

COMMISSIONS UNDER INDIAN LEGISLATION BY CONGRESS.

Stockbridge enrollment.—Henry R. Wells, esq., of New Jersey, was appointed on the 24th of March last a special commissioner to complete the enrollment of the Stockbridge and Munsee Indians, in Wisconsin, as provided by the sixth section of the act of February 6, 1871, entitled "An act for the relief of the Stockbridge and Munsee Indians, in the State of Wisconsin." (Stat. at Large, vol. 16, p. 406.) Instructions were issued from this Office on the 25th of March last as to the manner of making up said enrollment and rules that should govern his decision. Commissioner Wells has submitted his report, with enrollment of said Indians, which was approved by the honorable Secretary of the Interior in May last.

Stockbridge improvements.—On the 4th of June last Special Commissioner H. R. Wells was appointed a commission to proceed to Keshena, Wis., to investigate the question of ownership in certain improvements, whether belonging to the tribe or individual members thereof, upon lands within the reserve of two townships set apart for the Stockbridge Indians. Under instructions issued on the 5th of June last, Mr. Wells has executed his commission and submitted his report, dated June 30, 1874.

Sioux.—A commission, consisting of Right Reverend Bishop William H. Hare, chairman, Rev. S. D. Hinman, Robert B. Lines, and C. C. Cox, M. D., was appointed on the 23d of February last, and re-appointed on the 24th of April last, to visit the Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies and the Sioux country, with a view to induce the roving tribes and bands of Sioux Indians to abandon their nomadic habits and accept a permanent home within the Sioux reservation or elsewhere, if such other location be desirable; to establish an agency for these nomadic tribes in the event of their consent being obtained; to secure the abrogation of the eleventh and sixteenth articles of their treaty of April 29, 1868, the one giving them the right to hunt on lands north of the North Platte River and on the Republican Fork of the Smoky Hill River so long as buffalo abound; the other declaring the country north of the North Platte River and east of the Big Horn Mountains unceded Indian country, closed to whites for either settlement or passage; and to select a suitable location for the Whetstone agency. Instructions were issued to said commission on the 4th of May last upon the above subjects, and their final report has been received, and is printed herewith.

Mission Indians in California.—Charles A. Wetmore, esq., of California, was appointed on the 11th of August last a special commissioner to proceed to Southern California and make a thorough inquiry into all the facts and circumstances affecting the Mission Indians, with instructions, issued on the 25th of September last, to devise some plan whereby favorable legislation can be had to relieve their present deplorable condition, and to select lands upon which to locate these Indians, the title to which lands should be vested in the Government; and to report as fully as possible the previous history and condition of these Indians, which may be obtained from the records of the old missions. When Commissioner Wetmore shall have submitted his report to this Office it will be duly forwarded, for such action as you may deem necessary in the premises.

Indian Territory.—A commission, consisting of Col. J. W. Smith, of Little Rock, Ark., and F. H. Smith, esq., of the Board of Indian Commissioners, was appointed on the 6th of August last, to visit fully and to obtain accurate information in regard to the situation of Indian affairs in the Indian Territory, which commission has submitted a report of their action and views.