

Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1869.

Printing and Stationery Frauds. The public only once in a while get a glimpse of the corruption and wickedness that cling about the Government at Washington, but the few facts that do come to light are enough to make us almost despair as to whether a purification is possible.

The New York Tribune's Washington correspondent yesterday made a statement which, if true in all particulars, puts Secretary Browning in the position of sustaining most outrageous frauds on the Interior Department in the matter of stationery and printing.

It seems that charges of fraud against persons holding contracts for supplying the Interior Department with stationery were investigated by a committee of Congress last session, and a resolution was reported annulling the contract.

Owing, however, to the adjournment of Congress, this was not acted upon. Afterwards, on the complaint of the Commissioner of Patents that the stationery furnished was of a very inferior quality, a commission was appointed by Secretary Browning, composed, it is said, of the friends of the contractors.

The commission reported that the contract had been fulfilled in good faith, and that they ought in addition to be paid for 300,000 sheets of bond paper which the Acting Commissioner of Patents had never ordered.

Eight cents a sheet was charged for this paper, when its actual value was not more than one cent and a half a sheet, and at the rate at which it is now used the amount furnished would last about a dozen years.

According to the report of the Printing Committee in July last, the Commissioner of Patents found that six index books had been charged at \$25 apiece, whereas the six received were, at the highest valuation, not worth more than 75 cents apiece; 40 caveat books were charged at more than \$40 apiece and not more than ten were to be found in the office, and they not worth half the price.

some coordinate branch of the Government would be more regardful of the public interests. From the South, especially, we fear that the new loyal Senators and Representatives will present a host of claims for damages inflicted on so-called loyal citizens during the war, and an infinite variety of applications for relief.

It is doubtless true that there are cases of great individual hardship, and it is barely possible that in some instances the nation should extend financial relief; but it is evident, on the other hand, that if the door is now fairly opened for the admission of claims for damages inflicted by the Union armies in the rebellious States during the war, Congress will speedily be besieged by applicants for thousands of millions of dollars.

The only safe rule is to reject all applications of this nature, and the only true method for restoring Southern prosperity is that pointed out by General Grant. He truly declared that Northern men with ample capital are willing and able to make a garden of the South, but that the old feelings of Rebel hostility practically exclude Northern men in many sections from participation in the cultivation of Southern plantations, and that there is a general tendency to secure the services of the negro without prompt and adequate compensation.

Which prevents the freedmen from laboring with hearty good-will. In his terse language, "nothing remains but to set the negroes to work and to invite and welcome Northern men." If, by any legislative or executive action, or any sincere change of the prevailing sentiment of the South, loyal citizens could enjoy in the seceding States the same degree of freedom and protection to life and property which is accorded in all the Northern Commonwealths, the wounds of the war would speedily be healed.

The enhancement of the value of Southern real estate would itself speedily compensate Southern capitalists for their losses during and subsequent to the late conflict, and the productive force of Southern soil, under a properly applied free-labor system, with small farms substituted for unwieldy plantations, would be infinitely increased.

Report of the Special Commissioner of Revenue. On our first page will be found the report of Hon. David A. Wells, Special Commissioner of Revenue, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, and laid before the House of Representatives to-day. The Commissioner states that he does not present the results of his investigations with a view of comparing any particular theories, but rather of determining through the collection of data what policy of legislation is likely to produce the most advantageous results.

he discovered, on picking himself up, that the mishap had knocked all the dents out of that famous old white hat which he has worn ever since he made his advent, as a poor and friendless youth, in the streets of New York, a century or two before the discovery of America.

We trust that Mr. Greeley will visit Philadelphia, also, during the skating season, and give his Honor Mayor Fox an opportunity to display an amount of official courtesy equal to that of the chief magistrate of Montreal. If one of the new rinks could secure Mr. Greeley's skatorial services for a season of six nights, the fortune of its proprietors would be made, and the other rink would have to be dismantled.

GENERAL SHERIDAN was not deterred from the prosecution of his campaign against the predatory Indian tribes of the Plains by the approach of winter, and he seems equally determined to prevent the dusky warriors from outwitting him by the duplicity for which they are scarcely less famous than their barbarity.

He refuses to be deceived by hypocritical professions of friendship, and will be content with nothing less than the surrender of the entire bands engaged in the recent hostilities, so that the guilty may be punished and the innocent protected. The alternative is such an assault on their camps and villages as was recently made by General Custer. The Government has in many cases protected the women, children, and old men of tribes whose warriors were waging relentless war against American citizens.

No better mode of encouraging Indian raids could well be devised. General Sheridan acts on the principle that the savages who go to war must be made to feel that they stake not only their own existence, but the welfare of those who are near and dear to them, and that they must either maintain peace in good faith or encounter perils as numerous and painful as those they seek to inflict on frontier settlements. This policy will readily be comprehended by the Indians, and they will speedily learn to fear and respect it.

Their rude natures can only be controlled by force, applied in the most impressive and unmistakable manner, and Sheridan's logic, enforced, when necessary, by broadswords, bayonets, and bullets, will prove more convincing than the arguments or tributes of a host of peace commissioners.

New evidences have recently been given of the hardships and sufferings of the secession emigrants to Brazil. The zealous advocates of the Confederacy who were so enamored with its charms as to "leave their country for their country's good," rather than acknowledge the supremacy of the banner of the stars and stripes, have all found their proposed new homes infinitely less attractive than their native land, despite the terrors of reconstruction, the triumph of the national cause, and the establishment of negro suffrage.

They are forced to confess that in the United States they are only "victims of oppression" in a Pickwickian sense, while their residence abroad was embittered with real sufferings. The F. F. V.'s are beginning to discover the folly of continued resistance to the reconstruction policy of Congress, and they are taking initiatory steps for the readmission of the Old Dominion into the Union on the terms prescribed by existing laws.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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BANK REPORTS.

FIFTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE IR. PUBLIC. RESOURCES. Loans and discounts, \$1,068,054 00.

LIABILITIES. Capital stock, \$1,000,000 00. Surplus fund, \$1,000,000 00. Undivided profits, \$1,000,000 00.

SEVENTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE KESINGTON NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA. RESOURCES. Loans and discounts, \$739,052 00.

LIABILITIES. Capital stock, \$750,000 00. Surplus fund, \$1,000,000 00. Undivided profits, \$1,000,000 00.

SEVENTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE GILGARD NATIONAL BANK. RESOURCES. Loans and discounts, \$2,335,117 71.

LIABILITIES. Capital stock, \$1,000,000 00. Surplus fund, \$1,000,000 00. Undivided profits, \$1,000,000 00.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA. RESOURCES. Loans and discounts, \$1,412,920 53.

LIABILITIES. Capital stock, \$750,000 00. Surplus fund, \$1,000,000 00. Undivided profits, \$1,000,000 00.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. MRS. SOUTHWORTH'S NEW BOOK. FAIR PLAY, BY MRS. SOUTHWORTH.

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