

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

Per WESTERN UNION Telegraph Line
GENERAL.

ST. LOUIS, 28.—The Atlantic and Pacific Railroad is completed to Neosho, the extreme southwestern part of the State, three hundred miles from St. Louis.

There is great excitement at Potosi over the arrest of the murderers of the Lapine family in that vicinity. The murder was particularly atrocious, and when the perpetrators were caught and confined in jail at Potosi, a mob gathered with the determination of lynching them. The Sheriff summoned an armed posse, who were attacked and fired on by the mob, and finally returned the fire killing one of the rioters.

CHICAGO, 27.—The *Times'* Washington special says the President, in his forthcoming message, announces that he still maintains the same position on the Cuba question; also that the only grave differences existing with foreign nations are with England, on the fishery question and the Alabama claims matter.

WASHINGTON, 28.—An important item of Southern news, which seems to have been for a time suppressed, reached here this mail, to the effect that E. M. Yerger, who murdered Col. Crane, in Jackson, Miss., more than a year ago, and whose trial and escape caused so much excitement throughout the whole South, has on a second trial been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for life, it is stated by a jury composed of niggers.

When the Senate meets the new senator from Minnesota, in place of Senator Norton, deceased, will present his credentials. This, with the two senators from Georgia, Farrow and Whiteley, whose credentials were presented, but who were not sworn in last session, will make a full Senate for the first time since 1861.

Senator Drake has not yet been appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Claims, although he is still here and is understood to be urging the President to fulfill his promise made last Summer.

Senator Williams, of Oregon, who arrived yesterday, contradicts the newspaper statements, and says there has never been a delegation here from Oregon, proposing his name for the Judgeship; and that the President has not tendered him that appointment nor any other.

NEW YORK, 27.—The *Tribune's* St. Petersburg special telegraphs on Sunday afternoon that he has good authority for stating a conference of the powers is to be held.

The *Tribune's* special at Amiens reports that the Prussians crossed the Somme on Saturday, and threaten an attack on Amiens.

The *Tribune's* Berlin correspondent, on authority, asserts that at the breaking out of the present war, Prussia agreed, in return for Russia's neutrality to the latter's claim for the abrogation of the Paris treaty, and Russia undertook to prevent Austria from interfering in the war with France.

The *Herald's* special, Versailles, 27.—Forts Issy, Vauvers and Montrouge opened a heavy fire last night. A sortie is expected.

MONTGOMERY.—A conflict has arisen between the old and new State governments. Smith and Bingham, Governor and Treasurer, refuse to give up their offices to their successors and have obtained troops from the commanding officer here to protect them. Both branches of the legislature were in session to-day. The Senate adjourned without taking action, but the House appointed a committee to investigate by what authority troops are quartered, in time of peace, at the capital. An indignation meeting will be held to-night.

INDIANAPOLIS.—An old citizen, living near Madison, Ind., was found murdered in his house yesterday. It is supposed he was killed on Friday. He was a bachelor, living alone.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The report of the commissioner of Internal Revenue, Delano, will be made public to-morrow. It is a longer report than last year, and contains some important recommendations with regard to the tax on tobacco. It does not, contrary to report, recommend any change in the whisky tax. On the latter point the report says the experience of the past year has served to strengthen the commissioner's opinion as to the impolicy of changing the law taxing spirits, and induces me to

repeat the recommendation of my last annual report, that the rate of tax and manner of collection be not changed. The reports of revenue from this source for 1870 are \$55,581,509.18, already within \$4,500,000 of my estimate. My anticipation is almost realized, and without time and experience it seems to be unwise and inexpedient to change the law in any essential feature. With regard to the enforcement of this and other portions of the law the commissioner says there is no insurmountable difficulty, with regard to the proper qualifications of the revenue officers, for ability and integrity is what is most essential to secure the prompt and certain collection of the taxes, and the employment of spies and informers and the policy of paying them merits condemnation; if ever they were useful they are, in his opinion, no longer necessary, and he thinks service can be improved by discontinuing such aids. The officers now termed detectives should be continued in the service under the designation of assistant supervisors. The total yearly production of spirits is 72,425,353 gallons, and there is no reason to believe that there will be any falling off for the coming year. The plan of surveying distilleries on the basis of a forty-eight hour fermenting period for sweet mash has been fully carried out, and its results have been highly beneficial and advantageous to the government. The commissioner says the reduction of spirits from fruit is likely to be largely increased for the current year, owing to excessive fruit crops grown in many parts of the U. S., and because the act of July has relieved manufacturers from many of the requirements applicable to grain distillation, which, when applied to fruits, were found to be burdensome. The quantity of spirits in bond in July 1865, was 16,685,166 gallons; the quantity entered in bond for the year ending June 30th, 1870, was 71,337,069 gallons; withdrawn from bond during the last period is 76,389,807; remaining in bond July 1st, 1870 was 11,632,458.

With regard to tobacco the report says the receipts continue to be satisfactory, there being an increase of \$7,920,000 over the preceding year. This increase of nearly eight millions has not been spasmodic, but there has been a regular monthly increase. The present law imposes two rates of tax on manufactured tobacco, one of sixteen and the other of thirty-two cents a pound. It seems to have been the intention, says the Commissioner, to apply the former rate only in exceptional cases, while the general rate was to be double the amount; but in practice it is found that what was to have been occasional and only exceptional has come to be too nearly the only and prevailing rate on tobacco manufactured and sold as smoking tobacco, while much that is intended and used for chewing is sold also under the lesser rate. There is but one remedy for the frauds perpetrated under this head, and that is to make the tax on all descriptions of tobacco uniform. Less of irregularity would then exist under a tax of thirty-two cents per pound than under the present rates. There seems to be no good reason why there should be different rates of taxation on articles of equal price and value simply because one is used for smoking and the other is used for chewing. Why not reverse the rule and place the largest tax upon smoking tobacco and the lesser upon chewing, with a uniform tax of thirty-two cents per pound on all manufactured tobacco? The revenue can be collected with much greater facility than at present. Manufacturers would be at liberty to adopt any mode of manipulating the raw material, or any process of manufacturing it they deem necessary, without being questioned by the Government. There would be less irregularity in the practical operations of the tax on all classes of consumers, while the receipts of the Treasury would be increased by at least \$4,500,000. The honest and larger portion of the tobacco trade are nominally in favor of a uniform rate of tax on all kinds of manufactured tobacco; and while a portion of the trade favor a tax of 16 cents, a large majority are indifferent as to the rate, whether it be 16 or 32 cents per pound, provided the tax is uniform, thoroughly collected, and the manufacturer left free to manipulate his product as he pleases. He recommends, to correct these evils, that the law be so amended as to allow no goods entered for export in bonded warehouses to be withdrawn therefrom for consumption upon payment of the tax until twelve months from the time they were so bonded. The commissioner points out the defects, ambiguities and contradictions of the law of July 14th,

1870, caused by the hurry of the closing hours of the session. He says that it is believed to have been the intention to retain all the taxes imposed upon the sales of distilled spirits and malt liquors by the act of July 20th, 1868; yet section two of the act of July 14th, 1870, nevertheless repeals the tax upon the sales of malt liquors.

With regard to the two and a half per cent tax on compound interest and dividends of railroads, bank, and insurance companies, he says that it is believed to have been the intention of Congress to continue the five per cent tax until Aug., 1870, and after that to substitute a tax of 2½ per cent; but owing to the peculiar language of the statute no tax can be withheld from coupons falling due during the last five months of 1870; the amount involved in this question is very little less than six millions. The decision of the circuit court of Pennsylvania, that no tax can be withheld from this source for the first seven months of 1870 has been appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court. The right to withhold the tax from the salaries of government officers during that time turns also on the point in this case. Report says that the public resolutions, No. 75, approved July 13, 1870, relieved insurance companies from certain taxes, but an act passed next day restored them in language so plain as to operate as a repeal of the section. The commissioner mentions that the repeal of the stamp tax on receipts serves practically as a repeal of the tax upon demand and sight drafts and bank checks. A person gives the bank a receipt in lieu of a check, which the bank uses as a voucher. This practice is increasing and seems likely to be general and the present law provides no remedy. The repeal of the special tax on apothecaries takes effect in May next and, as yet, they have to pay after that a special tax if they use liquors in prescriptions, so their taxes are really increased. The defects mentioned in the law are but a few of these discovered. The commissioner estimates an annual revenue of \$111,418,000 from internal taxation after the law of last July is entirely in force. Here recommends an abolition of the stamp tax on prepared mustard and jellies. No reference is made to income tax. The commissioner suggests the expediency of Congress making a provision for the final disposition, at an early day, of all lands which have been acquired and are now owned by the U. S. under the direct tax laws.

NEW YORK, 29.—Private cable dispatches say that it is officially stated in the *London Telegraph*, this morning, that Russia has decided to withdraw her demand and submit the proposition to the decision of a conference.

Private French advices say that a great conflict between the opposing forces, to the number of 300,000 men, is likely to occur immediately in the Southern Department. The Prussians are within twelve miles of the French provisional government.

Trochu denies the truth of the statement that he intends to banish 10,000 Parisians because of the scarcity of provisions.

The U. S. ship, *Guard*, commander E. P. Lull, will leave on the Darien expedition about the 5th proximo. Commander Selfridge, who has command of the expedition will take passage in the *Guard*, and proceed at once to the entrance of Atuantu, where the work is to be begun.

The staff of the present Darien expedition will be composed of an astronomer, a naturalist, a photographer and a civil engineer.

WASHINGTON, 29.—The report of Gen. Dyer, chief of ordnance, is in the hands of the Secretary of War. In regard to the appropriations provided for the ensuing year, General Dyer remarks that they are larger than they have been any year since the close of the war. The operation of the law has caused great embarrassment to the work of the ordnance bureau. All operations at the arsenals in the department, except the breaking up of ammunition and preparing of obsolete and unserviceable ordnance and ordnance stores for sale, had to be suspended immediately. In other respects the law has operated to the detriment of the department; and it is now necessary to ask for a sufficient appropriation to meet all probable wants of the department for the ensuing fiscal year. A further reduction of enlisted men of the ordnance service, from seven hundred and fifty to five hundred, is contemplated and will soon be made; and the number of officers has been reduced to fifty-nine. Since the close of the war the department has disposed of more than a million three hundred and forty thousand stand of small arms unfit for

use and of unserviceable patterns; three hundred and fifty thousand of these were sold within the past month. The sales since the first of July, 1870, to the present date, have yielded about five millions, six hundred thousand dollars. In concluding his report Gen. Dyer calls renewed attention to the defenseless condition of the forts of the sea coast. None of the permanent forts are fully armed, and many of them, particularly those in the Southern States, have not a single gun of suitable calibre in them.

The Government having paid considerable amounts in interest of bonds of the various Pacific Railroads, which sums have not yet been paid back into the Treasury, Secretary Boutwell has notified the employees of the warrant department not to pass any more warrants for the payment of government freight, or imports, of the Kansas Pacific, Union Pacific or Central Pacific railroads, until these reimburse the Government for the amounts already advanced. In consequence of this action there is considerable excitement among the agents of the above incorporations, who have been here for some time endeavoring to get their accounts settled. The Union Pacific owes \$2,283,229, the Kansas Pacific \$488,169, the Central Pacific \$3,020,129.

There is a general call for troops to quell disturbances in many parts of the South. A Democratic correspondent in Columbia, S. C., reports the arrival there of six companies of infantry, and adds the people will welcome them and assist them in capturing roaming marauders, called militia.

The best informed military authorities here, including both French and Germans, agree in pronouncing the situation in France as more perilous to the French arms than at any time except the day before the fall of Sedan. It is believed that Frederick Charles on the left, and the Duke of Mecklenburg on the right, have enveloped Paladines' army, while it has been held by Von der Tann in the front; and that the fall of Tours is almost certain to follow.

The commissioner of agriculture has just received from the imperial botanical gardens of St. Petersburg, a collection of Russian apples, comprising about four hundred varieties. These are well provided with grafts, which will be at once distributed to nurseries and others who desire to experiment with and propagate from them. They are promising acquisitions for the northern and northwestern States.

By order of the War Department the Superintendent-General of the recruiting service, at Cincinnati, is required to forward five hundred recruits from that department to Atlanta, Ga., for assignment to the 18th infantry.

A reported attempt to procure the removal of the Sergeant-at-arms, and other officers in the Senate continues.

MEMPHIS, 29.—Private dispatches from Jackson, Miss., say the report from Washington that E. M. Yerger was tried, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for life is untrue. The trial does not occur until January.

The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has been printed. It is shorter than usual, and its main points have been anticipated. Full details are given of the appointments in the new policy of the President, and the working of the system. The effect of Red Cloud's visit, and his subsequent good conduct on the plains, are presented at full length.

NEW YORK, 28.—The *World's* special cable correspondent says, the German manufacturers are to meet at Manheim, December 25th, to consider the tariff changes rendered necessary by the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine.

Bismarck has told Odo Russel that Paris would not be permitted to surrender, except on the condition of a complete cessation of hostilities.

No decisive battle as yet has taken place near Orleans. In the skirmishes thereabout the French have captured nine guns; the Prussian losses were heavy.

The Duke of Mecklenburg was foiled in his attempt to occupy Lemans.

Palladines is still entrenched, between Arthenay and Orleans; the Germans have failed to surround him. The government at Tours have every confidence in his plans and believes that he will soon be able to pierce through the Prussian lines and push forward to Paris.

ARIZONA, 30.—Governor Safford has returned to Tucson. Many of the leading families of Sonora have arrived at Tucson. It is stated that there is an inauguratory movement on foot for the annexation of the northern part, if not all, of Sonora.