

## LAND-GRANT RAILROADS

Speech of Hon. William S. Holman, of Indiana,

In the House of Representatives,

Friday, July 7, 1882.

"Great estates destroy the spirit of patriotism in the country, and those and those who have nothing"—*Mr. Pierce*.

The House, in committee of the whole, was proceeding with the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, Mr. Holman said:

Mr. Charran, this bill of "odds and ends," which can find an appropriate place in any of the regular bills providing for the departments of Government, appropriates the unprecedented sum of \$23,689,866, which might be reduced to \$7,000,000 without impairing the efficiency of any department. But there is a single item in the bill involving a comparatively small expenditure to which I wish to call attention.

That item reads as follows:

"For surveying the public lands, \$400,000."

This item is known as the Homestead Act.

For that purpose has been \$200,000. This in-

crease might excite attention, but upon exami-

nation I find that a system has recently been

adopted by the Surveyor General of the Gov-

ernment to the public lands of the United

States adapted to agriculture would be placed

under its provisions thus securing for the time

being the right of the United States to the

soil of a part of a general system. I wish in a

brief way to consider the subject more broadly.

The act which passed Congress on the 20th of

May, 1862, known as the Homestead Act, gives

to every head of a family a homestead of

160 acres of land, and to each person

130 acres, and to each person