

THE INDIAN LANDS

Report on Indian Territory Land Shows Deplorable Condition

AGENT TOLD HALF TRUTH

Allocation of Land in Indian Territory and Swarms of Land Grabbers Discussed in Report to Congress

The report of Charles Bonaparte and Clinton R. Woodruff, on their investigation of the alleged abuses and irregularities in the public service of the Indian territory under the control of the interior department has been submitted to congress by the president.

The report says that the system adopted by the commission for the allotment of lands is faulty and that allotments should have been made on the ground. It says that many companies operating in the territory are "little more than associations of individual grafters whose questionable operations are the more objectionable because they discredit the reputable corporations."

Speaking of the present situation in the territory, the report says that the real Indians, who have remained Indians, constituting scarcely one-twentieth of the whole number of the inhabitants, are rapidly decreasing in numbers, not dying from disease or vice, but because the future holds out no prospect for them. The report notes the profound discontent existing among the white population of the territory and the very general want of confidence in public officials, and goes on at length to enumerate various reforms which should be inaugurated as early as possible.

The report reviews the report of S. M. Brosius, agent of the Indian rights association, on conditions in the territory and says that while the Brosius report contains a number of intimations and suggestions not justified by the facts, it understates the objectionable features of the administration of public affairs there and its specific allegations respecting federal officials are substantially true.

MORE "TECHNICALITIES"

The farther the Postoffice scandal is probed the better it gets

Another chapter in the postoffice investigation was revealed when Chairman Overstreet of the house committee on postoffices and post roads laid before the house of representatives a closely printed document of 215 pages recounting the instances on file in the postoffice department in which members of the senate and house of representatives have used their influence with the officials of the postoffice department, with more or less success, to secure increases in salaries of postmasters, additional clerk hire, and advantageous leases of buildings for postoffice purposes.

The report is made by the unanimous vote of the members of Mr. Overstreet's committee, in response to a resolution calling for the information introduced by Representative Hay of Virginia. As the information accompanies the report, the committee recommends that the resolution lie on the table.

Some of the transactions involving members of congress recorded in the report are said to be technical violations of the statutes, others are pronounced by members who have read the report as clearly censurable, while in the majority of cases it is held that members in making their recommendations to the department expected nothing not in harmony with the rules and practices of the department.

Stage Coach Belle for Fair

An old "Concord" stage coach, built at Concord, New Hampshire, in 1869 and used on the overland mail routes in western Iowa for many years after the close of the civil war, has been sold by Gran Ensign & Son of Lincoln, to the St. Louis Car company. The coach will be placed on exhibition at the St. Louis fair next summer.

The vehicle is truly an old-timer, and possesses much of interest to those of the younger generations.

When new the coach sold for \$1,000. From four to six horses were commonly used to drag the coach across the country, and crowds of from ten to fifteen persons could be accommodated on the inside and outside of the strange looking, cumbersome vehicle.

Starting Early in Season

All grades of sugar have advanced 5 cents a hundred pounds in New York.

Higher Civilization in Ohio

Richard Dixon, a negro desperado, who shot and fatally wounded Police-man Charles Collins, of Springfield, O., paid an awful penalty for his crime. A mob battered in the doors of the jail, dragged the negro to the yard, where he was shot to death, then carried the body to one of the principal streets of the city, hoisted it to the cross-arm of a telegraph pole and for half an hour fired revolver bullets into it.

HOME INSURANCE BUSINESS

Table Showing Volume of Business by Stock Companies

The annual report of Insurance Deputy John L. Pierre shows that fire stock companies did a good business in Nebraska last year. He is now working on his annual report, but has completed only that part relating to stock fire insurance companies. The report is for the year ending December 31, 1904. It shows an increase of nearly \$17,000 in the amount of risks written and an increase of \$178,999 in premiums received. The losses paid also show an increase of nearly \$309,999. The premiums received exceed the losses paid by \$167,279. It is usually estimated that the cost of securing new business is 33-1-3 per cent. Some losses incurred have not been paid so that the profits will be reduced slightly by this item. Some of the companies have had some losses since the first of the year, but these do not show in the report of last year's business.

The following totals for the past year include the business of four Nebraska stock companies:

	1902	1903
Risks written	\$153,484,489	\$170,197,568
Premiums received	1,599,613	2,178,832
Losses paid	729,502	1,011,562
Losses incurred	738,866	1,213,751

FARMERS ARE AROUSED

Going into the Grain Shipping Business on Own Account

Fifty-five farmers of the country surrounding Davey have banded together to increase their returns from grain. An elevator is to be built there as soon as the money is ready—a branch of the Farmers' Co-operative Shipping association. C. Vincent, of the line of elevators already being run by the association, has announced that he has completed an organization at Davey, with a subscription of \$1,700 on the capital of \$6,000 with which the branch will be started. He has a report from Bladen that subscriptions enough have been signed there to start another elevator. At Prairie Home arrangements are being made for a branch. Most of the association's elevators are in Kansas. There, after eight months and the building of forty-two elevators, 2 million bushels of grain have been shipped. While the farmers have been enriched by the saving of 3-1-2 cents per bushel for all grain handled, the association tucked \$29,000 in profits into the treasury for future use.

N. G. C.'s Reimbursement

Adjutant General Culver believes there is a chance for Nebraska to be reimbursed for equipment and supplies due the national guard. A bill has passed the senate extending the time in which states can present claims of a certain kind. General Culver believes there is a large sum due Nebraska. He estimates the amount at \$10,000, and some of this is for the pay of officers and men. The Nebraska congressmen are to be asked to support the bill pending in congress. Some contend that it is to reimburse states for expenses incurred in mobilizing troops during the Spanish-American war, and that it permits those states which did not file claims of this kind to file them. During Governor Poynter's term of office and while General Barry was adjutant general Congressman Stark secured all that was thought at that time to be due the state and the troops. If any sums are still due the guard it will be more than welcome as it will come as a surprise.

Additional Postoffice Facilities

Senator Dietrich has been notified by the postoffice department that an additional crew will be provided on the Lincoln and Kansas City railway postoffice train just as soon as the appointment of the crew can be conveniently made. A number of years ago the western terminus of the mail run was changed from Oxford to Lincoln and the number of mail crews was reduced from four to three for several years. Efforts have been made to obtain an additional crew to handle the mails between Lincoln and Kansas City, but without success. Lincoln is the seventeenth city in the country in the amount of mail matter distributed from that point and the necessity of a larger force has been recognized for some time. Recently Senator Dietrich has made a strong effort to obtain the allowance and another crew, with the gratifying result previously stated.

Earthquake at Lima, Peru

It is estimated that the damage caused by the earthquake will amount to \$500,000 in Lima, Peru, says a New York Herald dispatch. Reports from other cities have not been received.

Government Wants Teachers

The United States civil service commission has announced an examination to be held at Lincoln, Omaha and Grand Island, April 19 and 20, for the purpose of securing eligibles to fill vacancies in the position of manual training teacher in the Indian service as they may occur. Persons wishing to compete should write to the civil service commission at Washington, D. C., or to the secretary of the local board of examiners at the places mentioned.

NEBRASKA WON IT

After Years of Hard Work Gets Warehouse Appropriation

DEFEAT NEW YORK SCHEME

Eastern Wholesale Dealers and Jobbers Have Opposed Omaha Warehouse Because It Benefited the West

Every wholesale merchant and jobber in Nebraska and western Iowa is vitally interested in the proposition to maintain an Indian supply warehouse at Omaha. The house committee on Indian affairs in recent years has habitually omitted from the Indian appropriation bill an item carrying an appropriation for the Omaha supply warehouse. Every year, therefore, members of the Nebraska delegation in the house and senate are required to make a fight for the retention of the warehouse.

This year the fight was won through the efforts of Congressmen Hinshaw and Hitchcock, they having induced the committee to insert the appropriation item. The bill has passed the house after a spirited contest.

There is no particular objection to having a supply depot in Nebraska, but the jobbers of New York, St. Louis and Chicago have constantly made protests to the congressmen from those cities against maintaining a warehouse in the west. Naturally they seek to sell their merchandise to the Indians irrespective of Nebraska merchants and jobbers, and regardless of the fact that contract goods delivered to the government at Omaha relieve Uncle Sam from the long haul freight charges upon goods delivered to him at New York or Chicago.

Congressman Hinshaw, who is a member of the house committee on Indian affairs, and Congressman Hitchcock of the Omaha district induced that committee to hear their arguments in favor of the Nebraska warehouse. Both went into the merits of the case at length. They cited the favorable recommendation of the Indian office, which was based upon an increased tonnage of merchandise handled in the year 1903, which was 1,118,566 pounds, whereas the St. Louis warehouse handled less than 600,000 pounds. The tonnage at the New York warehouse being but a little in excess of one million pounds. In 1902 the shipments at the Omaha warehouse amounted to 484,531 pounds. The enormous increase in the tonnage of the Nebraska warehouse was due to the unusual activity of wholesale merchants in that state the last year in filing their bids on proposals for contracts, and their consequent success in getting the contracts.

BLAMES RICH MERCHANTS

Mrs. Mary Hopkins Chew Arraigns Them for Selfishness

"I would like to tell some of the millionaire storekeepers of Chicago that they are driving many young men and women into crime by their starvation wage system. Some of the big department stores in the large cities might be considered a curse to the young man who is forced to seek employment." Such was the statement of Mrs. Mary Hopkins at a meeting of the Chicago Political Equality league at the Woman's club rooms. The speaker declared she had investigated conditions and had found astounding things.

"Many young men and women who start in the employ of Chicago's big department stores for a salary that can scarcely support them lose ambition after they have worked for years. They lose the honest, energetic principles and are actually driven into crime. I would like to tell some of Chicago's millionaire storekeepers what I think of them and would do it if given the chance. With their blood-money systems they are making an awful inroad on the morals of humanity."

Rosebud Land Must be Sold

Representative James Sherman of New York, chairman of the Indian affairs committee of the house of representatives, had a conference with the president regarding the bill providing for the opening to settlement of 416,000 acres of land in the Rosebud reservation, in Gregory county, South Dakota. By the terms of the measure the land may be sold to settlers for not less than \$3 an acre, the amount of the purchase price to be paid in five annual installments, the land not sold under the first offer to be allotted at \$4 an acre.

Married Forty-Seven Times

When James H. Shippie, aged thirty-two, a street car conductor of Elizabeth, N. J., was arraigned in court on a charge of bigamy he astonished the judge by admitting that he had married many times, "about forty-seven times," he thought. Two of his wives were in court and it was stated that he had married at least four others, one living in San Francisco and the others in New Jersey. He was held for the action of the grand jury.

NEBRASKA PEACH CROP.

Horticulturist Stevens Says Indications Suggest a Half Crop

There will be a half a peach crop in eastern Nebraska and a full crop in the rest of the state. E. F. Stevens, the horticulturist, discusses conditions as follows:

"We are receiving numerous inquiries regarding the prospect for a peach crop. Eastern Nebraska had more than a normal amount of rainfall last season, and where peach trees were well cultivated the wood growth was larger and continued later than usual. Under such conditions the fruit buds were not as perfectly matured as they should have been to withstand the winter. This gave rise to a peculiar anomaly. The careless orchardist who allowed weeds to grow among his trees fared better than the man who gave clean, careful cultivation. Weeds and cover crops grown among trees lead to the evaporation of surplus moisture. This hastens the ripening of both wood and fruit buds in the autumn.

"The eastern half of Nebraska will have perhaps a half crop of standard budded varieties. There has been a considerable loss of fruit buds among the less hardy kinds. The Wright peach, however, has done well, and seedlings promise a full crop.

"In central and western Nebraska, careful examination shows fruit buds of twenty-five leading varieties of peaches to be in perfect condition. From Kanesaw, 165 miles west of Omaha, to Julesburg, Colo., 210 miles further west, we find peach buds perfectly sound and promising a full crop."

NEBRASKA FIRES OF A DAY

Property Loss Big at Ord, O'Neill, Loup City and Lynch

Reports were brought to Ord of three prairie fires that did much damage. Definite information from Mira Valley was that a fire started from some old straw stacks that had been burned some days. Blown by a terrific wind, there was no way to check it after it reached the prairie grass, and it had the whole neighborhood in consternation. G. M. Petty lost 500 bushels of corn, his granary, hog house and a few hogs. The losses in the other cases were the burning of hay stacks that were not properly protected by fire guards.

Fire destroyed the principal portion of the business part of Mason City, Neb. The entire town barely escaped destruction. Loss, \$75,000. Well insured.

Fire at O'Neill, Neb., destroyed the meat market belonging to Frank Britell and threatened the entire business block of the city. One of the volunteer firemen was quite badly but not at all dangerously burned in the work of fighting the flames. The loss is not heavy. It was insured for \$250. Britell will resume business.

Lynch, Neb., had a \$30,000 fire. The S. W. Lightner lumber yard and the Caldwell livery barn were totally destroyed. Twenty head of horses were burned.

A fire started about eight miles south of Loup City, Neb., and the heavy wind carried it down the valley with irresistible force, destroying everything in its track. A house on the Frazier Snyder farm was burned. This house was unoccupied, the renter having just moved out and another was going to Coney Look was burned to the ground. The family just escaped with what clothes they wore. A house and barn on the John Johansen farm was also burned. S. C. Fletcher lost six head of cattle, so badly burned that they had to be killed, about 100 tons of hay and considerable machinery.

FINDS DEATH ON ISLAND

Leonard Roberts of Ames, Neb., Dies from Exposure

Attempting to effect his escape from isolation on a sandbar in the Platte river west of Ames, Neb., caused by the breaking up of the ice in the north channel while he was on a hunting trip, Leonard Roberts, a farm hand, perished from the cold. His body was observed from the shore and was recovered from the shoal on which it was found lying.

The finding of Roberts' coat and boots beside his body indicates that he had taken them off and endeavored to swim the river to the north bank. That effort must nearly have cost his life by drowning and on his returning to the sand bank he must have been so exhausted and thoroughly chilled that the pitiless winter elements found him an easy prey. In death he had clasped the gun which had given him so many hours of pleasure, and it was found lying partially across his body.

To Ship Public Charges Back

Aliens who become public charges through causes originating prior to their arrival in the United States may be returned to their own country any time within two years after their arrival. Immigrant Inspector C. Parbury of Washington, D. C., was in Lincoln and conferred with Secretary Davis of the state board of charities and corrections in regard to the enforcement of the law.

QUEER OIL DICKERS

Lease Wells in Kansas for Teachers' and Ministers' Salaries.

CEMETERY SOCIETY IN DEAL

Land Leased to Oil Companies on School, Church and Cemetery Property, the Proceeds of Which Will Pay the Teachers and Ministers

A new way of paying the school teacher has been discovered in Chautauqua county, Kansas. Down at Peru, where every lot almost has an oil well or two on it, the speculators have induced the school board to lease them the back end of the school house play ground and an oil well is to be put down upon it. The "duster" or dry hole is unknown in the city limits of Peru, where there are now over 140 producing oil wells. The school board figured that they could eventually cease to levy taxes for school purposes because the oil well will bring in enough to pay all the expenses of the school. Almost any of the Peru wells bring in from \$50 to \$75 a day and the land or lot owner gets about one-eighth or one-sixth of this.

Hardly had the Peru school board leased its lot until the Methodists of Peru say a chance to pay the preacher in the same way. They have leased their lots to a company that will put down a well within twenty-five feet of the church. They have been unable heretofore to have a resident minister, but contented themselves with a circuit rider. They now believe they can pay one of the highest priced ministers the bishop can send.

But there are other things that will be leased. Four miles east of Peru there is a small cemetery within 100 feet of one of the biggest gaswells in the field. The trustees of this cemetery have petitioned to be allowed an acre of the cemetery so it can be leased for drilling purposes. The commissioners probably will grant the request. The cemetery owners figure that they can get an oil well on part of the property and then improve the balance of the cemetery until it is one of the finest in the state.

A MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Held in Lawrence for Purpose of Completing Organization

A meeting of interest to Kansas educational circles was held in Lawrence, when a committee of prominent mathematicians of the state met for the purpose of forming plans for the organization of the Kansas Mathematical society. The movement began at the last meeting of the Kansas State Teachers' association in Topeka, when a committee of five was appointed to arrange the preliminary organization. This committee includes H. B. Newson, of the chair of mathematics of the University of Kansas, chairman; C. E. Merwin, principal of Central school, Lawrence, secretary and treasurer; R. P. Knight, superintendent of the Wichita schools; W. H. Garrett, of Baker university, Baldwin, and Miss Effie Graham, of the Topeka high school. These, with the exception of Mr. Knight, met with Professor Newson in Lawrence and took the first steps toward the organization of the society. The objects of the society are the improvement of mathematical teaching in the public schools of Kansas and adoption of uniform entrance requirements in mathematics by Kansas colleges to conform with the requirements recently proposed by the American Mathematical society. Teachers of mathematics in all the colleges and high schools, city and county superintendents, high school and grammar school principals and common school teachers are eligible to membership and will be urged to join the society.

Driving Association at Manhattan.

A driving association will be organized by the horsemen of Manhattan, Kan., for the purpose of improving and training trotting and pacing horses. The race-track at the city park will be used for matinee driving. W. B. McCormick, owner of Red Bird, and several other fast horses, is the instigator of the move.

Japs Going Home to Fight.

Japanese patriotism is developing trouble for the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern and the Canadian Pacific lines. Hundreds of Japanese laborers employed on track work are hurrying home to fight the Russians. Officers of the road are eager to know how the Japanese can be replaced.

Flops and Cut Telephone Wires.

A. L. Graw, of Windsor, Mo., and Miss Ethel F. Hewlett, formerly of Glen Rose, Tex., but recently living with an aunt near Windsor, went to Wichita, Kan., and were married. The bride had left the home of her aunt, who objected to the marriage, wearing a calico dress. On the way to Wichita the young man purchased a trousseau for his intended. Before leaving Windsor they cut the telephone wire at the country house which the bride left.

PLATTE RIVER ON BOOM

No Damage to Bridges—1,500 Sheep Are Drowned.

The Burlington reports indicate no damage to bridges. The water in the Platte river is high, but no damage has been done to the structures by ice. The absence of snow on the ground and the freshets from the smaller streams due to melting snow, has had much to do with the ice going out without causing great trouble. Superintendent Bignell says he looks for no trouble. As yet the Loup river has caused little or no damage to the railroads.

Rock Island reports indicated high water at the South Bend bridge over the Platte. The bridge had not been damaged by the ice and no serious trouble was looked for.

The most serious property loss resulting from the overflow of the Platte river was the drowning of 1,500 sheep belonging to N. H. Schreiner. Mr. Schreiner has been pasturing nearly 6,000 sheep on his farm at Fremont, and succeeded in getting 4,000 of them into the pens, but the others perished in the stalk fields, where they had been turned out to graze. The value of the sheep was something like \$3,000.

LATE WAR SUMMARY.

Japan Landing Big Army in Northern Korea.

One hundred thousand Japanese troops have been landed in northern Korea.

Blockade runners have successfully entered Vladivostok, with supplies of coal and provisions. Japan's acquiescence gives rise to the belief that that country intends soon to besiege the city.

Action by the Washington cabinet leads to the inference that no other nation than the United States will be allowed to lay a cable from Japan to Guam.

St. Petersburg newspapers announce and welcome the return of better feeling between Russia and the United States.

Russia is convinced that Great Britain intends to remain honestly neutral. American marines have been sent to guard mining property in Korea.

Coal Handler Gets \$750.

Charles Johnson, proprietor of an Omaha coal yard, will be required to pay to John Heath \$750 damages for injuries sustained by Heath in falling off a plank while engaged in wheeling coal for Johnson. In the Douglas county court Mr. Heath was awarded \$1,500, but in the estimation of the court this is excessive and should be reduced. Heath was engaged in wheeling coal in a wheelbarrow, from a box car to a bin in Johnson's coal yard. The transferring was done along an elevated gangway consisting of a plank placed on the top of several stakes. On one trip the plank turned and Heath was thrown to the ground. The barrow of coal landing on top of him, fracturing his leg below the knee. He brought suit alleging that the foreman of the yard had removed one of the stakes from the gangway, causing the plank to sag and bringing about the accident.

Babe Killed by Exploding Celluloid.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Votaw, of Arkansas City, Kan., died in agony from burns received while playing with a celluloid rattle box. The baby was sitting on the floor near a hot stove when the rattle box took fire and exploded. The flames were blown into his face and set fire to the clothing, burning the flesh. The flesh of the hand in which the toy was held was blown away by the explosion. There was no one in the room with the child except an older sister. The baby was about four feet from the stove when the accident happened.

Mysterious Losing of Eyesight.

Miss Hinkley, the daughter of Dr. Hinkley, of Barnard, Kan., the young lady who lost her eyesight in a mysterious manner recently, is in Salina to be fitted with a pair of eye-glasses. It will be remembered that the young lady awoke one morning to find her eyesight gone, although she had never any previous trouble. After several days of blindness the sight of one eye was restored in as mysterious a manner as it was taken away, but the sight of the other eye has never been fully restored and it is for this reason that it becomes necessary for her to wear glasses.

While walking across the Missouri Pacific railroad bridge at Kansas City, Kas., Patrick Sheehan, a laborer, fell into the Kaw river and was drowned.

Gambler Sued for \$3,000.

Mrs. J. G. Welsh, of Wichita, Kan., has commenced suit in the district court for \$3,000, which she alleges her husband lost at gambling. She avers that the money was hers in her own right and that she had made her husband her agent with power to deposit and invest the funds for her. She charges the defendant in the suit with having induced her husband to "become drugged and intoxicated," and then persuaded him to gamble at Faro, until he lost all of the money.