

possible are appropriately recognized in appointments of this kind; and it is fitting, we think, that at least some of the honors to be bestowed, where competency and the necessary qualifications exist, be given to the descendants of the old-timers in preference to men who are not any whiter, and who have come within two or three years and whose permanence of residence may be more or less affected by the public patronage they may receive. Not that we would have the later arrivals barred by any means from the chance of preferment, for among them may be found some of the brightest and worthiest members of the community. But they will naturally get their share, as merit always does. And when, one of these days, the last element of jealousy coming down from the recent past shall have been wiped out, there will be less necessity than now exists to show publicly that the spirit of broad fairness and generosity pervades every department of the public service. Again we say that Dr. Young's appointment, though it perhaps has not furnished the necessity for the foregoing remarks, is a proper and a gratifying step in the grand march of complete and continued reconciliation.

#### A MISSOURI MOBGRAT.

A recent issue of the Richmond (Missouri) Conservator, quoting from the Booneville (Mo.) Democrat, contains an interesting account of "a Mormon War Pensioner," the well known Samuel Tarwater, who was one of the mobbers in the terrible persecutions heaped upon the Saints in early days in that State. Our attention is called to the item by an esteemed friend in this city, Samuel Russell, who, with many others still living in Utah, has still a lively recollection of the events out of which grew Mr. Tarwater's distinction as a "pensioner." We quote the item in full:

A short time since we were asked by a subscriber to give some account of the act of the legislature of Missouri granting a \$100 annual pension to Samuel Tarwater, of Ray county; also of the pensioner, and to explain what service he rendered and in what war to merit so distinguished a token of the state's beneficence.

The act granting him a pension was approved February 15, 1841, and the first section reads: "Samuel Tarwater of Ray county shall receive the sum of \$100 annually on the first day of April in each year, so long as he shall continue unable by reason of wounds received in the Mormon war to make a support by manual labor." The second section provides that the pensioner shall annually undergo an examination by two respectable practicing physicians touching his inability to secure support by manual labor.

Under this act Mr. Tarwater has been a pensioner for fifty-four years, regularly drawing from the state treasury \$100 each year; and, so far as we know, he is the only pensioner of the Mormon war now living in the state or who ever did live in it.

Therefore some account of Mr. Tarwater will prove of interest to our readers. He was born in Tennessee in 1806. His parents removed to Ray county, Mo., in the fall of 1816, five years before the state was admitted to the Union, and four years before the county of Ray was organized. He settled among the Potawatomi

Indians, who then inhabited the country. Samuel Tarwater remained with his parents until 1824, the 18th year of his age, when he married Miss Pollie Broadhurst and set up for himself. After living happily together for a quarter of a century Mrs. Tarwater died and in 1852 Mr. Tarwater married Mrs. E. Orphet. After seventeen years of wedded life she too died and Mr. Tarwater married the third time in 1869, making Miss Sarah E. Mills his wife. She lived only about two years and Mr. Tarwater married a fourth wife, Mrs. Malinda E. Brown. She dying in about two years, he was for the fifth time married, May 15, 1881, his fifth wife being Mrs. Mary A. Scott, the daughter of Thomas and Psyche Kearney. The fifth Mrs. Tarwater was born in Ray county March 20, 1831, and is also dead.

Evidently the pensioner is a much-married man, but whether he is seeking a sixth matrimonial alliance we are not advised.

He is the father of nine children by his first wife, seven by the second, and one by the third, making seventeen in all.

In a fight with Mormons on Crooked river in 1838, two of them attacked him at the same time with corn knives and nearly cut him to pieces. He received a terrible gash on his head, a cut across the throat and a blow in the face, severing his jawbone and knocking out all of the upper teeth. From the effects of these wounds he has never entirely recovered, the blow in his head affecting his memory and the injury to his mouth causing an impediment of speech.

Yet he regularly draws his pension for injuries received in the Mormon war and ought to be granted another for the number of times he has married.

#### NANSEN RETURNING.

The telegraphic news just received from Archangel, confirming previous advices that the Norwegian explorer, Nansen, is returning in safety from his journey to the Polar regions, will be hailed with joy by the scientific world. The second dispatch is from the British consul at Archangel and may be looked upon as official to some extent. It has probably already occurred to the readers of the various advices about Nansen that those coming from the northern coasts of Russia are likely to be reliable, first because from that part of the world the earliest authentic news of him would naturally be looked for in case he had lost his ship and was returning over the ice; and second, because the censorship exercised in the czar's dominions over everything intended for publication makes it exceedingly difficult for sensationalists to deceive the world with fake news items. The inhabitants of the shores of the frozen regions of Russia have hardly yet "caught on" to modern journalism.

#### SAN JUAN PETROLEUM.

The NEWS has had repeated references to the discovery of petroleum along the San Juan river in southeastern Utah, a sample of the product having been sent to the editor some months ago and placed by him in the Chamber of Commerce of this city. A recent letter from Mr. M. Dempsey, one of the discoverers of the product, reports that he hopes to have parties at work sinking wells before next fall,

the development work for 1896 being also about to be put under way. He asks the proper question as to whether petroleum is going to be mentioned by the parties who, he learns, are going East to talk up the mineral resources of Utah. We cannot answer that question, but by way of suggestion we can advise that the important resource he speaks of ought not to be overlooked by local friends of home industry merely because of its remoteness from the capital city. From all reports the indications as to the existence of oil, in paying quantities are satisfactory; and with improved means of transportation we expect many other well-known resources of the southeastern corner of the State to come bravely to the fore in redeeming that section from the scorn with which many would-be wits and real ignoramuses have spoken of it.

#### LIQUOR TRAFFIC REVENUE.

In 1894 some of the sources of revenue of the British government were these: Custom duties—rum £1,983,181, brandy £1,364,059, wine £1,210,142, other spirits £828,448; excise duties—spirits £15,189,345, beer £9,536,948; total £30,077,121, or a round sum in United States dollars of one hundred and fifty millions. This affords a reason why the British premier turned a deaf ear to the Church of England Temperance society when it asked him to reduce the number of saloons to one for every 1,000 of population in cities and for every 600 in villages. The liquors represented in the foregoing figures find distribution through the saloons or public houses, and to limit these meant a falling off in the government revenue. The temperance cause must take a second place while the liquor traffic is a means of such heavy returns to the government, notwithstanding the misery that comes to millions of the people by the business.

#### NUMBER AND STATUS OF INDIANS.

Answering a series of questions as to the Indians, their number, their reservations, their land allotments, their cost to the government, and the propriety of compelling them to support themselves, the St. Paul Pioneer Press gives a great deal of information which to the average reader will be interesting if not quite new. At the present time there are more than a hundred reservations. There are 212,000 Indians on reservations and 240,273 in all. As a general rule Indians are not allowed to leave their reservations, but every Indian to whom allotments are made, and every Indian who has left his tribe and is living in a civilized way, is declared to be a full citizen of the United States, but such citizenship does not impair his rights to tribal or other property. When allotments of land are made, each head of a family is entitled to 160 acres; each single person over eighteen years of age is entitled to 40 and each orphan under eighteen years of age is entitled to 40.

It costs about \$10,000,000 a year to support the Indians, but of this about \$7,000,000 comes from treaty obliga-