

WASHINGTON HAPPENINGS.

News From the National Capitol Briefly Noted in Passing for the Reader.

INTERESTING FIGURES AS TO COST MOVING THE MAILS

Transportation of the mails by railway, steamship lines and various star routes cost the government, during the fiscal year, ended June 30, 1909, \$83,493,762.

These are the figures given in the annual report of Joseph Stewart, Second Assistant Postmaster General, which was made public last Monday. The number of railroad routes employed by the department was 3,316, aggregating 217,115 miles. The total expense of the railway service for the year was \$45,054,48. For the fiscal year of 1911 it is estimated that the expenditures for railroad transportation will be \$49,620,000.

The result of the readjustment of pay for railroad transportation, effective July 1, 1909, for the ensuing four years, based upon the weighing of the mails, shows a decrease of \$494,360.31, or 5.08 per cent; and for railway postoffice car pay a decrease of \$3,195.97, or 0.29 per cent.

It has developed that electric street railway companies in some cities demand extortionate rates for carrying the mails. Concerning this situation, Mr. Stewart says:

"In view of the demands made by electric companies for higher rates for service in the large cities it is found desirable, in some cases, to substitute motor-wagon service for the electric car service.

It is shown by the report that on June 30, 1909, there were 168 full railway postoffice lines, manned by 1,651 crews of 8,063 clerks (including 75 acting clerks); of these there

Boll Weevil Causes Short Crop.

The cotton crop of the year 1909 will be the smallest since 1899 according to the statement of W. D. Hunter, of Dallas, Texas, expert of the department of agriculture.

"It is due," he said, addressing the House committee on agriculture, "to the weevil in Louisiana, portions of Arkansas and Mississippi and the extreme dry weather in Texas, where sensational conditions interfered with propagation of the parasites."

The boll weevil, he declared, undoubtedly would cause remarkable redistribution of production of cotton, first in large areas. What were large centers of production formerly were going to fall down and there would be the redistribution of small plantations. He declared the soil and other conditions in certain parts of almost every plantation in the South will permit the planter to continue to raise cotton profitably despite the boll weevil.

Improvements For Augusta, Ga.

A quarter million dollar improvement for the Savannah River, at Augusta, the cost to be evenly divided between the Federal Government and the Georgia city, has been recommended to Congress by the war department. Where Augusta rests on the Savannah's banks, the river's slope changes from a steep to a gradual incline, which subjects that section to sudden, severe and destructive freshets, with constant erosion estimated to have carried away half a million cubic feet of material from the river bank along the city front since last August.

New Bank For Jacksonville.

The Fourth National Bank of Jacksonville, Fla., capital \$400,000, has been authorized to begin business by the comptroller of the currency.

Largest Financial Transaction.

What is said to be the largest financial transaction in the world's history occurred here. It consisted in giving of receipts for \$1,260,124.946 by Lee McClung, treasurer of the United States to Charles H. Treat, who retired from that office October 31st. The receipt is acknowledgement of money and securities in the office November 1st.

Wants Savannah Harbor Improved.

Representative Edwards, of Georgia, has introduced a bill appropriating \$1,545,000 to be paid in four annual installments for the improvement of the harbor of Savannah, Ga., along the lines of previous survey and report.

The Standard Oil Trial.

The Standard Oil Co.'s case involving an effort on the part of the government to have the company dissolved as a trust, under the Sherman anti-trust law, will be heard March 1st.

Taft Invited to Open Show.

A delegation of prominent Tennesseans have invited President Taft to open and attend the Appalachian Exposition to be held in Knoxville next September. The President promised to open the exposition by telegraph and to attend if possible. The fair is designed to exploit the natural resources of the Appalachian region.

GOVERNMENT TOO COSTLY

So Says Adair, of Indiana, Before the House.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Representative Adair, of Indiana, in an address before the House a few days since, had the following to say concerning the extravagance of the U. S. government.

"The President's salary should not have been increased to \$75,000 a year," he thought \$50,000 was sufficient.

Attacking the President's allowance of \$35,000 for vehicles, stables, etc., Mr. Adair argued that this was \$30,000 too much, and he also asserted that one-third of the \$9,000 allowance for care of the White House greenhouse would "furnish the President with all the flowers he can possibly use."

Without depriving the President of any of the comforts or luxuries which properly belong to the White House, Mr. Adair said, the appropriations of the Executive Department, which were \$329,420 last year, could be reduced at least \$75,000 a year.

Mr. Adair declared that appropriations for all purposes could be reduced at least \$100,000,000 a year without impairing any part of the Government service. "Extravagance and waste permeate everywhere through the Federal service," he said.

Opposing the proposition to pension government employees, Mr. Adair said the departments in Washington were crowded with incompetents, and if they had failed to lay aside part of their earnings for a rainy day the failure was due to no fault of the Government.

"There is more extravagance in the army and navy than in any other departments of our Government," said Mr. Adair. "It is enough to bankrupt any government in the world to spend \$238,132,699 each year for the maintenance of its army and navy, and that, too, in time of peace."

FOLLOWS TAFT'S PLANS.

Bill Creating Court of Commerce Introduced in the House.

Washington, Special.—Representative Townsend of Michigan introduced in the House last Tuesday the bill embodying the recommendations outlined in the special message of President Taft for amendments to the interstate commerce law. It provides, among other things, for a special court composed of five Federal circuit judges to have exclusive original jurisdiction over matters growing out of orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

This court is to be composed of five circuit judges who shall, save by assignment of the chief justice for a term of five years, but no two of the judges' terms will expire at the same time, and thus under all circumstances four of the judges will have had several years' experience with these technical questions.

MORSE MAY SEEK WRIT.

Confers With Ex-Gov. Smith on Plans For Freedom.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Former Gov. Hoke Smith held a long conference with Charles W. Morse at the Federal prison, after which it was announced that the ex-governor had been retained to aid the fight which is to be made to restore Morse to freedom. It is thought a writ of habeas corpus may be sued out before the Georgia courts.

To Out Loose From Liquor Men.

Louisville, Ky., Special.—T. M. Gilmore, president of the National Model License League, announces that the league is in correspondence with leading men throughout the United States with the purpose of placing the organization entirely under the control of persons in no way connected with the liquor trade.

Miser Ragman Leaves Fortune.

St. Louis, Special.—A fortune of \$60,000 in good securities awaits the heirs of Jeremiah Moynihan, an aged miser ragman, who died here.

Berlin Dates Roosevelt.

Berlin, By Cable.—According to a statement purporting to emanate from a diplomatic source, Mr. Roosevelt will arrive here on April 24 and will remain three days in Germany.

Report of Census Bureau.

Washington, Special.—Up to Jan. 1st there had been 9,646,285 bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1909 as compared with 12,465,298 on the crop of 1908. In North Carolina 647,505 as compared with 606,196 for the previous year.

Gale Devastates Islands.

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, By Cable.—A gale devastated the entire island of Gran Canaria, destroying many houses and ruining banana and other crops.

Carry Fight to President.

Washington, Special.—The American Federation of Labor, through a committee headed by Samuel Gompers, James O'Connell and other union leaders have carried its fight against the United States Steel Corporation to President Taft. The committee presented to the President a formal paper in which they set forth fourteen different charges of illegality against the steel corporation.

NEWS BRIEVITIES

Condensed from Wide Fields, Domestic and Foreign.

AS THEY ARE HAPPENING DAILY

Suited to the Wants of Busy Readers Seeking a Knowledge of What is Going on.

At Ocala, Fla., fire completely destroyed the Crystal Cold Storage and Canning company's plant. Loss \$100,000.

There was no Virginia pilot aboard the battleship Georgia when it grounded near Norfolk, and it is said an investigation will follow.

The widow of former President Barrios, of Guatemala, once possessed of millions, applied for admission to a New Orleans almshouse.

At Nashville, Tenn., P. B. Jones, president and general manager of the Southwestern Co., publishers, shot and killed his 5-year-old son, Jerry, and then committed suicide.

The Cotton States baseball league is to be revived and in the course of the next few days a meeting will be held for the purpose of perfecting an organization.

J. C. Barnett, a Louisiana farmer, has been made agricultural expert to the King of Siam.

Standard Oil interests are said to have closed a deal for the entire natural gas output of West Virginia, the sum involved being \$200,000,000.

A fire at Bramwell, W. Va., burned 25 buildings and caused a loss of \$100,000.

Jefferson Taylor, of Aakhill, Va., shot his bride of three days, mistaking her for a burglar.

Karl Hau, the George Washington University professor, who murdered his mother-in-law in Germany and got a life sentence, made a futile attempt to escape from prison.

Three men were killed and two others injured, one seriously, when the automobile, in which they were riding, collided with a street car at Atlanta, Ga. The automobile was wrecked and the street car badly damaged.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Smith, pastor First Presbyterian church, Columbia, S. C., dropped dead of apoplexy.

Atlanta, Ga., is to be the headquarters of an ice and coal corporation that has just been chartered under the Virginia laws. The new corporation has acquired absolute control of the plants of six local companies, and will shortly erect two more plants in cities near Atlanta. The cities interested are Atlanta, Chattanooga, Macon, Rome, Augusta, Athens and Columbus.

Secretary Ballinger of the Interior Department, Washington, has suspended from office Superintendent John D. Benedict of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma and three Supervisors as the result of an investigation which has disclosed "a disgraceful condition" affecting the material and moral welfare of the schools.

French papers are questioning "the motives of the United States in the proposal of Secretary Knox for the neutralization of the Manchurian railway."

A landslide two miles long and half a mile wide carrying an Italian village of 1,000 inhabitants down to destruction.

Diplomats, officials and hundreds of others attended Cardinal Gibbons' annual reception in Washington.

Speaker Cannon is promised a more decisive defeat by the Insurgents if he attempts with Senate aid to overturn the resolution of the House to elect its members of the Ballinger committee.

Republican leaders fear the effect of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy on their party.

Secret Service men are at work in New York trying to get on the trail of persons who "strip" gold and silver coins.

The percentage of idleness is reported to be decreasing in New York State.

The H. C. Frick Coke Company announces that the wage scale of 1907 will be restored.

At San Francisco, the trial of Patrick Calhoun, charged with bribery, has been defended until Jan. 31.

Maj. Gen. Newton Martin Curtis, who commanded the van of the assaulting column which captured Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, and lost an eye in the battle, dropped dead in New York.

Five hundred justices of the peace and constables throughout the state of New Jersey are about to make a concerted move for higher wages.

Three young Harvard explorers have just left New York on a two-year expedition to the interior of South America, where they will collect ethnological data and specimens for the Harvard museum.

Two officers of the Russian Army have purchased two dirigible balloons to go to the South Pole.

John and Daniel Utsler, brothers, 83 and 80 years, respectively, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed their little one-room log cabin located in Indiana county, New Florence, Pa.

Tammany retains control of the New York Board of Aldermen, but Mayor Gaynor is not affording encouragement.

Cases of cancer are said to have been cured at Manila with a vaccine virus prepared from the cancer of the patients.

POSTAL REVENUES GROW

First Assistant Postmaster General Deals in Facts and Figures.

Washington, Special.—As a business institution the Postoffice Department, next to the United States Treasury, is the greatest in the government. According to figures submitted by Charles P. Gradfield, First Assistant Postmaster General, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1909, made public in his annual report, the gross revenue of the postal service reached the enormous total of \$203,562,383, an increase of \$12,083,720, or 6.31 per cent, over the preceding year. Their were 7,202 presidential postoffices on July 1, 1909. Of this number 398 were first class, an increase of 14; 1,797 were second class, an increase of 112; and 5,097 were third class, an increase of 230. The total increase in the number of presidential offices was 356. There were 1,444 postoffices established during the year and 2,004 were discontinued, leaving a total of 60,144 postoffices in operation on June 30, 1909. During the year 1,626 postmasters were appointed at presidential offices. At fourth-class offices 9,161 postmasters were appointed.

The report recommends an amendment to the law whereby fourth-class offices may be advanced when the receipts of the office qualify it; wages of the clerical and carrier force should be increased in first and second class offices. Nearly half the offices of presidential class are housed in leased quarters.

Petitions For Morse Pardon.

Portland, Me., Special.—Petitions addressed to President Taft asking for the absolute pardon of Charles W. Morse are in circulation here. The petitions set forth that he did no intentional wrong, that he has repaid his debts; that his jury was largely influenced by popular clamor and that, even though guilty, Morse has paid the penalty by his imprisonment while awaiting the outcome of the case.

DENIES CHARGE OF MADRIZ.

Zelaya Defends Self in Case of Groce and Cannon.

Mexico City, Special.—As justification of his refusal to pardon Cannon and Groce and in support of a denial which he made last Saturday of irregularity, Jose Santos Zelaya exhibited for the first time telegrams which he claimed to have received from the American victims of Nicaragua's martial law.

Zelaya uttered his denial in reply to charges made by President Madriz of Nicaragua, that the executions of Groce and Cannon were illegal and that the United States government was justified in its resentment over this action.

Agree on Arbitration.

Chicago, Special.—Members of the switchmen's union representing the western railroads have agreed with the general managers' association to submit their requests for advanced wages and change in hours to arbitration under the Erdman law. The switchmen asked for arbitration.

Five Burn to Death in House.

Burnside, Ky., Special.—Mrs. Martha Corder, her daughter, Mrs. James Kidd, and three small children were burned to death in a fire which destroyed Kidd's house at Plavens, Wayne county.

Two Yeggmen Are Killed.

Tallahassee, Fla., Special.—In a struggle with two safe blowers, Paul Sauls, 17 years old, son of J. M. Sauls, the night watchman at the postoffice building, shot and killed them both in the basement of the building. The boy was only slightly wounded. The two cracksmen were white.

Students Have Hookworm.

New Orleans, Special.—Consternation prevails among the 100 or more students of Tulane College following the examination of every student for hookworm. It is announced that more than a third of the junior class were found to be infected with the parasite. Practically all the students said to be thus afflicted are apparently robust specimens of manhood.

Plot on Zelaya's Life.

Mexico City, Special.—Jose Santos Zelaya has been warned by officials here that the police authorities are in receipt of secret information that two Salvadoreans and an American are in Mexico City and are only awaiting a favorable opportunity to take his life.

Heavy Cost of Canal.

New York, Special.—"I believe it will cost \$500,000,000 to complete the Panama Canal and that will amount to \$5.00 a head for every man, woman and child in the United States," said Mr. Langley, of Kentucky, returning from the Isthmus.

Led Coughs and Cure Himself of Appendicitis in Nick of Time.

Pittsburg, Special.—Surgeons at Kittanning, Pa., had placed Norman Barnett, the little son of George Barnett, on the operating table to cut out his appendix, but just as the knife was ready the lad was seized with a fit of coughing which cured him. He emitted a needle, which is believed to have caused his illness.

NORTH STATE CULLINGS

REPORT OF CHARITY BOARD.

State Institutes Need Additional Buildings.

Raleigh, Special.—The annual report to the North Carolina Board of Charities has been submitted by the secretary, Miss Daisy Denson. The report is very full and shows that there were at the end of the year 1,142 inmates at the Western Hospital for Insane at Morganton; 683 at the Central Hospital at Raleigh, and 680 in the Eastern hospital at Goldsboro, there being also fifty in the criminal insane department in penitentiary here. There are in the school for deaf mutes at Morganton 239; in the State school for the white blind at Raleigh 172 and in the school for negro deaf mutes and blind at Raleigh 182; in the Soldiers' Home 161 inmates; in the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford 324 and in the orphanage at the same place, for negroes, 150; in the Stonewall Jackson Training School for Boys, at Concord, 48. The report shows that for the various charitable institutions for the past two years the appropriations total \$1,100,000.

The Board of Charities recommends a building, to cost \$50,000, at the Western Hospital for the Insane, for the treatment of acute and recent cases, and a separate ward for tuberculosis male patients there; provision for a specialist to examine new pupils at the school for deaf mutes at Morganton; better sleeping quarters at the State penitentiary farm, on the Roanoke river, together with the protection and sewerage; State supervision of county convict camps; larger farms at county homes for the poor and better equipment for such homes; the employment of an inspector to visit all county penal and charitable institutions; co-operation with the State Board of Health and the superintendent for the State School for the Blind in the prevention of blindness from infantile ophthalmia; a separate camp for tuberculous prisoners from the penitentiary, convict camps and jails.

Bladen Bond Issue Loses.

Fayetteville, Special.—Telegraphic reports from Elizabethtown, Bladen county, state that the election held there Tuesday on the question of a \$40,000 bond issue providing for the building of railroad from St. Pauls to Elizabethtown resulted in the defeat for the bond issue by 24 votes, the total registered vote in the three townships being 409 and the vote cast for bonds 181. The majorities by townships are as follows: Elizabethtown 60 for bonds; Bethel 108 against; Hollow 81 against.

Was Largely Attended.

Southern Pines, Special.—Jan. 1st was a gala day for the colored race at Southern Pines, N. C. The race of Moore and Lee counties united in an old-fashioned free dinner and celebration to ex-slaves and orphans of the counties above mentioned, under the supervision of Prof. James M. Henderson, principal of the Industrial Union Hall, a training school for the colored people. It was largely attended.

Change in Court Dates.

Washington, Special.—Senator Overman and Representative Webb introduced in Congress a bill providing for a change in the dates of holding Federal court in Greensboro and Charlotte. The Greensboro terms will be in June and December and those in Charlotte in April and October.

Falls Into An Open Fireplace and is Burned to Crisp.

Salisbury, Special.—Mrs. William J. Plummer, widow, aged 85 years, on East Fisher street, was burned to death while alone in her room by falling into an open fireplace.

Smallpox Closes Schools.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Many of the public schools throughout the Piedmont section have been closed on account of an epidemic of smallpox in Stokes county. The disease has spread into eight of the nine townships. The State Board of Health has notified the authorities of Stokes that proper precaution must be taken at once to stamp out the disease through vaccination and quarantine.

Asks A. C. L. to Charlotte.

Charlotte, Special.—Tuesday an enthusiastic mass-meeting assembled here, besides representatives from Wadesboro and Monroe, and adopted resolutions petitioning the Atlantic Coast line to come to Charlotte by whatever way it sees fit.

Girls Horribly Burned.

Elizabethtown, Special.—At Mantoo an overturned lamp in the home of the Misses Lessie and Bessie Wescott ignited the clothing of both, and fatally burned the former. The house was burned to the ground.

To Entertain Mill Magnates.

Charlotte, Special.—President Lewis W. Parker has announced the committee of cotton mill men to entertain the 14th annual convention of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association, which it is announced will meet here May 17 and 18.

Grand Lodge Masons.

Raleigh, Special.—The 123rd annual session of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina, met here. Over 600 delegates were present.