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WASHINGTON LETTER.

(Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1898.—Representative Babcock, of Wisconsin, whose able management was a potent factor in the Republican Congressional victories of '94 and '96, is again to be chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, and representative Mercer, of Nebraska, who was his able lieutenant in the last campaign, is to be reelected secretary of the committee. It is complimentary to these gentlemen that in the reorganization of the committee for this year's campaign, no other names have been mentioned for their position. Notwithstanding the hoodoo which has so often resulted in the defeat of the party in power at the first Congressional election after the installation of the new administration, the members of the Republican committee are preparing to enter the coming campaign with a determination to win, and the full expectation that the intelligent sentiment of the country is behind the Republican policy that is giving back prosperity to the country.

Not a single Senator who has spoken against the ratification of the treaty for the annexation of Hawaii has presented a convincing argument against annexation; consequently those Senators who were for a time in doubt have nearly all announced their intention to vote for annexation, and the ratification of the treaty is now assured when a vote is taken. Knowing this, Senator Davis, who as chairman of the committee on foreign relations has charge of the treaty, is patiently waiting until its opponents have been given an opportunity to say their say before taking any steps to force a vote. President Dole has started for home, but he will make several stops on his way to San Francisco, from which port he expects to sail on or about the 22nd inst. Every effort to get him to talk about the pending annexation treaty, for publication, failed, owing to his correct ideas of propriety. During his stay in Washington, Mr. Dole proved himself to be a gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman, whom every patriotic American will be glad to welcome as a fellow citizen.

The President and members of the cabinet are loth to accept the general idea that Germany, in shutting out American fruits, even partially, and in threatening to shut out American horses, is acting upon a general plan of tariff retaliation, but if the official investigation now being made shall show that such is the case, action will be taken that will be sure to cause deep regret on the part of Germany. No country on earth is so well fixed to play the game of commercial retaliation as the United States. Our ambassador to Germany has already given the German government a hint of our willing to play the game with any country that makes the first move against us, and the indications are that the hint will be sufficient to convince the Kaiser of the wisdom of prudence.

The changing of Hon. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, of Mo., from U. S. minister to U. S. ambassador to Russia, by President McKinley has no particular significance, political or otherwise. It was done at the request of Russia, and was in accordance with the policy adopted by the U. S. a few years ago, to raise our ministers to the rank of ambassadors, in all countries that desired to send ambassadors to the United States. The presence of an ambassador at a foreign capital, gives the U. S. more precedence than can possibly be gotten by a minister, owing to the strict observance of diplomatic etiquette in those countries, which enables an ambassador from any little ten cent country to outrank a minister from the U. S., or any other large and powerful country, and consequently to have precedence of him everywhere.

It having been shown to the satisfaction of the Senate Post Office Committee, that the charge against Mr. E. H. Bemus, nominated to be postmaster at Jamestown, N. Y., and Representative Hooker, whose recommendation brought about the nomination, of having used money and a position on the House pay roll to secure the retirement of a rival candidate, were nothing more than an attempt to keep the democratic postmaster of that town, in office, the committee exonerated Representative Hooker and Mr.

Bemus, by favorably reporting the nomination of the latter to the Senate.

Representative Boutell, of Ill., has the distinguished honor of being the first member of the present House to be renominated. His nomination was by acclamation, too. Pretty good for a man who is serving his first term.

Senator Lindsay's declaring of independence of the silverites of the Kentucky legislature, and denial of their right to ask him to resign, would have impressed more people than it did, had he not preceded it by a vote for the Teller resolution, thus indicating a desire on his part to throw a sop to the silver element of his state. The man who voted for the Teller resolution need not expect to be believed when he says he is honestly opposed to the free coinage of silver.

Special to the Observer

Washington, Feb. 5.—"There is hardly the shadow of a foundation," said Mr. Clarence Call, chairman of the eighth Republican congressional district of North Carolina, "for the statements made by Mr. Mott, discrediting Senator Pritchard's leadership in the Senate. I know something about Republican sentiment in the western part of the State, and I know that exactly the contrary is true. Senator Pritchard is stronger to-day with both Republicans and Populists than at any time since the fusion movement started in the State. The effort to get him out of the Senate and on the District Court bench was simply an attempt to destroy the party organization by putting Russell and Butler in charge of it. Had it succeeded, the next campaign would have been a farce, and it is the same way about the alleged opposition of Judge Ewart's confirmation. It is all in the air and has been manufactured in Washington and in Raleigh. There is hardly a Republican of any standing in the western district who does not heartily approve of his appointment. Our people admit Judge Ewart's ability, courage and metal, and we all believe, without regard to party, that his success on the bench in the western district will save both the government and individuals thousands and thousands of dollars in the disposition of a long accumulated business, owing to the sickness of Judge Dick. His appointment is not only satisfactory to the Republicans, but it is highly approved."

Speaking generally of the political situation in the western section of the State, Chairman Call said: "The civil service law is the greatest peril that now confronts the Republican party, and unless something is done about it so that Republicans can get the offices there will be trouble, and lots of it. The feeling on the subject in the mountain counties is so bitter and intense that it borders on madness. Hatred as are the internal revenue laws to our people, the civil service law is ten fold more odious."

"There is a good deal of wild talk," he said, "about Mr. Linney's re-nomination for Congress, but if Mr. Linney wants the nomination he will get it without serious opposition. The Republicans in the eighth district thoroughly endorse his position on the civil service law and his vote for the Teller resolution."—Charlotte Observer.

Cupid breaks his bow at the sight of a face full of pimples. Hollow cheeks, sunken eyes, and a sallow complexion will defy his best intentions. Beauty is more than skin deep. The skin is merely the surface on which is written in plain characters the condition of the body. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is good for the complexion because it makes the whole body healthy it clears and purifies the blood, makes the digestion strong and clears out impurities of all kinds. By increasing the ability to assimilate nutritious food, and by the infusion of its own ingredients it enriches the blood and so makes solid, healthy flesh. It cures diseases of the lungs, liver, stomach, bowels, skin and scalp, simply because all these diseases spring from the same cause—a disordered digestion and consequent impure blood.

Seekers after gold are often disappointed. Seekers after health take Hood's Sarsaparilla and find it meets every expectation.

CASTORIA.
The Family Remedy
of *Dr. J. C. H. Hatcher* is on every wagon.

OHIO BRIBERY CHARGES.

THERE SEEMS VERY LITTLE IN THEM.

What is Said in Regard to The Charges by Many Exchanges.

The female stenographer destroyed her notes.—Hamilton News.

The bribery-fake bubble at Columbus bids fair to explode at an early date.—Geauge Republican.

Really, we gave Allen O. Myers credit for being a more skillful plotter than the Gibson House affair shows him to be.—Hamilton News.

The whole charge of vote buying by Senator Hanna is too transparent to require argument for its refutation.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

The wonder and the humiliation of it is that such creatures as this fellow Myers find it possible to secure political preferment.—Kansas City Journal.

Allen O. Myers seems disturbed about his character. Allen shouldn't let a little thing like that bother his serenity.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

The people of Ohio believe that the so-called investigation at Columbus is a farce, hence they are taking very little interest in it.—Toledo Commercial.

The fact is Myers and his gang knew they were guilty of attempted bribery and hoped by bringing counter charges to avert suspicion.—Middletown Journal.

The Ohio enemies of Mr. Hanna, not content with making themselves odious, are now engaged in making themselves ridiculous.—Kansas City Journal.

Nothing will come of the reported charges of bribery against Senator Hanna. No one believes for a minute that there was anything in the charge in the first place.—Columbus Grove Vidette.

Charges of bribery, coming from such men as those who undertook to defeat Hanna, are unworthy of serious consideration unless they are backed by evidence.—Kansas City Star.

It now remains for the Kurtz-Myers conspirators to cease disgusting the people with an attempt to prolong the programme after the audience is dismissed.—Winton County Republican.

Senator Hanna has been the object of a vast amount of wholly unwarranted abuse and vilification, but he has routed his enemies and he will justify the confidence of his friends.—Omaha Bee.

The investigation going on at Columbus is verily like fishing. It is easy to fish, but fishing does not land the fish. This investigation is all right, but it will not prove anything.—Marion Transcript.

The bribery investigation can never command respect. The committee is packed—four enemies of Hanna to one friend. It is almost prima facie evidence that the charge is a fake.—McConnellsville Herald.

Some of the people who are engaged in the attempt to convict Senator Hanna of bribery will do well to keep the way open between themselves and the smoothest road leading from the penitentiary.—Caldwell Republican.

Whatever one may think of Mr. Hanna and his political methods, one can have no sympathy with the conduct of the Republican members of the Ohio Legislature that sought to defeat him by combining with the Democrats.—Indianapolis News.

The committee which is to investigate the bribery charges consist of seven members unfriendly to Senator Hanna and three who take only a languid interest in the proceedings. Mr. Hanna has been sworn in, however.—Dayton Press.

Allen O. Myers became real angry when Senator Jim Garfield insinuated that he had been doing crooked work. But, strange as it may seem, Allen's loss of temper has not convinced any one that he is not the dirtiest politician in the State.—Niles News.

The Ohio legislature packs the committee it charges with the duty of investigating Senator Hanna's election with enemies of the Senator, makes one of the traitorous Republicans the

chairman, and then blithely hopes to have its investigation treated with respect.—Albany Journal.

It seems to us that, if the men who have been abusing and persecuting Senator Hanna for months, had any decency or shame, they would cease their miserable work. They may annoy the Senator a little but they cannot injure him among those whose opinions are worth having.—Norwalk Reflector.

The desperate efforts to beat Mark Hanna for the Senate, and at any cost to get a silver man into the Senate to fill the seat John Sherman so long honored, was a part of this silver crusade, and it was carried on with money and malice and every evidence in policy and performance of criminal intention.—Brooklyn Standard-Union.

Mr. Hanna's Ohio enemies failed in their effort to make Senator Jones, of Ark., chairman of the Democratic National Committee, their agent on the floor of the U. S. Senate to the extent of offering and pressing a resolution against Mr. Hanna's right to his seat. When Senator Jones asked for evidence to support such a resolution and none was produced he declined having anything to do with it.—Ashland Gazette.

"That investigation of Senator Hanna's method of getting into the United States Senate," said Mr. R. J. Flick, of Cleveland, at the Wellington, "makes most people in Ohio a little bit weary. Nobody—I am speaking of those not Mr. Hanna's sworn enemies—believes that the thing was started for any purpose other than spite, and I guess they hope to see it fall flat, if they take any interest in it at all."—Washington Post.

Of all the farces ever enacted at Columbus, the so-called Senatorial investigation is entitled to the prize. The committee is a packed one, and as such commands no respect. It assumes inquisitorial powers, claiming the right to drag in witnesses and compelling them to answer questions pertinent and impertinent, without the advice of attorneys. That such committees can and do assume to act is a disgrace to the State.—Mt. Vernon Republican.

It is to be expected that the Democrats will say that Senator Hanna bribed his way through the legislature. According to Democratic testimony that is the way Democratic Senators and aspirants have done for years, and they desire to reduce the Republican Senators to their own level. It will take harder lying than they practiced against Mr. Hanna throughout the last two campaigns, in which they were ignominiously exposed.—Continental News.

That it is a set-up job by the allied conspirators is quite probable, and bears the earmarks of Allen O. Myers, whose son is a clerk at the Gibson House, Cincinnati, where the charged attempt at bribery is said to have taken place. It is not a difficult matter for unprincipled men to falsely personate other parties, either by phone or telegraph, and there is ground to suspect that that is what was done in this instance. The desperate game will not win.—Warren Chronicle.

Disgusting as is the conceit of the breed of McKissons, it is not their darkest offense. In an hour they will change their political views, as did the mayor of Cleveland by his own published confession. To get the office he turns his back upon his past professions and goes into the Democratic conference and practically endorses the Chicago platform. He is not abashed. He is after the senatorship and there could be no sort of political chicanery he would not practice to obtain it.—Indianapolis Journal.

The committee is making out a fine case about Hanna's attempted bribery of Representative Otis, through the agency of one Mr. Boyce has got away from them, although they had him shadowed by two detectives, and they say they don't know where to find him. This Mr. Boyce is unknown to Mr. Hanna, Mr. Dick, and the others who were at Hanna headquarters, and they deny that he was their agent. They also are trying to find him, with but faint hopes of success. It looks as if this Mr. Boyce was employed to do the Gibson House act and then disappear.—Mount Vernon Republican.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

Person Examined is at the Mercy of the One Who Marks Papers.

Washington Post.
Editor Post: In the discussion of the civil service law, both pro and con, I have read with much interest whatever The Post has said in the matter, and am pleased with its entire fairness. In my opinion the main and only real objection to the system, as is now in force, leaving out of the matter all of its political bearings, has not been sufficiently discussed, indeed, scarcely mentioned.

I refer to the system of marking, or ascertaining by the examination papers the real fitness of the applicant for the place he seeks.

The applicant answers, in writing, the fixed questions submitted to him by the examiners, often under the most embarrassing and unfavorable conditions, and under cast-iron rules and regulations, load-d down with red tape, which were apparently devised by the veriest martinet who ever disgraced the government service.

These questions and answers are submitted to the proper officials, who mark on each the value or merit, by a prescribed system, and so determine the candidate's fitness or unfitness for a position in the government service. These officials, who grade the examination papers, are supposed to be scholarly persons, and on their dictum the fate of the applicant hangs, during the lingering eternity it requires them to reach and look over them.

There are usually many facts bearing on one's fitness for an appointment not ascertained or apparently cared for by the civil service law in their "school-boy" style of examination. Of such facts the examiners have no knowledge, or, if they have, are not allowed to give them weight in their verdict. They have before them the cold statement of question and answer, and from them alone they must grade the applicant.

In many instances, indeed, in most of them, the questions have no possible bearing on the special matter and should be allowed to grade the general intelligence of the applicant only.

The fact that an applicant has been for years practically engaged in doing the identical style of work he seeks to do for the government, and has demonstrated his ability under the keenest sort of commercial competition, and can offer the highest testimonials from former employers, "cuts no ice," as the boys say, in the civil service. He may be able to demonstrate his ability to do the required work in a way equal to the most expert man in the service, but unless he can show in his examination papers why H-Y is equal to Q, or state the height of one of the Himalaya mountains, he will be turned down as "ineligible."

Many of the best and fittest of the applicants fail to get the eligible mark, simply because they have allowed their school boy recollection of almost useless things to lapse into a condition of innocuous desuetude. Indeed, it is a fact, patent to almost every one who has had occasion to investigate, that a bright boy of fifteen or sixteen, fresh from his high school studies, can pass with flying colors almost any examination in the civil service, while the oldest and most experienced of the government employes would lose their places, if required to hold or lose them by taking the required examination.

I do not believe that any of our Cabinet officers could pass muster for a \$900 clerkship if required to run the gauntlet of the civil service. I mean no disrespect to these gentlemen, only the impracticable method of grading applicants justifies the statement. No business house or commercial corporation would think of choosing its employes by such a method.

One government officer, himself a trusted employe of over twenty years' experience, and whose record shows him second to none in the knowledge of his work, happens to be one of the board of local examiners in another State. He tells the writer that he would not be rated as an "eligible" if he was required to pass the school boy examination, but that his fifteen-year-old son could pass for almost any ordinary place.

I believe in civil service reform on general principles, but it certainly needs a lot of alterations in its methods.
T. H. CLARKE.