

the effort we this day inaugurate. According to careful estimates Colorado alone has a water supply sufficient to irrigate 6,000,000 acres; an arable area which in Egypt in the times of the Ptolemies supplied food for 8,000,000 of people.

The water supply of any given stream is not properly measured by the amount of water it will furnish during the irrigating season. To illustrate, take your canal from the canyon of the South Platte and meander it along the northern slope of the watershed between the Arkansas and Platte rivers, one hundred or more miles into the great plains. Four months in the year will cover the irrigating seasons, during which the water will be used for irrigating the subadjacent farms. Eight months remain, during which there is no demand for the water for this purpose. Instead of allowing the water to run idly to the gulf turn it along the hundred natural basins and reservoirs that lie all along the line of your canals. Every engineer who is at all acquainted with the topography of the country knows that along the line of any canal that may be constructed, hundreds of natural reservoirs will be found, into which the surplus waters of each succeeding year can be turned and held in reserve for future use. These will form centres from which other canals can be constructed, covering large tracts of country.

Such a system in a few years would cover your country with a network of canals and lakes that would make it the garden of the continent.

This is not all theory. He who travels through our country to-day finds numerous large and beautiful lakes formed by the water escaped from some accidental breakage in an adjacent canal. Thus multitudinous lakes have been formed along the line of canals already constructed. With an outlet here and there walled up, the capacity of these natural reservoirs could be largely increased.

The history of irrigation begins with an instance of this character. Lake Moeris, so celebrated in Egyptian history, was a great natural basin in the province of Fayoum, which, with an immense semi-circular rampart walling up its outlet, held in reserve the floods of the Nile and poured them at the will of the agriculturist through a hundred canals over the arid acres of ancient Egypt and made it the granary of the world.

Reservoirs at the heads and along the lines of your canals, holding in reserve the surplus waters of your streams, thus infinitely multiplying their capacity, would be an important feature in any complete system of irrigation.

The climatic changes which such a system of irrigation would superinduce is another element which enters into the consideration of this question.

An increase of evaporable surface and a decrease of temperature would lie at the basis of a greater rainfall.

The great network of canals and artificial lakes, as well as every acre of irrigated land, would be so much added to the evaporable surface of the country, and in connection with a decrease of temperature following from the increase of forest and vegetation would, without question, add largely to the annual rainfall, and thus the water of your streams, by the simple and well understood process of nature, would return again and again to the work of fructifying and quickening your soil.

The question which next presents itself is

TO WHOM DOES THE WORK BELONG

I answer, the General Government.

The arguments are numerous and impregnable. Let me state a few.

First.—The general government is the great land owner in the region to be benefited.

Unless these lands are reclaimed by irrigation they will remain unsold and useless in the hands of the general government.

Homesteads and pre-emptions under those beneficent laws will be unknown, except along the immediate line of the water courses, where the expense of irrigation will be small and within the compass of the financial ability of the poor man.

The vast areas of intermediate lands will remain unsold, uninhabited and uninhabitable. What will it avail the general government to hold lands which it cannot sell or utilize for its citizens? With

what equity can it ask the State or Territory, or private enterprise, to construct a system of canals giving its lands value and then sell them at a price which they command by reason of the work done?

Second.—Its power is alone equal to any comprehensive and complete system that shall in its extent and completeness meet the want. It is beyond the limit of private enterprise or individual adventure, and requires the aid and countenance of the nation. Even if this were not the case the ownership and exclusive control by the general government of the great body of the lands to be benefited stand conclusively and fatally in the path of private enterprise. With this condition of title unchanged, I know of no financial ability that could construct these canals with hope of profit, and private enterprise knowingly treads only pathways of profit.

The agricultural domain of the United States, outside of this district, subject to the operation of the homestead and pre-emption laws, is comparatively exhausted. It is true there are large areas of agricultural lands still unoccupied, but they have passed from the ownership of the government and cannot be had except at advanced prices.

The annual tides of emigration westward are as certain and regular as the tides of the ocean. A large per cent. of such emigration is in search of lands to cultivate.

Can the general government afford to let such a domain lie waste in the presence of such a demand?

Is not its duty in the premises clearly defined by all maxims which lie at the foundation of the relation which exists between the government and its citizen?

Does it not owe it to thousands of its citizens, who are and will be for years to come, seeking homes and farms, to place these rich plains within their reach?

The question also appeals to us from a financial standpoint.

Estimate the annual product of such a region brought under cultivation. Estimate the vast populations it would support. Estimate the product of the thousand forces of industrial life it would evoke and employ, and you will count the added wealth of the nation by millions.

And in this connection comes another consideration which must have no unimportant place in any argument on this subject. If there were no other argument in behalf of government aid, we would find one of first importance in the fact that this region is the great metalliferous area of the republic. While it vies with the east in coal, iron, copper and all the baser metals, it is pre-eminently the gold and silver region of the continent.

The amount of gold and silver coin among a people is largely the measure of their prosperity. To produce the precious metals is of the first importance with every great nation. The point I make is, that the mining interest is dependent on local agriculture. You cannot work your mines profitably on imported bread. The thousands who now and will hereafter delve in these mountains and lift their glittering treasures to the sunlight must draw their sustenance from the fertile valleys that lie enveloped in their arms and stretch away from their feet. And until this condition of things is compassed your mines will never be economically or successfully worked. Until the plain shall send to the mountain its gift of bread, the mountain will withhold from the nation its gift of gold.

The question as to how the general government is to accomplish this work presents a problem of no ordinary difficulty.

I suggest a plan not without trepidation, with a view to elicit the criticism and views of the convention and the country.

I propose an act of Congress embracing the following leading features.

First.—A grant to each state or territory of one-half of the proceeds arising from the sale of all arid lands reclaimed within its borders.

Second.—That all such lands shall remain subject to the pre-emption law of the United States at the rate of \$2.50 per acre.

Third.—That all such lands shall remain subject to the operation of the Homestead law of the United States, but in all cases of homestead entries the Territory shall be compensated therefor at the rate of \$1.25 per acre out of the proceeds arising from the sale of pre-empted lands.

Fourth.—That the proceeds granted shall be under the control of the Secretary of the Interior, who shall account annually for the proceeds arising from the sales of land as aforesaid, and pay the same over to the proper Territory officer.

Fifth.—That the construction and maintenance of such canals shall be under the exclusive control and direction of the state or territory as sole owner thereof, under such laws, rules and regulations as the Legislature thereof shall from time to time provide.

Sixth.—That the state or territorial legislature shall have power to make all needful rules and regulations and take all needful steps for the proper construction and maintenance of such canals.

Seventh.—That the proceeds of said lands granted shall be kept as an exclusive fund by the Territory or State for the construction and maintenance of canals for irrigation.

Eighth.—That all lands which shall be filed on under the provisions of the pre-emption laws of the United States, after the passage of the act, shall be subject to the operation of the act.

For such a law in principle we have a precedent as established by the act of congress granting to the western states swamp or overflowed lands. If it were desirable to grant swamp lands to states that would reclaim them, it is equally desirable to grant the arid lands of the plains for the same reason.

This would give a basis upon which the Territory could go to work. To properly, wisely and economically handle such a fund would be their greatest interest. How it could be best expended, under what system of irrigation laws it could be best managed, together with the proper adjustment of existing rights and privileges would be the difficult problem remaining for each Territory to solve for itself.

The sale of lands would have to be anticipated in some way, as the lands would not sell until they were irrigated. One mode would be to issue bonds secured by the fund thus created by the congress. As soon as your canals were located and work commenced, settlements would condense along their lines and the land would be rapidly occupied and entered. This would create a sinking fund which would enable the territory to annually call in some portion of its bonds and cancel them.

The plan proposed keeps the control of the lands in the hands of the Government; keeps them subject to the operation of the homestead and pre-emption laws; keeps them at the maximum price of \$2.50 per acre; keeps them without the grasp of monopolies and within the reach of actual settlers.

It meets the want immediately by the issue of bonds and provides a certain fund for their payment.

The government expends nothing, for it still receives \$1.25 per acre for every acre sold.

The Territory expends nothing, for the payment of the bonds is provided for, principal and interest, by the fund created.

The settler pays for the canal at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, for the land at the same rate, and secures the title to land worth from \$10 to \$50 per acre.

An objection has been suggested that \$1.25 per acre will not construct the canals, but those having experience in such matters are confident of its sufficiency. It certainly would meet the greater part of the cost.

Co-operating and acting in harmony with this should be a law of the Territory taxing a certain sum per acre all lands, not government lands, benefited by the construction of any canal, to pay for its construction.

This would impose the burden on all lands alike. It would make every quarter section, whether owned by the general government, corporate companies or private individuals, whether held by railroad grant or Spanish grant, aid in the construction of the canal that gave it value.

It seems to me that the magnitude of the question will force it upon the favorable consideration of Congress.

As a matter of duty to its citizens no government can afford to let so vast and splendid a portion of its domain lie waste.

As a matter of finance no government can afford to let the countless millions of material wealth which lie locked in the productive capabilities of such a domain sleep unsummoned.

The constant increase of emigration from Europe, the regular growth of our native population, the steady expansion of our railway system, the quickened power and increased volume of all the forces of industrial organization seeking new and broader fields of conquest, all supplicate for the thorough and favorable consideration of the question.

To what is now the great west, irrigation has become a necessity, absolute and imperative in its demands. Geographically half a continent, politically an entire continent is interested.

Let us then lay our wants respectfully and earnestly before our national congress. Let us send up petitions from every state, territory, town and hamlet, confident that the statesmanship of the country will recognize and provide for the needs of the country. No grander possibilities ever summoned a people to a vigorous and united effort.

Thread your mountain valleys and parks with these great arteries of physical life; throw over your arid plains the cool network of a thousand canals and lakes, pour over them the annual tides of labor and life flowing from the East, and there is no picture of harvest and vintage that will equal the harvest glory which the "beneficent mother" will spread at your feet. There is no dream of commercial wealth and commercial power, that will equal the realization of that to which this grand conquest of the physical conditions of half a continent invites us.

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In the Probate Court in and for Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah.

In the matter of Estate of D. R. Allen, deceased.

WHEREAS, the undersigned having been appointed by the Probate Court in and for said county and Territory, administrators of the said estate. These are therefore to notify all parties having claims against said estate to forthwith present the same, and those knowing themselves indebted there-to, to come forward and settle at the earliest practicable date.

SAVED, BATEMAN, GEORGE BECKSTRAED and ELIZA MARTIN ALLEN, Administrators of the Estate of D. R. Allen, deceased. w39 1m

ESTRAY NOTICE.

I HAVE in my possession One small bay HORSE, collar and saddle marks, left ear split, white spot on forehead, about 15 years old, brand W L with F G on top on left shoulder, and A on left thigh.

The above, if not claimed and taken away will be sold on Saturday, at 10 o'clock a.m., Nov. 15th, 1873, at the District Pound, South Cottonwood.

J. H. MILLETT, Poundkeeper. O t. 29th, 1873. ds&wlt

ESTRAY NOTICE.

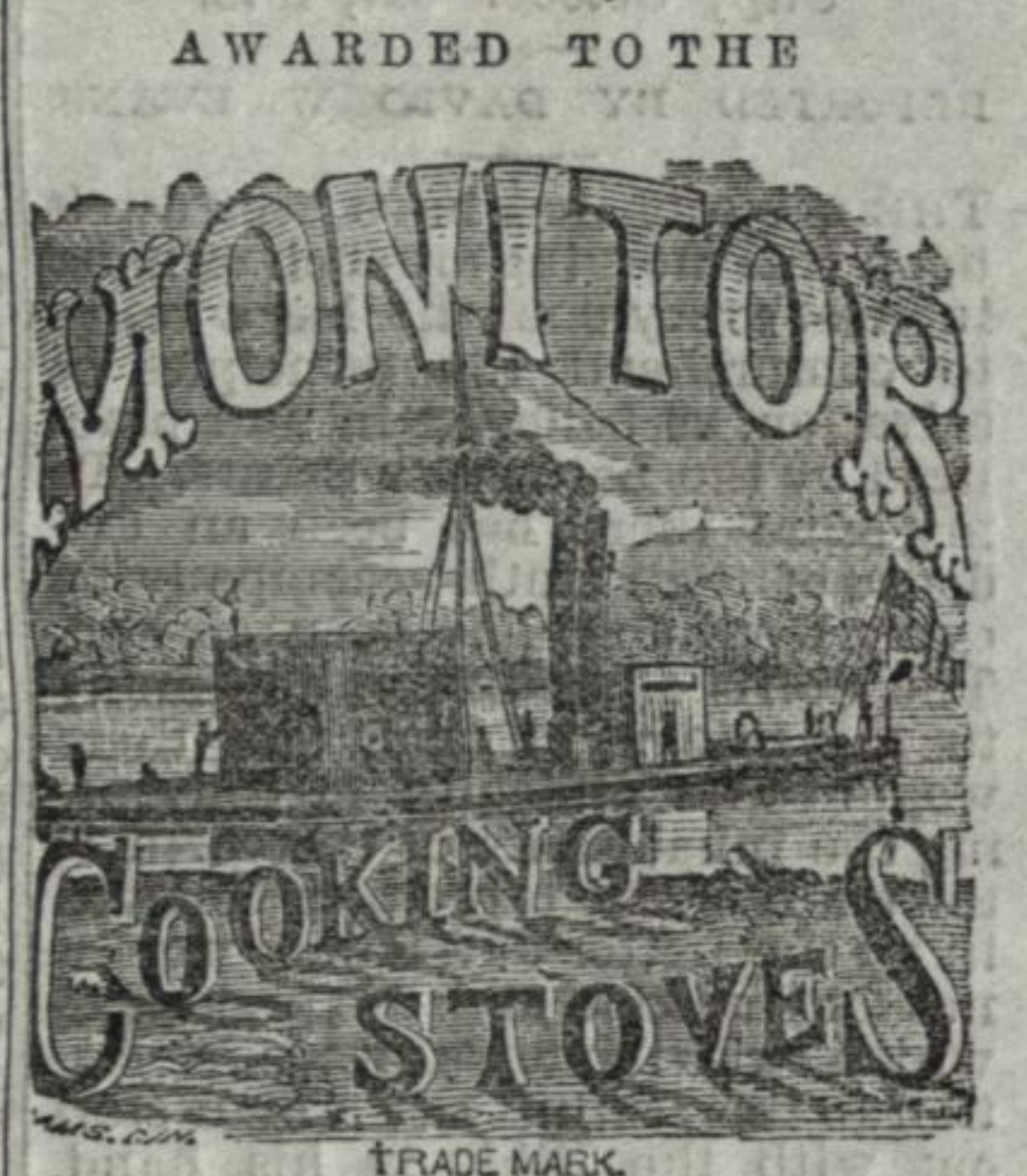
I HAVE in my possession the following Estray: One mouse colored MULE, shod, roached mane and tail, no brand visible.

The above animal, if not claimed and taken away before Monday, Nov. 3rd, at 8 o'clock a.m., will be sold at public sale at the District Estray Pound.

NEWTON TUTTLE, Poundkeeper. ds&wlt

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