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Miss Susan Depriin, the actress is dead.

The Chinese government has appointed a minister to the United States.

The distinguished lawyer, Charles O'Connor, is still living, but his physicians have informed him that he cannot recover.

President Grant's message, especially the portion treating of Cuban affairs created great excitement at Madrid. There was an informal meeting of the Spanish cabinet immediately upon its reception.

A notable feature of President Grant's message is the absence of any allusion to Indian rings or crooked whisky. These subjects have probably been reserved for a special message.

Secretary Chandler has issued an order prohibiting payment to any parties for legal services in behalf of Indian tribes. It is said this will correct one of the greatest abuses connected with the Indian service.

Representative Blaine has prepared and will soon introduce in the house a constitutional amendment relating to education and school funds, in accordance with the recommendations in the president's message.

DAKOTA MATTERS.

Secretary Chandler's Recommendations.

He Asks for the Removal of the Sioux-Agencies to the Missouri River.

And Intimates that no Further Assistance be given the Indians until they Relinquish the Black Hills.

Army Officers to be Detailed for Indian Service.

The general situation of the Indian service may be regarded as encouraging, and progress has been made during the year in perfecting and extending the Indian policy. Wherever all the elements of success have been available, the result has clearly vindicated the propriety and efficiency of that policy in the increased interest taken by both agents and Indians in the acquisition of industrial pursuits, and in the increase of peaceful disposition toward the whites. Schools are increasing in number and interest; farming, wherever the soil is suitable, is being prosecuted more vigorously and intelligently, and the desire of the Indians to prepare for themselves more comfortable and fixed abodes is becoming more general. At the important agencies of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, in the Dakota, or Sioux nation, however, one of the principal elements of success—a productive soil—is wanting, and no progress has been made, and none can be expected, while the present conditions by which they are surrounded shall remain. The problem of how to deal with these Indians seems as far from solution as ever, and, in fact, it has been still further complicated the present year by the discovery of gold in the Black Hills and the emigration of large numbers of miners thither. The suggestions of the commissioner in regard to this numerous people are practical and worthy of consideration. There can be no doubt whatever that so long as the great bulk of the Sioux are encouraged to occupy their present locations near the Red Cloud and Whetstone, or Spotted Tail agencies, and to roam at will over their vast reservation and west and northwest to the Big Horn mountains and to Powder river and the Yellowstone, they can make no progress whatever, and must be fed year after year by the government. The recommendation by the commissioner that the two agencies above mentioned be removed the Missouri river meets with my unqualified approval.

The removal of these agencies to the Missouri river, at some point or points between the mouth of the Cheyenne river and Fort Randall, will be hereafter determined upon, will result in greater economy and convenience of supply, and greater facility to restrain and coerce refractory Indians whenever the necessity arises. It will also locate them where there are arable lands, good water and abundance of timber and grass. I therefore suggest that the appropriations in future shall be made conditional upon this removal, and that none of the

supplies or annuities hereafter granted by congress shall be issued to these Indians, excepting at some point or points on the Missouri river, where those agencies shall be permanently located. If this suggestion shall receive the favorable action of congress, a proper location will be selected, and those agencies removed prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year.

THE BLACK HILLS PROBLEM.

The failure of the negotiations for the relinquishment of the Black Hills necessitates the adoption of some measures to relieve the department of the great embarrassment resulting from the evident determination of a large number of citizens to enter upon that portion of the Sioux reservation to obtain the precious metals which the official report of the geologist sent out by the government shows to exist therein. The very measures now taken by the government to prevent the influx of miners into the Black Hills, by means of the display of military force in that neighborhood, operate as the surest safeguard of the miners against the attacks of Indians. The army expels the miners, and, while doing so, protects them from Indians. The miners return as soon as the military surveillance is withdrawn, and the same steps are taken again and again. Some of the miners have been arrested by military officers for their imprisonment, and much embarrassment to both the army and the civil department is the result. The preliminary report of Professor Jenney, which accompanies the report of the Indian commissioner, in regard to the geological and agricultural wealth of the Black Hills, indicates clearly the great temptation held out to miners and emigrants, to occupy that country, and will greatly enhance the difficulties which have already surrounded the question of protecting the Sioux in their treaty rights to that territory. The opening of the next summer season will undoubtedly witness a great increase of emigration thither, and the question urges itself upon the attention of the department and of congress for early solution. It is true that the Indians occupy that reservation under the provisions of a treaty with the United States. It is also true, as a general proposition, that treaties should be maintained inviolate, and the Indians protected in their rights thereunder. But for two years the government has been appropriating about \$1,200,000 for the subsistence of the Sioux of various tribes, which amount is a gratuity that the government is under no obligations to give them, and for which it receives no compensating advantage. The amount thus appropriated is five per cent per annum of \$25,000,000, which the government is giving without an equivalent. This amount must be given them for some years to come, or they will starve. It is submitted, therefore, under these circumstances, for the consideration of congress, whether it would not be justifiable and proper to make future appropriations for supplies to this people contingent on their relinquishment of the gold fields in the Black Hills and the right of way thereto. It would be beneficial to the Indian service, in my opinion, and would tend to promote its efficiency, if the laws preventing the detail of army officers for civil service were so far modified as to allow their employment in the Indian service at the discretion of the president, in cases of emergency. Such a change would place at the disposition of the executive a corps of disciplined, intelligent officers, whose familiarity with the entire Indian country and the needs of the service would render them invaluable in an emergency such as has arisen during the present year, and such as is liable to arise at any time in the treatment of large bodies of wild Indians.

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H. N. CHAPMAN,
Yankton, Nov. 23, 1875.
H. O. ANDERSON.

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