

THE TOMAHAWK.

"Truth before Favor."

VOL. 1. WHITE EARTH, BECKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, NOV. 27, 1903. NO. 35.

The TOMAHAWK.

GUS. H. BEAULIEU - - - Publisher.

White Earth Agency, Minn.

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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER devoted to the interests of the White Earth Reservation and general Northwestern News.

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THE TOMAHAWK WHITE EARTH, MINN.

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AFTER BEAULIEU'S PAPER.

Secretary Hitchcock Believes Gus is Stirring Up the Indians through His Editorials.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Ethan A. Hitchcock, secretary of the interior, is very much exercised over editorials attacking the Morris law in Gus. Beaulieu's paper, THE TOMAHAWK, published at White Earth, Minn., and it is understood that he has, or will, seek legal advice as to whether its publication cannot be suppressed.

Beaulieu has great influence with the Indians and his paper has been widely circulated among them. His editorials has been rather hot in tone, and it is understood Secretary Hitchcock believes they are largely responsible for the excitement and unrest among the red men which has been reported by Major Scott, Indian agent at Leech Lake.

Secretary Hitchcock's Ire.

The secretary of the interior is hot under the collar, so to speak, according to a Washington special to the Minneapolis Journal, because our editorials regarding the Morris act do not meet with his views, and for this reason he is going to suppress the TOMAHAWK it is alleged.

For the information of the secretary, we will say that a similar attempt was made in 1886, to suppress the "PROGRESS" when we first entered the field of journalism, but the United States circuit court said nay, and the "Progress" was published several years or until it died a natural death.

We doubt, however, if the secretary will repeat such a high handed outrage as to attempt to suppress a newspaper merely because its policy does not suit him, and also, because of our criticisms of a law that is, in our opinion, an outrage to the interests of our people.

We claim to have a sufficient knowledge of law to keep within its pale, and we also know our rights under it.

Whether the secretary likes it or not, we will continue to call public attention to any injustice which may be done to the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota under the Morris act or any other law.

This is a privilege granted to every newspaper by the Constitution of the United States, and we intend to use it whenever we deem it necessary, and especially when the Chippewa Indian interests are concerned.

It seems inconsistent with the liberal republican principles of the day to believe that the threat of "suppressing" or "muzzling" the TOMAHAWK and of bringing heap lots of trouble on the devoted head of its publisher should have emanated from so high an official source as the Hon. Secretary of the Interior and, because the TOMAHAWK ventured to advocate, on rational grounds, what it thought to be

right and wrong in certain legislation affecting the interests of the Chippewas, and this on the lines of truth and justice.

It is gratifying to learn, judging from the many congratulatory letters received and the tone of the public press generally, that any attempt to abridge the liberty of a free press and free speech will find no responsive chord in public sentiment and conviction as to the policy of the TOMAHAWK and the cause it advocates is far from being a forlorn hope.

It would be a grave error for the interior department to suppress Gus. Beaulieu's paper, the TOMAHAWK, at White Earth reservation. Of course it may be necessary to take the Indians down and hold them, while robbing them, but they ought to be allowed a mouth-piece for protests.—Annandale Advocate-Post.

We have not red the "hot stuff" that Gus has been putting out, but this is suppose to be a free country and it does not seem probable that the department will attempt to put a curb upon the TOMAHAWK's utterances. We are living in the United States—not in Czar ridden Russia.—Detroit Record.

CHORD FOR CHORD.

Secretary Hitchcock is after Gus Beaulieu and his "TOMAHAWK," published at White Earth, on account of his vigorous attack upon the Morris law, blaming this action of Beaulieu's to a great extent for the present disaffection among the Chippewas. This is not the first time that Gus has made trouble for himself in a newspaper way, for about twelve years ago the government squelched another journalistic enterprise of his launched at the same place and likewise branded a nuisance.

Some individuals, like Baalem's ass, never seem to acquire sufficient sense or knowledge to cease their discordant braying, especially about matters that does not concern them and of which they know absolutely nothing. And that's what is the matter with the egotistic charlatans who seem possessed with a morbid anxiety of airing the insignificant contents of their rattling pates in the indulgence of deprecativie vituperation against the Indian, his friends and his cause.

If the knowing editor of the dozen and 1 towns had taken the pains to have informed himself before he proceeded with his "mud slinging" against the TOMAHAWK and its publisher, he would have discovered that the Progress, which he alludes to as having been "squelched," was not suppressed.

On the other hand in a suit in the district court of Hennippen County Minn., we beat the Department and secured a judgement against the then agent of the reservation. After this the Progress continued to do a glorious work, for the Indian (Chippewa), for upwards of two years and thereby establishing, beyond question, that the White Earth reservation was a part of the United States, that its people were human beings, American citizens and entitled to the respect, immunity and protection of the laws thereof!

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ATTACK MORRIS LAW.

Indians Will Bring a Test Case Against Interior Department.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Chippewa Indians now in Washinton, will enter suit late today or tomorrow to restrain the secretary of the interior from selling timber on the reserved portion of Leech Lake reservation. This action on their part will certainly delay the sale of timber advertised for December 28, and it may cause a postponement of all logging operations on the ceded portions of reserves as the suit involves the construction of the whole Morris law.

The particular point made in bill of complaints is that the Indians have been deprived of a valuable portion of their land and timber by the act passed last year without the consent of the Indians and in violation of the Nelson act of 1889, in which the ownership of the Indians was recognized and to which they had consented. Other minor causes for declaring the law inoperative are assigned in the bill.—Minneapolis Journal.

The actions of the secretary of the interior in putting the Morris act into operation before the Indians gave their assent to it may be illegal—at least this has been our impression, and it is quite probable that the question of the validity of the secretary's action may yet get into the courts.

The Nelson act, which the Morris law amends, provides that two-thirds of the male adult members of the Chippewa bands of Minnesota to the former act is necessary before it can become a law. This provision is still a part of the law, and the Morris act did not effect it. In view of this it would seem necessary that the assent of the Chippewas to the Morris amendments would be necessary before they become operative, and on this ground we believe the matter will be submitted to the United States courts before any sale of timber takes place.

The Indian; Right and Wrong.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that ALL MEN are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these, are LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"—Declaration of Independence July 4th, 1776.

UNWARRANTED PROCEEDINGS.

A report from Leech Lake brings the information that Agent Scott caused the arrest of William Lyons, a member of the Mississippi reservation by Indian police, for the alleged forging of Indian names to a petition which he was circulating among the Indians against the Morris act.

Lyons, in an affidavit, sets forth that the arrest was made simply for the purpose of preventing him from going to Washington with the petition, and that the agent, who favors the act, made threats against him which lead him to abandon his purpose of going to Washington.

One of the privileges of a people, guaranteed by law, is the right to gather together and petition the government for a redress of wrongs or for any other purpose, and if Agent Scott has interfered with this privilege, Lyons should hold him to account.

CONSTRUCTION TO BE "LIBERAL"

Lumbermen Score in the Matter of Refuse Lumber.

General Land Office Sends a Word That No Hardships Will Be Imposed in the Matter of Removing Debris From Ceded Indian Lands When Sold and Cleared.

Washington, Nov. 20.—The contest over the question of the requirements to be insisted upon in connection with the lumber operations on the ceded lands of the Chippewa reservation has ended in a decision by Acting Commissioner Fimple of the general land office favorable to the contention of the lumbermen, and materially modifying the regulations governing the burning of debris.

The importance of this decision rests in the fact that the claim was made not only by lumbermen who are expecting to bid on several hundred million feet of Indian timber at the two sales on Dec. 5 and 7, are convinced, as are also the department officials, that by insisting upon the absolute and immediate destruction of all refuse such as tops, limbs, stumps and rejected logs, which result from the operation of removing the timber, would have the effect to cause the timber to be sold at probably an average of \$4 per thousand less price than it will bring under the modified regulation.

The claim was made by the lumbermen and the experts of the department that it would be practically impossible, without great expense, to destroy immediately anything except the smaller refuse and tops, and that the destruction of stumps and rejected logs, if the requirements were for immediate destruction, would necessitate the using of dynamite and oil to make a complete job of the destruction of the trees.

The regulations are in conformity with the forestry policy of the government, and are intended to so completely remove the debris, following lumbering operations, that there would be less danger of the spread of forest fires in the dry season of the following autumn.

In his decision rendered to-day the acting commissioner says that the removing and burning of refuse will be reasonably constructed and liberally administered by the department and no further removals or burnings will be required than are actually necessary to prevent forest fires.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The above article is one of the early Washington specials, but since the above date it seems that the whole of the Morris law is to a halt, and at this time we cannot very definitely tell the outcome of the fight and opposition which the Indians are making.

"The Tomahawk."

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