

Washington Letter

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—President-elect Taft's recent statement that he would oppose a return of suffrage to the District of Columbia seems to blast the hopes of those opponents of the Capital's present system of government...

promises to take the form of a mighty protest to Congress. This opposition becomes clear to outsiders when they understand the character of some of the forces behind the agitation for a change.

Those who believe Mr. Taft would advocate suffrage for the Capital might better profit now by directing their energies to another municipal subject. The President-elect's plain statement that he "does not now advocate government by the people in the District of Columbia, nor am I likely to in the future," would appear to put a permanent quietus on the hopes of those who cling to the belief that he would.

While there are many citizens of the District of Columbia who would welcome most anything in the form of a change from their existing government, it is extremely doubtful if anything approaching a majority would agree to manhood suffrage, with all that it implies in a community of 326,000 persons, one third of whom are negroes.

It is doubtful, too, if the President's plan of substituting one man power, were it framed into a bill and introduced in Congress, would enjoy legislative shoals, the proposal to effect a change has become so repugnant to a large class of influential Washingtonians that their opposition

To begin, the American Capital has always been the storm center of various forms of agitation. There have been intermittent rumblings of discontent against the local commission since it was replaced in 1872 a long rule by mayors and governors. This latest discontent began to manifest itself last summer soon after the President, when asked by a representative of the Washington Post, made it known that he would recommend James Bronson Reynolds' suggestion for a change of the form of District government to Congress. The Post, whose owner is John R. McLean, also owner of the Cincinnati Inquirer, president of the Washington Gaslight Company and a director in several large banks and corporations, immediately set about to demonstrate that Washington needed a change of government, and without delay.

Out of the din of controversy over the proposed change came the charge of two of the Post's local newspaper contemporaries that Mr. McLean's organ, in its fight on the District Commissioners, was exploiting a personal spite because those gentlemen had, at the last session of Congress, strongly advocated cheaper gas for Washington. This charge was supplemented by the assertion that what Mr. McLean really aimed at was not so much a change of government as it was a desire to overshadow the gas question, which came nearer to hitting his pocketbook, with agitation seemingly in the people's interests.

Meantime, something like quiet has come over the municipal situation here. The Post has ceased printing the statements of those urging a governmental change, ceased even to editorialize on the inefficiency of the present form of government and the beauties of some other form in prospect; the House of Representatives has passed a bill providing for 85 cent gas for the Capital, and unless there are unforeseen pitfalls ahead, it would seem that the commission system held the whip hand.

THE AMERICAN EXPERT SHOTS INTERESTED

INTERESTING LETTER FROM NATIONAL CAPITAL ABOUT CRACK MARKSMEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 11.—During the present week there will be three meetings in Washington of great importance to the National Guard throughout the country, and especially to those interested in rifle shooting. The first will be the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association, which takes place on Wednesday evening January 13. On the following day the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice will hold its annual meeting in the office of Assistant Secretary of War Robert Shaw Oliver, President of the Board.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association the officers of the Association for the coming year will be elected. It is not expected there will be any change in the roster with the possible exception of the executive committee. One of the most important subjects to be considered is the International Rifle meeting under the auspices of the Association to be held in September next. Nineteen nations have been invited to participate and it is hoped the meeting will be the most successful ever held.

Both bodies will again consider the subject of rifle practice in educational institutions. The necessity of instructing the youth of the country in use of the national weapons is daily becoming more obvious. It is estimated that under ordinary conditions it would be impossible to place in the field as many as two hundred thousand men reasonably familiar with the use of the modern rifle and as this country has but comparatively few ranges, and those widely scattered and most of them poorly equipped, the impossibility of training any large number of recruits in the use of the rifle continues to be a cause of apprehension.

The National Militia Board, which meets last, is a new board created under the act amending the Dick act. It also acts in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of War, and takes cognizance of all questions affecting the relations between the National Guard of the several States and the general government. By the latest legislature of Congress the National Guard was made the second line of defense and as such will receive greater consideration at the hands of the War Department and of Congress than ever before.

THE WITCH'S CURSE.

A Bucksport Legend of Colonial Days in Maine. Close by the road on the outskirts of the old seaport town of Bucksport, on the Penobscot river, is a small family cemetery. Within its inclosure sleep the Bucks, the blue blooded folk who first settled the town and bequeathed it their name and a legend.

The execution day came, and the woman went to the gallows, cursing her judge with such terrible words that the people shuddered, but the magistrate stood unmoved. All was ready, and the hangman was about to perform his duty, when the woman turned to Colonel Buck, and raising one hand toward heaven, she said: "Jonathan Buck, listen to these words, the last my tongue shall utter. It is the spirit of the only living God which bids me speak to you. You will soon die, and over your grave they will erect a stone, that all may know the spot where your bones lie and crumble to dust."

"Upon that stone the imprint of my foot shall appear, and for all time, after your scoured race has vanished from the face of the earth, will the people from far and near know that you murdered a woman." She then turned to her executioners, and another act transpired to make a part of American colonial history. The "witch curse" had been almost forgotten until the monument was erected to the founder of Bucksport.

When you have a bad cough or cold do not let it drag along until it becomes chronic bronchitis or develops into an attack of pneumonia, but give it the attention it deserves and get rid of it. Take Chamberlain's cough remedy and you are sure of prompt relief. From a small beginning the sale and use of it has extended to all parts of the United States and to many foreign countries.

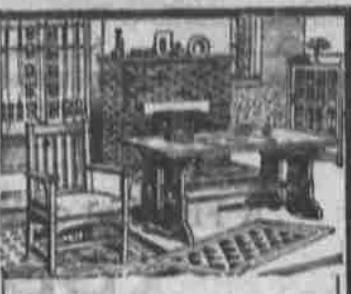
CITIZENS SPENT OVER \$135,000 ON IMPROVEMENTS

The annual report of the city surveyor, A. S. Tee, is herewith given, and it is a record that is well worth while the study of all taxpayers. In this tabulated statement are shown the total cost of all street improvements for the year 1908, the miles of street work done, and other kindred facts. It shows that citizens have expended the great total of over \$135,000 in street improvements during the past year, and the recommendations made by Mr. Tee at the close of his report seem to be of much value.

- I, your city surveyor, herewith submit my annual statement of the work performed by my department during the year ending December 31, 1908. The individual improvements which have been completed or for which contracts have been let during the present year, and the cost of which are as follows: Melbourne avenue \$1,308.45 Columbia avenue, Melbourne to Lincoln 2,482.85 Fourth street sewer 212.00 Fourth street, Commercial to Bond 1,061.24 Ninth street sewer, Commercial to Astor 738.90 Commercial street, 17th to 20th 2,596.80 Ninth street, Harrison to Jerome sewer 1,091.60 Exchange street 11th to 12th 1,030.00 Lincoln avenue, Columbia to Duane street 1,210.40 Exchange street, 9th to 10th 672.00 Eighth street sewer, Harrison to Lexington 1,607.75 Eighth street Harrison to Lexington 2,807.45 Eleventh street, Commercial to Duane 1,982.25 Exchange street walk 324.00 Eleventh street, Exchange to Franklin 571.25 Twelfth street, Commercial to Duane 1,890.25 Seventh street Grand to Harrison 957.78 Irving avenue, 11th to 15th 10,944.70 Grand avenue, 6th to 7th 1,647.75 Twenty-third street Commercial to Exchange 3,534.65 Irving avenue, 18th to Adair line 19,386.37 Tenth street, Irving to Kensington 4,108.00 Fourteenth street, Franklin to Exchange 2,791.25 Twelfth street, Exchange to Grand 1,814.50 Exchange street, 10th to 11th 796.50 Sixth street, Franklin to Harrison 3,147.70 Eighth street, Harrison to Irving 1,134.00 Grand avenue, 5th to 6th 2,531.50 Third street, Astor to Commercial 1,293.50 Ninth street, Jerome to Kensington 1,453.00 Astor street, 6th to 8th 5,529.25 Harrison avenue, 10th and Irving avenue 16,731.20 Kensington avenue, 8th to 11th 3,905.75 Irving avenue, 8th to 9th 585.75 Seventeenth street sewer 802.00 Jerome avenue, 14th to 17th 5,840.00 Irving avenue, Shively's to 40th 15,739.52 Commercial street west 5,673.00 Fifty-first street sewer 525.00 Irving avenue sewer 325.00 Alleyway, 38th to 42nd 2,823.00 Total \$135,402.66

The above work is segregated under the following subdivisions: Wooden sidewalks 2,850 lineal feet Wooden decked and trestle street 6,175 lineal feet Macadamized street 3,310 lineal feet Cement sidewalks, curbs and gutters 5,700 lineal feet Graded street only 14,150 lineal feet Vitrified sewers 3,030 lineal feet The total expense of the office, including salary and street inspectors has been \$3,403, which amount is equal to 2 1/2 per cent of the cost of the improvements.

I would respectfully suggest that provisions be made for the housing of the steam and horse roller in the unoccupied portion of the brick engine house on Astor street, this would amount to but a slight expense. These rollers are at present left upon the streets, exposed to the weather. I would suggest that in calling for bids on street improvements those classifications are specified, that bids should show price for each classification, and bidders should not necessarily be required to bid on the whole work, and the contract on each class be let to the lowest responsible bidder. This would have a tendency to lower the cost of street improvements and would give all contractors a chance to bid on their respective lines of work.



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"Comet," white ruled, 15c here, 20c at some dealers. "Special," 8c. Famous Parisian Paper, linen finish latest style, 35c to 40c. Special, 26c box. Princess Louise linen (the latest novelty in paper regular 60c. Special 27c. Marlborough Poudre Paper, regular 15c for 24 sheets; special 102 sheets and 25 envelopes, 39c.

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JANUARY TIDE TABLE.

Table with columns for High Water, Low Water, and Tides for January 1909. Includes dates from Friday to Sunday with corresponding tide times.