

THE ARIZONIAN.

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The Present Condition of Sonora.

The State of Sonora at this moment presents a spectacle actually deplorable. For a long time a bloody civil war has been carried on between the factions of Gandara and Pasqueira, pressing the able-bodied men into service, distressing the inhabitants, increasing taxation to an extent almost unbearable, and preventing anything like a decent progress in business, agriculture, or mining. Forced contributions are constantly being levied upon the towns and villages, and everything is cramped and embarrassed by rigid military surveillance. Add to this the constant forays of the Apache Indians, sweeping the State from the Arizona frontier to the Gulf, plundering haciendas, rendering travel upon the highways hazardous in the extreme—carrying consternation into every hamlet, and it is almost wonderful that the State is inhabited at all.

As it is, the frontier of Sonora is nearly abandoned. All along the line fine ranches are deserted, buildings crumbling to ruins, and broad fields, which once waved with corn and wheat, choked up with grass and weeds. The security which is offered to life and property by the "authorities" does not even amount to the dignity of an apology!

Sonora, at present, is no place for Americans. A poor man cannot obtain employment without descending to the level of a *peon*, and a rich man, while he finds no desirable opening for profit is in danger of being plundered. This is the actual condition of affairs, according to intelligent and reliable gentlemen who have lately traveled through the entire State. All the labor is performed by *peons*, at from six to eight dollars per month; as for business there is none to engage in. As many Americans seem to be moving into Sonora with the hope of making fortunes, we feel called upon to state, as we have, the actual condition of things, and urge them to pause, before risking not only property but life, in a country impoverished, revolutionary, and prostrated by civil war.

An Imposition.

While government denies to this Territory an organization, or even a judicial district, while the mail accommodations are confined to a single line which only carries newspapers out of pure benevolence, while only one small military post is allowed to a vast region invested by hostile savages, custom-houses are established on the frontier, to collect taxes upon the necessities of life which our citizens are obliged to import. That Government has a right to do this, there is no doubt; but that under the peculiar circumstances, the enforcement of that right is unjust and oppressive, is equally true. The doctrine of "No Taxation without Representation," was once considered sound democracy. It was a vital principle, for which our ancestors rebelled against the mother country, and in resistance to taxation without representation, commenced the revolutionary war. The same principle holds good now—namely, that it is unjust to tax a people who derive little or no benefit from the government. If we are to pay taxes upon the necessities of life, we ask an equivalent—the privileges and benefits of government; and it is but proper and just that we should have them. The main articles imported from Sonora are provisions of various kinds, on which there is a tax of twenty-four per cent, which bears heavy upon mining companies, who are struggling along with the development of the country. It is small business for government, considering the little that is done for Arizona, and her isolated situation, to collect revenue from her people. It is a serious check upon the growth and prosperity of the Territory.

Condition of the Post Office Department.

In reply to a note of George Mattingly, the Postmaster General informs him that Congress has for the first time since the organization of the Government, failed to make provision for the Department. Had all the members of the next Congress been elected, the President might, on the 4th of March, have called an extra session, and the omissions of the late Congress been supplied; but it was impossible to do so without disfranchising fifteen of the sovereign States. This was most unfortunate.—There ought to be no time when a full Congress could not be convened, and it is to be hoped such a state of things may never occur again. Had the bill which failed to pass, made provision only for the fiscal year commencing on the 1st of July, there would have been no necessity for an extra session.

The deficiency on the 30th of June, next, will amount to \$4,385,381, nearly \$750,000 of which being an unpaid balance accumulating on the 31st of December and the 28th of February, and which can and will be paid by the Department within sixty days from this date. The payment of the principal part will be made in thirty days.

Mr. Holt makes other statements to show that it would be impossible to convene Congress in time to meet the great bulk of the responsibilities without excluding from Congress the representatives of nearly one-half the sovereign States. In the judgment of the President, the lesser evil was to wait until the first Monday in December, when all the States will be fully represented. The contracts made by the Post Office Department cannot be repudiated. After the amounts due shall be ascertained, they become debts which must be paid. On this, the contractors, if they desire, can borrow money. The lender could have no better security.

Provision should also be made for the interest, which would amount to not less than \$100,000. A system of retrenchment, so far as practicable is now an imperative duty. By the act of 1858, Congress established six hundred and ninety-five new Post Routes, the service of which includes the St. Paul's and Puget Sound Route, established in 1855, but not yet in operation. It has been estimated that there will be required an annual appropriation of \$604,488 over and above the receipts accruing therefrom. Not a dollar has been appropriated for this purpose, and as a consequence, though the contracts for these routes have been advertised and proposals received, they cannot be put in operation until provision is made by law for that purpose.

SOMETHING WORTH SEEING.—At the office of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company, in Tubac, a few days since, we saw a bar of fine silver, which was being boxed up, preparatory to shipment to New York, via Overland Mail. This bar was number seven, since the amalgamation works have been put in operation, or rather a portion of them; it was fifteen inches long, five inches wide, two and one half inches thick, and weighed 889-38 ounces, its value being \$1,134.84. This bar was the result of three day's work of two amalgamation barrels. This is tangible evidence of successful silver mining, and even with only one quarter of the amalgamation works in operation the company will hereafter turn out at least two such bars as the above per week. People who are incredulous about silver mining in this Territory would doubtless be edified and comforted by a sight of a lump of pure bright silver weighing nearly nine hundred ounces, assayed and stamped with its value, ready for the mint, or the silversmith. It was something worth looking at. The bar was shipped to W. T. Coleman & Co., New York.

After a great deal of cavailing and caucusing, among politicians, and the cabinet, the President has decided not to call an extra session of Congress at present, very much to the disgust of a large crowd of log-rollers and lobbyists, who were anticipating another chance at the public funds.

Various Items.

McElrath, late a partner of Horace Greely, has started a new weekly paper called "The Century," in New York. It is a large, handsome, well-edited sheet, and deserves patronage.

Mike Walsh, once celebrated in politics and literature—ex-Congressman, ex-Editor, &c. &c., was lately found dead in the street, in New York, under such circumstances as to lead to the belief that he had been murdered.

It is said that the President will soon make changes in the English and French Missions and the Liverpool Consularship. Already there are a score of applicants for the positions.

Major Ben McCulloch has resigned the Marshalship of Texas, and his brother has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

The President had not, at latest advices, made any appointment of Commissioner of Patents, or Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which fills the bosoms of many aspiring gentlemen with painful solicitude.

A rumor prevailed at Fort Yuma a few days since, that Mr. Bishop, one of Lieut. Beal's employees, with fifteen men, had been massacred by the Mohave Indians.

Heenan, the prize fighter, has challenged any man in the world to fight him for ten thousand dollars on a side.

A lot of camels belonging to the United States Government, lately strayed away from Beale's Rancho, on the Colorado, and at last accounts had not been recovered. There were over twenty in the herd, and it is feared they have fallen into the hands of the Mohave Indians.

The Republicans of New Hampshire have again swept the State, electing every candidate—including three members of Congress.

By the Texas papers we see that a large emigration is expected into that State this spring; many substantial men from the North and West, are seeking homes in Texas, which in wealth, population intelligence and industry is rapidly increasing.

The Grand Jury of the District of Columbia have presented a true bill against Daniel S. Sickles for the murder of Philip Barton Key. The recent developments in reference to the character of Mrs. Sickles operate strongly against her husband. It is thought that she was not worth quarreling about.

A gentleman writing to us, says that by the Gadsden treaty all the inhabitants of this Territory were made "American citizens." True, but they were not made *Americans*! It is difficult to legislate an Indian into a white man. We read that a certain Roman Emperor decreed his horse first consul, but we do not learn that the animal was any more nor less a horse, thereafter.

Between this time and the assembling of the next Congress, twelve States elect Representatives.

We are under obligations to J. W. Sullivan, newspaper office, San Francisco, for a package of California papers.

A great billiard match between Michael Phalen and John Seerettier, for ten thousand dollars and the championship of America, is soon to take place at Detroit. A large amount of money is wagered upon the result.

Lieut. Beale's party, with a strong escort, is at work on the eastern end of the route to California.

Robert A. Wilson, author of "Mexico, its Peasants and its Priests," has just published a work entitled "A new history of the conquest of Mexico," in which he labors to upset the fabulous stories of the early Spanish conquest, and in fact, succeeds in stripping away much of the romance which encircled the deeds of Cortez and his filibusters.

Mr. St. John, who was nearly murdered by some Mexicans at Dragoon Springs, having recovered, has been appointed Agent of the Pimos and Maricopas.

Later from Mexico.

MIRAMON RUMORED TO BE AT THE GATES OF VERA CRUZ.—The New Orleans papers contain additional news of interest brought by the Quaker City from Minatitlan.

By advices from the city of Mexico of the 28th ult., it appears that Gen. Miramon was marching on Vera Cruz, with an army of two thousand five hundred men, and a reserve force of two thousand men. He made his headquarters at Orizaba, from which place he sent out a force under Negrete, for the purpose of attacking the forces under General LaLlave, at Jalapa. Negrete's forces were beaten, and he was forced to retreat to Perote.

The "Progreso" of the 27th ult. states that General Miramon was at Tlacotalpan, or Alvarado, with three thousand men and a few pieces of artillery, and was slowly preparing to march upon Vera Cruz. It appears by the statement of the Progreso that the inhabitants of Vera Cruz were very anxious that Miramon should arrive, they having made every preparation for a desperate resistance, and being sanguine as to Miramon's defeat. Although the friends of the Juarez Government outside of Vera Cruz have but little fear of Miramon taking the city, it seems they have fears of his attacking and capturing the smaller places now in possession of the Liberal Party.

It was rumored that Cobos would lead a force from Cordova against the smaller towns. If this should be the case, from the antecedents of Cobos, we may expect to hear of forced loans, the sacking of towns, and the consequent destruction of American and other property. The natives themselves were in great fear of the result.

A few minutes before the Quaker City left Minatitlan, it was rumored that an "express" had arrived, bringing information that Miramon had encamped under the walls of Vera Cruz with five thousand men and eighty-nine pieces of artillery.

STILL LATER.—The State Department received dispatches from Mr. Churchill, direct from Vera Cruz. He states that the Juarez Government is a gaining strength and stability every day, and that it will be able to hold out against Miramon, even though he should take Vera Cruz, which however, there is no possibility of his doing. He suggests the propriety of recognizing the Juarez Government, and thinks it a good stroke of policy.

Our Government will not at present take Mr. Churchill's advice. They intend to wait until they hear something definite from Mr. McLane.

Senor Mata had a long interview with the Sec. of State before leaving Washington, and learned what course the Administration intended to pursue. He will remain in New Orleans for the present.

INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS IN TEXAS.—The "Southern Intelligencer," of Austin, Texas, contains an account of a descent made by the Comanche Indians upon various points in Bell county, in which three persons were killed, and two taken prisoners. Five horses were also killed, near Lampassas Springs. That section of country has not been visited by the Comanches for several years, consequently there was great excitement, and strong parties were sent out in pursuit. By this time, the column of troops destined for a movement into the Comanche country, must be nearly ready to move, and there will probably be some hard fighting.

THE NEW MILL.—The grist mill belonging to Messrs. Findlay and Sharp, located on Findlay's rancho, is nearly ready for the machinery.—There will be two run of stones, one pair the best French burr stones, that can be procured. The mill is a substantial structure, the lower story being of very heavy timber, and the upper story of adobes. About the 20th inst., the grist mill at Tubac will be commenced.

RELIGIOUS SERVICE.—Rev. Mr. Tuthill preached on last Sabbath, at Mr. Ake's, on the Sonoyta, and on the 17th inst. will hold service at Fort Buchanan.