes, and not in any wise reserved for public uses. That said timber is to be manufactured into lumber for mining and domestic purposes, and to be wholly used in the state of Montana, and not to be exported or transported from said state.

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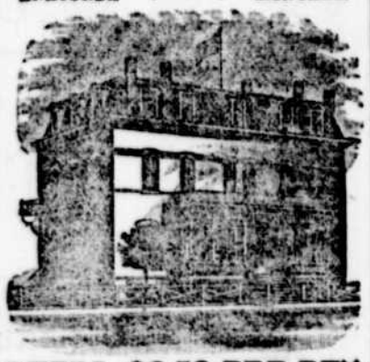

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