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WHERE RED TAPE RULES SUPREME

Keep Commission Is Finding Much Wasted Labor in Departments.

MANY OLD INCOMPETENTS

Problem Is What to Do With Worn-Out Clerks and to Give Young Ones Promotion—How to End Favoritism.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 5.—A half-hour talk with a member of the Keep investigating commission is enough to convince any man that there is going to be a general shake-up in the departmental service in Washington when President Roosevelt is informed of the manner in which public business is transacted at the National capital.

The Keep investigation is not going through the departments looking for frauds; it is studying the methods of various divisions and finding out how the service can be improved.

Two months ago the commission sent to every bureau chief in the Government service a list of questions to be answered. These questions call for all sorts of information, as to the manner of handling the business of the office, the number of clerks, the efficiency of the clerks, the methods of promotion, and so on.

A great deal of the trouble in the Government service will be traced to heads of bureaus and chiefs of divisions who are unfit for the duties they have assumed. In other words, much of the difficulty in the way of good management of the Government service is due to the incompetence of the men in high places.

In every department the work is divided among various bureaus, and the work of each bureau is divided up among several divisions. It is said on good authority that the Interior Department will come in for a more severe arraignment than any other, so it is taken to illustrate. Under the Secretary are the General Land Office, Indian Office, Pension Office, Patent Office and Geological Survey. In addition to several independent divisions responsible directly to the Secretary, and maintained in an advisory capacity, each of the big bureaus has its divisions.

As an example, a chief of division in the Land Office only a few days ago handed to the Commissioner a 90-page typewritten opinion which he had prepared in a case referred to his division. He probably devoted the better part of a month to the preparation of the opinion, and it must have occupied a stenographer a week or more running it off on the machine. Yet the whole decision was in direct conflict with a binding decision of the Department of Justice.

That chief of division, had he been competent, must have known of the ruling of the Department of Justice. The commission can conclude only that he was ignorant, and therefore incapable, or was opinionated and obstinate, and equally incapable. Meanwhile, when that opinion was in preparation, all other business of the division was set aside, routine work fell behind and trouble resulted.

Aside from incompetence, there is friction between bureaus; there is duplication of work; two or more divisions or two or more bureaus may take identical action on various cases, entailing needless expenditure of time and money. There are jealousies among subordinate officials in the departments, which lead to

trouble, and in the Interior Department this is particularly noticeable. All of these things are going to be ferreted out by the commission, as soon as it has studied the written reports from all the various bureaus.

Time and again, the assertion has been that, if the work of the Government departments in Washington could be turned over to men who have a success in running big commercial establishments, the entire business could be transacted in less time, at much less cost and with two-thirds the force of employees now carried on the Government payroll, and the commission is going to testify to the correctness of this assertion.

Problem of Worn-Out Clerks. This brings up the question of old, worn-out clerks, a problem that has perplexed every cabinet officer in his years, and is a problem that is growing more and more momentous as time goes by. Many an old soldier, who rendered gallant service in the Civil War, is holding a Government office in Washington, and many a widow whose husband gave his life for his country is similarly employed.

It has been proposed that a pension list be created to take care of clerks who grow old in the departmental service, but Congress won't listen to the proposition; it believes the clerks, during their years of activity, should lay aside enough to care for them in their old age. Another plan much talked of is to assess every clerk a certain percentage of his or her monthly salary, and turn the assessments into a pension fund for the benefit of old clerks who might then be retired.

But the commission has got to provide some remedy for the old-clerk problem, in order that there may be a more equitable distribution of salaries and a better performance of duty. The present system cannot continue; it retards business; it is unjust to competent clerks of younger years. The only other remedy, apparently, is to provide in the Government's service a scale of demerits to correspond to the scale of promotions. Clerks, as they become more and more competent, are promoted from time to time; why not, therefore, let them down by degrees, always keeping their salary commensurate with their capacity for work?

Denotion and Promotion. But the commission has got to provide some remedy for the old-clerk problem, in order that there may be a more equitable distribution of salaries and a better performance of duty. The present system cannot continue; it retards business; it is unjust to competent clerks of younger years.

Favoritism Still Exists. But there is another thing the commission wants to know about; that is the manner of making promotions in various departments. A great deal is heard about civil service reform and the utility of political pull. In most departments that talk is all nonsense. Political pull is getting promotions for clerks today almost as readily as it did in the old spoils days; civil service reform as it is practiced protects employees from demerit without cause, and that is about all.

SPIRITS CAN'T FIND HIM. All Efforts to Locate Peter Anderson Are in Vain.

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 7.—Although nearly the entire population of Ladysmith, Wis., has been engaged in an organized search for 20 days and despite that every means to discover his whereabouts have been resorted to, even to employing bloodhounds and consulting clairvoyants, the mystery of the disappearance of Peter Anderson, the Rusk County farmer, who went out hunting three weeks ago and never returned, remains unsolved.

TOWER WILL VISIT CARNEGIE. BERLIN, Oct. 7.—Ambassador Tower starts for England today, where he will join Mrs. Tower. They will be the guests for several days of Andrew Carnegie at his castle.



HARRY MURPHY PORTRAYS FRANK C. BAKER AS AN APOSTLE OF PEACE

If the loom of time should roll back 20 years, we would stand in the presence of two events that had little enough in common then, but which have since matched themselves together in the wonderful design of that fabric called History. The public prints of Portland chronicled, in the year 1854, two births, one the G. O. P. of Oregon, the other that of Frank C. Baker, who, it is said, is destined to be the savior of that party.

TRAIN KILLS AUTOISTS. HURLS PEOPLE HUNDRED FEET IN THE AIR. Worst Grade-Crossing Accident in Years Occurs in Connecticut.

LEWIS UNDER SUSPICION. Big Note Given People's Bank Disappears From Assets. ST. LOUIS, Oct. 7.—In the Circuit Court at Clayton today Attorney-General Hadley made the declaration to Judge McIlhenny that the note of E. C. Lewis for \$16,275, given for a loan by the People's United States Bank to Lewis, president of the bank, had disappeared, and asked the court to issue an order to Receiver Fred Eosen of the bank, requiring him to bring suit against Lewis and his associates, who indorsed the note, to recover it.

NEW HEAD OF DOMINICAN ORDER. WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Very Rev. L. L. Kearney, of Zanesville, O., today was re-elected provincial of the Dominican Order in this jurisdiction, which includes practically all of the United States.

BRITISH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS. LONDON, Oct. 7.—The September statement of the Board of Trade shows an increase of \$2,253,000 in imports and \$1,700,000 in exports.

LION IS PREPARED TO TALK TO BEAR

Russia and Britain May Settle All Their Old Quarrels Soon.

MAY OPEN THE BOSPHORUS

Negotiations to Be Resumed Will Secure India's Safety and May Let Russian Fleet Enter the Mediterranean.

LONDON, Oct. 7.—The negotiations respecting their spheres of influence in Afghanistan pending between Great Britain and Russia when the Russo-Japanese War broke out will be resumed, should Russia be willing, of which there seems to be no doubt. The British government is anxious that questions which caused uneasiness in the past should again be subject of friendly discussions.

An official of the Foreign Office informed the Associated Press that it was rather premature to speak of the negotiations, but he intimated that the government had taken the initiative in looking to a resumption of the exchange of views. The government has always hoped, the official added, that the negotiations would be resumed, and realized that the present was the most opportune time, as the peoples of the two countries recognized that it was to their mutual benefit that the question in dispute be amicably settled.

The negotiations which are about to be resumed have particular reference to Afghanistan, where each desires that the other government guarantee not to extend its sphere of influence. Russia has shown a desire to reach an understanding by curbing the aggressive policies of her border Governors. This has created a good impression in Great Britain.

Respecting the report that Great Britain is willing to recognize Russia's special privileges in South Turkey in return for Russian assurance of nonaggressive policy on the Indian frontier, the Associated Press was given to understand that the question has not been discussed officially. It is possible, however, that Great Britain is waiting for such a suggestion to come from Russia, when it might receive favorable consideration.

PANAMA AT PEACE CONGRESS. Little Nation Swells Up at Recognition by Czar. PANAMA, Oct. 7.—(Special.)—The new set of the world's republics, as well as of the nations of the Western world, is proving that it is possessed of a spirit of progress and an understanding of the world in the domain of world events that is worthy of emulation by some of its sister states.

EARL WANTS TO FIGHT DUEL. Challenge to Associate Causes Laugh-ter Among County Councillors. LONDON, Oct. 7.—A sensational scene occurred at the meeting of the Norfolk County Council today. The Earl of Kimberley (son of the distinguished Liberal statesman of that name, who held many Cabinet offices), a member of the Council, accused a fellow member named Sargent of proposing to fight on a room of a nearby hotel. The Earl insisted that they must fight abroad and said that, if Sargent refused, he was a coward.

AMERICAN SINGER'S THROAT WORN. PARIS, Oct. 8.—(Special.)—Jane Noris, the American prima donna at the Opera here, and daughter of Dr. Ludwig of St. Louis, will suffer an affection of the throat. It is feared that an operation will be necessary. Her managers have postponed the presentation of creations in which she was to appear during the coming season.

Russian Emigrants May Come Now. HAMBURG, Oct. 7.—The Senate has abolished the order of September 15, which prohibited the transportation of Russian emigrants through Hamburg, but the six-day quarantine order remains in force.