

• WASHINGTON.

The Sierra Nevada and the Union Consolidated.

Williamson's Recommendations Concerning the Suit.

Colonel Bee's Celestial Credentials Ready for Signature.

How to Subscribe for Four-per-Cents in Future.

[Special Dispatches to the Chronicle.]

WASHINGTON, November 12.—The contest between the Sierra Nevada and the Union Consolidated mining companies, in regard to the patent held by the latter for 600 feet of the Comstock lode, covering the mine of the former, will shortly come up again on an application from the Secretary of the Interior to the Attorney-General to institute a suit for the recovery of a patent on behalf of the United States. On August 14th last, directions were sent by Commissioner Williamson to the Register and Receiver at Carson City, to demand the surrender of the patent held by the Union Consolidated. That Company refused to do this, and a draft of a letter was prepared, addressed by the Commissioner to the Secretary of the Interior, reciting the facts and recommending that the Attorney-General be requested to institute a suit. The recommendation made by the Commissioner was followed by a number of telegrams from parties interested to the Commissioner and others. The impression of those unfamiliar with the methods with which these suits are brought may be that the request, which will be probably addressed to the Attorney-General, would be for suit instituted for the benefit of the United States. On the contrary, the suit would be for the benefit of the Sierra Nevada Company, which, in case the Attorney-General gave the permission recommended in Williamson's letter to the Secretary of the Interior, will be able to institute proceedings to test the validity of patent in the name of the United States, obtaining all the advantages of priority in trial of the suit. It should be understood that the present connection of the Land Office with the case is purely formal, involves no new action and simply carries out the decision reached August 14th. Following are the important portions of the Commissioner's letter, in which, after stating that the Union Consolidated obtained its patents in 1876 and that he addressed a letter to the Register August 14th, the Commissioner proceeds: "On the 23d of September last the Register of said district office reported that on the 22d of August he called upon said company to surrender the patent as directed in my said letter, and forwarded a letter from Robert Sherwood, President of said company, dated September 18, 1878, declining to surrender said patent for cancellation or any other purpose adverse to the interests of said company. I have the honor to transmit herewith the papers in said case, and to recommend that the same be forwarded to the Attorney General of the United States, with the request that the Sierra Nevada Company be authorized to institute proceedings in the proper United States Court in the name of the United States to test the validity of the patent issued to the Union Consolidated Silver Mining Company." No doubt is expressed here that Schurz will act favorably upon this recommendation made by the Commissioner to bring the case as soon as possible before the Court.

AFTER THE MONOPOLISTS.

Secretary Schurz to-day transmitted to the Attorney-General papers received by him from the Auditor of railroad accounts in reference to the alleged neglect of the Central Pacific Railroad to furnish the reports demanded by the Auditor under the recent Act of Congress, and requesting that in accordance with the requirements of this law suits be instituted to recover the forfeitures prescribed for such cases of neglect or refusal. There are seven distinct specifications in which suit is recommended, the penalty in each case being the forfeiture of a sum not less than \$1000 nor more than \$50,000.

THE LAST TREASURY NOTE.

The following was issued by the Treasury Department to-day:

Any person subscribing hereafter for four per cent bonds, consols of 1907, authorized by the Act of July 14, 1870, may pay for them with any of the 5-20 bonds of the Act of March 3, 1865, redeemable at the pleasure of the United States after the 1st day of July, 1870, in the same way as if they were called at the date of subscription in regular course: but the subscriber, to avail himself of this privilege, must accompany his subscription with a full description of such bonds by numbers and denominations, and must within thirty days thereafter forward the bonds to this Department, to be applied like called bonds. Of the amount issued of the above described 5-20 bonds there is now outstanding an uncalled amount of \$20,055,700.
JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary.

SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED.

The published statements affecting the President's views on the Southern question seem to have been exaggerated in both directions. The facts appear to be that the administration has decided on new steps, but that the President is thoroughly in earnest in his intention to protect United States citizens when their rights are violated, irrespective of their political faith. The instructions recently referred to in these dispatches as having been issued by the Attorney-General obviously contemplated this object, though there has been no change in their original tone and temper.

BUYING SILVER.

Bids for the sale of silver were opened at the Treasury to-day. Less than 400,000 ounces were purchased below the London rate.

HIS CELESTIAL CREDENTIALS.

The exequatur of Colonel F. A. Bee as Chinese Consul at San Francisco has been made out at the State Department and will be signed in a day or two. This is the first instance in which the Chinese Government has ever conferred a Consular appointment on a foreigner.

FREEDMAN'S BREAST CLAIMS.

Second Auditor of the Treasury French, in his annual report, quotes from his late reports in regard to frauds discovered by the War Department in the payment of claims by sub-agents of the Freedman's Bureau prior to the transfer of that Bureau to the War Department, and the civil liability of bonded agents of the Bureau. Suits were brought against the late Commissioner of that Bureau, but the accounting officers of the Treasury hold that no claim can be retitled and paid without specific authority from Congress and the reappropriation of the necessary funds. The Auditor says: "I have now to state that the cases against the late Commissioner have been brought to an issue and judgment rendered against the Government: so that if any further action is to be had looking to relief of the colored people who claim to have been defrauded of their bounty money Congress must take the initiative, either by passing upon the merits of individual cases, by referring them to the Court of Claims, and by making the requisite appropriation, and empowering the accounting officers to re-title claims after it shall have been clearly established that the claimants have neither received nor received their money nor derived any benefit therefrom."

VOORHEES AND THE TRADE DOLLAR.

New York, November 14.—A Times Cincinnati special says: Senator Voorhees states that one of his first acts upon the re-assembling of Congress will be a movement to make the trade dollar legal tender.