

SO. MALESTER NEWS.

CHARLES P. TROTTER, Proprietor. HENRY P. ROBBINS, Editor. W. S. CROCKETT, Manager.

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GOOD MAY RESULT.

It is to be hoped that more good will result from the single statehood convention at Muskogee today. This convention is not representative, in the sense that the delegates are sent to represent the committees from which they go. In fact, of judgment may be formed from the conventions in this section the convention comprise a large portion of the good people who look upon single statehood either as desirable or inevitable.

The News has talked with several of the men who go to the convention and finds that these

equitable basis on which the two territories will unite their destiny under one name and government. The Oklahoma voters who have represented the people of the Territory in favor of one or the other in an effort to unite with Oklahoma on any old basis are likely to be rudely awakened from their fond dream. There are strong men in the Indian Territory crowd and it is to be hoped that they will let the Oklahoma contingent know that there must be fairness and justice.

The matter is one which requires deliberation. Offhand solutions of the problem will be inadequate. Glowing word pictures of a strong man to run a race should not obscure the people to the fact that conditions here and in Oklahoma are vastly different and that difficulties cannot be overcome by resolutions.

COSTLY SENTIMENTALISM.

There was an incident at Denison the other night which should have a helpful influence on the madmen sentimentalists who grow hysterical over the "brutality" of policemen who are driven by dire necessity into occasionally laying out some malefactor with a blow with a billy.

The Denison officer was gentlemanly and did receive a fatal shot in return for the "humane" treatment of the fellow he attempted to arrest. This is not an isolated case. The writer calls to mind several instances of similar character.

Fort Barrow, Alaska, is the northernmost postoffice in the United States and receives mail once a year. But doubtless the postmaster has received together the postmaster three times a day.

So far seven names for Indian Territory have been suggested to The News. They are Jefferson, Lincoln, Columbia, Indian, Kansas, Katakneeloland and McKinley. Send in your choice on the coupon.

There is abundant sarcasm in the Kansas City Journal's remark that while Kansas have conscientious reasons against capital punishment they render Uncle Sam cheerful assistance in shooting down escaped convicts.

The Lawrence Journal says: "And still, the Schley scrap isn't quite so bad as football. So far no one has been killed or even crippled for life in the investigation rooms." The Journal seems to forget the death of Judge Wilson.

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in South McAlester next Tuesday. As all the practical plans have been left to the discretion of the committee the meeting will be important. The fundamental work will be planned. As The News suggested last week, South McAlester is the ideal place for the storehouse of the committee. It is the geographical center and is the most accessible point from all sections. It behooves the public-spirited citizen to make an effort to secure the headquarters and storehouse for this place. A building must be tendered, the committee free of rent. This matter must be attended to at once or the headquarters will go to some place with public spirit enough to bid for it.

Patti threatens to make her 13th last American tour.

Croker has his eye on a comfortable seat away back in the rear.

Surely, all these war correspondents will not sit down to write books in Denver to Denver.

Both the Democrats and Prohibitionists favor taking the tax off of whiskey but their reasons are entirely different.

The Oklahomans at Muskogee today will find some Indian Territory men making demands which will dampen their ardor.

The reorganizers have got some comfort out of the election returns. Whatever the issue or straddle the result was the same.

It is doubtless the private opinion of C. J. Bryan that this country has several million of the stubbornest people on earth.

The center of population has been moving rapidly westward and the doubtful states as rapidly southward the past few years.

Since hazing has been abandoned at West Point the football team has been accomplishing wonders. The boys must have some vent for their brutality.

The Democrat who can see nothing significant in the big Republican off-year majorities last week would have drawn many lessons had the result been different.

Some people do all their trading at home. But there are other people who don't and on their account a protective tariff is levied. If they just have improved stuff they pay the other way.

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It is to be expected that the Congressmen who fight so heroically every session for appropriations for the Mississippi levees will violently oppose any legislation in favor of a system of irrigation for the arid districts of the West.

The Saturday Evening Post draws a hasty conclusion when it suggests that the abolishment of railway passes will add vastly to receipts, thus enabling the railroads to reduce rates. The Post seems to overlook the fact that many would abandon trips if they paid their fare.

During the Ohio campaign Col. James Kilbourne declared that the Democratic party was not the rich man's party or the poor man's party but the people's party. As the Colonel looks at that stunning 70,000 plurality he is forced to the conclusion that the "people" are in a deuced minority.

A while back President Roosevelt bought some coach horses in Washington and insisted that the horses should have long tails, although the salesman protested that docking was the style. It is needless to add that the horses have good long tails and sensible people will endorse the rebuke to faddists.

An Indian returning from Washington was captured in Kansas City the other day and his captors insisted on his making a speech. He told them he had the stomach-ache and would not talk. How different some white men would have acted. They would have gone ahead and made a Pop speech.

William J. Stone, the gumshoe statesman and picturesque metaphor writer of Missouri, says he does not aspire to the Democratic presidential nomination in 1904, but wants to be a senator. That's where William Jabbercock shows his good eye. The Democratic presidential nomination in 1904 will be largely an honorary affair.

Gov. Dockery, of Missouri, has broken all records in the shortness of his Thanksgiving proclamations. Some Republicans attribute it to that tired feeling caused by the fall elections but it is more likely that the governor has been too busy fixing up stump speeches to palm off as auditor's exhibits to spare the time to write a proclamation. That is much better than following the example of his predecessor, who plagiarized his proclamations.

SINGLE OR DOUBLE STATEHOOD WHISKY?

Yesterday's Herald contained an interview with Hon. Chas. D. Coffey, one of the members of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a single state. The interview did not give any details as to whether Oklahoma was to be admitted now and Indian Territory tucked on later or both to be admitted together. Both methods are much discussed, though but little is generally known in Kansas as to either.

To the first proposition the people of Indian Territory are, as I know from two years' residence there, almost unanimously opposed. Such a course would give Oklahoma the organization of the new state and permit the location of all the state institutions in Oklahoma.

On the other hand Oklahomans object to an immediate union of the two Territories on the ground that that part of the new state would have to bear the greater portion of the state taxes, since but little real estate in the Indian Territory will be taxable for many years. This is because the white people in the Indian Territory are largely renters, owning real estate only in the towns, and it will be twenty or thirty years before the land

inequality of taxation might, of course, be remedied by reserving land taxation for local purposes and supporting the state by taxation of franchises and incomes. Again, Oklahoma is a liquor-judging country, while treaties with Indian tribes have prescribed that the manufacture, introduction, or sale of intoxicating liquors shall forever be prohibited in Indian Territory. To extend the Oklahoma jurisdiction over Indian Territory would violate this sacred covenant.

If Oklahoma and Indian Territory are admitted as one state, admission at one time would be the more acceptable to the people of the latter Territory, and then, as stated, real estate taxation would least be disregarded for purposes of state taxation and also some provision would be made Indian Territory to preserve it from invasion by the saloon. Annexation of Indian Territory to Oklahoma after the latter has been organized as a state would be unjust. Double statehood, the creation of two

with its own problems. Single or double statehood is not simply a question of few or many offices. There is more in the question than that and this is but a brief suggestion of what is involved.

TO CLOSE TRIBAL ROLLS

Proposed Work of Choctaw-Cherokee Supplemental Treaty Delegation. From the Muskogee Phoenix, 1904.

There is trouble ahead for the Mississippi Choctaws and a few thousand other claimants of Choctaw-Chickasaw lands. From present indications the Choctaw-Chickasaw supplemental treaty delegation will cause a rattling of the dry bones that will be heard far and wide. This delegation is as follows: Choctaw-Gov. G. W. Dukes, chairman, ex-governor Green McCurtain, William Wilson and S. E. Lewis, Chickasaw-Gov. D. H. Johnson, chairman; Holmes Willis, Ed. R. Johnson, John Conley and Calvin Grant.

For some time past much dissatisfaction has existed among the Choctaws and Chickasaws about the way their lands were slowly but surely slipping away from them and it began to look as though each citizen's proportion would be so cut down that it would hardly be worth mentioning. The attorneys have vaxed fat over this land question but there are dull days in store for them.

The proposed supplemental agreement will be of almost as great importance as the Atoka agreement and will materially change the condition of affairs in these two nations. The move which is all probability will be made this week is as follows: It is proposed to frame a supplemental agreement which will at once close the rolls of these two nations regardless of the present condition of the parties on the rolls. Whether he be a court rebuttal or not makes no difference as to the name will be accepted as a rightful citizen of the nation. There is a big object to be gained in this. It has been repeatedly pointed out to the more prominent citizens that it would be much better for the interests of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people to admit the

present court claimants and others who are unlawfully enrolled than to keep the rolls standing open for probably years to come, with thousands of claimants bobbing up annually, and the disposition of which would be beyond the power of anyone to guess. The percentage of loss to each citizen on the amount of land to be allotted would be very small; whereas by keeping the contests going on merrily for years to come there would certainly be a great number of people enrolled who had no rightful place there and the percentage of reduction would be

Kansas City Times Restored. Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 12.—The Times appeared this morning, reduced from two pages to four, the old heading, "The Times," restored and the information added by a circular letter enclosed in each copy that hereafter the paper will contain only news gathered the night previous, subsequent to that which was reported in the last edition of the Star. The subscription price is dropped to 5 cents per week, being in conjunction with the Star.

of course were reaping a harvest but the citizen was paying very heavily in land and money. So as it stands it is "better half a loaf than no bread."

It is not proposed to frame a supplemental agreement and then let it take the ordinary course with the Interior Department. The idea is to get the treaty in proper shape and finished sending it to Washington, to send a delegation along with it so that if any corrections or modifications are to be made it can be done right there without waiting for the slow method of sending back and forth. When the treaty is properly signed up by all the proper parties concerned, it is proposed to remain in Washington and bring every possible influence to bear upon Congress for its immediate ratification.

This move will affect not only the Mississippi Choctaws but thousands of others who are trying to get a portion of the rich country in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. It will of course cause joy in the hearts of those who are generally conceded that they would hold the allotments. If the move is successful it will place these nations on a par with the Creek nation as far as progress is concerned and will materially alter the condition of affairs there.

CHEEKS PAROLE REPORT.

Attorneys For Indians Send Message to the Executive Council.

Tablequah, Nov. 5.—The attorneys for the Cherokee Nation submitted a report today of their work in making the freedmen roll which will at once be forwarded from the executive department to the national council now in session. The important part of the report is as follows:

"The work of enrolling freedmen applying for citizenship under the ninth article of the treaty of 1866 was begun April 2. Applications were received from 6,036 people. Of this number there were found upon the authenticated roll of 1866, together with their descendants, 4,157. The number of applications of heads of families, including minors, of those found upon the authenticated roll of 1866, where 1,446 of the number of doubtful cases, of heads of families including minors, was 1,083. Under instructions from the secretary of the interior, the Dawes commission could not take testimony in rebuttal of any case of an applicant found upon the authenticated roll of 1866, except as to identification and abjuration of citizenship.

"Trials were necessitated in 1,083 cases in which testimony had to be taken on the part of the nation. There remains now but 200 cases, in which no answer has been made for lack of time. The work of making the freedmen roll is not more than one-half done. The Cherokee enrollment has not yet been completed.

"Our difficulties have been great and many. A generation has passed since the expiration of the freedmen roll. A great majority of such freedmen as could give testimony, as we are informed, belong to an association known as the Freedmen's Protective Association, whose particular aim is to prevent testimony from being obtained by the Cherokee Nation and to furnish proof for the applicants. Such of the freedmen as are not of this organization are terrorized by the threat made by it of from sympathy refuse to testify. This condition has worked out as follows:

"This has entailed an enormous expense. Our lack of authority to compel the attendance of witnesses is another obstacle and we respectfully state that some subpoenas without return, and an appeal to the United States commission disclosed the fact that it is as helpless in that matter as ourselves. Should this continue hundreds of freedmen who have no right under the provisions of the treaty of 1866 will be enrolled."

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Short Interviews.

"My plan is to recommend immediate statehood for these territories," remarked Judge Bradford, of Ardmore, the father of the single statehood movement in the Indian Territory, to a News man yesterday. "Such a proposition will not be received favorably by Oklahoma. They will raise a vigorous protest and Congress will settle the matter, no doubt, by making one big territory out of the two territories. This will bring the Oklahomans to their senses and at the next session of Congress after that statehood will come. There is nobody in this Territory who will for a moment favor the immediate admission of Oklahoma with the provision that the Territory be tacked on as a sort of tail. There will be strong objections from Oklahoma to the two being put on an equality. They claim among other things that they would have to pay the burden of the taxes for awhile. They seem to think that this would be an injustice. They make questions about criminal costs. There would be no criminal costs paid in common. Strong counties would be organized in this part of the new state and these counties would pay their own costs. Then a kick comes about the school money Congress would not doubt make some sort of adjustment of. But even if we shared with them in the school fund it would not be any great injustice. Oklahoma was once a part of the Indian Territory. They did not pay anything for their school fund. They should not own it. It is a nuisance from the government. The government has been very generous to the people of Oklahoma. In addition to the magnificent school fund at the disposal of the state, a gift from the government, the people of the Indian Territory, of the great bulk, have paid for their property. Congress will bear this in mind in the adjustment. Whatever our recommendation it is reasonably sure that there will be but a single state, but there will first be a big territory. The speedy closing of the rolls, the making of allotments and the authorization of the Indians to sell all their lands except a homestead will be the next move in the direction of the solution of the most complex and unique problem the United States has ever wrestled with in the organization of territories.

"Senator Ben Tillman lectured in Shawnee Monday night," remarked Rev. E. D. Cameron yesterday to a News reporter. "His theme was statehood for the two territories. He made the statement that there was not a single man in Congress who favors the making of two states out of the two territories. He told his hearers that single statehood is inevitable and he promised the people that he would use his utmost endeavors to bring to a settlement of conditions speedily about it."

"I never was so tickled as when Roosevelt made that nigger break," said a local Democratic sage in a burst of confidence to some friends. "I tell you, fellows, we were-generous if it had been for that. Why if Teddy had kept on the way he was going he would have split the solid South into blue water. There wouldn't have been enough niggers to give the freedmen a burial. Boys, he's saved us from total annihilation. We've still got a chance that will hold the solid South. Just look at Maryland. The boys over there didn't have any victrolas to have about just got through by the skin of their teeth. How did they do it? They worked the nigger business. Got out big cartoons of Mrs. Roosevelt and that nigger nigger Booker Washington. It was a little law, may be to cartoon the lady of the White house, but matters were desperate. Why, if it had been for that, and the clamor about niggers knocking us all out of white wives we wouldn't have lasted any longer than a snow-blow in the place where Grogg gets his meals. I find out that Ted Roosevelt's purpose so he could have a little opposition in 1904. Teddy's a dead game sport and doesn't want to run against time."

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