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SALESMEN:—Will H. Matthews, Chas. W. Lindsay, Chas. E. Brower, Harry Sergeant.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, June 26, 1899. Unless some of the shrewdest politicians in Washington are much mistaken, the death-knell of Algerism was sounded when Gov. Pingree announced his deal with Alger to try to put the latter into Senator McMillan's seat. Secretary Alger, who has just returned to Washington, is said to be as mad as a hornet because Pingree gave out the deal before he was ready to have it made public. He wished to remain in the cabinet and to make as much use as possible of the plums at the disposal of the War Department before the deal got out. New friends of Senators McMillan and Burrows say that if Alger doesn't resign voluntarily they have the means to compel Mr. McKinley to ask for his resignation. Some think that Mr. McKinley will do that without any compulsion, not only because of his friendliness toward Senator McMillan, but because of his dislike of Senator Pingree on account of his free criticisms on several occasions of McKinleyism. At any rate everybody is again hoping that the end of Algerism in the War Department is near. Hon. R. M. Finley, the popular comptroller of the state of Texas, is enjoying a visit to Washington. Asked how things were in the Lone Star state, he said: "Texas is enjoying a fair share of prosperity. The crop prospects are fine, and there is a greater demand for our unimproved land than there has been for a long time. The next census will show that we have a population largely in excess of three million, which in intelligence, morality and thrift will vie with the citizenship of any state in the union. Gov. Sayres is making a fine record, and his administration is popular with all classes. There is but little going on politically, and we will not have any excitement in that line until next year. The state is overwhelmingly for W. J. Bryan for president, and a solid delegation pledged to him will be sent to the next Democratic national convention. If there isn't a job concealed in the erection by a private party of a building for the use of the census bureau the signs are all deceptive. From the day of his appointment director Merriam insisted that only a building large enough to put practically all of the employes of the bureau on one floor would an-

swer. That shut out every existing building in Washington. Then there was talk of the bureau erecting a temporary building upon government property, but the accounting officers of the treasury ended that by deciding that no part of the appropriation for the bureau could be used for such a purpose. Then the shadow of the job became visible. Offers were asked from owners of lots large enough to erect the sort of building required. The only one that suited Director Merriam was submitted by a man who became rich as well as familiar with jobs while holding office under the old government of the District of Columbia. It was accepted and a lease made for five years, which is likely to be extended to seven or eight before the census work is completed, at an annual rental of \$25,000. The ground upon which this building is to be erected has been used as a coal yard for years, the rental hardly being enough to pay the taxes, and it is claimed that \$100,000 is to be spent in erecting this building. Even if that amount were to be expended, the lease would still be a very profitable one, when it is considered that money is going begging, when the security is as good as this, at 4 per cent; but an expert who has seen the rough plan for the building says it will not cost much if any more than \$50,000. Not a little surprise was expressed in Washington when it was learned that Gen. Wood had for the time, if not absolutely and finally, declined the offer of \$30,000 a year made him by the street railway and electric light trust which has been buying up nearly all of the street railways and all of the electric light companies of Washington, to become its president, and announced his early resumption of his duties as military governor of Santiago. Inasmuch as General Wood was fresh from a conference with Mr. McKinley when he made that announcement, it is inferred that he has received some definite promise of further preferment of some sort, if he will remain in the army. He is now a Brigadier General of volunteers, but that pays less than one-fifth of the salary offered him. His rank in the regular army is what it was when he was made colonel of the Rough Riders—captain.

Farmers' Trust Impracticable. WASHINGTON, June 23.—Joseph B. Ager, president of the Maryland State Grange, was before the industrial commission today. He said that a trust among the farmers, such as was suggested by Dr. Havemeyer, was impracticable, owing to the difficulty of getting farmers to hold up prices. Speaking of colored labor he said it was unreliable, because of the natural indolence and indifference of individuals of the colored race. Liquor he regarded as the great bane of that people and responsible for nine-tenths of the crime committed by them. Mr. Ager considered that the condition of the average farmer was worse than it was twenty years ago, but he believed money invested in farming safer than in any other line of business. L. W. Youmans, of South Carolina, occupied the witness stand during the afternoon session. He said the agricultural interest of the South was greatly depressed, and he attributed the depression to the fact that silver was not recognized as a money metal. He said that there had not been an increase of the volume of money to correspond with the increase of population. As a consequence there had been a general depreciation of values. Mr. Youmans then proceeded to other considerations. He thought the tariff also an obstacle to progress, saying that while the cotton grower of the United States was compelled to compete with the cheap labor of the world in sales abroad, he was not allowed to buy the product of that labor in other articles abroad without paying a duty of 40 per cent. upon it. As remedies he suggested the free coinage of silver, a lower tariff and local banks of issue. He had tried the diversification of crops and had not been successful.

Even the Soil Kills. WASHINGTON, June 22.—The Agricultural Department has received from Lieut. A. P. Hayne, California Heavy Artillery, the translation of an article on agriculture in the Philippines prepared for him by Senor Manuel Del Busto, chief of the agricultural experiment station in Manila. In addition to this primary difficulty in securing reliable labor, the agriculturist is confronted at the start with the necessity for an immense amount of work in clearing new land. When this is accomplished and a luxuriant crop raised it is at the mercy of the first typhoon. Besides the typhoon, there is to be feared in certain provinces the "Dagudo," or dry land wind, which dries up and destroys vegetation. Diseases so far hardly known to European doctors result from the treading up of this virgin soil. According to competent medical authority, many of these strange disorders cause death within a few hours, while from others, even if the patient recovers, he is condemned to a wretched and lingering existence. Lieutenant Hayne, in transmitting this interesting document, states that he would strongly recommend special quarantine measures against Philippine plants, as there exists an immense number of very injurious parasites in the islands, and many private parties are already preparing to import botanical specimens.

Race Trouble in Alabama. BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 26.—Two armed bodies of men are holding determined vigil near Cardiff in this county tonight. One body is composed of white men, officers of this county, and the other of negroes. Early this morning it was reported that John Shepard, the negro who assaulted Mrs. Monroe Jonas, near Coerna, last Wednesday, had been seen in that vicinity. Officers immediately set out to capture him. The news spread and negroes began arming themselves, securing Winchester rifles, as though by magic. They kept congregating at Brookside, two miles from Cardiff, until there were fully two hundred of them. The negroes said their only purpose was to prevent violence being done to Shepard's life. Two special trains from this city, with deputies and a detachment of cavalry, went out this afternoon. The negroes were dispersed, but the rapist was not captured. Tonight the sheriff of Walker county has joined the posse from here and the search is being continued. The blacks are angry and many citizens expect further trouble. Ever since the race riots in that vicinity a year ago they have had arms secreted.

Theatrical Man's Strange Tale. ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 25.—Frank Connolly, who was acting as treasurer of the Thomas W. Kenne Dramatic Company in the spring of 1896, when he mysteriously disappeared from McVicker's Theatre, in Chicago, has turned up in St. Louis after a varied experience. It was believed at the time that Connolly had been foully dealt with, but the police were unable to find the missing man. According to Connolly's story, on the night of his disappearance he had supper with a woman from Pittsburg. After that until two weeks later, when he recovered his senses in a freight car near Mattoon, Ill., everything was a blank to him. He had lost \$400 in money and several hundred dollars' worth of jewelry. He was taken to a hospital, where he recovered from a severe illness, which was the result of being drugged. Thinking himself disgraced and fearing to face his friends, Connolly went to Cuba and acted as correspondent for a number of American papers during the war. Coming to St. Louis an old friend of Connolly met and recognized him.

1,000 Recruits in a Week. WASHINGTON, June 24.—Recruiting officials at the War Department say the work is progressing with pleasing rapidity. Recruits have been received at the rate of 1,000 per week, for the past three weeks, and there are now at San Francisco about 5,000 recruits awaiting transportation to the Philippines. Many of these are old soldiers, and the others are being rapidly drilled and broken in. The army is now practically recruited up to its legal maximum of 65,000 men, but it is understood that the recruiting at the present rate will be kept up for some time, or at least till the department receives further advices from General Otis.

Stomach a Hardware Store. MADISON, Wis., June 24.—Joshua Davis, an insane patient, informed the doctors that he had at different intervals swallowed nail, wire, etc., and begged of them to remove them and relieve his suffering. As they proceeded with the operation they found imbedded in the stomach and intestines half a pound of nails of all sizes, two pocketknife blades and several pieces of twisted wire.

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