

THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

NEW POSTAL REGULATIONS.

A SERIES of New Regulations respecting the registration of letters went into operation on the first of October last, which will insure greater safety in the transmission of such letters. It is conspicuously declared to be the "duty of the Postmasters to encourage the Registration of Letters." One of the most important sections of the New Regulations reads as follows:

"Postmasters at offices supplied wholly or in part by route agents or postal clerks will deliver all registered matter to go over such routes into the hands of the agents or clerks, and obtain their receipts therefor, instead of sending the same in 'brass-lock pouches,' as heretofore. Registered matter to go over other routes (i. e., routes on which there are no route agents or postal clerks) is to be sent as formerly, with the exception that the postmaster at the mailing office will affix to the registered package-envelope a blank receipt, to be signed and returned to him by the postmaster at the office where the pouch containing the same is next opened. Such postmaster will sign and return the receipt to the postmaster from whom he received it, and forward the package, with another blank receipt attached, to be signed and returned likewise to him. This plan of receipting is to be continued until the registered package shall have reached the office of final destination."

By this section it will be seen that the registered matter to go over routes where there are no route agents or postal clerks—all the routes in this Territory are in that condition, there being no railroads here—is to be accompanied by "Receipts of Registered Packages," in such a way as to form a series or chain of receipts, which will embrace the acknowledgment of every postmaster at whose office the pouch containing the registered matter is opened. By this system a missing registered letter can be traced with almost unerring certainty to the office which may be delinquent, for every postmaster has the receipt of the next postmaster through whose hands the registered letter package passes.

In another section of the new Regulations the fee for registering letters addressed to any part of the United States, is reduced to fifteen cents, on the first of January next. The present charge is twenty cents. Intermediate rates of commission charged for money orders have also been introduced. Under the old rates any sum over \$20 and not exceeding \$50 was charged the same commission—25 cents. But now there is a rate for sums between \$20 and \$30, and another for those from \$30 to \$40, which is more convenient and inexpensive than the old system. This money order system is becoming very popular among our citizens, and when our gentlemanly Postmaster, A. W. Street, Esq., told us the amounts sent through that agency we were surprised.

Another point in connection with this subject may be useful to the Postmasters throughout the Territory to know. We frequently receive letters from small post offices with the name of the office written on the letter instead of stamped. In the *United States Mail* we see it stated over the signature of A. N. Zevely, Third Assistant Postmaster General, that

"The Postmaster General has modified the existing regulation so as to allow circular postmarking stamps to ALL Post Offices, and Postmasters not now furnished should at once apply for such stamps to the First Assistant Postmaster General."

By the same paper we notice that a New Postal Convention has been signed between Great Britain and the United States. It was signed on the 24th ult. at Washington, on behalf of the United States, by Postmaster-General Randall.

In France the business of registering letters is managed by the Post Office Department in a very systematic manner. Letters deposited in a Post Office in that country, bearing more than one wax seal, are considered as containing articles of value and are registered. The charge of registration will be collected unless the person to whom it is addressed opens it in the presence of the postmaster, or some other postal agent, and it is found to contain no valuable inclosure. It is forbidden, under the penalty of a fine, to deposit a letter containing coin in a Post Office without registration. There is another class of registered letters, the sender of which inscribes upon the envelope the exact value of the contents. The sender pays, in addition to postage and registration fee, a premium of two cents for each twenty dollars, or fraction

thereof. In case of the loss of such a letter, the entire amount is made good to the owner.

This is a sensible arrangement, and in this respect at least, our Government as well as that of Great Britain, would find it to the advantage of their people to imitate the example of France.

We are indebted to our Postmaster A. W. Street, Esq., for the above information.

HOW SHALL THE INDIANS BE CONTROLLED?

THE management and control of the various Indian tribes living within the United States is a task of no small difficulty and importance; in fact, it has become one of the most perplexing and harassing branches of the public service, and notwithstanding the vast amount of means expended and the multiplied legislation on this subject, a successful and satisfactory issue has not yet been arrived at; and the correct solution of the Indian problem seems to be very doubtful.

Indian affairs were formerly under the control of the War Department, but about a quarter of a century ago they were transferred to the Department of the Interior. The result of the policy pursued by the latter Department, however, has been so unsatisfactory that a bill was passed in the House of Representatives, on the 11th inst., for placing Indian affairs again under the War Department. This bill did not pass the Senate before its adjournment, and its passage is very doubtful, as Senator Pomeroy, of Kansas, introduced a bill to create a separate department of Indian affairs, with a member of the Cabinet at its head. This bill was designed as a substitute for the House bill above referred to, and embraces, it is said, the main views of the Peace Commissioners, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House bill above referred to.

"It contemplates five Indian Territories, and the abolition of the distinction of tribes and bands within each. It provides for four agents and three inspectors for each department. The agents are clothed with the power of magistrates, and the Indians are made competent witnesses. All of the officers are placed under heavy bonds, and speedy punishment is provided for neglect of duty; superintendents are authorized to organize the Indian military to preserve peace and enable the Indians, on application, to become citizens, and contemplates the political organization of Territories, and the sending of a delegate to Congress; provides an entire new system of intercourse and trading, and prevents the whites from trespassing on Indian reservations. The bill also makes half breed children legal heirs to the property of their white fathers."

This bill of Senator Pomeroy's seems to be the most rational method of dealing with the Indian tribes yet devised, but it will probably be defeated, as it is known that the President elect, as well as Generals Sherman and Sheridan and other leading military men, as well as a considerable portion of the press of the country are strongly in favor of placing Indian affairs completely under the control of the War Department.

At a meeting of the Indian Peace Commissioners, held recently at Chicago, this transfer of Indian Affairs to the War Department was under discussion. The President of the Commission, Hon. N. G. Taylor, made an important address on the subject, in the course of which he reviewed the matter, under several heads, and urged several seemingly very weighty objections. His first objection was simply on economical grounds, as the transfer he said would necessitate the maintaining of a large standing army in the field, and would permanently increase the expenses of the public service from \$50,000,000 to \$150,000,000 annually.

Another reason urged by him, against this transfer, and one that in our opinion is of far more weight and importance than the one above, is, that while the professed policy of the nation is one of peace, the constant maintenance of a large armed force designed especially to overawe the Indians, would be little less than a declaration of war. On this point he says:

"Our policy toward the Indian tribes is peace, and the proposed transfer is tantamount, in my judgment, to perpetual war. Everybody knows that the presence of troops, with the avowed purpose of regulating affairs by force, the sound of the bugle, the drum, the fire, the glitter of military insignia and regulation arms, arouse feelings of hostility and beget sentiments of resistance and war even in the most civilized communities. How much more intense and bitter are the feelings of hostility naturally engendered in the bosoms of the free, wild savages, barbarians, and semi-civilized Indians by the presence of soldiers who they know are sent to force them into sub-

jection and keep them so. To their ears the sound of the drum, the fire and the bugle, the tramp of cavalry, and the boom of the morning and evening guns are the infallible signs of oppression and war, and the very presence of armed and uniformed soldiers in their haunts and hunting grounds, provokes and inflames the profoundest feelings of hostility and hate."

Mr. Taylor comments upon the results that would be likely to attend the proposed change, in a moral point of view, in the following manner:

"I know no exception to the rule that the presence of military posts in the Indian country is speedily subversive of even the sternest ideas of Indian domestic morals. Female chastity, the abandonment of which, in some tribes, is punished with death, yields to bribery or fear; marital rights are often disregarded, and shameless concubinage, with its disgusting concomitants, in many instances, spreads its pestiferous stench through camp and lodge. The most loathsome, lingering, and fatal diseases, which reach many generations in their ruinous effects, are spread broadcast, and the seeds of moral and physical death are planted among these miserable creatures."

He is evidently opposed, totally, to the physical force treatment of the Indians. He says it has been tried and failed. He referred to the Florida war, which lasted for seven years, and cost the nation not less than \$35,000,000, besides many lives, and which failed in accomplishing the object for which it was inaugurated. There on the little pent-up peninsula of Florida, if 1,500 Seminoles could not be mastered in seven years, he inquires how long it would take to exterminate 300,000—the number at which he estimates the various Indian tribes—when scattered over an area of 200,000 square miles. However, if the extermination policy is to be attempted, he is evidently more in favor of it, being done by powder and ball than by a method which has already proved terribly efficacious, namely, spreading amongst them a certain abominable and loathsome class of diseases. On this point he says:

"If you wish to exterminate the race, pursue them with ball and blade—massacre them wholesale, as we have sometimes done, or to make it cheap, call them to a peaceful feast, and feed them on beef salted with wolf-bane, but, for humanity's sake, save them from the lingering syphilitic poisons so sure to be contracted about military posts."

Another strong objection urged by Mr. Taylor is that the proposed change will be obnoxious to the Indians themselves. This he knows from actual consultation with the warriors and chiefs of many tribes, who have, without exception, expressed their repugnance to having the military amongst them. From these conversations with them he is satisfied that if peace is to be promoted and war avoided great respect should be paid to their wishes on this subject.

He also says that in his opinion the troubles during the past season with the Cheyennes and their allies would not have arisen had the necessary appropriations been made to have furnished their supplies of subsistence. He says that Indian tribes, with very rare exceptions, never break the peace without powerful provocation or actual wrong perpetrated against them, and adds:

"Respect their wishes, fulfil our treaty stipulations promptly and faithfully, keep them well fed, and there will be no need of armies among them."

"But violate our pledges; postpone, neglect or refuse the fulfillment of our treaty engagements with them; permit them to get hungry and half starved, and the presence of armies will not restrain them from war."

The last clause contains, in all probability, the root and foundation of most of the Indian troubles and wars with which the country is ever troubled. The Indians are beyond all question difficult to manage, and none but wise, discreet, humane and strictly conscientious men should ever have anything to do with their affairs. If such men could be found there would be little if any difficulty in having treaties faithfully observed, and in preserving peace. This has been abundantly demonstrated in Utah. In the management of Indian affairs in early settlement of our Territory not the slightest difficulty was experienced, and under Colonel Head, our present Superintendent of Indian affairs, the troubles which our people have experienced more or less for the last two or three years have been amicably settled, and our Indian affairs at the present time are in a highly satisfactory condition.

Mr. Taylor urges other equally important objections to the proposed change, which our space will not permit us to particularise; but while he is opposed to the management and control

of Indian Affairs by the War Department, he is strongly in favor of an independent department on Indian Affairs, believing that to be of as much importance to the peace and welfare of the nation as any other department of the Government.

In concluding his address before the Peace Commission he says:

"Permit me to add, that in the transfer to the War Department of Indian Affairs I can perceive of no good to be accomplished, either to the country or to the Indians, but I am entirely convinced that the change would prove greatly disastrous to both."

But if you beat me here, gentlemen, as you probably will, seeing that the military outnumber the civilian in the Commission present, I will appeal to Congress and the country, and convince them, if I can, that your proposal is wrong."

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT.

THE year which closes to-day has been a most eventful one. The workings of Providence have been plainly visible, hastening on a consummation hoped for by some, dreaded by others, and by most not understood. The world, politically, physically, morally and scientifically, has moved on with great, and it may be said, terrible strides.

One of the great political features of the year just past, has been the rapid progress made by the mass of the people of Great Britain to power and to a voice in the legislation which governs them. So important has this been that the entire political economy of that nation will undoubtedly be changed by it. That which a few years ago would have been viewed as almost impossible, and almost sacrilege, has been already reached. The people feel their power, and the aristocracy know it, and already endeavor to conciliate a rising greatness which threatens to blot out their existence as a caste. The sacred establishment of the National Church is attacked, in the disestablishment of the Irish Church. And the majesty of the throne is only preserved from contempt by the reverence given to the womanly virtues of the lady who occupies it. Closely allied to this is the triumph of the Radical party in the United States. Its continuation in and increase of power are the evidences that old forms will continue to be swept away, old landmarks be demolished and changes be brought about which now would startle all but the boldest were they anticipated. Austria has stepped forward in the march of progress, in the passage of the Civil Marriage bill, and with other changes from the despotism which but lately was one of her great characteristics. Prussia has made numerous important reforms. Spain has cast out a lascivious and corrupt Queen, and is yet in the throes of a great political revolution. Russia has kept moving in the march of progress among the nations. But France has grown less liberal, as a government, not as a people, and may see perilous times ere many months roll over.

From the far east, the lands of mystery and multitudes, the same note is sounded, and progressive change has manifested its power. Japan has overthrown the Tycoon, after that form of government had held sway for centuries; and the early future of that empire is likely to be one of greater change. China, the largest empire—in point of population—in the world, with its numerous millions of inhabitants, its exclusiveness, its peculiarities and ancient though little changed civilization, has become a member of the family of nations. In the embassy of Mr. Burlingame, the barrier of ages have been broken down, and the "Flowery Empire" offers a hand to the mighty powers of the west.

Mexico and the South American Republics have, as usual, been in a condition of chronic revolution; which the West Indies have endeavored to emulate.

In the physical world the events and incidents have been of a terrible and terrifying character in numerous places. The earthquake in Ecuador and Peru was the most fearful recorded in its destructiveness and the extent of country over which it passed. Other countries too, had like visitations though not of so terrific a character. The Sandwich Islands, California and other parts of the Pacific slope. Great Britain, Gibraltar, Malta, Turkey, India, all felt the throes of the shaken earth. And tidal waves, have crossed the broad Pacific, carrying devastation to the shores of various lands, verifying the prediction of the prophets that the sea should heave beyond its bounds. The fearful eruption of the volcano, Mauna, Loa, on the Sandwich Islands, and the erup-