

In order to show still further the gross abuses which had grown up under Republican administrations in the disposal of our public lands, there was extensively published, less than two years ago, a carefully prepared table, showing that 20,747,000 acres of land had been taken up and were then held by foreign syndicates, foreign land companies, and others, of the English, in vast estates ranging from 5,000 to 4,500,000 acres. It was also estimated that between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 acres of public lands were illegally fenced and shut up against emigration by large cattle companies, some of them English and others Scotch, besides the rapacious Americans always present. The Commissioners of the Land Office and the Secretaries of the Interior were all Republicans from 1811 to 1885, twenty-four years, and on their record judgment must be given by the American people, rather than on cheap and false professional faith made now on a dying bed.

Turning again to that platform, which has a sort of horrid fascination on account of its daring, audacity, and high-circled hypocrisy, we find the creation of the supporters and beneficiaries of the most gigantic monopolies ever known among men masking loud-mouthed promises of what they intend to do in the future for the laboring classes of the United States. Why have they nothing to point to in the past? Why are their long years of supremacy in every department of the Government barren of anything done for the working people? Why do they not prove their faith by their works? It is too late in the day for the leaders of the Republican party to deceive the people by promises of the future; they should be able to convince and satisfy the workingmen and working country by citing their record in the past. The Democratic party is more fortunate on this question. It can point to some things done which speak for themselves. At the close of the long session of the Forty-eighth Congress, now two years ago, the following statement was truthfully made of what the Democratic House had done in recognition of the demands of the laboring classes:

"1. It created a Committee on Labor for the first time in the history of Congress.

"2. It created a Bureau of Labor Statistics, demanded by every labor organization in the country.

"3. It abolished all hospital dues from seamen and sailors, compelling the support of all marine hospitals from the tax.

"4. It passed a seal of disapprobation on the use of convict labor by striking from the appropriation bills every item for the use of convict labor on public buildings.

"5. It passed a bill prohibiting importation of labor under contract to compete with American workmen, which bill the Republican Senate did not concur in.

"6. The Democratic Committee on Labor reported to the House joint resolutions for submission to the various States, prohibiting the hiring out or contracting for the labor of convicts also prohibiting the employment of United States prisoners in the trades; also conferring on Congress the power to regulate the hours of labor in textile and other industries."

The party which has made this record can be trusted by the working classes to do more in the same direction when its opportunities are increased.

I come next to the consideration of a subject of great importance, and on which the public mind is always exceedingly sensitive to the slightest wrong or injustice. Any man, or party of men, guilty of unfairness, illiberality, or bad faith toward the soldiers of the war for the Union, should, and would, be speedily and utterly overwhelmed by the execrations of the whole American people. The following false and virulent arraignment of the Democratic party in the Republican platform can not, therefore, be overlooked. It reads as follows:

"The attempt of the Democratic House of Representatives to make legislation legal by adding a special tax bill to every pension measure (thus declaring that pensions should not be paid out of the general Treasury), the spirit and language of numerous vetoes of meritorious pensions and the failure of the Democratic House of Representatives to even reconsider them before adjournment of Congress, reveal the continued enmity of the Democratic party to the Union soldier and his cause."

There was a movement in the House of Representatives during the latter part of the last session of Congress to receive and re-enact an income tax, with the avowed purpose, on the part of certain leading Democrats, of making the rich, from their heavy incomes, assist in paying the pensions of the soldiers of the Union, and this with the special tax which the Republicans now in charge was designed by the Democratic House in order to make pension legislation odious. I do not believe the soldiers of Indiana will so regard it. I do not believe they will take it as evidence of enmity to them or their cause that the Democratic party should desire the Vanderbilts, the Goulds and their associate millionaires to aid from their enormous income in the payment of pensions. I am willing to accept the soldier vote on this proposition. But in the same arraignment, the fact that the President vetoed certain pension bills is urged as an evidence of the "continued enmity of the Democratic party to the Union soldier and his cause." I shall not say that the soldiers of those states, but this, I will say, that to the consideration of every pension bill placed before him Mr. Cleveland brought a clear and able head and an honest, conscientious heart. But one desire actuated him, and that was to do his duty. Nor shall it be forgotten, while he is denounced for his veto, that he approved and signed more bills granting pensions in the brief period of eighteen months than General Grant did in the entire eight years he spent in the White House. And whence came this extraordinary flood of special pension legislation? When we reflect that it poured its great, steady volume through a House of Representatives with an overwhelming Democratic majority, and largely composed of the Copperheads, we can easily see that we reflect further that this same Democratic House has voted \$75,000,000 a year for the payment of pensions in the aggregate, we are lost in amazement at the brazen cynicism that the Democratic party is at enmity with the soldier of the Union and his cause. But if we look at the cause and the treatment of the pensioner in the Executive Department of the Government, where his great and sacred interests are intrusted and administered, under the laws, we will again behold what a reckless, flagitious, and absolutely untenable falsehood may be put into a political platform by men of respectable standing in the communities where they live. We have here an editorial article taken from the *National Tribune*, a paper of more than 100,000 circulation, published, owned, edited, and managed by soldiers, and exclusively in the interest of soldiers. The article appeared in the issue of July 15, 1880, and is headed "A Splendid Showing." It reads as follows:

"The report of the work done in the Pension Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, justifies all that has been said in these columns of the increased efficiency and liberality of the administration of General John C. Black. During the year the office issued 75,000 pension certificates, a total increase of 9,268 over the work of any previous year.

"The greater liberality of General Black's administration is shown by the increase of more than 500 allowances per month, and the greater efficiency is proved by this grand increase of work being accomplished by a force of clerks numbering fully 100 less than the average under his predecessors.

"To make the splendid results of Gen. Black's management more apparent we give the figures for the fiscal year ending June 3, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886, respectively:

"Numbers of certificates issued during years ending June 30, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886. Miscellaneous certificates not included."

	1882	1883	1885	1886
Original.....	38,161	34,190	55,771	49,859
Increase.....	9,070	15,133	25,384	28,519
Reissue.....	2,284	2,802	4,242	4,884
Restoration.....	1,107	1,981	1,828	1,914
Duplication.....	842	1,291	941	842
Acrued.....	1,515	2,052	2,095	2,237
Total.....	52,979	56,729	70,386	79,654

With such a record as this, assaults on General Black have fallen harmless at his feet. As a civilian he has added to his already brilliant fame as a soldier, and higher honors yet await him. Nor shall it be overlooked that at the head of the vast Department of the Interior, wherein such grand results have been wrought for the Union soldier, the great Mississippian, Secretary Lamar, presides with commanding intellect and a lofty patriotism which, oblivious of past conflicts, embraces in its affection and sense of justice every section and all the people of the United States.

The cucumber is very bad in Iowa this year. The drug-stores will canonize it, and distribute seed gratis next year.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Where Free Homes May Be Made —Areas of Unoccupied Land.

Variety of Soil and Climate—Territory Held in Reserve—State Lands.

There remains open to free settlement in the United States about 515,000,000 acres of Government land. Of this area about thirty-eight per cent, because of its mountainous or barren nature, is, and will be permanently, unavailable for the purposes of agriculture, or stock-raising, although as a timber preserve parts of it may serve as adjuncts of no small value to contiguous farming sections. Of the remaining sixty-two per cent, fully one-half is not immediately available for settlement, owing to the swampy or arid nature of its soils. The swampy sections are comparatively small, and are rapidly disappearing as the timber is cut away, and ditching and similar appliances brought into use, and it requires a supernatural vision to foresee that a few years hence they will be the most productive, and consequently the most valuable, districts in the Union. The arid area, so far as its availability goes, is an elastic quantity, the expansion of which is contingent upon many conditions. A generation ago "the Great American Desert" began just west of the Mississippi River. Year by year the demonstration of actual cultivation has pushed it farther and farther to the southwest, and that it will soon join the unnumbered myths is very probable.

To the poor homesteader, however, this arid region is a present and a forbidding reality and its area, except where bordering upon streams or bodies of water, is practically closed to him.

Stretching from the British possessions on the north to the Gulf of California at the south, and reaching down the Rio Grande and over to the Pacific coast, lies a vast section where cultivation, because of insufficient rainfall, is practicable only through irrigation. Through this region the valleys, where nature furnishes the means of irrigation, are, as a rule, taken up. Beyond these valleys artificial conduits are being constructed, but their extent is necessarily limited, and their excavation costly. Outside of the territory which they may supply, the problem of cultivation depends upon the prairie artesian system, a question which must be solved independently on every township of land, and on every section, as to whether it makes good farm land. The timber is pine and hardwood mixed. There remains about 1,100,000 acres of land subject to entry in the Wausau district. It is mainly hardwood land, and lies chiefly in the border counties north and east of Wausau. To the north the lands grow broken and less desirable. The largest bodies of public land yet vacant of this district are in the Bayfield district, which comprises the extreme northwestern portion of the State—a section of no especial charm for the farmer as a whole, but several small areas of very excellent farming land await settlement.

Wisconsin holds about 100,000 acres of unsold school lands, and 500,000 acres of swamp land. These lands can be bought for 50 cents to \$1.25 per acre.

Minnesota still contains about 8,000,000 acres of Government land. In the Worthington and Tracy districts, which include a strip sixteen miles wide off the entire southern end of the State, there are no unoccupied lands. A third belt thirty miles wide, immediately north of the two described, forms the Redwood Falls District, in the extreme western portion of which a few remote bodies of good prairie land are yet subject to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. In Beltrami County the vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltrami County is 100,000 acres of land. The vacant area is timbered with pine and birchwood land. Kittson and Marshall it is brush prairie. Throughout the district the soil is a black vegetable loam, with a sandy subsoil. Between 150,000 and 175,000 acres yet invite settlement in the counties of Isanti and Mille Lacs, and part of Pine, Kanabec, Sherburn, and Aitkin in the Taylor's Falls district. It is timbered and fertile. Nearly 3,500,000 acres, a part of which is as yet unoccupied, are open to settlement in the Duluth district in the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton, and parts of Aitkin and Itasca. Only about one-fourth of this area is available to entry. There is no vacant land in the Benson District, and not more than 2,000 acres yet remain untaken in Grant and Wilkins Counties in the Fergus Falls district. The Crookston district embraces about 1,000,000 acres in Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker, and Beltrami, and a part of Otter Tail counties. In Beltr