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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—Unimpeached and unimpeachable stands the Republican claim of not less than 270 electoral votes for McKinley and Hobart and of a Republican majority of more than 30 in the next House. Nobody knows better than the Popocratic managers the rockbound foundation upon which these claims are based and instead of trying to prove them false they are talking wildly about Bryan carrying such States as New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania—States as sure to go overwhelmingly for McKinley and Hobart as are Maine and Vermont. The Popocratic demoralization grows greater each day as the election draws near, and odds of 3, 4, and even 5 to 1 are offered by betting men on McKinley's election without securing takers. That tells the story better than a column of type. The man who bets expects to win and does not allow his personal preference or wishes to influence his judgment. The betting element is backing McKinley simply because all their information leads them to believe he is bound to win, and they have sought information just as they would on a horse race, in order that they could put their money on the favorite. But their winnings will hardly pay them for their trouble, because of their inability to find men willing to bet on Bryan, even at the big odds now being offered.

Virginia is not one of the States which the Republicans have counted upon, but recent advices make it look as though the Old Dominion would be found in the McKinley column. Mr. Jacob Yost, one of the Republican candidates for Congress in that State writes: "There are very evident signs of a wane in the silver sentiment, and unless there is some reaction which we cannot now foresee, our white vote will be greatly increased, and I believe it will be a permanent increase," and Mr. J. F. Browning, of Dickinsonville, Va., says: "Sound money is gaining rapidly here at present." Mr. A. J. Rock, of Washington, who has been stumping in Virginia, says the number of sound money Democrats who are supporting McKinley is constantly on the increase, and predicts that sound money will carry the State by a substantial majority.

From all over Indiana comes news which indicates that the State is absolutely safe for McKinley. The following letter from Indianapolis is a fair sample of what is being written from other sections of Hoosierdom: "The raid that Alger, Howard, Sickles and Tanner have made in Indiana has stirred up the patriotism which will make it almost a sure winner. Betting is 2 to 1 on McKinley and 100 to 50 on Indiana, and no takers."

The Republicans were not surprised to learn that Altgeld's managers had abandoned all hope of carrying Illinois for Bryan and were offering to trade votes for McKinley for votes for Altgeld for Governor. They knew the gain that sound money has been making in that State ever since the campaign opened. How great that gain is may be judged from the following letter from Mr. Frank M. Cauger, of Granite City: "Everything looks favorable here. This county was always considered a Democratic county, but a poll shows 1,000 majority for McKinley."

A personal friend of President Cleveland says that he has made up his mind to recognize the independence of Cuba, unless the rebellion is put down by Spain within the next three months and that a hint to that effect has been given Spain.

It being now pretty well understood that the Venezuelan Boundary Commission will report in favor of the claims of Venezuela England with a view to saving herself humiliation has decided to agree to arbitration before that report is made.

One of the amusing features of the campaign is the publication of Bryan's applications for the position of press agent for a New York Theatre, a few months before he was nominated for President by the Popocratic convention as a newspaper correspondent. There is not the slightest doubt of his having made the application, both verbally and in writing, as the story is vouched for by Mr. W. J. Block, who was a schoolmate of Bryan and through whom the applications were made. There is, of course nothing dis-

creditable in Mr. Bryan's desiring to become a theatrical press agent; many bright men earn their bread by writing nice things of the stars in the theatrical firmament, and Mr. Bryan may yet do so. It merely shows that he knew his own calibre better than the Chicago convention did, and there is no doubt that the active imagination displayed in his speeches would prove valuable to him in writing theatrical notices, should that New York manager, who now says that after election, he will give him the job which he tried in vain to get before he was nominated for President, keep his promise.

## COST OF THE MAIL SERVICE.

A Reduction of the Annual Deficiency Shown This Year.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—The report the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Kerr Craige, for the year ended June 30, 1896, has just been completed, from which the following information is extracted:

The total amount of postal expenditures for the year was \$90,626,296.84. The total receipts were \$82,499,208.40. There was thus a deficiency of \$8,127,088.44. The increase of receipts was over 7 per cent.; the increase of expenditure a little less than 4 per cent. The service is shown to have been economically administered. The result in figures is a reduction of the annual deficiency of \$1,679,956.19. This expenditure does not include the cost of carrying the mails over the subsidized Pacific Railroads, which amount to \$1,558,896.60. This item is never paid out of any appropriation made for the Postal Service, but under the law is certified to the Secretary of the Treasury as a credit in favor of the companies in their account with the Government.

The special delivery service made a gratifying increase of business during the year. The number of letters specially delivered was 4,184,327, an increase of 13 per cent. over the previous year's business. The average time required for delivery was seven teen minutes. The net profit of the system was about \$100,000.

The number of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal cards issued was 4,195,665,523, an increase of 7 per cent. over the issues of the previous year. The value of these issues was \$79,178,101.89, which is about \$740,000 more than the sales.

The increase of second-class matter mailed by publishers and news agents was nearly 12 per cent. The total weight of matter thus mailed, paid and free, was about 349,000,000 pounds.

The business of registration was also increased, the rate being about 4 per cent. The total number of pieces of mail matter registered was 15,106,336. The percentage of losses was reduced, the ratio being about one in every 24,000 pieces mailed by the public.

Recommendation is again made for a limited indemnity to the owners of registered matter lost in the mails.

The contracts made through the Third Assistant's office for official envelopes for the use of the several executive departments and of Postmasters, involving the purchase of about 130,000,000 envelopes, do not show any material reduction of prices.

## ATTEMPT TO KILL SPAIN'S KING.

A Dynamite Bomb on the Track Where the Royal Train Was to Pass.

LONDON, Oct. 18.—A despatch to the Central News from Madrid says that the King, Queen Regent, and other members of the court returned to the capital today from San Sebastian, where they had been spending the summer.

The despatch adds that an attempt was made to wreck the royal train by some one, presumably a Cuban. A dynamite bomb had been placed on the rails, but fortunately it was discovered before the train reached the place.

Alphonso XIII is only a few months more than 10 years old, and during his minority his mother, Maria Christina, is Queen Regent. Until recently the King has been in rather delicate health but he is now more robust and vivacious, and is as fond of fun as most boys of his age.

It is rumored that Fitzsimmons and Corbett may fight at Atlanta.

## MR. MCKINLEY SEES 30,000.

THE FIRST SWARM OF VISITORS INTERRUPTED BREAKFAST.

Twenty-five Delegations from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio at Mr. McKinley's Residence—He Makes Eighteen Speeches—Cheered by Students, Old Folks, Railway Men, and Mechanics.

CANTON, Ohio, Oct. 17.—Delegations began to arrive in Canton at 5:30 this morning, the first comers being from Pennsylvania and Michigan. Three hundred voters from Monroe County, Mich., marched up Market Street to Major McKinley's house at 8 o'clock, and caused him to dispatch his breakfast with haste. They were not kept waiting more than ten minutes.

Their spokesman, D. A. Curtis, of Monroe, Mich., made a lively address to Major McKinley, and assured him that his plurality in Michigan would exceed twenty thousand. Major McKinley thanked his Michigan visitors for their call, and urged them to stand firmly for the party of protection and sound money.

Major McKinley's next callers came with drums beating and flags flying at 9 o'clock. There were three delegations in the assemblage that filled the McKinley yard. One was from Altoona Blair County, Penn., numbering 1,400 men; a delegation of 150 miners from South Fork, and another of 150 miners from Portage, Cambria County, Penn. Major McKinley spoke to them earnestly of protection.

Two hundred citizens of Huntington County, Penn., were the next callers. Judge Williamson introduced them to Major McKinley, who made a short address.

The fourth speech was made at 10:30 to a delegation from Grand Rapids and Western Michigan, largely composed of railway men and men engaged in the manufacture of furniture.

A delegation came from Ashtabula County, Ohio, that numbered 2,500 men. There were farmers, mechanics, railroad men, and dock men in the crowd. More than fifty banners were appropriate political inscriptions were borne in the delegation. They greeted Major McKinley with mighty cheers. A delegation of miners and farmers from Perry County, Ohio, came with in hearing distance just behind the Ashtabula people. Major McKinley addressed the two delegations at the same time on the loyalty of Ohio to great principles.

College yells from 500 students rent the air. The boys from the Ohio State University and the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware marched joyously from the station. Following them was a body of elderly people from Westerville, Ohio, each of more than fifty years of age, and a delegation of students from the Ohio Medical University at Columbus.

The scene about Major McKinley's house at 8:30 in the afternoon cannot be adequately described. The broad street on which the house faces was packed with men four, and often eight abreast, for the distance of three quarters of a mile, and in several side streets delegations were standing waiting their turn to be received.

The next invading army was from Kentucky. It was 4,000 strong, and the spokesman, Lieut. Gov. Worthington, told Major McKinley to expect a big plurality from his State. Major McKinley has seldom had more enthusiastic visitors. With the Kentucky delegation were 2,000 employes of the Louisville and Nashville Road. They were introduced by F. N. Burgess, and Major McKinley addressed some remarks to them.

Three thousand stalwart workmen from the shops, mills, and mines of Oliver Brothers in Pittsburg, Uniontown, Penn., came next. In part Major McKinley said:

"There is one thing that can be said about the Republican Party—it does not teach the doctrine of hate and prejudice, but teaches the gospel of peace, good will, and fraternity between the employer and employe." [Cries of "That's so."]

Three hundred and fifty employes of the Adams-Bagnal Electric Light Company of Cleveland, who had been patiently waiting behind the stand, were introduced by L. Rogers. One of

the banners borne in this delegation said: "McKinley may look like Napoleon, but Bryan does not look like Wellington."

Major McKinley addressed the delegation briefly. Short speeches, principally expressions of thanks, became necessary at this point, when delegation after delegation was pressing for attention. The Republican Club of Hobart, Ind., was brought to Major McKinley by its spokesman, J. S. Swanson.

The ninth speech was made to one of the largest delegations of the day. It was composed of traveling men from Columbus and Toledo, Ohio. Several bands and the Columbus Glee Club were with it.

"We have 3,000 voters in our delegation," was the proud statement of State Senator Stuart Reed of Clarksville, West Va., when the men from his State came swinging up the street. Mr. Reed made a short address and was followed by W. T. Crump, who spoke eloquently on behalf of the colored voters of West Virginia. After waiting five minutes for the applause and cheering to subside, Major McKinley responded.

The railway delegation, which came next, was a large one. There were 4,000 men in line. One thousand came from the Lake Shore shops in Jackson Mich.; one thousand from the car shops and yards in Cleveland, and a thousand from the Pennsylvania shops in Columbus.

A ladies' club from Chynaboga Falls and a railway men's club from the same place were the next callers. The women were cordially cheered, and Major McKinley made them a short but spirited speech. The same speech was also addressed to the employes of the Walker Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, who were introduced by D. A. Park.

A delegation of 3,000 wage earners arrived from Baltimore, Md., at 3 o'clock. It took them just two hours and a quarter to get near enough to Major McKinley to hear his voice. It was 6 o'clock when Major McKinley stood up to address his Baltimore visitors.

Pressing closely upon the heels of the Baltimore delegation was the Twelfth Ward Republican Club of Cleveland, 800 strong. James H. Hoyt was its spokesman, and Major McKinley's greeting was cordial, though brief, for it was his eighteenth speech.

Twenty-five delegations, with at least 30,000 members, saw Major McKinley.

The Alger special train will leave Canton next Monday morning and run to Cleveland, making nine stops en route and arriving in Cleveland in time for a meeting that night.

## NEW REPUBLICAN FORECAST

Based On Daily Reports From Western States

National Republican Headquarters was very quiet Saturday. The election of McKinley and Hobart is thought to be so thoroughly assured that the visitors who have been accustomed to daily ask for information from the West have almost ceased to make inquiries. The reports have been so favorable that Committeeman Napoleon B. Scott ventured a prediction yesterday which exceeds any estimate heretofore given. He only concedes to Bryan 91 electoral votes, and gives to the Republican ticket 297. The other 29 votes he claims are doubtful, with more than an even chance in favor of McKinley.

The information received at headquarters from Chicago exceeds the most sanguine expectations. The thoroughness of the campaign inaugurated in the Middle Western States is beginning to manifest results, and the daily reports sent to the Western headquarters from each of these States show that good work is being done.

In the Southern States, even in those where the National Committee is not making a vigorous campaign, the sentiment in favor of sound money is becoming so strong that it is believed at headquarters there is to be a great surprise from this unexpected source.

U. S. Minister Terrell has lodged with the Turkish Government a claim for \$40,000 indemnity on behalf of the mother of Frank Lenz, the Pittsburg bicyclist, who was murdered by Kurds while travelling through Asiatic Turkey in 1895.

## OUR NEW COAST DEFENSES.

Secretary Lamont's Estimates for His Department.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Secretary Lamont will tomorrow transmit to the Secretary of the Treasury of his estimates of appropriations required by the War Department for the next fiscal year. The aggregate is \$52,875,638.

The estimate for the running expenses of the War Department in Washington is \$1,464,236, showing a reduction in the annual expenses for salaries and contingencies in that office of \$621,942, from the estimates of four years ago. The other estimates in detail, are as follows:

Pay of army, as fixed by law, \$13,523,880.15; subsistence of the army, \$1,659,837.50; Quartermasters' supplies \$2,200,000; incidental expenses of the army, \$600,000; barracks and quarters, including hospital construction, \$685,000; shooting ranges, \$35,000; cavalry and artillery horses, \$130,000; army transportation, \$2,500,000; clothing, \$1,100,000; medical supplies, \$140,200; ordnance department, \$1,131,000; Military Academy, \$521,812; arsenals, \$139,796; military posts, National cemeteries, and National parks, \$1,558,380; National soldiers' homes, \$3,443,214; artificial limbs for soldiers of the late war, \$191,000; public buildings and grounds in Washington, \$139,902; miscellaneous items, \$402,000; rivers and harbors, \$5,349,000, to meet payments on existing contracts, the department at this time being unable to say what sum will be required by future contracts for which authority exists.

The estimate for fortifications and sea coast defense has been increased to \$15,824,298. In connection with his estimate, Secretary Lamont has made public the following statement of the condition of this work:

"On the 1st of July, 1893, but one modern gun had been placed in position. On the 1st of July, 1897, we shall have completed defenses with armament as follows: Thirteen 12 inch thirty seven 10 inch, eight 8-inch, and four rapid fire guns, and eighty 12-inch mortars. These guns and mortars are of American design and American manufacture, then and now more powerful, calibre for calibre, than any carried on shipboard.

"It appears that 17 out of 31 twelve-inch emplacements, 55 out of 66 ten-inch emplacements, 20 out of 25 eight-inch emplacements, 14 out of 16 rapid-fire gun emplacements, and 23 out of 156 twelve-inch mortar emplacements, have been entirely provided for during the last four years, and during the same time a large part of those previously provided for have been prepared to receive their armament. For this favorable showing much is due to the liberality of Congress at its recent session. The number of emplacements provided by the act of June 6, 1896, is just fifty in excess of the total provided by all preceding appropriations. The progress in armament has been equally satisfactory."

## HAWNA ORDERS A FLAG DAY.

Final Demonstration in the Interest of McKinley.

CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—Chairman Hanna of the Republican National Committee has suggested a "flag day" in the campaign. He promulgates the following:

"The American flag has been in the political campaign the emblem of insignia of National honor. Its influences have been for great good in the cause of a good people. Its display in many places has been potent in the advancement of the country's battle for the maintenance of its honor at home and abroad.

"I therefore suggest that on Saturday, Oct. 31, all who intend to vote Nov. 3 for the preservation of our National honor, for sound money, and the advancement of our people's interests and general prosperity display the National colors at their homes, their places of business, and wherever they may be seen, in order that their purpose and those who are undetermined may the more patriotically and intelligently conclude how best to perform their duty as citizens.

"M. A. HAWNA."

In a railroad wreck in Louisiana an engineer and fireman were killed.