

**THE CHEROKEE FREEDMEN.**

**Scenes Attending the "Payment" At Old Fort Gibson.**

Ten days ago there was a little town twenty miles west of Tallahassee, the capital of the Cherokee nation, called Fort Gibson, but today Tallahassee is twenty miles east of the largest, busiest and most interesting city of the whole Indian Territory—the city of Fort Gibson. From a dreary little village of 500 inhabitants in a week it has grown into an excited little city of 6000 population. The cause of this sudden and unusual increase in the population of Fort Gibson is the Cherokee freedmen payment now in progress there. Eight hundred thousand dollars is being disbursed to the original slaves, and their descendants once owned by the Cherokee Indians, their share in the moneys received in the sale of the Cherokee strip lands in 1894. During the civil war, when the Cherokees freed their slaves, a treaty was entered into by which it was stipulated that these freedmen should be endowed with all the rights of Cherokee citizens and should hold the land in common with them. Hence, in 1894, when the Cherokee Strip was sold these freedmen claimed a share in the proceeds realized. To this proposition the Cherokees objected, but after extended litigation it was decided by the Court of Claims that about \$800,000 should be paid to the Cherokee freedmen. The separation of families and the mixed-up family relationships incident to a people so recently slaves caused the census-taking to be a slow and difficult task. But the official roll finally got through the office of the Indian Department and bears the names of over 4500 colored beneficiaries, making each share worth \$188.74.

In consequence, there is found assembled at Fort Gibson dinkies of all shades, sizes and previous condition of servitude. Most all come in wagons, bringing tents and provisions to last until the payment is over. Fort Gibson is a city of tents, of new white canvas tents, leaky maulin tents, little "A" tents and "big tents" of the circus variety. This white city, with its colored denizens, together with the hilarity and merry-making common to all such negro gatherings, makes the scene one of interest.

But the colored brethren are not the only ones who have emigrated to Fort Gibson. There are others—numerous, diverse and sundry others, who have an eye on the \$800,000 and are present in person. A little army of collectors, armed with bills for groceries, clothing and banjo strings, furnished these freedmen on credit, in anticipation of this payment, stand eagerly watching the distribution of checks, and consequently, realizing the scarcity of banks in Indian Territory and the trouble the beneficiaries might suffer in getting cash, a band of public-spirited financiers from neighboring cities patiently endure the hardships of camp life and are prepared to cash the freedmen's checks for a mere pittance, usually ranging from 15 to 25 percent the full value. Owing to the identification papers required by all, the guardianship papers and letters of administration frequently needed in drawing the shares of minors, a large number of gentlemen armed with a copy of Blackstone and the "Congressional Record" a bright new seal and a few sheets of paper, sit in their tents, look wise and give advice, thereby reaping many golden shekels. But the greatest agent that has made Fort Gibson the one town of Indian Territory is the fakir. Fakirs, hundreds of them, are in evidence. Fakirs of all kinds, from the man who pulls teeth without pain and without price, and who dispenses the elixir of life at reduced rates, down the line of standard fakirs to the Hebrew individual who peddles green spectacles in gold frames. The colored man with the desire for entertainment and the price for the same has no difficulty in satiating his morbid desires. There are canvas shows of every variety from the kind which exhibits for a silver dime the Circassian lady from South Omaha, who eats ticks and handles deadly serpents, to the greatest show on earth in the big tent with three counterpoles.

It would be folly to attempt to hold such a big gathering of colored people without music, and the entertainment committee, knowing the colored man's weakness, has provided ample for his wants, so that about 11 o'clock, when every thing is wide open, a strange mixture of melody strikes the listener's ear. "The Sidewalks of New York," from the barrel organ at the merry-go-round, gets mixed up with the "Sunshine of Paradise Alley" from the instrument in the shooting gallery next door, and both trail the leading lady in the vaudeville performance across the street. But the most interesting places of amusement, to the average sightseer, are the dance halls. Every old empty building in town with a floor in it nightly resounds to the tripping of the light fantastic. Here is where the colored young man is strictly at home at all hours. The buildings are poorly lighted, the floor is rough and the orchestra is composed of but a violin, a cornet and a guitar, but the music that proceeds from them is the same that echoed from "the quarters" "before the war," and the average colored feet can not keep still. Here it is that the young oon in the loud-checked suit, with his "steady" decked in ribbons and clad in garments of noisy hue, cut pigeon wings and do fancy steps that would make Lola Falser turn green with envy.

The stringent laws against the introduction of intoxicants into Indian Territory keep drunkenness down to a minimum, and "hop ale" is the strongest drink that the law will stand, but occasionally an individual is found burdened with a load of valley tan, who finds the sidewalk a puzzle and who longs to whoop things up. It is in good form in Indian Territory to always appear in so-

**THE KODAK CAN LIE.**

**For Instance, It Can Transform a Small Fish into a Big One.**

The amateur photographer who is also an angler is well aware that his camera will back him up when boasting of his piscatorial prowess. One photo I saw represented a huge fish, the length of which appeared to equal that of a 2 foot rule, which was also shown. In reality the "take" was a little dace, or carp, and while being photographed it had been held very close to the lens. The rule, of course, was taken some distance away.

One of my authorities was once engaged by both sides in a law case. A company, which I will call the City Lands Improvement company, wanted to establish a certain cut leading from Lombard street to King William street and were willing to establish in its stead a passage through one of their own buildings. The company's plea was that the cut was a dingy, not to say dirty, one, and, furthermore, that it was haunted by looters of questionable character. Counsel for the other side, representing the city, maintained that the passage was well lighted and eminently respectable. Photographs were handed in from both sides. The first photo showed a narrow, disreputable looking alley, strewn with rubbish and fallen boarding. The other picture, however, showed the cut in dispute to be a fairly broad, well lighted city thoroughfare, frequented by merchants of thriving appearance. These photographs were taken for the benefit of the jury, but the matter was necessarily settled.

Here is another case: The Shuttle Machine company vacated their premises in Cheapside, and another sewing machine dealer moved in. In order to trade upon the established reputation of the company the second tenant left the old name on the windows, and over the door, but added the word "late" in very minute characters for his own protection. The Shuttle company, vexed with the change, engaged a photographer to take a view of the offending shop front from a tailor's window opposite. When this photograph was produced in court, it was handed to the presiding judge with a powerful glass, whereupon his lordship was able to perceive that what appeared to the eye to be a mere ornamental dash was in reality the protecting word "late." The photographer himself, by the way, was not aware of this. The aggrieved sewing machine company secured an injunction. —Strawd Magazine.

**A TOUGH PIECE OF HUMANITY.**

The Animated Old Snag Against Which an Insurance Company Has.

This is the way a man named Gaines of St. Peter, Minn., got the better of an insurance company: Many years ago Mr. Gaines insured his life for \$5,000. After many years of payment of \$90 a year premium, at the age of 70 years he asked the officers of the company how much they would pay him to cancel his policy. They offered him \$2,000. He refused to take it, but made them this proposition, "If you will give me \$418 a year until death, which is \$5 a week, I will cancel the policy." "Agreed," said the company, which thought it had a clinch in its favor, as he would not live many years. Since that time Mr. Gaines has lived 18 years, and the company has paid him his yearly stipulation of \$418, which up to this time has amounted to \$7,488. The saving of the \$90 premium in the 18 years and the interest make it the snug sum of over \$15,000 that the old man gained by his bargain. Mr. Gaines is well preserved at 88 and bids fair to receive many more payments at the hands of the company, which struck a tough piece of human timber upon which to base its calculations. —Chicago Tribune.

**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

A Salzman, the reliable jeweler. Sold silver novelties at Salzman's.

J. T. Bryan, the Busy Watchmaker. Go to the Roseleaf for the best cigars.

For a good 5-cent cigar call on Mrs. N. Boyd.

County claims and warrants bought by D. S. West.

For first-class dentistry go to Dr. Little of Oakland.

R. W. Benjamin, dentist, room 1, Marsters' block.

Pure fresh groceries and low prices at Casseber's grocery.

Key West, imported and domestic cigars at the Roseleaf.

D. S. West does insurance. Office opposite the post office.

Goods below cost at Caro's. Now is the time for bargains.

Nobby suits and latest styles at Little Jack's. Prices very low.

All styles and qualities of hats at Abraham's Bedrock prices.

For bargains in family groceries, call at the People's store, Cass street.

Call for the "Spotted Cat" at Mrs. Bep's grocery store, if you want a pleasant smoke.

Nothing but the best material used by R. W. Benjamin, dentist, Room 1, Marsters' block.

Have your dental work done by R. W. Benjamin, dentist. All work guaranteed first-class.

At Oakland, T. L. Graves is authorized to receive and receipt for subscriptions to the PLAINDEALER.

For a good hat, stylish and cheap, call on Wollenberg & Abraham, whose stock embraces all grades of head gear.

The Bean & Meyers Hydraulic & Eclipse spray pumps can be found at Churchill, Woolley & McKenzie.

Bring your work to the PLAINDEALER office. We are prepared to do the cheapest and best work south of Portland.

You can tell one who has good taste and don't like to eat dirt, paint and chicken. He gets his candy at the Kandy Kitchen.

Wollenberg & Abraham of the Square Deal Store are now receiving a nice lot of spring goods. Latest styles and lowest prices.

Persons desiring family sewing done would do well to call on Miss Fannie McKean, 321 Main street. Will sew for 75 cents per day.

The Square Deal store has just opened up a beautiful line of W. L. Douglas shoes, which prove to be the best shoes made. Come and inspect them.

One minute is all the time necessary to decide from personal experience that One Minute Cough Cure does what its name implies. Marsters' Drug Store.

The Kandy Kitchen had a big trade during the holidays. The people are beginning to find out that it is the only place you can get candy that is fit to eat. Will sell, cheap, or trade for a No. 12 shot gun or small caliber Winchester rifle, a good road cart. Guns must be as good as new. Address, box 312, Roseburg, Oregon.

Torturing, itching, scaly skin eruptions, burns and scalds are soothed at once and promptly healed by DeWitt's Hivesalve, the best known cure for piles. Marsters' Drug Store.

Good pasturage furnished at my pasture on Roberts creek. Charges reasonable. All stock at owner's risk. The best of care will be given to all stock entrusted to my charge.

J. M. SCHAFER.

They are so small that the most sensitive persons take them, they are so effective that the most obstinate cases of constipation, headache and torrid liver yield to them. That is why DeWitt's Little Early Risers are known as the famous little pills. Marsters' Drug Store.

Shoes, Shoes.

Late arrival of men's and women's stout and cheap shoes. Also a supply of reasonable staples at Stanton's.

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**Blackwell's Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco**  
Buy a bag of this celebrated tobacco and read the coupon which gives a list of valuable presents and how to get them.

**A. C. MARSTERS & CO. DRUGGISTS.**



**Wall Paper**  
A Choice Collection, at Prices that Sell.  
**LIME PLASTER AND CEMENT.**  
**A FULL LINE OF WINDOW GLASS**  
ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED.

**WYLIE PILKINGTON, General Blacksmithing AND ROSEHOEING.**  
TROTTLING AND RUNNING PLATES A SPECIALTY.  
REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS PROMPTLY DONE.  
Shop on Corner Washington and Kane Sts., Roseburg.

**Supplies for the Oregon Soldiers' Home.**

Sealed proposals will be received by the Commandant of the Oregon Soldiers' Home at his office in said home, for all supplies necessary for the furnishing and running of the same until April 30th, 1897. Said bids must be received at his office on or before April 30th, 1897. A sample of clothing bid for must accompany the bid. All articles must be first class and the grades fully defined in each instance. A list of all the articles desired will be found in the First National bank, Roseburg, or at the Soldiers' Home. Payments to be made by vouchers on the State of Oregon, subject to further legislation. The right is reserved to reject any part of all bids submitted. Roseburg, Oregon, March 24th, 1897. W. H. BRAYS, Commandant.

**Northern Pacific Change.**

The Northern Pacific railroad will make the following time card for its train leaving Portland daily, beginning on Sunday the 28th inst. Leaves Portland at 11 a. m., Tacoma 5 p. m., Seattle 1 p. m., Ellensburg 10:10 p. m., Pasco 1:50 a. m. Arrives at Spokane at 5:50 a. m., Minneapolis 4:30 p. m. and St. Paul at 4:30 p. m. The new card will enable passengers to make close connections at Spokane with the Spokane Falls and Northern for the mines. For further particulars see D. S. K. HERR, Local Agent No. 2, Marsters' building.

**To the Public.**

On and after this date, I wish it understood that my terms for all undertaker's goods are cash with the order. I find it impossible to do business on a credit basis, and believe that I can do better by my patrons and myself by selling strictly for cash. P. BASSOCK, Undertaker, Roseburg, Ore., April 12, 1897.

**To the Kootenai Mining Country.**

The O. R. & N. is the shortest line and makes the quickest time. Trains leave Portland daily at 6:30 p. m. Baggage checked through to destination. Tickets on sale to all mining camps. V. C. LOSON, Agent, Roseburg, Oregon.

**Oregon Fire Relief Association.**

Cheapest and best insurance on earth, at cost, or 18 1/2 cents per hundred. Resident property, a specialty. H. L. MARSTERS, Agent.

**WANTED: In Exchange for \$18,000 WORTH OF MERCHANDISE**

Which we have received on consignment from the receiver of one of the largest houses in San Francisco.

These goods have been sent us to dispose of at 60 cents on the dollar, which is less than cost of manufacture, and being sold in connection with our complete stock at absolute cost.

Note the Following Astonishing Bargains!  
All Woolen Dress Goods, 36 inches wide, Latest Styles 25c per yard  
Ladies' and Gents' Mackintoshes For Half Price

Our Loss is Your Gain.

Ladies' and Gents' Underwear Reduced to Prices to Suit the Times.  
Our Goods are all of the Latest Styles. No shelf-worn goods on hand. Never has there been such a Slaughter of Prices. Call early and be convinced.

**CARO BROS. + THE BOSS STORE.**

This is the Place to Buy Groceries.

A full and complete assortment of all goods usually kept in a first-class grocery. Everything offered for sale is fresh; and sold at very reasonable prices. We have a very choice stock of canned goods, including both fruits and vegetables, to which we invite your special attention. Our line of Olives, Gherkins, Pickles, Sauces, etc., is also complete. We carry the largest stock of tobaccos in Southern Oregon.

**C. W. PARKS & CO., Grocers.**

**WOLLENBERG & ABRAHAM'S SQUARE DEAL STORE.**

**SPRING STOCK!**

Dress Goods, Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Cloaks, Capes, Wraps, Curtains, Etc.

In short, our shelves are filled with an excellent stock suited to all tastes and to meet all requirements. Our motto is: "A SQUARE DEAL."

**ROSEBURG Marble and Granite Works.**

E. W. ACHISON & CO., Props. Dealers in all kinds of Marble and Granite Monuments and Headstones.

Portland Cement Curbing For Cemetery Lots. Estimates Furnished on all kinds of Cemetery Work. Office and Warehouse: 711 Oak Street.

**J. F. BARKER & CO. GROCERS.**

TEAS A SPECIALTY. A special brand of unadulterated Tea, 50c price. COFFEE. Is having a large sale. New styles.

**Glass and Delf Ware**

establishing low prices. Our own cases. Tins are very popular.

**TWO FOR ONE PRICE! PLAINDEALER AND PLANTER**

The publishers of the PLAINDEALER have per- fected arrangements by which every cash sub- scriber thereto will receive a copy of the WEBFOOT PLANTER. The best agricultural paper published in the Pacific Northwest. WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE. Old subscribers renewing will receive the same privileges.

For an additional 25 cents, subscribers will be sent 50 cents worth of plants of the MAGOON STRAWBERRY, which, besides being a large berry, is firm and solid and an excellent shipper. Bring in your orders. PLAINDEALER PUB. CO.