

The Osage Massacre.

HOW WHITE MEN IN KANSAS BUTCHERED PEACEFUL AND UNOFFENDING INDIANS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1874.

On the 7th of August last a small band of Osages, near Medicine Lodge, Kansas, were attacked and four of them killed by a party of white men. The remainder of the Osages fled to their reservation, abandoning their camps and other property, which were taken by the whites. Captain Ricker, the leader, reported the affair as an attack by Indians, and rumor soon enlarged it into Indian war along the border, with the Osage nation raiding upon the settlers of Kansas. The governor called out the militia and telegraphed the Secretary of War for a supply of arms and ammunition, to be issued to the citizens of that State.

Subsequently information discovered the fact that the Indians attacked were entirely peaceable and friendly, and that the parties styling themselves militia were a number of persons who were skirmishing on their own account and were afterward organized into a militia company, with Ricker as captain, whose commission antedates this massacre, so as to call it an act of war. These facts heretofore reported are now verified by a statement of a member of the militia, of whom the Probate Judge of the county says, under his seal, "He is an old resident of Barbour County and a respectable and reliable man." He states that he went himself, unattended and unarmed into the camp of these Indians, the day before they were murdered, was well treated, and saw no indication whatever of hostility; and stated further, that the Indians did not fire first, nor at all; that they were well known to be on a peaceable hunting expedition; that the four Indians were killed after they had been captured, and when they were entirely helpless, by the order of Captain Ricker, and that at the time of this raid upon the Indians, the parties who have since styled themselves Kansas militia, of whom he was one, were not ordered into service.

It is a significant fact that the same mail, which bore this communication to the Indian office also contained a certified copy of the resolutions of the Legislature of Kansas condemning the present policy in the management of the Indians, and recommending that the Indian Bureau be turned over to the War Department.—*N. Y. Herald.*

PIOCHE NOTES.

From the *Record* of Dec. 29—

On Saturday night we thought we were in for a regular old fashioned storm, but it did not last long, only sufficient to barely whiten the ground with snow. Sunday was fair and yesterday was as fine and beautiful a day as could be experienced at this season of the year.

The unusually fine weather experienced during the present month has proved beneficial to the interests of Pioche, for it has permitted the transportation of the heaviest portion of the machinery intended for the Raymond & Ely Company. Yesterday the second immense spur-wheel, with some other massive castings, reached town, drawn by Gasson's heavy mule team. Thus one source of anxiety is removed, for it was feared, and reasonably, that the storms usual at this period of the year would occur and then it might be some time before the roads were in a condition to allow such immense weights to be hauled over them. As to the rest of the castings and material, it is being sent via Palisade and Eureka, and Pritchard's big teams will snake almost any load through mud or snow. So, though the machinery was shipped later than was at first calculated upon, still the elements proved propitious and permitted the transportation at a season when frequently such operations are performed entirely discontinued. We hope this good luck is but the harbinger of a long continued period of prosperity which will be experienced by the Raymond & Ely Company and our goodly little town. It has had its ups and downs, and for the last few months the latter contingency has become disagreeably monotonous, so we are now very willing to reverse the motion.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

From the *Washington Star* Dec. 28—

Hon. Thomas Fitch and wife are at Willard's.

Col. Adrian Spear, private secretary of Senator Jones, of Nevada, arrived in the city on Saturday. The Senator and his bride will arrive about the 6th of January.

"It was private in the strictest sense." This is what a correspondent of a Boston paper says of the wedding at Dover, N. H., on last Wednesday, of Wm. E. Chandler, of Washington, and Miss Lucy L. Hale, daughter of the late John P. Hale.

The Secretary of the Treasury has instructed the solicitor of the department to bring suit against bondsmen promptly upon the default of officers of the government under the control of the department.

During the December session of Congress just closed 158 new bills were introduced in the Senate and 338 new bills were introduced in the House. This is in addition to resolutions, of which a number were offered in both Houses. The first bill introduced into the Senate was a bill to provide a new form of government for the District of Columbia. The two bills first introduced in the House were the naval and the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bills, both of which were passed by the House before the adjournment, and are now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. In the three weeks of session the Senate passed fourteen bills, of which the only ones of importance were the new finance bill and the bill for the relief of settlers on the public lands who have suffered from the ravages of grasshoppers. The House passed eighteen bills, the only important ones being the two appropriation bills above mentioned. The bill continuing the powers of the District board of audit was also passed by both Houses.

The President has approved the following acts of Congress: An act permitting settlers on the public lands whose crops were destroyed or seriously injured by grasshoppers in the year 1874 to leave and be absent from said lands until July 1st, 1875, under such regulations and proof of the same as the Commissioner of the General Land office may prescribe, and where such grasshoppers shall reappear in 1875 to the like destruction of the crops of settlers the right to leave and be absent as aforesaid shall continue to July 1st, 1876. An act providing for the authentication of the revised statutes of the United States and for preserving the originals of all laws in the Department of State; Also, an act providing: That until the first day of February, 1875, it shall be lawful for the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, in its various terms, to cause to be drawn by lot and impaneled from time to time, the proper number of persons for grand and petit jurors in said court from those whose names are now deposited with the clerk of the said court in the general jury box as jurors of the District of Columbia, and such panels shall be deemed and held to be valid and legal; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to impair the right of challenge to individual jurors as now existing by law.

From the *Washington Capital* Dec. 27—

Flanagan's pocket is a new senatorial feature that is pleasing to contemplate. Postmaster General Jewell having turned out of office certain frauds of Flanagan's appointment in Texas, and sent to the Senate the names of their successors, Senator Flanagan very coolly walked into the committee-room where the names were being considered, and pocketed all the papers. And now when asked about the same, this Texas exportation smiles blandly and shows the anxious inquirer how fingers ante-dated handkerchiefs.

There is a vociferous demand for a republican leader on the floor of the House. There is more need of a few followers. We never saw a better example of Artemus Ward's military company that was made up of brigadier-generals, than these Republican members. For fear this may not be clearly understood, your average member of this sweet scented organization attacks every other member, and opposes every

measure offered but his own. He will tell you confidently that all the prominent representatives of his own party are corrupt, and he hates each with a hatred that cannot be expressed. Especially does he detest Mr. Speaker Blaine, who has been invited by the press to vacate the chair and assumed the leadership. "Let him come down out of that and he'll catch hell," says the average member, and Mr. Speaker Blaine does not ask for affidavits.

The sheriff of Warren county, Mississippi, was persuaded by the citizens of that county to resign for the two good and sufficient reasons: First, that he had filed no bond, and, secondly, that he was not qualified. This was all done peaceably, without violence or threats. The incompetent and bondless sheriff, a colored man, it seems repent- ed of his action and appealed to Governor Ames. This carpetbagger advised the ex-sheriff to call out a posse, which he did. The posse came down on Vicksburg, a thousand strong, armed to the teeth. At this the citizens took up arms and repulsed the negroes, killing quite a number. Now that the affair is at an end the President issues a proclamation ordering the citizens to cease their tumultuous proceedings. It is simply infamous.

Of like sort is the action of the so-called returning board of Louisiana, that after a pretended canvass throws out enough votes to wrest the State from the Conservatives, and give such a majority in the legislature as will insure the return of brother-in-law Casey to the United States Senate. The cool audacity of the entire proceeding is only equaled by that of the Administration, that continues Federal bayonets in support of the outrage. In all this President Grant receives encouragement from his Attorney-General. We have a little matter in store which we purpose ventilating on the return of Congress that will keep Mr. Williams busy enough about himself without further disturbing the South.

BY TELEGRAPH.
AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 4.—The Secretary of the Interior has announced, for the guidance of local land officers, the following important rulings: "1st, a homesteader who makes his entry in good faith has six months in which to establish his residence, and the tract embraced in such entry is excepted from the grant to a railroad definitely located during said six months, even if the homestead is afterwards abandoned; 2nd, a tract included in a cash pre-emption entry cancelled because it embraced more than 160 acres, and not included in a subsequent entry, does not inure to a railroad which was definitely located after the first entry was made and prior to the cancellation thereof."

The Secretary of the Interior affirms the following rulings of the general land office: "The time a homestead claimant was in the U. S. military service in the late rebellion should be taken as part of the five years in which a contest under the fifth section of the homestead act could be commenced, and if such period, when added to the time of actual residence and cultivation, was more than five years before the contest commenced, the contest should be dismissed."

Commissioner Burdett decides that the testimony in homestead contests may be taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths and using a seal, upon proper notice to the defendant.

The following is the official syllabus of the late decision of the Secretary of the Interior, on the case of the State of Oregon against Stott & Waggoner, pre-emption claimants of the bed of what was formerly Wappatto Lake—

"First, the act of March 12, 1860, made a grant in present to the State of Oregon of all lands within her limits which were at that date swamp and overflowed, and made thereby unfit for cultivation, with the exception of that class mentioned in the proviso to the first section of said act; 2nd, a tract of land is not necessarily excluded from the grant because, at any given date, it may be found to be covered by water having the appearance of a lake and, in the judgment of the surveyors, of a character to be meandered; 3rd, the State,

notwithstanding the return of the surveyor general, had a right to show by any competent evidence, by parole or otherwise, the character of the land at the time her right accrued, and the weight of such evidence should govern."

Kopp's *Western Land Owner*, for January, says that the following are among the patents that have been issued for mining claims:

In Wasatch Co., Utah, Jacob Lawrence *et al*, the Solfara-Toria sulphur claim; in Tooele Co., the Hope Consolidated Mining Co., Gentile-Belle, Red Eagle, American Flag, Lynn and Blackhawk mines.

Boston, 4.—To-morrow King Kalakaua will visit the public schools and will give a reception at the State House to the militia officers. It has transpired that the King is quite a poet, he having today presented Oliver Wendell Holmes a poem of his own, in the original manuscript, which is said to have decided merit.

NEW ORLEANS, 4.—Governor Kellogg's message to the legislature to-day refers to the crevasse and to political disturbances as having impaired the prosperity of the State, diminished the revenues and prevented a close collection of taxes the past year, but says that the receipts have been nearly equal to the expenses, and the rate of State and city taxation has been largely reduced, and for the first time in many years not a dollar has been added to the State debt, but on the contrary it has been sensibly reduced. He counts in this reduction the funding operations of the past year, and places the figures at \$1,300,000. The rate of the city and State taxation under his administration, he states, has been reduced twelve mills. He devotes a large space to the history of the funding scheme, and enlarges upon the good results which have been produced by its operation. He also commends the constitutional amendments which have been adopted, suggesting the limiting of the State debt to fifteen millions, and the rate of taxation for State purposes to twelve and a half mills, exclusive of the school tax. He recommends a change in the funding board, so that, instead of being composed of State officers, as at present, it shall be composed of presidents and ex-presidents of the chamber of commerce, Cotton Exchange, Merchants' Exchange, or other business men. He also recommends an amendment to the funding law, by providing that State officers, taxpayers or creditors of the State may resist the funding of any illegal evidence debt, by adducing evidence of their invalid character. He recommends legislation to relieve the city of New Orleans of the pressure of the great debt already incurred, and in conclusion calls attention to the state of anarchy which has lately prevailed over a great portion of the State, and urges legislation which will secure the enforcement of obedience to the laws. He says no amount of misgovernment, oppressive taxation or usurpation of office can excuse the fact that there is less security for life in Louisiana than in any other State; that assassination for political reasons is practised and applauded, and that in the whole of northwest Louisiana no peaceful, industrious citizen can openly proclaim himself a republican and be safe from molestation. He warns the people against fostering such a spirit, and reproaches the formation and maintenance of armed organizations of citizens, as sure in the end to lead to trouble for the whole people. He closes with the expression of his great desire for peace and the settlement of all troubles, but declares that he is the legal governor, and will perform his duty until relieved.

When the motion was made in the legislature to proceed to the permanent organization, a scene of great confusion ensued, which was increased by a motion to seat the members from the contested parishes. The republicans protested against the organization, and denounced it as revolutionary. The sergeant-at-arms was called upon to seat the members and restore order, and finally the motion to proceed to the permanent organization was carried and L. A. Wiltz and ex-Governor Hahn were put in nomination. When the call of the roll was about half through, Hahn asked leave to make a few remarks, which privilege was accorded him, and he declined the nomination, and protested against the manner of the organization. He declared

himself in favor of reform, and called upon the democrats as well as his fellow republicans to join him in an honest effort to obtain it. At last the call was finished and the result was announced—Wiltz 55, Hahn 2, Blank 1. A quorum having voted, Wiltz was declared elected, and the oath of office was administered. Many of the republican members had left the house, and the rest started to go, but the speaker directed the sergeant-at-arms to allow no one to go out. A clerk was then elected, and the swearing in of members began, the sergeant-at-arms experiencing some trouble in preventing the exodus of the republican members. General Trowbridge was sent for and, at the request of the speaker, cleared the lobbies of police and spectators. General De Trobriand now came into the hall accompanied by two officers of his staff, a squad of soldiers having been marched into the corridor leading to the hall. General De Trobriand stepped up to Speaker Wiltz, and asked that Vigors, the former clerk of the house, should read a letter which he presented. Trezevant, the newly elected clerk, objected, and the general then asked, as he was unable to judge who was clerk of the house, that his adjutant should read the letters. The adjutant then read the letters, one of which stated to the general that an illegal body was sitting as the house of representatives, and that Mr. Vigors, the clerk, would furnish him with a list of those members who had been duly elected, and as such returned by the returning board; the other letter requested the general to eject those members who had not been returned as elected by the board. Wiltz protested, and declared that this was a legally organized body. General De Trobriand replied that as a soldier he had only to obey the orders of his superior officer. Wiltz reiterated the statement that the body was legally organized and added, "After the organization we seated five gentlemen whose cases had been referred to us by the returning board. Will you eject these men?" The General repeated that he was an officer and must obey orders, and he came alone, thinking that his presence would be sufficient to carry out these orders. The speaker thanked him for the courtesy, and said, "While we submit to the U. S. government it is my duty as speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, to ask you to use force, as until then the five men refuse to leave the hall." General De Trobriand replied—"I don't like to make a show, I don't know the members, I would prefer for you to point them out and I will ask them to leave, or will you have me fill the room with soldiers?"

Speaker Wiltz—"I cannot permit those members whom we have just recognized as being elected to be put out. It is my duty to keep up the dignity of the state of Louisiana as well as it is yours to keep up that of the U. S. army."

At this point the chairman of the committee on elections submitted a report, declaring that eight members, whose names were given, and who were rejected by the returning board, were elected. General De Trobriand experienced some difficulty in ascertaining who the members were who were rejected by the returning board, but finally, by the aid of Hugh Campbell, a militia general, and Vigors, clerk of the last house, he succeeded in finding six, who were each in turn taken out into the lobby between two soldiers as they, by the advice of the Speaker, refused to go without force being used. All entered a formal protest against the act of Gen. De Trobriand, who then ordered Vigors to call the roll. Speaker Wiltz refused to permit Vigors to occupy the clerk's place, and ordered the sergeant-at-arms to remove him, whereupon General De Trobriand declared that this was no organized legislature, and that Wiltz was no speaker, and he ordered two soldiers to escort Vigors to the clerk's place, which was done. Speaker Wiltz then rose, and briefly recounted the acts of the day, protested against the outrages committed upon free citizens, declared that Louisiana was no longer a sovereign state, that she had no longer a republican form of government, and concluded by calling on the representatives of the State to retire with him before this show of arms. The democratic representatives, headed by Wiltz, then marched out of the Hall and out of the state house, to No. 71, St. Louis street, followed by a large crowd who