## LATIMER'S DRAINAGE BILL.

**If the Effort Succeeds Millions of Acres of South's Richest Land Will Be Rendered Productive and Sickly Regions Made Healthy.**

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.—When government irrigation was written on the statute books, the legislation was designated by some as a virtual amendment to the Homestead Act, and it is in reality operating to make available thousands of prosperous homesteads otherwise too arid to be considered habitable. There is also another great national improvement which congress is being asked to authorize—the drainage of swamp areas. The improvement of these lands by the government would open few free homesteads since the lands have generally passed into private ownership; but the ease and cheapness with which they can be reclaimed to fertility combined with their very general distribution throughout the entire eastern part of the United States constitutes the project a highly important and attractive one.

At the recent Drainage Convention in Baltimore, where many of the best known men in the country were delegates, representing the entire eastern section of the United States, Senator Latimer of South Carolina, took an advanced position on federal drainage reclamation and pledged his endeavors in congress to secure the passage of a drainage bill. He immediately drafted and introduced such a bill, which is a simple and direct statement of the problem, and authorizes the government to construct drainage works out of a fund to be derived from the sale of public lands in the non-irrigation states, including the receipts therefrom since 1905. This would give an initial fund of about $1,500,000, and further provide an annual contribution thereto of about $500,000, for some years to come. The Senator's bill is modeled largely after the irrigation law in that it provides for the repayment to the government of the cost of the reclamation by the owners of the lands benefited, or, where they are public lands, by the settlers who will take them up. These repayments are to be turned into the "drainage fund," and can be used again by the government in further reclamation work. In this way the fund becomes revolving, to be used over and over again, but all coming back to the government and simply constitutes a national loan without interest; moreover it takes no money out of the treasury.

It is estimated by government engineers that there are something over 60,000,000 acres of reclaimable swamp lands, which are of course, excessively rich and fertile. Their reclamation would convert a great area of pestiferential, disease and mosquito breeding places into the most prosperous farm and garden communities in the land. The low cost of their reclamation, ranging from $1.50 per acre to perhaps $10 or $15, makes the project an attractive one from the engineering standpoint as well as from that of the farmer who will have to pay the cost.

Why should not private enterprise reclaim our swamps? it is asked. Considerable private work has already been accomplished but attempted reclamation of most of the big swamp areas has failed and probably always will fail unless handled in their entireties. For this reason the work can best be undertaken by the general government which is in a position to secure more concerted action than any other agent. Where there are so many conflicting interests as arise in treating any great area, especially where owned by numerous individuals, it requires the overshadowing power of the federal government to accomplish the greatest good for the greatest number. This has been demonstrated in the execution of the irrigation law hich is proving itself the highest success imaginable. The rapid achievements of the reclamation service, which has been in existence only five years and which has already completed a number of huge masonry dams, towering to dizzy heights and everlasting as the great canyon walls which they connect, miles of gigantic concrete canals carrying the waters of entire rivers, tunnels through granite mountains, locks, headgates of stone and cement and other great engineering works, is looked upon with wonder by foreign irrigation engineers, while the statement is often heard that there is no parallel in the world for such rapid irrigation construction. The simple reason for these brilliant accomplishments lies in the fact that the government surveyors had for years been in reality preparing for the enactment of just such a law as the reclamation act. Thousands of square miles of western country had been surveyed by the Geological Survey, reservoir sites described, elevations determined, streams gaged to determine their flows, year after year, and other physical characteristics studied so that when the law was passed and the new bureau came into existence it found a vast amount of thoroughly reliable preliminary data upon the basis of which it immediately set to work to build dams and ditches, instead of being compelled to spend long years in reconnaissances and basic surveys.

Now this is of great interest at this time, for practically the same condition applies in considering drainage construction. General preliminary surveys have been made of considerable of our eastern swamp areas and the Geological Survey is working today in a number of sections making detailed basic surveys of swamps, upon which actual drainage construction can be confidently founded.

The federal reclamation of our vast swamp areas will not consist of the mere drainage of local swamps—most of the small individual projects have been undertaken by private enterprise—but is a broad engineering problem, the proper successful solution of which depends upon consideration of all the factors—physiographic, hydrographic and climatilogical. As was stated by several speakers at the Baltimore convention, all government drainage construction must be preceded by careful and comprehensive investigation, else disaster is likely to result. Surveys of topography must be made and investigations of run-off should be carried on. Consideration of rainfall and geological conditions are essential, just as much so as in irrigation construction. As stated, the necessary preliminary facts, over large portions of the country have already been collected by the Geological Survey. Great areas have been surveyed for topography and the results of stream flows and general rainfall conditions are available as a result of work covering ten or more years; but these highly essential investigations should be continued and with the probability or even possibility of congressional action authorizing swamp reclamation and construction largely increased preliminary surveys could be made by the government with great benefit to the country.

The South is very deeply interested in this plan of reclamation. South Carolina, according to Professor H. S. Shaler, who made an investigation of the swamp areas of the Un-Atlantic coast states over 20 years ago for the Geological Survey, has some two million acres; North Carolina, nearly two and a half million; Georgia, about the same; Alabama and Virginia over a million acres each; Mississippi about six million acres and Arkansas nearly as much; Louisiana about ten million acres and Florida between 18 and 20 million. In speaking of these areas, Professor Shaler, stated that they contain the dormant resources of the nation and that when won to agriculture they promise a food giving value much exceeding any high lying equal area of land in the country.

Does congress in any measure realize the importance of the problem? It can be confidently stated that it does, and it is believed that the majority of its members are favorable to a drainage law which will provide new homes for actual settlers and at the same time protect the government. The public lands committee of the senate has already gone on record—last session—in favor of a drainage law and the senate itself is unquestionably friendly. If Senator Latimer pulls his coat off and gets behind his drainage bill, as he has announced that he will, in fact is, something should be accomplished this session. There will probably be a harder fight in the house since it is more difficult to secure recognition for any new measure but it is known however, that drainage, in that body, has a host of friends. What is probably most needed is that the people of the country and the press, if they believe in it, should take up the matter vigorously and aggressively and create a wave of public sentiment in its support.

Senator Latimer's bill, which follows, is worth reading. It is a true homemaking measure; at the same time it is a business proposition since it requires the repayment to the government of every cent expended. When it is recalled that our reclaimed swamp areas are worth anywhere from $40 to $200, an acre, the possibilities lying in such a measure can be appreciated.

On account of the activity and interest displayed by Senator Latimer at the National Drainage Congress at Baltimore, he is looked upon as one of the foremost advocates of this great reclamation work, which means so much to our section of the country.

## Beef Cattle a Net Profit on the Farm.

The average farmer thinks he is a specialist, and that he is wasting time and money in trying to do anything else. There is a theory that in the limited area in this world where cotton may be successfully grown, and among the comparatively few men on earth who really understand the production of cotton, it would be a perversion of nature for these few men in this limited area to attempt anything but to grow cotton. The thing which stands in the way of this argument is the great subject of by-products. There is scarcely a manufacturing enterprise in the world today that could profitably continue business on the basis of the production of one single article, without the utilization of the other products which are the incidental output in connection with the main article.

Not many years ago, the cotton farmer overlooked the fact that his product was seed cotton. He thought it was lint cotton. He threw the seed away, and would have thanked any one to haul them off the farm. But now, every producer of cotton knows he could not survive without taking into account the enormous value of his cotton seed, which might be called a by-product. If he raises 100 bales of cotton, worth about $66,000, he incidentally raises 50 tons of cotton seed, which he can sell for about $1,000, thus adding to the value of the main crop about 18 per cent. This 18 per cent would be considered by any manufacturer as a fine profit on his business. This matter has become so well known, that it is no longer discussed as a mooted question.

There is a by-product of the farm that is just as obvious as cotton seed, and is now just as widely ignored as was cotton seed forty years ago. This is cattle raising. It is even more than a by-product. It is almost a necessity. The intelligent raising of cattle on a farm in the cotton region costs less money (though perhaps more conscious thought) and produces more return than any other one branch of the business. It is not alone in the market value of the beef or dairy products, but it is in the almost immeasurable value to the cotton lands themselves. The cotton farmer who raises a large herd of cattle becomes, in a sense, a manufacturer who uses raw material of his own production, and make a finished prouct of high commercial value, while the process of manufacture not only costs him nothing—except thought—but actually adds to his resources in the enrichment of his lands, so he can grow more cotton and produce more beef which enables him to grow still more cotton and produce still more beef.

The present commercial value of cotton seed meal is based on one of two things, according to the locality, namely (1) the value of its nitrogen as a fertilizer, in comparison with the value of the nitrogen ini other available fertilizing chemicals; or (2) the value of its nitrogen as a feed stuff in comparison with the value of the nitrogen in other available feed stuffs. But now the great and comparatively new truth is being discovered that, with the proper manipulation, the true value of cotton seed meal is not an alternative one, but a cumulative one, that is, its value is made up of the sum of the nitrogen value as a fertilizer. This truth cannot long remain dormant; but while it is dormant to the farmer who does not read and study, is the golden harvest time for the farmer who thinks. When he buys a ton of cotton seed meal at its feed valuation, say $28 per ton, he should save the resultant manure from the cattle, and use the fertilizer value of the meal, say $28, and thus make 100 per cent on his investment in meal, and realize as an incidental profit, all of the beef (or the butter as the case may be) which his skill and foresight can produce.

## THE RACE CONFERENCE.

**The South Carolina Race Conference Meets in Columbia January 14-17, 1908.**

Mr. Editor: Supposing that you have colored readers on your subscription list, and also many fair-minded white readers who will be willing to notify prominent colored people whom they chance to meet of the coming conference, I ask space in your paper to make the following statement:

The Negro Race Conference of South Carolina will meet in Columbia, Tuesday, January 14th, continuing to Friday night, January 17th, for the purpose of discussing the conditions of the race in this State and suggesting remedies for evils that exist, and also to organize a Negro State Fair Association. Among the speakers (white) will be Rev. A. W. Lamar, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn., Rev. L. M. Rice, D. D., and Dr. C. C. Brown, besides the governor of the State and other prominent white and colored citizens of the State and out of it.

Last year the conference had a delegation that went over the one thousand mark, and the outlook for the next meeting promises a larger delegation. We want the best people to come to the conference—preachers, teachers, farmers, mechanics and business men. Reduced rates have been granted on all roads in South Carolina and from Augusta, Ga., on the certificate plan, good from the 13th to the 18th.

Dr. Lamar will give two lectures—one on "Dixie Before the War" and the other "Dixie After the War." Our white citizens who chance to be in Columbia at this time will be welcomed to seats in the conference. The meeting will begin at 11 a. m. January 14th, at the opera house.

My white friends in South Carolina will do me quite a favor to place this journal in the hands of the colored people after they have read it.

Richard Carroll

Columbia, S. C.

## TRAIN CREW ARE ACQUITTED

**Men Indicted for a Manslaughter in Connection With Wreck Found Not Guilty.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—A verdict of not guilty was returned by the jury tonight in the case of Engineer Hildebrand, Conductor Hoffmeyer, Fireman McLellan and Brakeman Ruder, the train crew who were indicted der, the train crew who were indicted for manslaughter in connection with the wreck at Terra Cotta, D. C., on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad Dec. 30, 1906, in which 43 persons were killed and upward of three score injured.

The trial had been in progress for three weeks and the verdict was reached after four hours' deliberation.

*To stop that pain in the back, that stiffness of the joints and muscles, take Pineules. They are guaranteed. Don't suffer from rheumatism, backache, kidney trouble, when you get 30 days' treatment for $1.00. A single dose at bed time proves their merit. Get them today. Sold by Sibert Drug Co. 12-1-3m

## BEES MAKE FRUIT GROW.

**Miracle Wrought in a Barren Orchard by Bee Colonies.**

Honey producing is only one of the missions of the bee. Indeed for actual profit, the honey is but a minor item.

Some years ago I moved to a small place up the Hudson river. I wanted a bee farm and selected for the purpose a spot among apple, cherry and plum trees, some of which had never borne fruit, others none for yearss past. My landlord told me I might cut down certain trees, as they were worthless, and he intended putting out some fine nursery stock.

Being busy I did not cut the trees down. They blossomed freely and of course we paid no further heed to them than to break blooms by the armful when we wanted floral decorations.

The cherry trees were much to the owner's astonishment, loaded with very large, perfect fruit. He could not understand it; such a thing had not happened for years.

Early in the autumn while waiting for a swarm of bees to settle I obsered a number of fine applies upon one of the smaller condemned trees. When the landlord's attention was called to them he was completely mystified and called in his neighbors to see the wonder. Later we gathered from this tree nearly a barrel of the finest fall pippins ever seen in that vicinity.

No argument would convince the man that "them pesky bees" had anything to do with the yield of fruit on the place. He insisted that some sort of fertilizer must have been used.

Since that time I have demonstrated by scores of experiment that trees which had for many seasons borne little good fruit or possibly none at all, have been brought up a high standard of productiveness by the presence of bees. They carried the pollen, fertilized the blossoms and a bountiful harvest was the result.

Regardless of the money crop, every fruit grower should have a few colonies of bees.

If when the bloom seasons is past there is so little nectar in midseason bowers that the bees must be fed it is a decided economy to feed them, as in cases where a strict account has been kept the cash value of orchard products alone has been doubled by their assistance.—Suburban Life.

*Ring's Little Liver Pills wake up lazy livers, clean the system and clear the skin. Try them for biliousness and sick head ache. Price 25c. Sold by Sibert Drug Co. 12-1-3m

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If your back aches or is weak, if the urine scalds, or is dark and strong, if you have symptoms of Brights or other distressing or dangerous kidney disease, try Dr. Shoop's Restorative a month—Tablets or Liquid—and see what it can and will do for you. Druggist recommend and sell

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**Rocky Mountain Tea Nuggets**
A Busy Medicine for Busy People.
Brings Golden Health and Renewed Vigor.
A specific for Constipation, Indigestion, Liver and Kidney Troubles, Pimples, Eczema, Impure Blood, Bad Breath, Sluggish Bowels, Headache, Backache. It's Rocky Mountain Tea in tablet form, 35 cents a box. Genuine made by Hollister Drug Company, Madison, Wis.
TEN NUGGETS FOR SALLOW PEOPLE

## NEGRO CUTS WIFE'S THROAT.

**Edgefield Negro Who Has Made Several Efforts to End Wife's Life Almost Succeeds.**

Edgefield, Dec. 23.—Lee Hightower, a young negro man who has lost one arm and wears spectacles, entered the yard of Col. James T. Bacon here tonight and cut his wife's throat. The extent of the woman's injuries is not known.

The negro has tried several times before to kill his wife.

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# ATLANTIC COAST LINE

Time Table No. 7—Effective Nov. 3, 1907.

**Schedules of Trains Arriving and Leaving Sumter.**

(Subject to Change Without Notice.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Train | * 25—Passenger | Florence to Augusta, leaves Sumter | | 5 50 am |
| " | * 54— " | Columbia to Wilmington, leaves Sumter | | 7 30 am |
| " | 57— " | Gibson to Sumter, arrives Sumter | | 9 25 am |
| " | * 53— " | Charleston to Greenville, leaves Sumter | | 9 40 am |
| " | 46— " | Orangeburg to Charleston, leaves | " | 9 35 am |
| " | * 68— " | Sumter to Gibson, leaves | " | 9 45 am |
| " | 331—Mixed | — " " Robbins, " | " | 10 00 am |
| " | * 79—Passenger | Fayetteville to Columbia, | " | 10 55 am |
| " | 69— " | Gibson to Sumter, arrives | " | 6 05 pm |
| " | * 78— " | Columbia to Fayetteville, leaves | " | 6 10 pm |
| " | * 53— " | Greenville to Charleston, | " | 6 40 pm |
| " | * 12— " | Augusta to Florence " | " | 6 50 pm |
| " | 56— " | Sumter to Gibson, " | " | 3 50 pm |
| " | 47— " | Charleston to Orangeburg " | " | 8 30 pm |
| " | 330—Mixed | Robbins to Sumter, arrives " | " | 6 20 pm |
| " | * 80— " | Wilmington to Columbia, " | " | 9 44 pm |
| " | 71— " | Camden to Sumter, arrives | " | 9 00 am |
| " | 71—Mixed | Sumter to Camden, leaves | " | 9 40 am |
| " | 72— " | Wilson Mill to Sumter arrives | " | 12 30 pm |
| " | 73— " | Sumter to Wilson's Mill, leaves | " | 3 30 pm |
| " | 68— " | Camden to Sumter, arrives | " | 5 45 pm |
| " | 69—Passenger | Sumter to Camden, leaves | " | 6 30 pm |

Note—All trains marked * daily. Others daily except Sunday.
—No. 32, Augusta to Florence, is through train; Sumter to Florence and will not stop at local stations.
Note—Nos 56 and 57 daily except Sunday.
—Nos. 24 and 25 does not carry passengers.

J. T. CHINA, Ticket Agent, A. C. L.

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