

The New North-West.

JAMES H. MILLS, PUBLISHER.

The Russian Ministers, Prince Gortschakoff and Prince Orloff have resigned. Reports from the Sierra Nevada say that the cross-cut had passed through the porphyry and re-entered rich ore.

The October yield of precious metals on the Pacific coast is estimated at \$3,550,000, the highest month's yield for years.

Murphy, the temperance reformer, is holding meetings in New York and is meeting with much success.

A dispatch from New York says the remains of A. T. Stewart have been found, and of the five principals in the affair, four are now in custody. The leader remains to be captured.

The Louisville Courier-Journal defends itself in the following style: "And now that the jig is up, let us hear no more of this Greenback dumphoolism which came so near upsetting the Democratic hay-cart in so many Congressional districts."

A Court of Inquiry is to assemble at Chicago on the second Monday in January to inquire into Major Reno's conduct at the battle of the Little Big Horn, in June, 1876, at which time General Custer was killed.

As will be seen by a dispatch published in another column Charles W. Angell, the absconding secretary of the Pullman Car Company, has been captured in Portugal.

The Howard Association, which has been so actively engaged during the recent pestilence in the South, was formed in New Orleans 25 years ago, during the prevalence of the yellow fever at that time for the purpose of providing medical treatment, nurses and provisions for the sufferers.

Keamey has gone back to San Francisco. Two influences are said to have occasioned his return—the opposition expressed at his wedding with affairs in the east, and the sudden appearance of dissections in the Workingmen's party in San Francisco—some "slimy nip of hell," presumably, having taken advantage of his absence to undermine his power, so he decided to give up the fight in the east and return and save his prestige and power in California if possible.

It seems that not only the sovereigns of Europe but also the higher officers of the different powers are in danger. A dispatch from Fesh says that on Tuesday night, while the Prime Minister was entertaining Count Andrássy and members of the delegation, a bomb exploded between a theater and the Minister's palace.

Since the coinage of the trade dollar was authorized by law, about \$35,000,000 have been turned out by the mints, of which nearly \$25,000,000 are known to have been exported to China, and most of the balance are presumed to be in circulation in the United States.

The Specie Resumption Law. New York, Nov. 22.—The Tribune's Washington correspondent thinks that from all that can be learned from every source it is believed the following will be the essential points of the resumption program.

1. United States notes will be redeemed at the New York sub-treasury in gold or silver coin, at the option of the holder, without limitation as to the amount.

2. Legal tender notes of special issues of large denominations will be delivered in place of gold certificates, and there will be no further issue of gold certificates.

3. Holders of notes who prefer gold instead of silver will obtain gold, and the treasury will not force upon the holder of notes the kind of legal tender coin that is not desired.

4. That the legal tenders, even without the enactment of any law affirmatively authorizing it, will be everywhere received for custom duties.

5. That silver dollars will be exchanged for legal tenders or National bank notes in multiples of \$1,000 at any sub-treasury or National bank which is a United States depository; the expense of transportation to be paid by the mint. This is the plan which was inaugurated in September, but was suddenly discontinued on the ground that there was no authority of law to exchange silver for legal tender notes until after January 1, 1879.

6. That perhaps arrangements will be made at sub-treasuries other than at New York to redeem legal tender notes in coin within ordinary limits and as the interests of the place demand, but not in large sums.

Indian Commissioners' Report. WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The Commissioner of Indian Affairs in his report urges the consolidation of the tribes as recommended by the predecessor, limiting the reservations to nine in number and thereby restoring to the public domain 17,643,455 acres of land. He thinks most of the Indians in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona may be removed to Indian Territory, and the Klamath Indians to Taklma reservation, Washington Territory, whether the Bannocks and Malheurs will be immediately sent.

Events on the Policy. New York, Nov. 19.—The Tribune's Washington special says Secretary Everts, in a review of the political situation, states there is to be a thorough enforcement of the law in the South. He says the attitude of the President is in reality the same now as it has been. He has been disappointed however in the fact that the assurances of Southern leaders have not been kept, and he now intends to prosecute those who have violated the rights of citizenship. Everts regards the future of the Republican party as very bright.

The Stupid Embassy. New York, Nov. 18.—The Times' Washington special has the following on the Chinese Embassy: "They are a stupid set, nearly every member of the legation studying English; and the work of acquainting themselves with the institutions and workings of the Government appears to be systematically divided among them. It is right every noon in the house is lighted to the fullest extent of its gas jets, but no one knows precisely why. Lately they have put out their flag."

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The proposed transfer of the management of the Indians from the Interior to War Department, which has been urged for some time, and which we believe a large majority of the people in the Territories would be glad to see consummated, will come before Congress in the session which is to commence next week.

A Congressional committee, appointed at the last session, has been taking testimony and is soon to report. Believing that both the country and the Indians would be advantaged by this transfer, and that the report of the committee would be favorable we had anticipated the transfer would be made this winter.

Recently, however, and unfortunately we fear, a new element has been introduced into the proposition. It appears the Military District and Department commanders in the Indian country, or some of them at least, have in their annual reports to their superior officers devoted a portion thereof to statements concerning the Indian service as now administered by the Interior Department.

These statements were of such a nature that Lieutenant-General Sheridan in endorsing the reports and in making his own to General Sherman reflected seriously upon the integrity of the Interior Department at the head of which is Secretary Schurz.

We do not know whether the Secretary, before this came from the War Department, was favorably or unfavorably disposed toward the proposed transfer. We would have supposed the Interior Department would regard it favorably as it would lift from one of its most burdensome, onerous and thankless duties, did not the War Department show by its eagerness to accept the trust that it is considered by those who would have to bear its responsibilities and perform its duties a most valuable adjunct of power and a desirable thing to have.

Certain it is, however, now that the integrity of the Interior Department as administered by Mr. Schurz by the highest army officers, the former will in self-defense, if for no other reason, adopt the proffered gift of battle and not only fight to establish its integrity but to defeat the transfer. Should the Interior Department now content itself with merely clearing its record of the imputations made and permit the Indian Bureau to be taken away it would feel that the verdict of the country had been a variation of the oft quoted Scotch one—"Not proven; but we won't let you do it again."

We think for several reasons the Army has made a serious mistake in that it has taken part in this matter at this time. It would have been more becoming to have permitted Congress to decide upon the transfer without army intervention. It would not have evoked the intense hostility of a powerful Department with a skilled and sagacious leader at its head.

And finally the Army has been made a party to a time when the Indian service was more honestly administered than ever before since the Bureau was instituted. It has been the ambition of Secretary Schurz to exterminate dishonesty from the Indian service, and so far as Montana is concerned, and we believe it is one of the most important districts, he has succeeded. We ask Montanians to consider that which perhaps few have given a thought to: When, ever before, have our Agencies been so free from the stench of corruption as during the past two years? Who of our Indians make complaint, and who of them give trouble? Although our Territory has been traversed in every direction by hostile armies to our tribes, and our Agency has been made almost as much one as another.

If we have any dishonest agents now it is a few years ago not in the air as it was a few years ago until the people carried the laws that seemed utterly inadequate to punish an agent though he stole even a reservation. There is but one instance that we know of where charges are made against an agent—that of Agent Frost of the Crow Agency. And so sensitive has been Secretary Schurz of the integrity of the service, that he did not await the action of the courts but suppressed him forthwith. We have no reason to doubt that as active efforts have been made everywhere to purify the service. Therefore it seems to be a most inopportune time, an unpropitious and an invitation of disaster to a much desired consummation for the Army to act at this time raised the issue with the Interior Department.

The transfer has strong arguments in its favor aside from that of honest administration. One of the principal ones is that the branch of service whose duty it is to suppress hostilities would be responsible for the treatment that brings on or prevents hostilities. There would, we trust, be a livelier sympathy and more unity of feeling in case hostilities did occur than exists now between the military and civil service. The "squaw men" who infest the Agencies, and who are of the greatest evil that exist about the Indian country, and soldiers with wives have the subordinate positions. The officers in charge would be men whose reputation is their fortune, who are amenable to regulations, disciplines, systems and courts in which technical evasions of responsibility are not encouraged, and they would not go in and out with short lived administrations or at the behest of fickle political or church influences. The present administration is honest; but what might the next one be? The Army is always the same. Its officers are appointed for life. They are assumed to be and should be competent, educated men, of administrative ability and business habits, and active employment would be better for them than the dangerous idleness of the barracks. If the Army is honest to-day it will be just as much so ten years from now. These are some of the considerations for which we advocate the transfer. We trust that it would be accomplished, but if anything would defeat it the Army has adopted the very means to accomplish it and we are inclined to believe it will achieve an unhoped for victory.

ENGLAND'S WAR. England has a war at last, and with an old enemy. Afghanistan is valuable to England as a strategic point separating the southern aggressions of Russia from the English dependencies in India. It has a population of 2,000,000 square miles and a population of five to ten million people. Since the English occupation of India, England and Russia have endeavored to purchase, prostrate or compel the friendship of Afghanistan to strengthen their frontier, and with varying success, the three chieftains of that mountainous stronghold coquetting in turn with each and making and breaking alliances as best subserved their purposes or necessities. It has been Russia's ambition to reach a southern sea; England's policy to defeat it. Russia recently achieved its point by war with Turkey and was robbed of it by diplomacy at Berlin. Pending this England and Russia were each negotiating with Shere Ali, the Ameer of Afghanistan, to secure his friendship.

There Alie had remained isolated and semi-hostile to each for years, but having rejected the British with great ostentation, England then endeavored to procure his acceptance of a British Embassy headed by

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It is believed Russian intrigues brought about this war, and it is not impossible on the assurance that Russian men and money would support it. Should it so result the contest will be stupendous and protracted. It is in a land remote from European powers and there will scarcely be a plausible pretext for interference. If Russia sustains the Ameer England can never subdue him. Even left to fight single handed it is doubtful if the English can subjugate the Afghans. England tried it from 1839 to 1842. In 1839 a column of 13,000 soldiers and 40,000 camp followers crossed the Indus to fight the Afghans under Dost Mahomed, the father of Shere Ali. For a time they were successful but the final result was worse than the French retreat from Moscow. Only one Englishman of all the army occupying Afghanistan in 1842 escaped the slaughter that terminated the campaign and reached the beleaguered fortress of Jelalabad. So at best it is no light war England has undertaken unless insurrection and revolt can be engendered among the tribes and clans subject to the Ameer. The earlier successes are of no practical importance. As the country is penetrated the obstacles are increased and the wild fiercest mountain clans will gather to dispute the way of the British will mark every mile of advance or retreat with British graves.

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