

attitude toward the several Indian reservation bills which were about to come before him; as the signing of them, particularly in their present form, would practically fix the policy of the United States on the subject for the next few years. Several bills providing for the sale of Indian reservation tracts amounting to some two million acres had already passed the House. He requested that I return in the afternoon, when he would listen to what I had to say on the subject.

At the second visit I was greeted with the query: "What is your interest in the matter?" with a strong accent upon the "your." Upon my reminding him that I was the lone single taxpayer in Congress, he expressed delight that one member at least was not after a post-office.

I insisted that whether he agreed with single taxers or not as to the cause of land monopoly and its remedy, he must at least agree that we were earnest and sincere in asserting it to be the correct solution of the problem. To this he assented, even saying that from an "academic" standpoint he was more largely in agreement with us than we might imagine. He, however, declared that while it was his intention to take the matter up in the near future, he did not think it could first be done with the Reservation lands, as he could not say to the Indians: "We are going to lease your lands, while continuing to sell the public lands."

Upon my inquiring whether his objection was due to his thinking that this was not "the line of least resistance," he said: "It is not the line of fair resistance!"—that it would not be fair to the Indians to commence with them.

It is a matter of regret that the signing of some 150 commissions of postmasters had just previously occupied so much of his time that he was unable to go into the discussion of the matter then at greater length, but he reiterated his intention of taking the matter up at an early date, and requested that I see the Land Commissioner, General Richards, and discuss the subject with him, stating to him the substance of our conversation. This I hope to do very soon.

In the meantime I request readers of The Public to peruse at the nearest public library the Congressional Record of this date.—Saturday, March 5th (page 3009-3012), as it contains some brief remarks of mine to-day on this subject to which I have attached the memorial of the Indian Rights Association, dated February 29th, opposing the Rosebud Reservation Bill (H. R. 10428), an article from the "Outlook" of February 27th, 1904, by George Kennan, the Siberian explorer, and considerable other testimony going to show that the price at which this bill directs that the 416,000 acres be sold, is so far below its real value that the Rosebud Indians will be defrauded out of nearly three-fourths

of even the present value of their lands. Brief letters, direct to the point, addressed to the President and to Senators, urging that the latter oppose and the former veto the Rosebud Reservation Bill on the ground that the nation is in duty bound to protect its wards—the Indians—from being thus defrauded, would probably be effective. To-night's Washington papers announce that the President has declared to Congressman Sherman, the chairman of the House Committee on Indian Affairs, that he is unalterably opposed to the terms of payment fixed by the bill as it passed the House, i. e., when mine was the only voice raised and the only vote recorded against it.

The other bills providing for the sale of Indian Reservation lands are very similar in their provisions. If the President persists in his present attitude toward them, they will undoubtedly be amended in the Senate and will therefore have to come back to the House for concurrence in the Senate amendments. Advantage can therefore be taken of this opportunity to point out the uniformly evil effects which have resulted from the policy of selling outright the public lands—where the Indians have not been the beneficiaries of the sale, as well as in such cases as this. That policy has enabled syndicates and individuals to corral immense tracts of land. One firm alone, that of Miller and Lux, of California, owns fourteen million acres. The letters should point out that the leasing plan would insure that whatever increment of value might in the future attach to the land because of increase of population, would go into the public treasury in increased rentals at the end of every—say, five-year—reappraisal, instead of as now, creating millionaires and multimillionaires.

As these bills are liable to be returned to the House and called up at any time without notice, it is desirable that Congressmen be also written to along similar lines. Resolutions of clubs and other organizations directed to the President, to Senators and to Representatives would also be of service.

ROBERT BAKER.

### NEWS

Week ending Thursday, March 10.

The military censorship is still so strict on both sides in connection with the Russo-Japanese war (p. 757), that but little news of real value has reached the press. One of the American correspondents at London, Mr. I. N. Ford, advising his paper, the New York Tribune, on the subject, has fairly

described the conditions as follows:

The news agencies and newspapers are having great difficulty in getting dispatches from Corea. The managers, who have made most elaborate arrangements for covering field operations, admit that they are receiving meager returns for large expenditures, owing to the rigorous censorship. The experience of the Boer war is likely to be repeated, with one important exception, namely, that official bulletins are few and untrustworthy.

In all probability, however, there are yet no important war events to report. Naval demonstrations continue in the region of Port Arthur; one or two have occurred within a few days past at Vladivostok; and the concentration of land forces along the Yalu river, the boundary between Corea and Manchuria, is reported. These are the only facts regarding military operations that can be relied upon. Regarding the Yalu concentration Japanese troops are said to have advanced in force along the Korean railroad as far as Anju, Corea. The latest report describes them as having even crossed over the Yalu into Manchuria, and the Russians as having fallen back. The Russian headquarters are stated to be at Mukden, Manchuria, on the line of the Russian railroad. Skirmishes between outposts have probably occurred frequently; but there is no reason to believe that the rumors and reports of land battles have any other basis.

In the midst of the war Japan has held parliamentary elections, the result of which were reported on the 4th from Tokio as follows:

	Members.
Constitutionalists (ministerialists).....	130
Progressives .....	96
Imperialists .....	20
Liberals .....	26
Unclassified parties.....	107

It is estimated that the ministry will have 180 supporters, and that all important measures are assured a safe majority.

With reference to the Philippines, an active and influential agitation for their independence has begun in the United States. It is under the management of the following national committee, to be known as the "Philippine Independence Committee:"

Arkansas.—Hon. U. M. Rose, former president of American Bar Association.

California.—James M. Allan, Chas. T. Lummls, editor of "Out West;" and President David Starr Jordan, of Leland Stanford, Jr., University.

Colorado.—Gen. Wm. J. Palmer, president of Rio Grande Western Railway.

Connecticut.—Prof. Wm. G. Sumner, of Yale University.

Delaware.—Geo. Gray, U. S. Circuit Court judge.

District of Columbia.—Wayne McVeagh.

Georgia.—Chancellor Walter B. Hill, of the University of Georgia, and Hon. Hoke Smith.

Illinois.—Prof. J. Lawrence Laughlin, of the University of Chicago, and J. L. Spalding, R. C. bishop of Peoria.

Louisiana.—President Edwin B. Alderman, of Tulane University.

Massachusetts.—Charles Francis Adams; President Chas. W. Eliot, of Harvard University; President G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University; Prof. Wm. James, of Harvard University; Bliss Perry, editor of Atlantic Monthly, and Hon. Samuel W. McCall.

Maine.—President Geo. C. Chase, President Wm. De W. Hyde.

New Jersey.—Prof. Henry Van Dyke, of Princeton University.

New York.—Dr. Felix Adler; W. H. Baldwin, Jr., president Long Island R. R. Co.; Andrew Carnegie; R. Fulton Cutting; W. D. Howells; Rev. W. R. Huntington, rector of Grace church; Rev. C. H. Parkhurst; Geo. Foster Peabody; Henry C. Potter, P. E. bishop of New York; President J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University; Prof. Edwin R. A. Seligman, of Columbia University, and Horace White.

Ohio.—Gen. R. Brinkerhoff; President Henry Churchill King, of Oberlin college, and Judge Reuben B. Smith.

Pennsylvania.—Geo. Burnham, Jr., of Burnham, Williams & Co., proprietors of Baldwin Locomotive Works; Phillip C. Garrett, retired manufacturer; President Isaac Sharpless, of Haverford College, and Robert Ellis Thompson.

Rhode Island.—W. N. McVicker, coadjutor P. E. bishop of Rhode Island.

A petition, of which copies for signing and soliciting signatures may be procured of E. W. Ordway, 150 Nassau street, New York City, (to whom also signatures with occupation and address may be sent by letter with authority to add to the petition), was put out on the 8th in the following form:

We, the undersigned, members of all political parties, join with the above-named Committee in urging upon the approaching national conventions the adoption of resolutions pledging to the people of the Philippine Islands their ultimate national independence upon terms similar to those offered to Cuba.

Among the Americans of dis-

tinction whose signatures to this petition have already been secured are Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, Bishop Huntington, of Syracuse, N. Y., Charles Eliot Norton, of Harvard, and Geo. T. Edmunds, now of Philadelphia, but formerly U. S. Senator from Vermont.

An outbreak of whites against Negroes occurred in Springfield, Ohio, on the 7th and 8th. It began with the lynching of Richard Dixon, a Negro of Kentucky. As the story is reported, Dixon had asked a policeman, Charles Collis, to protect him from a probable assault by an inmate of the hotel in which he lived, upon his attempting to remove his belongings. This was on the 6th. Collis accordingly accompanied Dixon, and while in his room was, for some reason not very clearly or positively reported, shot by Dixon, who was thereupon arrested. On the following day the wounded policeman died and late that night a large mob attacked the jail for the purpose of lynching Dixon. The rioters were successful. They frightened the jail authorities into delivering up the prisoner to them, and on getting possession of him they killed him in the jail yard by shooting. After this they carried his dead body to a telegraph pole and hanging it there spent the next half hour in riddling it with bullets.

Local dispatches attribute the lynching to the fact that although several cold blooded murders have been perpetrated in the county, the death penalty has never been inflicted. But subsequent accounts indicate that the lynching was really due to race animosity rather than popular indignation over unpunished crime. With the excuse that some Negroes had been heard to threaten revenge for the lynching of Dixon, a mob of 3,000 persons gathered on the 8th and attacked the Negro quarter of the town, setting it on fire with the avowed intention of destroying the buildings and killing every Negro who refused to leave the city. The Mayor appealed to the Governor for assistance, and State troops were ordered to the scene. Extracts from a Chicago Tribune dispatch of the 9th from Springfield give an idea of the outbreak:

The arrival of nearly a regiment of State troops shortly before midnight

checked the operations of the mob and undoubtedly prevented a heavy loss of life. The "levee" consists of two squares of wooden and dilapidated brick cottages along the Big Four railroad tracks, near the center of the city. Its black population is estimated at between 600 and 700. The main approach to the district is by Washington street. In Washington street about dusk, the first groups of what afterwards became a mob began to be seen. The men were armed and for the most part talked of the murder of Policeman Colles. While the crowds were forming, a large number of blacks also congregated. They were armed, and it looked for a time as if a battle between about equal forces of blacks and whites would be fought. . . . There was some desultory firing, and, with the increasing of the white mob, the blacks began to disperse. By 9 p. m. scarcely a colored man was to be seen on the streets up-town. Later the mob started for the "levee" with the cry: "Burn the niggers out!" They ranged through the streets of the district, firing at intervals at darkened cabins in which black men, women and children hid in terror. About 11 o'clock the militia companies were hurried down High street in the direction of the district. Their approach appeared to be the signal for starting the fires. A volume of flames was seen to shoot up from the rear of a place occupied by "Les Thomas, a saloonkeeper. Preceding the firing of the building the mob, at a distance of a hundred feet, shot at the front of the building for a half hour, but it is not known whether any of the occupants had remained in the building, and, if they did, whether any fatalities resulted from the shooting. The fire spread both ways from Thomas' place, and soon the entire levee was a mass of flames. The sudden appearance of the troops had a dampening effect on the mob. It was soon brought under control and pressed back from the burning "levee." The fire department, whose work had been hampered by the mob, was then enabled to begin work. The fire was beyond control in the Negro quarter and the department devoted its efforts to prevent its spreading. Springfield is practically under martial law and Gov. Herrick at Columbus has notified the authorities that the troops will be kept here until order is fully restored.

On the 10th local dispatches stated that on the 9th there was not a colored man within the corporate limits of Springfield, a city in which the colored population aggregates 15,000. The lawlessness had not then abated.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Funds are being collected for meeting the expenses of the municipal ownership referendum campaign in Chicago. Wm. Bross Lloyd, 113d Unity Building,