WHY THE DEMAND IS

Statehood Would Put Office-Holders in Reach

OF THE OKLAHOMA VOTER

To Reward or Rebuke--The Revolt on "Washington."

Oklahoma City, O. T., Nov. 4.—There will be held in this city November 17, a meeting of the statehood executive committee and a statehood convention the same night.

The typical American longing for self-government is just now playing an all-important part in the history of Oklahoma. Federal long-distance control is not palatable to Oklahoma, and is to no section of the United States unless that small cube set in between Maryland and the Virginias, the District of Columbia, and Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines are excepted.

In addition to the statehood meeting which is to be held this month, Delegate Flynn is set in the determination to push a statehood bill through the next congress.

The statehood convention will be enthusiastic—they always are. Delegate Flynn in pushing statehood will feel that his efforts are in response to a great public demand.

Federal control in internal affairs is strikingly obnoxious. As the revolt is seen and measured in Oklahoma it is in no manner a survival of a state's rights sentiment, but is, at bottom, a demand for vulnerability in public officers, a protest which takes a number of forms, discovering that "Washington" as a synonym for "government."

Is not just in its conclusions in regard to internal territorial affairs.

Is not discriminating in its knowledge of territorial men.

Is not familiar with the influence of men and gives weight where it should not listen, and refuses to hear where it should act.

Is susceptible to the influence of every tale-bearer.

In their own political squabbles the people of Oklahoma have formed an opinion of "Washington's" capabilities along this line, but more than this they have seen it also exemplified in the conduct of the Indian agencies which are a part of Oklahoma.

Washington appoints Indian agents who serve under a commissioner of Indian affairs, who is usually selected on political grounds. The position of Indian agent is a trying one. It is of necessity unpopular with the Indians, for it includes on the agent's part a high state of discipline, not alone over the Indians, but over his white subordinates.

The Indian agents sleep with dynamite under their pillows, the dynamite having wire connections with Washington.

William Walker was summarily discharged as agent at Anadarko not long since, without explanation, the department still refusing to make public the charges. Waiving the trivial charges of corruption which have never been authenticated by the department, his error seems to have been the offending of one of his subordinates who was a pet of the Indian commissioner.

It is said that Major Woodson will retire from the Darlington agency January 1, and that a carpet-bagger will take his place. Major Woodson's conflict with the department, it is believed, came about in this way: A shrewd attorney convinced Woodson's Indian wards that they had a just claim against the government. The Indians hired this attorney at $5,000 a year to press their claim. The Indians are comparatively poor and had no business wisdom to justify this. Major Woodson, it is said, protested. Whereupon "Washington" began to worry, annoy and fret him and to interfere. In the defense of the attorney who had found a snap, Major Woodson, who has really been of magnificent practicality in his improvement of the red race, has a place waiting for him in the army, and can afford to resign, and has sent in his resignation.

Agent Pollock of the Osage agency, it is also chronicled from Washington, is to be removed soon. His trouble seems to have been with a subordinate, who resolved to get his scalp, and is on the point of doing it.

"Washington" supervises its agencies through special agents. The special agent is as a United States district court. He is organized to convict. He is sent to find rottenness at an Indian agency and he usually finds it, if not in the records, then from the lips of irresponsible witnesses whom the agent has offended.

That is the Indian agency side of the story of the insurability of federal control in Oklahoma. The territorial side of federal control another matter.

There has been ever since Governor Barnes took his seat a perpetual fire upon him. Whether at last that fire is to be effective no one, in reality, knows. Secretary Jenkins' friends are confident that Governor Barnes will soon be removed and Jenkins put in his place. Governor Barnes' friends do not believe that any such thing will happen, are positive that it will not.

The bald truth of the matter is that no one knows, not even "Washington" itself. For "Washington" may have an inclination, and not do a thing to which it inclines. Or it may have no inclination and do a thing without warning.

But Washington is not culpable in this as in the case of the Indian agency management. There is no fault in the whole matter unless the great vital American demand for self-government is at fault, and without it America would not be.

The cause of the attacks on Governor Barnes and all his predecessors can be summed up in the statement that the people of Oklahoma want their officials vulnerable to the public. They want the right to "get at them." They demand the privilege of retaliation, rebuke, reward, vindication.

The man who has been turned down by a territorial governor wants action. That man may carry his precinct, his ward, his county, he may demonstrate influence, power, popularity, but he cannot feel the possibility of reaching a governor created at Washington. It is laughably true that if the same governor had been duly elected by a popular vote, and had turned down the man in this instance, as he is turned down frequently in every state in the union, this man who can carry his precinct, ward and county, would, nine times out of ten, smother his resentment and "come into line" at the election. This is done everywhere. Political parties, if this were not so, would cease to exist on the instant. The American politician, having the right to attack, rarely attacks. But remove from him the privilege of effective attack and his resentment is unending, deep and uncontrolled.

Commercially, statehood would be of great value to Oklahoma. Politically it would give it greater representation in Washington. But internally, it would give every voter in Oklahoma the complete satisfaction of being able to "get back" at the man holding office, and to "get at" him.

If the long-predicted removal of Governor Barnes should take place, it is an easy prediction that his successor, whether he be Mr. Jenkins or somebody else, will be subject to attack, and rancorous attack, and will suffer in full for the privilege of being territorial governor. And it is as easily predicted that the very men who have made such a long strenuous attack upon Governor Barnes, would feel, if not, confess to a singularly warm and sympathetic feeling for the removed official, and that if Governor Barnes is removed, he will be given positions later with the help of the men who have attacked him as a federal office holder.

The demand for statehood in Oklahoma lies in that circumstance. The men who are citizens of Oklahoma are "state-educated." They have lived in other states, been turned down for office in other states, lots of them, have sworn dire political vengeance for a month or two and either been forced into line by political circumstance, or voluntarily relented and come back, before the next election.

One of the secrets of Dennis Flynn's wonderful popularity in Oklahoma is the feeling of the people that they can get at him, that they can boost him if they desire, or bounce him to kingdom come if they wish. So strong is this sentiment that when at El Reno he really did not want the nomination for congress, the delegates made him take it. They were exercising their privilege of control. This feeling is not peculiar to the men of any single party in Oklahoma. A large part of the Democrats of Oklahoma made Renfrow's life a howling desert waste of unhappiness for him during his administration. Governor Steele before him was glad to let go a hot potato and go back to Indiana.

There is another matter worthy of mention. Every voter in Oklahoma who takes a lively interest in politics is a possible candidate. Every man who dabbles in politics at all, feels that he has within him elements of popularity. Hundreds of men in Oklahoma are unsuspected aspirants for the highest places a state can give. The alluring thought of the United States senate is set up on more altars of hope to be worshipped in Oklahoma than anyone dreams of. These men, these thousands of possible candidates with unrestricted ambitions want a clear field, with no prizes reserved. In attaining them, they want reward to wait upon work and influence. If a man can carry his ward, his town or county, he believes that entitles him to recognition. But he knows that while Oklahoma has been territorial there have been instances of men who could hardly control their own vote, men without commercial or political credit, who, having secured transportation to Washington, have gone down there and returned with an office, the salary of which was a small fortune. A deserving and influential man in office may at another time find himself attacked by a subordinate, who has slipped down to Washington, and with a influential official friend from Illinois or Indiana or Connecticut, peddled tales around Washington to his superior's hurt, tales probably that the community would know to be lies, but which Washington is not always to be depended upon to detect.

There is very little doubt that statehood for Oklahoma will provide for the addition of portions of the Indian Territory from time to time. Short shift will be made with the wishes of the people of the Indian Territory in the matter. Time was when the people of the Indian Territory elevated their noses at a thought of coalescing with Oklahoma. Since then they have changed their minds, but their wishes will not be regarded and instead of coalition between the two, the Indian Territory will be added in slices to Oklahoma and the state will be known as "Oklahoma," and a great part of the public institutions will be located in Oklahoma.

The likelihood of congress passing an enabling act at its coming session is guess-work pure and simple. No one knows how congress stands in the matter. No one has definite knowledge of the attitude of the present administration on the question. In point of population, in respect to advancement in civilization, Oklahoma is more entitled to statehood than any of the recently admitted states.

But what congress may think about it, or what shade or color opposition to the idea may take, no one here really knows.

All the statehood conventions held previously have operated on the presumption that Oklahoma had merely to ask and congress would acquiesce. Long petitions have been drafted and fashioned after prodigious convention wrangles, but so far as any one knows these resolutions have never reached congress, or if they reached it have not been read or considered.

Now with Delegate Flynn making an active campaign in congress for statehood, a resolution such as will be drafted in this city this month will probably receive attention, and congress, unless unexpected and unsuspected opposition arises, will pass the enabling act.

VIGOROUS JUDICIAL REGIME

In Force at Paul's Valley, During the Roberts Murder Trial.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—During the Roberts murder trial at Paul's Valley this week, the judge notified the attorneys for the defense that if they did not sit down he would throw them from the court room. When the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty ,the court summarily dismissed the jurymen with a reprimand.

CONKLING GOES IN FOR PEACE

He Will Distribute Census Patronage With Harmony in View.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Ivan Conkling, the new supervisor, is deluged with applications for jobs at his office in Enid. He has announced that he will attempt to distribute the patronage of his office in a way to close up the factional breaches in the Republican party of Oklahoma.

LAND OFFICE AT KINGFISHER

For the Month of October Has Surpassed All Records.

Kingfisher, O. T., Nov. 4.—During the month of October there were filed at the Kingfisher land office 143 original homestead entries, 21 final proofs, 15 cash entries and 24 contests. The business of the land office here is passing all records.

WILLIAM DOUTHETT RESTORED

To Citizenship by Governor Barnes--Has Served for Cattle Stealing.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—William Douthett, who was sent from Pottawatomie county to the Lansing penitentiary for one year for cattle stealing, has been restored to citizenship by Governor Barnes, Douthett having ended his term of imprisonment.

IT WAS NOT HIS HOME

Phillip M. Overstreet Loses His Homestead Claim.

HE WAS HOLDING IT DOWN

His Family Remaining All the While in Kansas.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—An important decision has been handed down by the land commissioner at Washington in the matter of a married man holding down a claim while his wife resides elsewhere. The land office at Alva declared that a man could not, and has been sustained. The case was one of J. C. Irvin contesting Philip M. Overstreet, and when the case reached Washington and was considered the commissioner sent back to the register and receiver at Alva the following decision, which is published by the Alva Courier:

"Gentlemen—October 13, 1893, Philip M. Overstreet made homestead entry No. 1618 of the northwest quarter section 34, in township 29 north, range 11 west.

On November 26, 1897, J. C. Irvin filed a contest against said entry, alleging that Overstreet has wholly abandoned said tract; that he has never established and maintained a residence on said land as required by law since the date of his said homestead entry and has wholly abandoned the same for more than six months prior to this date, October 26, 1897.

"After many continuances both parties being present with counsel, the hearing commenced on March 14, 1898, and was closed April 22, 1898.

"On January 13, 1899, Overstreet appealed from your decision recommending the cancellation of his entry.

"The question to be determined in this case is whether Overstreet, who has a wife and seven children residing at his former home in the state of Kansas, could establish and maintain a legal residence on his homestead and at the same time keep u his marital relation with his wife, and maintain and support her and the children.

"At the date of the opening of the Cherokee Outlet to settlement Overstreet was residing with his family in Barber county, Kansas. His family consisted of his wife and six children; another child was born in May, 1894; none of the children were at that time of age. Overstreet came to the Strip in the spring of 1894, and built a house 11x13 feet. He broke and planted ten acres to millet, and five acres to corn, and has cultivated the land each year since.

"Overstreet's family have never resided on the homestead, but they continued to reside in Barber county, Kansas.

"Overstreet had in his house a "Topsy" stove, which is a combination stove used for cooking and heating purposes, dishes, bed, a home-made bedstead and a few chairs without backs. The foregoing statement of facts is uncontradicted.

"It appears from the evidence on behalf of Irvin that Overstreet is an industrious, hard-working man; that when he was not on his homestead, attending to planting, cultivating and harvesting his crops, he was with his family in Kansas, looking after his wife's interests there; that he and his wife both admit that they lived together as man and wife during the time he was with his family at their old home. He did not have any domestic animals, such as dogs and cows, on his homestead, nor did he have any fowls, such as turkeys, chickens, etc., such as farmers usually have about them.

"Overstreet testifies that his wife refused to go to the homestead and reside with him, and his wife also testifies to the same fact.

"It must clearly appear that it is not the intention of the entryman to make his home on his homestead to the exclusion of a home elsewhere, and it does not so appear in this case.

"It is true that his wife refused to go and reside with him on the homestead, but it is also true that he would return to his wife's home and in all respects the relation of husband and wife was maintained between them on such occasions.

"The decision of your office in recommending Overstreet's homestead entry, No. 1618, for cancellation, is, therefore, affirmed.

"Overstreet's homestead entry is held for cancellation subject to right of appeal. Respectfully

"BINGER HERMANN,
"Commissioner."

HE COMES BACK AT FLYNN.

Judge Irwin Explains to Deacon Slocum About a Conference

El Reno, O. T., Nov. 4.—Since my last writing I have interviewed a number of prominent gentlemen on the main questions now on tap before the public.

I had a little talk the other day with Judge C. F. Irwin. The judge is a whole-souled sort of a man, and, for a new judge, he is about the best that has been sent here since the opening of the country. Wherever he goes he is respected by the people and bar alike. He has no high-toned or uppish airs about him, his charges to the grand and petit juries have been fair and to the point, he never makes any Missouri grand-stand plays, neither does he try to browbeat a lawyer or witness.

Getting back to our little interview, I asked the judge if he had read anything about the bokays Dennis Flynn threw at him in his speeches at Grand Army reunions throughout the territory.

"Yes," said the judge, "I have read what was purported to be the identical sayings of the 'Little Giant,' and I must say he did himself proud. Dennis is a whole team in himself, and I hope the speeches he is making, or is about to make, in Ohio will be the means of electing my old friend, Judge Nash, governor of Ohio.

"You want to know what it was that stirred up the bile in Dennis' bowels? It was this: One day while in Washington I was introduced to Mr. Flynn. He made a date for a conference with me. We met in secret session, Dennis and I, and the first words he said were: 'Well, judge, you are assigned to the Second district in Oklahoma, are you not?' I answered 'Yes.' 'Well, now, judge,' said Dennis, 'I am a resident of Oklahoma, and I am also delegate to congress from that territory. I know all the boys, and they know me. I want one of my friends in the district clerkship and good Republicans in the deputyships.'

"While the 'Little Giant' was talking I was thinking a great deal. Among other things I was trying to remember of having ever seen the name of Dennis T. Flynn on any of my endorsements for the position of district judge. I failed to remember having seen his name affixed to any such document, and told him so. I further told him that I was capable of appointing my own clerks, and had, in fact, appointed a young man to the position of district clerk, with headquarters in El Reno, and that I did not propose to turn him down and appoint a man I did not know.

"Our interview was ended, and since that time Mr. Flynn has lost no opportunity in giving it to me in the neck whenever he could conveniently do so."

"Anyhow, it all came about over Dennis' trying to take care of his friends."

Parson Job Ingram, late chaplain of the territorial volunteer infantry in the war with Spain, was in the city a day or two ago "ongroot" to Oklahoma City to attend a Baptist convention. The parson was rather non-committal on some matters, but he is enthusiastic for statehood.

"Statehood," said the parson, "is what we want in Oklahoma, and I am sure that if a united effort is made all along the line we will get it."

You will notice the parson used an old army phrase. Old soldiers cannot be broken of their habits in a few days.

"We are just as much entitled to statehood as Utah, with her Mormons, Wyoming, Colorado or any other new western states that have not half the population Oklahoma has. We must have statehood, and now that eastern and western senators have expressed a desire to help us out, we should lose no time in getting the wheels working so as to be in on the ground floor when congress meets next winter."

Ed Dunn was over from Oklahoma City Wednesday and called on the Deacon. Ed had some business with Ernest Blake, and from what I picked up it had no relation to politics. Ed bemoaned the fact that his residence was struck by lightning when he was away from home. During one of my trips in Kingfisher county last summer I saw a house struck by lightning and everything in it burned to a crisp, except one of my peerless separators that after the fire arose, Phoenix-like, from the ashes.

When Oklahoma becomes a state this genial Edward is in hopes he will arise from the ashes of a territorial government and be a power in the land. The old saying, "It is hard to keep a good man down" may work to a nicety in Ed's case. Ed says he will be on hand November 17, at Oklahoma City and raise his voice for statehood. Before Ed left for home he went into an executive session with Frank Gillett. It is a dead sure thing church matters did not enter into the conversation.

The Eagle a day or two ago contained an article relating to a difficulty between George F. Swift of Chicago and Hezekiah G. Williams of Chickasha, I. T. Hez. is a good sort of a man, and his neighbors think a whole lot of him. He is also one of my best customers.

Last spring Mr. Swift bought of Mr. Williams a large number of cattle, and it seems that they have not all been paid for. So Williams has sued Swift in the district court of Canadian county for $24,000.

After Mr. Swift bought the cattle, ranches, etc., he placed Frank Mitchell in charge of the whole outfit. Frank lives in El Reno. Frank charges Williams with selling all his wintered cattle, less what died from a hard winter, but his larger cattle did not die, his loss being the smaller and weaker cattle. Since the sale cattle have gone up in price and Williams is accused of cutting out the larger wintered cattle and shipping in from Texas a lot of small through cattle which he tried to put in on the contract, holding out the larger and more valuable cattle. After having put in about 7,000 cattle he is accused of trying to run in the small, through cattle. Mitchell, so it is said, turned down the through cattle and demanded the winter cattle as per contract. Williams, it is said, refused to deliver them, therefore a lawsuit is now going to decide who is right and who is wrong, unless the two gentlemen get together and fix up the matter.

Blake & Blake are advising Hez., and Criley & Baxter are looking after George's interests. Mitchell still holds hundreds of cattle and wants more. Swift has furnished an indemnifying bond for $50,000.

Cattlemen at Chickasha say that Williams was not aware that his losses were as great as he has since found them out to be. The sme men also say that Hez. means to do what is right and that he can not be bulldozed into doing anything he doesn't want to do.

DEACON SLOCUM.

PLOT ENOUGH FOR A NOVEL

In the Difficulties of a Runaway Couple in Oklahoma.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—The Chandler Telegram says: Jefferson Handy and Jeannette Loatham drove in Monday evening and soon the young man began hunting up some on who could perform the marriage ceremony, and at the same time sought to have a check cashed so as to pay expenses. Soon after his arrival some one telephoned from Cushing to have him arrested, charging that he was running away with the team and buggy. He was taken in custody by Night Watchman Woodman and held until the owner of the team arrived. The owner said if he had known it was Handy who had the team he wouldn't have followed him—that he had hired the team from his stable boy at Stroud, without giving his name, saying he was going east. Instead he drove tiward Cushing. This made the owner suspicious and he drove to Cushing after him. Not finding him at Cushing he telephoned as above stated. The young fellow got money enough to secure a license by pawning a ring, stood off the preacher and the hotel man and left Tuesday morning before the bank opened with his bride and check.

COLORED MEN'S FATAL QUARREL

John Wilson Stabs Will Austin to Death at Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City, O. T., Nov. 4.—At a mill in this city Thursday night John Wilson and Will Austin, two colored men, quarreled over some meal sacks. Wilson drew a knife and stabbed Austin several times, finally through the throat, and the man fell dead. Wilson escaped. The bloodhounds owned by the sheriff could not catch his trail.

RUMORS OF A JOINT OPERATION

Of the Hunnewell-Enid Line by Santa Fe and Rock Island.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—It is rumored here that the Rock Island will build only to Billings on its Enid eastern extension, and that at Billings the Tonkawa branch of the Santa Fe will join the Rock Island road, and from Hunnewell to Enid the line resulting will be operated jointly by the two roads.

PARDON FOR BALLARD

Convicted of Complicity in Indian-Burning

TO BE PETITIONED FOR

Reasons Assigned to Show Undue Severity.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Attorney L. G. Pittman and L. W. Turner of Tecumseh were in Guthrie last evening to secure signatures to a petition for the pardon of Mont S. Ballard, a resident of Pottawatomie county, who was convicted at Muscogee last May of complicity in the burning of the two Seminole Indian lads. The charge against Ballard was kidnapping, and he was given a ten years' sentence. The petition has been largely signed by residents of Pottawatomie county and will be sent to the president. The petition reads as follows:

"The undersigned residents of Oklahoma and Indian Territory respectfully request that you grant a pardon to Mont S. Ballard, who was convicted in the United States court for the Northern district of the Indian Territory at Muscogee last May and sentenced to imprisonment for ten years upon the charge of kidnapping one Lincoln McGeisey, for the following reasons:

"From our knowledge and from information, we believe that the said Lincoln McGeisey and one Palmer Sampson were guilty of the murder and rape of the wife of Julius Leard in the Seminole nation near the border of Oklahoma. The crime was one of the most brutal in the history of the territory and was committed in a locality which is sparsely settled by whites. When the death of Mrs. Leard become known hundreds of friends of her husband, and citizens of Oklahoma, came to the scene of the crime and assisted in the burial of the dead woman and the removal into Oklahoma of the household and other effects of Julius Leard, and at the direction and by the authority of one Nelson M. Jones, a deputy United States marshal for the United States court in the Northern district of the Indian territory, made search for the murderer, and after the said Lincoln McGeisey and Palmer Sampson had confessed to the commission of the crime the deputy marshal voluntarily absented hiself and sent word to those in charge of the prisoners to act as they saw fit; that about one week elapsed from the commission of the crime until the kidnapping of the defendants; that the said Mont S. Ballard did not assist in the arrest of either McGeisey or Sampson, and at the time of the arrest of Palmer Sampson and the subsequent confession of both McGeisey and Sampson was at work on his farm in Oklahoma; that when it became generally known that the guilty parties had been apprehended a large number of people came to view the prisoners, and with them came the defendant, who took no part in the kidnapping further than to go with the crowd, which was made up of perhaps a hundred people, into Oklahoma; that he was not consulted about the kidnaping, nor did he advise it or aid it further than to follow after those parties who had charge of the prisoners; that the said Mont S. Ballard is an industrious and honest farmer, and is respected by those who know him. He has a wife and child in Oklahoma. We believe he sympathized with the husband of the murdered woman, but we do not believe he participated in the kidnapping further than as above stated."

IMPORTANT CASES SETTLED

In Woodward County, Especially Cattle-Tax Cases.

Woodward, O. T., Nov. 4.—At the recent term of court Hon. Bayard T. Halner, one of the chief justices of Oklahoma, made some very important decisions regarding taxes. He held in the case of Evans, Snider, Buell & Co., vs. Woodward County ,that cattle listed for taxation in other counties ofthe territory are not subject to taxation in this county, unless the parties interested have an opportunity to show to the taxing powers whether or not such property has been liste elsewhere,if such cattle were brought in after March 1. The amount involved in this decision, $1,500, was decided in favor of the plaintiff.

In the case of J. F. Ravenscraft vs. Woodward County, he held that while the Oklahoma laws make taxes assessed against personal property a lien thereon, the lien does not follow in another jurisdiction. In this case, in 1897, Woodward County assessed against J. A. Murphy $804, but after the taxes were assessed and before collection, Murphy moved the cattle to Kansas and sold them to Ravenscraft, who afterwards returned them to Woodward county, where they were seized for Murphy's taxes. The case was decided in Ravenscraft's favor.

On demurrers in the following cases: Quinlin vs. County, Crews & Jones vs. County and Loch Brothers vs. County, these parties had during 1898 brought cattle into Woodward county that had been assessed prior to being so brought, were reassessed in Woodward county without notice to the owners. Taxes were attempted to be collected and injunction suits to restrain collection. Said taxes were heard on demurrer by the judge, who overruled the demurrer and held that assessing officers / assessing transient property brought in from other places, must assess the same as required by law, make demand from the owners thereof for rendition and give them an opportunity to show whether or not said property had been taxed elsewhere for the year.

Houston & Marum represented the plaintiffs in each of the above cases, and the decision of the judge, being so clear on this matter, has given universal satisfaction to all the people of Woodward county, regardless of whether they are cattlemen or farmers, on account of the jumble that the revenue laws of the territory have been in. This has been one of the most satisfactory terms of court ever held in this county.

COTTON - RAISERS UNDECIDED

Whether to Sell Now or Wait for Better Prices.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Oklahoma cotton growers are hesitating whether to take advantage of prevailing prices or hold their cotton for a $7.50 to $8 market, which is predicted here for not later than January, says the Perkins Journal. This time last year cotton was selling at from $4 to $4.25 on the local market. Cotton today, with a strong demand was selling at from $6.50 to $6.75. These prices have prevailed for the last ten days. The top price for seed cotton is $2.10. Good prices are not limited to railroad towns in Oklahoma this year. There is a scramble for cotton in the small interior towns, where top prices are offered. The shortage is marked. The receipts here at this time a year ago were 60 per cent heavier. The shortage is due to a smaller average, to late planting and to hot wind in August. The staple is shorter, but the grade better than last year. Local cotton has averaged strict middling grade, which is good spinning cotton. Buyers are of the opinion that the government estimate of a 60 per cent crop for Oklahoma is too high and that a 50 per cent crop is a more correct estimate.

SHE TOOK FLIGHT BY NIGHT

Strange Disappearance of Mrs. Wilkins From Purcell.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—The Purcell Citizen has the following: Sometime between 10 o'clock Friday night and 4 o'clock Saturday morning Mrs. Abbie Wilkins, wife of J. R. Wilkins, silently stole from her bed and departed for parts unknown. Mr. Wilkins stated to a Citizen man that he and his wife retired as usual Friday evening and sometime during the night he was awakened by their babe crying and that he turned to waken his wife and found hher place beside him vacant. At what time she departed he says he does not know, nor does he know of any reason why his wife should quit his bed and board. He states that on Saturday morning he learned from the hackman that he hauled his wife's trunk to the depot; that it had been checked to Guthrie. He says he inquired at the post-office if she had been receiving any mail and he was informed that she had been receiving letters addressed to Miss Sledge, which, he says, was her maiden name. Mrs. Wilkins ran a boarding house on the corner of South Canadian avenue and Apache street.

ARRESTED FOR STATUTORY RAPE

George Sabine's Stepdaughter Is His Alleged Victim.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—George Sabine, a well known restaurant proprietor of this city, has been arrested on a warrant sworn out by his 14-year-old stepdaughter, Maud Sabine charging him with statutory rape. She claims that her stepfather has been intimate with her since she was nine years old. Sabine was arrested at his home at 10 o'clock last night and had on his person a large dirk knife and a bottle of laudnumn when the officer took him in custody. Sabine declared at the jail that his arrest was a mistake and that he would have the party arrested who was responsible for his being in custody.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—George Sabine, the Guthrie restaurant proprietor who is under arrest charged with rape committed upon his 14-year-old step-daughter, has been placed under $1,000 bond to await the action of the grand jury which meets next week. Mrs. Sabine is bitter against her husband and has employed counsel to assist the prosecution.

GUTHRIE BEGINS A YEAR AHEAD

To Prepare for Next Year's Street Fair and Carnival

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Guthrie will hold a carnival and fair next year. The carnival committee has reorganized by re-electing C. G. Horner president and E. A. Douglass secretary for commencing the work early for next year. The time for holding it will probably be the first week in September. Despite the adversity of the past two weeks, the feature of the carnival, the flower parade, was a success and has greatly stimulated the committee's efforts toward this new move. The floats, which represent an expenditure of $3,000, will lbe preserved by storing them in some place and then in the spring they will be remodeled and repainted. This will be a splendid start for future pageants, affording an opportunity for elaborateness not attempted by any other city in Oklahoma.

REQUISITION FOR ALBERT BLOW

Who Is Wanted in Louisiana, Is Honored in Oklahoma.

Guthrie, Nov. 4.—Governor Barnes has honored the requisition of the governor of Louisiana for the return to that state of Albert Blow who is accused of complicity in the shooting of a white man during a miniture race riot at Mansfield last winter. Blow was arrested here a week ago and has been held in custody to await the arrival of requisition papers. His extradition was contested by his attorneys on the ground that he would bey on the ground that he would be lynched by a mob on his retrun to Louisiana, but the governor decided to suffer Blow's return, inasmuch as a companion in the shooting affair had been duly convicted of the crime by the legal machinery of the state without any offer of mob violence.

STANDS A LOT OF DEPORTING

Remarkable Experience of F. M. Smith in Indian Territory.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Something good enough for Gilbert Comic opera is just now transpiring in Indian Territory. F. M. Smith refuses to pay the territorial tax for selling hay. The Indian government some time ago ordered him deported to Kansas. This was done. Inside of a week he was back again. Again he was deported. Again he returned. The Indian policemen gave him a wild chase, but captured him and he has been again deported. Smith in bidding adieu to the men who had taken him across the Kansas line, said: "I'll see you again."

OKLAHOMA FREIGHT CAR FAMINE

Colonel Prouty Says Is Putting Down Prices of Grain.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Territorial Grain Inspector Prouty says that the inability to secure cars for shipping is affecting the wheat market in Oklahoma. Every elevator along the Rock Island, according to Colonel Prouty, is filled with wheat, and buyers are now overanxious to buy more until they are sure they can get cars. He thinks that 50 per cent of the crop of wheat is still in the farmers' hands. The passenger traffic in Oklahoma is so heavy that nearly all passenger trains these days are late.

CALLERS HAVE BEEN DENIED

Governor Barnes Is Still Too Ill to Transact Business.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Governor Barnes is still quite weak and unable to transact business at his office, and callers have been denied at his home. His condition is slightly improved but not sufficient to warrant his appearance at the executive office.

Death Due to Green Watermelon.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—The jury which held an inquest over the body of Thomas Batter, a Syrian who lived in Woods county, found that death was due "to a congestion of the stomach caused by eating green watermelon."

CUNNINGHAM IN COURT

What State Oklahoma's Tax Cases are Now In.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS

Of Oklahoma Honored by the Supreme Council.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Attorney General Harper S. Cunningham has returned from Washington, where he has been attending the supreme council of the Scottish Rite Masons of the southern jurisdiction of the United States, and looking after the disposition of several Oklahoma tax suits that are now pending in the supreme court. Owing to the record not being printed the Greer county tax case will not come up until Monday, when it will be heard on the territory's motion to dismiss, printed argument and brief having been submitted by the attorney general. The tax equalization case from Oklahoma county, which involves the Caffery contempt matter, has gone over until the January term of court.

During his attendance upon the supreme council of the Scottish Rite General Cunningham was signally honored by his election to the active list of inspector generals, of which there are but thirty—three in the entire southern jurisdiction. His personal efforts and influence were also instrumental in the election of U. C. Guss and E. S. Donnelly to the honorary thirty-third degree and George Wills, Teague Ray and J. H. Astrobus, knights commanders of the court of honor in the southern jurisdiction. There are about 280 honorary members of the thirty-third degree, which is only conferred as special recognition for special services rendered in the advancement of Masonry. The knights of the court of honor are not eligible to the thirty-third degree until they have served two years in the court of honor. The foregoing honors that were given Oklahoma result from the work of establishing the Rite in Oklahoma, and the construction of the Masonic temple, which is located at Guthrie and which will be ready for occupancy probably in January.

General Cunningham spoke of the deep pleasure afforded him by a personal visit with President McKinley, in company with Mr. Ed Goldberg, Indian agent at the Quapaw agency. He declined to say whether or not the visit had any political significance beyond the statement that the president appeared to be well informed concerning the political situation in Oklahoma.

SENATOR HAVENS ON STATEHOOD

Says the Single Staters Will Bring It to No Statehood at All.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Senator Havens of Enid says that the advocacy of single statehood is merely a covert attack on any statehood at all. He says that if Oklahoma wants statehood only in connection with Indian territory, Oklahoma might as well sit down and wait, for it will be a long time coming. He adds: "The fact is, that the controlling element in that territory will never consent to statehood with Oklahoma,and any measure providing for it would meet with so determined a resistance as to at least delay action for a long period and probably to defeat it entirely, at last leaving us just where we are now. The lobby from that territory has for many years been the most powerful that has gathered at the capital. Delegations from each of the five tribes paid large salaries from the moneys received from the government, and rentals of lands, assisted by the ablest attorneys and lobbists that abundant moneys could employ, have for thirty years been practically irresistible. And when Oklahoma stakes her chances for statehood in a conflict with that lobby she will make a great mistake. The reasonable and prudent course is to go forward and obtain statehood for Oklahoma with conditions reserving the right to congress to attach the Indian territory or any part of it at any time in the future if it shall be desirable to do so. This ought to be sufficient to satisfy any advocate of single statehood who is sincere in his views, but to those who simply use the proposition as a covert means of defeating any statehood, it would, of course, not be satisfactory."

VENUE CHANGED TO CANADIAN

Anna Bowers to be Tried at El Reno for Mert Rickey's Murder.

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Anna A. Bowers of Kingfisher, who is charged with the murder of Mert Rickey of that city, has secured a change of venue from the district court of Kingfisher to the district court of Canadian county. Her attorneys set forth that the prejudice in Kingfisher was so great against her that she could not secure a fair and impartial trial.

Business at the Baptist Convention.

Oklahoma City, O. T., Nov. 4.—The Baptist convention which met here this week has adjourned. Rev. L. J. Dyke was elected general missionary, Rev. Job Ingram district missionary, and Rev. L. H. Holt district missionary for the institutes for colored people. The following board of directors was chosen: Rev. Job Ingram, Kingfisher; C. W. Brewer, El Reno; A. H. State, Perry; W. M. Anderson, Oklahoma City; L. L. Smith, Guthrie; C. W. Morrison, Guthrie; L. H. Holt, Guthrie; G. W. Herrington, L. J. Dyke and L. H. Buxton, Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma and Texas Paint Company

Guthrie, O. T., Nov. 4.—Articles of incorporation for the Oklahoma and Texas Paint company were filed yesterday with the secretary of the territory. The capital stock is $25,000. The company is formed to manufacture and wholesale paints and painters' supplies. The principal place of business is Oklahoma City and the officers are J. E. Work of Enid and James J. West and J. W. Underwood of Oklahoma City.

Blackwell's Santa Fe Depot Problem.

Blackwell, O. T., Nov. 4.—The Huntington and Southern wire here has been run into the Santa Fe depot. The people here are anxiously waiting to see whether the Santa Fe will maintain two depots here. It is not thought likely that they will.

El Reno Guards Against Smallpox.

El Reno, O. T., Nov. 4.—The county board of health has issued a notice that hereafter any person from the vicinity of Yukon found in this locality without a certificate proving that he has not been exposed to smallpox will be arrested.