

## RAILROAD LAND GRANTS.

"Alteration of the public lands" bids fair to assume the dignity of a party question in the next Presidential campaign. The Democracy have shown a general disposition to incorporate opposition to it into their local platforms, and whatever the ultimate result may be, it is more than likely that sufficient hostility will be generated in the minds of the people to put a decisive check upon the previous policy of Congress in this matter. The Northern Pacific Railroad is probably the last of these great commercial enterprises which will receive such magnificent proof of the nation's liberality.

Now we do not pretend to say that all in cases the public lands which have been "alienated" have been disposed of in the most judicious way; we are prepared to concede, even, that many of the land grants made by Congress are open to very serious objections, but at the same time we believe that the general policy, especially as regards railroads, has been, on the whole, sound, sagacious, and profitable to the nation; and, as much misrepresentation is likely to be indulged in, it may well be worth the while to state the results of experience. This is very ably done by Senator Pomeroy, in his recent speech in the Senate, which has been circulated largely throughout the country; but elaborate as is the argument there presented, its pith and substance may be put into very few words.

In the first place, then, it should be recollected that in making these land grants only the "alienated sections," within certain limits, are given to the railroad, the others being retained by the Government. The public lands thus retained, which previous to the commencement of the road could be taken up at \$1.25 per acre, are immediately raised in price to \$2.50 per acre, and at this price are sold far more rapidly than any other lands in the Government's possession; so that the nation not only makes an actual gain from its gift, but reaps the permanent advantages of that increase of wealth, population, and industry which never failed to follow upon the construction of a railway. This, it would seem, is a complete and ample vindication from the standpoint of economics, but a few facts will add emphasis to the conclusion.

Not many years ago Congress endowed the Illinois Central Railroad with a land grant of 2,000,000 acres, which have since been sold by that corporation for between twenty-five and thirty millions of dollars. A great deal of money was no doubt made by those who built the road, and its stock brings higher prices than any other in the market; but the Government also received a very handsome sum for its own adjacent lands, and it cannot be questioned that the Central Railroad has not only contributed enormously to the wealth of Illinois, but has done as much as any other agent in the development of the entire West. The same is true of Minnesota. A few million acres of unsalable lands were used in building railroads, and so rapid has been her consequent growth that her school lands brought an average last year of nearly seven dollars an acre.

And, to take a final and crowning instance, the same may be said of the Northern Pacific Railroad, whose land grant is very much the largest and most valuable yet given to a private corporation. This grant will not only build our second great highway across the continent, but will make the Northern Pacific one of the wealthiest corporations in the world. Its fifty million acres will bring from \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000, while the total cost of the road will be comparatively small; but then the Government will have fifty million acres more, which will be taken up first at \$2.50, and the whole Northwest—the finest unoccupied region in America—will be opened up to habitation and commerce. Much of the company's land grant will be used to the benefit of the nation in stimulating immigration; already, when the road is just commenced, population is hurrying to the adjacent region, prosperous settlements are being formed, and lands are rising in value; yet we doubt if, before the Northern Pacific enterprise took definite shape, the whole immense tract which constitutes its dowry could have been sold for a million in cash.

A great railroad, as we have said, is itself a most potent creator of wealth, and it is a short-sighted conception of national economy which would begrudge it assistance which it really pays us to give. It will not be many years before the people will congratulate themselves that our Pacific railroads got fairly under way before the present reaction set in. That the time has come for discontinuing the policy of granting public lands to railroads is a probably little doubt, but that this policy has already accomplished great results in developing the vast interior of our continent, and adding to the wealth of the nation, is equally certain.

## MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

**The City Amusements.**  
AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC this evening a complimentary operatic concert will be given to Miss Cassie Rex, who will be supported by Mrs. Jennie Kempton, Signor Leon, Mr. Harry Sanderson, and a grand orchestra under the direction of Professor L. Engelke. Miss Rex has been highly complimented by all the New York papers on her recent great success in concert in that city. The *Tribune* says "she sings a tone and a half higher than Papea-Rosa, Nilsson, and Carlotta Patti, and the upper notes of this phenomenal register are delicate and pure, made with certainty, and with which she will be able to produce some fine effects."

AT THE WALTON Boucicault's drama of *After Dark* will be performed this evening. A matinee will be given to-morrow.

On Monday Joseph Jefferson will appear as "Rip Van Winkle."

AT THE ARCH Mr. Robert Craig will have a farewell benefit this evening, when he will appear as "Peter White" in the farce of *Mr. and Mrs. Peter White*. In the evening, *The Dutch Belle*, and as "Jacques Strop" in *Robert Macaire*. Mr. Craig will also give a number of his popular imitations. As Mr. Craig is about to sever his connection with the Arch, his admirers should extend him a parting compliment in the shape of a crowded house this evening.

On Monday Robertson's comedy of *Bank* will be produced by Lina Edwin and her New York company.

AT THE CHESTNUT Mr. E. L. Davenport will this evening perform his "Sir Giles Overreach" in *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*.

AT THE MUSEUM, Ninth and Arch streets, the drama of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* will be represented this evening.

A GRAND COMMEMORATIVE BENEFIT will be given to-morrow to Mrs. Caroline Richings-Bernard and Mr. C. D. Hess, at the Academy of Music. There will be a matinee performance of *The Comedy of Errors*, by Mrs. John Drew and the Arch Street Theatre Company, which will be followed by *The Bonnie Fishwife*, in which Mrs. Bernard will sing a number of popular airs.

In the evening Balfe's popular opera of *The Bohemian Girl* will be given with an unusually strong cast, embracing the principal members of the English opera combination. Mrs. Bernard has many claims upon the amusement-loving public of Philadelphia, and we hope that the Academy will be crowded to-morrow, both afternoon and evening.

## CITY ITEMS.

**ST. JAMES HOTEL, BOSTON.**—If our friends will kindly inform us, either by telegram or by letter, of their intended arrival, we shall be better prepared for their comfort. The reputation of this new and elegant establishment is such as to require no comment.

Transient board FOUR DOLLARS per day.  
Proprietor ST. JAMES HOTEL, BOSTON.

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MR. WILLIAM W. CASSIDY, the Jeweller, at No. 5 South Second street, has one of the largest and most attractive stocks of all kinds of Jewellery and Silverware in the city. He has also on hand a large assortment of fine American Western Watches. Those who purchase at this store at the present time are certain to get the worth of their money.

**REFRIGERATORS.**  
Cedar St. Chests, Enamelled-lined Coolers, Cooler Stands, a large assortment, wholesale and retail, No. 220 Dock street, below Walnut.

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Stewed, Steamed, Roasted, Fried, Boiled, Pickled, and Raw, go to Leach's, northeast corner Ninth and Chestnut. Half peck steamed oysters, 50 c. a tin.

**BURNETT'S FLORINEL.**—An exquisite perfume.

**MARRIED.**  
MAJOR—DILES.—On Thursday, June 1, by Rev. R. Griffith, D. D., EDWIN G. MAJOR to ANNE H. daughter of William Diles, Esq., all of this city.

**WOLFE—NELL.**—On Wednesday, 31st ult., at St. Luke's Church, Philadelphia, by the Rev. Dr. Howe, Lieutenant NATHANIEL DOUGLASS WOLFE, 94 United States Artillery, to CAROLINE HOLLINGSWORTH NELL, daughter of Dr. John Nell.

**DIED.**  
ECKHARDT.—On May 30, MARIA ECKHARDT, wife of Henry Eckhardt, in the 55th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the deceased are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her husband, No. 457 East Girard avenue, on Saturday next at 3 o'clock.

**GARWOOD.**—On the 29th ult., MARY J., youngest daughter of Lewis S. Garwood, aged 21 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Saturday, June 3, at 10 o'clock, from the residence of her father, corner of Broadway and Clinton street, Camden, N. J. To proceed to Evergreen Cemetery.

**JUSTICE.**—On the morning of the 1st inst., HELEN WARDELL, daughter of Philip S. and Helen Mary Justice, aged 19 years.

Interment at Laurel Hill, from the residence of her parents, Germantown, on First-day, 4th inst., at 3 o'clock P. M. Carriages will be at the depot in Germantown to meet the 2½ train from Philadelphia.

**MOLTER.**—On Friday morning, the 2d inst., ANNE HILL MOLTER, youngest daughter of Albert and Elizabeth C. Molter, in the 12th year of her age.

Due notice of her funeral will be given.

**MUSTIN.**—On Wednesday, the 31st ultimo, J. BURTON MUSTIN, M. D., son of John and Mary F. Mustin, aged 29 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, No. 2908 Spruce street, on Saturday afternoon, June 3, at 3 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 8 Church street, Frankford. To proceed to Cedar Hill Cemetery.

**THOMAS.**—On the 29th ult., ELIZABETH, widow of the late Joshua Thorrp, in the 74th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Saturday afternoon, June 3, at 3 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 8 Church street, Frankford. To proceed to Cedar Hill Cemetery.

**TRUSTEES.**  
Hon. Alex. G. Cattell,  
Isaac Hazlehurst,  
James L. Claghorn,  
J. Edgar Thomson,  
Henry L. Bennett,  
L. M. Whilldin,  
George W. Hill,  
John Wasmaker.

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JOHN S. WILSON.

**SPECIAL NOTICES.**  
For additional Special Notices see Inside Pages.

**HEADQUARTERS DEMOCRATIC CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NO. 1914 WALNUT STREET, MAY 29, 1871.**

At a meeting of the committee held this day the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Democratic party of this Commonwealth, in State Convention assembled, in accordance with the time-honored custom of the party, did at the last meeting place in nomination candidates for the offices of Auditor-General and Surveyor-General, and declared the principles on which the issues of the coming campaign are to be fought; and

Whereas, The harmony and discipline of the party require that all members having the success of the party at heart should endorse the action of the constituted authorities thereof; therefore

Resolved, That the nomination of General William McCandless and Captain J. H. Cooper for the offices of Auditor and Surveyor-General, and the adoption of the platform, merit, as they do hereby receive, our cordial endorsement, and the ticket will receive at our hands our most zealous support.

By order of committee.  
ISAAC LEECH, Chairman.  
F. L. BENDER, Secretaries.  
FRANCIS A. DEVITT, 11

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**  
GRAND ROSE SHOW AND STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL.

Another magnificent display of Ornamental Foliage Plants, and Rare Plants in Bloom. Fifty varieties of Roses, Baster's Serenade Band, Promenade and Concert Band, Strawberry Festival, Strawberries and Ice Cream, and exhibition Strawberries by the quart. Admission, 25 cents. Tickets at DRESS, No. 714 CHESTNUT street.

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**  
Philadelphia, May 10, 1871.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the American Academy of Music will be held in the Foyer of the Academy, on MONDAY, June 5, 1871, at 4 o'clock P. M.

The annual reports will be submitted, and an election held for twelve directors.

**GENTLEMEN'S BOOTS AND SHOES.**  
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Returning, leave Atlantic City at 4:00 P. M.  
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