

Las Vegas Gazette.

J. H. ROOGLER, Editor.

The Army.

By the report to congress, on the 15th of October, 1877, it was shown that the total strength of the army, at that date, including all arms, and those detached for the signal service, amounted to 22,308 men.

This number of men does not equal the losses, on either side, at the battle of Gettysburg, and yet, there was a long and furious debate, in Congress, over still further reducing the army to 15,000. This would be preposterous; as it is too small now, to be of any great efficiency, scattered as it is, in small detachments, all over the vast territories and frontiers of the United States. Our theory is, to have an efficient national army, or else none at all. If there was no army, or a substitute for an army, the people on the frontier would take measures themselves for protection against Indians and bandits; and they would do it much better than the few skeleton regiments of the regular army possibly can. But if the general government intends any protection to the frontiers, let it make proper provisions for it. The cost for 50,000 men would not be much greater than for an army of 20,000. The pay, rations and clothing for the enlisted men is but a very small part of the cost of maintaining the army. It is the immense distances intervening between the posts, and the great cost of transporting troops and supplies, which makes the expense of the army large, and that expense will be about as great for 20,000 as 50,000 men. The cost of the army, however, is not the true reason of the hostility to it, in congress. The true cause of the opposition is, that for the past few years there has been an attempt to use it in the Southern States, for partisan purposes, in sustaining a certain class of State governments, and in overturning others. From this base use, to which it has been put, a strong, but improper feeling has cropped out against the army itself. This is not right; a respectable army should be provided, and in case congress has a fear of it, such legislation should be enacted as to prevent the executive from using it for partisan purposes. That is the true and proper policy.

Railroad Signs.

We go by signs now, and speculate a little upon probabilities. "Hope, which ever springs, Exulting on triumphant wings," also figures as an element in our cogitations. We hope for the construction of about two railroads, to Las Vegas, and note carefully every indication, which would seem to realize such a proper desire. The Colorado papers, north of Trinidad, as a general rule, do not furnish many items, knowingly or willingly, relating to future railroad construction in New Mexico; but now and then they unwittingly stumble upon facts which, properly combined, indicate speedy and important railroad movements in this Territory.

One fact is, that the surveyors of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe company are evidently rushing the surveys through. Mr. Robinson, chief engineer, arrived here last Sunday, and left on Monday, for the scene of work, in the south. We saw a diagram of the route, between this point and Anton Chico, made by Mr. Morley, and sent to Mr. Robinson. It is as straight as a bee can fly, and the latter gentleman states, that a buggy can be driven over it all the way. That is well, as from that point southwest, we are pretty confident, the surveyors will find no trouble.

Another fact is, that the railroad company is figuring on the possibility of obtaining some local aid from Trinidad, in consideration of extending the road to that point. If the road is built to Trinidad, it will not be long until it is extended to Las Vegas.

Other facts are, that W. B. Strong, the superintendent for the construction of the road, has arrived at Denver; and that the Southern Pacific company have extended their survey from Yuma, as far east as Tucson.

All these signs give us a premonition, that the hunt is about up, and that a southern transcontinental route will be an accomplished fact, within two years from date.

The failure of the pasture in California and consequent loss of sheep will be of benefit to New Mexico in two ways. First by causing many herds of sheep to be brought hither from California, and secondly by increasing the price of wool, as it eventually will. The number of sheep which have died and which have been slaughtered in that state the past summer has been very great. It has given such a back set to wool growing on the coast that it will hardly recover its former importance as a leading industry of California. Sheep raisers will turn their attention to the more permanent pastures of New Mexico and Western Texas; and the next five or ten years, we may expect to see our plains stocked up to their capacity with fine grade herds. The climate and pasture are in our favor, and time will prove it to be the best wool growing section of the United States.

Driving sheep across the Colorado Desert, from California, has not proven successful, in several instances. Parties have started with herds, numbering 5,000, and in a stretch of 80 miles, without water, have lost in two days all but 1,000 head. Other parties have, however, driven through with the loss of but a few hundred. This difference must be owing to the manner in which the sheep are driven. These animals will do without water a long time, if driven slowly; but if hurried up and overheated, they can not stand a long drive without water. Drivers, on such a desert, are liable to become excited and whoop the herd along, thinking to get them to water; but, in fact, are killing them; by the hurrying process. Go slow, on a long drive, is the best policy.

Miss M. Lina Pierce, of Denver has been elected a member of the Denver Typographical Union.

The season at Long Branch is to be extended two weeks. This to give parties time to send home and make out new mortgages.—*Free Press.*

A Milwaukee editor says George Sand may have died from strong coffee, but there has been no mortality from that cause at his boarding house.

Somebody says: "Every failure is a step to success." This will explain why the oftener some men fail the richer they become.—*Norristown Herald.*

The beach at Galveston is the largest and broadest in the world, extending twenty-five miles, fronting the unbroken tide of the Gulf of Mexico on the south and east.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The President today nominated Benjamin F. Peixoto, of California, for United States Consul General at St. Petersburg, and John L. Lynch, postmaster at Salt Lake.

"Well, here we are again," was Ben Butler's smiling salutation to the democrats on the floor of the House on Monday, and they said, "We are very glad to see you."—*Wilkesbarre, Pa., Times.*

How and where prairie dogs in their villages, far away from rivers, get water, was not found out until recently, when Mr. F. Mercer, a frontiersman of experience, learned by observations that dogs dig their own wells. Each village has one with a concealed opening. He knows of one 200 feet deep, with a circular path or staircase leading down to the water.

Exchanges Itemized.
We see from the *Mesilla News* that the U. S. district court, judge Warren Bristol presiding, was in session last week, in Mesilla.

The same paper gives the following distances, along the military telegraph line, from Mesilla to El Paso:
From Mesilla to old Fort Fillmore, 143 poles, 5 2/3 miles; from Fort Fillmore to Water Holes, 65 poles, 2 2/5 miles; to Jackson's Ranch, 252 poles, 10 1/2 miles; to Scott's Ranch, 77 poles, 3 1/2 miles; to Canutillo, 141 poles, 5 3/5 miles; to White's Ranch, 170 poles, 6 4/5 miles; thence to El Paso office 138 poles, 5 1/2 miles. Total 986 poles, or 39 1/2 miles; being a saving over the distance by the main road of 14 miles.

In the election in Doña Ana county, for representative, Juan B. Patron has 275 votes; judge Florencio Gonzales 41, D. Frieze 17, and there were about a dozen more scattering.

The *Mesilla Valley Independent* has the following:

Captain C. D. Beyer, who has just returned from El Paso, Texas, reports that the rioters there have quieted down, and that indications are favorable to the storm having blown over, for the present. Other gentlemen, who came from San Elizario during the week, state that some of the leaders of the mob endeavored to get their followers together, on Wednesday last, for the purpose of forcing the payment of \$12,000 from some of the San Elizario merchants. The leader, Leon Granillo, could rally no more than forty-five, or fifty, men to his standard, and he gave up the attempt in disgust.

We are informed that it is contemplated to send one, or two, companies of U. S. troops, from New Mexico, to Fort Bliss, or somewhere in that vicinity, and while we would regret to lose any troops from the Territory, at present, we regard the movement as being a wise and necessary one. Troops are not only wanted in that section to restore domestic peace, but to guard our exposed frontier, which, in case of a war with Mexico, would be entirely unprotected, for several hundred miles.

Angora Goat Raising.

Gilmore, of the Gilmore Soda Springs, seven miles from Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe, is a very successful breeder of Angora Goats, a flock of 2,700 of which animals he has at his place, at the head of Fallen Leaf Lake, two miles from his springs. In all he has over 3,000 of these goats, some 400 being at a ranch below Placerville. At this ranch all the animals are herded in the winter. He crosses the Angora with the common goat, and continues to breed in and in, until the proper length of fleeces is obtained. At the first crossing, the wool produced is short, and the fleece light, but finally the staple becomes long and fine, and the fleece heavy, the weight being five or six pounds for each animal. The short wool sells to manufacturers in the Atlantic States, at sixty-five cents per lb., while the long is worth ninety cents to \$1.20 per lb. Mr. Gilmore finds no difficulty in rearing the goat, on his mountain ranches.—*Virginia (New) Enterprise.*

"Miller & Lux are said to have 700,000 acres in all, in California, an area nearly as great as the State of Rhode Island. There must be at least 400,000 acres in one body, running a strip ten or twelve miles wide, and sixty miles long, from Hill's Ferry outward. The canal farm is, therefore, a very small proportion of it. It is covered with farm houses as well equipped, in all respects, as the canal farm. They own about 80,000 head of cattle, and last year their new-born calves numbered 25,000 head. Of sheep they have a vast number, as well as of hogs, and they furnish the largest share of fresh meat for the San Francisco market. They can start a herd from Kern county and drive it through to San Francisco, and have good pasturage, on their own land, for the cattle to feed on every night on the route."—*Stockton Independent.*

President Hayes asked Spotted Tail to knock off his war-dancing and go in for more civilized recreations. Imagine old Tail in a boot-jack coat flopping around to the strains of the "Blue Danube," his legs slinging like two sticks of cord-wood fastened with wires, and then fancy him peking out his fin to his partner, as he leads her to a seat, with the remark, "Ugh! vewy hot, you know; don't admire this sort of thing so much; ugh!"

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Administrator's Notice.

The undersigned having been appointed by the Hon. Probate Court of San Miguel County, New Mexico, administrator of the estate of Samuel John, deceased, hereby notifies all persons in whom said estate is indebted to present their accounts for settlement within sixty days, and all persons indebted to said estate are hereby notified to settle immediately and this notice costs.

YETTA KOHN, Administrator.

LOUIS SUZBACHER, Administrator.

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Administrator's Notice.

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