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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### Republican Rottenness in the Post Office Department Being Investigated.

Special Correspondence of THE HERALD.

Washington, D. C., April 20.—Some of the rottenness of the Republican administration of the Post Office Department is at last coming to light. The investigation has only just begun, but it has gone far enough to let us see that this will be the biggest scandal ever unearthed in any department of the national government until the Democrats get in control and take a look at the books in the War and Navy departments, and the things that were done there during the war with Spain in connection with the purchase of supplies for the army and the purchase of vessels for colliers and for the transportation of troops.

When this investigation into the doings of several bureaux of the Post Office Department was ordered by the Postmaster General, he did not expect to find anything worse than a few irregularities, and which could be easily remedied, but he comes back here from a pleasure trip and finds an enormous scandal being turned up to the gaze of the public, and he is badly scared. He talks very bravely about continuing the investigation and allowing no guilty man to escape, but he would be glad to shut it off right now. If he does not and goes the full limit, then we may expect to see some of the pets of the administration wearing stripes.

This game of graft and speculation has been going on for several years. When Senator Hanna inaugurated the most stupendous campaign of bribery and corruption in 1896 ever before attempted, one of his most active lieutenants was Perry Heath. He was rewarded for his peculiar services by being appointed First Assistant Postmaster General. He, in turn, selected others who had been active in the debauch of the voters, amongst whom were Neely and Rathbone, who were sent to Cuba and were convicted of robbing the government there of thousands of dollars. The same game was inaugurated here, only in different ways, and so that it could be covered up for a longer time.

All sorts of schemes were started for making money out of the government jobs held by certain people. Two of these people have already been forced to resign, viz.: Assistant Attorney General Tyner, who had charge of the law department of the Post Office Department, and Mr. Beavers, superintendent of the salary and allowance division. It was discovered that Tyner had been rendering decisions that gave the get-rich-quick swindling concerns of the country the benefit of the use of the mails in order to rob the people of the country. We do not yet know all that Beavers has been doing, but we do know that he got out as soon as the fire was started in his rear. It is believed that one of the charges against him will be that he was at the head of a syndicate that was selling increases in salaries. When a man designated as entitled to an increase in his salary was sent in to Beavers it is charged that he was notified that he must plank down not less than \$25 or the increase did not go. We all know that Beavers lately built a residence in the City of Brooklyn that cost not less than \$35,000, and on a salary of \$4,500 a year.

Other things are now coming to light. Fine furniture was allowed or sometimes forced on postmasters all over the country, and all of it was made by one concern. Typewriting machines have been distributed lavishly, and all of them of the same make. The old-fashioned good iron mail boxes, and all of them painted alike and with the same firm's paint, and painted by men sent out from the department when it could have been done much cheaper at home by some firm in the city where the painting was done.

The farmers along the rural free delivery routes were not allowed to furnish their own boxes, but were compelled to pay for the kind of box prescribed and sent out by the superintendent of the free delivery service. Whenever a new rural free delivery route was to be inaugurated some firm that furnished wagons and other things to the department or to the carriers was given the tip and got into the game before any other firm knew anything about it. And out of this comes good graft for the men behind the scenes.

The chances are that the thing will be so stupendous that the Republican party will refuse to allow the facts to be given to the public, and the people will know nothing of it until a Democratic Congress compels publicity. The people can get the facts about how many thousands of dollars have been wasted and stolen from them only by electing a Democratic Congress.

Whenever the people of this country elect a Democratic Congress and a Democratic administration there will come forth revelations of rottenness and corruption in the departments of this government that will stagger the nation. The truth is that every department of this government in this city is honeycombed with rottenness and all of it has grown up since McKinley was inaugurated 1897.

The Post Office Department seems to have been conducted by and in the interest of the grafters, the Treasury Department in the interest of Wall Street, the Navy Department in the interest of the Steel Trust, the War Department in the interest of General Wood, the Interior Department in the interest of the Glass Trust, that wants to grab the glauconite beds in the Uncompagee Ute Indian Reservation, and the Department of Justice in the interest of the trusts in general. The new Department of Commerce and Labor has not got into the game. How long do the people intend to stand it?

This administration is hitting the Civil Service with an axe. The Washington Post is authority for the statement that, "since President Roosevelt came into office a large portion of the important offices in the United States Treasury Department have been filled with new men, or will be filled before a long while. Something like a clean sweep has been gradually put into effect, but it has been done quietly, and as a rule with little publicity." That is a pretty serious charge for a newspaper with strong Republican leanings to make against the President, who boasts of his Civil Service Reform antecedents and who was supposed to be still ardent disciple of the same cult.

It is also stated that more postmasters have been removed and appointed during the last two years than ever before in the history of the department. The fact is, the President is building up his own little machine and he is going after the nomination without losing a trick.

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

Luther Barber, of Carr, Wake county, was instantly killed and several other men seriously injured by the collapsing of an immense derrick near Bluefield, W. Va., Saturday night. The main mast struck Barber on the head, crushing his skull.

### Robbed The Grave.

A startling incident is narrated by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in an awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50 cents, guaranteed, at Hood Bros., drug store.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS UNFAVORABLE.

### Farm Work Retarded and Crops Damaged by Continued Rain—Winter Wheat Much Injured.

The weekly crop bulletin for the week ending Monday, April 20, is as follows:

The reports of crop correspondents for the past week indicate that the weather conditions have been decidedly unfavorable both for farm work and for the growth of crops. The temperature averaged from 2 to 3 degrees daily below the normal, ranging from a maximum of 74 degrees to a minimum of 34 degrees, the latter temperature occurring at Asheville the morning of April 18th, with killing frost; light to heavy frosts also occurred in the central and eastern portions of the state on Saturday morning with slight damage to vegetation. The most unfavorable feature for the week was the frequent precipitation. Though not excessive in amount, rain fell on five days of the week, with snow in the mountains on the 15th. The rainfall was least in the southeast portion of the state, and in that section plowing and planting made some progress. On the 14th severe local storms with hail occurred in several western and eastern counties, with much damage to truck and strawberries in limited localities, chiefly in Beaufort, Craven, Sampson, Cumberland and Columbus counties. The lack of sunshine, the cold northerly winds and soaked condition of the soil prevented much work of any kind, and farming operations are now very backward; moreover, the cold, wet soil is very unfavorable for the rapid germination of seeds.

A few farmers have finished planting corn on uplands in the east, but very little corn has been planted elsewhere, and what was planted early is coming up very slowly. Some cotton has been planted in the south portion. Tobacco plants are well advanced and many plants have been set, though most of the land is hardly ready yet. While a majority of reports indicate that winter wheat is still in fair condition, many correspondents state that the crop has received much damage from the hessian fly. Chinch bugs are injuring wheat in many fields. The cold, wet weather has caused much yellowing, and rust is spreading. Irish potatoes are coming up fairly well. Gardens have made very little progress. Fruit in the west was further injured by frost this week, but there will be plenty of peaches, plums and a good crop of apples. In spite of unfavorable conditions for ripening of berries and maturing of truck, shipments of these crops were large during the week.

Rains reported: Raleigh, 1.32 inches; Wilmington, 0.17; Charlotte, 1.91; Greensboro, 1.32; Weldon, 2.69; Moncure, 1.16; Asheville, 1.50; Morganton, 1.67; Henrietta, 2.32.

### GATTIS-KILGO SUIT.

#### This Famous Case to be Tried This Week For Fourth Time.

Oxford, N. C., April 20.—The Gattis-Kilgo case has been set for trial here on Thursday of this week.

This famous suit for slander brought by Rev. T. J. Gattis, of Oxford, against Rev. John C. Kilgo, president of Trinity College, Durham, has been tried before a jury twice before this, and has been in the Supreme Court three times. This will be actually the fourth time it will have been in the Granville county court.

Here is a brief history of the litigation in the widely known suit.

The case first came up in the Granville county court at the April term, 1899, and the judge sustained the defendant's demurrer. The plaintiff appealed, and at the fall term, 1899, the Supreme Court reversed that action and sent the case back for trial before a jury.

At the November term, 1900, the case came up for trial before a jury in the Granville court, and the plaintiff obtained a verdict of \$20,000.

The defendant appealed this time, and at the spring term, 1901, the Supreme Court granted a new trial.

Then the case again came before a jury at the November term of court, 1901, and Mr. Gattis obtained a verdict of \$15,000. The defendant again appealed.

At the spring term, 1902, the Supreme Court carried the case over till the fall term without deciding it. At the fall term, 1902, a new trial was granted by the Supreme Court, and the case now comes up before a jury this week for the third time.

Judge W. R. Allen, of Goldsboro, will be the presiding judge.

The counsel in the case are: For the plaintiff Mr. Gattis; Messrs. Boone, Bryant & Biggs, of Durham; Maj. W. A. Guthrie, Durham; Judge A. W. Graham, of Oxford; Hon. S. M. Gattis, of Hillsboro; Hon. C. B. Watson, of Winston-Salem, and Senator A. A. Hicks, of Oxford.

For the defendant President Kilgo; Messrs. Winston & Fuller, of Durham; Royster & Hobgood, of Oxford, and T. T. Hicks, of Henderson.

### Dropped Dead in Raleigh.

Mr. Joseph Young, who lives near Angier, in Harnett county, dropped dead in this city yesterday morning about ten o'clock at the home of a colored woman on East Davie street. He came to Raleigh yesterday to find hands to work on his farm. While on Davie street he went to the home of a colored woman and said he was very sick and asked her if she had a place he could lie down for a few minutes. As he started to lie down he fell, and after giving a few groans he expired.

Mr. Young was one of the best known men in his section of the county and was a prosperous and well-to-do farmer. He was a consistent member of the Primitive Baptist church and lived up to that faith in all his paths of life. He was upright, honest and conscientious in all his dealings with his fellowman.

He was a man about seventy-five years old and leaves a wife and several children.—News and Observer 23rd.

### Married.

On the 19th inst. at 4 o'clock p. m., at the home of the bride's father, Mr. John G. Allen, Miss Leacy Allen was led to the hymeneal altar by Mr. James Godwin, where they were united in the holy bonds of wedlock, Elder L. P. Adams officiating.

The attendants were Mr. Ira Allen with Miss Bertha Godwin, Junius Godwin with Miss Lillie Woodall, J. H. Wheeler with Miss Lucy Allen, Albert Surles with Miss Mattie Allen, Willie M. Woodall with Miss Bethany Lee, Clarence Woodall with Miss Lillie Turlington.

After the ceremony the bridal party returned to the most handsomely decorated parlor and with excellent music rendered by Miss Edith Parker, a short while was spent with congratulation and conversation by the young people in general.

The bride and groom with the preceding parties then returned to the home of the groom's father, Mr. Benjamin Godwin, where a sumptuous supper awaited them. After the refreshments and good rations of all kinds were served, a few hours of talking among the boys and girls was the conclusion of this grand occasion. All bade them good-bye hoping them a long and happy life.

The bride has for the past three years been one of Johnston county's most successful teachers, while Mr. Godwin is an industrious young farmer of Elevation township.

May the blessings of the Almighty rest upon them and give them a successful future.

W.

O. K. Stoves and Ranges.

## STATE NEWS.

A postoffice called Pinelog has been established in Clay county.

George E. Hood has been renominated for Mayor of Goldsboro.

Last Saturday John Robinson fell between the cars at Hot Springs and had both legs cut off.

Miss Alice Roosevelt has returned to Washington after spending a week Mrs. George Vanderbilt at Biltmore.

The board of aldermen of Fayetteville have decreed that cigars cannot be sold or given away in that town on Sunday.

The statements of the Raleigh banks just issued show that the total deposits subject to check April 9th were \$2,566,051.73.

The contest over the postoffice at Hillsboro has been settled by Judge Robinson, who acted as arbitrator. He decided in favor of C. G. Rosemond.

A cotton mill warehouse and 250 bales of cotton were burned at Spray, Rockingham county, Saturday morning. The loss is estimated at \$12,000.

In the second mayoralty primary held in Wilmington Thursday Mr. W. E. Springer was nominated for mayor, defeating Mayor Waddell by 404 votes.

Twelve convicts made a break for liberty at Castle Hayne Monday morning. One was instantly killed by the guard. Five were caught later and six made good their escape.

The election to decide on a bond issue for Graded Schools for Swan Quarter was carried by a comfortable majority of the qualified vote. Only one vote was cast against the issue.

Thirty eight new rural mail routes began in this State April 1st, making a total of 312 now in operation in the State. The salaries of the rural carriers now amount to \$180,000 yearly.

Mr. Archie Parker, an aged and respected white man, was killed on the premises of the Erwin cotton mills at Dunn, Harnett county, last week, by the fall of a shelter. Owen David was also injured, but not fatally.

The grading of the Raleigh & Cape Fear Railroad has been completed to the Cape Fear river at Lillington. Six miles of the extension has been completed and laid with rail, and the rails for the other eight miles are on the way.

The three young white men of Raleigh who were arrested last week charged with criminally assaulting a 14 year-old white girl, were discharged after a hearing before a magistrate. The girl's character was shown to be very bad.

### Married.

Tuesday night at 9 o'clock, April 14th, 1903, at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Emily Peacock, in Meadow township, her daughter, Miss Pennie, was married to Mr. Richard Jones, L. P. Johnson, J. P., performing the ceremony.

The attendants were Mr. Joel G. Hudson with Miss Betsy Johnson; Mr. N. W. McLam with Miss Louie Johnson; Mr. Dempsey Lawson with Miss Emmie Peacock, and Mr. Bud Hudson with Mrs. Sophronie Hudson.

After the ceremony the entire wedding party returned to the home of the bride's mother where a sumptuous supper awaited them.

### The State Debt.

The total debt of the State, interest and non-interest-bearing securities, is \$6,527,770.

If the State should pay \$100,000 every year, it would then require more than 65 years to pay this debt—two generations of people.—Raleigh Visitor.

5,000 new cut herrings now for sale at The Austin-Stephenson Co.

## General News Items.

Mrs. Carrie Nation has opened her home at Topeka to wives of destitute drunkards.

The total abstinence advocates are in majority at international anti-alcohol congress at Bremen.

Justice Gilgerich, in New York, has granted an order permitting William K. Vanderbilt, head of that family, to marry again.

Stockholders of the United States Steel Corporation have chosen directors who, it is said, will re-elect President Charles M. Schwab.

Wallace Putnam Reed, a writer and newspaper man well known throughout the South, died at his home in Atlanta Saturday, aged 53 years.

Coal operators have locked out about 30,000 miners at 32 coleries in the anthracite region because they refused to work nine hours on Saturday.

Eight persons were killed and 10 injured in a collision near Jamestown, N. Y., Monday between a limited express train on the Erie railroad and a freight train.

Fifty years' betrothal of "Tom" Miller, member of New York Manhattan club, and Miss Joanna Mills ended last week by the former's death at age of 79; reason for delayed wedding unknown.

President Roosevelt, with John Burroughs, naturalist, and United States cavalry detachment entered Yellowstone park Wednesday for sixteen days' stay; his special train to remain at Cinnabar.

A mob took Tom Gillyard, a negro tramp, from the Joplin, Mo., jail last week and hanged him to a telegraph pole in the heart of the city. The negro was charged with the murder of a policeman.

Three men were killed and five badly injured by premature explosion of shell in forward twelve-inch gun on battleship Iowa while at target practice off Pensacola, Fla.; gun and deck were wrecked by fragments.

A careless workman kicked over a lantern at one of the Beaumont oil wells last week and started a fire that resulted in the loss of property valued at \$1,000,000 and the bankruptcy of twenty or more smaller companies.

In a row that followed a drinking bout, Frank Redmond was shot and instantly killed Monday morning at Gainesville, Ga., by Policeman Parks. Jennie Redmond, Rollin Peeler and Stephen Wiley were also shot and slightly injured. The coroner's jury exonerated the policeman.

The new steamship Minnesota, the largest vessel ever built in America and the greatest cargo carrier in the world, was launched Friday. The Minnesota is owned by the Great Northern Steamship Company. She can carry a cargo that would fill a train several miles long, or 125 trains of 25 cars each. She and her sister vessel, the Dakota, will carry 28,000 long tons of coal and 280,000 barrels of flour.

About 25,000 persons witnessed the launching of the armored cruiser West Virginia, at Newport News, Va., Saturday. A distinguished party attended the event, headed by Governor White, of West Virginia, and his official staff, and including the West Virginia Senators and Representatives and prominent officers of the army and navy who came from Washington. The christening ceremony was performed by Miss Katherine White, daughter of the Governor.

### Makes A Clean Sweep.

There's nothing like doing a thing thoroughly. Of all the Salves you ever heard of, Bucklen's Arnica Salve is the best. It sweeps away and cures Burns, Sores, Bruises, Cuts, Boils, Ulcers, Skin Eruptions and Piles. It's only 25c, and guaranteed to give satisfaction by Hood Bros., Druggists.