

The TOMAHAWK.

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THE TOMAHAWK
WHITE EARTH, MINN.

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Dan'l B. Henderson, Att'y.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW.

LATE LAW CLERK, LAND DIVISION, INDIAN OFFICE.

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White Earth, - - - Minn.

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JOHN LEECY Prop.



The above cut is that of chiefs Wah-we-yea-cumig and Red Blanket. The former is seated at the right. He is the chief of the Mille Lac Chippewas, and removed to this reservation this week from Mille Lac with his family. Red Blanket is seated at the right, and is the chief of the Bear Island Chippewas.

SURE THING!

A vast amount of pine timber was sold here last Saturday and it is presumed that on the 28th inst the balance advertised to be sold will go the same way and for good prices if the forestry intermeddlers are deprived of their plunder. At prices offered at the last sale it is prudent to estimate that the Indian fund will be augmented by at least fifteen hundred thousand to two millions dollars. The sales made last Saturday were not upon lands attempted to be set apart for forestry purposes and the rules governing timber cutting on the reserve will not apply. It is generally understood that this pine must be cut and removed within five years, but the order enforcing such rule is only an executive order and a change of head of the Interior department opens the door to the lumbermen for another order, annulling the one referred to. We wager a big red apple that ten years, perhaps more will elapse before the commercial pine around Cass Lake will be all removed. The lumbermen are not asleep, they know their rights and will maintain them.—Cass Lake Times.

ME-GWATCH STEENERSON.

Congressman Steenerson is taking unusual interest in Indian matters; that is to say, he is trying to give the Indians the rights to which they are entitled without prejudicing other interests. He does not say to the Indians; you have no rights which the government is bound to respect, but has said to the chiefs "I wish to hear your views". This is an unusual proceeding for a congressman, and is a pleasant surprise to the Indians.

Before he left for Washington he invited the principles chiefs of Red Lake and White Earth to visit him at Crookston, to learn from them under what conditions they would agree to cede some of their surplus lands and what legislation they desired most.

We predict for Mr. Steenerson a useful career in congress for both his white and red constituents, and that as far as he is able to shape legislation it will be from the standpoint of a lawyer and not that of a mere politician.

"THE KETTLES AND THE POT."

Ed. Warren, in an interview at Cass Lake with a correspondent of the St. Paul Dispatch, takes occasion to severely criticize the "lumbermen and their allies" for opposing the Morris Act, and enters into a matter in relation to Major Scott that is new to us. We assume that the "allies" referred to include all those who are opposed to the act.

Some of the lumbermen whom Ed. criticises were his associates in the recent "dead and down" frauds, and his utterances now in favor of a measure which takes from the Indians not less than half a million dollars worth of land and timber without providing for any compensation for the same, has not the ring of sincerity and unselfishness which is usually discernable in an honest wish. A man who was compelled to pay seven thousand dollars for Chippewa timber he cut in violation of the trespass laws of the United States, and this while he was acting as a deputy United States marshal, cannot now put on a pious mein and express indignation towards the "allies" who sought to protect the interests of the Chippewas against the inequities of the dead and down timber operations, without being reminded that his motives are still under suspicion.

Ed's indignation, of course, has no connection with the eight dollar a day job under the act which he so strenuously defends, and which position, according to his friend Bernard and from our personal knowledge, he is entirely incompetent to fill. Nor is this indignation caused by the fact that he has been recently appointed as the custodian of the forest reserve created by the act, and for which he will receive a salary of one hundred dollars per month. Ed. Warren is noted for protecting one Indian's pine and other interests, and this is all he is seeking to do now.

In regard to that portion of the interview which refers to Major Scott, we have never heard that the latter has been charged with dishonesty in connection with the Morris Act. But the TOMAHAWK did take him to task for making insinuations in an interview with the Duluth News Tribune in which he reflected against the honesty of the motives of those who are opposed to the act, and for causing the arrest of a member of the tribe who was circulating a petition among his kinsmen protesting against its forestry provisions.

Ed. is undoubtedly trying to work Major Scott, and it will remain to be seen whether he will succeed with his transparent flattery or not.

Signs of Life.

Under the Morris law the Indians are to bear the expenses of cutting and banking the timber sold, how much will be left for the Indians when the expense bills come in and a balance is struck? It may be a balm to the nerves of some of the schemers to think that the government will not allow the Indians to be cheated, but the pine bidders knew just what they were about, they knew that the law compels the Indians to do the work of cutting and hauling and their bids were based on that condition.—Cass Lake Times.

DOWN TIMBER.

And Reservation Sentiment.

The sentiment on this reservation is all in favor of the adoption of Agent Michelet's recommendations that the pine timber which was blown down last fall on this reservation should be cut under a plan which is similar to the Menominee system.

At the urgent of the chiefs made last October, the agent investigated the report that a large amount of pine timber had blown down by the big wind storm which swept the northern part of this state during the past summer, and he made a report to the interior department regarding the same, and in which he also recommended that the timber, in order to prevent its become waste, should be cut immediately and sold for the benefit of the White Earth Indians.

There was some misunderstanding among the Twin Lakes Indians regarding the recommendations of the agent, but at the councils held during the past week, this was all explained to their satisfaction, and by a unanimous wish of the council a telegram was sent by the chiefs to Congressman Steenerson asking him to urge the department to accept the agents recommendations.

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.

A BLOATED GOVERNMENT.

"The government of the United States is too rich. It does not know what to do with its money. Anxious members of congress are all the time trying to contrive what to do with the cumbersome surplus of \$200,000,000."—Minneapolis Tribune.

By the way, the government has owed the Chippewas of Lake Superior and the Mississippi over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, exclusive of any interest, for over fifty years, under treaty stipulations.

Since congress does not know what to do with the surplus of the government, it should appropriate a sufficient amount of this surplus to liquidate the claims of the Chippewas against it.

St. Louis Exhibit.

During the past year we have seen some very fine bead and needle work by Indian women of this reservation. We have also frequently seen in the past some fine specimens of handiwork by some of the old Indian carvers that is hard to beat.

In this connection we would suggest that some of the enterprising members of this reservation should take some steps towards getting up an exhibit for the St. Louis Exposition among not only the Indians on this reservation, but of the several Chippewa reservations in this state.

We believe that if this matter was properly looked after, an exhibit could be secured which would be a great credit to the Indians.

HARD TO CIVILIZE.

A. C. Wright, inspector of Indian schools, in an interview with a reporter of the St. Paul Globe says, that Minnesota Indians will be the last of their race to civilize. As there are no other Indians in this state but Chippewas the inspector undoubtedly refers to them. He also says they are as wild now as they were fifty years ago.

If Mr. Wright's conclusions are not any more correct than his pronunciation of Hiawatha, he cannot be regarded as authority on the subject.

If Mr. Wright knew the conditions which existed among the Chippewas in this state less than twenty five years ago, he would not make such reckless statements regarding them as he evidently did to a Globe reporter.

Twenty five years ago there were not to exceed half a dozen full blood educated Chippewa Indians in this state, and today more than half of the Indians under thirty years of age can read and write in English. Besides this all the Indians were then dressed in the garb of their forefathers, and on this reservation there is only one Indian out of nearly five thousand who still retains the old manner of dress, namely; old chief Wadena.

On this reservation there is hardly a child of school age who is not attending school, and this is the case on all the Chippewa reservations in this state except the Boisforte reservation and at Mille Lac, and even a great many of the Boisforte and Mille Lac are attending school.

We look for a complete wiping out of the Indian communities, within ten years by absorption by white communities, and by contact with the whites' civilization if not completed by that time will immediately follow.

HIAWATHA.

Recent discussions, and Indian school inspector Wright's interview with the St. Paul Globe reporter last Sunday, relative to the proper pronunciation of the name Hiawatha, lead us to advance our view regarding the subject.

If the name Hiawatha was intended by Mr. Longfellow for the compound Chippewa word of "hah-ye-wah-sah" which translated is; Oh! a great distance, then it should be pronounced as spelled by us.

In the Chippewa legend of Wain-nah-bozho, which was the basis of Longfellow's famous poem, and with which legend we are familiar, the name Hiawatha does not once appear.

It may be that in selecting a title for his poem the name of Way-nah-bozho was not as acceptable to Mr. Longfellow's poetical taste as the word hah-ye-wah-sah, and that he accordingly substituted the word for the name. Unless this is the case Hiawatha, in our opinion, should be pronounced as spelled. Everyone to his taste, however, and as we have been pronouncing it "hah-ye-wah-sah" with the accent on e, on the assumption that it is the Chippewa word of "Oh a great distance" we will no doubt find it difficult to conform with the new pronunciation which has been adopted by the public schools, and will continue to pronounce it "hah ye wah sah".

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