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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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EASTERN.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior—Indian Locations—Timber Lands.

WASHINGTON, 27.—The Secretary of the Interior, in his annual report, refers to his recommendation of last year in regard to the Indians, and says: Consideration of the number of agencies has been undertaken with a view to a better location of the Indians, which will, at the same time, render more efficient the supervision possible and reduce the expenses of government, and lessen the opportunities for fraud and speculation. As far as the appropriations made by Congress would permit, agricultural implements and domestic cattle have been furnished to the Indian tribes to set the Indians to work for their own support and to encourage industrial habits. An Indian police has been organized at 22 agencies, and from all of them favorable reports as to the working of the new system have been received. Instructions have been given to discriminate in the distribution of supplies and annuities, which are not actual necessaries, against individual Indians who show no disposition to work, thus discouraging idleness.

The allotment of land among Indians on the several reservations was ordered, and is in progress. The facilities of education have been extended as much as possible, and proper directions have been given for the instruction of Indian children in practical pursuits. The Indian service has been reorganized in several of its branches. It was found necessary to remove a number of agents on account of improper practices or lack of business efficiency, and great care has been taken in filling their places with new men. Important changes have been made in the contract system. The detection of fraud has been followed by vigorous prosecution, and on the whole I feel enabled to say that the character of the service has been raised in point of integrity and efficiency.

The following is a full text of that portion of the Secretary of the Interior's annual report in which he comments on the two acts passed last winter authorizing the citizens of Colorado, Nevada and the territories to take timber from the public lands for mining and domestic purposes and providing for the sale of timber lands in California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington territory. Secretary Schurz says: In the opinion of the commissioner of the general land office, which is on record in this department, these two acts are more calculated to hasten the destruction of the forests in the states and territories named than to secure the preservation of them. The commissioner of the general land office in a letter officially to me expresses the following opinion of the act relating to Colorado, Nevada and the territories: It is a fact well known, that while almost all the timber land in these states and all the territories, except in Dakota and Washington, is regarded as mineral, only a small portion is so in reality. The effect of this bill will be, in my opinion, to prevent the survey and sale of any timber lands or timber upon the lands in the states and territories named, thus cutting off large prospective revenues that might and should be derived from the sale of such lands or the timber on them. It is equivalent to a donation of all the timber lands to the inhabitants of those States and Territories, which will now be found to be the largest donation of the public domain hitherto made by Congress. This bill authorizes the registers and receivers of the land offices in the districts in which the lands are situated to make investigations without any specific directions from the Secretary of the Interior or Commissioner of the General Land Office; to settle and adjust their own accounts, and retain from the moneys coming into their hands from the sale of lands such amounts as they may expend or cause to be expended. This method will be found exceedingly expensive and result in no good. Experience has shown that the machinery of the Land Offices is wholly inadequate to prevent the depredations. Schurz continues: The rules and regulations issued in pursuance of the first section of this act are to be found in the report of the commissioner of the general land office, herewith presented. These rules were drawn up with a view to, and intention of preserving young timber and undergrowth upon the mineral lands of the United States, and to the end that the mountain sides may not be left denuded and barren of the timber and undergrowth necessary to prevent a precipitation of the rainfall and melting of snows in floods upon the fertile, arable lands in the valleys below, thus destroying the agricultural and pasturage interests of the mineral and mountainous portions of country, make it the duty of the registers and receivers to see that trespassers upon timber lands, not mineral, be duly reported; that upon the mineral lands, only timber of a certain size be cut and that young trees and undergrowth be protected, and that timber be cut only for the purposes mentioned in the act. These rules and regulations will be enforced with all the power left it to this department to that end, in order to save what may be saved; but I deem it my duty to call attention to the fact, as set forth by the commissioner in the letter above quoted, that the machinery of the land offices is utterly inadequate to accomplish the object in view. After careful consideration of the above named act and its probable effects, I venture the prediction that the permission given the inhabitants of the states and territories named therein to take timber from the public lands in any quantity and whenever they can find it, for all purposes except export and sale to the railroads, will be taken advantage of, not only by the settlers and miners to provide economically for their actual current wants, but by persons who see in this donation a chance to make money. It will stimulate a wasteful consumption beyond actual need, and lead to wanton destruction; that the machinery left to this department to prevent such waste and destruction through the enforcement of the rules above mentioned, will prove entirely inadequate; that as a final result, in a few years the mountain sides of these States and Territories will be stripped bare of the timber now growing upon them, with no possibility of its reproduction, if once wasted off from slopes, and that the irreparable destruction of the forests will bring upon those States all the calamities experienced from the same cause in districts in Europe and Asia similarly situated. It appears to me, therefore, that a repeal of the above-named act, and the substitution therefor of a law embodying a more provident policy, similar to that of the bill hereinbefore advocated, is in the highest degree desirable. If the destruction of the forests in these States be permitted, the agricultural and pasturage interests in mountainous regions will undoubtedly be sacrificed, and the valleys, in the course of time, will become unfit for the habitation of man.

The act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon and Nevada and in Washington Territory, passed by Congress at its last session, is commented upon by the commissioner of the general land office as follows: It is a bill of local and not general application to timber lands of the United States, and adds one more to the special acts for the disposal of public domain. The price fixed is too low, as much of the land is worth from $5 to $30 per acre. Under the provisions of the bill the timber lands will, in my opinion, be speedily taken up and passed into the hands of speculators, notwithstanding the provisions to prevent such a result. Soil should not be sold with timber where land is not fit for cultivation. Only timber of certain sizes should be sold, and young timber retained with a view to the reproduction of forests. The bill should have limited the sale of lands to persons who have farms and homes within the state or territory, and it ought to have required purchasers to show affirmatively that they had need of the timber for domestic uses. The last clause of the second section will permit any person applying for a tract of timber land, and securing a certificate from the register, to sell his right and interest therein immediately, and the purchaser, although it may have been obtained by perjury, may be entitled to the land. Section five provides that any person prosecuted under section 2,461 of the Revised Statutes of the United States may be relieved of the penalty by the payment of $2.50 per acre for the land trespassed upon. This is objectionable for the reason that the penalty fixed is altogether inadequate, and does not require the payment of the costs of prosecution, which are often greater than the penalty to be collected. It should require that trespassers should pay for the entire subdivision trespassed upon. There can be no doubt that, if this bill becomes a law, it will be taken advantage of by persons who want to make money quickly. Schurz adds: I fully concur with the commissioner of the General Land Office in his opinion thus expressed.

A Negro Desperado.

PORT GIBSON, 27.—Dr. Buck, sheriff of Claybourne County, having received information, before daylight this morning, that Harrison Page, the negro desperado who assassinated the chancery clerk of this county two years ago, was at his house, three miles from town, went out with his deputies to arrest him. One of the deputies, Robert Lum, was shot and instantly killed from a window. The sheriff, on forcing the door, was shot in the bowels, face and arm, and is in a dying condition. Thos. Harwood, another deputy, was knocked into an old cistern and left for dead, though he has since revived and is not seriously hurt. A posse left town immediately, and Charlie Wellman, one of the posse, while riding near Page's house, was shot through the face, arm, leg and hand. He is still alive. The assassin escaped, though some of his accomplices were killed.

WESTERN.

The Sierra Nevada Mine.

SAN FRANCISCO, 27.—The latest news from Virginia says: The entire face of the crosscut on the 2,200 foot level of the Sierra Nevada shows ore averaging about $91 to the ton. The prophecy is now considered merely a horse.

Strike of Sailors.

Coasting sailors of this port are on a strike against a reduction in wages from $35 to $30 per month. Their organization numbers about 1,500 members.

FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

British Advance—Afghans Fleeing.

LONDON, 27.—Fort Mahomeatzem, otherwise called Khurum, was occupied by the British troops this morning. The Afghan garrison fled to Peeward, at the northern extremity of Khurum valley, where they are expected to offer resistance to further advance.

The Captain of the Ill-Fated Steamer.

A Rotterdam dispatch says: It is impossible to converse with Captain Schwenzen, who is under medical treatment, his nervous system being strongly affected. He has received nobody. The captain of the *City of Amsterdam* gives the following information: It was very dark on the night when the *Pomerania* was off Folkestone. Captain Schwenzen left the bridge for a moment. When he felt the shock he immediately returned to the bridge. He said he could not well recollect the subsequent events. The *City of Amsterdam*, which was passing at the time, heard cries, but could see nothing; nevertheless, she lowered her lifeboats and Captain Schwenzen was found floating on a piece of wood.

The Ferry-Boat Disaster.

LIVERPOOL, 27.—It is feared that 15 persons were drowned by the disaster to the ferry boat, which was in collision with the ship at anchor in the river Mersey yesterday.

BRITISH AMERICA.

The Vice-regal Party.

HALIFAX, 27.—North Street station was crowded this morning to witness the departure of the governor-general and princess. The buildings were beautifully decorated and great crowds were present an hour before the time of leaving. The vice-regal party reached the station at 1.05 and were received by a guard of honor from the Sixty-third volunteer rifles. The marquis and princess went at once to the car and remained on the platform till the train moved off, amid immense cheering, a salute being fired at the same time from the citadel.

Correspondence.

Mutual Improvement.

ALMY, Uintah County,
Wyoming Territory,
Nov. 16th, 1878.

Editor Deseret News:

On the 14th inst. the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, and the Female Relief Society, joined together to celebrate that day, it being the first anniversary of the Y. M. M. I. A. An invitation was extended to the Latter-day Saints to meet at the schoolhouse at 7 o'clock p. m. The occasion was a very pleasant one. It opened with singing by the Almy choir and a prayer by Bro. John Sims, a short but very appropriate address by Counselor Crompton, which was followed by songs and recitations by the Almy and Evanston Saints. A short sectarian sermon by Thomas Dan, which seemed to be enjoyed by all present, if allowed to judge by smiling faces. Next was a lunch which everyone seemed to enjoy. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing. There are 38 members in the Y. M. M. I. A. of this ward, most of whom are striving to store their minds with useful knowledge, that they may become useful men in the kingdom of God. This association has done, and is doing a vast amount of good in this little ward.

Yours respectfully,
JAS. H. BALL,
Sec. Y. M. M. I. A. of Almy.

No. 8, FLOYD STREET,
Lowell, Massachusetts,
Nov. 21st, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

During the past four weeks I have been visiting several towns in northeastern Massachusetts, that have been the scenes of former missionary labors by myself and companion in 1876 and 1877. I have renewed numerous old acquaintances, visited several scattered Saints, and done some private preaching. But most of my time has been occupied in searching old, musty records, and culling from them the names of those who have passed from this stage of probation into another, where their ears have been, or will be, saluted by the sound of the true gospel of Jesus Christ, a sound they were not privileged to hear while in the flesh.

I have been very much gratified at the pleasure and hospitality with which I have been received by those whose acquaintance I made while on my former mission, and I believe that in some instances their acquaintance with an elder in Israel has tended to prepare their minds for the reception of the gospel in the near future.

I have made the acquaintance of many genealogists and gentlemen who do more or less in that line, and am often much surprised to see the great interest taken in this work by many who seem to have no particular object in view in what they do. Many such gentlemen have remarked to me that the pursuit has an irresistible fascination for them, and that they have a strong but indefinable desire to trace out the records of their ancestors. New works on this subject are constantly issuing from the press, and large sums of money are being expended to carry on the work, and at the present rate of its progress, it will not be many years before most all old New England families will have their genealogies more or less completely compiled.

The Latter-day Saints can easily surmise what mysterious, potent influence it is that is impelling the present generation of proud, haughty, conceited, learned, and sceptical New Englanders to perform this work. On the third day of April, A.D., 1836, in the Kirtland Temple, Elijah, the prophet, restored to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the keys of baptism for the dead, and soon after that, printed family genealogies commenced to issue from the New England press. In 1845, about one year after the death of Joseph Smith the New England Historic Genealogical Society was incorporated by a few Boston gentlemen. Its membership has steadily increased until it now numbers nearly or about three thousand, nearly all professional men. The agents of this society have penetrated nearly every cemetery in New England, and searched the records of nearly every town and hamlet collecting names of the dead.

This is the dispensation of the fullness of times, in which all things are to be gathered together in one, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. We have heard the gospel and thousands believed it, and long to be united, in the same faith, baptism, ordinances and covenant of holy priesthood, with the Former and Latter-day Saints. This they can only do by proxy, and not by proxy till the living Saints can obtain their records, hence the powers of heaven are operating for the accomplishment of the latter work.

I rejoice to receive evidences of the anxious feelings of the saints in Utah on this subject, proving that their hearts are indeed "turned to their fathers," who lie helpless in the grave. In one day last week I received fifteen letters and on the following eight, and yesterday nine more, nearly all from parties in Utah upon this subject, and my greatest desire is that I may be of service to the Saints in this great work.

B. F. CUMMINGS, Jr.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

In the Probate Court in and for Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah.

In the matter of the estate of GEORGE RICKARD, deceased.

To the Creditors of said deceased:

ALL PERSONS having claims against the said deceased are hereby required to exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within ten months after the first publication of this notice, to me, the undersigned at my residence in the 5th Ward, Salt Lake City.

JAMES A. WOODS,
Administrator of said estate.
Nov 18, 1878. d 203

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