

ABOUT WESTERN ARID LANDS.

Very Little is Now Being Done for
Their Reclamation.

DIVISION OF GRAIN GROWERS

Some Want the Lands Improved,
While Others Protest—Fear to In-
crease the Wheatfields.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, March 30.—There are some questions we always have with us about Congress, and one of these is the disposition of improvement of the arid lands of the western States. Other questions come and go, but some remain forever—the race question, the second class mail matter, the increase of salaries of clerks, proposed civil service changes and others too numerous to mention—and among them are the ways to be taken to reclaim the arid lands. It would not be placed in the hands of either of these committees, but the public lands committees of both houses would handle the great subject. The same is true with regard to forest reservations. There is a committee on forest reservations. However, the men who are made chairman of the arid lands committees think it necessary to go ahead and do something by way of the preparation of reports and the introduction of bills. Just now the arid lands committees have been turned over to Oregon. Senator Simon, being chairman of the committee in the Senate and Representative Tongue in the House. Senator Simon does not show much disposition to take the matter up very seriously, but Representative Tongue, following the lead of his predecessors, Hermann and Ellis both of Oregon and both of whom were chairmen of this committee, will investigate the subject, go over much of the same ground and obtain any new facts that have been developed.

SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE.

The efforts made so far have been unavailing save in one instance, when there was attached to one of the large appropriation bills the so-called Carey act, but every man representing an arid land State knows that very little has been done since that act, and it is time to make better its provisions. That something should be done with the arid tracts in the mountain States and with the semiarid tracts in the Dakotas, Kansas and Nebraska on one side of the Rocky mountains and eastern Washington and Oregon on the other side is too plain to need any argument. The trouble is that nobody knows just what to do, or if he does, he has not been able to convince Congress of the fact. Some time in the distant future there will be a general Congress which will become tired of the arid land discussion and will turn all the arid lands over to the States and Territories in which they are situated, to be dealt with in some manner which will bring about cultivation and make them valuable. A curious feature of this proposition to bring about the improvement of the arid lands is a protest from those who fear it will increase the wheatfields of the west. It is interesting to note that while some granges of the far west are petitioning in favor of the irrigation of arid lands those granges representing farming interests in the east are petitioning against anything being done in that direction. However, when good land becomes scarce the arid lands will be made use of in one way or another, either by grants to the States or by legislation by the general government looking to their reclamation.

RANK OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

The men of the regular army are considerably interested in a bill which is pending in both houses of Congress to raise the rank of the adjutant general of the army from brigadier to major general. An attempt was made to pass this bill in the last Congress, but it came so late that a single objection killed it. Now it is made a part of a bill to authorize a chaplain and major general of the regular army and also to provide for the retirement of General Shafter, with the rank of major general. Of course the most important feature of the bill is the rank of the adjutant general. This has been indicated by the present incumbent of the office, Henry C. Corbin. Corbin has been a most successful adjutant general and has made the office of more importance since he has been in it than it ever was before, even during the civil war. In doing so he has created a number of enemies, some of them having high rank in the regular army. On the other hand, he has made a number of warm friends, especially in the Senate and House, who are anxious to see the bill go through. General Corbin has conducted the affairs of the office during a very exciting military period with a great deal of ability. He has been the busiest man in Washington at times, and yet his office is always open. There has never been any difficulty in seeing him. It makes no difference who the man is, whether a cabinet officer, member of Congress or a private in the army, all get a hearing in General Corbin's office, and he is quick to decide all questions that are brought before him. This very efficiency has commended the bill which is now pending. If it ever gets to a vote in either House, it will pass.

UNCLE SAM CAN'T LOSE.

With Honolulu and Manila He Commands the Gates of the Pacific.

"If it be westward that the Star of Empire takes its way, Uncle Sam owns the upper and perhaps the best, and France the lower and less useful, gateway into this new world. At Hawaii is the natural midway between the warm and genial Pacific coast and the hot and luxuriant districts of the tropics wherein most of the Pacific islands lie. At Tahiti is the radial place between the equator, a little less removed from the center of heat and farther from the origin of travel than Hawaii. Both abound in beautiful scenery, in temperature alluringly equable, and in habits half-indolent, half-industrious. In products both tropical and semi-tropical. Both form an admirable preparation for the things beyond. The soldier boys who stopped in Hawaii on their way to Manila had their first taste of bananas and pineapples as they came directly from the field. They wished that they might stay in the soft and luscious air forever; that is to say, those who did not remain long enough to be down with the fever or to be sent home in the hoarse ship. For there are fevers in Hawaii, as in almost all of the islands of the Pacific.

have passed the exquisite locks of Tahiti harbor have lingered in the shadowy little of the English language was left to them with which to extol the virtues of Samoa and New Zealand.

THE OTHER GATEWAY.

"If civilization is to work backward from the East to the West, as the Chinese and the Russians seem inclined to force, Holland and Britain divide with the United States in owning the gateway. Dutch Sumatra closes the portals to the passengers from India, British and Dutch Borneo and the American Philippines close it to the passengers from China and Siam. And in these territories there is even a more apt and conclusive introduction back far into the past than there is in Hawaii or Tahiti. In Sumatra and in Java are footsteps of the ancient civilization which entered the Pacific centuries before European navigators went in quest of spices and jewels. In the same islands are the crude savages who have never yielded to the advance of the civilization; and in the extreme northern point of Sumatra are the Achinese, who are still the pirates they have always been, preying upon the shipping and wealth of the more cultured nations across the Malacca Straits. In Borneo—although driven back far into the interior by the head-hunting Dyaks, the most typical of the many head-hunters of the Pacific. In Sarawak, on the eastern coast of Borneo, are the comparatively independent natives that have been in control for more than two-thirds of a century by the lone and extraordinary Britisher, the Rajah Brooke and his nephew, the Rajah Charles Brooke. In the Rajahs there are the types of numerous fellows who have immured themselves in marine wildernesses, and practiced such cunning and strength as might belong to their nomadic and curious natures."—Ainslie's Magazine.

THE BISMARCK BONFIRES.

They Will be Lighted April 1 on Every Hill-top in Germany.

In Germany, the first day of April has been for many years, and will be for tenfold as many generations, a day to be held in thankful and joyous remembrance, for it is the anniversary of the birth of Otto Eduard Leopold Bismarck, the man whom, above all others, the people of the Fatherland regard as the maker of the empire. When, in the closing months of 1833, their hero had been laid to rest, the minds of all true Germans were filled with the idea of founding some national memorial that should be worthy of the greatness of both the man and the empire. It was then, says a writer in the April number of Pearson's Magazine, that there came to some German students the scheme that will receive the fullness of its realization on the first day of April this year. In olden days the Saxons and Normans raised monumental pyres over the bodies of their honored dead, and from this thought there evolved the wonderful plan of having a huge fire on every hilltop and elevation in the German empire on the night of the chancellor's birthday. From every point of the compass there should leap into the darkness tongues of flame that should tell the people whom he loved and who loved him, that Otto Bismarck was with them still in spirit, and that in honoring him they were honoring themselves. An "Appeal to the German People"

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45 AND 47 WEST FIRST SOUTH STREET.

was drawn up, and the idea spread with a rapidity equal to that of the fire which will form its realization. There was no flickering or spluttering of the huge pile, but a sudden burst of fierce fire from point to point all over the land. Everywhere the appeal stirred up the wildest enthusiasm and excitement, as the men and women resolved to do everything to honor the memory of the maker of German unity, and from north to south and east to west the minds of all were filled with one thought—that of April 1, 1860, every community should possess its Bismarck monument and light its Bismarck bonfire.

In the meantime the chief committee was at work in connection with the design, and to give prizes for the best designs. The professional journals inserted the advertisement free of charge, and in a very short time more than one hundred applications for copies of the conditions of the competition were received from artists and architects. The lines upon which the monument was to be constructed should be indicated in the "appeal" if it should be simple and without ornamentation save that the pedestal should bear the arms and motto of the Iron Chancellor. In its massiveness it should resemble a giant, and in design it should be capable of reproduction in all sizes to suit the means of all communities.

The monument bears no name, but there will be no mistaking it, and every child will know and be able to tell the stranger that it represents Bismarck. The prize design shows a simple, dignified monument of massive structure of square section with a massive column at each corner; the architecture supports the metal fire pot, which is separated from the masonry by a layer of non-conducting material. The fire pot is reached by steps in the interior, which lead from a door in the back of the monument.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The extraordinary behavior of the magnetic needle in the province of Kursk in Russia is one of the most interesting of problems to physicists. A magnetic survey was first made by Prof. Moireaux, who made observations at 109 stations, and in the small plateau of about two square miles between the Plova and Solotvina rivers he found variations in declination from 34 degrees E. to 96 degrees W. and in inclination from 48 degrees to 73 degrees; these inclinations being respectively those normal to Morocco and Spitzbergen. The question has since been taken up by Prof. H. H. Wood, who has noted a point near Kotchewka, where the dipping needle reaches the vertical. The region is a rolling country, with a fertile, black soil resting on a volcanic rock, and the dipping needle is at a depth of 600 feet have failed to reveal any iron.

The late assertion that distilled water acts as a poison on account of its powerful solvent properties has not been generally accepted. Such water has appeared to stunt the growth of roots. But M. Victor de Cleves, a French chemist, has now shown that while the roots of sprouted wheat stop growing in commercial distilled water, on reaching a length of perhaps an inch and grow in spring water to 12 to 16 inches in length. The water in which the roots were grown has been redistilled in glass. The poison is

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mercury bichloride, when a surface of more than usual relief was produced. Seeking the cause, the experimenter found that a mistake in weighing had made the solution too strong, and a further trial proved that the degree of relief could be varied according to the concentration of the bath. To utilize the discovery a plaster impression was made of a block of great strength and upon the moistened, plane surface of a block of fine plaster, and in a few minutes was firmly fixed to this support, the side in relief being uppermost. A layer of plaster covered with this plaster reproduction that served for making good moulds by the usual gypsum-plastic method.

Luminous glass letters for street names, house numbers, etc., are a successful German product. They are made in all colors from pressed glass, are hollow, being open at the back, and before being attached to their tin backings are filled with luminous material, which is now supplied by chemical factories. The tin backs are nailed to the wall, the glass being then fastened to the tin by a pin with screws. Being protected from air and moisture, the luminous substance lasts a long time, and is much superior to coatings of luminous paint.

The percolation experiments made at Rothamsted for about twenty years have shown that in the winter months more than half the amount of rain penetrates into the soil and is available for springs which are called "recharge." Three gauges were used, each having an area of one-thousandth of an acre. The water was collected at three depths, namely, at 40 inches, at 30 or at 60 inches.

The ingenious machine of a Bavarian inventor sorts steel balls by causing them to rebound from an impact surface. Only perfect balls are efficient, elasticity to clear a fixed barrier and fall back into another compartment.

Exhibits now being arranged at the South Kensington Museum are designed to give a practical illustration of evolution by showing the changes man has wrought by artificial breeding in horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fishes, bees, silk-moths, and other species. Prepared skeletons will show that the changes have not been merely external. Among the animals already collected are a rock pigeon, around which are grouped fancy breeds that have sprung from it; some jungle fowl, the originals of our breeds of poultry, together with some of the latter; and both wild and cage-bred canaries.

Helium was known to exist in the sun through certain bright lines seen by Lockyer in the solar spectrum, long before Rutherford isolated it in 1895, and showing it to be also a terrestrial element. The gas has about twice the density of hydrogen. Certain other colored lines were assigned by Lockyer to another element, which he called "helium," but this has not yet been isolated, but an Italian spectroscopist has proven its existence on earth by detecting its lines in gases from the crater of Vesuvius. Other lines still have now attracted the attention of physicists studying the solar spectrum. These are assigned to two other hypothetical elements, which are named "auronium" and "nebulium," and which have a remarkable and almost startling. It is believed, from the position of these substances in the sun's atmosphere, that they must be lighter than hydrogen. The actual discovery of a body lighter than hydrogen would revolutionize our views of molecular weights.

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NEW EIGHT HOUR LAW.

The Measure Would be Very Far-reaching in Its Effect.

IT IS ADVOCATED BY LABOR

Proposed Law Compels All Government Contractors to Adopt Short Day System.

Washington, March 29.—[Special.]—There are no more persistent men about the national capital than the agents of the labor organizations, unless it is some of the reform organizations that are represented at each session. But the representatives of labor get a hearing from time to time, and they also have considerable influence upon legislation. Just now the labor representatives are urging a measure known as the eight hour law. It is a bill which if passed in the shape it was introduced and advocated by the labor element, would be far-reaching in its effects. Eight hours is now a day's work where the government employs men, but this bill would make it necessary for every article used by the government to be manufactured by firms who use only the eight hour system. All the materials for public buildings—stone, iron, brick, machinery, woodwork, etc.—that are used by the government, the clothing and supplies for the army—all would have to be supplied by firms who had adopted the eight hour system. The object of the labor representatives is plain, and they say frankly that they intend to make it impossible for contractors to furnish materials to the government unless they adopt the eight hour system.

NOT READY FOR THE CHANGE. Of course such a measure as this has naturally aroused a great deal of opposition among the large firms doing government work, especially those who build ships for the government and furnish great quantities of supplies. In the hearings that have been given the labor men and the contractors, representations have been made by the latter that under present conditions it would seriously cripple the firms doing work for the government under contract to adopt the eight hour system. If it were done for government work, it would have to be done for all other work, and these firms would be at a disadvantage in competing with firms who did not do government work. Speaker Henderson, when interviewed by the labor representatives, expressed himself as in favor of eight hours for a day's work. He says that when he was a boy on a farm he worked twelve hours a day, but that gave scant time or inclination for books and study. He expressed the opinion that the division of the day into three parts—eight hours for labor, eight hours for recreation and eight hours for sleep—was probably the most conducive to health and happiness. Some of the speaker's former constituents would probably like to see him apply this system with success on a farm during the busy season.

SENATOR'S LONG HOURS.

Speaking of labor reminds me of a talk I had with Senator Warren of Wyoming the other day about hard work. He was in his committee room until very late, and I asked him how long he remained. He replied that he sometimes staid there until 9 o'clock at night, getting a little lunch in the restaurant instead of dinner at home. I remarked by way of joke that he must be very much concerned about re-election. "Perhaps you think I am foolish," he replied, "but it is just this way. My committee work is burdensome. I have immense amounts of correspondence, and I am one of that kind of men who must keep on good terms with themselves. This I cannot do unless I clear up all my work every night. That is why I am working so many hours a day. When I was a boy in the army, I had some such experience. It was in the first battle I was sent in. The Confederates charged on us. A whole regiment or two or three batteries came down and went through our regiment. Some of our boys did get away. My first impulse was to run too. Then I thought I could not live with myself afterward if I should run, and so I gathered all my will power and fought it out right there. That is why I wear a medal of honor. I was never scared but one time in action, and that was when I thought I have got myself to live with what I undertake."

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

A very nice old lady came to the Senate side of the capitol the other day and said she wanted to see Uncle Sam. A good natured doorkeeper told her that Uncle Sam had just left for Portland, but there are some of his boys in the Senate chamber. She thanked him and after remaining there some time came out. Standing in the doorway, she pointed out Senator Charles McNary and said she "thought he resembled his father more than any of them." It was another compliment to Senator Carter's "Uncle Sam" whiskers. William Alden Smith, one of the three Smiths of Michigan, is very anxious to have the treaty with Great Britain amended so that the United States can build transpines in the great lakes. The desire is shared by a number of congressmen whose States border on the lakes and whose large ship plants are located. It is said by Senator McNary that until he has a direct route to the sea of our own it would be well enough to allow the treaty to remain as it is.

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From Ogden, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Denver and San Francisco.	9:50 p. m.
From Portland, Boise, Toledo and Terminus.	10:30 p. m.
From Tipton, Mercer and Intermediate points.	11:00 p. m.
From Prosser, Logan, Brigham, Ogden and Intermediate points.	11:30 p. m.
From Ogden, Boise, St. Louis and San Francisco.	12:00 p. m.

DEPART.

For Ogden, Omaha, Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cedar Valley and Intermediate points.	7:00 a. m.
For Tipton, Mercer and Intermediate points.	7:30 a. m.
For Ogden, Boise, Toledo and Terminus.	7:55 a. m.
For Ogden, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis and San Francisco.	8:15 a. m.
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