

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.