Daily Mountaineer.

INTERESTING PUBLIC, DOCUMENT. The following letter, which we find in the Idaho Statesman of the 18th ints, fully explains itself :

College Hill, (near Cincinnati,) Ohio,)

October 25th, 1865. Hon. Jas. HARLAN-Secretary of the Interior-Sir: Having just returned by the Overland route from the States and Territories of the Pacific, where I spent the last summer in investigating the condition of Indian affairs, I deem it my duty to call your attention at once to the condition of Indian affairs in Idaho Territory. As you are aware, the Governor of Idaho is Ex-Officio Superintendent of Indian Aftairs-one Caleb Lyon, of Lyonsdale -and has, for some time, been the nominal incumbent and has drawn the salary of that office. For more than six months he has not shown himself within the Territory, while everything pertaining to the office of Superintendent has been most shamefully neglected. The Nez Perces, who are the most powerful tribe of Indians on the Pacific coast, are within the bounda-ries of Idaho Territory. Our Govern-ment has a treaty with them, by the stipulations of which they are entitled to certain annuities, to be paid annu-: I'y. I find that not a dollar's worth of annuities has been paid to these people for more than two years, and portions of the tribe are threatening to resort to hostilities in retaliation for the bad faith with which the Governmentand its officers have treated them. I was unable to find any records in the Governor's office showing what disposition had been made of the appropriations made by Congress to fill the treaty stipulations with this tribe; indeed, I was unable to find any records in the Governor's office in any way pertaining to Indian affairs, and the person who had been employed by the Governor to act as Clerk or Secretary for the Superintendency, and who had received a salary for that duty, informed me that no recerds of any sort had ever been kept. James O'Neill, Esq., agent in charge of the Nez Perces Reservation, is a competent officer, and seems to be doing everything in his power to pacify the Indians and protect the interests of the Government, but he is without a dollar of funds with which to defray current expenses. The wages of the persons employed upon the reservation in pursuance of the treaty stipulations, have not been paid for nearly two years, and they are forced to sell their vouchers at from 50 to 60 cents on the dollar in currency. The money disbursed by Gov. Lyon's order while he was pretending to discharge the duties of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, has been totally and grossly misapplied and squandered (by the Governor's orders) for objects which were neither authorized by the treaty or desired by the Indians. Under this state of facts and as a member of the Committee authorized by Congress to inquire into the condition of Indian affairs, I would earnestly recommend that some person be appointed to discharge the duties of Governor and Superintendent of Indian affairs in Idaho, who has, at least, some claims to common sense and common honesty. The change cannot be made too soon for the protection of the Government, and the preservation of peace among the Indians. I regard "Caleb Lyon, of Lyonsdale" as an improper person to be permitted to run at large among the Indians, or to be entrusted with public funds, and would recommend that any tunds intended for the Nez Perces Indians be sent directly to agent James O'Neill.

I am, very respectfully, Your ob't serv't, J. W. NESMITH.

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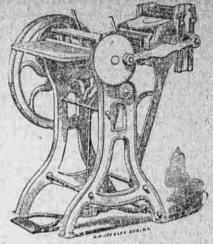
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