

OKLAHOMA.

Now that the bill organizing the new Territory of Oklahoma has passed the House and been referred to the Senate committee on territories, with a fair prospect that it will be reported and passed by that body, the public is interested in knowing something about the proposed new territory. It is the last remaining slice of Uncle Sam's farm outside of Alaska subject to territorial organization, unless by the division of existing territories.

The new territory, as defined by the act which has passed the House, is bounded on the west by Texas and New Mexico, on the north by Colorado and Kansas, on the east by the Cherokee, Seminole and Chickasaw reservations—the line of the ninety-sixth meridian—and on the south by the Creek, Seminole and Chickasaw reservations and the state of Texas. In extent the proposed territory contains about 24,000,000 acres, or 5,000,000 less than the state of Pennsylvania. Not all this land is or will be available for occupation, however, by white settlers, as the Osage, Kaw, Pawnee, Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie, Ponca, Tonkawa, Otto and Missouri, Iowa, Kickapoo, Cheyenne and Arapahoe, Wichita, Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indians occupy, under reservation grants from the government, 11,685,035 acres, or nearly one-half the entire area.

The land immediately available for settlement, if the bill becomes a law, will be the Cherokee Outlet, for which \$7,500,000 is to be paid by the government, and the strip known as No Man's Land, lying between the original Indian Territory and New Mexico. The bill provides for the purchase of so much of the remaining 12,000,000 acres owned by the before mentioned tribes as they can be induced to sell at \$1.25 an acre. The lease under which the Cherokee Live Stock Association holds the tract known as the Cherokee Outlet will be extinguished by the passage of the law, the Cherokee tribe accepting the \$7,500,000 in full payment for its right and title to the land.

It isn't any wonder that the "boomers" have looked with longing eyes at this unoccupied territory. The soil is rich and well watered, the climate mild and equable and so far the country has been unvisited by the dread blizzard. Frost is rarely known, and peaches, pears, plums and grapes can be grown in the greatest profusion and of the finest quality known outside of California. If settled, however, corn will be the leading crop, as it is in the territory occupied by the five civilized tribes on its eastern border.

As to the equities in the case they must be left to the action of Congress and the result of future negotiations with the Indians. Of the right of the government to occupy No Man's Land under territorial regulations there can be no doubt. The payment of the \$7,500,000 for the Cherokee Outlet would extinguish the claim of that tribe in a lawful manner, leaving only the portions occupied by the tribes under more or less definite reservation agreements to become the subject of future negotiation. That the Indians will be cheated, as they always have been in land negotiations, is quite likely.

Some figures recently gathered in Illinois show the surprising fact that most of the agricultural counties are at a standstill, or actually decreasing, in population. There are 102 counties in the state, and only seven of them show an increase the past eight years in the number of male inhabitants under twenty-one years of age. The seven contain the larger cities of the state. The increase in Cook, which contains Chicago, was greater by 28,917 than the gain of the entire state. That state is at the head of the Western states in agricultural productions, and farm life there should have attractions for the young men, if anywhere. But it does not hold them in needful proportions. They flock to the cities and overcrowd all the avenues to employment, leaving their fathers to struggle along as they can under the mortgages. As a result, the surplus of competition in the cities reduces wages. The tendency is the same in all the states, and probably no city can be found that could not profitably spare a great many young men to operate farms.

Well, the Legislature appointed a committee to investigate the County School Superintendents of the state for making some changes in school books. The committee exonerate all the county Superintendents from acting "upon any improper motives or otherwise than as they believed the public interest required," or "that they had been derelict in the performance of their official duty." Again we say, behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth.

WALL PAPER.—The finest line of wall paper in the valley in forty or fifty varieties, elegant designs and prices down, at Fortmiller & Irving's. It will pay to see them.

SURVEYING.—Mr. E. T. T. Fisher is prepared to do surveying of all kinds at reasonable rates. He has complete copies of field notes and township plats in the county. Address—Miller's Station, Linn county, Or.

INCREASING THE BURDENS.

The effect of the Senate Tariff Bill upon the revenue, should it become a law, cannot be foretold. Should the consumer's preference for foreign articles lead them to pay the increased fines which the Republican bill imposes for their use the revenue would be raised. Should the increased duties diminish importations the revenue would be lessened. The probability is that the customs charges would not decrease the present annual surplus more than twelve or fifteen million dollars.

But one fact stands out clearly: The Senate bill actually increases the average tax in eight of the fourteen schedules. It increases them most of all upon the articles of universal use and necessity.

On the basis of the importations in 1887 the Republican bill would increase the tax upon the woolen clothing and carpets of the people \$8,000,000, upon provisions over \$1,000,000, upon cotton manufactures \$500,000 and upon metals \$8,000,000.

The average duty in all the schedules—omitting sugar, in which a 50 per cent. reduction is made—will exceed by many per cent. the maximum of the war tariff.

And this is the outcome of a "revision of the tariff by its friends." The people called for a reduction of needless war taxes and are threatened with an increase. They asked for bread and are offered a stone.

Farmers, if you want the best harness all hand made, call on E. L. Power, next to Democrat office.

ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.—Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of school District No. 5, Linn county, Oregon, that the regular annual school meeting of said school district will be held on Monday, the 4th day of March, 1889, at the hour of 7 o'clock, p. m., of said day, at the Court House in the city of Albany, Or., for the purpose of hearing the reports of the directors and clerk, and to levy a tax for the support of the school for the ensuing year. Also for the purpose of levying a tax for the purpose of paying interest on the bonds of said school district, and for the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting. By order of the Board of Directors. L. FLINN, Chairman Board of Directors, C. G. BURKHART, District Clerk. February 15th, 1889.

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Discounts to Gardeners,

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ANNUAL MEETING.—Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Albany Building Association will be held at the Opera House in Albany on Monday, March 18th, 1889 at 7:30 p. m., for the election of directors and such other business as may come before the meeting. Dated Feb. 19th, 1889. W. F. READ, Secretary. W. C. TREWDALE, President.

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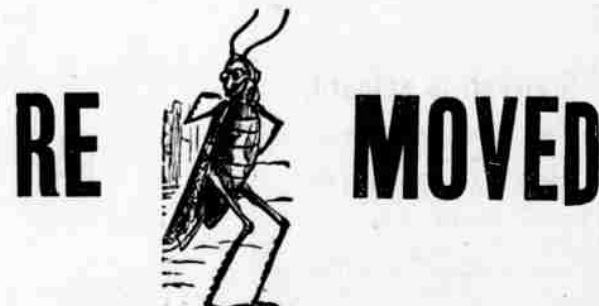
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