

Mr. DUNNELL. That is true. I wish to call attention to the fact that there have been to-day more bills than I have ever seen any other time during this session reported for the sale of these military reservations. That is about all the committee on military affairs has reported—bills for the sale of these military reservations. To my mind this demand for the sale of these military reservations is exceedingly significant.

Mr. ALBRIGHT. The demand comes from the settlers themselves.

Mr. DUNNELL. These men who ask for this expect Congress will protect them and not abandon them to the mercy of speculators in the public lands.

Mr. DONNAN. Squatters upon the public lands have no equitable rights.

Mr. DUNNELL. Nor has there been any more fruitful source of corruption than in the public sale of the military reservations. These sales are got up and are engineered and manipulated in advance, and the sale itself is a mere farce. When some of these sales are to be made some obscure newspaper, perhaps a thousand miles off, will announce them, while the parties in the immediate vicinity will know nothing about it. I protest against this wholesale mode of selling the military reservations of the country.

Mr. COBURN. The gentleman from Wisconsin makes the most remarkable argument on this point conceivable. He objects in the interest of the growth of the country to the sale of military reservations. Why, sir, the true policy of the country is to sell military reservations, and to let settlers come in upon them. Who that is in favor of the settlement of the western country can object to the disposal of military reservations? That is the last position which a man ought to assume upon this floor in regard to this matter.

Why, sir, it is to put money into the Treasury, and not, as the gentleman would provide, to keep money out of it. His effort is to give this land to these men for nothing, or to give it to these men at the very most at \$1.25 per acre; while we provide that it shall be sold at public auction and bring a higher price.

If there be any question of money in this matter it is in favor of these bills that the Military Committee have reported to-day. We are constantly providing that these lands, instead of being taken for nothing by squatters, or at \$1.25 per acre, shall be put up at fair bidding, after public notice, and sold to the highest bidder. The gentleman talks about jobs being set up. The way, sir, to set up a job is to follow his advice. What job can there be in advertising land to be sold at public sale to the highest bidder after long notice. What man with any honest instincts would dare to make an insinuation of that kind against the committee? Why, sir, everything that has been done in relation to these reservations by the Committee on Military Affairs has been ten thousand leagues in advance of anything that has been done by the Committee on the Public Lands in relation to saving money to the Treasury and protecting the interests of the Government and in relation to fair dealing as to the sale of these lands. I make no insinuations against the gentleman's committee, or any other; but I do say the way to get the most money is to have a public sale after a fair notice, so that every one can come to it who will.

And now let me say just one word as to the settlements on these lands. How can a man get a legal settlement on a military reservation more than on an ordinary tract of land, which is not declared and defined by the powers of the Government to be a reservation? The setting off of a reservation is a notice to all the world and a notice to squatters that they must not encroach upon it, and that if they go upon it they do so with a full notice and fair understanding that they have no shadow of right there.

Mr. DUNNELL. I desire to say just one word in reply to the gentleman from Indiana. My objection to this mode of returning these reservations is, that these lands are practically taken away from the men who wish to get them for farms. I say that when a military reservation ceases to be of value to the government as such, it should be returned to the control of the Interior Department, to be opened to settlement under the pre-emption and homestead laws, as though

that land had never been thus reserved. It ought to be opened, and not made a matter of speculation on the part of the Government or a source of revenue. Those lands should be opened and put into the hands of those who desire them for agricultural purposes and for actual settlement.

I say that those men who are on the frontier and are seeking homes are not in condition to compete with the rings that may be got up to buy off these lands. And the settler who desires to farm should have it at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, though men stood ready to pay the government ten dollars per acre. We have adopted the homestead principle and the pre-emption principle. And because a piece of land was once a military reservation the government ought not to take that land and speculate with it, but should let it be subject to the same laws as all the other agricultural lands of the country are subject to. I wish to say only this, that when it is proposed to sell out our military reservations to such speculators and not let those lands go back to pre-emption and settlement I must protest against it, when the settlers stand ready to buy and want them at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

Mr. COBURN. I yield to my colleague on the committee, the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. Donnán].

Mr. DONNAN. I wish to call the attention of the House to the fact that the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Dunnell] does not in my judgment submit the question to the House as he should do. A proposition like that submitted by him, which enables the public reservations of the country to be sold at a dollar and a quarter an acre, would be absolutely putting those reservations, and most valuable ones it may be, into the hands of land speculators. Where the United States have held possession of a reservation until the country all around it is settled and until the land has become valuable, as for instance in a case in regard to which I hold a bill in my hand which I shall report, the land being worth probably fifty dollars an acre to-day, in such a case does the gentleman from Minnesota propose to argue to this House that it is the duty of Congress to provide that the land shall be sold at a dollar and a quarter an acre, or that men who may have squatted upon the reservation when its boundaries were definitely settled by the government and they had no legal rights in it whatever—does he maintain that therefore they should be protected, or, if I may use the expression, should have the inside track, and that as settlers on the public domain or as homesteaders they should get possession of land worth from fifty to one hundred dollars an acre? And yet if that should not be done in this case it is not true in any case; it is only a question of degree. I say that the Committee on Military Affairs have presented this question to the House in proper form; that is, that the public property of the country when sold should be sold for what it is worth, so that the government may realize its full value.

Mr. COBURN. I now call the previous question.

Mr. LAWRENCE. I desire to make an inquiry of the gentleman.

Mr. COBURN. What is it?

Mr. LAWRENCE. Does the gentleman think that sixty days' notice is sufficient in regard to valuable lands of this kind?

Mr. COBURN. I think that is enough.

Mr. COX. I would suggest to the gentleman to extend the time to ninety days.

Mr. COBURN. I have no objection to that, and will move to amend the bill in that respect. I now call the previous question.

The previous question was seconded and the main question ordered; and under the operation thereof the amendment was agreed to. The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time; and being engrossed, it was accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Mr. COBURN moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed; and also moved that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The latter motion was agreed to. —*Congressional Record.*

WARRANTEE DEEDS for sale at the News Office.

Correspondence.

A Bad Egg.

SPRINGVILLE,
June 6th, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

You will confer a favor on the people of Springville, by inserting the enclosed clipping in your valuable paper. It is said that Van Aukin has just left here for Beaver.

Yours,
C. D. EVANS.

A LEAF IN THE LIFE OF A
VAGABOND.

The friends and old acquaintances of Mrs. Aggie Van Aukin, (formerly Miss Aggie Nichols,) will be gratified to learn that she arrived home from the West last Saturday, and is now with her mother in this city. When Richardson escaped from the prison-pens of the South, during the rebellion, he telegraphed to Mr. Greeley these emphatic words—"Out of the jaws of death—out of the gates of hell!" In the same sense, may Mrs. Van Aukin now make a similar expression. Four years ago, Miss Nichols was residing in Corunna, a young lady, respected and beloved by all. In an evil hour, she received the addresses of one James Russell Van Aukin, and marriage followed. Those who well knew the scoundrel, regretted the union, but hoped for the best. Two months after their marriage, Van Aukin left * * * * * for Utah Territory, and after remaining there about two years, desired his wife to follow and live with him, under the most flattering promises of business prosperity, &c. Furnished with money by her father-in-law for that purpose, she was induced to leave her parents and all her old friends; and with a second-class passenger ticket she went from home to meet one of the most consummate rascals that ever deceived an amiable, loving and devoted wife. From that time her life has been one of the most cheerless that a forlorn heart ever shrank under. In June last, the fellow at length totally deserted her—leaving his wife with a child only three months old, to get along, as best she could, at Ophir, some sixty or seventy miles southwest of Salt Lake City. From that time until the 18th of the present month, she remained at Ophir, and Stockton, near by, earning a precarious living by whatever she could find to do and her health would permit. As cold weather approached, she found that she could no longer battle with life in that rugged, semi-barbarous country, and resolved to come home if means could be raised for her passage. In the most piteous letters, she appealed to her father-in-law, residing in Shiawassee, (the grandfather of her child,) for assistance; but her appeals were disregarded. Her mother was unable to give the required assistance, but sent her the only five dollars she had. This state of things soon came to the ears of several ladies of Corunna, and the Library Society at once, at their suggestion, came to the rescue. The money was immediately raised among our citizens, and expressed to her on the 20th of the present month, but the mail on the same day brought the welcome news by letter that she was then on her way home, having been kindly assisted to sufficient funds by her neighbors and friends at Ophir. We have given these details not to expose the grief of the young lady, whom every body here regards with affection and the warmest respect, but to expose in his proper light the villain who has been the author of all her wretchedness, and who before his marriage had been twice arrested for robbery and forgery. But his abused wife is now happily among friends, where she can free herself from the moral leper, through the medium of the courts, and again enjoy the advantages of society and the comforts of life. —*Shiawassee American, Oct. 30.*

UNCONSTITUTIONAL. — Mormonism has received a severe blow in the passage of the House bill relating to Utah affairs. This bill is simply an attempt to exclude Mormons or polygamists from juries and from all administration of civil or criminal law in the Territory of Utah. Heretofore it has been impossible to procure convictions for the alleged crime of polygamy in Utah, so long as men who practised it were in the jury box. The stat-

ute against a plurality of wives has been inoperative. The bill which passed the House yesterday, by a vote of 155 to 59, is a bold stroke at the whole system. It virtually denudes the Mormons of several of the chief rights of citizenship. It is a heroic remedy for an obstinate disease. The Mormon delegate made an earnest plea against what he considers an act of Congressional tyranny. The bill now goes to the Senate, where it is thought to have a clear majority in its favor; and it is well known that the President desires an opportunity to sign it. The Mormons hope they will be able to annul the force of the law which is now preparing for them; they believe that they can establish its unconstitutionality to the satisfaction of the United States Supreme Court. —*N. Y. Tribune, June 8.*

CUMULATIVE VOTING.—Cumulative voting, a homoeopathic dose of which is prescribed in the new constitution of Ohio, does not meet with particular favor, and several recent tests in corporation elections in other states are against it. The case of a Pennsylvania railway election is instanced where a minority of the stockholders secured control by combination and elected four members of a board of seven directors. The majority cast their votes for each of the seven candidates, or full board, while the minority concentrated their support on four candidates. This is only one of many similar occurrences under the cumulative system. —*Cleveland Herald.*

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