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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, April 5, 1897.—The Dingley tariff bill having last week passed the House, receiving every republican vote, five democratic votes and one populist vote, is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Finance. Every statement made concerning changes in the bill by that Committee is a guess. Senators Allison, Aldrich, and Platt, of Conn., who have been going over the bill as a subcommittee, are not the kind of men to announce their conclusions, even when they have definitely arrived at them, to the public, before making their report to their colleagues on the Committee. When the Committee decides upon the amendments to the bill will be time enough to praise or to criticize its work. Until then your guess is as good as anybody's, if you must have a guess.

The honor of being the first fourth-class postmaster appointed by President McKinley fell to Mr. John P. Kelly, of White Cloud, Kansas. The delay in making appointments of this class was owing to the change in the office of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General. Mr. Bristow is now occupying that position and will proceed as rapidly as possible to fill the 2,500 vacancies which have accumulated since the new administration came in. There will probably be an average of about 50 appointments a day made until the work gets up to date.

Senator Elkins has for a long time been studying the question of how best to restore the old time prestige of American shipping. As a result of that study, he made a very strong speech in the Senate in favor of his bill providing for the imposing of duties upon imports in a manner that will discriminate in favor of American ships.

President McKinley seldom makes promises in connection with appointments, but he has made one that will please every patriotic American, that is, to appoint young Phil Sheridan a cadet to West Point as soon as he reaches the age of eligibility, which will be sometime next year.

Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, is a good lawyer, and the following opinion from him on the decision of the Supreme Court which so many persons, especially democrats, profess to think is opposed by the amendment to the tariff bill making the duties imposed by that bill go into effect April, and upon the right of Congress to pass such an amendment, is both timely and interesting. After citing other misunderstandings, Mr. Grosvenor says: "Simply and solely what the Supreme Court did hold was that the Wilson law, which went into effect on the 28th day of August, did not repeal the McKinley law until the day when it was passed, and how anybody could have had a doubt about that is a mystery to me, but the Supreme Court did not hold that the long line of retrospective legislation in the Wilson law was not approved. That law bristles with retrospective legislation. Whiskey in bond and not in bond that had been manufactured and deposited in the bonded warehouse or was on that day deposited at a tax of ninety cents, was immediately raised to \$1.10. New bonds were required, the whole system remodeled, but no lawyer in the U. S. ever disputed the power of Congress to pass just such an enactment. The best evidence of the popular estimate of this retroactive amendment is found in the fact that the vast body of importers who presumably have the very best legal advice at their command, have all accepted as conclusive that Congress has that power."

President McKinley's appointments have been uniformly good, and even his bitterest political opponent have found it extremely difficult to criticize any of them, and his appointment of Maj. Benj. Butterworth to be Commissioner of Patents is commended by everybody, including democrats and populists. This is just as it should be, for Maj. Butterworth to be Commissioner of Patents is surely the right man in the right place. He is an able lawyer and statesman of wide experience, and having been Commissioner of Patents once before, and had service on the House Committee on Patents, is thoroughly familiar with the important duties of the position. He is quite large enough for a Cabinet

position, or for that matter for the highest position in the country. But there are few public places in which a man of Maj. Butterworth's equipment can do so much good as in the Patent Office. The practice in, and especially out of that office is desperately in need of reform.

Hon. H. Clay Evans, the new Commissioner of Pensions is now in charge of that office. He says his policy will be to justly administer the pension laws, and his record is such that his old comrades have every confidence in his doing so.

ANTHONY COMSTOCK DENOUNCED.

Richmond's Lawyers Scores Him Hard in the "Triumph of Death" Case.

It was announced yesterday that the case against George H. Richmond growing out of the condemnation and seizure of Gabriel D'Annunzio's "Triumph of Death," which was published by the firm of Richmond & Co., would be decided to-morrow in Special Sessions Court, where the Justices will render their decision then as to the character of the book. Portions of the brief that Mr. Fisk, who appears for Richmond, handed in to the Justices on Wednesday, became public yesterday. It recites that the book has received favorable criticism from leading critics all over the country, and that it has been translated into twelve languages as a masterpiece. The respectability of the firm of Richmond & Co., is also dwelt upon. Other portions of the brief are directed at Anthony Comstock, who was the leading spirit of the raid and seizure of the books.

"The book," says the brief, "was freely advertised in journals and magazines of the highest respectability not once, but often. These advertisements would not have been accepted had the book been of an objectionable nature. The only man who could find in his imagination anything of a prurient or objectionable character therein was that arbitrary censor of the American press and of books, Comstock, a man who pretends to find a few passages therein which might excite, as to him, impure imaginations and a capability, as to him, of suggesting impure thoughts and impure desires. If he is to be the sole arbiter in the first instance of what might excite impure imaginations or suggest impure thoughts or desires, then on the same reasoning he might arrest any female whose dress might to his mind suggest to any one having a prurient imagination such impure desires or lustful thoughts. No such rule or reason exists or can exist."

The brief then recites that no other outcry against the book has been made. The book was printed on the recommendation of Prof. Peck of Columbia University, and was translated by Prof. Arthur Hornblow.

"Under these circumstances," it continues "it was an arbitrary and despotic act, without judgment or reason publicly to arrest the defendants on the charge made and subject them to the odium which follows. It does seem as if the course pursued was intended to injure the defendants, reputation and business."

The brief ends by declaring that this case is similar to that in which the Supreme Court decided that "The Arabian Nights," "Tom Jones," "Rabelais," and "The Decameron" were not obscene.—New York Sun April 4.

THE PRESIDENT'S VACATION.

It is settled That He Will Take a Short Trip in the Dispatch Boat Dolphin.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The details of the President's little jaunt next week have not all been arranged, but it appears to be definitely settled that he will go on the United States dispatch boat Dolphin. He intends to be absent between the Cabinet meetings of Tuesday and Friday, and may start on Tuesday afternoon. No destination has been agreed on, but the choice lies between Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Annapolis, and in the event the last named place is selected the party will probably return to Washington by rail. The President and Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Saxton, Mr. and Mrs. John Addison Porter, and a physician will compose the party. The President expects to be at the Cabinet meeting of Friday.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS.

Great Growth of the Men That Came to the Man Who Started the First Bureau.

This idea with millions in it came to a man who faced in his next week a disagreeable potentiality of hunger. The potentiality would become a certainty unless before he exhausted the remains of his last coin, just broken, he had hit upon something whereby to earn other coins. It was in Paris, just about the time of the Salon's opening. The man in hard luck sat eating frugally, in a restaurant. He dawdled a bit over his food, watching between mouthfuls the stream of breakfasters, who ate briskly, with the air of men who knew what they meant to do afterward.

The man watching wished himself in like case. Naturally his mind was alert. He noted every detail—this one's walk and that one's nod, the set of another's coat, and the scowl which went along with the tip of still another. That is how it happened that the man and the minute met to evolve the idea. Less alert he would not have noticed that a certain artist, after he had eaten, walked up to the dame du comptoir and received from her a handful of papers of the day before, each containing a reference to the artist's picture in the Salon. The artist paid for them liberally—at least ten times the original cost, and murmured thanks besides to madame for her thought and trouble in the matter. Then he went away. The idea, though, remained. A new business had been born into a busy world.

"This man has paid for a handful of papers that mention him. There are other papers—other men, too. Perhaps they will do likewise. At any rate it is worth trying," the man in search of a vocation said to himself. Then he paid for his breakfast, adding a tip "for luck," and scurried off to make the round of the studios. It is needless to particularize further. The clippings bureaus had their beginning in just this haphazard fashion.

The scheme took like wildfire. Soon the man had a complete establishment in Paris, another in London, and a third in New York. As he could not protect it by letters patent, of course the bureaus increased and multiplied. Now the whole world is their parish—even outlying regions like Cape Town, in South Africa, and Melbourne, Australia, can boast them in plenty. As for Europe, India, and these United States, they are blotched and spattered with them. Nor is that the whole extent of the idea's growth. The railways and express companies have taken it home to themselves. Once they were among the steadiest and best paying patrons of the regular bureaus. Now they have learned a trick worth two of that. It is to collect, preserve, and classify clippings for themselves. Their agents all over the country have orders to preserve and send to headquarters everything touching their own line, or railway matters in general, which appears in the local papers. The clippings are tabulated and put into books, duly indexed at the city offices, where other clerks are kept busy collating and running down railway items in the big city sheets. Often the scrap books have proved of great value in damage cases. With the express companies it is much the same.

Outside this great branch is now computed that the business of furnishing newspaper clipping employes a capital aggregating fifteen million dollars, and gives employment to something like thirty thousand people. Pretty substantial fruit that for an insubstantial idea. Nor is it, as a cynic might declare, wholly a harvest of vanity. It gives one a new and vivid comprehension of the enormous reach and tremendous range of the press to glance over the book of latest orders in a well-established bureau. Here a man wants everything about the X-rays. Below him a financier is down for Nicaragua and Panama canal matters. In the next column XYZ wants reports of divorce cases everywhere, and right underneath an anonymous person is eager for Southern outrages. Matter on spiritualism is another order, the North Pole another, and electric inventions a third. Several people want South African clippings—here are Cuban orders, too, not to name a dozen or more upon all manner of religious topics. This, wholly aside from the personal touch

which gave the bureaus their first success. Still a large part of their business come from those who would please the public, actors, artists, the makers of books, particularly poets.

As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, so is the obituary habit to the men of clippings. Thence come some of their fattest jobs. About any man of moderate prominence they are reasonably sure of gathering from five hundred to a thousand clippings. There is a sort of correlation among certain of the bureaus, which enables them to get whatever is printed anywhere on the globe, within a very brief space. Prominent men are nearly always among clippings bureau subscribers. If they are not, either the grief, or the joy of those they leave behind suffices to insure a market for the mortuary harvest. Perhaps the biggest collection of such things ever begun was that relating to the late Jay Gould. His heirs ordered "everything," but withdrew the order when, within the space of three weeks, the enterprising bureau man had corralled eleven thousand odd. Even that number was exceeded in the case of George W. Childs, whose widow gave a clipping man a similar order. The end of the clippings was a set of scrap books. Each bit of print, great or small, was pasted accurately in the middle of a great square of grayish Bristol board, and then the boards were bound into big volumes, covered in black morocco, and lettered in gold upon the backs, "In Memory of George W. Childs." There was a sheaf of the volumes. The cost of making them went away up in the thousands.

Social struggles are another fruitful field. People on the fringe, or the fringe of the fringe, feel their footing ever so much more secure when they are mentioned in cold print—even if the mention is a bare "also present." Further liberal patrons are schools, colleges, and institutions of every sort. Then there are lawyers who want the probate of wills everywhere, lists of heirs, and notices of accidents.—New York Sun.

BETTER KEEP OUT OF CUBA.

If He Goes Back Spain May Kill Him Without Ceremony—May Inherit the Lives of Others.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Secretary Sherman made a statement to-day of importance to Americans, who are active in Cuban matters. When asked about the reported intention of Julio Sanguilly, who had arrived at Jacksonville, with aides to go to Cuba, he replied: "I don't believe he will go. If he should be so foolish he would have to take his life in his own hands. We should never interfere in his behalf again but would have to let things take their course. I have his written pledge not to take active part in the insurrection in any way. So has Spain and they could kill him without ceremony. No, I think he would not be such a fool."

The pledge referred to was made by Sanguilly in January, just before his pardon by the Queen Regent, of Spain and was signed voluntarily in Spanish and English, and handed to Consul General Lee. The Spanish copy went to the Spanish authorities, and the one in English now on Secretary Sherman's desk, is as follows:

Affirmation of Julio Sanguilly: I, Julio Sanguilly, an American citizen, confined at Cabana Fortress, Havana, do hereby sacredly affirm to the United States and to Spain, that if I am released by pardon of the latter government, I will leave and remain away from Cuba, and will not aid directly or indirectly the present insurrection against the Government of Spain, and I hereby promise that should I do so at any time, I will not claim the protection of the United States Government. I certify that this pledge is given of my own free will, and without compulsion on the part of any one.

Fortes Cabana, Havana, January 21, 1897.

JULIO SANGUILLY.

If Sanguilly makes any attempt to carry out his reported intention of leaving for Cuba, the United States will be powerless to stop him unless he goes with an armed expedition; but grave fears are expressed at the State Department that the departure of Sanguilly at this time might seal the fate of other Americans imprisoned in Cuba whose pardons by the Queen Regent under similar conditions is now being sought.

BAD BREAK IN THE LEVEE.

CAUSES HEAVY LOSS OF CATTLE.

Another Break Ten Miles South of Helena, Ark., Threatens a Portion of That City With Inundation.

TUNICA, Miss., April 4.—At 8 o'clock this morning the Flower Lake levee, where it crosses Yellow Bayou, gave way under the tremendous pressure of water. The crevasse widened rapidly, and is now 130 yards wide, through which the water is rushing with a deafening sound.

The levee was 30 feet high at the point where it broke to-day.

The people not only on the farms near the break, but upon those some distance from the levee back of it, have lost large numbers of cattle.

So rapidly did the crevasse widen that the water rushing through it was sufficient to reach the lake parallel to the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad at Bushby Station, which is five miles east of the break, in a remarkably short space of time, and within an hour had raised the lake eight feet.

The water will no doubt be running over the railroad between Bushby and Carnesville before morning.

The country affected by this break is one of the finest in the Delta. It will cause the submergence of the entire southwestern and south central part of Tunica County. The flood will pass into Coahoma County, overflowing Lula and the region around Moon Lake, broadening as it goes.

A portion of the current will travel to Cold Water River, through the Yazoo Pass, while much of it will travel southward, inundating some of the fairest fields in Coahoma County.

Thence it will travel down Cassidy Bayou and Sunflower River, finally reaching the Yazoo, traversing almost the entire length of the Yazoo and Mississippi levee district in its route, thus causing much injury to the people of this levee district than a break at almost any other point in the levee.

HANNA ON THE TARIFF BILL.

Says It Will Bring Prosperity—Prediction of Mr. Hanna's Friend.

CLEVELAND, April 4.—Senator Hanna spent a quiet Sunday at home, receiving only a few intimate friends. This is the first time Mr. Hanna has been in Cleveland since he left for Washington to attend the inauguration and take his oath of office as successor to Sherman in the Senate.

To the correspondent of The New York Times who called on him Mr. Hanna talked about the tariff.

"The proposed tariff," he said, "will I believe give a great incentive to the industries of Cleveland, and do the same all over the country. It will bring the return of prosperity. I cannot say when the bill will be passed by the Senate, but you may rest assured it will be hurried through as soon as possible."

Mr. Hanna declined to express an opinion as to the constitutionality of the retroactive clause of the tariff bill, but a close friend of Mr. Hanna's said to-night:

"The question of the constitutionality of the retroactive section of the Dingley bill might as well be dropped, as the section will not be in the tariff bill that becomes a law. Upon most reliable authority it is stated that Senator Aldrich, the tariff expert among Republican Senators, is opposed to it and Senator Allison looks upon it as unbecome."

"The truth of the matter is that the Republican leaders are determined to engineer a gigantic bluff through to the end. They will keep the section in the bill until the last. Then they will drop it and the new law will go into effect upon its passage."

Senator Hanna expressed the opinion that the arbitration treaty would approved by the Senate by a close vote. When he asked if he thought Congressional action on the Cuban question probable at this session, Mr. Hanna replied:

"I don't know. You can't tell about that. A spark might drop in there at any time, and precipitate action. At this time however, I consider Congressional action on the Cuban question improbable."