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WASHINGTON TOPICS

Shackelford, of Missouri Criticizes Cannon.

REUTERDAHL'S STORY AGAIN

Shackelford Challenges "Uncle Joe" to Defend His Right to Dominate Congress—Commission Reports Reuterdahl's Criticism Unfounded.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Shades of Grand Duke Michaelievsky! Ditto Marc Anthony! A champion of the poor, downtrodden people has risen in his seat and dared to cry out against the crushing despotism of the "ablest, boldest champion of autocracy this age has produced," the Czar of the House, familiarly known to plebe and patrician as "Uncle Joe." More, he even had the temerity to challenge the Speaker "to rise in his place, not as Speaker, but as a member of the Illinois delegation" and defend his right to dominate the deliberations of the Congress of the United States, and he made strenuous endeavors to rally to his support the rank and file of the House, in order "to break down this autocracy and the rules, that the people's representatives may do things they want done." The bold anarchist is none other than Dorsey W. Shackelford, Democratic Congressman from the 8th district of Missouri, and instead of calling down upon himself all the wrath of the "Little Man with the Cigar," his remarks caused much laughter and served to liven things up in the lower house of Congress, during the discussion of the urgent deficiency bill. The leaders in this branch of the national legislature believe that the present state of the country's finances demands strict economy in all lines of governmental activity, and the complaint that they pull Uncle Sam's purse strings too tight is made by many members who are after large appropriations for pet schemes, or public buildings in their various districts.

That the criticism of the navy made by Henry Reuterdahl and sustained by some of the prominent officers in the service are unfounded, except in minor instances, is the opinion of the special commission appointed by President Roosevelt to make an investigation of the matter. The report of the commission, comprising Rear Admirals Capps and Converse, was completed and submitted to Mr. Roosevelt this week, and it absolves Lieut. Com. Sims, the White House naval aid, who it was charged, gave Reuterdahl the information on which his article was based. It sets forth that the Navy Department invited the naval artist aboard the vessels and his criticisms followed those invited trips. However, Rear Admirals Melville and McCalla are left in a bad light, for both these officers, it will be remembered, were reported as having substantiated the Reuterdahl story. Rear Admiral McCalla, in an alleged interview, went so far as to severely criticize the placing of a civilian secretary at the head of the Navy Department, instead of an officer trained in naval affairs. That the constructors of Uncle Sam's sea fighters have made mistakes is not denied, but the report makes emphatic denial of the story that these vessels are for the most part worthless junk, which should be relegated to the scrap heap.

As a result of the agitation for the retirement on pension of government clerks after long and faithful service and the efforts of organizations effected with this end in view, Representative Bennet of New York this week introduced a bill which he believes will satisfactorily solve the problem. He would make all classified civil service employes who have served the government twenty-five years or more subject to voluntary or compulsory retirement, with indefinite leave of absence and 40 per cent of their regular pay. This means that a messenger entering the service at the age of 18 years can be retired at the age of forty-three, and a clerk who is classified as soon as he is of proper age can take indefinite leave of absence, with two-thirds pay, when he is but forty-five. The measure is understood to be that recommended by the organizations formed for the purpose of securing some such aid from Congress for the benefit of the old employes.

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TEACHER'S EXAMINATIONS.
Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Clatsop County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at the Court House, as follows:
FOR STATE PAPERS
Commencing Wednesday, February 12, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, February 15, at 4 p. m.
Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, physical geography, reading, psychology.
Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, bookkeeping, physics, civil government.
Friday—Physiology, geography, composition, algebra, English literature.
Saturday—Botany, plane geometry, general history, school law.
FOR COUNTY PAPERS
Commencing Wednesday, February 12, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Friday, February 14, at 4 o'clock p. m.
Wednesday—Penmanship, history, orthography, reading, physical geography.
Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, physiology.
Friday—Geography, school law, civil government, English literature.
EMMA C. WARREN,
County Superintendent.
Astoria, February 1, 1908. 2-2-10t.

JOHN FOX, Pres. F. L. BISHOP, Sec. ASTORIA SAVINGS BANK, Treas.
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