

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 27.—The Secretary of the Interior, in his annual report, refers to his recommendation of last year in regard to the Indians, and says: Consideration of the number of agencies has been undertaken with a view to a better location of the Indians, which will, at the same time, render more efficient the supervision possible and reduce the expenses of government, and lessen the opportunities for fraud and speculation. As far as the appropriations made by Congress would permit, agricultural implements and domestic cattle have been furnished to the Indian tribes to set the Indians to work for their own support and to encourage industrial habits. An Indian police has been organized at 22 agencies, and from all of them favorable reports as to the working of the new system have been received. Instructions have been given to discriminate in the distribution of supplies and annuities, which are not actual necessities, against individual Indians who show no disposition to work, thus discouraging idleness.

The allotment of land among Indians on the several reservations was ordered, and is in progress. The facilities of education have been extended as much as possible, and proper directions have been given for the instruction of Indian children in practical pursuits. The Indian service has been re-organized in several of its branches. It was found necessary to remove a number of agents on account of improper practices or lack of business efficiency, and great care has been taken in filling their places with new men. Important changes have been made in the contract system. The detection of fraud has been followed by vigorous prosecution, and on the whole I feel enabled to say that the character of the service has been raised in point of integrity and efficiency.

The following is a full text of that portion of the Secretary of the Interior's annual report in which he comments on the two acts passed last winter authorizing the citizens of Colorado, Nevada and the territories to take timber from the public lands for mining and domestic purposes and providing for the sale of timber lands in California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington territory. Secretary Schurz says: In the opinion of the commissioner of the general land office, which is on record in this department, these two acts are more calculated to hasten the destruction of the forests in the states and territories named than to secure the preservation of them. The commissioner of the general land office in a letter officially to me expresses the following opinion of the act relating to Colorado, Nevada and the territories: It is a fact well known, that while almost all the timber land in these states and all the territories, except in Dakota and Washington, is regarded as mineral, only a small portion is so in reality. The effect of this bill will be, in my opinion, to prevent the survey and sale of any timber lands or timber upon the lands in the states and territories named, thus cutting off large prospective revenues that might and should be derived from the sale of such lands or the timber on them. It is equivalent to a donation of all the timber lands to the inhabitants of those States and Territories, which will now be found to be the largest donation of the public domain hitherto made by Congress. This bill authorizes the registers and receivers of the land offices in the districts in which the lands are situated to make investigations without any specific directions from the Secretary of the Interior or Commissioner of the General Land Office; to settle and adjust their own accounts, and retain from the moneys coming into their hands from the sale of lands such amounts as they may expend or cause to be expended. This method will be found exceedingly expensive and result in no good. Experience has shown that the machinery of the Land Offices is wholly inadequate to prevent the depredations. Schurz continues: The rules and regulations issued in pursuance of the first section of this act are to be found in the report of the commissioner of the general land office, herewith presented. These rules were drawn up with a view to, and intention of preserving

young timber and undergrowth upon the mineral lands of the United States, and to the end that the mountain sides may not be left denuded and barren of the timber and undergrowth necessary to prevent a precipitation of the rainfall and melting of snows in floods upon the fertile, arable lands in the valleys below, thus destroying the agricultural and pasturage interests of the mineral and mountainous portions of country, make it the duty of the registers and receivers to see that trespassers upon timber lands, not mineral, be duly reprimanded; that upon the mineral lands, only timber of a certain size be cut and that young trees and undergrowth be protected, and that timber be cut only for the purposes mentioned in the act. These rules and regulations will be enforced with all the power left it to this department to that end, in order to save what may be saved; but I deem it my duty to call attention to the fact, as set forth by the commissioner in the letter above quoted, that the machinery of the land offices is utterly inadequate to accomplish the object in view. After careful consideration of the above named act and its probable effects, I venture the prediction that the permission given the inhabitants of the states and territories named therein to take timber from the public lands in any quantity and whenever they can find it, for all purposes except export and sale to the railroads, will be taken advantage of, not only by the settlers and miners to provide economically for their actual current wants, but by persons who see in this donation a chance to make money. It will stimulate a wasteful consumption beyond actual need, and lead to wanton destruction; that the machinery left to this department to prevent such waste and destruction through the enforcement of the rules above mentioned, will prove entirely inadequate; that as a final result, in a few years the mountain sides of these States and Territories will be stripped bare of the timber now growing upon them, with no possibility of its reproduction, if once wasted off from slopes, and that the irreparable destruction of the forests will bring upon those States all the calamities experienced from the same cause in districts in Europe and Asia similarly situated. It appears to me, therefore, that a repeal of the above-named act, and the substitution thereof of a law embodying a more provident policy, similar to that of the bill heretofore advocated, is in the highest degree desirable. If the destruction of the forests in these States be permitted, the agricultural and pasturage interests in mountainous regions will undoubtedly be sacrificed, and the valleys, in the course of time, will become unfit for the habitation of man.

The act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon and Nevada and in Washington Territory, passed by Congress at its last session, is commented upon by the commissioner of the general land office as follows: It is a bill of local and not general application to timber lands of the United States, and adds one more to the special acts for the disposal of public domain. The price fixed is too low, as much of the land is worth from \$5 to \$30 per acre. Under the provisions of the bill the timber lands will, in my opinion, be speedily taken up and passed into the hands of speculators, notwithstanding the provisions to prevent such a result. Soil should not be sold with timber where land is not fit for cultivation. Only timber of certain sizes should be sold, and young timber retained with a view to the reproduction of forests. The bill should have limited the sale of lands to persons who have farms and homes within the state or territory, and it ought to have required purchasers to show affirmatively that they had need of the timber for domestic uses. The last clause of the second section will permit any person applying for a tract of timber land, and securing a certificate from the register, to sell his right and interest therein immediately, and the purchaser, although it may have been obtained by perjury, may be entitled to the land. Section five provides that any person prosecuted under section 2,461 of the Revised Statutes of the United States may be relieved of the penalty by the payment of \$250 per acre for the land trespassed upon. This is objectionable for the reason that the penalty fixed is altogether

inadequate, and does not require the payment of the costs of prosecution, which are often greater than the penalty to be collected. It should require that trespassers should pay for the entire subdivision trespassed upon. There can be no doubt that, if this bill becomes a law, it will be taken advantage of by persons who want to make money quickly. Schurz adds: I fully concur with the commissioner of the General Land Office in his opinion thus expressed.

PORT GIBSON, 27.—Dr. Buck, sheriff of Clayborne County, having received information, before daylight this morning, that Harrison Page, the negro desperado who assassinated the chancery clerk of this county two years ago, was at his house, three miles from town, went out with his deputies to arrest him. One of the deputies, Robert Lum, was shot and instantly killed from a window. The sheriff, on forcing the door, was shot in the bowels, face and arm, and is in a dying condition. Thos. Harwood, another deputy, was knocked into an old cistern and left for dead, though he has since revived and is not seriously hurt. A posse left town immediately, and Charlie Weltman, one of the posse, while riding near Page's house, was shot through the face, arm, leg and hand. He is still alive. The assassin escaped, though some of his accomplices were killed.

SAN FRANCISCO, 27.—The latest news from Virginia says: The entire face of the crosscut on the 2,200 foot level of the Sierra Nevada shows ore averaging about \$91 to the ton. The porphyry is now considered merely a horse.

Coasting sailors of this port are on a strike against a reduction in wages from \$35 to \$30 per month. Their organization numbers about 1,500 members.

CHICAGO, 28.—The Tribune's St. Louis special says: It is alleged, on reliable authority, that since Litta's first success in Chicago, Miss Kellogg has become inordinately jealous, and that yesterday quite a scene occurred between Kellogg and Max Strakosch, because of the enthusiastic encomiums lavished on Litta by the city press. The happy operative family seems likely to be broken up.

The story of the contemplated consolidation of the Union and Central Pacific, characterized by C. P. Huntington, of the Central Pacific, and by the president of the Union Pacific, is unfounded.

BALTIMORE, 28.—An explosion of gasoline, used in the foot-lights, occurred to-night at a low variety theatre on Thames Street, before the performance was to commence. About 20 persons were present in the audience. In the woman's dressing room, back of the stage, were seven girls (actresses), three of whom, Kate Bradley, Nettie Lewis, and Marian Davis, were severely burned in endeavoring to escape, being obliged to cross the burning stage to get out. P. B. Cummings, pianist, was very badly burned.

WASHINGTON, 28.—Hill, supervising architect of the treasury, and Mills, a contractor, and others, charged with conspiracy to defraud the government, and indicted at Chicago, gave bail in \$5,000 each to-day.

CINCINNATI, 28.—John M. Muller, contractor for furnishing stone for the Chicago Custom House, was arrested, to-day, charged with unlawfully and feloniously conspiring with others, to defraud the government. Bail is fixed at \$5,000.

LOUISVILLE, 28.—A very heavy snow storm prevailed here from three o'clock until half-past eight to-day.

NEW YORK, 28.—The World Washington special says: The question of electing Garcelon, a democrat, or Smith, greenbacker, Governor of Maine, by the Legislature, was submitted to Maine's Congressional delegation, which decided in favor of Garcelon because he was a hard money man.

Mrs. Vosburg, wife of the Reverend gentleman recently tried in Jersey City for poisoning, has written to persons asking for news of her husband, saying that she is greatly troubled at his prolonged absence.

The Times Washington special says: It is reported that Secretary McCary has deliberately evaded the army appropriation act by appointing young clerks of the war department to second lieutenances. It is probable that his course will be investigated by Congress.

PHILADELPHIA, 28.—Robert

Heller, the magician, died at the Continental Hotel, in this city, to-night, after a very brief illness. He gave an entertainment here on Monday night last.

PETERSBURG, Va., 28.—William Cameron's tobacco factory, one of the largest in the State, was burned to-night. The stemming factory, adjoining, was also destroyed. The building covered nearly a full square. The loss will probably reach \$200,000; insurance between \$100,000 and \$125,000.

NEW YORK, 29.—The Tribune's Washington special says: Representative Page, of California, intends, on the first day of the coming session, to introduce a resolution for the reapportionment of representatives in Congress from the States of Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina, based upon the actual voting population of these States. Page has been giving close attention to recent occurrences in the south, especially since it became notorious that a large number of citizens of legal age, in the States named, have been denied their constitutional rights of suffrage, and been considering the best methods of correcting the wrong which will be done by admitting from the south, a full quota of representatives in whose election only a minority of the citizens were allowed to participate.

The Times' Yankton, Dakota, special says: An army officer is responsible for the statement that the supplies for Red Cloud's 6,000 Indians are still on the Missouri, at the old agency warehouse, and cannot be transported to camp inside of ten months. The officer asserts that the Indians are in danger of starvation, and will certainly be ready for the war path in spring.

The Times' Washington special says: No one believes that Glover's proposed efforts against Linderman will be more successful this winter than they were at the last session. The democrats are tired of Glover's investigation pranks, and it is likely his schemes will be suppressed by the refusal of the House to vote him pecuniary means to continue them. It will be remembered that all his efforts last winter resulted in more damage to some of his party friends than to the republican officers whom he confidently expected catch.

Great preparations are making for the international dairy fair, which opens on Monday next. The railroads entering the city are issuing excursion tickets. It is believed it will be largely attended and very successful.

As usual, conservative business men here are discounting the financial disturbance and mischief expected from the meeting of Congress, while it is admitted that the result of the recent elections tends less danger of any wild schemes becoming successful. There is an extended feeling that the President's veto is the only certain reliance for their defeat. The opponents of the cheap silver dollar gather strength and hope from the decision of the Latin Union, virtually declaring the double standard itself impracticable, by providing that there shall be no coinage of legal tender silver dollars for six years to come by the nations of the union. It is urged that if Europe will not have the silver upon any ratio with gold, the effort to circulate here at 15 per cent. below gold value must necessarily be abandoned. The payment in London of five and a half millions of fishery award, this week, caused no disturbance in the money market or gold premium, because Secretary Sherman had already put the gold in London before the speculators were aware of the fact.

The American Institute Fair, just closed here, awarded Landsberger & Co., of San Francisco, two medals and two diplomas, for champagne, sherry, claret, and muscatel wines, including a medal of superiority for their eclipse extra dry.

WASHINGTON, 29.—Nothing of importance took place at the cabinet meeting, to-day. A member said there was a unanimity on the President's message.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29.—At Marysville, yesterday, in the trot between "Rains" and "Sweetzer," the former won in the straight heats. Time 2:22, 2:17, 2:22.

Thanksgiving day was generally observed throughout the Pacific coast.

The steamer Oceanic arrived from Hong Kong via Yokohama, at seven last evening, bringing the following:

China.—A serious revolt of 50,000 troops has taken place in the pro-

vince of Kwangsi. There is fears of an extension, in consequence of the bad pay and rations, throughout the army.

The opposition to Governor Hennessy is increasing in Hong Kong. Petitions for his removal are circulating.

There is reports of disasters to the Chinese forces occupying the reconquered western territory. Complications with the Russian authorities are also feared.

Japan.—The Emperor returned to the capital from a long provincial tour on November 9th. His progress throughout was marked by manifestations of loyalty and devotion.

The foreign trade continues disturbed, the Japanese refusing to deal at the high rates of exchange demanded by speculators in Mexican dollars. These, however, have fallen from 20 to 12 per cent. premium. The internal trade is unaffected by outside influences, notwithstanding the strenuous foreign efforts to create a panic in the hope of discrediting the national credit and forcing the Japanese to seek assistance from abroad.

Reports of important government changes continue, but all need confirmation.

The press laws are enforced with great severity, several newspapers having recently been subjected to extreme hardships.

Government regulations for the sale of opium is published, just and moderate, and approved by most foreigners, but it is expected that the British will resist and defy them and continue to import and sell without reference to decree of authorities.

General Le Gendre, an American citizen, has just published a book on the present condition and future prospects of Japan, and has created a profound impression in official circles. It is considered likely to lead to important government changes. Mr. Rennie, lawyer at Shanghai, is appointed judge of the British court in Japan.

WASHINGTON, 29.—The secretary of war, in his annual report, referring to the Indian disturbances during the year, declares the opinion that permanent peace in the Indian country can be maintained only by the exhibition of a force sufficient to overawe the more warlike and dangerous of the savages, and keep them in subjection. The efforts to civilize by instructing them should be persevered in, but they should be confronted with such military force as will teach them the futility of attempting resistance to the power of the United States. Meantime, Congress should make such provision as will prevent the possibility of suffering for lack of food among the Indians upon the reservations. In short, our policy should be a fair and just treatment to the Indians, and a faithful fulfillment of every promise, and a prompt, effectual punishment of all acts of war on their part. To this end, the employment of a sufficient military force in the Indian country is necessary, to act with vigor and success when occasion requires, and prevent the possibility of defeat and a massacre of small detachments of troops, by which Indian wars have often been encouraged and prolonged. The experiment of enlisting for special service Indian scouts has proved quite successful. The secretary recommends legislation authorizing an increase of their number, and declaring them to be a force in addition to the number of enlisted men authorized for the army.

The Secretary also recommends from 35cts to 50cts per diem increase of soldier teachers at posts, garrison and permanent camps, in order to secure the enlistment of educated young men, with a view to detail as teachers.

The vigorous policy pursued towards the Mexican marauders has resulted in a marked diminution of former excursions from Mexico into Texas.

Referring to the existing prohibition of the army as a posse comitatus, the Secretary says: It is important either that this provision be repealed or that the number of cases in which the use of the army shall be expressly authorized be very much enlarged. In some portions of our western Territories, and even in portions of younger States, a resolute desperado, with a few followers, can defy the officers of law and any local posse that can be organized. During the year numerous attacks have been made upon the mail coaches in New Mexico and Arizona for the purposes of robbery and plunder.