

security of the works and the reclaimed lands.

A precedent for the policy proposed is not wanting. Congress ceded to the States in the

#### MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

and other sections of the Union the swamp lands within their respective limits. The purpose of this action was to insure their reclamation, and it found its support in the knowledge that a considerable expense would be involved in fitting them for cultivation. Such is the condition of the arid lands, with this difference, that

#### THE PROBLEM OF RECLAMATION

is infinitely more difficult than that of draining the swamp lands, and also that the swamp lands in any one State were of comparatively little value and of so slight concern to the public that they were liable to maladministration; whereas, in the case of arid lands, as soon as they come under the control of the State they will at once become the most prominent question in State politics, and of so great and immediate interest to its citizens that their administration will be conducted under the surveillance of a deeply concerned people, who will permit of no chicanery. In principle, the cession of the

#### SWAMP LANDS

to the States affords a perfect precedent for such action as we are seeking at the hands of your honorable body.

The importance of our pastoral interests makes it necessary that provision be made for the protection and utilization of the grazing land in connection with the contiguous irrigable areas. To the grazing lands as distinguished from the agricultural lands belong those vast areas of elevated table and bench lands and the high, rolling divides which lie upon the summits and along the slopes of the watershed; and they comprise three-fourths of the arid domain. They never can be made the self-supporting habitation of man, because they are too elevated and too vast in extent to be irrigated; but they furnish a valuable complement to the lands reclaimed, the first supplying the summer's and the second the winter's food supply.

Adequate provision for securing possession or management of these lands, for the sole purpose to which they are adapted, has never been attempted by Congress; and the question is of such magnitude and importance in connection with the subject of

#### FARMING BY IRRIGATION

in the region where grazing lands abound, that a great impetus will be given to irrigation if such States as may see fit to adopt that policy are placed in a position to encourage settlement by attaching to the land capable of being reclaimed a larger contiguous tract of grazing land. It will make more valuable the irrigable areas and supply the settler with an important source of income by adding the business of stock raising to that of the farmer.

No mention is made in the resolutions of the Congress of the preservation of the forests, but the subject is too intimately associated with that of irrigation to be divorced. The coniferous trees, such as constitute the timber growth on the mountains and elevated plateaus of the West, are exceedingly inflammable, and when fire is

once communicated to them a vast destruction of values ensues. The loss from this cause measured by the

#### STUMPAGE VALUE

of the timber alone, may be estimated without extravagance at \$100,000,000 per year. The federal government has made some efforts to arrest this destruction, but wholly without success. It is from the States, or local agencies created by the States, that protection must be sought. To the settlers the preservation of the forests is a matter of grave importance. They are dependent upon them for fuel, fencing and building material, but this is by no means the limit of their interest. The forests on the mountain tops are the chief conservators of the water that is to irrigate the valleys below. With their destruction the reclamation of the arid land ceases to be a problem and becomes an impossibility. An efficient and just system of

#### PRESERVING THE FORESTS

from destruction by fire and applying them, under proper restrictions, to the use of the settlers, can not be otherwise provided and administered by the States.

The second of the above resolutions addresses itself to a subject that can not fail to commend itself to your favorable consideration. It is inconceivable that Congress will make any disposition of the public domain without first securing to the Territories their endowment for the support of public school. The arbitrary selection by law of the sections dedicated to this purpose operates as a great injustice to the Territories in the arid region. By far the greater number of the school sections are located on mountain tops or other places where they cannot be cultivated, and it follows that nothing can be realized from their sale. The liberal policies of the government, dating from the passage of the great ordinance of 1787, in all that pertains

#### TO THE EDUCATION

of our youth forbids the thought that any discrimination will be exercised against the newer portions of the Union, or that they shall be less than equal sharers in its bounty. The petition embodied in the resolution is simply an appeal for justice. The condition of settlers on lands within the semi-arid belt was felt to call urgently for relief at your hands. Thousands of people have settled within this area in reliance upon the assurance officially extended by the government that they were "agricultural," which was naturally presumed to mean that they were capable of producing crops by the usual method of agriculture. They have found that the rainfall is highly uncertain in quantity and seasonableness, and that year after year the labors which they have bestowed upon their fields have been expended in vain. The consequences have been most deplorable. Without fault on their own part, acting only upon the impulse that has been

#### THE CHIEF FACTOR

in expanding the domain of civilization, they now find themselves and their families confronted with actual destitution. The government sold to them the lands that they now occupy at no less prices and upon no other terms than such as obtained in more

favorable localities; and it has received into its treasury not less than \$12,000,000 as the purchase price. We submit that the circumstances eloquently support their prayer for relief, and that the government may most properly dedicate a portion of the money which they have themselves contributed to the work of developing and applying the water supply in such a manner as to make these lands habitable and productive.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound will ever pray, etc.

ALEX. BOTKIN, Chairman, Montanas;

A. D. FOOTE, Secretary, Idaho;

C. C. WRIGHT, California;

FRANK BOND, Wyoming;

J. H. ABBOTT, Nebraska;

J. H. HAMILTON, Oregon;

C. W. IRISH, Nevada;

PLATT RODGERS, Colorado;

W. E. KING, Utah;

J. H. THOMAS, Washington;

D. H. WINGER, New Mexico;

Of the Committee on Memorial.

#### LETTER FROM "PHENIX."

On February 1st, according to your notice in the NEWS, a company of Elders left Utah to perform missions in distant lands. Elders B. Goddard, Otto L. Chipman, James E. Fisher and H. Hattendorf and family formed the party, the three first named are going to New Zealand and Brother Hattendorf and family to the Sandwich Islands. We made connection with the west-bound mail at Ogden, leaving that city at 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning. At daybreak we reached the little town of Terrace, after which we leave our fair Territory and enter the dreary State of Nevada. Occasionally we stopped at small stations, such as Taona, Wells, Elko, Carlin and others, but there appeared to be a dullness and lack of life and energy everywhere, and we were glad when evening came that we might retire to rest in the hope of finding something more pleasing the following day. The shades of night prevented us from gazing upon the beautiful scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and when we arose we were at the foothills on the Western slope, and as we rushed along through California we were delighted with the change. The dismal landscape had given place to beautiful orchards, vineyards and gardens. The hills were green, and beautiful, spears of the young grain adorned the farm lands. The industrious farmer was at work plowing, sowing and harrowing. Rushing along we passed the beautiful towns of Rocklin, Roseville Junction and others, and at last reach the city of Sacramento, the capital of the state where breakfast was announced. A pleasant half hour was spent eating and taking notes. This city is built on the east side of the Sacramento River, which at this point is about four hundred feet wide. Like Salt Lake, Sacramento is laid out in regular squares, its streets running at right angles. The present population is about thirty thousand.

At the familiar sound "all aboard" we resumed our seats and were soon rushing westward again. The Sacra-