

# TO FARM THE SWAMPS.

### Great Government Drainage Project - Enlargement of the Old Homestead Idea.

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 drainage of the work of reclamation by the government. The measure is framed after the irrigation law; it provides that the cost of such drainage shall be prorated among the land benefited and paid back by the settlers into the fund to be used over again for additional reclamation work.

#### WILL CREATE MANY HOMES

This plan of developing the interior 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 best of bottom lands, but subject to frequent 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 farmer and settler, 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 drain-

age improvement is to be borne by the owner of the land and no settler can have drainage provided for more than 150 acres, thus insuring the division of the tracts into small farms which must be actually settled upon and tiled.

#### DRAINAGE IN PROGRESS.

This 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

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.

#### START WITH A MILLION DOLLARS

The fund provided by the bill would be small as compared with the irrigation 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 1903 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 un-

most 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 Diamond 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 states 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



GREAT CROPS COME FROM RECLAIMED SWAMP LANDS LIKE THESE

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 distinctive drainage features, in fact are almost as much drainage as they are irrigation projects. In the Klamath project, 128,000 acres, or more than half of the area of the total project, is rich tula 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

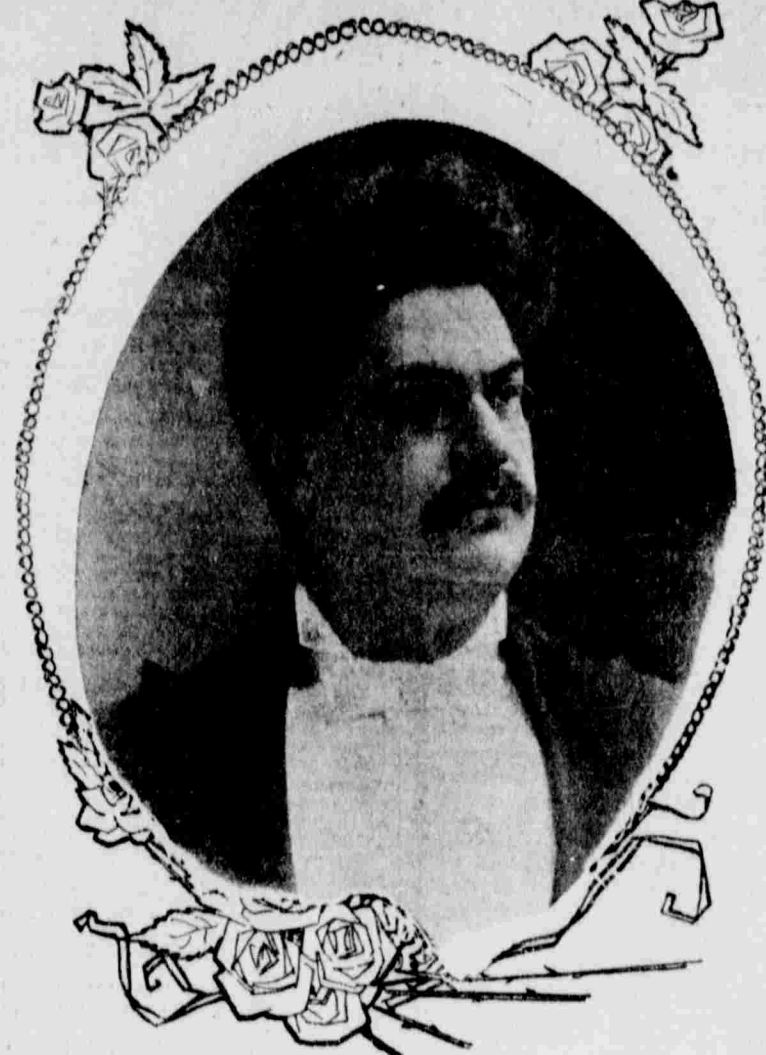
less bogs into highly prosperous homes, to become the garden spots of the nation. The Dutch have reclaimed vast areas in Holland from the encroachments of the ocean. Thousands of families live and farm below sea level, gaining their security by magnificent feats of engineering and persistence. They now 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. In Florida the everglades alone—al-

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.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

#### UTAH COUNTY—ATTENTION.

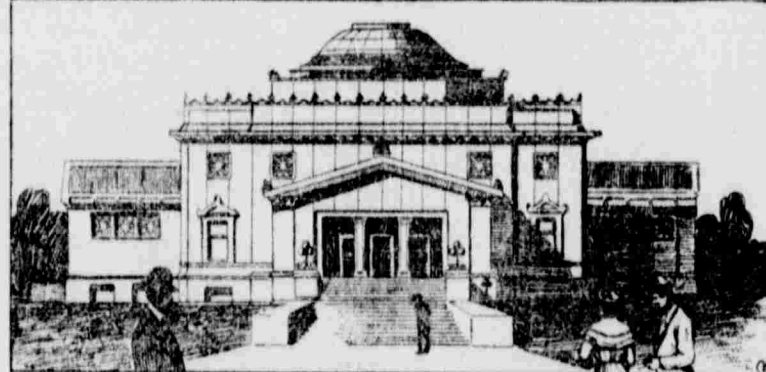
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PROFESSOR S. H. CLARK  
America's Foremost Dramatic Reader Whom Salt Lake Lovers Will Welcome Back Again Next Week.

Prof. S. H. Clark of the University of Chicago will be welcomed back to Salt Lake again the coming week. By the hundreds who know him here he is most highly esteemed as an artist of surpassing merit. It is some years now since he won the distinction of being the foremost dramatic reader in America and the title he promises to hold for a long time to come. For several successive seasons he has visited Salt Lake, and always has charmed his audiences. That he will do so again is a foregone conclusion. His first lecture will be at Harvard Hall on the afternoon of the 29th, and his theme will be "Beauty in Literature." On the evening of the same day he will give a recital on "Job," the man of patience. On the afternoon of the 30th Tenyson's "Edaine" will be the subject of his recitation and in the evening he will close with "The Young Ricks's" "David."

#### DESIGN FOR A GLASS CHURCH AT DUBUQUE.



Houses built entirely of glass supported on a steel frame are the most recent architectural novelty. Several buildings of this kind have been constructed at Dubuque, Ia., and a number of others are proposed. One of them is a savings bank ten stories in height and another is the design for a Methodist church shown in the cut. The municipal authorities are also contemplating the erection of a new city hall of the same translucent material. The glass for these buildings is made from the yellow and white sands of Iowa and Missouri.

#### PROFIT IN CHICKEN RAISING

There is no question about the profit arising from keeping chickens if proper attention is given them. No industry yields better returns for the time and attention given. Proper food and surroundings are essential. Incubators make it possible to raise large numbers of early chicks, which are always marketable at high prices. The right kind of incubator for this climate is also essential. Write to Geo. H. Criley, 508 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, and he will send you a catalogue and valuable chicken information free.

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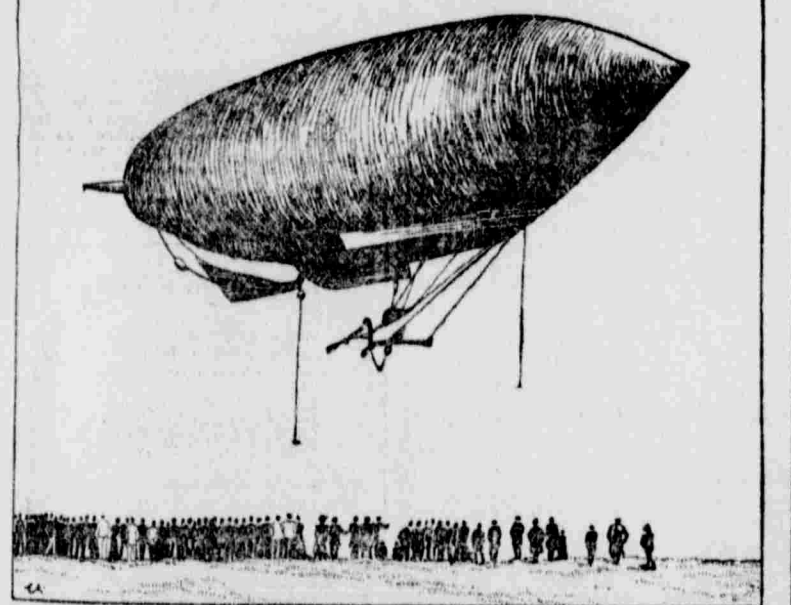
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The airship herewith pictured has been adopted by the French military authorities for the use of the army. During the recent tests at Toulouse eighty ascents were made and the greatest success attended all of them, the balloons showing a degree of dirigibility that was entirely satisfactory. The airship is constructed after the Lebaudy motor idea and seems to be perfectly balanced and reliable in all sorts of weather.

#### Buy Where the Crowd is Buying.

Residents of Pocatello, Mercur, Mandeville, Richfield, Goldfield, Ogden and Logan are buying the \$50 bargain lots in Smelter City. For plat and terms address SMELTER CITY TOWNSHIP CO., No. 291 D. F. Walker Bldg.

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#### NO MORE HONEY IN THE MOON.

"See that!" said the young married man. He opened an envelope, spread out three small pages, and contemplated them mournfully.

"Who is it from?" queried two friends in concert.  
"My wife," replied the young married man with a sigh. "She is home visiting her folks. We have been married just three months. She writes me just three hastily scrawled pages—count 'em—three. Four months ago I was paying extra freight on thick envelopes of just this same color. Twenty-five pages those envelopes held, as a rule. Sometimes when she had only a moment to spare and was just dropping me a word, so I would think she was still thinking of me, I took out only 16 pages, more or less closely written. When she'd had a half hour to herself I generally received an average of 37 pages, very closely written. And the contents of those pages are sacred from the eyes of men—no eyes but mine shall ever behold them. Ah, those were wonderful letters! All the outpourings from the heart of a pure young girl—all the wonder and joy of a girl who has become a woman—all the rejoicings of a woman who finds that she loves and is loved!"

"It was after the reading of those 16, 25 and 37 pages that I always realized how much of a brute a man is when compared with a woman! How infinitely she is above him in the finer things that make life worth living, in delicacy, in purity, in devotion! I used to think I was a mean and contemptible old fellow for ever having dared to ask her to link her life with mine. It made

me afraid when I thought of the life we would live together. I was so afraid that in my blind, stupid, blundering way I should some day let her see how coarse in fiber I am. On such occasions I would resolve to be a better man. I would promise myself that in the future I would think the higher, purer thoughts. Never should any merely material things mar the unclouded happiness of our lives.

"And married only three months," he said, almost with a sob. His two friends patted him on the back sympathetically, but they were unmarried and could say nothing.—New York Press.

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