FEW ARE SPARED

Bristow Reports on How Solons Use Influence.

NATION IS MADE TO SUFFER

Postal Department Alleges Exorbitant Rentals.

CLERK HIRE OVER-LIBERAL

Fourth Assistant's Reports to House Committee Shows Members of Congress Look Out for Themselves as Well as for Constituents.

The Men Named.

Alabama—Representatives Bankhead and Clayton; Senator Pettus.

Connecticut — Representatives Henry, Hill and Lilley.

Georgia—Representative Griggs.

Indiana — Representatives Hemenway, Watson, Cromer, Overstreet, Brick and C. B. Landis.

Louisiana — Representatives Breazeals and Reinsdell; Senator McEnery.

Maine—Representatives Burleigh and Allen.

Maryland—Representatives E. Pearre and Jackson.

Massachusetts — Representatives Lovering and Greene.

Michigan—Representatives Gardner, S. W. Smith, Fordney, Hamilton, Bishop, William Alden Smith and Darragh.

Minnesota — Representatives McCleary and Tawney.

New Jersey—Representatives Howell and Gardner.

New York—Representatives Alexander, Vreeland, Ketcham, Sherman, Wadsworth, Payne and Littauer.

North Carolina—Senator Overman.

North Dakota—Representative Spalding.

Ohio—Representatives Van Voorhis, Skiles and Grosvenor.

Pennsylvania—Representatives Wagner, Bates, Evans, Acheson, Sibley, Dalzell and Butler.

South Carolina—Representative Finley.

South Dakota—Representative Burke.

Tennessee—Representative Brownlow.

Texas—Representative Burleson.

Vermont — Representatives Foster and Haskins.

Virginia—Representative Swanson.

Washington—Representatives Cushman and Jones; Senator Foster.

West Virginia—Representatives Hughes and Dayton.

Wisconsin—Representatives Miner, Jenkins, Cooper, Davidson, Babcock, Esch and Brown.

A supplemental list is appended to the report including the names of Representatives Burnett and Thompson, of Alabama, and Representatives Kitchin and Small, of North Carolina.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Another chapter in the Postoffice investigation of last Summer was revealed today when Chairman Overstreet, of the House committee on postoffices and postroads, laid before the House of Representatives a closely printed document of 218 pages, recounting the instances on file in the Postoffice Department in which members of the Senate and House of Representatives have used their influence with the officials of the Postoffice Department, with more or less success, to secure increases in salaries of Postmasters, additional clerk hire and advantageous leases of buildings for Postoffice purposes.

The report is made by the unanimous vote of the members of Mr. Overstreet's committee, in response to a resolution calling for the information, introduced by Representative Hay, of Virginia. As the information accompanies the report, the committee recommends that the resolution lie on the table. Some of the transactions involving members of Congress, recorded in the report, are held to be technical violations of the statutes; others are pronounced by members who have read the report as clearly censurable, while in the majority of cases it is held that members in making their recommendations to the Department expected nothing not in harmony with the rules and practices of the Department. Three cases are set forth in which members of Congress own buildings which are leased to the Government for Postoffice purposes. The details of these cases are given by Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow in a communication to Chairman Overstreet, as follows:

"Sec. 3739 of the Revised Statutes provides: 'No member of or delegate to Congress shall directly or indirectly, himself or by any other person in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account undertake, execute, hold or enjoy, in whole or in part, any contract or agreement made or entered into on behalf of the United States by any officer or person, authorized to make contracts on behalf of the United States.'

"The statutes further provide: 'All contracts or agreements made in violation of this section shall be void.'

Contracts Made With Congressmen.

"Yet in the face of this statute, Beavers has made contracts with members of Congress for the rental of premises, either in his own use, name, the names of their agents, or some member of their families.

"Geneseo, N. Y.—The Postoffice at this place was located in 1886 in a building owned by J. W. Wadsworth. At that time Mr. Wadsworth was not a member of Congress. It was advanced from third to second class July 1, 1901. While it was a third-class office no contract was made for the lease of the building, but the Postmaster was allowed $250 per annum for rent, with an allowance of $60 for fuel and light, making $350 in all. When the office became second class, a lease was made, dating from October 1, 1901. At this time Mr. Wadsworth was a member of Congress. The building was improved to comply with the requirements of the Department for a second-class office; the annual rental was fixed at $550, including equipment, heat and light. The proposal was made by W. L. Holmstead, who is said to be the agent of Mr. Wadsworth. The property stood in the latter's name September 22, 1903. It does not appear from the report of the inspectors and information secured by the department that the rental is excessive or that allowance is in any way more than should have been made.

Leased by His Daughter.

"Lawrence, Kan.—The postoffice premises at this place were leased from Hon. J. D. Bowersock many years prior to his election as a member of Congress in 1888, at an annual rental of $1500. That lease expired April 1, 1900. December 13, 1899, Mr. Bowersock submitted a proposal to renew the lease for a term of five years at the same annual rental. After a conference with officials at the First Assistant Postmaster-General's office Mr. Bowersock withdrew his proposal, submitting one from his daughter, Mrs. Hortense B. Hill, and the lease was executed in her name on the terms before mentioned. The record shows the title to premises in question was vested in Mr. Bowersock. The annual rental is the same that it was for many years before Mr. Bowersock was elected to Congress and the postoffice has been located where it is now for 30 years.

"Station A, Winsted, Connecticut—The postoffice premises at this point are owned by Hon. George L. Lilley, member of Congress. Original lease, which was made before Mr. Lilley was elected to Congress, expired April 1, 1903. The entire block in which the office is located was then leased by Mr. Lilley to Charles S. Newcomb and the lease to the Postoffice Department in his name, though the title to the block before mentioned appears to remain in Mr. Lilley's name. The rent is practically the same as under the former lease.

"In none of the above cases does it appear that the Government has paid an excessive rental. I referred to these cases in my report, not because there was any fraud indicated in the business transactions, but solely because such contracts appeared to be in violation of the statute above mentioned."

The history of 161 cases is given in the report, wherein members of Congress figure on getting authorization for clerk hire in excess of the amount the office in question was entitled to according to the secret method employed by the department to determine the merits of the case. Many of these increases were only temporary and have been discontinued. A tabulated statement shows that in 82 instances where reductions have been made since April, 1903, $15,850 was being paid annually in excess of the amounts these offices were entitled to. As illustrations of the nature of the long list of cases, four instances from a single page are quoted, and another on the following page in which Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow appears as the "influence," as follows:

"Nora, Indiana.—On June 25, 1902, Jesse Overstreet wrote requesting an allowance of $200 for separating clerk hire at this office. Two days later he wrote requesting that the allowance be made $150. On June 27, 1902, the allowance was fixed at $150, effective on July 1, 1902. There does not appear to have been any statement of the separate work on which to base the allowance for clerk hire. On May 16, 1903, the records showing that there was no separate service performed at this office, the allowance was discontinued, effective that date.

Hemenway Was Favored.

"Oakland City, Indiana, April 11, 1902.—J. A. Hemenway personally recommended that the allowance for separating clerk hire, $300, be allowed to continue. On April 21, 1902, the postmaster made a report of the separating service performed, and according to the scale used, he was entitled to only $190 per annum. On May 6, 1902, a letter signed by the First Assistant Postmaster-General was adopted, addressed to Mr. Hemenway, in which he advised that the amount of transmit mail now handled at that point (Oakland City) is not sufficient to serve as a basis for the present allowance for clerk hire, 'but in view of your special interest in the matter no change will be made at this time.' The $300 allowance was therefore allowed to continue until November 13, 1902. The postmaster having reported separating business at his office which entitled him to $210, his allowance was reduced to $210, effective December 1, 1902.

"Rockport, Ind., February 18, 1899—J. A. Hemenway personally recommended an allowance of $300. An increase from $200 to $300 was granted from July 1, 1899. April 1, 1902, J. A. Hemenway recommended an allowance of $400, if possible. Postmaster was directed to make a report of transit mail handled, which he did, showing him to be entitled to $380 for clerk hire. The allowance was increased from $300 to $400, effective July 1, 1900. April 11, 1902, the Postmaster was again directed to make a count of transit mail handled. His report showed him to be entitled to an allowance of $330. In a memorandum marked 'special' in the handwriting of the general superintendent, directions were given to increase the allowance to $500 from July 1, 1902. This was done.

"On November 10, 1903, the Postmaster, in accordance with instructions, made a new account of the transit mail handled, showing the office to be entitled to $390. Accordingly, the allowance was reduced from $500 to $390 on December 1, 1903.

"Salem, Ind.—On January 3, 1903, in a letter signed by the general superintendent, salary and allowance division, A. J. Beveridge was informed that, in accordance with his recommendation, the allowance for separating clerk hire at this office had been increased from $100 to $200, effective January 1, 1902. There does not appear on the records any statement of the separating services performed on which this allowance was based. On June 9, 1903, under instructions from this office, the Postmaster reported transit matter handled daily, which, according to the scale, entitled him to $100 per annum, and on June 29, 1903, it was reduced to this amount, effective July 1, 1903.

"Erie, Kan.—On January 27, 1899, J. L. Bristow inclosed a letter from the Postmaster, requesting that this allowance for separating clerk hire be increased from $120 to $180, stating that he would be very glad if the Postmaster could be allowed the allowance requested by him. On February 25, 1899, Mr. Bristow was informed that 'it has been decided, in view of your wishes and the figures submitted by the Postmaster, to increase the annual allowance for clerk hire at Erie, Kan., from $120 to $150, effective July 1, 1899.' This increase was made notwithstanding the report furnished by the Postmaster, dated February 19, 1899, showed that he was only entitled to $50. On June 27, 1903, the allowance for clerk hire was reduced to $50, effective July 1, 1903, the same being based on a report submitted to this office by the railway mail service."

Men Whose "Pull" Was Good.

Persons whose "influence" seemed good with the Postoffice Department, for a time at least, embraced in the history of these cases include: G. D. Melkiejohn, Representatives Russell, Sperry and Hill, of Connecticut; Senator Clay and Representative Griggs of Georgia; Senator Cullom, ex-Senator Mason and Representatives George W. Smith, Rodenburg, Warner and Prince, of Illinois; Senator Beveridge and Representatives C. F. Landis, Crumpacker, Watson, Hemenway, Overstreet and ex-Representative Steele, of Indiana; ex-Speaker Henderson and ex-Representatives Cousins and W. I. Smith, of Iowa; Representatives Miller, Bowersock and Calderhead, of Kansas; Representative Pugh and John W. Langley, of the Census Office, for Kentucky; Senator McComas and Representatives Pearrie and Jackson, of Maryland.

Four allowances in Michigan were secured by Representative H. C. Smith. Representative Gardner was successful in one instance and John A. Merritt in another. Hon. H. A. Castle, ex-Representative Fletcher and Representative McCleary are the names mentioned in the Minnesota list. R. C. Kerens, Webster Davis and John Daugherty secured increases which afterward were revoked for Missouri.

Hon. Thomas H. Carter appears in the list from Montana. Ex-Senator Thurston and Representative Burkett are down for Nebraska. Representative Gardner and William Johnson secured increases in New Jersey. New York is represented in the list by Governor Odell, Representatives S. E. Payne, Sherman, Alexander, Ketcham and Vreeland and ex-Representatives Ray and Tompkins.

Ex-Senator Pritchard secured an increase for clerk hire for Greenville, N. C., from $70 to $150 per annum, which on December 1, 1902, was discontinued altogether. He also secured an increase from $40 to $150 for Wakeforest, N. C., which was reduced to the former amount October 1 1902. Senator Hansbrough appears in the list for North Dakota. Besides seven other instances in which H. A. Librand, Hon. W. S. Brown and W. M. Mooney figure, these two examples are given in the record:

Dick Secured Him an Increase.

"Jefferson, O., January 11, 1899, on the recommendation of Hon. Charles Dick, the allowance for separating clerk hire at this office was increased from $300 to $500 per annum, from January 1, 1899, and on the same date it was further increased to $900 per annum from July 1, 1899.

"November 9, 1903, the Postmaster made a report to this office, in which it was shown that he was entitled to $190 per annum. November 17, 1903, the allowance was increased to $290 per annum, effective December 1, 1903.

"South Bloomingville, O., February 27, 1900.—Upon a recommendation of C. H. Grosvenor, the allowance for separating clerk hire at this office was fixed at $50 per annum from April 1, 1900. Report of the Postmaster, dated February 8, 1900, showed he was entitled to this amount. March 28, 1900, allowance was increased from $50 to $230 from April 1, 1900; nothing to show who recommended this increase. November 17, 1903, allowance was reduced to $60 per annum, from December 1, 1903, based on a report from the Postmaster on November 12, which showed that he was entitled to the amount."

The clerk hire in Pennsylvania was looked after by Senators Quay and Penrose and Representative Butler and ex-Representative Showalter. Senator McLaurin appears for one increase in South Carolina; Senator Kittredge for one in South Dakota, Representatives Brownlow and Gibson secured several increases which have been reduced since in Tennessee. The late Representative Degrafenreid was successful in one case mentioned from Texas. Senator Kearns secured two increases in Utah. Six out of 11 cases in Virginia are down to the credit of Representative Swanson, while Park Agnew's name also appears for others in that state. Senator Foster and Representatives Cushman and Jones combined to secure an increased allowance at Dayton, Wash., from $300 to $900, afterward reduced to $120 and then increased to $200. Representative Cushman alone secured an allowance of $900 annually for Carbondale, Wash., which was discontinued on examination afterward. Senators Elkins and Scott and Representative Dayton secured increases for West Virginia.

One Such Increase in Wyoming.

The two cases of increase for Wisconsin are down to the credit of ex-Representative Barney and to A. W. Machen. Wyoming had one such increase, to the credit of Senator Warren. There are accounts of 177 instances in the report where members of Congress have made recommendations in connection with leases of buildings for postoffice purposes. The history of these transactions occupies 164 pages of the printed report. An illustration of the nature of these transactions may be had by the following quotation from the report:

"Norwalk, Conn.—At Norwalk, Conn., salary of Postmaster $2300, lease of five years at $530 per annum, including equipment, heat and light; the light being paid for by a telegraph office in the lobby; expired April 1, 1902. The matter of securing a new lease was referred to Assistant Superintendent White.

"Upon a carbon copy of letter to White, dated January 13, is the following indorsement: 'February 19, 1902; Promised Hill, member Congress, fairly reasonable rental, and good office, if satisfactory location and building can be secured. G. W. B.' February 20, 1902, wire was sent to Assistant Superintendent White from Boston, as follows: 'Congressman Hill wants you to meet him at Norwalk Club, Norwalk, Conn., Saturday morning, 9 or 10 o'clock. Please arrange to be there, and advise me by wire if you can do so.'

"On March 4, 1902, Mr. White reported that the old lessors did not wish renewal of lease; that the Business Men's Association desired that the office be located in building owned by Mrs. Weed; that this offer was not satisfactory, and the rent demanded was $1200 a year. He reported a conference with a committee at which E. J. Hill was present, and stated that he thought he would be able to get the Postoffice Department to furnish the equipment for the Norwalk Clubrooms if they should be selected for the location of the office.

"Two propositions are submitted by the Norwalk Club, one at $900 per annum, including heat, light and water, the department to furnish the entire equipment; the other offering the same room, including heat, light and equipment, at $1100 a year. Mr. White recommends the acceptance of the $1100 proposition, including equipment.

Memorandum for Mr. Beavers.

"Filed between the sheets of this report is a letterhead of the salary and allowance division, with the following memorandum: 'Memorandum for Mr. Beavers—March 8, 1902. Congressman Hill called and stated that he would like to have the Norwalk, Conn., lease held until Tuesday, March 11, when Assistant Superintendent White will be here. Doesn't want proposition accepted except under certain conditions. Granted; filed.'

"On March 26, notice was sent to the Postmaster of acceptance of the proposal at $900 without equipment. The Department undertook the securing of equipment for this Postoffice, making contract therefor with the Corbin Cabinet Lock Company, paying $1850. There appears to have been great delay in getting the furniture ready, as the following correspondence between the Congressman and Mr. Beavers shows:

"'Norwalk, Conn., July 9, 1902.—George W. Beavers, Chief Division of Salaries and Allowances, Postoffice Department, Washington, D. C.—My Dear Beavers: I do not know who is to blame for the condition of things which I found here when I reached home, but I am afraid somebody will find themselves in trouble before we get through. As I understand it, the lease of the new postoffice was taken for the first of July, and the fixtures are partly in, but there are no boxes and no desks or chairs, or any facilities whatever for doing business. I understand that Mr. White came down here several days ago, having sent word in advance to be prepared to move everything from the old postoffice to the new, and when he arrived here, found, of course, that it was impossible to do that, as the fittings had not come.

"I assume, of course, that the landlord at the old place will want his rent while the place is being occupied. I have written to the Corbin Manufacturing Company, of New Britain, telling them that somebody will find themselves in trouble if these things are not delivered. Meanwhile Keith, the Postmaster, is in a good deal of a stew about making up his returns. He has had a bill for the whole thing sent him, and instructions from the Department to pay it, and of course has not money enough to do it, and ought not to do it until things are delivered in accordance with the contract.

Needs a Dose of Ginger or Pepper.

"'The postoffice is going to be a very fine one. The accommodations will be excellent; yes, more than excellent, they will be superb, but everything seems to go so slow. Impression is you ought to give your man White a dose of ginger or pepper, or perhaps both would answer better, every day, and see if you could infuse into him some of your own personal way of dispatching business. I am inclined to think it would be a good thing.

"'Not only is there what seems to be unnecessary delay being had in regard to it, but Keith is worrying over the fact that he cannot send in his accounts for the last quarter, Mr. White having told him to hold them back until these things are adjusted. He has already been criticised for slowness in that matter, and he hardly knows what to do. If you can in any possible way supplement my letter to the Corbin Cabinet Company by peremptory orders to have the contract filled so that the new office can be opened and the old one closed and the case closed up, I think you will relieve the minds of a whole lot of people up here, and at the same time save the United States Government unnecessary payment of rent for two different places. Very truly yours,

"'E. J. HILL.

"'July 1, 1902.

"'E. J. Hill, House of Representatives—Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 9th instant, in regard to delay to fitting up new premises for postoffice at Norwalk, Conn. Assistant Superintendent White has been directed to give the case his immediate attention. The department will ascertain who is to blame in the matter and appropriate action will be taken.

"'I trust the matter will be settled to your satisfaction in a few days. Very respectfully,

"'Acting First Assistant Postmaster-General.'

"Lease was drawn for ten years, from August 1, 1902, at $900 a year, all equipment being provided by the department. Investigation by Inspectors Pendleton and Birdseye, reported on October 10, 1903, discloses the fact that Congressman Hill owns 20 shares in the Norwalk Club Company, this being one twenty-ninth of the stock total."

Speaker Cannon and ex-Senator Mason figure in the lease of the building at Watseka, Ill., their recommendation in the matter receiving the approval of the inspector. Senator Overman is the owner of the building in which the postoffice at Salisbury, N. C., is located. The report says that on taking his seat as a United States Senator, he offered to surrender the lease, but the offer was declined by the Government, it being held that the lease was not invalidated by his election as Senator.

In writing George W. Beavers in an effort to get better quarters for the postoffice at Nelsonville, O., Representative Grosvenor says:

"I am ashamed to look the people of the town in the face. Can you help me out in this matter in any way?"

A recommendation—"suggest Dalzell"—made by Beavers with reference to the naming of a postoffice in Pennsylvania, is given in the report, but the conclusion is given "that the recommendation evidently was not complied with, as the office is called "Forbes Station."

The report declares that the files in the Postoffice Department indicate that the office at Tuskegee, Ala., is owned by Representative Thompson, of Alabama. The report gives the correspondence between Beavers and Representative Thompson on his successful efforts to have the rental allowance increased from $240 to $300 annually.

"Suppose you don't enter this contest, and when you see published the winner number and discover that your number was even nearer the right one, how would you feel?"

Hurry In

With Your Old Organ or Piano Number—This Contest Closes at 6 o'Clock P. M. on

March 15th

We are going to give somebody a $350 brand new piano in even exchange for the old square piano or organ. You may be the lucky one.

Every piano has a number the same as every watch has. Your old organ or piano has a number. It it's an organ you will find the number in or on its back. If it is a square piano lift the whole lid and hunt around, and under the strings, and the number will readily be found. Put the number and name of your old instrument on a card and mail or bring it to our store. In our east window we have placed a new Kingsbury upright piano. We have pasted a slip of paper over its number. On March 15 we will remove the slip and the owner of the old piano or organ bearing the number nearest to that of the new upright can trade the old one for the brand new one without one dollar of additional cost, no matter how old or dilapidated the instrument turned in may be. Should the winning number be entered by more than one contestant the first one entering the contest will be declared the winner. It costs nothing to enter, so look up the number of your old piano or organ and bring or send it in.

Allen & Gilbert-Ramaker Co.

Oldest, Largest, Strongest.
Cor. Sixth and Morrison Sts.
Opposite Postoffice.

We are Headquarters for Butterick Patterns April Delineator on sale today Widow Shades made to order

Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

Artistic Picture Framing to order—Agents Parker & Finn Waists—"Special Order" Books at Cut Prices—Latest Musical Hits in the Music Store

"Almost Ready" Hats $1.25

These hats fit your need for immediate wear, made of silk and hair braids—the addition of a bit of foliage and a bunch of flowers makes them "ready for the head." Eight entirely new shapes—continental, colonial, large and small turbans, and the large flare styles—special today $1.25

Music Store

"Bedelia," the greatest musical hit of the season—700 more copies to go on sale today at only ..... 15¢

25c Books 10c

We place on sale today in our Underprice Book Store 5000 copies of paper-covered books—137 good titles to choose from—publisher's price 25c—our price only ..... 10¢

THE DELIVERANCE, by Glasgow, the sensational book of the year—have you read it? $1.08

Jewelry Specials

Our very much up-to-date Jewelry Store comes to the fore with two underprice specials.

Very pretty, dainty Shirtwaist Sets in oxydized silver, pearl and gilt, 3 and 4-button sets, a large assortment of effective designs, special ..... 25¢

Four Pin Shirtwaist Sets, in fancy button shapes, very effective; special ..... 35¢

An extensive showing of new French Horn and Real Shell Side and Back Combs—some entirely plain, others elaborately bejeweled.

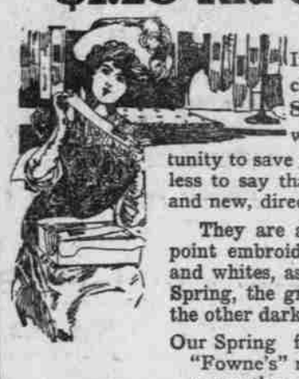
The New Kimonas

Our big corner window contains a display of New Kimonas—the colorings and designs are simply gorgeous—quite the swellest, richest, "around-the-house" garments you ever saw. They are made of silk, of wool challi, of satin mercerize—trimmed with broad bands of plain color silk and satins. Both styles—long and short.

Short Silk Kimonas at $4.50
Short Challi Kimonas at $7.50
Long Satin Mercerise Kimonas at ..... $4.50 and $5.00
Long Silk Kimonas ... $8 and $8.75
Long Challi Kimonas at $12.50

Every day sees new additions to the showing. Tailored Suits, Costumes, Coats, Waists and Skirts.

$1.25 Kid Gloves at 89c



Interesting Glove news today! Interesting because it tells of a chance to secure a $1.25 glove for 89¢. Where's the woman who won't eagerly embrace the opportunity to save 36c on a glove purchase? It's needless to say that the gloves are dependable, fresh and new, direct from the maker. Details:

They are an overseam Glace Glove, Paris point embroidered, two-clasp. There are blacks and whites, as well as the shades that hint of Spring, the grays, modes and tans, not to forget the other darker shades, the oxbloods and browns.

Our Spring fabric Gloves are here as well—"Fowne's" make—unlike most fabric gloves because they "fit" ..... 50¢ and 75¢

Drug Sundries

500 bottles triple - strength Washing Ammonia, regular 8c—today only, special ... 4¢

650 sheet-roll fine Tissue Toilet Paper, regular 5c—today only, special, 35¢ dozen—roll .. 3¢

Kirk's White Oatmeal Soap—Thompson's Glycerine Soap—Dusky Diamond Tar Soap—regular 5c cake—today only 35¢ dozen—cake ..... 3¢

7c & 8c Laces 5c

Ten thousand yards of Linen Torchan Laces, 1 to 2½ in. wide, regularly sold at 7c and 8c, on sale today at, yard .. 5¢

New Pictures

First showing of new Pictures today, all of them marked at special prices.

500 new Bromide Pictures, framed in brown oak and gilt frame; priced ..... 50¢

250 new embossed Pictures, in gold, framed in white gilt frames, brass corners .... 50¢

200 new colored autotypes of American girls in wide gold frames ..... 35¢

200 new colored Phototypes in very unique farmse, specially made; price ..... 50¢

1000 colored Landscape and Marine Views, in new brown veneer wood frame, gilt ornaments; price ..... 25¢

$1 to $2 Shirts 50c

White Shirts, two lots, laundered and unlaundered—sizes are broken, that's "why" they are ..... 50¢

10 dozen of the laundered ones in 14, 14 1-2, 16, 16 1-2 and 17 only, but no 15 or 15 1-2; sold at $1.50 and $2.00; today ..... 50¢

A small lot of unlaundered ones in 14, 14 1-2, 16, 16 1-2; but no 15 or 15 1-2; sold at $1.00; today at ..... 50¢

New Neckwear

Fastidious women—women of taste—find this the most satisfactory neckwear store in town. That's as it should be, considering the size of the stock and the wide range of the assortments.

More novelties in today—"Fifth Avenue" of course—prettier than any we've had before ..... 75¢ and $1.00

35c Hosiery 27c

Here's a stocking bargain that's quite a bit better than yau've been offered for some time.

Women's Plain and Richelieu-Ribbed Lisle Hose—ingrain, that means dyed in the yarn—full-fashioned, double sole, toe and heel—our regular 35c grade today at ..... 27¢

35c H'dk'fs 23c

A very fortunate purchase abroad brought us into possession of some splendid lots of Handkerchiefs at away below regular value. The prices are low enough so you can effect a very substantial saving.

One hundred dozen of women's all pure linen, hand-embroidered initial hemstitched Handkerchiefs, on sale today at 23¢, instead of 35c.

$2.50 Umbrellas at $1.95

All of our $2.50 Umbrellas today at $1.95 each. Black and colored for ladies and men, made of tight-roll silk, mounted with the latest handles, in horn, Princess, pearl, ebony, ivory, boxwood, silver trim, gunmetal and Congo. Best Paragon frames, steel rods—an opportunity to buy a first-class umbrella at a very low price.

3 1-2-inch wide all silk Taffeta Ribbon, today ..... 15¢

5-inch wide all silk double-faced Liberty Satin Ribbon, today ..... 33¢

BRITAIN SEEKS INFORMATION

Russian Declaration That Coal Is Contraband of War Not Clear.

LONDON, March 7.—Answering a question in the Commons today, Premier Balfour said the government considered that Russia's declaration that she proposed to treat coal as contraband of war was of the greatest importance. The Premier added he was aware that the Russian plenipotentiary at the West African Conference, held at Berlin in December, 1884, in relation to the neutralization of the Congo, declared Russia never would accept an interpretation that coal should be considered by international law as contraband of war, and his government would categorically refuse to consent to recognize coal as contraband of war, either in relation to the Congo or any other district whatever.

In view of this, Mr. Balfour concluded, the British government was taking steps to obtain more precise information in regard to the interpretation of the Russian declaration respecting contraband of war.

RETURNS, BUT OPENS NO FIRE.

Japanese Fleet Runs Close In to Vladivostok, Then Steams Away.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 7.—Viceroy Alexieff has telegraphed to the Czar from Mukden, under today's date, as follows:

"Supplementing my telegram of March 6, I most humbly report that at 10:25 P. M., five out of seven of the enemy's ships opened fire on Forts Suvaroff and Linevitch, on the town, on the roadstead and along the valley River Obyanzenlye.

"The firing lasted until 2:15 P. M., at which hour the Japanese squadron began to steam to the southward, disappearing out of sight at 5:30 P. M. There were no losses on the batteries or the fortifications. In the town one seaman was wounded and one woman was killed. According to information just received, the enemy's squadron again appeared in sight of the fortress at 8 o'clock this morning."

A later message from the Viceroy says: "The Commandant at Vladivostok reports that yesterday's bombardment resulted in no serious damage to the port. The fortress did not return the enemy's fire.

"Today at mid-day the enemy again entered Ussuri Bay, and approached the point from which they bombarded the harbor on March 6. They left again, making for the open sea."

Will Issue No Letters of Marque.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 7.—The Associated Press learns the Russian authorities have been approached indirectly by American shipping firms desiring authority to fit out the privateers to prey on Japanese commerce, but that they met with no encouragement. The Associated Press is able to announce officially that Russia will not issue letters of marque.

Report of Another Bombardment.

YINKOW, March 7.—An official dispatch here says the Japanese are again bombarding Vladivostok. This news lacks confirmation from other sources.

Millions for Red Cross Work.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 7.—At a general meeting of the Red Cross Society held today it was reported that 30,000 beds, $700,000 worth of bread and $20,000 worth of meat have been prepared for shipment. The funds available for Red Cross work amounted to $3,000,000. The scope of the work during the next six months contemplates the expenditure of $4,000,000.

Word American Wrongly Used.

NEW YORK, March 7.—Regarding the statement made yesterday in a Tokio dispatch to a Paris newspaper, to the effect that American subscription to the Japanese war loan March 1 amounted to $39,500,000, shows that there was a mistranslation and that the word American was used erroneously. The corrected statement reads: "Subscriptions to the war loan opened March 1 now amount to $39,500,000."

Poles Express Sympathy for Japan.

CHICAGO, March 7.—An expression of Polish opinion upon the Russo-Japanese conflict was made today in an address issued by officials of the large Polish organizations and the editors of the various Polish newspapers of Chicago. The resolutions express "hearty sympathy and admiration for the great and knightly Japanese nation."

Peculiar To Itself

In what it is and what it does—containing the best blood-purifying, alterative and tonic substances and effecting the most radical and permanent cures of all humors and all eruptions, relieving weak, tired, languid feelings, and building up the whole system—is true only of

Hood's Sarsaparilla

No other medicine acts like it; no other medicine has done so much real, substantial good, no other medicine has restored health and strength at so little cost.

"I was troubled with scrofula and came near losing my eyesight. For four months I could not see to do anything. After taking two bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla I could see to walk, and when I had taken eight bottles I could see as well as ever." SUSIE A. HAINSTOT, Withers, N. C.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.

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Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They Regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

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