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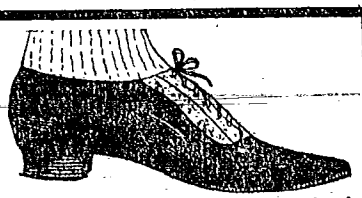

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BLACK BOB INDIAN LANDS.

Taking of Depositions in a Suit Involving Valuable Property in Johnson County, Kas.

OLATHE, KAS., May 23.—[Special.] The taking of depositions was begun in this city to-day before H. B. Tracy, special commissioner for Kansas, in the case of the United States of America against the Black Bob band of Shawnee Indians et al upon the part of the government and in behalf of the Indians.

This is a suit that was ordered brought by the attorney general of the United States under an act of congress passed about six years ago to settle the title to about 8,000 acres of land in this county, known as the Black Bob land, which suit was filed in October, 1890, in the circuit court of the United States for the district of Kansas by United States District Attorney Ady and his assistant, F. L. Soper, making defendants all the Indians as well as all the settlers on the land.

About 25,000 acres having been settled in 1831 upon a compromise by the Indians' government, speculators and settlers, after twenty years of litigation, by the terms of which the settlers got the title to the same at an average price of $10 per acre.

E. M. Clark, of Leavenworth, held most all the Indians' titles. The balance of 8,000 acres, which is still in litigation, was not owned by Clark and was not included in the decre of court in 1884, the most of which is owned by the heirs of Thomas Carney and W. R. Wagstaff. The settlers on this remaining tract have a contract with Carney to get deeds to the same for $5 per acre. The government, however, charges in the suit that Carney did not pay the Indians enough for the land, and also charges the renters with being trespassers, and asks for rent for the same for about twenty years at $3 per acre. There are about 100 settlers whose homes are affected by the suit.

The whole tract taken together contains the finest body of land in Eastern Kansas and is the most highly improved of any in the county, although it has been in litigation since 1860.

The trial of the suit is expected to be reached in November in the circuit court at Topeka before Judge Riner.

The nature of the depositions being taken is to prove the value of the land at present and as well the rental value per acre. The settlers are much alarmed over the charge being made by the government for rent for several years, which would amount to more than the actual value of the land.

R. L. Soper, assistant United States district attorney, appears for the government, F. R. Ogg, of this city on behalf of the Indians, and Rossington, Smith & Dallas, of Topeka, and E. L. Carney, of Leavenworth, appear for the Carney heirs, Judge Wagstaff, of Paola, for himself, and John T. Little, I. O. Pickering, H. L. Burgess, E. C. Owen, S. D. Scott, S. T. Seaton, J. W. Parker and J. P. Hindman, all of this city, appear as counsel for the various settlers.

The taking of depositions will last probably a month in this city, after which the depositions of the Indians will be taken in the Indian Territory.

Believes in the Rain Makers.

TOPEKA, May 23.—[Special.] The Rock Island management believes that the rain making experiments of Station Agent Jewell, of Goodland, have been successful. He has made experiments at various places along the line of the road in northern Kansas and there have been general rains, which, it is said, prove that rain making is practicable.

But at the same time there were heavy rains in the extreme south along the line of the Santa Fe. The experiments at Jewell and the rain which appears to have been coincidental seem to cause difference. Farmers south of Topeka need rain as much as those in northern Kansas, but there is no rain.

Delegates Elected by Carpenters.

TOPEKA, May 23.—[Special.] Secretary Kelling has received the following names of delegates to the national conference of carpenters which is to be held at Washington, D. C., on June 1: W. Gilmore, Kansas City, Kas.; W. H. Hazlett, Topeka; J. A. Kelling, Topeka; C. Allen, Topeka; J. Wilson, Topeka; W. Wilson, Topeka; W. Wilson, Topeka; W