

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1857.

The report of Gen. Floyd, Secretary of War, is an able document. It shows the necessity for an immediate increase in the army, which at present consists of fifteen regiments divided into ten of infantry, four of artillery, two of dragoons, two of cavalry and one of mounted riflemen, the whole strength of the army as posted, consisting of about 19,684 men, the actual strength on the first of July last being 15,764. In addition to the movements which the troops have been called on to make this year this force is called upon to garrison sixty-eight forts of a large and permanent character, so far as it is possible to supply men for the purpose, and to occupy seventy posts, less permanently established, where the presence of a force is absolutely required. The area over which these forts and posts are spread embraces a circuit of about 3,000,000 square miles. For the proper occupation of these posts the military supervision of the external boundary of our country, the protection of the double line of Indian frontier extending from the Lake of the Woods to the banks of the Rio Grande, on the east side of the Rocky Mountain, and from beyond the river Oregon on the British frontier to the head of the Gulf of California, on the western slope of these mountains, and the protection of the great lines of intercommunication between the valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean, the Secretary recommends the raising of five additional regiments.

The army has been very actively and constantly engaged in the performance of arduous and important duties. In view of the menacing attitude of affairs in Utah, and the importance of a prompt and thorough suppression of the spirit of rebellion reigning there, the Secretary repeats his recommendation of five new regiments, which he considers the smallest addition to the army which the exigencies of the service will allow. A number of defects in the organization of the army are pointed out, and improvements suggested.

The route from El Paso to the Colorado, designated as the most eligible route for the railroad to the Pacific, it being the shortest of all yet surveyed, and possessing the advantages over the others of grade, climate, distance across the deserts, and a sufficient abundance of water; but the construction of this project, freed from all other difficulties, would require immense sums of money and a great length of time.

Meanwhile, it is recommended that at least two other routes for the passage of emigrants and the transportation of military stores, which, if the railroad was built, these routes would still be necessary to make accessible vast regions of our country, be at once opened and maintained, and a line of stackade posts established along them, to insure the safe and rapid transportation of the mails and perfect protection to telegraph lines from one ocean to the other, which latter object would be best secured by the route to the country than the other, which is the shortest and the expense of maintaining them.

The military explorations and surveys are progressing satisfactorily, and every day is adding new and important facts to our present stores of knowledge of the geography and general character of the country lying between the valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific ocean. Two expeditions have been fitted out expressly to explore tracts of country hitherto wholly unknown. The first was sent to the north-west, beyond the waters of the Upper Missouri, towards the "Black Hills," and will, no doubt, bring valuable information; and the other is engaged in exploring the Colorado of the West, of which at this time nothing scarcely has been accurately known. The Secretary hopes that this exploration will result in discovering the best means by which the transportation of army stores can be effected to the interior of New Mexico and Utah.

The importance to the public service of establishing a national foundry is again impressed upon Congress. The Secretary says on this subject:

"A well managed national foundry would very speedily develop and establish facts which would add immensely to our national wealth. It is scarcely to be credited that with the infinite variety of iron ores and their boundless extent in the United States, we should not have yet discovered a mine capable of making the very best gun, or of such such discovery, that there are no means by which the public service can be benefited by it; but such is the fact.

"A national foundry would serve as a great laboratory at which the qualities and value of metals throughout the whole confederacy would be tested and fixed. Every variety of iron, with its special adaptation to particular use, would, in a few years, be familiarly known to the country, and in dival enterprise would be saved in experiments many times the amount which the works would cost, whilst a great national branch of industry might, by this means, receive a legitimate and efficient encouragement.

There is but little doubt that many American iron ores are equal at least to those of Norway, and yet the national armories are driven by necessity to purchase from abroad the Norwegian iron for the manufacture of small arms. Choosing to have the best quality of arms, we must go abroad for the best quality of iron. A national foundry would soon teach us to improve the manufacture of iron, and we would be saved the mortification of bringing iron from abroad, and the money, too, we have to pay for it. The cost of heavy guns would presently be diminished, and their quality would be undoubtedly, very materially improved. It therefore appears to me that every consideration of sound policy and economy demands the establishment of a national foundry, which I accordingly respectfully recommend.

The Secretary's views are gradually but certainly advancing towards completion, and when finished will constitute a system of maritime defenses formidable in extent and of great magnitude. It is considered that the harbor of New York will be impregnable from any attack from the sea when the fortifications now in progress are finished.

The remainder of the report is devoted to the result of experiments on arms, &c.—The Secretary accounts for the very heavy expenditure in the quartermaster general's

business by the extent and character of the country over which the operations of the army have extended.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The report of Gen. Denver, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, concurs in the views of his predecessor, that our Indian policy has two radical mistakes: First, the lands assigned to them are entirely too large; secondly, the payment of large annuities. The former prevents the Indians from acquiring settled habits; the latter causes them to foster a feeling of dependence and habits of idleness, exposing them to the wiles and machinations of inhuman traffickers in ardent spirits, unprincipled gamblers, and greedy voracious traders and speculators. No more land ought to be given; no more annuities should be paid; they should not be allowed to lease or sell their lands except to members of their own respective tribes, and their annuities should be used for the erection of schools and mechanics' shops. Especially they should be relieved of the presence of worthless idlers and vagrants of their own tribes whose wild habits and roving disposition preclude them from settling down quietly and orderly.

Little information has been obtained respecting the actual condition and feeling of the Utah Indians towards the United States, but it is believed by the head of the department to be generally hostile. The report recommends the investigation and final settlement of the claims for supplies furnished the Indian service in California in 1851 and 1852, for which a special appropriation was made by Congress in July, 1854. The necessity of speedily coming to some settlement with the Indians in Oregon and Washington Territories is also strongly enforced by the Commissioner. He represents the state of our affairs in those Territories as exceedingly critical, owing to the non-ratification of our treaties with the different tribes.

The Commissioner suggests the propriety of acquiring from the Cherokee 800,000 acres, on which the whites have already made settlements entirely against the law, and which the Indians are willing to dispose of. The colonization of the Texas Indians on the reservations set apart by that State is progressing favorably. The Indians in New Mexico are beginning to have some understanding and appreciation of our power and resources, and the necessity of their preserving peace with one another and with the whites.

The Superintendent of California reports that "universal peace prevails among the tribes throughout the State," and that the progress of the reservation is such as to meet the warm friends of the Indians could wish for. Among other facts, he states that the Nona Locke reservation raised over ten thousand bushels of wheat, and that the work was done by Indians, having only two white men as overseers.

A most reprehensible practice has prevailed to some extent in California of kidnapping and selling in Indian children.—Only few persons acted thus inhumanly, and the voice of the people has unanimously denounced it. The malefactors were punished according to the requirements of the law.

The New York Indians continue to improve, generally adopting agricultural and mechanical pursuits, and even the habits and customs of the whites.

By treaties concluded in July and August, 1855 the Indians in Michigan were relieved from their obligation to remove west of the Mississippi river; they received limited but sufficient quantities of land, held by them in severalty, and ample means for educational purposes.

The Menomonees and Stockbridges, of Wisconsin, under advantages similar to those enjoyed by the Indians of Michigan, are gradually preparing themselves to be admitted as citizens of the United States. The Indians in Minnesota are doing well.

A portion of the Indians at the head waters of the Missouri were severely scourged by the smallpox, losing by that malady 20,000 souls.

Treaties have been made with the tribes west of Missouri by which the title of these Indians to all lands owned and claimed by them, except such portions as were reserved for their future homes, was extinguished. Thus 13,658,000 acres were acquired for occupancy by our citizens in Nebraska and Kansas, whilst 1,312,000 acres were reserved for the use of the Indians.

The Indians on the Upper Arkansas and Upper Platte, with the exception of the Chayennes and Kiowas, have been quiet and peacefully disposed during the year. The Chayennes were in open hostility, and though chastised by our troops commanded by Col Sumner, are not yet sufficiently subdued.

The reports in regard to the four great south-western tribes, the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws and Chickasaws, are very favorable. They have regularly organized governments and laws, well suited to their condition and circumstances.

The tribes in the southern superintendency have for some years suffered of drought, but the present season was very abundant, and they have ample supplies of all necessities of life.

It is expected that the Seminoles will soon remove and settle within the district assigned them in the treaty of 1856. A delegation of Seminoles will soon visit their brethren in Florida to induce them to emigrate to their own new homes.

The tribal lands of the Wyandots, at the junction of the Missouri and Kansas rivers, were divided among them, giving to each soul about 40 acres.

During the past summer a treaty was made with the Pawnees which is calculated, if approved by the Senate, to place these restless and lawless Indians in a settled condition, where they can easily be controlled.

THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE REPORT.

The General Land Office report shows an aggregate of public lands discovered during the five quarters ending September 30, 1857, of a little over twenty-one millions of acres. Of this, the proportion granted to Alabama and Minnesota for railroad purposes, pursuant to the act of Congress, is about five millions. Of nearly thirteen millions of acres sold and located, it is calculated that about three-fourths were taken for actual settlement. The falling off under this latter head since the previous report is more than six millions of acres, and the cash receipts have diminished in a still larger proportion. These facts are accounted for by the large grants made to railroads during the last Congress, the reduced prices fixed by the

graduation act, and the additional lands placed at the disposal of the States, under the swamp improvement and other grants.

Of the twenty-four millions of acres granted since 1849 to railroads in different States, (ten States and one Territory,) nearly twenty-one millions were disposed of by the last Congress. The bounty land warrants to officers and soldiers granted since 1847 cover nearly fifty-four millions of acres, of which about thirty-eight have been located. Under this head there are still awaiting location about fifteen millions of acres.

The views of the commissioner touching the policy of the government in the disposal of the public domain favor the interests of the actual settlers; and oppose any policy that would allow a monopoly in the hands of speculators.—Upon this subject he uses the following language:

"The wisdom of the pre-emption policy is no longer the subject of controversy—it is established by the history of every neighborhood and settlement throughout the west. This is said in full view of the fact that many fraudulent pre-emption claims are established by invasion and perjury; and that such will be the case even under the most diligent administration of this and the local offices, especially during the periods such as that through which we have recently passed, where the spirit of speculation has possession of the public mind.

"But this class of cases, when compared with the great body of honest claims made by men living upon the lands, is too inconsiderable to weigh against our policy. The title to the lands should pass immediately from the government to the men who are to cultivate the soil. So far as it may be avoided, the speculator should not be allowed to intervene. With view to uniform practicality in the system, important amendments of the pre-emption laws are recommended."

The report shows an activity in our surveying operations, during the five quarters ending September 30, 1857, beyond that of any preceding period—and that the quantity of new lands now liable to be disposed of exceeds, by many millions of acres, the surveyed lands of any former period.

On the Pacific slope the surveys have been pushed with extraordinary rapidity; upwards of 80,000 miles have been executed in California at the expense of a million of dollars.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.

SENATE.—Mr. Seward submitted a resolution, which lies over, directing the joint committee on printing to inquire and report whether any new provisions of the law are necessary to secure the faithful performance, on the part of Congress, of existing contracts which provide for accurate reports of the debates of the two Houses of Congress.

Mr. Douglas gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill at an early day to enable the people of Kansas to form a constitution and State government, preparatory to their admission into the Union.

Mr. Foot gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill making grants of public lands to actual settlers. The Senate then went into executive session.

After the Senate came out of executive session an adjournment took place until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker appointed Mr. Smith, of Virginia, Mr. Grow, and Mr. Taylor, of New York, Messrs. Micals and Smith, of Tenn., and Messrs. Morse and Dowdell the committee authorized to be appointed to examine into the subject of the public printing, and report such reforms as they may deem advisable.

On motion of Mr. Banks, the Speaker was authorized to appoint the standing committee; and, in order to afford him an opportunity to do so, it was resolved that when the House adjourns it will be to Monday.

On motion of Mr. Warren, a committee was ordered to be appointed to report when the new hall can be occupied.

Mr. Dowdell offered a resolution requesting ministers of the Gospel residing in Washington alternately to open the daily session of the House with prayer.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, presented petitions against the employment of chaplains by the government, on the ground of its unconstitutionality. A debate resulted, during which, in reply to the question, it was stated that various ministers had tendered their gratuitous services.

Mr. Stevens, of Georgia, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, providing for the distribution, among the new members, of the books heretofore ordered to be printed.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

SAMPSON FAIR.

The third annual exhibition of the Sampson County Agricultural Society was, according to the Clinton Independent, a triumphant one, excelling the former exhibitions in the number of articles exhibited by more than one hundred.

There were in all over five hundred and twenty articles registered at this fair, and in the stock department we notice a fine display.

Mr. R. Holmes entered the largest number [20] of articles by one individual. The collection of cattle was very fine and were exhibited principally by W. A. Patton, M. J. Peason, E. J. Peason, J. R. Bennett, Thos. Ashford and Wm. Ashford. Several others exhibited fine stock, but in smaller numbers.

The largest hogs on the ground were exhibited by W. Williamson, E. Peterson, C. T. Stevens, S. Peterson and Allen Williamson. These hogs were of mammoth proportions.

A specimen of paper made from the Chinese Sugar Cane was exhibited by Mr. David Murphy of Cumberland. Mr. John Moore, of Clinton, had two snakes, caught

in his lot, which he handled at pleasure, and would thrust them in, his bosom or about his neck with impunity.

L. A. Powell had the largest yield of Corn on one acre—111 1/2 bushels.

A. O. McKeehan, of Fayetteville, exhibited a very superior Buggy, a specimen of his work. Floral Hall was beautifully embellished by the hands of the fair daughters of Clinton, and filled with the neat and tasteful handwork of the ladies of Sampson and the adjoining Counties. The Clinton Female Institute contributed largely to this department.

A live swan, captured in Sampson County by a son of Curtis Thompson, was a most curious sight.

Mr. Houston's address is highly spoken of, and showed that he was well acquainted with the history of Agriculture. It was replete with sound sense, and his audience, numbering full three thousand persons, listened attentively for an hour. The weather was fine and everything passed off pleasantly and to the satisfaction of all.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

List of Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Thirty Fifth Congress

SENATORS.

MAINE.—Wm. Pitt Fessenden, Hannibal Hamlin.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—John P. Hale, Daniel Clark.

VERMONT.—Jacob Collamer, Joseph P. Smith.

MARSHALLS.—Henry Wilson, Charles Sumner.

RHODE ISLAND.—John D. Bacon, Philip A. Simons.

CONNECTICUT.—Lafayette S. Foster, James Dixon.

NEW YORK.—William H. Seward, Preston F. Smith.

NEW JERSEY.—William Wright, John R. Thompson.

PENNSYLVANIA.—William Bigler, Simon Cameron.

DELAWARE.—Martin W. Bates, James A. Bayard.

MARYLAND.—James A. Pearce, Anthony Kennedy.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—R. M. T. Hunter, James M. Mason.

NORTH CAROLINA.—David S. Reid, Asa Biggs.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—Josiah H. Evans, John H. Hammond.

MISSISSIPPI.—Robert Toombs, Alfred Iverson.

LOUISIANA.—Clemens A. Clay, Jr., Benjamin Fitzpatrick.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MAINE.—John M. Wood, Charles J. Gilman, Nehemiah Abbott, Freeman H. Morse, Israel Washburn, Jr., Stephen C. Foster.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—John Pike, Aaron H. Cragin.

VERMONT.—E. P. Walton, Josiah S. Morrill, Homer E. Royce.

MARSHALLS.—Robert B. Hall, James Buffinton, William S. Dannel, Linus B. Comins, Anson Burlingame, Thomas C. Durant, Samuel P. Banks, Chauncey L. Knapp, Eli Thayer, Calvin C. Chaffee, Henry L. Dawes.

RHODE ISLAND.—William D. Boylston, Nathaniel D. Drayton.

CONNECTICUT.—Ezra Clark, Jr., Samuel Arnold, Sidney Dean.

NEW YORK.—William A. Washburn, John A. Searing, George Taylor, Daniel E. Sickles, John K.ely, William K. Mcclary, John C. Edwards, Elijah Ward, Horace F. Clark, John B. Huskin, Ambrose S. Murray, William E. Russell, James L. Adams, Abram B. Olin, Erasmus Corning, Edward Dodd, George W. Palmer, Francis E. Spinner, Clark B. Channing, Robert B. Morse, Orasmus B. Matteson, Henry Bennett, Henry C. Goodwin, Charles B. Hoard, A. M. F. Hoard, Edwin B. Morgan, Emory B. Pottle, John M. Parker, William H. Kelsey, Samuel G. Andrews, Judson W. Sherman, Silas M. Burroughs, Israel T. Hatch, Reuben E. Fenton.

NEW JERSEY.—Isiah D. Clawson, George R. Robbins, Joseph L. Adams, John Hoyler, Jacob R. Wortendyke, George W. Jones, John Y. Wright, Edward J. Morris, James L. White, Henry M. Phillips, Owen Jones, John Hickman, Henry Chapman, J. Giancy Jones, Joseph E. Roberts, John C. Kanck, William L. Dewart, Paul Leily, William H. Dimmick, G. J. A. Crow, Allison White, John A. Abt, Wilson Rieley, John R. Edie, John Corvode, William Montgomery, David Richie, Samuel A. Purviance, Isaac N. Morris, William Steadley, Thomas L. Harris, James L. Gillis, John Dick.

MISSISSIPPI.—George E. Fugh, Benjamin F. Wade.

KENTUCKY.—John B. Thompson, John J. Crittenden.

TENNESSEE.—John Bell, Andrew Johnson.

INDIANA.—Graham N. Fitch, Jesse D. Bright.

ILLINOIS.—Stephen A. Douglas, Lyman P. Thibault.

MISSOURI.—James L. Green, Truman P.olk.

ARKANSAS.—William K. Sebastian, Robert W. Johnson.

MICHIGAN.—Charles E. Stuart, Zachariah Chandler.

FLORIDA.—David L. Yulee, Stephen R. Mallory.

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WILLIAM G. Whately, FRANCIA P. Blair, Jr., Thomas L. Anderson, John B. Clark, James Craig, Samuel H. Woodson, John E. Phelps, Samuel Caruthers.

VIRGINIA.—Moses R. H. Garnett, Alfred B. Greenwood, John S. Milson, Adward A. Warran, John S. Calkins, William A. Howard, Henry T. Waldron, Paul M. Joseph, DeWitt C. Leclerc, Charles J. Faulkner, John Letcher, Sherrard Clemens, Albert G. Jenkins, Henry A. Edmundson, John H. Egan, George W. Hopkins.

NORTH CAROLINA.—Samuel R. Curtis, Timothy Davis, Thomas Ruffin, Warren Winslow, Lawrence O'B Branch, Carl C. Washburn, John A. Glines, Charles Billingshurst, Andrew M. Scates, Burton Crigge, Charles L. Scott, Thomas L. Clingman, Joseph C. McKibbin.

MINNESOTA.—William W. Kingsbury, Oregon.—Joseph Lane, New Mexico.—Miguel A. Otero, Utah.—John M. Bernfield, Washington.—Isaac I. Stevens, Kansas.—John C. Fremont, Nebraska.—Fenner Ferguson.

FOREIGN GOLD AND SILVER COIN

THEIR VALUE AT THE MINT.

Austria—Quadruple ducat.....\$9 12

Ducat.....2 27

Sovereign (of Lombardy).....6 85

Baden—Five Gulden.....2 45

Bavaria—Ducat.....2 27

Belgium—Twenty-franc piece.....2 89

Twenty-five franc piece.....2 40

Bolivia—Doubloon.....15 58

Brazil—Piece of 6400 reis.....8 72

Britain—Sovereign.....4 84

Bruswick—Ten Thaler.....7 89

Central American.....14 80

Ecudo.....1 87

Gold Dollar.....83 5

Cliff—Doubloon (before 1835).....15 57

Doubloon (1835 and since).....15 66

Denmark—Double Fred. or 10 Thaler.....7 80

Ecudo—Half doubloon.....7 89

Mexican—Doubloon, average.....15 57

Netherlands—Ducat.....4 92

Ten guilders.....15 00

New Granada—Doubloon, 21 carat standard.....15 51

Doubloon, 21 carat standard, including the silver.....15 71