

CURRENT NEWS.

WASHINGTON.

Reports received at the General Land-office in Washington show that, during the months of January, February, March and April last, as many acres were taken up as ever before in any single year, which indicates an unprecedented and encouraging increase in the volume of immigration.

A Republican Senatorial Caucus, held on the 14th, agreed to antagonize the passage of both the Army and the Legislative Appropriation bills as presented. The objection raised is to the Sixth Section of the Army bill, which it is claimed would prevent the use of troops for the enforcement of any law on election days in time of peace, and also that it infringed upon the Constitutional power of the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The restrictive clauses in the Legislative bill regarding judicial expenses are also declared objectionable.

The evidence before the Senate Committee in the Kellogg-Spofford case has closed, after the usual amount of hard swearing. Two of the colored men summoned as Spofford's witnesses, and who made affidavits in support of his claims, but finally testified in favor of Kellogg, are now on bail under charges of perjury made at the instance of Spofford's agent, Cavanac; and the principal colored agent for Spofford, has been arrested at the instance of some of the colored Kellogg witnesses, on a charge of subornation of perjury.

The House Committee on Elections have decided that the Iowa October elections were legal; that although the Constitution of the State was vague on the contested points, the construction placed upon it by the judicial and civil officers of the State was the best method of determining its meaning. Under this decision Messrs. Sapp and Carpenter will retain their seats.

It is reported that Price & Co., the contractors for the Mississippi River fast-mail service, having been unable to secure the necessary subscriptions to build the boats required, have notified the Department of their intention to abandon the project.

WEST AND SOUTHWEST.

The May report of the Memphis Exchange as to the condition of the growing cotton is generally favorable. The average increase of acreage is 2 1/2 per cent., and little or no loss of labor has been incurred through the Kansas immigration movement. The annual convention of the National Cotton Exchange of America meets in St. Louis on the second Wednesday of August, instead of July 16, as previously announced.

The cyclone in Butler County, Kansas, on June 9, was very severe. Mrs. Hawkins and her two children were blown a quarter of a mile and killed. A large number of persons were injured, some of them seriously. Thirty-seven farm houses were blown down and completely wrecked, and others were blown from their foundations. Growing crops were badly injured.

The Iowa Republican State Convention was held at Des Moines on the 11th. John H. Gear was renominated by acclamation for Governor, as was also Frank Campbell for Lieutenant-Governor. The remainder of the ticket is as follows: For Supreme Judge, J. M. Beck; for Superintendent of Schools, Carl W. Von Coellin.

The National Saengerfest at Cincinnati was inaugurated on the 11th with great success. There was a large attendance of Singing Societies from all parts of the country. The fight between the rival railroads running from Kansas City to St. Louis and Chicago opened in earnest on the 12th, when tickets were freely sold at the low price of one dollar from Kansas City to St. Louis, with a corresponding cut to Chicago.

Some months ago the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad of Colorado was leased to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Company. The former company are now seeking to regain possession of their road, on the ground that the provisions of the lease have not been complied with. In conformity with a writ of injunction against the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Company, issued by Judge Bowen of the Fourth District, on the 11th the Denver and Rio Grande took forcible possession of the road. At Pueblo resistance was made to the Sheriff's posse and a number of shots were exchanged and several men were wounded, one at least mortally. The Sheriff finally secured possession of the property. If the Denver and Rio Grande remain in possession, the line, which crosses the southern part of the State and controls a good portion of the trade of New Mexico, will be operated in the interest of the Jay Gould pool, including the Union Pacific and the Kansas Pacific, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe will be cut out of Denver. The suit involves the possession of 337 miles of road, several important mountain passes, and many million dollars of property. It will be fought strongly on both sides. An effort is now being made to remove the contest to the United States Court.

The Kansas Editorial Association held its annual session at Topeka on the 12th and 13th. There was a large attendance. An excursion to Chicago and thence to Mackinaw followed the Convention.

The Iowa Republican Platform takes strong ground upon the doctrine of Nationality as opposed to States' Rights; denounces the action of Congress and compliments President Hayes for his vetoes; approves Secretary Sherman's financial policy and opposes further tinkering by Congress with the finances; favors a tariff for revenue, a reduction in official salaries, and the submission to the people of a Constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage within the State.

While the convicts in the Huntsville (Ala.)

prison were marching to dinner on the 11th, six broke away. Two were shot dead. The others escaped.

James W. Jackson, colored, a postal-route agent on the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, has been detected in purloining money letters, and is now under arrest. He confessed his guilt.

Crop reports from Northern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania indicate about a two-thirds crop of wheat and about the same of oats. Corn will be almost a total failure, and the hay crop will also be very light. Potatoes, probably a fair yield. Fruits will be scarce, particularly apples.

A party of Black Hills emigrants from Mill County, Iowa, on the night of the 12th encamped on Beaver Creek, one mile from Buffalo Gap. A sudden cloud-burst flooded the creek and ten persons were drowned, viz.: Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Rhodes, Oliver Rhodes, and three of the Rhodes children, Frank Reed, besides four men, names unknown, who were encamped at the same place.

At Kansas City, Mo., on the night of the 14th, Mrs. F. G. Noonan was shot and killed by her husband under most distressing circumstances. During the night Mr. Noonan was awakened by his wife, who stated that robbers were in the house. He got up, seized a revolver, and went to a front room his wife following. Arriving there, his wife thought she saw a robber, and, uttering an exclamation, grabbed her husband about the neck. He became frightened, and thinking, in his excitement, that he had hold of a robber, fired, and his wife dropped dead at his feet.

The Kansas Pacific Railroad, after being for nearly three years in the hands of a receiver, has been transferred, by order of the United States Court, to S. H. H. Clark, General Manager of the Union Pacific Railroad, representing the Jay Gould interest.

The Republicans of the Fifth Iowa District have nominated Mayor Thompson to fill the vacancy in Congress made by the decease of Representative Clark.

At Hunter's Creek, Mich., on the Detroit and Bay City Railroad, on the morning of the 14th, Manly Stevens, Jr., a night-watchman in a saw-mill, went home and found John House in company with Mrs. Stevens. The infuriated husband shot the intruder five times through various parts of the body, shot his wife through the head, and then shot himself, also through the head, dying instantly. Mrs. Stevens and House were both mortally wounded.

Rev. Samuel S. Harris has accepted the Bishopric of Michigan, to which he was elected by the Episcopal Convention held recently at Detroit. Mr. Harris has been for some years the rector of St. James's Church, Chicago. He is about 38 years of age, of fine personal appearance, and stands high among the clergy as an eloquent preacher and able debater.

At Boswell, Ind., during a sudden thunder storm on the evening of the 14th, a large number of persons present at a shooting-match took shelter under a low lumber-shed. The shed was struck by lightning and two men were instantly killed and two fatally injured, and several others were badly stunned.

George R. Reynolds, the Salt Lake Mormon, convicted of bigamy under the United States law, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Detroit Penitentiary and \$500 fine. A strong effort is being made to induce President Hayes to grant a pardon.

Ball's School-house, in the northern part of Lancaster County, Neb., was struck by lightning a few days ago. School had just been called and the pupils were singing when the fluid descended the chimney and stove pipe. Miss Babcock, sitting near the stove, was struck and almost instantly killed. Ralph Babcock, a brother of deceased, had his right arm fearfully lacerated, and will be crippled for life. Of the 18 persons in the room, 12 were more or less injured. One end of the school-house was knocked entirely off and many of the desks were broken in pieces.

Charles E. Follett, General Passenger Agent of the Vandalla Railway, died in St. Louis on the 16th, aged 56.

The recruiting steamer Wachusett arrived at Pensacola, Fla., on the 16th, and was expected to be on her way up the Mississippi on or before 1st of July.

The young wife of Isaac Ashburn, who resided near Humboldt, Kansas, recently committed suicide by poison, and on the day she was buried the husband also committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. They had only been married six months, and it is said lived happily together until Ashburn's mother came to live with them and made things generally uncomfortable about the house.

Mrs. William Oliver, living near Campbellburg, Ky., on the 17th, in a fit of temporary insanity, killed her 12-year-old daughter by splitting her head open with an ax.

EAST AND SOUTHEAST.

A most horrible crime was committed in New York City on the night of the 10th. The wife of Dr. Alonzo J. Hull, a wealthy physician, residing at No. 140 West Forty-second Street, was found dead in her bed on the following morning. Her hands and feet were tied; she was blindfolded, and a gag was in her mouth. Her rings were stripped from her fingers. A trunk at the bedside was open and rifled of its contents. There was no clue to the perpetrator of the murder.

An immense destruction of petroleum and shipping occurred at Point Breeze, on the Schuylkill River, near Philadelphia, on the 11th, occasioned by a stroke of lightning which set on fire a quantity of oil, and the rapid spread of the flames lapped up a number of vessels taking on cargoes for shipment to Europe. The loss will probably reach \$1,000,000.

A gang of 10 convicts, at work in the construction of a North Carolina railroad, in Chatham County, on the 14th made a break for liberty. The guards promptly fired upon them, killing four and seriously wounding four others. Two escaped unscathed. Henry W. Blair is the Republican nomi-

nee for United States Senator from New Hampshire, which is equivalent to an election. He is about 45 years of age and served in the Forty-fourth Congress. Harry Bingham is his Democratic competitor.

The Fall River (Mass.) spinners, at a meeting held on the 14th, determined that after a 10 days' notice, unless their demand for a 15 per cent. increase was acceded to, they would inaugurate a general strike. The manufacturers are equally firm in their determination not to accede to the demands of the spinners, and say they will close their mills in the event of a spinners' strike, thus throwing out of work some 12,000 operatives.

The anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill was observed in Boston by a grand procession and a general suspension of business.

Dr. Vanderpoel, Health Officer at Quarantine, New York, says unless rigid quarantine is kept up there is a possibility of yellow fever making its appearance in New York. Two vessels with the disease on board, he said, were in the upper bay, discharging their cargoes.

John Moore, who grossly assaulted and then murdered Miss Woodward, on the 6th inst., near Wellford, S. C., on the 17th was hanged by a mob of 150 armed men, who rode into Spartansburg. The Jailer had removed Moore for safety, but the mob discovered his whereabouts.

FOREIGN.

The Emperor William's Golden Wedding was celebrated with great splendor at Berlin on the 11th. The whole city was joyfully decorated, and at night the banks of the Rhine were illuminated by big bonfires. There were in attendance, as guests of the Royal family, representatives from nearly every ruling family in Europe.

Fresh discoveries of the revolutionary propaganda in Russia continue to be made almost daily. One of the most startling is that of the discovery of a number of secret gunpowder manufactories at Tomie, in Siberia. It appears that these mills have been in operation for several months, and it is believed that large quantities of powder made by them have been distributed among the disaffected populace of this portion of the country.

The Prince of Orange, heir apparent to the throne of the Netherlands, is dead.

Reports have reached the Government of India of fresh massacres of royal Princes at Mandalay, prompted by the King of Burmah.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg states that the Governor-General of Moscow has found it necessary to extend martial law to five adjacent provinces.

The long-distance pedestrian contest for the Astley belt was begun at Agricultural Hall, London, on the 16th. Four contestants appeared—John Ennis of Chicago, Blower Brown of Turnham Green, R. Harding of Blackwell, and E. P. Weston of New York. Rowell, present champion, was unable to enter, on account of an injury to his foot. He therefore forfeits his stake and the belt.

A telegram from Rio Janeiro states that Gen. Goby has deposed the President of Paraguay and seized upon the Government.

The International boat race at New castle-on-Tyne, England, on the 16th, between Hanian, the American, and Elliott, the English oarsman, was won by the American easily by 10 boat-lengths.

De Lesseps announces that a first subscription of two million francs, in shares of five thousand francs each, has been made in Paris for his Panama Canal project. "It will now be possible," he says, "to obtain concessions and commence the undertaking."

Prof. Johann Karl Frederick Rosenkranz, the eminent philosopher, is dead.

GENERAL.

Returns to the Department of Agriculture indicate an increase in the area planted in cotton of somewhat over 2 per cent. The average condition is 93. It was 99 last year.

The average condition of the winter wheat for June is 90 against 98 last year. The acreage of spring wheat sown is about 4 per cent. increase over last year.

The Cincinnati Gazette is authority for the statement that the friends of Senator Zach. Chandler are determined upon pushing him for the Presidency.

The proceedings and findings of the court-martial in the case of Col. D. S. Stanley and Col. W. B. Hazen, of which Gen. Hancock was President, have been made public. The Court found Stanley guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and sentenced him to be admonished in general orders by the General of the Army.

The officers of James Gordon Bennett's Arctic exploring steamer Jeannette were entertained by the San Francisco Academy of Sciences on the night of the 16th. The 25th of June was the date set for her departure for Behring Straits.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

In the Senate, on the 11th, consideration was resumed of the McDonald bill to authorize the use of troops in certain cases, and to repeal certain election laws, and Mr. Hill of Georgia spoke in reply to a recent speech by Mr. Blaine. Mr. Blaine gave notice he would at another time reply to Mr. Hill's remarks. Mr. Beck, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back, with sundry amendments, the House Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, and said he would endeavor to have it taken up for action to-morrow. Ordered printed and placed on the calendar. In the House, Mr. Knott, of the Judiciary Committee, submitted the report of that committee on the Veto message of the President. Printed and recommended. The House then proceeded to consideration of the Army Appropriation bill. Mr. Clymer, member of the Committee on Appropriations, who had charge of the bill, made a brief explanation of it. Mr. Haw-thorne moved to reduce the maximum of the Army from 25,000 to 15,000. After debate it was rejected. Further discussion followed upon section 6, which provides that "no money herein appropriated shall be paid for subsistence, equipment, transportation or compensation of an army to be used as a police force at the polls." Debate being closed, the bill passed—yeas 174, nays 71. The negative vote was

The New Homestead Law.

Explains and Recites of United States District Land-office: GENTLEMEN: I have to call attention to the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act to grant additional rights to homestead settlers on public lands within railroad limits," approved March 3, 1879.

1. That act provides that from and after its passage the even sections within the limits of any grant of public lands to any railroad company, or to any military road company, or to any State in aid of any railroad or military road, shall be open to settlers under the homestead laws to the extent of 160 acres to each settler, thus doing away in this class of entries with the distinction between ordinary minimum and double minimum lands, or lands held at \$1.25 per acre and lands held at \$2.50 per acre, which had existed under sections 2280 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, so far as the double minimum lands may be found in even sections within the limits of land grants for railroad or military roads. Congress has not seen proper to embrace any double minimum lands which may be found in odd numbered sections or in the limits to grants for any other description of public works. It must be held to be inoperative in any case where the even sections are granted and reserved. You will observe the change in the law, as above noted, in future proceedings under the entries under said section 2280 of the Revised Statutes; observing, however, that the commissions are in all cases to be computed on the whole of the land under the third and twelfth subdivisions of section 2280.

2. The act further provides that "any person who has, under existing laws, taken a homestead in any even section within the limits of any railroad or military road land grant, and who by existing laws shall have been restricted to eighty acres, may enter under the homestead laws an additional eighty acres adjoining the land embraced in his original entry, such additional land being subject to entry, without payment of fees and commissions, and that "the residence and cultivation of such person upon and of the land embraced in his original entry shall be considered as residence and cultivation for the same length of time as if the land embraced in his additional entry, and shall be deducted from the five years' residence required by law," with the proviso, however, that in no case shall patent issue "until the person has actually resided conformably with the homestead laws, occupied, upon, and cultivated the land" embraced in his additional entry "at least one year."

Upon any party proposing to enter an additional tract under the provisions of this act, he will require him to make homestead application and affidavit, according to annexed forms, Nos. 1 and 2. You will then, if you find the original entry to be intact on your records, whether recorded or not, and if no objection appears in any record, and if the entry applied for, note the same on your records, indicating the proper number in the regular homestead series, and report it with your monthly homestead returns, indicating its character, and the original entry under said act on the margin of the original abstracts, with a reference to the original entry number and the description of the land. The money columns in the abstracts will of course be left blank, since there will be no fees and commissions paid.

In this class of entries the party, if still resident on the original entry tract, will not be required to remove therefrom to the additional entry tract in order to make a new residence on the latter, as the same will be regarded as satisfying the legal requirement, but in making final proof on the additional entry the party must show such residence, with occupancy and cultivation of the tract taken as additional under said act, for five years from the date thereof, less the time to be deducted on account of residence and cultivation on the original entry, which shall not exceed four years in any case that, if the person so elect, he may, instead of making an additional entry, "surrender his existing entry to the United States for cancellation, and thereupon be entitled to enter lands under the homestead laws the same as if the surrendered entry had not been made," with the same provisions, as regard fees and commissions not being required, and requiring settlement and cultivation, occupation, and residence, as have been already stated with regard to additional entries. In case of any party electing to surrender his entry under this act you will receive his relinquishment, which shall specify for what purpose made, and be accompanied by the duplicate receipts issued for the relinquishment, or by a statement under oath, showing a good reason for its absence, report the case in a special letter to this office, and await instructions before proceeding further in the matter. Existing laws will be observed as to the manner of executing relinquishments.

Very respectfully, J. A. WILLIAMS, Commissioner.

A recent review of Burmese troops is thus described by an eye witness: "The number of men drawn up on the parade ground was 5,000, including infantry and cavalry, in addition to which there were 85 elephants. The infantry looked like so many monkeys; for size and soldierly bearing they are utterly contemptible. The cavalry were mounted upon thin and puny ponies. The guns of the elephant battery were of no greater bore than the common English duck-gun. The Burmese were immensely excited over their warlike display; but it would be difficult to imagine any thing more ridiculous than such a sight to any one with the slightest acquaintance with the armies of Europe."

THE MARKETS.

Table of market prices for various commodities including BEEVES, SHEEP, COTTON, WHEAT, CORN, etc., with prices listed in dollars and cents.