

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE HEAVIEST LAND OWNERS.

"The love of land" has been deemed so peculiarly a trait of the Englishman that it has passed into a proverb. For his wealth he knows no more desirable use than in the acquisition of landed estates; for his small savings his first and last hopes generally are for conversion into a freehold. Indeed, it is a love of the land itself, which, stimulated by laws and customs, prevents the large proprietors from selling, that makes it impossible for the poorer classes to gratify their own desires in this direction; and that the England of today is a country of few but large estates and thousands of tenants is not because the people generally love the land the less, but because those who do own it, love it the more.

It is not surprising, however, that the largest land-owners should not be found in England. That kingdom is only one tight little place compared with other countries and continents of the globe. Our own republic and continent have furnished in the western plains and ranges many a broad domain in exchange for British gold. But even in this country, which has the largest tracts in the world under individual ownership, the British acquisitions are far surpassed by those of others. The true American is something of a land lover himself. It happens, however, that the palm over it goes to a couple of Germans, the death of one of whom occurred only a short time ago.

The story is not without romantic features, and its absolute truth is not only vouched for, but is being established as evidence in a court of law. Condensed by a writer in the Springfield Republican, it runs about as follows: In 1848 two young Germans, sons of recent immigrants, were at work in the vicinity of San Francisco, for small wages, the one as a cowboy, the other driving a butcher wagon. One was Henry Miller, the other Charles Lux, and between them they had money and credit enough to buy 1,000 head of cattle, and hire pasturage for a season, and they joined forces and did so, agreeing to share all profits and losses equally. From that time until Lux died, a year or two ago, the partnership continued, and at its close left the partner controlling and owning more land than any other private citizens in the world, according to the claims put forth in California. Including what the firm of Miller & Lux held on lease, which was a small part of the whole, these two men controlled the enormous area of 14,500,000 acres, or more than 2½ times the area of Massachusetts, and owned cattle almost uncountable. One of the tracts owned by this firm is in Nevada, and is 100 miles long by 60 wide, another ranch is in Santa Clara county, Cal., and is 50 by 48 miles, while a third is 40 by 38 miles. Many of these ranches are irrigated by expensive systems of canals and reser-

voirs, and the value of them all is well up in the millions, to say nothing of the value of the cattle, and the other property of the partners. Taken altogether, the possessions of Miller and the heirs of Lux make them among the wealthiest people in the land, unless the lawyers get too much of these fruits of 47 years of hard work and long life. There is already a dispute over the management of the Lux estate.

A HOME INDUSTRY GRIEVANCE.

If there is patriotism, as there assuredly is, in sustaining home industry, there is also common honesty in offering as the home-made product the very best that skill, material and local facilities can furnish. The duty revolving upon all well-wishers of the State's prosperity, in this matter of local manufacture, is by no means confined to the purchaser or consumer; the producer or manufacturer has an important part to play—not the least of it being to shun every temptation to improve upon or swindle his patrons. Where people are found ready and willing to spend their money for home-made goods in preference to imports, they deserve to be assured of fair treatment from those whom their money benefits; to play upon their patriotism and sentiments merely to practice extortion and deception seems to us to be about as shabby a piece of business trickery as can be conceived of. In urgently advising all its readers to sustain and patronize home industry, the News therefore would also wish to impress upon home manufacturers that in price and quality they come as near the importation as possible, and that whatever else they may do, they must be absolutely fair and honest in their wares and representations.

There hints are called forth by complaints that are coming in concerning certain Utah flour. There is no disputing that this country raises a good wheat as can be grown anywhere, or that in millers' and mills we are able to stand comparison with any other community. Yet there is upon the market today a quality of Utah flour that every self-respecting miller can be well willed to condemn. It bears a good color, and calls for a high enough price; but it is as dark as rye-meal, makes bread that laguminy and decidedly off color, and while not green in hue it is certainly green in untidy texture. That this is not the fault of the bakers, either public or in private households, is proved by the fact that all who have tried the same flour have the same result; and that there is no local standard unit of it on the market is shown by the prevalence of the complaints.

We shall not pretend to explain what the fault is; we do not know, except in a general way the statement is even made that the flour is made from new wheat and is just as good, though not as white as if the grain were older. We have all that, how-

ever, to the discussion and decision of others; merely repeating that a good many people are feeling pretty indignant over what they term a deception; and are threatening—in a moment of foolish exasperation, we think—that they intend to put as many obstacles as they can in the way of the offending mills and of all who handle their output, and incidentally extend their opposition to home-made things generally.

THE ARMENIAN REFORMS.

The reforms for the benefit of Armenia, demanded by the European powers and now only needing the sanction of the Sultan in order to be carried out, embrace several important points. In the appointment of governors in the Armenian provinces, the wishes of the population are to be consulted to the extent that where Christians predominate, the governors are to belong to that faith; otherwise they will be Mohammedans; and the appointment must in either case be confirmed by the powers. Another proposed reform touches the mode of the collection of taxes. Changes in the judicial system are also demanded and the police force is to consist of both Christians and Mohammedans. It is further demanded that the commissioner charged with the execution of this scheme of reform is to be a Christian.

To anyone somewhat acquainted with the conditions of the Turkish empire, it is plain enough that these points cover some of the chief causes of difficulties between the Christian subjects and their rulers in the outlying provinces. If they were carried out faithfully, there would be less cause of complaint. With Christian officials, entrusted with sufficient authority, there would be some chance of justice and consequently a better feeling among the now always persecuted people.

It must not be imagined, however, that the proposed reforms are of a nature to settle permanently the vexed questions involved. The distinction of race, religion, tradition, and nearly everything else, between the Turks and Armenians is so great that homogeneity is beyond question. Not until this fact is recognized and reforms effected accordingly will peace descend on the Orient. It will not take long before the conflict, under the new scheme, will be between the individuals of opposite faiths, clothed with equal power, and in the new dispute, the last resort, of course, the Porte. The final decisions will naturally go against the Christians, and the consequences are easily foreseen. The clause that gives the European powers the right of sanction as to the appointments is in itself a new danger. For the eternal strife and intrigue will be carried on between the diplomats as to which power is to have a predominant influence. Instead of settling the eastern question, this stipulation may precipitate the lightening strike it is intended to avert.

It is not true that Russia has given up her claims to Constantinople or the control of the east. The Russian na-