

STILL NOT READY TO STAB COBURN

Secretary Wilson Has Grudge Against Man Who Put Him to Confusion.

SALT RUBBED IN WOUNDS

Kansas Agricultural Expert Dims Iowa's Fame and Vindicates Sunflower State—Shows Wilson Ten Years Behind Time.

TOPEKA, Kan., June 29.—(Special.)—The statement from Washington that Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson has ordered his crop statisticians to watch the reports of E. D. Coburn, Secretary of the Farmers Board, with a view to the picking of flaws and finding of errors, has caused general comment. It is alleged that the Federal Secretary desires to discover something that will cripple the fame of the Kansas official. About two years ago Mr. Wilson, in a speech on a Western trip, put Kansas in the same category with Iowa, that Kansas farmers had more money on deposit in the bank of the state than the farmers of any other agricultural state, and that Kansas was in anything but a "semi-arid" belt.

Through Arid Kansas by Boat.

A few months later Mr. Coburn rubbed a little more salt into the wounds of the Federal Chief. Mr. Wilson had some spending dates in Western Kansas, which once was an extremely "arid" section. On account of heavy rains he was compelled to use boats to reach his appointments. Mr. Coburn is not slow as an advertiser of Kansas. He gave the newspapers a tip, and they printed cartoons of Mr. Wilson doing "arid" Kansas in a boat. Naturally it nettled the Washington chief.

Recently Mr. Coburn rubbed in a little more salt into the wounds of the head of the National Agricultural Department. When the green bug was devastating the Kansas wheatfields two months ago, Mr. Wilson decided to give the farmers of this state some advice as to how to defeat its ravages in future. He wrote a letter to Mr. Coburn and asked that it be printed in the Kansas papers. In it he advised Kansas farmers to plant turkey red wheat. He said that in 1897 he made some experiments and found that turkey red spread out and "stooled" better and withstood the ravages of bugs better than any other variety.

Mr. Coburn gave out a statement himself, showing that for twenty years Kansas had practically produced no other kind of wheat. Millers and wheat-growers of the West began to object to the Federal Secretary's experiments in 1897 with turkey red wheat, which Kansas had grown successfully and almost exclusively a decade before. Mr. Coburn's report to the world as to 10 years behind the times grieved on Mr. Wilson's nerves. Now, it is stated, he has ordered his experts to keep a sharp lookout and dissect every report he makes.

CONTRACTS FOR BIG SHIPS

American Dreadnaughts to Be Built With Turbine Engines.

WASHINGTON, June 29.—Before leaving for the West today Secretary Metcalf announced his decision in respect to important matters. In the first place he allotted contracts for the construction of a few American "dreadnaught" battleships, the interesting part of his decision being the rejection of the Navy Department's plans and the acceptance of the more progressive ideas of the private shipbuilding firms, involving the use of steam turbines.

So as to afford full opportunity for comparison of the relative merits of the British and American turbine systems, the Secretary awarded one contract—this to the Newport News Shipbuilding Company, and another of trying the British device known as the "Parsons turbine." This is conditioned upon certain modifications by the contractor to meet the requirements of the department; otherwise they must build the ship with reciprocating engines under the department's plans. In the first case the cost was \$2,387,000, and in the latter case only \$2,387,000.

Will Build Octopus Submarines.

The contract for the other battleship was awarded to the Fore River Shipbuilding Company of Quincy, Mass., at \$1,871,000 under the terms of the contract for the machine of the American Curtis turbine type. The Newport News Company undertakes to build its ship in 24 months, the Fore River Company in 4 1/2 months.

The Secretary was unable to award the contracts for building the submarine boats, because of the necessity of submitting to the attorney-general a mere point of law, but he has decided to accept the report of the Board of Construction and the special submarine board in favor of the turbine type of boat, and the \$3,000,000 appropriation will be used to build as many as possible of these boats, averaging about \$200,000 apiece.

Armor-Plate Contract Divided.

In awarding the contracts for supplying armor for the 20,000-ton battleships today, Mr. Metcalf, with a view to giving encouragement to all of the armor-producing concerns, while insuring to the Government the lowest possible rates, divided the contract among three concerns. The Midvale Company had arranged its bid so as to make a special price for what was regarded as the easiest form of armor plate to produce, and on the fact that its bid was the lowest for the greater part of the armor. This bid was rejected by Mr. Metcalf and was consequently rearranged to meet the wishes of the department. At the same time the Midvale Company was notified that, if it ultimately wished a share of the business, it must reduce its bid to the level of the lowest bidder, which it did. Consequently, Mr. Metcalf was able to announce today that he had awarded as follows:

To the Bethlehem Company, 2960 tons; to the Carnegie Company, 2545 tons; and to the Midvale Company, 2650 tons class A armor, at \$430 per ton, and classes B, C and D at \$400.

Examination for Consulates.

WASHINGTON, June 29.—July 8 the State Department will hold its second examination to secure a list of eligible candidates from which appointments will be made to consular service positions. The first examination was held in March, when out of a class of 39 candidates ten passed the examination and have since been given appointments. A number of vacancies now exist in the service. The places to be filled through examination are in classes eight and nine, and pay, respectively, \$2200 and \$2000. The most important places in the service are filled by promotion from these classes. The examinations are very severe, and the candidate who undertakes them without thorough preparation will find them beyond his capacity. A collegiate education, combined with practical business experience, is about what is required to get through and secure a passing rating. The examinations are oral and written.

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I believe that continued special privilege legislation must result in the gradual submergence of the masses to complete serfdom. Therefore the channels of equal opportunity should not be restricted. I would teach our children that the idea and principles of Democracy are above men. Teach them that we should enact no laws which are not to be enforced, and that the executive officers themselves must be subject to the laws of the land.

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