

PRE-EMPTIONS AND HOME-STEADS.

THERE is considerable interest being felt just now about the Land question, as by the recent Acts of Congress all the Land Laws, including the homestead, pre-emption and town site acts have been extended to this Territory. Many of our citizens are desirous to know what steps they should take to secure their titles to their lands. They are in possession of farms and other lands upon which they have made valuable improvements, and now that there is an opportunity likely to be given soon for purchase, they very naturally want to know what steps they should take in the premises. We have conversed on this subject with Lewis S. Hills, Esq., who has been appointed Land Receiver for this Territory, and have obtained information in which many of our readers will feel interested.

The pre-emption law provides that any citizen of the United States, or any person who has declared his intention to become a citizen, being the head of a family, over 21 years of age, or a widow, can enter upon any unoccupied lands of the United States and claim from 40 to 160 acres by making a settlement and improvement thereon. Whatever the amount of land entered may be, it must all be in one body and must be entered according to the legal subdivisions. The settlement may consist of any kind of labor done on the land that will show an improvement, as a fence, the foundation of a house, or even plowing. These improvements must be made in the presence of witnesses, as upon entering the land at the District Land Office, proof of settlement, cultivation or occupancy must be made. After a citizen has made the improvements necessary to make the entry of his land legal, he must proceed, within a reasonable time, to make further improvements, including a dwelling-house. By a recent decision it is not requisite to build a dwelling-house after the filing of the intentions at the Land Office; if there is one already on the land at the time of entry, it will answer. This will simplify the proceeding for our citizens, as a very little new improvement will enable them to enter their land, and the buildings already erected by them will answer the purpose required by the law. Pre-emptions made now, will hold good after the survey by conforming to the lines of the survey as afterwards made.

The declaration of an intention to occupy lands has to be filed in the district land office within 90 days after the opening of the office. After the land is entered, the President of the United States will fix a day, by proclamation, for the sale of the lands. The proof of settlement, cultivation, or occupancy must be made, and the land entered previous to this day of sale. The first step necessary for persons now occupying lands to take is to make some improvement on their lands in the presence of witnesses, so that they will be able to prove an improvement made, and then make another improvement in the same way after the lines of the old survey are retraced, in case they should be by the new Surveyor General. Mr. Clark, the Surveyor General of the Territory has not yet arrived. In the telegraphic dispatches about ten days ago, we noticed that commissioner Wilson had issued instructions to him, directing him to proceed to Denver and obtain possession of the original evidence of the survey in this Territory, now in the custody of the Surveyor General at Denver, and then repair to this city, where he has been directed to establish his office. It is altogether likely that he will find it necessary to retrace the survey which was made here in former years. In fact, from all that is known respecting the former survey, it is our opinion that he will find it necessary to make, at least in many places, an entirely new survey. It is not probable that Mr. Clark can open the land office here any earlier than sixty or ninety days from this date.

The Town Site Act we have already written upon at considerable length in previous numbers of this paper, it is not necessary, therefore, that we should again allude to it in this connection.

If the pre-emption is not committed into a homestead, persons entering land must do so by the payment of money or a land warrant. The price of pre-empted land, when sold, will be one dollar and a quarter per acre. Land warrants can be applied in payment before the public sale only, the sale being for cash. The commutation of a pre-emption into a homestead can be made any time after the land is surveyed and the plots thereof transmitted by the Surveyor General to the District Land Office.

The provisions of the Homestead Act allow a man, upon occupancy of land for five consecutive years, to enter it by paying ten dollars and the Land Office's fees. But the Homestead Act can not take effect until the lands are brought into market by the proclamation of the President, which will probably not be until some months after the Land Office is opened.

NEWS FROM FRANKLIN'S PARTY.

POSITIVE information as to the fate of the last of the survivors of the Arctic exploring expedition, under the command of Franklin, has been at last obtained by Captain Hall, the famous American Arctic explorer. The telegraphic dispatches a few days ago, announced the arrival at New York, of Dr. Gould, of Dublin, who has spent the last two years in the polar regions, being for a considerable portion of 1897 in the company of Captain Hall at Repulse Bay. Captain Hall, in 1896, learned from the Esquimaux that Captain Crozier and one of his men, supposed to have been a steward, the last of the survivors of Franklin's expedition, died about two years previous, in the vicinity of Southampton Island. The identity of Crozier was fully proven from the fact that the natives gave his name, and had in their possession several small silver trinkets, besides Crozier's gold watch, a chronometer, made by Arnold & Dent, of London, all of which Captain Hall obtained. He also learned, that in addition to Crozier and his companion, several of their comrades started for Southampton Island from a place at a great distance northward, but that all perished by the way except these two, the opinion being that they were killed by the natives along their route.

Captain Hall also heard of the existence of some records or documents, and other articles, said to have been deposited in a cairn or rude vault, built in King William's Land by the last of the survivors of Franklin's Expedition. Repulse Bay is in the dominions of King Albert, and in consequence of a feud between their Majesties Albert and William, the latter would not allow any of the people of the former to enter his territory. Captain Hall had formed an alliance with King William, and was organizing a party, consisting of over four score of his men, and five Europeans, intending to set out in February or March last for King William's Land for the purpose of obtaining, if possible, these mementoes of Franklin, and the expedition under his command. The whole of the party were well armed, and were determined to give battle to King William and his forces rather than be thwarted in accomplishing the objects of the expedition. It was Captain Hall's intention, if no unforeseen obstacles intervened, to press on from King William's Land, to the open Polar sea. If prevented from so doing he would return to his old quarters, in Repulse Bay, about September of the present year.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

Washington, D. C.—Arrangements have been concluded between the postal departments of the United States and Great Britain, to take effect on January 1st 1899, for the registration of letters conveyed between America and the British West Indies, and the ports of Columbia, Bolivia, Peru and Chili, in the British mail; the registration fee, to be collected in the United States, eight cents on each letter, in addition to the ordinary postage.

New York.—It was reported in Wall-street, to-day, that the opposition line of California steamers has been withdrawn; there has been no confirmation of the report.

Boston.—The National Convention of colored men, in session here, have made arrangements for a mass convention on Monday night. The convention is composed of thirteen delegates, two each from Florida and North Carolina, three from Virginia, and one each from Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, and Maine.

Dunville, Ontario.—The bones of a large animal, supposed to have been a mastodon, were found to-day, while excavating near this place; the teeth are very large, one weighing five pounds. The ribs are six feet long, and round; the tusk is eleven inches in diameter, and fourteen feet long.

New Orleans.—A storm of wind and rain commenced here on Thursday night, and has raged ever since, with but short intervals, and shows no signs of cessation. Continuous east winds have backed the waters of Lake Pontchartrain, through the canals and swamps until the whole of the rear of the city is inundated with an unbroken sheet of water. From Clairborne-street to the Lake, the water is pouring over the banks of the canals, and is still rising; the Pontchartrain Railroad, and several street railroads have been obliged to stop running.

New York, 4.—George W. Jamison, the well-known actor, was run over and instantly killed at Yonkers, last evening, by an express train on the Hudson River Railroad.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Rev. G. Bassler, a distinguished minister of the Southern Church, and President of the General Council of the Southern Church in North America, died here last night.

St. Louis.—Pierre Chouteau, one of the founders of St. Louis, died here last night.

Chicago.—Senator Cole arrived at Council Bluffs, yesterday, making the trip from Sacramento in nine days.

Boston.—R. H. Dana, Jr., has consented to accept the nomination of the opponents of Gen. Butler, in the 5th District Convention, to be held on Monday.

Lawrence, Kansas.—A remarkable petrification was discovered recently at Sheridan, at the end of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. It appears to be the remains of an immense crocodile, and measures one hundred and twenty-six feet in length. The upper jaw measures seven feet and weighs seventy-five pounds.

A letter from the Cherokee nation says the Comanches will openly declare war if the Government don't comply with their demands. The Indians are leaving and coming this way, and a general break up will probably take place immediately.

Cheyenne.—Information from Fort Laramie says that several hundred Sioux under Man-afraid-of-his-horse, and other chiefs, are now there ready to go on their reservation, as soon as transportation is furnished.

The Union Pacific Railroad is finished to Great River; passenger trains will commence running there next week.

San Francisco, 3.—In the Oregon Legislature to-day Gen. Cook, commanding the department of Columbia, was formally received by both Houses in joint convention, and was introduced personally to each member.

A resolution, censuring Senators Williams and Corbett for their acts in the United States Senate, and charging them with misrepresenting the people of Oregon, and requesting them to resign, passed both Houses.

The Oregon State fair exceeds any previous one in every particular; the gross receipts are over \$7,000.

New York, 5.—The Catholic Synod has promulgated a decree to the plenary council at Baltimore, urging the immediate establishment of schools for colored children in the Southern States; also of an establishment for orphans, as there is strong reason to apprehend a large increase of orphanage among the colored children.

The dance house, at No. 316, Water street, has been leased by a ward of the city missionaries, and will be consecrated to religious purposes at noon to-day.

A contract for the construction of the underground railroad in New York has been concluded with the English engineer who built the underground railway in London. They expect to enter on the work at an early day. Mr. M. B. Duncan, who sailed from Liverpool on the steamer Scotia yesterday, took out the contract for the approval of the Board of Directors.

Chicago.—The Republican's Washington special says it is understood that the status of the Spanish legislation here has been canvassed by the President and Secretary Seward. It has been decided that after the date, when our government receives official information that the Spanish government ceases to exist, its representatives here cannot be officially recognized as representing a foreign power. It is thought that some of them may be succeeded by ambassadors from the Provisional Junta. Seward has been very careful not to commit himself against the insurrectionary leaders. It seems that the Queen made preparations for an occasion like the present by making safe investments in America. It is said some time ago her agents bought up the whole of the available Germantown water stock in Philadelphia. Mr. Seward has taken an active interest in Spanish affairs. Minister Hale having kept him fully posted.

The Tribune's Washington special thinks that Seward will take advantage of the present Spanish difficulties to urge on Congress the purchase of Cuba; it is even said that he will take the responsibility of making the purchase before the meeting of Congress, as in the Alaska case.

FOREIGN.

London, 3.—Perfect order reigns in Madrid. At Barcelona the people sacked the town hall and publicly burned the Statue of Queen Isabella. Colonel Cheste, who sought to repress the riotous proceedings, was fired on by the mob, but fled and escaped under the cover of night. Basols has been appointed to the command of the Province of Catalonia by the provisional Junta.

It is reported that a military and commercial treaty has been concluded between France and Holland; Belgium is expected to join it.

Disraeli has issued an address to his constituents in Buckinghamshire, reciting the course pursued by the minister on the question of reform and national finance, the relations between England and foreign nations and the triumphant termination of the Abyssinian war. He commented at length on the reform project, gives its history and recounts his objections thereto. He holds that the ministry had a right to expect that the Whigs would wait to learn the temper of the new parliament on the question before pressing its consideration; but they saw fit to bring it before the House of Commons at the last moment. A proposition, he says, severing church and state and the disestablishment of the Irish church, was meant and included in that movement. It also involved the stirring up of additional rancor and bitterness in England, would unsettle property, and make confusion, contagious, and worse than all would give England over to Popery, and practically to the rule of a foreign power.

Madrid, 3.—Marshal Serrano, accompanied by seven generals of the army, entered Madrid to-day in triumph. Great preparations were made for his reception; the streets and buildings, both public and private, were decorated. A large civic and military procession escorted the generals through the city. Houses, sidewalks and public squares along the route of the procession were crowded with citizens, who received Serrano and the generals with wild enthusiasm. The procession was followed by a parade and review of the National Guard. This was a great and patriotic display and was made the occasion of a striking manifestation of the popular will. The troops carried, side by side, their flags and banners, on which were inscribed, "Down with the Bourbons," "The Sovereignty of the People," "Religious Liberty," "Free Education," and other mottoes of a similar character. At the termination of the review Marshal Serrano made a patriotic address to the immense multitude and the soldiers, in the course of which he announced that he had united with General Prim, in calling Marshal Espartero, duke of Vittoria, to the head of the State.

The formation of the new Cabinet has been completed. It is composed of Marshal Serrano, President; Castellar, Minister of Commerce; Tapete, Minister of Marine; Aguirre, Minister of Justice; Gen. Prim, Minister of War; Olaza, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Madoz, Minister of Finance.

Manuel De Laconcha has been arrested.

Paris, 4.—Queen Isabella has issued a protest against the revolution, in the Paris papers; she argues that force has been used by the rebels to depose her; but it does not injure her rights to the throne; she also declares that the acts of a Junta established by violence, are not binding on the people.

London, 4.—It is rumored that a conspiracy to depose Abdul Aziz, the reigning Sultan, has been discovered at Constantinople. A number of arrests have been made.

There is a rumor current that the success of the revolution in Spain has had the effect to induce France to make some important concessions to Italy. It is known that the Prime Minister, Menebres, was expected in Paris; the supposition is that he comes to conduct the negotiations rendered necessary by the alleged change in the policy of France.

New York, 5.—Mail advices from Port au Prince to September 12, state that the Government has issued two decrees, one to the effect that the only ports open to foreign commerce are Port au Prince, Cape Haytien and Port de Paix; the other prescribes the penalties for blockade running. A large amount of counterfeit paper is in circulation. The siege of Conaves was still going on, but the cause of the rebellion was in a desperate state, and it was thought it would soon succumb.

Paris.—The funeral of Count Walewski, was attended by the French ministry, the representatives of foreign powers, and many other officials; the streets through which the cortege passed were crowded with people.

London.—Canoia and Prim are announced to be averse to a Republic in Spain.

Special Notices.

MEAT MARKET.—The Butchers have concluded to open every day during Conference, at 3 a.m., close at 10 a.m., and open again at 4 1/2 p.m. The public will please take notice.

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For Synopsis of Scenery and Incident see Posters and Curtain.

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