

LAND MEN MAD

AGENT SHOENFELT IS SPOILING
THEIR SCHEMES

MANY RESTRICTIONS NOT TO BE REMOVED

Mr. Shoenfelt is Standing Between Indians and Land Sharks—Many Applications Will Not Receive His Recommendation

MUSKOGEE: The attitude of the Indian agent, Mr. Shoenfelt, in regard to the removal of restrictions upon the sale of lands by allottees of Indian blood is proving a great disappointment to the land sharks. During the past week the agent has done practically nothing but sign his name to recommendations to the interior department in reference to applications already passed upon, and it is reported upon good authority that less than 3 per cent have met with his approval. One day 152 recommendations were transmitted through the mail, and 147 of these bore the stamp of the agent's disapproval.

The land men are furious. They have gone to considerable expense to herd the Indians into line, and get their applications before the department early. With the freedmen they had experienced an easy conquest, and had anticipated a similar success in case of the Indians of blood. But the Indian agent has forestalled them, and has brought upon himself the brunt of their indignation. Up to date there are 1,100 applications pending, but unless there is a change of policy not more than thirty of these will be approved.

Colonel Shoenfelt has given out this statement:

"I do not feel at liberty to state just what has been done. I can only recommend to the department, and therefore my action is not necessarily final. However, I can say that the class of citizens that the land sharks are running in here will never have their restrictions removed with my approval. Why, in the Choctaw nation they have gone into the mountains and bargained with the full-bloods who have always secluded themselves from civilization, and then brought their applications into this office, apparently with the presumption that favorable action would be taken. To turn these Indians loose to be fleeced by these unscrupulous dealers would be the greatest outrage of the century. And in the other nations the situation is little better. Of course, however, there are a few applicants who are really intelligent and other whose interests demand that some of their land be disposed of, but these will be treated in a different light."

Any Indian is permitted to sell his land under the sealed bid system, authorized by act of congress July 10, 1903, and the agency seems to think this the proper method. In this case the vendor is certain to receive a good price for his land, and he is subject to no embarrassment. If the land is valuable there will be bids in plenty, and if none are high enough to suit he can reject all and readvertise.

But Colonel Shoenfelt seems to be of the opinion that it is not at all necessary for all of the Indians to sell now. He thinks that, with the present outlook in the mineral fields, they will profit by holding onto their possessions awhile longer. That is, except in a few rare cases, such as the ones mentioned above.

A postoffice has been established at Black Rock, district sixteen, Indian Territory, with Mintre A. Woolverton as postmaster.

CREEK LAND SALES

Nearly Half a Million Dollars Has Been Paid Allottees

MUSKOGEE: On the 10th of May, 1903, the rules and regulations for the sale of Creek allotted land through the Union agency in this city were promulgated by Secretary Hitchcock, and a short time thereafter were put into effect by Mr. Jones, the United States commissioner of Indian affairs. A careful examination of the sales that have been made since that time brings out some interesting facts in regard to the first year's progress under the system now in vogue. Up to July 1, 1904, the total amount of money paid through the agency to allottees for land was \$488,150. The total number of tracts on which bids were accepted was 465. The total number of tracts on which petitions to sell were filed and advertised were 1,439. On 137 of these no bids were received. On 207 the petitions were withdrawn because they were filed by freedmen and a provision of the Indian appropriation bill permits them to sell without restriction, and they cannot sell through the agency. The number of deeds approved by the department and delivered to the purchasers was 259, and the number disapproved was nine, the remainder being under consideration at that time. The bids for the latter amounted to \$31,637.

The allottees rejected bids on forty-three tracts, and the agency rejected all bids on 280 because they were below the appraisement. The total acreage offered for sale was 121,900 acres.

Total acreage bought out and paid for was 40,500. Total acreage rejected, being below the appraisement, 23,500. Total acreage rejected by allottees, 4,000. Total acreage on which there were no bids, 11,500.

From the above it will be seen that almost half a million dollars was paid to Creek citizens for lands during the time stated, and that more than 40,000 acres of Creek land changed hands. The present fiscal year will no doubt show a large increase over 1903, and it is confidently expected that by July 1, 1905, more than 10,000 acres will have been sold and paid for. The sales consummated amount to a trifle less than 23 1-3 per cent of the land listed, and the average price per acre is \$12.20.

TORNADO AT ST. LOUIS

World's Fair Grounds Visited by a Wind Storm

ST. LOUIS: A terrific thunder storm broke over St. Louis Friday night, and rain fell in torrents, accompanied by heavy wind. Within ten minutes .67 of an inch of rain fell. The velocity of the wind was fifty-two miles an hour.

The storm blew in the north windows of the Utah state building at the World's fair grounds and rain did damage to carpets and draperies estimated at from \$150 to \$200.

A concert was in progress in Festival hall in the exposition during the heavy thunderstorm, when suddenly there was a flash of lightning and immediately all the lights went out. The audience became panic-stricken. An actual panic was only prevented by a woman's voice taking up the strains of "America," in which they joined. The audience left the building singing, but without excitement.

In the Chinese village on the Pike 300 Chinamen, just arrived, were being watched over by immigration officials temporarily when the storm struck. The celestials became panic-stricken, and the officers were forced to draw revolvers to subdue them. Lightning struck near by, and one Chinaman was severely shocked, while another jumped from the roof of the building and broke his arm.

The band stand in the Plaza of St. Louis was struck by lightning and the roof was slightly burned.

MOB LAW REIGNS

AN EFFORT TO RID A GEORGIA SETTLEMENT OF NEGROES

COLORED INHABITANTS RECEIVE LASHES

Three Negroes Known to Have Been Shot—Several Floggings Are Reported—Statesboro Militia Alleged to Have Resigned

STATESBORO, GA.: One negro found dead by the roadside five miles east of the town, his body pierced two rifle bullets; two negroes, one of the "old time darkies," and his son, seventeen years old, shot in their cabin during the late hours of night by unknown marauders; half a dozen cases of floggings—such was the history of a day. The scene of excitement has shifted from this town to the rich agricultural region surrounding it. At Alexander Riggs' mill several well to do white planters met to plan to rid their neighborhood of obnoxious negroes. Individual negroes were marked for lashings and part of the programme was carried out.

It is stated that the Statesboro militiamen have prepared their resignations for the governor. The military mismanagement was also manifested when the officer in command, it is reported, took charge of the local telegraph office and for an hour censored all messages, and some messages were withheld from the wires.

BURNED AT THE STAKE

The Awful Fate of Georgia Negroes Convicted of Murder

STATESBORO, GA.: With clothing saturated with kerosene, writhing and twisting in their agony, screaming to heaven for the mercy that the mob would not show, Paul Reed and Will Cato, two of the principals in the murder and burning of Henry Hodges and wife and three of their children, six miles from Statesboro, three weeks ago, were burned at the stake. A mob charged on the court house, overpowered the military guard, secured Cato and Reed, who had been found guilty after a legal trial and sentenced to be hanged, took them two miles from Statesboro and there burned them alive.

DAVIS OFFICIALLY INFORMED

The Democratic Nominee for Vice President Receives the Message

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.: Henry G. Davis was formally notified of and formally accepted his nomination by the Democratic party for vice president of the United States. The ceremonies took place in the open air in the grounds of Green Briar White Sulphur Springs hotel, and were marked by simplicity. Mr. Davis was escorted to the flag-draped platform by Representative John Sharp Williams of Mississippi who delivered the notification address. Mr. Williams occupied an hour in speaking. It took Mr. Davis ten minutes to read his formal acceptance, but he prefaced this with a heart to heart talk of like duration to the several thousand friends and neighbors who were gathered under the trees.

A Santa Fe Train into a Ditch

SCRANTON, KAS.: A special train from Cincinnati, bound for Coronado Beach, Cal., and running as the second section of No. 5 on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, was ditched one mile east of Scranton. One person was fatally injured, five were hurt seriously and six others sustained slight injuries.

MORE CROOKED WORK

Dawes Commission Ordered to Make a Thorough Investigation

WASHINGTON: "Investigate the Tishomingo land office from turret to foundation stone," was the order issued to the Dawes commission by Mr. Ryan, the acting secretary of the interior department. That the secretary does not intend to have any of the guilty escape is evidenced by a statement given out in which it is said the resignation of one of the implicated clerks has already been offered, but had been refused, and that the persons involved in the Tishomingo scandal would be held to answer to the United States court. It is also Judge Ryan's intention to go after certain attorneys who, it is said, were in collusion with the record clerks and thereby assisted greatly in the selecting and locating of allotments of their clients. In other words, the department is preparing a big dragnet, and everybody implicated must either clear himself or take to medicine.

Speaking in his usual deliberate manner, Judge Ryan said in regard to the investigation now going on in the territory:

"The department has already received a preliminary report on the Tishomingo land office scandal. A thorough investigation has been ordered, and the guilty persons will be punished. The report received from the department by the Dawes commission shows that the chief clerk of the Tishomingo office brought about the investigation by having his suspicions aroused by irregularities on the part of certain members of his clerical force.

"This state of affairs was at once reported to headquarters at Muskogee and within a few hours a thorough investigation had been ordered. So far, one clerk has been deeply implicated, while others have been placed in a very compromising light."

MAKING A TEST SUIT

The Katy Wants About 3,000,000 Acres in Indian Territory

MUSKOGEE: The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway company has filed suit in the United States court here against James Bullett, a citizen of the Creek nation, for possession of an allotment. This is the beginning of several suits which will be filed and made test cases.

The claim the Missouri, Kansas & Texas has against the government is that it was to receive every alternate section of land for five miles on either side of its right of way through the Indian Territory. In 1886, it is claimed by the railway company, congress made a grant to the first railroad that would build a line through the territory from the Kansas line to the Texas line. The Katy and the Santa Fe tried for the prize, but the former got its line through and won out. The grant reads:

"As soon as Indian title is extinguished and the land becomes public domain it shall become the property of the railroad." The title has never been passed to the government, and the land has not become public domain. The railroad contends that this is fraud, and that the government allotted the land this way to avoid fulfilling the grant.

There are 3,200,000 acres of land involved. The railroad was to get the odd sections, and some of the towns of the territory are located on these odd sections.

The abstractors of Oklahoma are of A. E. Saxey of El Reno as president; A. E. Saxey of El Reno as president; George Carron of Norman, secretary, and L. M. Bennett of Kingfisher, treasurer. A legislative committee will be named to secure the passage of a measure requiring the county treasurers to carry on the current tax rolls the delinquent taxes as far back as 1893.