

THE ASHLAND TIDINGS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1895.

THE POOR MAN'S WORST ENEMIES AS WEBSTER SAW THEM.

(From the Post-Herald.)

At this time, when public agitators and demagogues, sowing broadcast through the land their communistic speeches and inflammatory circulars, are appealing to the worst passions of humanity, when the effort to array the poor against the rich is so persistent and undisguised, the words of America's greatest statesmen, Daniel Webster, spoken in the Senate in 1834, are wonderfully appropriate, and seem almost to have been inspired by the spirit of prophecy: "Sir, there is a topic which I perceive is to become the general war-cry of party, on which I take the liberty to warn the country against delusion. Sir, the cry is to be raised that this is a question between the poor and rich. I hear it boasted as the unflinching security, the solid ground, never to be shaken, on which recent measures rest, that the poor naturally hate the rich. 'The natural hatred of the poor against the rich!' 'The danger of a moneyed aristocracy!' 'A power as great and dangerous as that resisted by the Revolution!' 'A call to a new declaration of independence!' Sir, I admonish the people against the object of outcries like these! I admonish every industrious laborer in the country to be on his guard against such delusions. I tell him the attempt is to play off his passions against his interests, and to prevail on him, in the name of liberty; in the name of patriotism, to injure and afflict his country, and in the name of his own independence, to make him a beggar and a slave. Has he a dollar? He is advised to do that which will destroy half its value. Has he hands to labor? Let him rather fold them and sit still, than be pushed on, by fraud and artifice, to support measures which will render his labor useless and hopeless.

Sir, the very man of all others who has the deepest interest in a sound currency, and who suffers most by mischievous legislation in money matters, is the man who earns his daily bread by his daily toil. A depreciated currency, sudden changes of prices, paper money falling between morning and noon, and falling still lower between noon and night—these things constitute the very harvest time of speculators, and of the whole race of those who are at once idle and crafty; and of that race, too, the Catlines of all times, marked so as to be known forever by one stroke of the historians pen, those greedy of other men's property, and prodigal of their own. Capitalists too, may outlive such times. They may either prey on the earnings of labor, by their cent per cent., or they may hoard. But the laboring man, who can be hoarded? Preying on nobody, he becomes the prey of all. His prosperity is in his hands. His reliance, his fund, his productive frehold, his all, is his labor. Whether he work on his own small capital or another's, his living is still earned by his industry. And, when the money of the country becomes depreciated, whether it be adulterated coin or paper without credit, that industry is robbed of its reward. He then labors for a country whose laws cheat him out of his bread. I would say to every owner of every quarter section of land in the West; I would say to every man in the East who follows his own plough, and to every mechanic, artisan, and laborer in every city in the country; I would say to every man, everywhere, who wishes by honest means to gain an honest living, 'Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing!' Whoever attempts, under whatever popular cry, to shake the stability of the public currency, bringing distress in money matters, and drive the country into the use of paper money [What would be said of fiat money?] stabs your interest and your happiness to the heart.

worthless rags in the morning; and depress labor till double work shall earn but half a living—give them this state of things, and you give them the consummation of their earthly bliss. Enemies to the whole country, to all classes, and to every man in it, they deserve to be marked especially as the poor man's curse."

INDIAN TROUBLES.

No one acquainted with the true condition of Indian affairs in the eastern portion of Oregon and Washington Territory supposed that the termination of the recent struggle was the beginning of a period of long continued peace. This is rendered impossible by the existence of disturbing elements which it is beyond the power of man to remove while the Indians remain and the whites continue to increase. The history of the settlement of nearly every section of America abounds in records of struggles between the advancing power of the whites and the desperate, doomed aborigines, and wherever these opposing elements are brought into contact, there will be bloodshed and misery, until the Indians are completely subjugated or utterly exterminated. However the late Indian uprising was brought about, it has left wounds on both sides which are still unhealed. The honest, industrious settler saw his property destroyed, and his family or friends murdered by Indians whom he had always used well, and in whom he had placed confidence and trust. The Indians of friendly tribes, who have supposed themselves secure under the assurance of protection given by the Government, have seen some of their number killed by the whites without any form of trial, since hostilities have ceased. It may be that the Indians deserved hanging; but it is not impossible that some of them were entirely innocent. In the latter case, the visitation of vengeance upon the whites is sure to follow, and again the innocent will suffer. Difficulty is soon to come, and the part of wisdom now is to take measures for the protection of those who are endangered. Whether the Indian bureau be under the control of the War or Interior Department of the Government, more troops are needed upon the border; and to show more respect for the majesty of law and justice is the policy of the whites.

TIMBER LANDS.

In his recent report, the Secretary of the Interior expresses the opinion that the acts passed by Congress last winter for the purpose of preventing deprivations upon the timber of government lands, are more calculated to hasten than retard the destruction of forests. The object of the act was to prevent the thieving of lumbermen and at the same time allow actual settlers and miners to use all the timber required for domestic and mining purposes. The secretary quotes from the commissioner of the general land office to show that the law allows lumbermen to use agents and purchase valuable timber land from the government for almost nothing, and that the machinery of the land office is wholly inadequate to prevent deprecation. We quote from the report as published in the Oregonian:

The Secretary says: "I fully concur with the commissioner of the general land office in his opinion. Referring to measures taken by the department for suppression of timber deprivations upon government lands he says it was to be expected that they would meet with stubborn opposition on the part of lumbermen and others directly or indirectly interested in those deprivations. Here and there the proceedings of a special agent of the department were complained of as oppressive and otherwise improper, and in every instance careful inquiries into the facts were instituted. Such inquiries resulted almost uniformly in the vindication of agents employed. When it was found that private property had been seized together with timber unlawfully taken from public lands, or with lumber manufactured from them, which was sometimes unavoidable, prompt restitution was ordered. Complaint was made that one effort to arrest wanton destruction of forests in some of the mountainous territory of the northwest had inflicted great hardships upon settlers there. But there is information in the possession of the department showing that no such hardships resulted from the measures taken; that the price of fire wood remained the same; that settlers were not hindered in providing for their actual necessities; and that the measures of the department were directed only against a class of persons who made an unlawful taking and selling of timber from public lands in large quantities a regular business and source of profit to themselves. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that something like complete success in suppressing unlawful practices is impossible unless the efforts made by this department for the protection of the public property meet with hearty cooperation on the part of the legislative branch of the government. Actual experience enables me to say that the want of such cooperation has been and will always be an encouragement to deprecators to persist in their lawless operations and to defy the authorities. The secretary expresses his opinion that the disastrous consequences which always follow the destruction of the forests of a country will come upon us in a comparatively short period of time, considering the rapidity with which the timber growth of this country is being swept away, unless legislation is enacted to arrest this indiscriminate spoliation. To that end he earnestly renews his recommendation for the passage of a bill, already introduced in congress at his suggestion, which provides that all timber-bearing lands, chiefly valuable for the timber upon them, shall be withdrawn from sale or other disposition under existing laws, to be sold by government with a view to preventing indiscriminate destruction and waste and to the preservation of young timber and reproduction of the forests. The bill provides ample means by which settlers on public lands and miners, can procure timber and firewood to supply their wants, with or without sale at minimum rates. It also provides for the sale of timber at reasonable prices for manufacturing purposes and for export, and for the appointment of a commissioner of timber, under the provisions under the direction of the interior department.

Secretary Schurz on Indian Affairs. In his general report, the Secretary of the Interior makes the following recommendations concerning Indian affairs: First, an entirely satisfactory state of things can be brought about only under circumstances which are not and cannot be under the control of the Indian service alone. If recurrence of trouble is to be avoided the appropriations made by congress for the support of the Indians who are not self-supporting must be liberal enough to be sent for the purpose, and they must be made early enough in the year to render the purchase and delivery of new supplies possible before the old supplies are exhausted. Second, the Indian service should have at its disposal sufficient funds to be used with proper accountability, at discretion, in unforeseen emergencies. Third, citizens of the western states and territories must be made to understand that if the Indians cease to be troublesome and vagabonds, they must have lands, etc., for agriculture and pasturage; that on such lands they must be permitted to reside and establish permanent homes, and that such results cannot be attained if the white people insist upon taking from them by force or trickery every acre of ground that is good for anything. The first two things can be accomplished by appropriate action on the part of congress. Disputes growing out of continually reported encroachments by white people on the rights of Indians may be lessened by the most energetic enforcement of the law on the part of the general and local governments. To this end it seems desirable that southwestern tribes, whose present reservations appear insecure or otherwise unsatisfactory for their permanent settlement, should be gradually removed to the Indian territory. The northwestern tribes will in the course of time, have to be concentrated in a similar manner on a few reservations east of the Rocky mountains and on the Pacific slope. In regard to the outbreak of Banocks last spring, the secretary says: It must be admitted they were insufficiently supplied with food, which, however, was owing to the appropriation by congress being utterly inadequate to their wants. The money available for feeding them amounted only to less than four and a half cents per head per day. This created discontent among them. When the murder of a white man was committed by an Indian, the Indian was arrested, tried and hung. The discontent grew into excitement. A military detachment attempted to disarm them but with only partial success, and finally an outbreak took place. As regards the outbreak of 300 Northern Cheyennes the secretary corroborates statements heretofore made by the commissioner of Indian affairs in a special report on this subject, showing that it was not caused by hunger or by any neglect on the part of government officials to furnish them supplies according to the treaty; but on the contrary they received ample supplies, more than they were entitled to.

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