

swooped down upon them one night and killed every member of the little party. The news of the massacre quickly spread to the settlements on the Lower Nueces, and the murderous Comanches were pursued and overtaken. In the fight that ensued ten of the Indians were killed.

In 1860 Ruhe Smith, a prominent settler on the Hondo river, was out hunting his horses when a band of Indians came upon him and shot and killed him. About the same time they killed Peter Ketchum, another settler on the Hondo. In that same year a party of Medina county white men were out hunting hogs on Black creek. The Indians attacked them and killed Lish Whitley and James Macray. Joe Murray and his son Gebhart of Castroville left the little settlement one day to hunt for a yoke of oxen. A roving band of Indians discovered them, and the two men attempted to escape by running their horses. The elder Murray escaped, but the horse which his son was riding fell down and the Indians took him captive. The boy was carried off by the Indians and was never heard of afterward, although reports reached the whites that he had been adopted into the Comanche tribe and afterwards became one of the chiefs. One of their raids in Medina county the Indians met George Wheat and Sam Baylock. The two white men were on their way to the little creek near Castroville to get a horse, and did not see the Indians until they were very near to them. As Wheat and Baylock were unarmed they attempted to escape by running. Wheat was overtaken by one of the Indians and scalped.

On one of the last raids which the Indians made to the Castroville settlement they killed Isaac Galbreath, son of Mr. Thomas Galbreath. The Indians had stolen a number of horses around the town, and were known to be in the vicinity, but had not been found. Isaac Galbreath had hobbled his horse near his home, and the Indians had discovered it. They waited near the horse for some one to come for the animal. Isaac Galbreath finally went out to the horse, and was in the act of removing the hobbles when a number of shots were fired into his body, and he was killed and scalped. The band was pursued, but made its escape. While on its way out of the country it met and killed Henry Hilton, another well known settler of that section.

Fifty years ago the Comanche Indians were very troublesome on the Lower Rio Grande. They committed many bloody crimes and robberies. The Texas rangers held the Indians in check as much as they could, and a number of desperate engagements occurred between the rangers and the redskins. At that time Alpheus D. Neal, John Wilbarger and Doc Sullivan, all noted for their bravery and endurance, belonged to Col. "Rip" Ford's company of rangers, and were in active service in the Indian country near Brownsville. These three men were summoned to Austin to attend court, and decided to make the attempt to go through the dangerous country without an armed escort. They started from their camp, and had reached a point in Nueces county, near where King's ranch is now situated, when they saw a party of about thirty Indians near them. The three brave men might have escaped by running, but they decided to stand and fight against the Indians, although the odds were so greatly against them. The Indians lost no time in making the attack, and Sullivan was shot and killed at the first fire. Wilbarger fell fighting, and Neal received eight arrow wounds, any one of which would have proved fatal to an ordinary man. The Indians supposed that Neal was dead, but for

some reason they left without scalping him. The wounded man managed to drag himself through the bushes for several miles, eventually reaching the settlement of San Patricio. To the astonishment of every one he recovered. Twelve years afterward, while in camp one night, he coughed up from his lungs an arrow head which had been shot into him by the Indians on that memorable fight. Neal was killed by a negro in 1865.

HOUSE AND SENATE PAGES.

A young man who served as page in the House of Representatives for several years, talked interestingly with a Washington Star reporter recently.

"Times have changed since I went into the House," he said. "They were much better then for the page than they are now in many different points of view. The pay of a page in both the House and the Senate, as is pretty generally known is \$2.50 a day. During the long sessions the boy has a chance to make something extra, or, at least, he used to. This has been done away with, though, to a certain extent. When the Representatives had no private secretaries, or when they had to pay for them out of their own pockets, the pages used to make considerable on the side by working for the Representatives, helping to mail their documents, writing for them and doing various kinds of work. Since the bill was passed granting the Representatives private secretaries, of course this has all changed.

"Nowadays the pages can't even listen to the debates and have a chance to learn something that way, as was formerly the case. Since Mr. Reed's second term as speaker he has made a great revolution in this respect. Now the pages are cooped up in quarters in the cloakrooms on either side of the House. It is a regular hotel bellboy arrangement. Instead of clapping their hands as they used to do, the Representatives when they want a page simply touch a button. This rings a bell in the pages' rooms. There is an electric annunciator which is the same as is used in hotels for bellboys, so that it can be told directly where the boy is wanted. I understand they are going still further to make the arrangement savor of the bellboy position, as there is talk of unforming the boys.

"When I first went in they had two chief pages who got \$1,000 salary, who were supposed to look after the others. Now, as the boys sit on the long benches in the corners of the cloakroom, they are watched by an overseer, as he is called, who receives a salary of \$900. He watches the annunciator, and when a bell rings sends a boy to the desk. So it is getting more and more like the hotel system all the time.

"In the Senate they do not allow boys over 16 years of age, but it makes no difference in the House. When I was there some of them were 24 or 25 years of age. A boy has to be 12 years of age or more to occupy a position as page. There are thirty-three in the House and sixteen in the Senate. The pages, I believe, in the Supreme court chamber are required to wear knee breeches when they are on duty, but this is not enforced on the others.

"The boys I found were well posted on political affairs, and it is not surprising that Senator Gorman turned out as able a politician as he did when it is considered that he served as a page in the Senate. They know the pedigree, as it were, of every Senator and Representative, and generally have nicknames for them, which would prove very amusing if they did not fit so well in a number of cases. They can forecast what is going to happen nearly as well as the Senators and Representatives. Talk about messenger boys being up to snuff, why they are not in it with the Senate

and House pages. In the first place they are generally of a higher order of intelligence, coming from excellent families, and the little schemes they work among themselves would do credit to a politician of an established reputation. If they find anything out to the discredit of a member of Congress, they are not slow sometimes to take advantage of it for their own benefit in a most innocent manner. They are a high-minded set of fellows, however, and do credit to themselves and their country."

ENGLAND'S AFRICAN EMPIRE.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, her majesty's secretary of state for the colonies, has made public a formal announcement of the measures which he is to submit for the future government of the vast African domains of the British Chartered company. This is the final step in the movement made necessary by Cecil Rhodes and Dr. Jamison's ill advised attempt to overthrow the Boer government of the Transvaal republic two years ago. It was evident then that the vast and indefinite powers wielded by Rhodes and the company of which he is president were entirely too dangerous to be allowed to continue. It will be recalled that Rhodes was not only ousted from the position of prime minister of the Cape Colony, but that Mr. Chamberlain is credited with the intention of conducting a campaign which would entirely destroy the power of this Anglo-African imitator of Warren Hastings.

Mr. Rhodes was, however, too strongly entrenched in the favor of the conservative leaders in Great Britain and was an object of too much admiration of the sincerest kind on the part of the London stock market for Mr. Chamberlain to seriously meddle with his position. The fact that Paul Kruger and his Boers regard him and all his works with a justifiable degree of suspicion has not been sufficient reason for a material decrease in Rhodes' supremacy over the new colony which he founded, and to which it is characteristic of the man that he allowed his own name to be attached. The outcome is regarded as a compromise between Rhodes and the imperial government, and the scheme which Mr. Chamberlain fathers, while virtually taking over the military administration, together with the regulation of Rhodesia's external relations, leaves the sway of Rhodes and his coadjutors over the country and its resources as fairly unchecked as ever. If Mr. Rhodes' wings have been clipped to any extent, it is not enough to prevent his making flights in the stock market. Perhaps the gentleman's admirers, of whom, as already indicated, he has many on the other side, will admit that this is the field in which he has gained the most distinction.

Of the details of Chamberlain's plan for the government of Rhodesia it is only necessary to say that they recall very closely the relations between the old East Indian company and the Crown. There is to be a governor, a military commander, appointed by the imperial authority, a supervision of relations between the natives and the Chartered company by the colonial office, and an annual supervision by the authorities in London of the company's commercial operations and revenues, while power is also reserved to remove officers and directors. This is in the main similar to the provisions under which "John Company" ruled India down to the Sepoy rebellion of 1857. It is in substance as much of an effort as it is possible to make to put a concern which arrogated to itself political powers back in its proper place as a commercial body. Profitable results from the company's operations would probably cause this solution to