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WASHINGTON LETTER.

(Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Help us modify the civil service law, or we will join hands with the Democrats and repeal the entire law. That, in effect, is the notice that the hundred odd Republican members of the House who favor modification of this law have served upon the other Republican members of the House during the debate, which is not yet over. There has been much plain talk on the subject, and there will be more. A sample is the following from Representative Hepburn, of Iowa: "In some things, the old system at its worst, was superior to the new. My colleagues in this House know the qualifications of their constituents, and in the selection of candidates for office have everything at stake. I believe that there is greater probability of wisdom in selection and beneficence in results in the old system than in this darkened, subterranean, irresponsible method we have fallen into in this latter time." Representative Clark, of N. H., said that he favored modification of the law and was willing to leave it to the wisdom of the Civil Service Committee as to how far, but that "any old thing" was better than the present law. That committee is now considering the bill introduced last week which confines the operation of the civil service law to positions paying from \$900 to \$1,800 inclusive, and to localities where the employes exceed 25 in number.

The treaty for the annexation of Hawaii was today taken up by the Senate, and the intention is to hold daily executive sessions for its consideration until it is disposed of. The policy of the friends of annexation is to allow its opponents to do most of the talking, so as to get the debate over as soon as possible, in order that there may be no excuse for delaying a vote. It is now the general belief that the treaty will be ratified, owing to the announcement of the number of Senators who were in doubt of their intention to vote for ratification.

The last European nation to take a place in the line of applicants for a reciprocity treaty with the U. S. is Germany, the country which made a bluff when the Dingley tariff bill was pending that was promptly called by Congress and President McKinley. The clause of the tariff that brought Germany's pride down to asking for reciprocity is that which imposes additional duty upon sugar brought from countries that pay an export bounty on sugar. When the German ambassador requested that reciprocity negotiations be opened he was informed that his government must take the first step by agreeing to remove the restrictions now imposed upon American cattle and beef imported into Germany.

The administration is doing everything possible to expedite the sending of food to the Klondike region, as the President and all the members of the Cabinet believe that relief will be needed by the gold seekers before regular traffic is resumed on the Yukon river. Agents of the Government are now bringing a number of reindeer from Norway to carry the food which will be ready and on the ground when the reindeer get to Alaska.

There is probably no provision of the Constitution of the U. S. that furnishes more proof of the wisdom of its makers, or that is more revered by our people, than that which provides for our judiciary system. But nothing suits the Populists, except personal notoriety and gain for themselves, and Senator Butler, of North Carolina, who aims at being the Populist boss, wants an entirely new judiciary system; the judges to be elected for terms of eight years, and has offered a joint resolution proposing to amend the constitution in accordance with his ideas. There isn't the slightest probability of any such change, but that it should be even proposed is a warning to the country of what might be expected should the people ever allow the Bryanites to get on top.

During the three days that the Senate was in session during the week just closed, President McKinley sent more nominations to the Senate than any President has ever made. He was inaugurated on March 4, and they were recess appointments.

Old accountants were not surprised when it was found necessary to abandon the Dockery system of auditing

postmasters accounts, because of discovered frauds. This system was adopted during the Cleveland administration as the result of an investigation by a committee headed by Representative Dockery of Missouri, and it was pointed out at the time that it was full of opportunities for fraud. No less than nine ways in which a dishonest postmaster could rob the government have been discovered by Sixth Auditor Castle, who has thrown out the system and introduced a new one. The new system was specially intended to detect the frauds made possible by the Dockery system, and although it has only been in operation a week it has done so in a number of cases. The government was probably robbed of many thousand dollars under the Dockery system of auditing post office money order accounts. Auditor Castle will ask Congress to authorize the employment of a special force to go over and check up the old accounts, believing that the stolen money can be recovered and the thieves punished, by securing proofs of the thefts.

Overpowered by Rats.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dispatch.

Attacked by several hundred fierce rats, which swarmed upon him while he was imprisoned in a narrow space from which he could not escape, Robt. Crook, of Fairview, a village near this city, fought them until his strength failed, and, unable to beat them off, fell senseless. He had been terribly mutilated when he was rescued and his sight had been destroyed.

Mr. Crook, who is a wealthy farmer, constructed a monster rat trap in the loft of one of his barns. This trap was like a big box, Mr. Crook completed it a week ago, baited it and then left it to do its work. He found several hundred rats in the trap yesterday morning, and thrust his terrier Spot, into the cage to kill them. The rats made short work of the dog, killing and partly eating him.

Then Mr. Crook entered the cage with two clubs, but soon tried to get out. He found himself locked in, owing to the closing of a door with a spring lock. He fought until he fell senseless, and was rescued later by farm hands. His injuries may prove fatal.

Shipped a Baby in a Box.

The express and baggage car forces on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas day train from Dallas to Gainesville had a surprise that frightened them when they reached the end of their run at noon today. As the train pulled out of Lewisville a man, 30 years old, rushed up with a box, and handing it to the express messenger, said:

"Here's a delayed Christmas present for the station agent at Gainesville. Handle it carefully so as not to break or injure it."

Placing the box on the express car floor, the stranger hurried away. The box, a common cracker box, was carefully nailed up, with a number of holes in the top end. It was placed in a safe spot to go on its journey of about 100 miles. Just before reaching Gainesville the car forces were startled by a cry emerging from the box. It sounded like the distressed voice of a child. The box was opened, and there lay a pretty girl baby, a few days old only. The child was comfortably dressed and packed in the box so carefully as to be protected from harm if the box should be damaged. The city officials placed the child in the orphan's home.—Dallas Dispatch, Dec. 28th.

Two of the Rabbits Dead.

Two of the rabbits inoculated by Drs. Crooks and Turner at Astly-Coper hospital, Greensboro, with the spinal column of the dog suspected of having rabies died on last Friday night. One of them died of pyaemia, a species of blood poisoning. Abscesses were found to have formed on its liver, lungs and flanks. The other died of pneumonia. It is well known to the medical fraternity that meningitis and pneumonia are caused by the same micro-organism. The only difference is that in one case it attacks the lungs and in the other the spinal column. The fact, therefore, that one of the rabbits should have died of meningitis gives color to the hypothesis that the dog may have died of meningitis rather than rabies. The case cannot be settled until the rabbits have been observed further.

ANDREWS IN CONTEMPT.

Refused to Tell About Judge Simonton's Case.

DID S. OTMO HAVE SPECIAL RATES.

The New Commissioners Want to Take Up a Test Case to Try the Law—No Criminal Proceedings Intended.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 8.—[Special]—The session of the railway commission today was very interesting. Vice-President Andrews of the Southern was subpoenaed to appear and produce the stubs of pass books. He appeared and was asked if he had issued any free passes this year. He said yes, but none except as permitted by the railway commission act, and his company was determined not to issue any in violation of that act.

Chairman Caldwell asked Andrews the direct question if he did not tender Judge Simonton a palace car, to be deadheaded over North Carolina. Andrews declined to answer the charge. Caldwell then told him he was in contempt.

This examination was followed by one of John Munson, division freight agent of Southern. He, also, declined to answer the question whether the Southern had given Railway Commission Wilson special rates from Raleigh to Round Knob. Munson's declination was upon the ground that the answer might be used in criminal proceedings. He was thereupon attached for contempt.

Chairman Caldwell says he expects Munson to apply for a writ of habeas corpus. Caldwell says the testimony secured by the commission would not be used in criminal prosecution of Andrews or Munson as agents, but is to test the validity of the railway commission act as to the acts of agents of the railway companies.

Agents R. L. Potts and Henry Miller were examined also and gave the same answer as Munson. The commission cites Andrews, Miller, Munson and Potts to appear next Thursday and show cause why they should not be attached for contempt.

ROMANCE OF THE KLONDIKE.

A Hero of the Diggins Harries a Pretty Newspaper Woman.

"Nigger Jim," a white Southerner, is the hero of the hour at Dawson. Last Nov. he acquired fame by compelling Barkeeper Lord to divulge, at the pistol's point, the hiding place of \$22,000, which Lord was accused of stealing. Of this amount \$8,000 belonged to "Jim."

A party just arrived at Juneau reports that "Jim" celebrated the recovery of his wealth by marrying an accomplished young newspaper woman, who arrived in September representing St. Louis and Kansas City papers. Late arrivals do not remember her name, but say she attracted attention by her style and the wearing of a very heavy fur coat. She will be one of the richest women in the Klondike, as all of "Nigger Jim's" claims are produced.

While many coast-bound miners were crossing the summit of Chilkoot Pass in the teeth of a blinding blizzard, tremendous avalanches of ice and snow came thundering down the mountain side above Narrow Defile, through which the miners passed. It covered Burn's Tramway and eight tons of provisions. On the other side of the summit a glacier broke away, while the storm was raging, burying sleds and outfits of several parties. The McDonald brothers lost an outfit worth \$1,000.

King's Mountain Coal.

King's Mountain, Jan. 5.—Our people are somewhat agitated over the recent discovery of coal near this place and unless experts are very much mistaken, we will be independent of the coal of other states. An analysis of samples sent to the government shows 95 per cent. carbon. He pronounces it a fine sample of anthracite coal.

From investigations already made seems that it crops out a number of places, which would indicate that it would be found in quantities.—Charlotte Observer.

The grand lodge of Masons meets in Oxford this week.

ROGUES IN THE POSTOFFICES.

A New Form of Stealing Money Order Funds Discovered.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Auditor Castle of the P. O. Dep't., has discovered irregularities in money order accounts, which may possibly result in a loss to the government of a considerable sum. They were brought to light as the outcome of a new system of checking accounts by postmasters, which went into effect on the first of the year.

Several cases have already been detected as orders issued for as high as \$80 and \$100, were reported by the issuing postmasters as one and two dollars each. How many such frauds were perpetrated during the three years in which the old system was in operation can only be guessed at. An examination of the 100,000,000 money orders issued during that time could be made, the auditor believes, by 100 men in a year, and if the rate of fraudulent orders just discovered continues he thinks it might be well to do this. How much the government has lost will not be determined unless such an examination is made.

Penelope—Where and What It Is.

I have waited for some one to write it up, but as no one has done so I will endeavor to tell where it is and what the people in and around it have done and are doing.

This little village is situated on the W. N. C. Railroad, about three miles west of Hickory. It has a post office, one small store, an academy, a Baptist church, not yet completed, also a Methodist church within a few hundred yards of the post office. It has several nice dwelling houses. The lands are well adapted to growing crops of anything that can be grown anywhere in the State. The health of our community is good. We have the best of water; plenty of wood for lumber and fuel.

[[The morals of the community are above the average. We have no bar room anywhere near us, hence we seldom see a drunk man. The people of our section are noted for their piety and good fellowship. We have preaching and Sabbath school every Sabbath which are well attended by both old and young, and all seem to enjoy our S. School and church service. The Methodist have an organ but no select choir, but all participate in the singing.

Any person wishing a good country home will do well to purchase one in or near our little village. In this place is a good quality of clay for brick making. There are two public roads leading to this place. There is, within two miles, a good shoal on the South Fork river with sufficient water power to run a large mill. We would gladly welcome any one who will come and settle in our community and help us build up our section morally and financially.

Would-like to have some conscientious physician come and make his home with us. We could not promise him much cash, but such as we have we would give him. M. A.

Street Car Company Indicted.

Charlotte Observer.

ASHEVILLE, Jan. 7.—The grand jury of the Circuit Court returned a true bill against the Asheville Street Railway Company for issuing a free pass. The bill charges that the company gave undue preference and advantage to W. A. Hildebrand, reporter on the Citizen, by giving him free transportation over its line. The grand jury ignored the bill against the Southern Railway Company in which J. P. Kerr, of the Citizen Company, was a witness. The contract between the newspaper and the railroad was explained to the body, which shortly after returned "not a true bill."

World's Largest Male.

The largest mule in the world arrived in Chicago last Saturday, and is staying at the stock yards for a short time. The animal is bound for London, where it is to become the star attraction in a menagerie, and it will doubtless be placarded as "an average American mule." The mule is 18 hands 2 1/2 inches high, and weighs 1,800 pounds. It is nine years old. The animal was found on its native heath in southwestern Missouri.

HANNA IS ELECTED.

Democrats Pick a Man.

REPUBLICAN ON THE CHICAGO PLATFORM.

The Mayor of Cleveland Selected for the Votes of the Combine—No Other Man Would Do—The Vote Today Elects Hanna.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 11.—After being in conference all night the Democratic caucusses agreed on Mayor R. E. McKisson, of Cleveland, as the only Republican proposed whom they would support for Senator.

The name of Mayor McKisson was then suggested. The Democrats demanded to know whether McKisson was a free silver man, and not content with the assurance of Meyers and other leaders of fusion, they sent for McKisson. When that gentleman appeared he made a speech to the caucus in which he said in substance:

"Publicly and before the people, I am and must be a Republican, but I assure you and pledge you that if elected to the United States Senate by this fusion, I will start upon the Chicago platform."

This pledge was satisfactory and the caucus declared for McKisson for both the long and the short term.

Both branches of the Legislature met at 10 a. m. The name of Marcus A. Hanna was presented by Representative Leland and seconded by T. R. Smith of Delaware. The name of Mayor Robert E. McKisson of Cleveland was presented by Representative Branley. When the result of the ballot was announced as Hanna 56, McKisson 49, scattering 3, Speaker Mason announced that Marcus A. Hanna, having received a majority of the votes of the House, was the choice of that body for the short term. A ballot was then taken for the long term and resulted: Hanna 56, McKisson 49.

In the Senate the vote stood 19 for McKisson and 17 for Hanna. This gives Hanna the requisite 73 votes for his election.

PASSENGER TRAIN ROCKED.

Glass Smashed and a Young Lady Received Injuries.

Charlotte News.

Rock throwers got in some good work on the C. C. & A. road last night No. 38, the north bound passenger train that reached Charlotte at 8:20 o'clock was rocked at a point a few miles below Chester. The train was running about 40 miles an hour when the passengers in the first class car were startled by the smashing of a window pane. A young lady, a Miss Ellison, of Winstboro, was sitting in the seat near the glass when the missile was hurled. Several pieces of the shattered pane struck her in the face, cutting several gashes.

When the train reached Chester, the express messenger informed the conductor that the express car had been struck and from his statement it was clearly evident that the same person threw both stones.

Heretofore, the Southern in their investigation of such acts have found that children are usually the guilty ones in such cases. Last night's experience will convince the railroad people that others are guilty of this crime. The stone that struck the express car made a dead indentation, showing that it was thrown with more force than a child could command.

The News reporter learns that this is not the first experience of this kind at the place named. Several times of late rocks have been thrown at passenger trains, but up to last no damage had been done.

A House and Store Burned.

Special to the Observer.

Gastonia, Jan. 6.—Mr. Henry Baker, who lives near the All Healing school, lost his house and most of his furniture by fire Tuesday night last. There was \$600 insurance. A small store and stock of goods near by were also burned.

Salisbury World: Rowan county has a remarkable citizen in the person of Dr. G. W. Jones. For the past 20 years he has not slept more than five hours out of 24 and his usual allowance for sleep is three hours. He usually retires at 10 o'clock and rises at 11. He then builds a fire and reads until day when he goes about his vocation.