

Indian Chieftain.

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D. M. HARRIS, Editor.
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VINITA, IND. TER., FEB. 18, 1902.

BLAND's free coinage bill was introduced in the lower house of congress Monday.

Ex-Gov. ST. JOHN is lecturing in Springfield, Missouri, this week on temperance.

HON. JOHN WANAMAKER, postmaster general, is a Sunday school superintendent.

The Sentinel having disposed of "John William Browne" can now put on its coat and rest.

Did you sneak around and buy the meanest valentine you could find and mail to somebody?

The fact that Oklahoma land is mostly non-taxable is sufficient reason for refusing her admission as a state at present.

The course of study in the medical college of Missouri is to be extended to three years instead of two, after the present term.

U. S. MARSHAL YOE of Ft. Smith, has recently purchased a plantation on the Arkansas river, the consideration being \$45,000.

So MANY commercial orchards are being planted in Missouri and Arkansas exclusively of Ben Davis apple trees that the supply of that variety is exhausted in the leading nurseries of the country.

THE CHIEFTAIN has reached that point where it is willing the balance shall talk about circulation and the affairs of each other. Personally we can find other topics to discuss which are of far greater interest to the public.

The president has submitted to congress a message asking that a special appropriation be made to put in effect the mine inspection law passed last session. This is done in answer to the petition of several hundred miners at Krebs.

The average politician of the Cherokee nation is having very little to say just at this time. A year hence he will begin to grow patriotic as the thoughts of another distribution of the "loaves and fishes" begin to dawn upon him.

From the Tablequah Arrow we learn that five hundred pupils are in attendance at the schools of that place. This is certainly something to be proud of, but the Cherokee government is spending enough money in that town to educate twice that number every year.

THE Cherokee delegation to Washington cost the nation \$10,250 and the burden of their business was to secure the ratification of the Strip deal. There are very grave doubts in the minds of many as to the advisability of its being ratified. The more it is investigated the more it smacks of a job.

It has been decreed by the managers of the world's fair that there will be no "wild west" performance showing the "bad" side of Indian character. This will prevent the world from seeing a sham reenactment of the Wounded Knee massacre that would doubtless be gotten up by some enterprising manager.

The man whose business interferes with his religion either has an illegitimate business or the wrong kind of religion. Pure and undefiled religion never did nor never will interfere with the right kind of business, and the man who claims to have so much spiritual power that it unites him for business will bear watching.

STATEHOOD brought about in the right way—that is in a way that would not rob the Indians of their lands but secure each one in the possession of his own—would be a grand thing for the five tribes of this territory. But any change in the affairs of these people that would endanger our landed interests should be opposed.

How long would this Cherokee government stand should the United States government withdraw her protecting arm from about it? This is a question which each one should ask himself in all sincerity and soberness. How long could we hold our own against that mighty influx of boomers and squatters? In all seriousness, the situation is growing desperate.

ADVICE from Washington indicate that the Strip treaty has been examined by the Indian office and been approved, and forwarded to the secretary of the interior. It will be sent to the president, and on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week was expected to be transmitted to congress for ratification or rejection. It is more than likely that the fate of the deal will be settled very soon.

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

The more observant of the people of the Cherokee nation cannot fail to see that a great change has been wrought in the sentiment of this country within the last few years. Not only has there been a change in the sentiment but a freedom of expression of opinion among all classes of citizens. There is probably no surer sign of advancement among a people than that scrupulous regard for personal liberty that only comes with education and refinement. The free expression of opinion has much to do with decisions of right and wrong. Questions that effect the future welfare of a nation of people should be discussed with the utmost freedom and no question should be too sacred for the consideration of the people at large. It is almost universally admitted that great and radical changes must come to the people of the Indian Territory in the not distant future, and it is very important that its citizens should thoroughly understand the true status of things in this country. Not many years ago the man that even hinted at a change of our system of government was regarded by many as a traitor. But the schools have been going on in different portions of the country and the scores of young men and young women who have gone out from our institutions of learning from year to year have had a very salutary influence upon public opinion. This is undoubtedly as it should be. Intelligence and enlightenment have always gone hand in hand with human liberty. The old moss-back prejudices are rapidly giving way to a procession of bright, educated young people of both sexes who have faith in themselves and whose lives are before them, full of bright hopes of a grand and glorious future.

LOOKING TO STATEHOOD.

Congressman Peel, of Arkansas, is the author of a bill introduced last Monday granting the five tribes in this territory the right to meet at Muskogee one year from next August and form a state constitution, and submit the same to the fifty-third congress for their admission into the union as a state upon an equal footing with others. When a constitution has been agreed upon, one delegate from each of the five nations shall be selected to submit the same to congress. One section of the bill provides for and sets forth a plan to visit the lands. It also provides that if it be preferred, the territory of Oklahoma may be extended over this country, in which case property interests shall remain as they (the five tribes) may select. Under this act as soon as the five tribes shall become a state or part of Oklahoma, each and all of them shall become citizens of the United States. It further provides that if said nations decline to avail themselves of the provisions of this act, they shall send one delegate to congress who shall possess the same qualifications and powers and receive the same pay as other delegates from the territories of the United States.

How long will the people of the Cherokee nation leave their homes subject to the action of council? We were told by the Downing party last summer that council could not sell land. But that very party made a stupendous effort to sell the Strip and they can sell the land east of 96° if they wish and the people have no power to help themselves save through their guardian, the United States, to whom they have cried lustily to please not ratify the Strip sale that was so skillfully arranged with the Cherokee commission. This little episode has begotten a feeling among a good many citizens that the United States is a better friend to us after all than we are to ourselves. Our delegation will have to "hump" themselves or congress will not ratify the Strip sale at all. If such should be the case those councilors who urged the ratification with so much gusto will have a very blowed-out feeling.

PRINTERS' INK, one of the finest class or trade papers ever issued, has been refused admission to the mails as second-class matter after having enjoyed that privilege for five years, the chief grounds of the department being that many of its subscriptions have been paid for by other parties than those who receive the paper. Instead of submitting to the imposition the publishers, Geo. P. Rowell & Co., have prepared themselves for a vigorous fight in which they are seconded by many of the most influential publications in the country. Mr. Wanamaker, and his third assistant, are learning some things about what the people think of the postoffice department which, but for this incident, they would never have dreamed of.

JUDGE CLARK, of Oklahoma, has decided that improvements on the public lands are taxable.

There is nothing more dangerous than jumping at conclusions. For instance, the Cherokee commissioners, and indeed nearly the whole of the council and senate, concluded that the United States wanted the Strip lands so bad that congress would make haste to ratify any agreement that might be made whereby the Cherokees would relinquish the title to that country. Accordingly a full grown job was lugged into the trade, whereby certain "favorite sons" would get the cream of that coveted land. But it now begins to look as though these prophets of Babel would have to be disappointed by the refusal of the government to ratify the treaty in its present form.

The following very complimentary notice of General Pleasant Porter is going the rounds of the papers: "The most noted member of the Creek nation is General Porter of Muskogee, I. T., who has represented his people at the national capital for many years. He is a very picture of Indian manhood and vigor, for he is tall, straight and swarthy. His eye glitters like an eagle's. His title of general arose from the skill with which he put an end to the three Creek insurrections in 1872, 1879 and 1884." One important characteristic of the gentleman is omitted; General Porter is every inch a man.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN, of the Indian department, has approved the agreement between the Cherokee commissioners and the Cherokees and sent with his approval to the secretary of the interior a legal opinion sustaining the Cherokees in their views in regard to the title to the Strip. Mr. Morgan insists that the Cherokees have a bonafide title and not simply an easement title. While it is considered a little singular that the commissioner would volunteer his opinion in the matter, it is nevertheless true that it will have great weight in bringing about a speedy ratification of the treaty.

The schedule time for cars on the proposed electric railway between Vienna and Buda-Pesth is expected to be seventy-five minutes for the entire distance of 150 miles. As planned, the road will have two main power stations, with 100 sub-stations, but only three or four stopping places. Each car will be about 130 feet long, fitted with four trucks, and an electric motor at each end will receive current through contact wheels running on conducting rails. The ends of the cars, to diminish air resistance, will be shaped like those of a ship.

TEXAS stock growers held a convention at Austin last week. The question of the breeding of cattle in Texas was discussed at some length. It was maintained that it was more important to raise good marketable steers that would find a ready sale anywhere than to make war on the "big four" or the railroads. The necessity of having good blooded stock and properly graded was urged upon stock raisers generally.

In the opinion of many who ought to know there will be very little tax paid this season upon cattle imported into this country. The fact that some large owners did not pay anything last year, and that there are very grave difficulties in the way of an enforcement of the law in the matter, renders the situation very uncertain.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

Mr. Baugh Declares for Speedy Allotment.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12, 1902.

EDITOR CHIEFTAIN:—I send you to-day Delegate Harvey's bill in the house of representatives, providing and looking to statehood for the territory of Oklahoma, and in that bill they provide for the five civilized tribes to be embraced therein. I don't think that the bill will ever pass congress in its present form but it is now being discussed before the committee on territories. Delegate Boudinot made a speech before the committee yesterday which was far superior to any that were made by gentlemen favoring the bill. As I said before, I do not believe this bill will pass congress, yet it shows us that the policy of people of the United States is to divest the Indians of all the rights they have been guaranteed to them under treaty stipulations, and it makes it very plain and forcible to my mind that the sooner we allot our country the better it is for the Cherokee people. The agreement for the Strip lands has not yet been before congress but, as I understand, is at this time before the departments.

Very truly, J. L. BAUGH.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

A Chance to Get Into the Government Service.

Post Office, Ft. Smith, Ark., Feb. 12, '02.

A United States civil service examination will be held at Ft. Smith Ark., at the United States court house and post office on March 22, 1902, beginning at 9 a. m. for the departmental service, Washington D. C., and for the railway mail service. No person can be examined who has not previously filed an application on a

blank which may be obtained by writing to the United States civil service commission, Washington, D. C. The applications, carefully and correctly executed, should be forwarded to the commission in ample time to secure an admission card. A delay in filing the application may result in a failure to obtain an admission card in time to be examined. A pamphlet of instructions will accompany every application blank. In the southern states and in the remote western states the supply of applications for the railway mail service is not equal to the demand.

JAMES K. BARNES, P. M.
SID. B. REDDING, Ass't P. M.
DAVID BERTS,
Mems. Local B'd of Ex.

REPORTS AGREED UPON.

"We shall report enabling acts for the admission of New Mexico and Arizona to statehood," said Mr. Mansur, of Missouri, who is one of the most energetic members of congress. "That will dispose of them so far as the committee is concerned. As for Utah, we shall report against statehood but in favor of autonomy. That is, we shall bring in a bill to let Utah elect her own governor and other territorial officers by vote of the people, but she will not be allowed representation in the senate or house save as at present by delegate. The United States courts and laws will remain unchanged. The committee, I think, is pretty well agreed on this, but we will wait to hear a delegation which will be here in a few days."

"We shall report against statehood. The question is not one of numbers of residents. It is something entirely different. The land in Oklahoma is non-taxable until the government title is extinguished. Homesteads cannot be taxed until they have been released by the government to the settler. The land allotted to the Indians is non-taxable and inalienable. And let me tell you, the Indians are smart enough when it comes to picking good land. There is almost nothing in Oklahoma to form a basis of taxation on which to raise a revenue for state purposes, except city property, licenses, and the like. The people of Oklahoma realize the situation, and outside of the politicians there is no sentiment for statehood because it is seem to be impracticable under present circumstances. Oklahoma will make the most rapid race of all the territories for statehood, but she does not want to come in at this time for the reasons I have stated."

THE CHEROKEE STRIP.

While Delegate Harvey of Oklahoma is pressing before the House Committee on Territories his bill for the admission of the Indian Territory, including Oklahoma, as a state, there seems to be no prospect of the early opening of the Cherokee strip to settlement. The commission authorized by the fifty-first congress and appointed by the president to negotiate with the Cherokee tribe for the strip finished its work and filed its report with the secretary of the interior several weeks ago, and the people were hopeful that the president would submit it to congress at once that it might be considered early in the session and the necessary legislation enacted so that settlers might take possession of the new lands in time for spring planting. Anticipating an early message from the president, the house committee has already formulated a bill providing for the opening and settlement of the new country. The bill is so perfect in every detail and the members of the house and senate have become so familiar with the necessities of the case by reason of former experience and legislation in opening Oklahoma and other Indian lands that it could be promptly acted upon under a suspension of the rules and sent to the president for his signature in ample time for the necessary surveys to be made before planting time. But notwithstanding this industry on the part of the committees and the interest of the people on the subject, it is unofficially reported that the president will not submit the treaty to congress for several weeks and that settlers need not expect to enter the strip until the summer season.

No reason is given for this delay, and, in fact, no reason can be given. The duties of the President are simply ministerial. Congress directed him to appoint a commission to negotiate a treaty. The commission was appointed. It has performed its duties and reported, and the executive's action in withholding the treaty is arbitrary and unwarranted. The president will have the right to exercise the veto power when a bill shall have been passed by congress, but until then his only duty is to lay before congress the treaty and all other information on the subject that an act may be passed in accordance with the known wishes of the people. Any action or non-action that shall delay opening the Strip beyond the planting season will leave room for the suspicion that it is intended to give the cattle barons, who have so long enjoyed the free pasturage of these lands, another season's use of them.—Kansas City Star.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I have been troubled with my eyes for some time, at times so badly I could hardly see. On February 4th, I called on Dr. Burch, the eye, ear and throat specialist, and he told me I had a new man—or at least that I had a new set of eyes. He recommended me to Dr. J. H. Wright, Big Cabin, I. T.

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