

THE RED MEN AS CITIZENS.

The Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribally Dissolved—They can Vote Under the Fourteenth Amendment.

WASHINGTON, March 28, 1872.

The Secretary of the Interior has written a decision addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs touching the status of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and their right under the treaty of July 31, 1855:—

Commissioner Walker has stated that, under the treaty provisions allowing Indians to purchase lands additional to their individual selections, a large amount has been entered, but upon representations that entries were made in the interests of white men they have been superseded by order of the Department; that since the ratification of the treaty many have become of age and the heads of families and without legal homes, although some of them have settled upon and improved the lands selected by them with a view of acquiring a title thereto as citizens; and that all payments have been made to the Indians except the one due last fall, which will be made this spring. The question is submitted by the Commissioner whether, upon such payment being made and all tribal relations ended, these Indians will become citizens of the United States, and, as such, entitled to make homestead entries. If they will, then it is suggested that no further legislation is necessary for their protection.

The fifth article of the treaty referred to predicts that the tribal organization of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, except so far as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the agreement, is dissolved. The secretary says that upon the full payment being made tribal relations will be terminated. As to the inquiry concerning the civil status of Indians the tribal relations are dissolved—"Are they citizens of the United States, and as such entitled to a share of the public lands?"—I think they are. The provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution material to the question are as follows:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States, and of the States wherein they reside. Representation shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed."

These Indians were born in the United States; they therefore come within the first provision above quoted, provided they are subject to the jurisdiction thereof. While tribal relations exist they are "subject to the jurisdiction of the United States," because they are "domestic dependent nations." This principle has been uniformly recognized by the Courts. [Several cases here noted as evidence.] When the reason of the rule ceases the rule itself ceases. When the nationality ceases then the consequences which have sprung from such nationality cease. When tribal relations have been dissolved with consent of the United States then there is no longer any dependent nation, and those who compose it are merged in the mass of the people of the United States and subject to its jurisdiction. They then would become liable to taxation and are counted in the enumeration for representation. The fourteenth amendment excludes from the basis of representation "Indians not taxed"—that is, those Indians and those only who are legally liable to taxation. The Supreme Court in the case of the Kansas Indians, decided that they were not liable to taxation while the tribal relation was kept up. The reasoning of the Court implies that when that relation is ended they become liable to taxation. When they do they should be counted in the enumeration for representation. My conclusion is that, when an Indian tribe is dissolved and all tribal relations with it ended—and this is done with consent of the United States—then the members of such tribe become ipso facto citizens of the United States, and as such entitled to all the immunities and privileges. In reference to the suspended entries mentioned by the commissioner, the Secretary is of the opinion that all made in the interest of the white men should be cancelled.—N. Y. Herald.

The Black Hills.

Sioux City, Iowa, March 30.—The Sioux City Times this morning publishes a telegram addressed to the editor from Major General Hancock, in regard to the gold discoveries in the Black Hills, which says that the country is an Indian reservation, and no prospecting parties will be allowed to enter in search of gold. The Times, in an editorial on the matter, says there are at present two bills pending in Congress, each of them aiming at a solution of this problem, and that congressional action will anticipate military interference by throwing open the country referred to for settlement. One of the bills referred to authorizes the secretary of the interior to purchase the Black Hills region from the Sioux Indians, and in case they refuse to sell, the secretary is authorized to make arrangements to occupy the country. The Times further adds: "Four weeks ago the project of opening to white settlement the Black Hills of Dakota was looked upon as Utopian. To-day the matter is receiving

the earnest attention of our national Congress, and the time is rapidly approaching when a peaceable, just, and equitable solution of the whole question will be arrived at. Gentlemen interested in the movement here have no intention of engaging in an unlawful enterprise, or coming in conflict with the military or other power of the government, but an expedition, formidable in numbers, will surely prospect the region referred to the present season."

Secretary Delano, in a letter to Gov. Burbank, of Idaho, states that he has information that a combination of men is being made in the region of country known as the Black Hills of Dakota, which is within the reservation of the Sioux Indians, and that federal officers encourage the movement. He says the reason for this is that the Territory has valuable mineral deposits and quantities of timber. The Indians are already apprehensive, and trouble may ensue; hence, by direction of the president, he requests the governor to cause a stop to be put to any combination of this character against the law. The secretary has also addressed a letter to the secretary of war, with a view of securing the aid of the military in checking these expeditions.

Horrible Treatment of Jews.

The Manchester Courier publishes the following letter, the authenticity of which is vouched for, dated from Bucharest Feb. 24th.

"A deputation from Cahul reached me to-day. I am engaged preparing their statement and petition to the government, on which to predicate a demand for their protection and indemnification. The history they gave us is far more heartrending than that of Ismail. Their sufferings were horrible. Language fails me to depict all they have related. Cahul is a place of 7,000 souls, 1,000 of whom are Israelites. Suddenly the latter were set upon, and for three days beaten, wounded, plundered, driven out of their homes, which were battered to ruins, and forced to take refuge in the barracks, where, instead of being defended they were allowed again to be beaten, and for several days kept without food. The way along the street from many Jewish houses to the barracks was marked with blood. Heads were split open, arms broken, beards plucked out by the roots, hair torn from the scalp, &c. One of the delegation who thus gives me this relation (Mr. A. Gold) defended his house for three days, his four sons standing by him. They had 38 rounds of ammunition. He made his sons swear that, if he fell, they would continue to fight. Bands of 50 men surrounded his house, but the dastards durst not cross his threshold. At length they were compelled to leave, as the villains commenced to build fires to burn them out. He alone was robbed of 250 Napoleons. The delegation fix the losses of the Israelites at 40,000 ducats. They were completely stripped of everything, and their homes so battered and ruined as to be scarcely recognizable. The two synagogues were devastated and turned into privies. Jephthah, Jaltibim, and prayer books were scattered in all directions. The scrolls of law were early removed for safety, and hidden away. But few Christians came to the relief of starving women and children; and this relief only came on the third day, and then the Christians who came wept when they beheld the misery that had been wrought. The Israelites of Galatz, as soon as possible, sent off clothes and food, and the local authorities gave a few piastres to some. The people cried out that they were instigated by the Russians, and more particularly by the Russian consul. The soldiers did not defend the unprotected, but suffered the wild mob to pass through their ranks and unmercifully beat and maltreat the hapless ones. One Israelite, neighbor of Mr. Gold, whose house was likewise assaulted, fired on the mob, killing one and severely wounding another. The killed was a Russian boy. They are not yet protected, but exposed to assault, and hundreds are lying in straw in ruined houses. They say there is scarcely a village in the whole of Bessarabian Roumania where there has not been frightful scenes. The misery is dreadful. Help is needed immediately. I pray you call a mass meeting of the Israelites of London, or of citizens, without distinction of religion, to protest in the name of humanity against these frightful scenes, which threaten as passover advances to become still more dreadful."

A Belgian has discovered a way by which he can measure the velocity of a woman's tongue.

Cotton is a native of India, from whence it was first brought to this country in 1789.

A country editor complains that his bank note detector will be of little use unless his subscribers pay their bills.

A young man generally gives a lock of his hair to his sweetheart before he marries her. After marriage she generally helps herself.

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