

Muskogee Cimeter.

W. H. TWINE, Editor.

Muskogee, I. T., March 1, 1906.

INDIAN TERRITORY NEWS.

A company has been organized at Martinsville to sink a test well.

A company has been organized to build a free bridge over the Durdeen creek at Griggs.

Two car loads of homeseekers have arrived at Muskogee and will settle in that vicinity.

About 200 acres of potatoes have been planted near Fort Gibson, and the good work goes on.

Mrs. Rose Bryan of Cleveland is the mother of a baby which weighs only one and a half pounds.

Paul C. Williams has been appointed U. S. deputy at Muskogee under Marshal Leo E. Bennett.

Skiatook has struck it. A well recently shot developed such force as to blow the top of the derrick off.

Sulphur has organized a club to increase the population to 30,000. It is known as the Thirty Thousand club.

The Muskogee dailies, Times and Democrat, have been consolidated and will be known as Times-Democrat.

The St. Louis Business Men's league has sent a strong delegation to Washington to urge joint statehood.

A prominent potato grower says there will be 2000 cars of potatoes shipped out of Indian Territory the coming season.

Wa-cha-che, the greatest of the medicine men and prophets of the Creek Indians, died at his home at Bald Hill.

Freight traffic is reported heavy on all trains coming into the Territory, and some of the roads are almost swamped.

The following postmasters have been appointed: A. H. Heflin, Chase; Lura M. Badgett, Velma; J. H. Mills, Wheeler.

Steps have been taken to have an encampment of the Indian Territory Volunteer Cavalry at South McAlester this summer.

The Midland Valley will begin service on its road from Muskogee to Tulsa March 1, with two trains each way daily.

The recruiting station at Muskogee has sent 147 men to the army since last May. In the same time 489 were rejected.

Anton Cahay of Keokuk Falls made 1000 gallons of wine last fall from three acres of grapes raised in Pottawatomie county.

Mr. F. F. Merriam, Mrs. M. E. Merriam and Mr. Clark B. Day have sold their interests in the Muskogee Phoenix to Clarence B. Douglas.

Mrs. J. A. Tulk of Muskogee, who came to Indian Territory in 1832 and is now 100 years old, and who has been quite active until recently, is not expected to live.

It is announced that Lieut. John R. Thomas, Jr., of Muskogee, but now with the Seventeenth Infantry, U. S. A., is to be married to Miss Florence White of Chicago.

A very important provision of the Curtis bill established public highways in the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole nations, and are to be paid for out of the tribal funds.

ANOTHER OPENING TO HOMESTEADERS

Three Thousand Farms in the Big Pasture of Oklahoma

TO BE SOLD TO HIGHEST BIDDER

Each Purchaser Limited to a Quarter Section and Five Years' Residence Required

Guthrie, Okla. — It now seems probable that there will be another "opening" in Oklahoma before very long, but it will be neither a horse race, like the opening of old Oklahoma and the Cherokee strip, nor a lottery such as characterized the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche country. The "big pasture" in Kiowa and Comanche counties, where President Roosevelt had his famous wolf hunt last year, is to be the next extensive tract of land opened to settlement. The bill introduced by Congressman Stephens of Texas, authorizing such action, was passed by the house some time ago, and has been favorably reported by the senate committee on Indian affairs, which would seem to insure its final passage.

The pasture, which is located along the Red river bottoms, and includes some of the finest agricultural land in the territory, contains something over 480,000 acres, which would mean 3,000 farms of 160 acres each to be occupied by Oklahoma farmers. When the rest of the Kiowa and Comanche country was sold, this tract was set aside for pasturage purposes, the rentals to go to the Indians. They are still very much opposed to the cutting up of the pasture, and Chief Quanah Parker of the Comanches, may go to Washington to protest against the bill.

The measure now before the senate provides for the sale of the land in 160 acre tracts, to the highest bidder, but in no instance less than \$1.50 per acre. Under a ruling made by the secretary of the interior last fall, several thousand acres of the pasture have been leased for agricultural purposes, and according to the Stephens bill, all sales shall be subject to these leases, the rentals to go to the purchasers after the sale. The lands are to be paid for in five equal installments, and the purchaser must reside on the land during the five years in which these payments are being made. This is expected to insure the purchase of the lands by bona fide settlers, and to prevent speculation in the lands, as nearly as that can be done.

IT BURNS NO MORE.

Fire of Big Gas Well at Ramona Is Extinguished.

Ramona, I. T.—The big gas well which has been burning here since March 1, 1905, has been extinguished. The well is located about two miles from Ramona and has resisted every effort to put out the fire. Charles O. Shepard, special agent for the Department of the Interior, recently visited the scene and ordered that immediate steps be taken to extinguish the blaze and plug the hole. This was accomplished by the use of a huge iron hood and six-inch lead pipe, which required the assistance of about twenty men to handle. The well is located near the Santa Fe track and has attracted great attention from travelers.

PAYMENT IS ENJOINED.

Two Law Firms Affected by Injunction Against Choctaw Officials.

South McAlester, I. T.—The United States government has fired the first gun in its battle with the officials of the Choctaw nation, which has been brewing for over a year. In an action brought before Judge T. C. Humphrey of the central district, against Peter J. Hudson, auditor, and George W. Scott, treasurer, of the nation, an injunction was issued forbidding the issuance or payment of any warrants to Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, McCurtain & Hill and D. W. Mulvane. The two firms mentioned have been employed as attorneys for the nation, while Mulvane, who lives in Kansas, is said to have been the beneficiary of profitable contracts with the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

The action is brought by the United States at the relation of the Choctaw nation, and is based upon an alleged intent to pay out money under authority of acts of the Choctaw council which have not been approved by the President of the United States. The Atoka agreement provides that no act, ordinance or resolution of the council of either the Choctaw or Chickasaw tribes in any manner affecting money of the tribe, except appropriations, for the regular and necessary expenses of the government of the respective tribes, shall be of any validity until approved by the President, and the injunction, which is based upon this provision, forbids the payment of moneys to any persons, except under acts which have been so approved. The action is brought under instructions from the department of justice at Washington.

PURE FOOD BILL.

Misdemeanor to Manufacture or Sell Adulterated Foods.

Washington—After fifteen years of more or less serious consideration of the subject, the senate passed the pure food bill by a decisive vote of 63 to 4. A vote was taken after a day devoted almost exclusively to debate of a desultory character on the measure.

Several efforts were made to amend the bill and the committee accepted a number of suggestions, but only those thus accepted were incorporated in the bill as passed.

The bill makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture or sell adulterated or misbranded foods, drugs, medicines or liquors in the District of Columbia, territories and insular possessions of the United States and prohibits the shipment of such goods from one state to another or to a foreign country.

It also prohibits the receipt of such goods. A punishment by fine of \$500 or by imprisonment for one year or both, is prescribed. In case of corporations, the officials in charge are made responsible. The treasury department and departments of agriculture and of commerce and labor are required to agree upon regulations for the collection and examination of the articles covered by the bill, but no specific provision is made for investigation, except by the department of agriculture.

Grading Material Arrives.

Davis, I. T.—Messrs. Kaughman and McMurry of Kansas City, who hold the contract for the nine miles of grading between here and Sulphur, have shipped a large consignment of mules, scrapers and other material for use on the line, and will complete the road on June 1. This road is nearly two miles shorter than the electric line grade recently bought by the Commonwealth Trust company of St. Louis.

EMIGRATION MOVE TO OLD MEXICO

Five Thousand Full Blood Creeks Perfecting Plans

TO GO TO MONTEZUMA REPUBLIC

To Make Treaty With President Diaz, Who Has Written Letters Saying "Come."

Muskogee, I. T.—D. L. Berryhill, commonly known among the Creek people as the "Old War Horse of the Muskogee Nation," is the leader of the movement to settle 5000 full blood Creeks in Old Mexico, and has spent ten years of his life on the project.

"I have no enmity again the government or my white friends," said Mr. Berryhill to a press representative, "but the sad truth is, the Indian cannot thrive under the white man's laws and customs; and he must move somewhere else—must seek in a new land some place where he can till the soil and live in his home as he wishes to live to preserve the traditions of his people. Then if white men crowd us out, the full blood will bow to his fate without a murmur."

The delegation to secure lands in Old Mexico consists of L. C. Perryman, former chief of the Creeks; P. L. Berry hill, Joseph Deer and Thomas Long, the last two being full blooded Creeks. At the City of Mexico they will be met by a deputation from the government, and President Diaz himself, the greatest living Indian, will meet them and advise them as to the best place in which to settle. This delegation has power to make a treaty with Diaz's government, and what they do will be binding upon the 5000 Indians, who are only waiting the opportunity to move to the Aztec republic.

"Diaz is a great and good man," said Mr. Berryhill "and I have many letters from him, all of them in the kindest spirit. He says 'Come to me; I am an Indian and you are Indians; we shall understand each other and live in peace and brotherly love.'"

TO INVESTIGATE LEASES.

After Men Who Promised Improvements and Failed to Comply.

Ardmore, I. T.—It was learned here that S. A. Mills, who has been investigating agricultural leases for the government in the Choctaw nation, and who is now at Atoka, working under the direction of Indian Agent Dana H. Kelsey, would arrive in Ardmore and begin an investigation in the Chickasaw nation.

Under the act of March 3, 1906, the secretary of the interior is authorized to investigate leases in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

It is generally known here that land men have been taking five year leases on land of the full blood Indian, and setting up improvements to a large amount, when in reality, the land was never improved. The government has found cases where an Indian leased his land for five years and the lessor agreed to place improvements on the land to the extent of \$1,000. Investigation showed that not over \$20 worth of improvements had been made. Where it is known that this has been done, the lease can be set aside by the secretary.