

THURSDAY rain, accompanied by rising temperature.

THE MORNING POST.

READING ROOM
TRINITY COLLEGE
TEMPERATURE for the past 24 hours: X. 30; maximum, 52.

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Postmaster Out: Office Closed Up

Race Animosity in Mississippi Carried a Little Too Far for Official Endurance

By THOMAS J. PERCER

Washington, Jan. 2.—Special.—After discussing the matter for two hours today, the president and his cabinet decided that when the administration gives the people of a community a colored appointee they must accept the same despite their wishes or preferences in the premises. The case in point, which precipitated the cabinet meeting into one of the longest for some time, was that of Minnie M. Cox, the colored postmaster at Indianola, Miss., who resigned her position under threats from lawless white persons, so the administration contends. The press dispatches this morning, which brought the matter to the president's attention did not indicate as much, however.

The president and his cabinet decided today to force the people of Indianola to accept the colored postmaster. In order to do this they have refused to accept her resignation and have ordered all mail addressed to Indianola sent to Greenville, Miss. The meeting of the cabinet was characterized by sharp expressions of opinion on the part of the president's official family with reference to this case.

Secretary Moody of the navy was especially violent. It is said he urged that some vindictive policy be pursued against the south. Mr. Moody's remarks have little weight, as he is very extreme in his views. It will be recalled that he proposed, when a member of the last congress, that southern representatives be stood aside and denied their seats. The president and the majority of the cabinet were very indignant over the Indianola affair, and as a result it was decided to issue "an official explanation," the first to make its appearance from the White House since congress convened. It had been thought that the president was cured of his explanation habit.

The following is "the official explanation," given out in typewritten form this afternoon from the White House: "The postmaster at Indianola, Miss., is Mrs. Minnie M. Cox, a colored woman. She served three years as postmaster under President Harrison. When President McKinley came in she was again appointed, in 1897, nearly six years ago. Her character and standing in the community are endorsed by the best and most reputable people in the town. Among those on her bond is the present Democratic state senator from that district, together with the leading banker of Indianola, and an ex-state senator from the district, also a Democrat. The postmaster and her husband own from ten to fifteen thousand dollars worth of property in Sunflower county. The reports of post office inspectors who have investigated the office from time to time show that she has given the utmost satisfaction to all the patrons of the office, that she is at all times courteous, faithful, competent and honest in the discharge of her duties. Her moral standing in the community is of the highest. Her reputation is of the best. Few offices of this grade in any state are conducted better.

"The postmaster recently forwarded her resignation to take effect January 1, but the report of the inspectors and information received from various reputable white citizens of the town and neighborhood show that the resignation was forced by the brutal and lawless element purely upon the ground of her color, and was obtained under terror of threats of physical violence. The mayor of the town and the sheriff of the county both told the post office inspector that if she refused to resign they could not be answerable for her safety, although at the same time not one word was said against her management of the office. On January 1 the bondsmen of the postmaster telegraphed that the post office was closed, that the postmaster claimed that her resignation was in the hands of the president to take effect January 1, and there had been no advice of the appointment of her successor. The telegram closed with this statement: 'Prompt action necessary for relief of business interests.' In the view of the president the relief of business interests which are being injured solely by the action of the lawless element of the town, is wholly secondary to the preservation of the law and order and the assertion of the fundamental principle that this government will not connive at or tolerate wrong and outrage of such flagrant character."

It is not known that the cabinet discussed the Vick or Crum cases, but as action is to be taken early next week in both, it is likely that both interesting topics were under consideration.

The fact that the president, acting on the cabinet's advice, decided to refer all the papers in the case to the attorney general for action, leads to the belief that the administration will turn all the machinery available in the department of justice toward the prosecution of all persons who have made it unpleasant for the negro postmaster at Indianola. It is claimed that the charge of conspiracy will be the basis of action. The penalty in such cases is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment.

Representative Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama, a minority leader in the House, discussed the illly white subject after leaving the White House today. Though a Democrat Mr. Underwood only sees injury to the Republic cause by the president's policy in recognizing the negro. Mr. Underwood said: "President Roosevelt is merely hurting his own party by continuing his policy of recognizing the negro element in the south in preference to the white leaders. The illly white party has come to stay and would rapidly gain strength if the president withdrew his opposition."

"The president's action in removing Collector Elincham of Alabama, thus giving the white Republicans a rebuke for showing an interest in their own party's future welfare, acts only as a temporary setback to the movement. It will not affect the present political situation one way or the other. The opposite action would, however, have attracted strength to the Republican organization."

"There are not many negroes in the south who vote. Whether they vote for the Republican ticket or not does not affect the result in many instances. But there are white men who would vote the Republican ticket if it stood for their interest, while so long as it stands for a negro party they will always vote the other way, or not at all. Persons who study the political situation there on the ground get a different impression from those who form their opinions several hundred miles away."

"I do not think the Democratic party is threatened in the south by the illly white movement, surely not under the present attitude of the president, the tendency of which is only to split the Republican strength. But his recognition of the illly whites would make the elections a little more interesting."

Senator Pritchard has recommended the appointment of the following postmasters: Mount Olive, W. J. Flowers; Albemarle, Ella M. Sanders; Roxboro, W. H. Long. Claude M. Bernard of Raleigh arrived today.

Carmack on Presidential Timber

Senator Edward W. Carmack of Tennessee, one of the Democratic leaders of the Senate, in speculating today upon Democratic presidential nomination prospects for the coming year, expressed the opinion that in order to win the Democracy must select a candidate from the state of New York. "There has been a great deal of talk lately about David B. Hill, Arthur P. Gorman and Richard Olney," said Mr. Carmack. "As a matter of fact it is a little early in the season to discuss this subject. There is no jelling what may happen between now and then and the time in 1904 for nominating a candidate. However, I may say that I am neither a Gorman, Hill nor Olney man. I look rather favorably upon the effort to nominate Judge Parker of New York. From what I know of him I am very favorably impressed with his candidacy. There may be reasons why he should not be nominated, but I have not been acquainted with them up to this time. Everything I know about him is exceedingly favorable. In the first place he is recognized as a man of distinguished ability and all the people in New York seem to have a high regard for him. He has a clean record. His party record has been entirely straight and, as I understand it, there can be no objection to his candidacy by Mr. Bryan or any of the Nebraskan's followers."

"The point has been made," continued Senator Carmack, "that the record of Judge Parker upon the money question may be used as a club to injure his prospects. As a matter of fact I do not believe that the money question will be acute as an issue for some years to come. The increased supply of gold has taken the edge off of this issue for the present. I think, however, that in the future the money question will become as important to this country as it has been in the past. We are now on the high tide of increased gold production. After a few years the probabilities are that the gold mines will begin to exhaust themselves followed by a decline in the production of gold and a consequent increase in its value and a period of declining prices and depression. In my judgment this is bound to come and when it does come the money issue will be paramount again. "It is impossible to say what the leading issue will be in the campaign of 1904. Circumstances may arise which will push one question to the front and side track another. As a matter of fact

it is hardly worth while to talk about that feature of the case at this time, although I am inclined to believe that both the tariff and the Philippines will cut a considerable figure in the campaign.

"Hill, Gorman and Olney are all good men and would make fine presidents, but I have no faith in the candidacy of either," concluded Senator Carmack. "Olney has been suggested very strongly, but we cannot nominate him. We can expect nothing from New England in the way of Democratic strength. It would be ridiculous to nominate him. The man must come from New York."

Senator Carmack was asked concerning the report that, ex-President Cleveland's friends might strive to secure a third term nomination for him. He said: "I do not believe it. Mr. Cleveland, in my opinion, has no such intentions. It would be folly for him to seek the nomination."

FLEET ASSEMBLED

Admiral Dewey Reports on Naval Manœuvres

Washington, Jan. 2.—The secretary of the navy today was informed by cable from Admiral Dewey of the reassembling of the entire squadron at the island of Culebra for a continuation of the naval manœuvres. Admiral Dewey's dispatch follows: San Juan, P. R., Dec. 31.—Combined squadrons reassembled at Culebra; visits to various West Indian ports most cordially welcomed, effect excellent in every respect; fleet continuing tactical exercise, marine and torpedo flotilla engaged in special drills, including night attack by the latter upon designated ships. E. B. Ralley, coal passer, drowned in sinking of Newark's steam cutter by collision with torpedo boat. DEWEY.

A Fine Oil Mill

Fayetteville, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—The new plant of the Southern Cotton Oil Company is now completed. Work began with the new year. An expert in industrial matters pronounced it one of the finest mills in the south—built with great care and skill, admirably arranged, and superb in equipment of machinery, etc. It is situated in the eastern part of Fayetteville, has a side track to the Atlantic Coast Line, and is convenient to the different lines of steamers on the Cape Fear river.

Death of S. S. Biddle

New Bern, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—Dr. Samuel S. Biddle, aged 31 years, died in this city last night at 12 o'clock at the house of Col. John D. Whitford. Mr. Biddle was operated on for appendicitis. Later a second operation was performed for peritonitis. The funeral service was conducted this morning from the residence of Col. Whitford, after which his remains were carried to the family burying ground at Fort Barwell.

Age and Beauty

Manteo, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—A marriage of a rare character took place

in this vicinity a few days ago. Godfrey Tripp, 52 years old, was married to Miss Mary J. Hill, aged 17, by John W. Ward, Sr., justice of the peace. The old gentleman lived all alone on Body's Island beach since his wife died two weeks ago, or rather two previous to this marriage. The old man is remarkably well preserved, and the bride is a blushing maiden, young looking for her age.

Fishermen Have Luck

Manteo, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—The fishermen of Dare county enjoyed an experience the other day the like of which does not often visit them. Fall fishing, as it is usually called, had about proved a failure, when suddenly the fish came in such numbers that the waters could not hold them. Great quantities of large and marketable trout were washed ashore by the surf, and men along the beach were able to make big shipments from what they picked up. This run only lasted about twenty-four hours.

Increased Capital

Winston-Salem, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—The Wachovia Loan and Trust Company has increased its capital from \$200,000 to \$500,000, all of which has been subscribed. This is now the largest banking institution in the state. The Kernersville National Bank opened today. The deposits aggregate four thousand dollars. The bank starts with a capital of fifteen thousand dollars.

Toy Pistol Victim

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—Venter, son of J. R. Caudle, died today from blood poisoning as the result of a wound received by the explosion of a toy pistol Christmas day. The pistol, of the blank cartridge variety, exploded in young Caudle's left hand, but made only a slight wound. It was healing nicely when yesterday symptoms of blood poisoning developed and the boy sank rapidly until the end came.

JUDGE ALLEN

His Honor Takes the Oath of Office

Goldboro, N. C., Jan. 2.—Special.—Judge W. R. Allen of this city subscribed to the oath of office as superior court judge at his law office in this city yesterday before Justice of the Peace D. J. Broadhurst, who remarked afterward that it was the first time during the many years he had been a justice that he had created a judge of the superior court. Judge Allen will hold his first court in Durham next week. This is not the first time, however, that he has presided upon the bench. In 1894 Judge Allen defeated Judge Whitaker for the judgeship and the latter resigned his remaining six months of office which was filled by Judge Allen by appointment. He has, therefore, been nominated twice for the judgeship. He was defeated in the election the first time by Judge Robinson of this city, who was defeated at the last election by Judge Allen.

Dun's Report on the State of Business

The New Year Opens with All Prospects Bright and the Outlook Full of Promise

New York, Jan. 2.—Dun's report tomorrow will say: Despite the interruption of a holiday, taking of inventories and all the other disturbing elements incidental to the closing of the old year and inauguration of the new, the past week has been far from dull. Consumers have not perceptibly lessened purchases, while the approach of higher freight rates accelerated shipment of goods. Transportation facilities continue utterly inadequate, the pressing need for fuel diverting rolling stock from other classes of freight. At a few fortunate points the supply of coal has increased, but generally the deliveries are only a small fraction of the quantity desired. The output of anthracite was not only curtailed by suspension of work during the holidays, but only a limited force returned to work on the succeeding days. New wage scales have become effective, largely enhancing the purchasing power of the people, which must be reflected in an increased demand for commodities. The new year opens with every prospect of exceptional activity in all branches of business. Railway earnings so far available for December show a gain of 77 per cent over 1901 and 49 per cent over 1900, while for the full year there are increases of 4.1 and 16.5 per cent respectively, notwithstanding the heavy loss of coal traffic. Bank exchanges in this city last week were 15.8 per cent smaller than a year ago and 27.4 less than two years, while at other leading cities the declines were 2.3 and 5.6 respectively. The material declines in clearings for the last week are not actually as unsatisfactory as the percentages would suggest, owing to the fact that last year's figures include one day of January, and those

of two years ago embrace two days of January, when payments are abnormally heavy. Returns for the full year show a decrease of less than half of one per cent in clearings, which proves a far greater than in 1901, since speculative operations at this city were about 25 per cent smaller.

Textile mills are busy with only a hand-tomouth home demand for cotton goods, but export buying for China continues large. Since this movement began a few weeks ago, about 100,000 bales of sheetings and drills have been taken. Farm products weakened as visible supplies increased, and reports from the west indicate that much more grain is offered for shipment than the railroads will accept. Closing out of December contracts produced a further break in corn, making the price fully ten cents a bushel less than a year ago. Exports are steadily gaining for the week. At Atlantic ports 2,335,463 bushels were sent out, compared with only 847,198 bushels in the corresponding week a year ago. The movement was notably heavy at Baltimore and other southern cities. Western receipts are also gaining—4,206,757 bushels for the week compared with 3,251,111 last year.

Port cotton receipts are large and, despite many gloomy reports from the south, late cotton is still being gathered. Wool tends upward; shipments to the mills continue heavy and inquiries numerous. No recovery appears in coffee, while sugar is firm because of light offerings. Receipts from Cuba are restricted, awaiting ratification of the reciprocity treaty. More aggressive action by pools in specialties produced a decided net gain for the week in securities, and there was also much covering by the short account which accelerated the advances. Railroad earnings reflect an enormous tonnage. Gross earnings last year of all railroads in the United States reporting to date are \$1,434,248,038, a gain of 4.16 per cent over the preceding year, and 16.5 per cent over the year 1900.

Chance for the Southern Negro in the Philippines

General Davis Discusses Conditions Under Which It Would Be Desirable for the Blacks to Emigrate

Washington, Jan. 2.—Gen. George D. Davis, commanding the division of the Philippines, has made a report to the war department in regard to the plan of Senator Morgan respecting the use of negro troops in the Philippines, with the ultimate object of their becoming permanent residents of the islands when they should have completed the terms of their military engagement. He says he conceives that the objects sought to be accomplished are two-fold. "First, to cover the Filipino lands with liberty-loving negro settlers, whose religious independence would ever resist the efforts of any priest-hood to control their consciences. "Second, to relieve the existing congestion of negro population in the southern states by transferring large numbers of this race to the congenial soil of the Philippines, where they may aid in the development of the country."

General Davis reviews at length the conditions under which the Philippines were acquired and the methods of administration of the affairs of the islands since that time. "Would the negroes of our southern states, enlisted and trained as soldiers under white officers and organized into companies, battalions and regiments, furnish an adequate instrumentality for realizing these objects? "Assuming an affirmative answer to this question, would the men, after discharge from the army, be willing to stay and become law-abiding, industrious settlers? "A third question also suggests itself: Would the nucleus of the negro race thus transferred and established be augmented largely from home? Would it result in a veritable hegira, a transfer of large numbers of this population from the southern United States, their present home, to vacant lands in the tropical antipodes? "An attempt to enlist negroes in the states on a basis of soldiering for one to five years and remaining permanently in the Philippines as permanent residents would meet with scant success—no more than has attended the efforts to induce the colored race in America to remove to Liberia.

"There has been nothing grown in the oriental tropics by methods known to our southern negroes. In Alabama, a negro who has a family and a mule can easily plow, plant and harvest cotton on an acre of ten acres or more. He is a native Filipino and his family with one cariboo, may be able to cultivate an acre and grow enough rice or maize, bananas or sweet potatoes for their own subsistence, but no more. Here the cotton plant is a large shrub, a perennial—the natives call it a tree—but the staple is short, the yield insufficient and not one tenth of the cotton required for native use is grown here. More than one-half of the rice consumed in these islands is produced in China, but the abaca is a fiber produced nowhere else, and the world's consumption of Manila hemp is continually increasing—a crop produced exclusively by small farmers; but the entire equipment required for the cultivation and preparation for market is made by natives—a wooden hoe, a spade and a rude device by means of which the threads of fibre are divested of the matrix, of sap and glutinous material. "If our negroes would work, they could, given the land free—of which are vast unoccupied areas in Mindanao, Samar, Mindoro, Paragua and Basilan—be independent, but would they work if uncontrolled? If our negroes from the south were living in the Philippines, would they do better than others of their race in the West Indies? "There is one plant for which the soil and climate of the Philippines is admirably suited, which cannot be cultivated with the best economy except in very extensive tracts under one control, and this involves a very large aggregation of capital under one management. Sugar cane is referred to, of course.

"The negroes would have an opportunity of bettering themselves by engaging in abaca, coffee, cocoa and rice culture, for they will have learned the methods that must be followed, and when their contracts expire with the sugar planter they may launch out as small planters, each working his own fields as do the natives. "Some will marry with Filipino women, and some with their own race; they will write home of their prosperity and more will come, either as contract laborers or as settlers, perhaps aided by the insular government. Such immigrants would be as useful as the average discharged soldier would be worthless. His military experience, during which he had never a thought for the morrow, would have spoiled him entirely for manual labor, and he would never become self-reliant and industrious. "If capital is enlisted in this cause, the hegira which Senator Morgan desires may be realized, and the funds for investment will be found if the gov-

ernment is efficient and fair in its attitude toward investors. "To secure an exodus to the Philippines of the superabundant blacks in the southern states a few acts of government are necessary: "1. Some sort of homestead law under which the bona fide squatter could receive in fee a title to land for a home after certain improvements had been made. "2. Insular aid in way of transportation and a start in the islands to bona fide negro immigrants.

"3. Laws should be enacted permitting the granting of franchises so that capital may be induced to come. "4. In order that modern sugar-making may be established land sub-divided should be allowed to individuals or companies who undertake to establish sugar centers on a large scale; the passing of final title to the land to be conditioned upon the realization of the project and production of a certain tonnage of sugar for a term of years. "5. Industrial establishments such as the above to be exempt from all taxation for a short term of years on capital invested in fixtures. "6. The establishment of steamship lines plying between these islands and our Pacific coast, so that communication may be rapid, the contracts for this service to require the lowest possible rates to intending settlers.

WIRES UNDER SEA

Messages Exchanged Between America and Hawaii

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—San Francisco and Honolulu are now connected by cable. The first words passed under the ocean a few moments after 11 o'clock last night. The wires worked perfectly. The first message received was from Governor Dole to President Roosevelt. It was merely a formal greeting and congratulations from the people of Hawaii to the chief of the United States, from one chief executive to another.

The message was transmitted at the market street office, to a wire leading directly to the executive mansion at Washington, and its receipt was immediately acknowledged, but the operator refused to awaken the president to give it to him. When the president awoke he sent a reply. After the first message came a second message from Honolulu. It was a greeting from the people of Hawaii to Clarence H. Mackay, president of the cable company, congratulating him on the completion of the cable and expressing sorrow that John W. Mackay had not survived to see the instantaneous bond between the islands and the American continent. This message was signed by Henry E. Cooper, secretary of territory of Hawaii.

MERGER WITNESSES

Financiers Summoned by the Kentucky Railroad Commission

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 2.—The list of witnesses summoned by Chairman McCord of the railroad commission, to sustain the charge of merger made against the Louisville & Nashville Atlantic Coast Line, Illinois Central and John W. Gates, is headed by J. Pierpont Morgan, George W. Perkins and August Belmont. The witnesses have been served with summonses to appear before the interstate commerce commission, which will meet in New York January 15. They will be placed on the stand and interrogated by the railroad commissioners, assisted by Attorney General Pratt and Colonel Bennett H. Young. The attorneys will leave here for New York January 12.

UNITED DEMAND

Railroad Employes Will Ask for an Increase of Wages

St. Louis, Jan. 2.—That the general movement of western railroad employes for a wage advance is rapidly approaching a crisis is evidenced by the early arrival of many delegates to the national conference to be held here early in the coming week, at which committee reports will be received and acted upon. It is declared that the conference will represent fully 175,000 railroad employes. While it is difficult to learn the exact nature of the reports to be submitted by the committees, it is said on good authority that the schedule which will be fixed upon will call for an advance of 12 per cent.

Dynamite Kills Miners

Pottsville, Pa., Jan. 2.—A quantity of dynamite exploded in one of the gangways of the Oak Hill colliery, today, instantly killing three miners and injuring a dozen others.