

Minnesota Times

NEWSON, MITCHELL & CO. OFFICE-TIMES BUILDING, SAINT ANTHONY STREET.

THE WEEKLY TIMES is published every Tuesday, and furnished at \$2 per annum in advance.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1855.

REPORT OF J. ROSS BROWNE. We give our columns to-day to the Report of J. Ross Browne, the secret agent of the Government, who visited our Territory some months since.

The War Eagle arrived yesterday forenoon. She left Galena Sunday afternoon and was detained at Lake Pepin, Monday night, in consequence of a storm.

The steamer City Belle, Capt. Lodwick, arrived at our levee early yesterday morning. She left Galena Saturday evening, and reports the river on the rise.

UPWARDS OF 5,000. From a close estimate we think we can safely say, that upwards of 5,000 emigrants have reached our shores since the opening of navigation.

RIOT IN CHICAGO. We learn from a gentleman who came up on the War Eagle, that quite a riot was in course of progress in Chicago, when he came through.

FIRE NEAR IANCA. We learn from Mr. Geo. H. Oakes, that a fire occurred near Ianca last week. A house, barn and several out-buildings were destroyed.

NEW DRUG STORE. Messrs. Wolff & Steever, two young men from Philadelphia, will open in a short time a Drug Store, in the room formerly occupied by Wm. Brewster, in Third st.

A GERMAN PRESS. We learn from Mr. Spiel, who has just returned from the East, that a gentleman in Chicago contemplates starting a German Press in this city in a few weeks.

The Blackhawk, crowded with freight and a large number of passengers, left for St. Peters yesterday. This snug little craft is doing a fine business.

SEVENTY TEARS. A gentleman from Sauk Rapids informs us that he counted on the road between St. Anthony and Sauk Rapids, seventy emigrants.

SWINE. We presume there is a law to prevent swine from running at large in our city. Last summer hogs were a great annoyance to pedestrians, but we hope this summer they will be removed.

CLEAN UP. Summer is coming—clean up! Nothing conduces so much to health as cleanliness. Remove the filth from your stores and dwellings—scrub out the dirt in the streets—put on a new sidewalk and tuck, and look respectable.

THE SNEELING HOUSE. This establishment is now crowded with strangers. Mr. Bissell knows how to serve up a good dish.

An effort was made in New York to hold two of the instigators of the murder of Poole to bail in the sum of \$20,000. It was unsuccessful. Others were held to bail in the sum of \$10,000 and \$20,000.

The Reserve Lands—Report of Mr. Browne.

HON. R. McCLELLAND, Secretary of the Interior. SIR.—On the 11th day of September last, that portion of the Fort Snelling Reserve lying on the left bank of the Mississippi river was offered at public sale under proclamation of the President, a copy of which is hereby transmitted.

In a letter dated the 18th of September, the Register and Receiver of the Land Office at Stillwater, notifies the Commissioner of the General Land Office of their belief in the existence of a combination, which prevented said lands from being sold for more than the minimum.

It is provided by the 4th section of the Act of March 3, 1854, regulating the sale of public lands, that if any person or persons shall before or at the time of public sale of any of the lands of the United States, bargain, contract or agree with any other person or persons to purchase or persons shall not bid, contract or agree with the land offered for sale, or any parcel thereof, or shall by intimidation, combination or unfair means, induce any person or persons to bid upon or purchase any tract of land so offered for sale, every such offender, his heirs, or their executors and abettors, being thereof convicted, shall be fined every dollar, or imprisoned not exceeding two years, or both at the discretion of the court.

Under the provisions of the act of August 16th 1854, reducing the limits of the Fort Snelling Reserve, the limits of the Reserve on the left bank of the Mississippi, which lands are not subject to pre-emption claims.

The act of March 3, 1854, securing the government of the right to the public lands, provides that "preventing possession or making settlements on any lands sold or offered to the United States, not previously sold or the claim which has not been recognized, or persons causing lands to be surveyed, or to be surveyed, until authorized by law, forfeit their right."

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The pretension that the settlement of the country is advanced by unfair management of this land, is entirely unfounded. It is a well known fact, that the lands were so well furnished with weapons for the prompt punishment of any offender. Had there been no combination, and no unfair management, there would doubtless have been less harm done. Where the conflicting interests were so important and speculation was at its height, it would not have been singular had there been several breaches of the peace, under a system of free competition.

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In view of these considerations, I cannot but believe that it is due to the public and to the preservation of the integrity of national legislation, that an investigation of all the facts and circumstances connected with the settlement and sale of the lands within the Fort Snelling Reserve should be instituted; and that all patents for these lands now pending in the General Land Office, should be suspended until an official report can be made upon the subject, accompanied by the necessary testimony.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, Your obedient servant. J. ROSS BROWNE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1855.

MINNESOTA POLITICS.—Minnesota politics are a conglomeration of the most incongruous elements to be found in the West. There are so many factions and cliques here—so many diverse views so many avenues of temptation, and such a great party to over-reach and accumulate wealth, that party and personal bitterness are engendered, and all sorts of tricks and falsehoods are resorted to, to defeat and injure one another.

In a letter to the editor of the Democrat, enclosing a copy of the letter of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, of February 24, on the subject of this sale, Mr. H. M. Rice, the Delegate from Minnesota, states that "the sale is virtually confirmed," and "congratulates the hardy pioneers of Minnesota" upon the result.

It is gratifying to the speculators whose names appear in the list above, are the pioneers to whom the land was sold, and to the people who exist to my personal knowledge, associations of persons throughout Minnesota interested in the purchase of government lands at the minimum price, and bound by a solemn compact to carry into effect the will of the members.

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