THE CREEK LANDS.

A Special Message to Congress on the Subject.

The President Transmits a Provisional Agreement Made With the Creeks to Sell Their Lands—Clearing the Way to Oklahoma.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—A dynamite bomb thrown into the ranks of the opponents of the Oklahoma bill could not have created greater consternation than the message of the President sent to both houses of Congress yesterday afternoon announcing the cession of the Oklahoma and other lands to the United States. It was seen at once that by this cession every possible argument against the creation of the Territory of Oklahoma would fall to the ground. It will be observed that the agreement with the Creeks, which was consummated at the Interior Department January 19, soon after the successful conclusion of General Weaver's parliamentary struggle, is an absolute cession of the land, and that the agreement was promptly ratified by the Creek Council, and returned to the President, who lost no time in laying it before Congress. The friends of Oklahoma are overwhelmed with joy at the auspicious result of the negotiations. The message and agreement will be referred to the Indian Committee of the House and Senate and there is no doubt but that it will be ratified.

The following is the full text of the President's message:

To the Congress:

I transmit herewith for approval and ratification a provisional agreement lately entered into between the Government of the United States and the Creek Nation of Indians through their duly authorized representatives, and which has been approved by the National Council of said Nation, by which agreement the title and interest of the said Creek Nation of Indians in and to all lands in the Indian Territory or elsewhere, except such as are held and occupied as the homes of said Nation, are ceded to the United States.

The eighth section of the Indian Appropriation bill, approved March 3, 1885, authorized the President "to open negotiations with the Creeks, Seminoles and Cherokees for the purpose of opening to settlement under the Homestead laws the unassigned lands in the Indian Territory, ceded by them respectively to the United States by the several treaties of August 11, 1866, March 21, 1866 and July 19, 1866." This section also contains an appropriation in furtherance of its purpose, and requires that the action of the President thereunder should be reported to Congress. The unassigned lands thus referred to should be construed to be those which have not been transferred by the United States in pursuance of the treaties mentioned in the section quoted.

The treaty with the Creeks is dated July 14, 1866. It was confirmed by the Senate resolution passed July 19, 1866, and was proclaimed August 11, 1866. (14 Stats., 785). The third article of the treaty makes a cession of lands in the following words: "In compliance with the desire of the United States to locate other Indians and freedmen thereon, the Creeks hereby cede and convey to the United States, to be sold to and used as homes for such other civilized Indians as the United States may choose to settle thereon the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south. The eastern half of said Creek land, being retained by them, shall, except as herein otherwise stipulated, be forever set apart as a home for said Creek Nation; and, in consideration of said cession of the west half of their lands, estimated to contain 2,500,000 acres, the United States agree to pay the sum of thirty (30) cents per acre, amounting to $675,165." The provisions that the lands conveyed were "to be sold to and used as homes for such other civilized Indians," etc., has been steadily regarded as a limitation upon the grant made to the United States. Such a construction is admitted to be the true one in many ways, especially by the continual reservation of the ceded lands from settlement by the whites, by the same or a portion of the same to Indians by the use of other portions as the home of Indians and also by various provisions in proposed legislation in Congress. Thus the bill now pending for the organization of Oklahoma provides for the payment to the Creeks and Seminoles of the ordinary Government price of $1.25 per acre, less the amount heretofore paid.

The section of the law of 1885, first above quoted, appears also to have been passed in contemplation not only of the existence of a claim on the part of the Creeks, but of the substantial foundation of that claim in equity, if not in law, and in acknowledgment of the duty of the Government to satisfactorily discharge the claim of the Indian people before putting the land to the free uses of settlement and Territorial occupation by whites. But it seems to have been considered that so far as the lands had been assigned they may fairly be taken to be such as under the treaty were "to be sold." As to these, they having been assigned or sold in accordance with said treaty, the claim of the Creeks thereto has been entirely discharged, and the title from the United States passed unburdened with any condition or limitation to the grantees. This seems to be an entirely clear proposition.

The unassigned lands must be those which are unsold, because not only is that the fair significance of the term, as used technically, in conveyancing, but because the limiting condition in the Creek treaty was that the lands should be sold to, as we have used as homes for other Indians. The total quantity of lands in the western half of the Creek Nation, and which were ceded in 1866, is 3,902,428.88 acres. The assigned lands as above defined are in three bodies: 1, the Seminole country, by the treaty of 1866, 200,000 acres; 2, the Sac and Fox reservation, sold and conveyed by article six of the treaty of February 18, 1867, (15 Stat., 495), amounting to 479,668.05; 3, the Pawnee reservation granted by section 4 of the act of Congress of April 10, 1876 (19 Stat., 29), for which the Government received the price allowed the Creeks, 30 cents per acre, 53,035.94; making a total of assigned or sold lands of 732,673.99, and leaving as the total unassigned lands 2,969,754.89. Of this total quantity of unassigned land which is subject to the negotiations provided for under the law of 1885 there should be a further division made in considering the sum which ought fairly to be paid in discharge of the Creek claim thereto.

In that part of these lands called the Oklahoma country no Indians have been allowed to reside by any action of the Government, nor has any execution been attempted of the limiting condition of the cession of 1866. The quantity of these lands carefully computed from the surveyors is 1,392,704.70 acres. The remainder of these unassigned lands has been appropriated in some degree to Indian uses, although still within the control of the Government.

Thus by three executive orders the following Indian reservations have been created. First, by President Grant August 10, 1869, the reservation of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes which embraces of this land 619,458.59 acres; second, by President Arthur August 1?, 1883, the reservation for the Iowas containing 228,417.67 acres; third, by President Arthur August 15, 1883, the Kickapoo reservation embracing 206,465.61 acres; fourth, a tract set apart for the Pottawatomies by the treaty of February 27, 1867, (15 statutes 531) followed by the act of May 23, 1872, (17 statutes 159) by which individual allotments were authorized upon the tract, though but very few Indians have selected and paid for such allotments according to the provisions of the law. The entire quantity of the Pottawatomie reservation is 222,716.31 acres. This shows the quantity of lands unassigned but to some extent appropriated to Indian uses by the Government amounting to 1,257,050.19.

For the lands which are not only unassigned but are unoccupied, and which have been in no way appropriated, it appears clearly just and right that a price of at least $1.25 should be allowed to the Creeks. They held more than the ordinary Indian title, for they had a patent in fee from the Government. The Osages of Kansas were allowed $1.25 per acre upon giving up their reservation, and this land of the Creeks is reported by those familiar with it to be equal to any land in the country. Without regard to the present enhanced value of this land, and if reference be only had to the conditions when the cession was made no less price ought to be paid for it than the ordinary Government price. Therefore, in this provisional agreement which has been made with the Creeks the price of $1.25 has been settled upon for such land with the deduction of the thirty cents per acre which has already been paid by our Government therefor. As to the remainder of the unassigned lands, in view of the fact that some use has been made of them of the general character indicated by the treaty of 1866, and because some portion of them should be allotted to Indians under the General Allotment act and to cover the expenses of surveys and adjustments, a diminishment of 20 cents per acre has been acceded to. There is no difference in the character of the lands, thus combining the unassigned and entirely unappropriated land being the Oklahoma country containing 1,392,704.70 acres at 95 cents per acre and the remainder which has been appropriated to the extent above stated being 1,277,060.19 acres at 75 cents per acre the total price stipulated in the agreement has been reached—$2,280,657.

But as it was desirable that the Indian title should be beyond question extinguished to all parts of the lands ceded by the Creeks in 1866, with their full consent and understanding the agreement of cession has been made to embrace a complete surrender of all claim to the western half of their domain, including the assigned and the unassigned lands for the price named. So the agreement takes the form in the first article of such a cession, and in the second article is stipulated the price in gross of all the lands and interests ceded with no detailed reference to the manner of the ascertainment.

The overtures which led to this agreement were made by representatives of the Creek Nation who came here for that purpose. They were intelligent and evidently loyal to the interests of their people. The terms of the agreement were fully discussed and concessions were made by both parties. It was promptly confirmed by the National Council of the Creek Indians, and its complete consummation only awaits the approval of the Congress of the United States. I am convinced that such ratification will be of decided benefit to the Government, and that the agreement is entirely free from any suspicion of unfairness or injustice toward the Indians.

I desire to call especial attention to the fact that to become effective the agreement must be ratified by the Congress prior to July 1, 1889. The draft of an act of ratification is herewith submitted. GROVER CLEVELAND.

Executive Mansion, February 5, 1889.

THE LONDON TIMES.

Through With Irish Testimony—American Testimony Introduced.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—At the opening of yesterday's session of the Parnell Commission Attorney-General Webster said he had finished with the Irish portion of the Times case and would now take up the American part. A witness named Beach then testified. He said he joined the Fenians in 1865 and was appointed military organizer. After the failure of the invasion of Canada by the Fenians he joined a society known as the "B. C.," the object of which was to provide money to carry on the Irish agitation and ship arms to Ireland.

Beach said he remembered the visit of Messrs. Dillon and Parnell to America in 1880. The meetings held during their stay in the United States were organized exclusively by the United Brotherhood or Clan Na Gael. Witness attended several meetings at which Messrs. Dillon and Parnell were present. Mr. Parnell attended the demonstration in Chicago at which bodies of the Clan Na Gael and the Hibernian Rifle Guards were under arms.

Beach produced a copy of the constitution of the "B. C." or Clan-Na-Gael. This provided for concerted action with the Irish brotherhood and kindred societies to bring about a combination of the Irish revolutionary movements in all parts of the world to act decisively against England. The witness said that in 1878 Devoy and Millen were sent as delegates to Ireland, receiving $10,000 from the skirmishing fund and a further sum which does not appear in the official lists.

Attorney-General Webster read Devoy's official report, in which he urged that before any large quantity of arms was sent to Ireland, three delegates should be sent to prepare Irishmen to use them.

Beach further testified that Eagan told him that Mr. Parnell desired to join the brotherhood, but it was thought that his connection with the organization would destroy his usefulness, and on this account he was not allowed to join.

FATAL EXPLOSION.

Terrible Explosion in the Insane Hospital at Lincoln, Neb.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb 6.—The boilers used in heating the insane hospital here exploded at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, killing three men, injuring others and utterly demolishing the boiler house, a one story brick building 40 by 60 feet in size, one end occupied by the five large boilers and the other by the electric apparatus which furnished light to the building. W. H. Huntley, a patient from Saline County, who was in the boiler house when the explosion occurred, was crushed and scalded and must have died instantly. T. K. Saunders, a patient from Pawnee County was killed in the same manner. A. D. Gifford, another patient, was dangerously injured. The chief engineer, John Morrin, was thrown through the building and scalded so severely that he died last night. George Davis, second engineer, had one arm broken and John C. Hall, a patient from Omaha, was slightly injured. No one can tell what caused the explosion. The second engineer says that boiler No. 1 had just been blown off and fires were being started in the other boilers. He heard a noise in the dome of No. 2 and had just jumped to the door when the explosion occurred.

Went Insane and Died.

ANTHONY, Kan., Feb. 6.—January 15 L. F. Landers had an attachment issued on some cattle sold by his brother, George R. Mulhall, to Zack Mulhall, who was in the employ of Hunter, Evans & Co., of Kansas City. By the decision of Judge Herrick, of this district, the attachment was dissolved. Upon hearing the verdict L. F. Landers proceeded to the hardware store of A. H. Davis in this city and purchased a bull-dog revolver and proceeding down Main street met his brother George and Mulhall at the First National Bank building and after a few words from both parties shot Mulhall, the ball striking the left hip bone and ranging upward through or near the stomach. At the time the wound was thought to be fatal, but Mulhall was again seen on the streets this week. Immediately after the shooting Landers became violently insane and was confined to his bed ever since and Saturday night he died.

Seventeen Drowned.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 6.—News has been received here that at Pine Lake, Fulton County, as seventeen men were driving teams engaged in hauling logs across the ice the ice broke and the men and horses were all lost.

A dispatch from Canajoharie says that the following information has been received there regarding the accident: Twenty-four teams were engaged in drawing logs across the ice, regarding the safety of which no fears had been felt. It gave way, however, after seven drivers and teams had reached the shore, and the remaining drivers broke through the ice and sank out of sight. None of the bodies have yet been recovered.

A Striker Killed.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—Yesterday afternoon a party of men, presumably strikers, attacked a car at Sixty-fifth street and the boulevard and began pelting it with stones. The passengers left the car and the officer in charge of it, Thomas K. Snyder, having been hit in the face by one of the stones, fired into the crowd. The bullet went whizzing through the brain of one of the men. He died while being removed to the Roosevelt Hospital. His name was not ascertained. He was about forty years of age and a laborer. The officer who did the shooting was placed under arrest and brought before Superintendent Murray. He has an excellent character.

Fatal Church Fight.

ANDERSON, Ind., Feb. 6.—A factions' church fight at Olivet which has been in court the last three months culminated in a fight yesterday in which Simeon Shorts, a rough character, assaulted Tom Donahoe, inflicting fatal injuries.

THE OKLAHOMA BILL.

Provisions of the Springer Bill Passed by the House.

Following is the Springer Oklahoma bill which has passed the House of Representatives and now awaits the action of the Senate:

A bill to organize the Territory of Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. That all that part of the United States included within the following limits, except such portions thereof as is hereinafter expressly exempted from the operations of this act, to-wit: Bounded on the west by the State of Texas and the Territory of New Mexico; on the north by the State of Colorado and the State of Kansas; on the east by the reservation occupied by the Cherokee tribe of Indians east of the Ninety-sixth Meridian of west longitude, and by the Creek, Siminole and Chickasaw reservations; and on the south by the Creek Siminole and Chickasaw reservations and by the State of Texas, comprising what is known as the Public Land Strip and all that part of the Indian Territory not actually occupied by the five civilized tribes, is created into a temporary government by the name of the Territory of Oklahoma: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to impair the rights of persons or property, or to impair any patent to or right of occupancy of lands now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory under the laws and treaties of the United States, executive order, or otherwise, or to include any territory occupied by any Indian tribe for which title has been conveyed by patent or otherwise from the United States, or to which such tribe may be entitled by law, executive order, right of occupancy, or treaty, without the consent of said tribe, or any territory which by treaty or agreement with any Indian tribe is not, without the consent of said tribe, to be included within the territorial limits of jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries and constitute no part of the Territory of Oklahoma until said tribe shall signify its assent to the President of the United States to be included in the said Territory of Oklahoma, except for judicial purposes as provided herein, or to affect the authority of the Government of the United States to make any regulation or enact any law respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, which it would have been competent to make or enact if this act had never passed.

SEC. 2. That there shall be a Governor, Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Supreme Court, Attorney, and Marshal for said Territory, who shall be appointed and selected under the provisions of title 23, chapter 1, of the revised statutes of the United States, relating to the government of all the Territories. The provisions of said title shall have the same force and effect in the Territory of Oklahoma as in other Territories of the United States: Provided, that the Legislative Assembly and Delegate to the House of Representatives shall not be elected until the President shall order; Provided, further, That no person shall be entitled to vote at the first election, or to be elected to any office, who has not been a bona fide resident of said Territory for sixty days previous to said election. And provided further, that the Council in said Territory shall consist of thirteen members, and the House of Representatives shall consist of twenty-six members, which may be increased to thirty-nine.

SEC. 3. That the Constitution and laws of the United States which are not locally inapplicable shall have the same force and effect in said Territory of Oklahoma as elsewhere in the United States: Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with the local governments of any of the Indian tribes which may now be provided for by the laws and treaties of the United States, or which may exist in conformity thereto: And provided further, that the Supreme Court of the Territory shall have jurisdiction and shall embrace all causes of action, crimes and offenses arising within the limits of the Territory organized by this act; and all laws heretofore passed granting jurisdiction to United States courts within the limits of said Territory are hereby repealed; but cases now pending shall be prosecuted to their final disposition therein the same as if this act had not been passed.

SEC. 4. That the section of country lying between the States of Kansas, Colorado and Texas, known as the Public Land Strip, is hereby declared to be part of the public domain of the United States, and shall be open to settlement under the operation of the Homestead laws only, except as otherwise provided in this act; Provided, that the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of land in each township shall be reserved for school purposes.

SEC. 5. That whenever the Creek and Seminole tribes of Indians shall signify their assent to the provisions of this section, in legal manner, to the commission provided for in this act, and the President has issued his proclamation fixing the time as provided herein, the unoccupied lands ceded to the United States by said tribes under the treaties of June 14, 1866, and March 21, 1866, shall be open to settlement, except the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections in each township, which shall be reserved for school purposes, and shall be disposed of to actual settlers only, in quantities not to exceed 160 acres in square form, to each settler, at the price of $1.25 per acre. All persons who are heads of families or over twenty-one years of age, and who are citizens of the United States, or have resided in the United States two years and have declared their intention to become citizens thereof, shall be entitled to become actual settlers on such lands. An accurate account shall be kept by the Secretary of the Interior of the money received as proceeds of the sale of said lands, and said money shall be placed to the credit of the Cherokee Indian tribe in the treasury of the United States, after deducting the cost of the sale by the United States and the amount heretofore appropriated and paid to the Cherokee tribe as part compensation for said unoccupied lands: Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize any person to enter upon or occupy any of the lands mentioned in this or the preceding section, for the purpose of settlement or otherwise until after the said Indian tribes and the Commissioners herein authorized have concluded an agreement to that effect as provided herein, and laid the same before the President of the United States, who is thereupon authorized and required to issue his proclamation declaring such relinquished lands open to settlement, and fixing the time from and after which such lands may be taken. Any person who may enter upon any part of said lands contrary to the provisions of this act, and prior to the time fixed by the President's proclamation, shall not be permitted to make entry upon any lands or lay any claim thereto in said Territory.

SEC. 7. That the President may, at such times as he may deem it necessary, direct land offices to be opened in the Territory of Oklahoma, not to exceed four in number, and may nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint the usual officers to conduct the business of said land offices; and the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall, when directed by the President, cause the various portions of said lands to be properly surveyed and subdivided, where the same has not already been done. It is hereby made the duty of the Commissioner of the General Land Office to carefully examine each claim taken under the provisions of this act before issuing a patent to the claimant; and if it shall appear that said claim was not taken in good faith, he shall refuse a patent and decide all prior proceedings before had in such case to be null and void; and all persons settling on lands under the provisions of this act shall be required to select the same in square form, as near as may be, and to maintain a continuous personal residence of three years on the land, and to improve and cultivate the same for that period in the manner required by the homestead laws before obtaining title thereto; but payment for lands, where payment is required to be made by this act, shall be made in four equal installments, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, as follows: The first payment shall be made within six months from the time of entry, the second at the expiration of one year from date of entry, the third at the expiration of two years from date of entry, and the final payment shall be made at the expiration of three years from the date of entry: Provided, That there shall be reserved public highways four rods wide around every section of land in said Territory, the section lines being the center of said highways; but no deduction shall be made in the amount to be paid for each quarter section of land by reason of such reservation.

SEC. 8. That the procedure in applications, entries, contests and adjudications under this act shall be in the form and manner prescribed under the homestead laws of the United States, and the general principles and provisions of the homestead laws, except as modified by the provisions of this act, shall be applicable to all entries made hereunder, and no patent shall be issued to any persons who is not a citizen of the United States at the time he makes final proof and payment. Final proof and payment, except in cases of contest, shall be made within three months after the expiration of three years from the date of entry, and in default thereof, or in default of the payment of any installment of the purchase-money when due, the entry shall be liable to cancellation, and the money paid thereon shall be forfeited to the United States. Lands entered under the provisions of this act shall be liable to taxation after the first installment of the purchase money shall have been paid; but the same shall not be subject to any judgment or lien obtained upon indebtedness contracted or obligations incurred prior to the issue of patents therefor, nor shall such lands be sold, or contracted to be sold, leased, or contracted to be leased, conveyed mortgaged, or in any manner encumbered, prior to final proof or payment and the record thereof made in the office of the register and receiver of the district where the land is located; and any sale, lease, conveyance or mortgage made, executed or contracted for prior to such final proof, payment and record, shall be absolutely null and void; and all assignments, transfers and mortgages of unpatented land entries shall be at the risk of the assignees, transferees, and mortgagees, who shall have no recourse against the United States for any failure of claimant's title before issue of patent: Provided, That the provisions of section 2305 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, entitled "Homestads," shall not be modified or changed by any thing in this act.

SEC. 9. That whenever any portion of the lands opened to settlement by provision of this act shall be occupied for town site purposes, and the Secretary of the Interior is satisfied that they are occupied in good faith and are necessary for such purposes, the said Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause patents to be issued therefor, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to any legally organized company occupying and entitled to the same, upon the payment in cash of $2 per acre for the lands so occupied. The money so received for each town site, except such amount as may be required to be paid to the Indian tribes, as provided in sections 5 and 6 of this act, shall be held by the Secretary of the Interior as a separate school fund for the benefit of the people of such town, and shall be expended under his direction for the erection of school buildings and the support of schools therein: Provided, That town sites actually occupied on the public land strip at the date of the approval of this act by not less than one hundred bona fide inhabitants shall be patented to the legally organized company selected by said inhabitants, said sites to embrace the amount of land provided by law: Provided further, That all patents issued for town sites in the Territory of Oklahoma shall contain reservations for parks, and other public purposes, embracing in the aggregate not less than ten or more than twenty acres, but no deduction shall be allowed on this account in the amount to be paid for said town sites as provided in this section and patents for such reservations shall be issued to the towns respectively when organized as municipalities.

SEC. 10. That all lands in the Territory of Oklahoma not embraced in the provisions of sections 4, 5 and 6 of this act, which are not required by law, treaty stipulations, executive orders, or rights of occupancy for the use of any Indian tribe, or which may be relinquished as an Indian reservation, shall be open to settlement under the provisions of this act: Provided, That whenever Indian lands are purchased by the United States with the consent of the Indians, and opened to settlement in said Territory, the President of the United States may fix the price to be paid therefor by actual settlers, which price shall in no case exceed $1.25 per acre, and the proceeds shall be held for the benefit of the Indians concerned, as provided in sections 5 and 6 of this act.

SEC. 11. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized and directed to appoint a Commission, to be composed of five persons, not more than three of whom shall be members of the same political party, whose duty it shall be to open negotiations with the Creeks, Seminoles and Cherokees for the purpose of securing the consent of said Indians so far as it may be necessary to the provisions of section 5 and section 6 of this act. The Commission is authorized to enter into such agreements with said Indian tribes as it may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this act and shall submit the same to the President for his approval or rejection. The compensation of the members of said Commission shall be at the rate of $10 per day; and they shall also be allowed, in addition thereto, their actual necessary traveling expenses, stationary and postage. They shall have power to appoint a secretary, who shall receive a compensation of $6 per day, and such allowances for traveling expenses as he may actually incur.

SEC. 12 That it shall be unlawful for any person, for himself or any company, association or corporation, to directly or indirectly procure any person to settle upon any lands opened to settlement by this act with a view of their afterward acquiring title to said lands from said occupants; and the parties to such fraudulent settlement shall severally be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished, upon indictment, by imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 13. That all leases of lands belonging to the United States or held in common by any of the Indian tribes within the Territory of Oklahoma, as organized by this act, including the Cherokee Strip west of the ninety-sixth degree of west longitude, whether controlled by persons, corporations, or others, except such leases as are held for the purpose of cultivating the soil strictly for farming purposes, are hereby declared void and contrary to public policy; and it is hereby made the duty of the President, immediately after the passage of this act, to cause the lessees of said lands, and any other persons illegally occupying the same, to be removed from said lands.

SEC. 14. That the act of Congress approved July 25, 1866, granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Kansas & Neosho Valley railroad and its extension to Red river, and an act of Congress granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the southern branch of the Union Pacific railway, and a telegraph from Fort Riley, Kan., to Fort Smith, Ark., approved July 26, 1866, or any other acts of Congress so far as they relate to lands granted in said Indian Territory and the Public Land Strip, except for the right of way and necessary stations as now provided for by law, are hereby repealed; and all or any rights to said lands are hereby forfeited to the United States, and no railroad company now organized, or hereafter to be organized, shall ever acquire any lands to aid in the construction of its road, or in consequence of any railroad already constructed, either from the United States or from any Indian tribe, or from any Territorial Government within the limits of the Territory organized by this act.

SEC. 15. That neither the Legislative Assembly of said Territory, nor any county, township or city therein, shall have power to create or contract any indebtedness for any work of public improvement, or in aid of any railroad constructed or to be constructed, nor to subscribe for or purchase any shares of stock in any railroad company or corporation.

SEC. 16. That the provisions of this act shall not be applicable to lands lying within the limits of what is known as Greer County until the question of title thereto between the United States and the State of Texas shall have been finally determined in favor of the United States.

The House adopted an amendment to the bill as follows:

It is expressly provided that the rights of honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors in the late civil war to make homes on the public lands under the existing Homestead laws shall not in any degree be impaired by the passage of this bill.

THE EARTH-WORM.

Australian Specimens That Attain a Length of Several Feet.

In wandering through the fields in the early morning, we often see little heaps of newly disturbed earth, and occasionally catch glimpses of reddish or pink bodies quickly withdrawing in little tunnels in the sod. These are the earth-worms, considered the humblest of all animals; yet, as insignificant as they seem, they are among the most valuable aids to the agriculturist. We may appreciate this by selecting a field at random in a good producing country, making a section down through the earth for several feet, when, if carefully done, we shall find innumerable tunnels formed by the worms, leading here, there and everywhere. In fact, the upper crust of the earth is an endless maze of srteets, lanes and avenues. A naturalist has even attempted to calculate these numbers of little workers, and has come to the conclusion that they average 100,000 to the acre; and in especially rich ground in New Zealand it was estimated that there were 348,480 in a single acre. This vast body of worms is continually at work, boring this way and that, coming to the surface during the night and retreating to a greater depths during the day; and it is at once evident that their tunnels constitute a system of irrigation and ventilation for the upper crust. In other words, rain, instead of running off, enters the holes, and so penetrates the earth, thus being held for a longer time. Air also finds its way below the surface, so that the homes of the little creatures constitute storehouses for moisture.

But this is a very small part of the work accomplished. The worms are in league with the farmer, are in fact his unappreciated assistants, upon whose endeavors depends much of the success of his crops. They are continually swallowing the earth and depositing it the surface, and working it over and over. If I should ask my young readers to estimate the quantity of earth brought to the surface in a single acre in a year, I fear they would not place the amount as high as Mr. Darwin, who states that the vegetable mold, thus transported, in some places amounts to ten tons an acre. Think of it! If your ten-acre farm is in one of these farming localities, these silent workers, say to the number of a million, have plowed up about one hundred tons of earth for you, giving you a fine top-dressing.

The worms not only carry all this material to the surface, but they drag vast quantities of leaves and other matter down, that serve to enrich the soil and render it capable of producing larger crops. The earth-worms of Australia attian a large size, sometimes several feet in lenth, and have been seen climbing trees. Some casts found in India are a foot in length. The worms evidently live in complete darkness; but it is known that at certain times and under certain conditions they are luminous, so that a state of things may exist underground of which we have no conception, and the tunnels of these little creatures may be brightly illumined.—Living Light.

For any case of nervousness, sleeplessness, weak stomach, indigestion, dyspepsia, relief is sure in Carter's Little Liver Pills.

AN inveterate smoker — Vesuvius — Prairie Farmer.

The best known remedy for consumption is Oxygen Cure. Write Dr. Geppert, Cincinnati.

THE GENERAL MARKETS.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 8.		
CATTLE—Shipping steers	$4 30 @	$5 70
Butcher steers	3 50 @	4 75
Native cows	2 00 @	2 55
HOGS—Good to choice heavy	4 25 @	4 55
WHEAT—No. 2 red	90 @	92
No. 2 soft	94 @	98
CORN—No. 2	25 @	25½
OATS—No. 2	20½ @	22
RYE—No. 2	42 @	44
FLOUR—Patents, per sack	2 40 @	2 50
HAY—Baled	3 00 @	3 00
BUTTER—Choice creamery	22 @	24
CHEESE—Full cream	12 @	12½
EGGS—Choice	10½ @	11
BACON—Ham	10 @	10½
Shoulders	6 @	6½
Sides	7½ @	9
LARD	6 @	6½
POTATOES	30 @	40
ST. LOUIS.		
CATTLE—Shipping steers	3 75 @	4 25
Butchers' steers	2 00 @	3 25
HOGS—Packing	4 45 @	4 60
SHEEP—Fair to choice	3 90 @	5 00
FLOUR—Choice	3 50 @	4 75
WHEAT—No. 2 red	98 @	99½
CORN—No. 2	28½ @	29
OATS—No. 2	24½ @	25
RYE—No. 2	46 @	46½
BUTTER—Creamery	21 @	28
PORK	11 87 @	12 00
CHICAGO.		
CATTLE—Shipping steers	4 25 @	4 50
HOGS—Packing and shipping	4 55 @	4 67
SHEEP—Fair to choice	3 50 @	4 75
FLOUR—Winter wheat	5 00 @	5 75
WHEAT—No. 2 red	1 00 @	1 00½
CORN—No. 2	34 @	34½
OATS—No. 2	24½ @	25
RYE—No. 2	46 @	46½
BUTTER—Creamery	16 @	20
PORK	11 35 @	11 40
NEW YORK.		
CATTLE—Common to prime	4 00 @	4 65
HOGS—Good to choice	5 30 @	5 70
FLOUR—Good to choice	5 15 @	5 75
WHEAT—No. 2 red	95½ @	96½
CORN—No. 2	45½ @	46
OATS—Western mixed	29 @	32
BUTTER—Creamery	19 @	21
PORK	12 50 @	12 75

"Religious New York"

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