

BY TELEGRAPH.

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AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 25.—The Indian policy of the Secretary of the Interior, as indicated by a recent letter, was given definite shape by the promulgation of a circular by the Commissioner of Indian affairs for the guidance of the several Indian agents. This circular contains a series of rules, the first of which provides for a court of Indian offenses at each inspector's agency, to consist of three men, to be selected from the most intelligent, moral and reliable of the tribe, who shall hold stated sessions, and hear and adjudge offenses, and be empowered to enforce their decisions, the only appeal being to the commissioner at Washington. Each judge is to be appointed for a term of one year, subject to removal at any time at the discretion of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Each judge is also to receive \$20 per month salary. This court is to have jurisdiction over all Indian offenses enumerated. In the new rules the first of these offenses named is the sun dance, the scalp dance, the war dance, and all other so-called sports assimilating thereto, the penalty for which first offense is withholding rations five days, and for the second offense withholding rations not less than ten days or more than thirty, or by incarceration in the Agency prison for not exceeding thirty days, or both. Another Indian offense designated is plural marriage, the penalty for which is a fine of \$20, or work at hard labor for twenty days or both; the proceeds of the penalties to be devoted to the benefit of the tribe to which the offender belongs. Rations are also to be withheld from husbands who fail to support their wives. Medicine men are also held to be offenders against civilization at the agencies, and any attempt on their part to prevent the attendance of children at the agency school or to influence the tribe to continue their heathenish rites, to be punishable by ten days' solitary confinement on bread and water. Destruction of any tribal property also to be punishable by imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or until such time as evidence is presented to the court that the offense is not to be repeated. Each agent is instructed to present the new rules to the several tribes at once, and send in names for judgeships as soon as possible, so no time may be lost in the establishment of the new system.

Payson, of Illinois, a member of the House committee on judiciary, who has taken a very active part in the matter of lapsed railroad land grants, is devoting the holiday recess to collecting additional details bearing on the subject. At the Department of the Interior to-day he ascertained that the Oregon Central road has constructed a very few miles under the grant, and that it contains upwards of a million and a half acres between Portland and Astoria upon which settlers are very desirous of entering. With a view of throwing this land open to settlement under the homestead law, Payson has prepared a resolution declaring it forfeited, and hopes to have it acted upon by the House judiciary committee at its next meeting.

The State Department has been officially notified that the Mexican Government has decided to appoint commissioners to meet the commissioners of the United States for the purpose of negotiating a commercial treaty. Mexico names as one of the commissioners, Romero, Mexican Minister to the United States. The commissioners are expected to meet in Washington early in January.

Estimates for appropriations in preparation by the House are in amount as follows: Pensions, \$101,575,000; fortifications, \$1,000,000; navy, \$23,431,075; legislative, executive and judicial expenses, \$21,840,170; sundry civil expenditures, \$34,181,376; District of Columbia, \$775,749. The pensions, fortifications and navy bills are ready to report to the House immediately after New Year's. There remain for preparation the general deficiency bill, and possibly a river and harbor bill.

The President hopes to be able to occupy the Executive Mansion on Saturday next.

Dorsey is anxious to be charged with something he can truthfully deny. He seeks to convey the impression that he is not on trial for defrauding the Postoffice Department of the Government, but for the management of the campaign of

1880. His friends are going about here talking of terrible revelations coming, and of far more startling documents than those recently given out. It seems singular to men differently constituted that Dorsey should seek by this frivolous method to divert public attention from the essential question.

Red Cloud made a friendly visit to Commissioner Price at the Indian Bureau to-day. He desires to visit the Indian schools at Hampton and Carlisle before going west.

Commissioner Price is very indignant at stories to the effect that he is interested in the transportation of supplies at the Pine Ridge agency. He says no relation of his is connected with the transportation.

The President has issued an executive order setting apart certain lands in Dakota Territory for the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians, and such other Indians of the Chippewa tribe as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to place thereon.

Among the vexed questions arising under the operations of the Chinese restriction bill is one as to the status of Chinese wet nurses. The Treasury Department has decided that a Chinese wet nurse must be considered as a laborer, and as such is excluded from admission to the United States under the provisions of the act.

The House while trying to elect a Speaker pro tem., on Saturday was a regular circus; members gulling each other and stopping all business. As the jocularity increased, Page, who was temporarily in the chair, pounded with the gavel, grew red and white by turns, but still the House was irrepressible, while clamoring for a quorum. Finally Blackburn moved to adjourn. This was resisted by a number of democrats. In the midst of the confusion, Page yelled, "This House stands adjourned until Monday next at noon," and hastily vacated the chair and hall. No vote had been taken, and the members were dazed by the decision temporarily, but finally accepted the situation and the circus for the spectators in the galleries was ended.

Much adverse criticism of Judge Field has been caused by events that transpired after the conclusion of the San Mateo and Southern Pacific Railroad arguments. Speech-making ended last Thursday, ex-Governor Stanford of the C. P. R. R., being in the room during the greater part of the hearing. He gave a dinner party Thursday night at Chamberlain's restaurant in this city to Mr. Conkling and Sanderson, and other attorneys of the company. Justice Field attended this party. He drove early Thursday evening to the Arlington, where Mr. Sanderson is stopping, and enquired for that gentleman. Finding that he had gone to Chamberlain's to dine with Governor Stanford, the Justice was driven to the restaurant, where he joined the party and remained with them for a considerable time. It is not believed by friends of Justice Field that he is under the influence of the railroad corporations of California, but great surprise is expressed that he should have descended from the Supreme Bench after hearing a case in which the railroads of California are concerned, to dine with the party chiefly interested in the decision of the court, and his attorneys.

New York, 26.—The Wall Street Stockholder says the California Southern road will hereafter be operated in connection with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe.

The Post says: The statement is being circulated that the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe has acquired the controlling interest in the Atlantic & Pacific, and that consequently the former is to be an exclusive line to the Pacific by way of the California Southern; we have reason to believe, untrue. The decline in the Rio Grande this morning was the continuance of the decline of last week. This began as a result of diminished earnings consequent on diminished business in the mining region of Colorado generally. On the other hand it is believed the D. & R. G. will be completed to connection with the Central Pacific within three months.

Boston, 26.—The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe has just negotiated a loan with Kidder, Peabody & Co., for \$15,000,000, issuing that amount of its six per cent. collateral trust bonds. The Atlantic & Pacific railroad will need about \$1,000,000 in addition to the recent subscription for \$6,600,000 in order to complete its line with full equipment to the

Colorado river. This amount will probably be advanced by the largest shareholders of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad company and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, in equal proportion. These companies have already agreed to advance \$2,500,000 each, and as the Atchison company has further need for bonds it has been thought best to keep clear of floating debt by issuing more of the \$10,000,000 collateral six per cent. bonds lately authorized one-half of which was taken abroad last spring at about 1.02½.

The security holders of the Toledo, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad held an "experience meeting" and succeeded in raising \$800,000 needed to properly equip the line. The ball was set rolling by a representative of the great banking firm of George William Ballou, who offered to raise \$200,000 of the amount. The sum was raised and \$200,000 more, amidst much enthusiasm.

St. Paul, 26.—The Canada Pacific Railroad, which it is not a stretch of imagination to include in the Northwestern system, has been built nearly 500 miles west of Winnipeg. The gap between that place and Lake Superior has been closed. Next year is not likely to see so much activity in railroad building, as the impulse of competition has already pushed the Northeastern roads quite as far as it was prudent for many of them to go on locking up capital in new extensions. Anticable agreements between the greatest rivals in Dakota as well as in Minnesota and Wisconsin have put a stop to needless building to occupy territory, and probably next year will see no more railroad building than a wise business policy dictates, and the development of the country requires.

Richmond, Va., 26.—After midnight, on the Cleveland & Ohio Railway, the west-bound express train which left Richmond at 4 p. m., after passing Millboro station about three miles, going 35 miles an hour, was run into by a freight train running on passenger train time. Both engines, baggage and combination cars were wrecked. Killed, Chas. C. Leach, engineer passenger train; John W. Alsop, baggage master; L. L. Lowing and J. E. O'Neill, firemen, and Geo. E. Netherland, brakeman. Wounded: E. Hogehead, express messenger, and J. W. Hocksworth, passenger, of Milton, W. Va., both slightly.

Meriden, Conn., 26.—An attempt was made to wreck the accommodation train from New York near this city by a tie placed on the track. It flew up under the forward truck of the locomotive, and brought the train to a standstill; but without damage. Not far behind came the limited express for Boston, the fastest train on the road. It was not more than a train's length from the accommodation train when stopped with an abruptness that almost threw the passengers out of their seats.

Meadville, Pa., 26.—Through error of a telegraph operator, two freights collided on the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio R. R., and two locomotives and twelve cars were wrecked, and Conductor York killed. Twelve hours delay on the road.

St. Louis, 26.—The east-bound passenger train which left here at 6:40 last night on the Webster road collided with an engine and caboose from Decatur, Ills., on a curve one and a half miles from Carpenter, between 8 and 9 o'clock. Both engines were thrown off the track, and George Silsbee, engineer of the passenger train, and Hank Dresser, conductor of the engine and caboose, were killed. Capt. Hyde and Ed. Bramble were dashed against the postal boxes and severely hurt, and several passengers are reported somewhat injured. One or two railroad men were wounded, names unknown. Cause of accident, either confusion or loss of orders. Dresser and Silsbee lived in Decatur. Their bodies were taken there this afternoon.

New York, 26.—Alex. Jefferson, the negro murderer of Brooklyn, when he to-day learned his brother was in the hospital expressed a wish to get near enough to kill him. Celestial, his brother, also said he would like to kill Alexander. Jefferson stated also he had borrowed a gun, ground his knife, and fixed on his hiding place a week before committing the crime. His father's prediction that he would be hanged was about to come true, he said.

It is rumored that Oscar Wilde has been robbed by bunco steers. Oscar denies the story. He is to sail for Europe this morning by the Cunard steamer *Bothnia*. His departure is rather sudden. It has been

supposed he intended to make a trip to China and Japan before returning to England.

Peru, Ill., 26.—Patsy Donnelly this morning entered a saloon, drunk, and fired three shots into the crowd; mortally wounding Michel McDermott. A moment later he was shot dead by Policeman Scott, whom he fired at. The coroner's jury exonerated Scott.

Columbus, Ga., 26.—On Christmas day a difficulty occurred at Troy, Ala., in which George Folwar shot dead Frank Holloway. Several shots were fired by both parties, but only one took effect. The difficulty grew out of an old feud. Both parties are well known business men.

Chicago, 25.—The *Times*' special: In addition to a Christmas dinner in Joliet penitentiary, 1,500 convicts were given a concert lasting three hours. In the penitentiary at Michigan City, sixty large turkeys were given to the convicts.

Indianapolis, 26.—In the case of Brooks, on trial for the murder of Dr. Gauze, of Richmond, Ind., the jury's verdict was murder in the second degree; imprisonment for life.

Petersburg, Va., 26.—Samuel Rives became involved in a quarrel with his cousin Wm. Rives, when a colored man named Parker endeavored to restore peace, which so enraged the former that he shot the negro. Rives then shot himself, blowing his head off.

Cairo, Ill., 26.—J. B. Lindsley was shot dead yesterday at James Bayou, Mo., where the steamer left his murderer in the hands of the mob, and lynching way expected.

Frankfort, Iowa, 26.—Officer Laughlin and Geo. Postwood had a difficulty in Lawrenceburg Saturday night. They took each other by the lapel, and each shot the other in the breast. Laughlin was killed outright; Postwood died to-day.

St. Paul, 26.—Gov. Hubbard of Minnesota has pardoned from the penitentiary W. W. Keen, who, while assistant cashier of the Northwestern National Bank, embezzled \$125,000, one-fifth of which he is suspected of having retained. He will return to Stillwater after the holidays, and enter the service of a firm of prison contractors, whose books he has kept during his confinement.

Packardville, Mass., 26.—Miriam A. Montgomery, 28 years old, shot his two little children this morning, instantly killing George, 6 years, and probably fatally wounding Eva, 4 years. Montgomery and wife had separated some months ago. She lived with her father. Montgomery visited her family and stayed till to-day. Upon her refusal this morning to return to his house he went out to where the children were playing and shot them, then tried to shoot his wife and her father. He was overpowered and kept in the house till the sheriff took him to Northampton. He pleaded not guilty, and was jailed. He says he doesn't remember having committed the crime. The whole family came from the West in the spring; little is known of them.

Tucson dispatch: Special to the *Citizen* dated Globe: This morning, in a saloon at Pioneer, Wm. Hartley stepped to the bar to take a drink, when Thomas Kerr, without provocation, knocked him down. Kerr then drew a pistol, and saying, "Young fellow; now I've got you," placing the pistol on his breast fired, killing him instantly. Kerr was disarmed, a jury of 12 men held an informal trial. Kerr asked for an hour's time to arrange his business, sat down, and with perfect coolness, wrote to his mother at Lexington, Ill., requesting that all his effects be given to her, then asked for several drinks. The citizens then took him to a sycamore tree. He made a few remarks, confessing to the killing of several men. They drew him up once and let him down; he then asked permission to take off his boots, saying he didn't want to die with his boots on. This request was granted; then they swung up the body. It was cut down this morning.

Denver, 26.—Denver had a sensation in the revelation that Governor Tabor applied for a divorce from his wife in La Plata County in January last. This is 300 miles from Denver, and none of the parties live there. An officer came to Denver and claimed to get service on Mrs. Tabor. She will swear he did not. On the 20th of March the divorce was granted, and nobody knew it until September. The bill charges adultery with two citizens of good standing; also personal

abuse. The bill has been taken from the court and can't be had. Pages of the record are pasted together to avoid publicity. Mrs. Tabor will resist on the ground of fraud. It is not believed Tabor will attempt to defend if she makes a fight. She brought suit for alimony but not divorce, and she is likely to succeed.

St. Louis, 26.—Muskogee, Indian Territory, special: The first open hostilities of the Creek Indian war occurred on Sunday, within 15 miles of Okmulgee. A band of Choctaw men, under Jim Lamey, going west, were attacked by some 200 of Spieche's partisans, under command of Mekarochee. The fight raged for an hour, when the Choctaw men fell back, but kept up a running fight for 10 miles. Bob Carr, David Barrett and wife, and a man named Walsh are reported killed. The loss on the other side is not known. The whole country is rushing to arms. On receipt of the news here, a detachment of 40 United States soldiers was ordered to the scene. This morning they overtook and disarmed 150 of Checote's men. This will be continued until all the men engaged on both sides are disarmed. Spieche's men say they don't want to fight, but do want their rights, and are anxious a United States commissioner should investigate and decide the matter between them and the opposing party. United States Agent Tuff's went to the scene of the trouble yesterday.

New York, 26.—The suit of Wm. W. Williams on behalf of himself and others similarly interested, against the Western Union Telegraph Company and others, came up to-day. The suit was brought to set aside the agreement made by the Western Union and Atlantic & Pacific Companies and others, and is a suit for an injunction to prevent the payment of a dividend upon certain stock. Counsel for the Western Union read the affidavit of A. R. Brewer, Secretary, to the effect that the transfers of stock upon the company's books are so numerous that it would be impossible to make a distinction between the stock said to be legally and that claimed to be illegally issued. Counsel contended the stock was valid, and the court could not restrain the company from paying dividends on it. The contract which had been entered into between these companies is binding upon all parties. Even if it should be set aside, the dividend having been declared, each stockholder should begin an action to recover if not paid. Counsel also read the affidavit of President Green who asserts all actions of the defendants regarding the consolidated agreement were justified by law, relying upon the decision of Judge Truax. The whole number of shares of capital stock as increased is issued with the exception of about 400 shares, and has been distributed, and is at present in the hands of a large number of persons. President Green also avers the company is about to appeal from the judgment rendered by the general term.

The *Evening Mail* reports Abbey saying: "The Passion Play will go through this time. Morse has money at its back, and they cannot prevent him. I am certainly confident the public will not denounce the pious as anticipated. I would have put it on in New York when I first proposed to do so; by the way, the costumes were all burned in the fire, but I have Bernhardt on my hands, and while I did not fear New York would cry out so much but that it would have been quickly reversed, I felt that the excitement might damage the French star in whom I was interested. I was bound to consider my relations to the public. I hear nothing but praise of it from people who saw it, and I read the work very carefully. I do not know who takes the part of the Savior in the present proposed production, but a great deal depends upon him.

San Francisco, 26.—Portland, Oregon, dispatch: Last night a dwelling house situated near Corvallis, Benton Co., was destroyed by fire. Two young men were burned to a crisp, and a third party so badly injured that he is not expected to recover. The parties went to bed drunk, leaving a large fire burning, which communicated to the building. Other inmates escaped.

Merriton, Ont., 27.—Bessie Bye, fifteen years and her sister aged ten, were drowned. The younger attempted to rescue the elder, who had broken through the ice skating on the canal.

New York, 26.—The Co-operative Dress Association, of which Kate Field was president, closed its