



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

How The Public Domain Has Been Squandered . . . (Political Map Showing Land Given Away by Republican Congresses to Railroad Corporations)

Stock#: 59755
Map Maker: Rand McNally & Company
Date: 1884
Place: Chicago
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15.5 x 20.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Persuasive cartography. Polemic cartography.

Rare political broadside map, setting forth the Democratic Party platform of 1884 and illustrating "Land Grants to Railroads and Wagon Roads."

The map was published by the Democratic Party during the 1884 presidential race between Grover Cleveland and James Blaine. The map shows vast swaths of territory from the public domain, which had been granted by Republican Congresses to railroad companies. Blaine's susceptibility to influence on the part of businesses became a major part of the Democratic campaign against him, and the Democrats leveled the same accusations against the Republican Party as a whole.



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Away by Republican Congresses to Railroad Corporations)**

The map was in fact very misleading, as only a checkboard pattern of land was granted to the railroads and the lands shown included both the actual grants and the so-called indemnity lands, which would have been available in the event that lands granted were previously claimed by other owners, serving to nearly quadruple the amount of land represented by the map.

Rarity

Full Title:

How the public domain has been squandered, map showing the 139,403,026 acres of the people's land - equal to 871,268 farms of 160 acres each, worth at \$2 an acre, \$278,806,052, given by Republican Congresses to railroad corporations.

Full Transcription of text below map:

*We believe that the public lands ought, as far as possible, to be kept as homesteads for actual settlers; that all unearned lands heretofore improvidently granted to railroad corporations by the action of the Republican party should be restored to the public domain; and that no more grants of land shall be made to corporations, or be allowed to fall into the ownership of alien absentees.
Democratic platform, 1884.*

Detailed Condition: