

MORNING TELEGRAPH.

BY GEORGE BERGNER.

HARRISBURG, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1861.

PRICE ONE CENT.

Synopsis of the Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Nov. 30, 1861.
Sir: The report of the operations of this department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, will exhibit a diminished account of business in some of the most important bureaus compared with the department. This is attributable mainly to the insurrection which has suddenly precipitated the country into a civil war.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE.
On Sept. 30, 1861, there were 55,555,555.25 acres of the public lands which had been surveyed but not proclaimed for public sale. The lands surveyed and offered at public sale previous to that time, and then subject to private entry, amounted to 78,562,755.64 acres, making an aggregate of public lands surveyed and ready for sale of 134,118,310.89 acres.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, and the first quarter of the current year, ending September 30, 1861, 5,289,532.31 acres have been disposed of. Of this amount, 1,021,493.77 acres have been certified to the States of Minnesota, Michigan and Louisiana, under railroad grants made by Congress; 608,094.47 acres have been certified to States as swamp lands; 1,358,940 acres have been located with bounty land warrants, and 1,708,004.05 acres have been sold for cash, producing \$925,299.42.

It will be seen from this statement that the public lands have ceased substantially for the present, at least, to be a source of revenue to the Government. The liberal manner in which the acts of Congress, granting swamp and overflowed lands to the States, have been construed and executed, the grants of large quantities to aid in the construction of railroads, and the quantity required to locate bounty land warrants for military services, have combined to reduce the cash sales to an amount but little more than sufficient to meet the expenses of our land system. The net income from sales during the last fiscal year will hardly reach the sum of \$200,000. During the last fiscal year there were certified to the States for railroad construction, under the several acts of Congress making grants for such purposes: To Minnesota, 303,871.10 acres; to Michigan, 636,081.42 acres; and to Louisiana, 79,550.45 acres. The whole amount certified to all the States, under such grants, is 9,968,477.77 acres.

The grants of swamp and overflowed lands to the States have absorbed a large amount of valuable lands, and have caused a heavy drain upon the treasury. The claims of the several States cover an aggregate of 57,995,577.40 acres.

The United States have also paid to the States in cash, under the indemnity act of March 2, 1855, on account of lands claimed as swamp lands, and which were sold by the United States subsequent to the date of the grant, \$276,126.50.

Certificates have been issued for location upon any of the public lands subject to entry, to indemnify the States for lands claimed as swamp lands, but which had been located by bounty land warrants after the date of the grant, amounting to 145,695.92 acres. Additional claims are pending, yet undecided, for cash, \$142,435, and for lands, 801,429 acres.

The bounty land warrants and scrip issued under different acts of Congress, previous to Sept. 30, 1861, embrace an aggregate of 71,717,172 acres of land. Of this amount there have been located for revolutionary services, 3,200,612 acres; for services in the war with Great Britain, 4,550,120 acres; for Canadian volunteers, 72,750 acres; for services in the Mexican war and other services, under the act of 1847, 1850, 1852, and 1855, in all 61,138,970 acres; leaving yet to be located on warrants and scrip, already issued, 7,464,720 acres.

Unless Congress shall authorize the issue of additional warrants, this drain upon the public lands will soon cease.

The propriety of issuing bounty land warrants to the volunteers who have been called into service to suppress the existing insurrection, is already a subject of discussion to be determined by Congress. A warrant for 100 acres to each volunteer engaged in the service would absorb over one hundred millions of acres—a much larger amount than has been issued under all previous laws. It is evident that the issue of such an amount of warrants would destroy all hope of deriving any revenue from the public lands, at least for many years. And while such a measure would deprive the Government of all income from this source, it would afford but little benefit to the volunteers.

These warrants are now sold in the market at 50 cents per acre. The issue of the large amount necessary to supply the volunteers would necessarily reduce the price of them to a merely nominal sum.

The expense of surveying private land claims in the territory acquired from Mexico, based upon grants of the Mexican Government, have heretofore been paid by the United States. These surveys have cost the Government large sums. The cost of surveying one claim amounted to over \$2,200; another cost the Government \$1,400. The aggregate cost of surveying them has taken from the Treasury a large amount of the public funds.

The valuable and extensive mineral lands owned by the government in California and New Mexico have hitherto produced no revenue. All who chose to do so have been permitted to work them without limitation.

The Territorial Governments of Colorado, Dakota, and Nevada have been successfully organized since the adjournment of the last Congress. The surveys of the public lands in those Territories have already been commenced, and the lands are now open for settlement.

It is believed that the whole work might have been completed for the sum appropriated by Congress; but while only a small part of the work has been accomplished, the claims presented amount to nearly \$20,000 beyond the appropriation. It remains for Congress to determine whether further appropriations shall be made for the continuance of the work.

The running of the boundary lines between the Territories of the United States and the State of Texas, authorized by the act of Congress of June 6, 1858, has been completed in the field and the office details will in a short time be finished. For this work \$30,000 was appropriated. Of this sum \$78,250.81 has been expended on the 30th of September, 1861, leaving an unexpended balance of \$6,749.19. This balance is estimated to be sufficient for the completion of the entire work.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.
Our Indian affairs are in a very unsettled and unsatisfactory condition.

The spirit of rebellion against the authority of the Government, which has precipitated a large number of States into open revolt, has been instilled into a portion of the Indian tribes by emissaries from the insurrectionary States.

The large tribes of Cherokees, Chickasaws and Choctaws, situated in the Southern superintendency, have suspended all intercourse with the agents of the United States.

Although the Indian office has not been able to procure definite information of the condition of affairs, and of the extent to which the Indians have assumed a hostile attitude, enough has been ascertained to leave no room or doubt that the influence which have been exerted upon the Indians have been sufficient to induce a portion of them to renounce the authority of the United States and to acknowledge that of the rebel government.

The tribes upon the Pacific slope of the Rocky Mountains have manifested a turbulent spirit, but have committed no acts of violence.

Much trouble has been experienced in New Mexico from depredations committed by some of the tribes in that Territory. The presence of a military force in that Territory is indispensable to preserve the peace and cause the Indians to respect the laws.

The tribes in Kansas and Nebraska, and in the States of the North-west, are gradually progressing in the arts of civilization. The plan of allotting portions of their reservations to the individual members of the tribes has been found by experience to result beneficially. Many of them have improved their lands and become quite proficient as farmers. A continuance of this policy, by familiarizing them with the habits of agricultural life, will gradually lead them to depend upon the cultivation of the soil for subsistence.

The practice of licensing traders to traffic with the Indians has been productive of mischievous results. The money received by them in payment of their annuities generally passes immediately into the hands of the traders. They are left to depend upon their annuities from the Government for subsistence, and these find their way into the hands of the traders, while the Indians receive from them goods at a profit from one to three or four hundred per cent.

PATENT OFFICE.
No branch of the public service connected with this Department has been so much affected by the insurrection of the Southern States as that of the Patent Office.

The receipts of the office from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1861, were \$102,808.18; and the expenditures were \$185,594.05, showing an excess of expenditures over receipts of \$82,785.87.

During the corresponding period of the last year the receipts were \$197,848.40, being \$94,940.22 more than the receipts for the same period of the present year. During the same period 3,514 applications for patents and 619 caveats have been filed, 2,681 patents have been issued, and 15 patents have been extended.

PENSION OFFICE.
The report of the Commissioner of Pensions furnishes, in detail, the operations of this bureau during the past year. The number of pensions has diminished, during the year, 575, and the amount required to pay them was \$43,245.87 less than the previous year.

The whole number of pensioners, of all classes, on the rolls on the 30th of June, 1861, was 10,709, requiring for their payment an aggregate of \$967,772.08.

They were classified as follows: 4,726 invalid pensioners, receiving \$425,256.02; 63 revolutionary pensioners, receiving \$3,680.85; 2,728 widows of revolutionary soldiers, receiving \$212,648.86; 2,236 widows and orphans, half-pay, receiving \$178,672; 957 navy pensioners, receiving \$137,004.85.

MONTHLY CENSUS.
The returns of the Eighth Census are being condensed for publication with all the expenditure practicable in a work of such magnitude and varied and comprehensive details.

The report which the Superintendent of that work will be prepared to make during the present Congress will confirm the general belief that no previous period of our history has been distinguished by greater prosperity or evidences of more substantial progress in all the material interests affecting the welfare and happiness of a people.

AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.
The President, by an order dated the 2nd of May last, devolved upon this Department the execution of the act of 3d March, 1819, and other laws enacted for the suppression of the African slave-trade.

The subject was immediately taken in hand, under a deep sense of our obligation as a nation to put an end, if possible, to this odious traffic, and with a full conviction that the power of the Government, in the hands of competent, honest and faithful officers, was adequate to the purpose. Among other things, I caused the Marshals of the loyal Atlantic States to assemble at New York for consultation, in order to insure greater concert of action. They were thereby afforded an opportunity of inspecting vessels fully equipped for the African slave-trade, and of seeing the arts and devices employed to disguise and conceal the real objects of their voyage, thus enabling them to detect and prevent the clearance of vessels designed for this trade. It is gratifying to know that unprecedented success has crowned the efforts of the past few months. Five vessels have been seized, tried and condemned by the courts.

One slave has been taken on the coast of Africa with about 900 negroes on board, who were conveyed to the Republic of Liberia. One person has been convicted at New York as the captain of a slave, having on board 800 captives, and two others at Boston, for fitting out a vessel for the slave-trade. In the first named case the penalty is death; in the others it is fine and imprisonment. Hitherto, convictions under the

laws prohibiting the African slave-trade have been very rare.

This is probably the largest number ever obtained, and certainly the only ones for many years. It is believed that the first-mentioned case is the only one involving capital punishment in which a conviction has been effected.

The full execution of the laws in these instances will no doubt have a most salutary influence in deterring others from the commission of like offences.

A number of other indictments have been found which are yet to be tried.

Much credit is due to the United States Attorneys and Marshals at New York and Boston for the vigilance and zeal evinced by them, and I avail myself of the first occasion to make them this public acknowledgment.

Within a little more than a year, the Government of the United States, under contracts made with the Government of Liberia, through the agency of the American Colonization Society, have taken into that republic 4,500 Africans, captured on the high seas by vessels of our navy. They are supplied with food, clothing, and shelter, medicines and medical attendance, for one year from the date of landing, and are thus brought within the civilizing and Christianizing influences of a Government founded and administered by intelligent and right-minded persons of their own race.

They are under the special charge and supervision of an agent of the United States, the Rev. John S. S. who has been a devoted missionary in Africa for many years. His report, when received, will no doubt afford abundant evidence of the wisdom and philanthropy of the policy adopted by the United States in regard to these unhappy victims of cruel and relentless cupidities, whose misfortunes have thrown them upon the fostering care and protection of the American people.

JUDICIARY.
The expenditures from the Judiciary Fund, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, were \$727,000.61. This includes the expenses of the courts, jurors, and witness fees, rent and repairs of courthouses, and all other expenses attendant upon the administration of the laws of the Federal judiciary, except the salaries of the judges, district-attorneys, and marshals.

The suspension of the courts in several of the Southern States will diminish the expenses of the judiciary to the extent; but what may be gained from this cause will be more than counterbalanced by extraordinary expenses in the Northern States, occasioned by the insurrection chargeable to the judiciary fund.

BY TELEGRAPH.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

Two Persons Killed and one Wounded.

(Special Dispatch to the Telegraph.)

YORK, Pa., Dec. 5.
Engine No. 7, belonging to the Northern Central Railway, exploded this afternoon at Wrightsville, killing the engineer and fireman almost instantly, and slightly injuring a small girl who was standing on the pavement at the time of the explosion.

Charles Geiselman, the engineer, leaves a wife and several small children; Jesse Bortner, the fireman, was a single man. They were both residents of York.

It is stated by persons who arrived from Wrightsville this evening, that the track where the engine stood is completely torn up, and that several houses in the vicinity are considerably shattered by the force of the explosion.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Important Documents from the State and Treasury Departments.

ALL FUGITIVE NEGROES TO BE ARRESTED.

SEIZURE OF REBEL PROPERTY.

A Proper Disposition to be Made of the Productions of the Soil.

Agents Appointed to Accompany the Army to Secure the Captured Property.

SOUTHERN PRODUCE TO BE PUT INTO THE MARKET.

COTTON TO BE SHIPPED TO NEW YORK.

Review of Col. Birney's Zouaves.

THE REBEL BLOCKADE INEFFECTUAL.

Release of Charles J. Faulkner.

Increase of Commerce with the United States and Foreign Countries.

MEETING OF THE JOINT UNITED STATES AND NEW GRANADIA COMMISSIONERS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.

The following important document has just been made public:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, Dec. 4, 1861.

To MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE B. MCCLURE, Washington:

GENERAL:—I am directed by the President to call your attention to the following subject: Persons claimed to be held to service or labor under the laws of the State of Virginia and actually employed in hostile service against the Government of the United States frequently escape from the lines of the enemies forces and are received within the lines of the army of the Potomac.

This department understands that such persons are liable to be arrested by the city police upon the presumption arising from color that they are fugitives from service or labor.

By the 4th section of Act of Congress, approved August 8, 1861, entitled "an Act to consolidate property used for insurrectionary purposes," such hostile employment is made a full and sufficient answer to any further claim to service or labor. Persons thus employed and escaping are received into the military protection of the United States, and their arrest as fugitives from service or labor should be immediately followed by the military authorities.

Copies of this communication will be sent to the Mayor of the city of Washington and to the Marshal of the District of Columbia, that any collision between the civil and military authorities may be avoided.

I am, General, your very obedient servant,
WM. H. SEWARD.

The Secretary of the Treasury has just issued the general regulations relative to securing and disposing of the property found or brought within the territory now or hereafter occupied by the United States, in order to the security and proper disposition of the production of the soil, and all other property found within the limits of States or parts of States declared to be in insurrection against the United States, and now occupied or to be hereafter occupied by the troops and authorities of the Union. The following regulations are established:

There shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury with approbation of the Presidents agents to reside at such parts or places as are or may be occupied by the forces of the United States, whose duties shall be to secure and prepare for market the cotton and such other products and property as may be found or brought within the lines of the army or under the control of the federal authorities.

Persons held to service for life under State laws, who may be found within such limits may be employed by the agent who will prepare lists embracing the names, sex, and condition of such persons, and as near as may be, their respective ages, together with the names of any persons claiming their services, which lists shall be in triplicate,—one for the military commandant, one for the files of the agent and one to be immediately forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The persons so listed will be organized for systematic labor in securing and preparing for market the cotton, rice and other products found within the Territory brought under Federal control.

Pay rolls will be prepared and a strict account of the labor daily performed by each person engaged thereon, for which a proper compensation

shall be allowed to the laborer, and a record of all products taken possession of will be made, and those of each plantation kept distinct.

When prepared for shipment the packages from the several plantations will be plainly marked and numbered so as to be easily distinguished.

An account of all provisions of whatsoever character found on each plantation will be taken, and such provisions will be used far as may be necessary for the subsistence of the laborers thereon. The cotton and other articles when prepared for market shall be shipped to New York, and so far as practicable by the returning government transports and all shipments shall be consigned to the designated agent at New York, unless otherwise specially directed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Each agent will so transact his business and keep his accounts that as little injury as possible may accrue to private citizens who now maintain, or may, in reasonable time resume the character of loyal citizens of the United States.

Colonel Birney's regiment, 23d Philadelphia Zouaves, after their parade to-day, was reviewed by the President and Secretaries Cameron and Seward. The appearance and discipline of the regiment was the subject of high commendation.

A large number of vessels, some of large size have recently arrived here from the lower Potomac. One passed the rebel batteries in daytime, unmolested.

Charles J. Faulkner, of Virginia, will be released from confinement in Fort Warren on his parole. The letter has probably already been mailed for that purpose. He will proceed immediately south and procure a similar release of Hon. Alfred Ely. If not successful in that errand he has pledged himself to return to custody in thirty days.

A resolution was passed by the House last July inquiring if any and what legislation is necessary to increase and extend the trade of commerce of the United States with foreign countries. The President in response says he is not aware that any legislation of the character suggested could now be wisely adopted beyond such as has been already recommended in his annual message and that nothing further can be effected until the treaties to be submitted to the Senate shall have been ratified.

A question of importance was raised in the joint United States and New Grenadian commission to-day, namely, whether the latter Republic is liable, under the treaty for the payment of damages growing out of the Panama riots, or whether the business of the Commission is merely to ascertain the amount of claims for future action.

Mr. Cardale, for New Grenada, maintained the latter position, and Messrs. Cox and Dean, of Ohio, for the claimants, the former. The commissioners being divided in opinion they have sent for the umpire, Judge Upham.

FROM TENNESSEE.

A BATTLE AT MORRISTOWN, TENN.

PARSON BROWNLOW HEARD FROM.

TOTAL ROUT OF THE REBELS.

Montgomery's Forces Reported Out to Pieces.

MONTGOMERY TAKEN PRISONER.

Gen. Sigle Reported to be Surrounded.

McULLOUGH EN ROUTE FOR ST. LOUIS.

HANGING OF UNION MEN IN TENNESSEE.

SOUTHERN PLANTERS BURNING THEIR COTTON AND RICE CROPS.

Southern Provision Markets.

CAIRO, Ill., Dec. 5.

The Memphis *Avant-courier*, of the 2d, contains the following:

A large body of Unionists attacked the confederate forces at Morristown, East Tennessee, yesterday, and killed a large number, completely routing them.

Maj. George Crittenden has arrived at Knoxville to take command of the confederate forces.

Gen. Rains had cut Montgomery's forces to pieces, taking Montgomery prisoner.

Mculloch had surrounded Sigle at Sedalia. It was believed the latter would be forced to surrender or be cut to pieces.

Gen. Price had crossed the Gasconade river en route for St. Louis.

The people everywhere were flocking to his support. It is believed he would have an army of sixty thousand before reaching St. Louis.

Henry Fry and Jacob M. Henshaw Unionists were hung at Greenville, Tennessee, on the 30th of November for bridge burning.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 30.—The Patriotic planters on the seaboard are hourly applying the torch to their crops of cotton and rice. Along the coast there is one sheet of flame and smoke.

Many military companies in New Orleans are volunteering for thirty day's service at Columbus, Kentucky.

CAIRO, Dec. 5.—A special dispatch to the Memphis papers of the 2d, gives the account of the great battle at Morristown, East Tennessee, between the Federal forces under Parson Brownlow and the rebels, fought December 1st, in which the Federals were victorious.

The rebel despatch calls it the first Union victory of war.

Brownlow had three thousand men. Rebel forces not ascertained. Route of the rebels total. Cairo, Ill., Dec. 5.—The following items are from the Memphis papers of the second.

Gen. Trevasan has a long communication in the Memphis *Appeal*, showing the insufficiency of rebel defenses at and above Memphis.

He says Columbus once lost the Federals would have no trouble in marching directly to Memphis, and that Memphis is entirely defenceless and indefensible, and he calls upon every male citizen of the State to enroll and threaten all who do not with death.

The rebels are sending their cotton to Northern Alabama for safety. Coffee is quoted at one dollar per pound. In Memphis none to be had. Bacon sixty cents. Other provisions in proportion.

FROM NEW YORK.

EXPLOSION OF A STEAM BOILER.

New York Troops En Route for Fort Pickens.

Protection Asked for our Commerce on the Coast of Europe.

A COTTON SPECULATOR AT PORT ROYAL.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.

The boiler used in the building No. 375, Broadway, occupied by J. Lansing, dealer in cloaks, exploded this morning. The vault under the alley was destroyed, with considerable loss of property but none of life.

The 75th regiment of New York volunteers will be sent to Fort Pickens aboard the steamer Baltic.

The Chamber of Commerce has adopted a memorial requesting the President to send two or more armed vessels to the coast of Europe for the protection of our commerce against privateers.

Hierre L. Pearce was arrested in this city to-day on application of the District Attorney of Boston. He is charged with sitting out the slave Brutus from New Bedford.

A letter from Port Royal says that one of the Quartermasters, on his own responsibility, has set forty cotton gins at work. The negroes receive three cents per pound for all the marketable cotton, and have gone into the business with enthusiasm.

XXXVth Congress--First Session.

CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.

IN SENATE.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (Ill.) introduced his bill for confiscating property, and giving freedom to the slaves of rebels. He said the bill provides for the absolute and complete forfeiture forever to the United States of every species of property, real or personal, wherever situated within the United States, belonging to persons beyond the jurisdiction of the United States, or beyond the reach of civil process in ordinary mode of judicial proceeding in consequence of the present rebellion, who, during its existence, shall take up arms against the United States or in any wise aid or abet the rebellion. This forfeiture to be enforced against property in the rebellious districts through the military power and against property in other portions of the United States in which the judicial power is not obstructed by the rebellion through the courts; and the proceeds of property of each individual seized and forfeited be subject to the just claims of loyal creditors, to be held for the benefit of loyal citizens despoiled of property by the rebellion, and to defray expenses incurred in its suppression.

The bill also forfeits the claims of all rebels, and those who give them aid and comfort; to persons they hold in slavery; declares the slaves thus forfeited free and makes it the duty of the President to provide for the emancipation of such as may be willing to go to some tropical country where they may have the protection of the Government and be secured in all rights and privileges of freemen. The property belonging to traitors or those giving them aid and comfort who may be convicted by judicial tribunals to be forfeited on their conviction. The real estate for life and the personal property forever.

Mr. TRUMBULL argued at some length in support of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CLARK (N. H.) gave notice that he should offer an amendment to the fugitive slave bill.

The Senate then went into executive session and subsequently adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. STEVENS, (Pa.) submitted a series of resolutions referring the various branches of the President's message to the appropriate standing committees.

Mr. ARNOLD, (Ill.) moved that the part relating to the defenses and fortifications of the great lakes and harbors be referred to a select committee of nine members.

The question was debated whether it should be thus referred, or to the committee on military affairs. It was contended on one side that the great west and northwest should not be ignored and on the other side the subject of defenses concerned not a section but the entire country. The question was finally referred to a select committee by ten majority.

The resolutions of Mr. Stevens as thus amended were adopted.

Mr. BLAIR, (Mo.) introduced a resolution referring that portion of the message in relation to the colonization of slaves taken from rebels to a select committee of seven members, which was adopted in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, but was afterwards rejected by the House.

Mr. LOVELL, (Ill.) introduced a bill proposing to repeal all laws requiring passes to persons of color going northward to take immediate effect. Referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

Mr. THURMAN, (Pa.) introduced a bill providing for a board of commissioners to revise and codify the general statutes of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee. The House then adjourned till Monday.