

PAYING OFF AT PANAMA

Employees Receive Money Every Fifteen Days - Money Kept in Concrete Vaults - Methods of Identification.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN. (Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, July 20.—It takes 18 tons of silver and about 1,500 pounds of gold to pay off the canal force each month. It takes five men three full days, working nearly 11 hours a day, to hand across the counter enough money to settle the monthly bill for skilled and unskilled labor. Money is handled like so many bricks, or so much sand. It loses all interest to the pay clerks, and they cease even to make it a subject of jest. Payday begins on the morning of the 15th and lasts until the evening of the fifteenth of each month. Before this time the pay tickets have all been made out in accordance with the accounts of the time keeper; and the Panamanian silver has been counted out and wrapped up in packages of \$5 and multiples thereof.

If you happen to be in Empire about 3 o'clock in the morning on the twelfth of any month and are awake, you will see a half dozen lanterns moving from different points toward the disbursing office. And then you will hear the rattle of half a dozen wagons going in the same direction. Over in the distance Gold Hill and Culebra mountain stand like lone sentinels guarding the isthmian strong box. If you were not initiated you might think some revivified buccanniers or freebooters of the old Spanish Main had planned a raid on the several million dollars of gold and silver stored there. But it is only the pay force going to load the pay car. The vaults in which the money is stored are made of concrete in which are embedded all sorts of old iron, from steel rails to horseshoes, to give it security.

The vault doors are opened, and while a dozen zone policemen, armed to the teeth, stand round and see it well done, a half dozen bravos open the vaults, take the gold and silver out to the wagons. The bags of silver, each holding \$1,000, weigh 55 pounds each. The gold is carried in bags having \$25,000 on each. Six tons of silver and about \$150,000 in gold are carried out into the wagons. Then the jack-of-lantern parade proceeds to the pay car, a half mile in the distance. The money is loaded into it, and by sunrise all hands are ready for breakfast. This is eaten in shifts, half the force staying with the pay car while the other half goes to breakfast. By 8 o'clock breakfast is over and the train starts for La Boca, the Pacific end of the canal, where the paying off begins.

Handling the Crowds. Excellent arrangements have been made for handling the crowds of laborers. In the pay car there are five doors on each side, opposite each other. At one end there is the center door, and at the other end two doors, one in each corner. The "silver" men are lined up in the right-hand side of the car in four files. Four streams of men are kept pouring through the car all the time. A half dozen policemen line up the laborers. As one comes to the counter of the pay clerk he is commanded to take off his hat and produce his metal identification chevron. The policeman stationed at the counter examines the pay check and the identification check. If the numbers on them correspond the pay clerk takes it and throws the amount of money called for into the hat of the laborer and commands him to pass on.

When the laborer to the laborer to count his money, but on the outside of the car there are several plain-clothes men of the police force who keep a weather eye out to see that they do not make away with a part of their money and then come back and claim that they have received short change. The Spaniards are paid off in American gold, with Panamanian silver for the smaller change. The negroes are paid off in Panamanian silver entirely. The negroes get only half as much per hour in wages as the white laborers, but they are obliged to take their silver, and a month's wages in Panamanian silver is a bulky pile of money. One American silver dollar is worth just two Panamanian silver dollars, variously known as "Spiggoty" money, "tin money" and "monkey money."

When the negro gets a whole handful of this stuff and sees a Spaniard who works by his side get double as much real money, and in neat, convenient American gold pieces all that he is in no very pleasant frame of mind. But yet he realizes that he is still getting



Have you everything you want for that vacation? You know idle people are very critical and observing of dress. Here are the right wearables to make a man feel perfectly sure of himself and sure of the impression he makes.

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TOM TAGGART AND HIS DONKEY "DEMOCRACY"



Snapshot taken at Denver, showing Thomas Taggart of Indiana, with the donkey representing the Democratic party.

far more than he would have gotten in his native land, and that there is another negro waiting for his job, so he makes the best of things.

Elaborate precautions are made to protect the men against mistakes on the part of pay clerks and from the cupidly of their fellow-laborers. Another can gold is always at a premium among the negro laborers, and they will pay liberal differences to get it. Some of the Spaniards who have been partly paid in gold will loiter around and offer them a \$5 gold piece for \$11 "Spiggoty." Many plain-clothes men are mixing in the crowd and usually the money changer has rather unceremonious notice to move on.

Correcting Errors. When a laborer thinks he is underpaid he goes to the cashier of the pay car and makes his complaint. If he will begin to see the trouble and expense is looked up at once. It is usually found that he has forgotten that there was a deduction for commensary books, and that things are all right. If his cash does not tally with his ticket a note of it is made, and when the balance is taken up he is found to have made a mistake has been made or not. There are interpreters who accompany the pay force, but plain-clothes men are mixing in the crowd and usually the money changer has rather unceremonious notice to move on.

The paying off of the negro labor in Panamanian silver is an expensive operation. The United States is not bound to do so, but does it simply out of the goodness of its heart. In the Panamanian money in circulation. There are no exact figures to be had on the subject, but it is not probable that it costs the United States \$1,000 a month or more to pay off the labor force in this "spiggoty" money than it would cost to pay off in good American gold. Imagine the task of counting out \$1,000,000 in American silver, and the extra burden on the shoulders of the two pieces of "Spiggoty" money for every piece of American silver, and you will see why the American government is so anxious to keep the Panamanian money rather than American gold. It is a monthly expense, and it takes six years more to build the canal. It will cost us the tidy sum of \$7,200,000 in Panamanian silver in an impossible currency in circulation.

Spending the Silver. And this, even, is a mere barometer compared to what it will eventually cost the American people. The stuff is so bulky and so much in one way that no one from the states treats it as money. Men spend it when they buy a dollar's worth of stuff and you would have to walk around with a traveling grip if you were doing ordinary shopping and trying to spend a day replenishing your wardrobe. The indifference of the American to the stuff is about 25 per cent, and his enforced use of Panamanian silver puts a premium on extravagance and a premium on extravagance and a premium on extravagance. He thinks it would be cheaper and more satisfactory, but regards the matter as settled, and is not a connoisseur in the present policy.

No Paper Money. There is almost a total absence of paper money on the isthmus, except for the 1 and 2 dollar bank notes of the American pay car. In making change and that brought here by the tourists, one sees but very little paper money. There are two reasons for this. One is it soon gets into a bad condition owing to the dampness of the climate and the fact that it is often carried in a negro's hat crown, and the other is that it proves an attractive form in which a Chinaman, Spaniard or negro may send his earnings away.

Mails Not Secure. The security of the mails in the West Indies is to be compared with that of our own postal service, and the result is that a large percentage of the letters in American hands are believed of their money before they reach their owners. For a long time Disbursing Officer Williams had great difficulty in keeping good enough on the isthmus to meet his monthly bills. He was rather slow in making change, and his all sorts of percentages for it, but he finally organized them and now has the support of the American government. He is saving thousands of dollars every year. Mr. Williams has one of the best wheels in the big wheel on the isthmus. The pay system he has inaugurated is conceded to be 10 years

HEARST'S MEN CHARTER TRAINS

Far-Western Delegates to Enter Chicago in a Body - Anti-Bryan Fight.

(United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, July 20.—Special trains have been chartered and final preparations are being made today by Chairman Hugh J. McIsaac of the state central committee for the journey to the Chicago convention of the western delegates of the independence party. The California delegation will leave Wednesday night. At Reno, Nev., the next morning the Nevada delegates will paycar, and the Utah delegates will join the train. They expect to arrive at Chicago July 27.

Hearst Opposition to Bryan. New York, July 20.—With one exception all of the presidential tickets have been named for the November election. The exception is the ticket to be placed in the field by the National party, better known as the National Independence league, of which William R. Hearst is the founder and guiding spirit. The national party has been organized in the quarters of the party in this city. It was said today that the arrangements for the convention are about completed and that a large representation of attendance is assured.

Upon his recent return from Europe Mr. Hearst has been getting down to work in anticipation of the national campaign. It was predicted all along that the Hearst forces would not lift a hand to prevent the nomination of Mr. Bryan by the Democrats, but would work strenuously to prevent the nomination of Bryan by the National party. The morning following the nomination of Mr. Hearst by the National party, the Hearst newspapers in this city contained editorials that made it plain that Mr. Bryan could not count on the support of Hearst in the campaign.

All efforts of Mr. Bryan to conciliate the New York editor will prove futile, in the belief of political leaders here. Mr. Hearst has an old score to settle with his contemporary of the "Commonwealth" after the manner of the Nebraska in 1856 and 1860. Mr. Hearst relied upon Mr. Bryan's support in his contest for the Democratic nomination four years ago, when he was defeated by Mr. Bryan. Mr. Hearst refused to aid Mr. Hearst in the election of 1860, and the result was the election of Abraham Lincoln.

SHUFFLE, BUT FIRST TELL YOUR TROUBLES

(United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, July 20.—An anti-union bureau is the project upon which Sheriff Captain William F. Day, of the Salvation army, is working today, and he is confident that hundreds of San Francisco men would be saved were his plan put into effect. His plan is to have two reception rooms where workers are to be induced to call and tell their troubles before ending their lives. Salvationists will hear the tales of woe and then try to induce their callers to abandon the idea of self-destruction. Other large cities in America and several in England have established bureaus of this kind, and San Francisco will have one within the next few weeks if Captain Day succeeds.

MAINE AND ALABAMA ARRIVE AT MANILA

Manila, July 20.—The battleships Maine and Alabama, which arrived from San Francisco yesterday, are in the harbor here today. They comprise the special service squadron of the Atlantic fleet, and were reported in advance by wireless, and a large crowd was on the waterfront to welcome them as the forerunners of the great armada ahead of anything in the United States. He was brought from the Chicago & North Western, where he disburses \$17,000,000

FIVE SCALDED ON KEARSARGE

Three Bluejackets Seriously Injured—Steam Pipe Investigation Due.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Honolulu, July 20.—Three bluejackets are seriously injured and two others are badly scalded as a result of the explosion of a steam pipe in the boiler-room of the United States battleship Kearsarge. The explosion, which occurred Saturday, was similar to that on the United States cruiser Tennessee, off San Pedro, June 19.

One of the steam pipes in the forward starboard boiler blew up while five men were in the rooms. There was a rush of scalding steam and when their shipmates rescued them, all of the men proved to be more or less injured. The fires were promptly drawn to prevent further disaster. Naval officers here believe an official investigation into the charges that defective boiler tubing has been foisted upon the government will result from this disaster.

WILL GIVE WORK TO THOUSAND MEN O. R. & N. Extension at Elgin Going Forward at Rapid Rate.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Elgin, Or., July 20.—Track laying on the extension of the O. R. & N. from Elgin to Joseph is now going on at the rate of one-half mile a day. Work is now going on beyond the mouth of the Wallowa river. At present about 400 men are employed at different places along the road, and as soon as the track is extended a distance of several miles, the crew will be increased to over 1,000 men. The road will run into the town of Wallowa by early September.

FUNERAL OF CAPTAIN M'CREA AT BROOKLYN

(United Press Leased Wire.) New York, July 20.—Word has been received here that the funeral of the late Captain Henry M'Crea, of the battleship Georgia, is to be held at Brooklyn. M'Crea died suddenly at the naval hospital in Brooklyn yesterday afternoon of a short illness. He was captain of the battleship Georgia on the voyage of the Atlantic fleet from Hampton Roads to San Francisco, and was taken with Bright's disease on the way.

PLAN NEW CHURCH FOR THE METHODISTS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) La Grande, Or., July 20.—A \$25,000 church is what the official board of the Methodist church, decided upon at a special session called for this purpose Saturday. Plans for the new building will soon be outlined sufficiently to place in the hands of the architect, and at the next meeting of the quarterly conference the building committee will be selected.

FINEST WHEAT IN UMATILLA COUNTY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Pendleton, Or., July 20.—New wheat is beginning to come into the market of Umatilla county, and the millers say that it is the best wheat for milling purposes that the county has ever produced. Mills are buying all

they can get, prices ranging from 70 cents upward. Through the big wheat belt in the Athens, Weston, Adams and Helix country, the average yield last year was 48 bushels, and this year it will go about 30 or 35 bushels. To the north in the Cold Springs country they are getting an average of 20 bushels to the acre. The prices promise to be

good, and this will make up the difference. Down in the Echo and Pilot Rock country, the average is about 20 bushels to the acre. Some fields in different parts of the county will average 40 and 48 bushels. The local wheat market has not yet opened, and probably will not until some of the grain is hauled to the

warehouses. At present what is being sold to the mills goes at from 70 to 74 cents. "Could you bring yourself to live in a flat on twenty dollars a week?" could Harold, answered the pampared yet unpoliced darling. "But I do not know just how it would suit my French maid."—The Tattler.

Advertisement for Uneda Biscuit. Food for thought, Food for work, Food for brain. Uneda Biscuit. The most nourishing of all wheat foods. 5¢ In dust tight, moisture proof packages. Never sold in bulk. NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

FREE! FREE!

Clever Boys and Girls Will Be Given Free Scholarships and Big Cash Awards for Pleasant Work During Vacation.

The valuable scholarships and cash awards offered by The Journal to ambitious students should interest every young scholar. The fortunate young people who poll the highest number of votes in their respective districts will secure the scholarships and cash awards as explained below. Votes are determined by subscriptions. It behooves all to get down to work without delay. The students of the great Oregon country are especially favored by having such a grand opportunity within their reach. Remember, all over 10 and under 30 years of age are eligible.

SCHOLARSHIPS

As far as they are at present listed are herewith submitted. More schools will be added from day to day during the contest as the choice of new contestants is learned.

- ALBANY COLLEGE, ALBANY, OR. One year's tuition in any department, except conservatory. Value of scholarship \$50.
BAKER CITY BUSINESS COLLEGE, BAKER CITY, OR. One year's tuition in shorthand, typewriting, English, bookkeeping and penmanship. Value of scholarship \$100.
BERNARD-WALKER BUSINESS COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition in combined business and shorthand course. Value of scholarship \$100.
CAPITAL BUSINESS COLLEGE, SALEM, OR. Ten months' tuition in business or shorthand course. Value of scholarship \$100.
DALLAS COLLEGE, DALLAS, OR. One year's tuition in any department. Value of scholarship \$50.
ECLECTIC BUSINESS UNIVERSITY, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition in combined business and shorthand course. Value of scholarship \$100.
MILITARY ACADEMY, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition in all branches without board. Value of scholarship \$120.
HOLMES BUSINESS COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition in combined business and shorthand course. Value of scholarship \$100.
INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS OF SCRANTON, PA. Complete course in architecture, chemistry and chemical technology, electrical, civil engineering, steam, electric, mechanical engineering and mining engineering. Value of scholarship \$133.
R. MAX MYER SCHOOL OF ART, PORTLAND, OR. Six months' evening course. Value of scholarship \$50.
M'KINSEVILLE COLLEGE, M'KINSEVILLE, OR. One year's tuition in any department of the college. Value of scholarship \$50.
OREGON CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, PORTLAND, OR. One year's course in piano department. Value of scholarship \$175.
OREGON EXPERT COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OR. Combined course in telegraphy and stenography. Value of scholarship \$125.
OREGON LAW COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition. Value of scholarship \$150.
PACIFIC COLLEGE, HEWESBURG, OR. One year's tuition. Value of scholarship \$50.
PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, FOREST GROVE, OR. One year's tuition in college department. Value of scholarship \$50.
PENDLETON ACADEMY, PENDLETON, OR. Two years' instruction in classical, scientific or commercial courses. Value of scholarship \$100.
PORTLAND ACADEMY, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition in any of the four academy classes. Value of scholarship \$120.
MRS. WALTER REED, PORTLAND, OR. Vocal lessons. Value of scholarship \$100.
ROSE CITY BUSINESS COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OR. One year's tuition in combined business and shorthand course. Value of scholarship \$100.
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY, THE DALLES, OR. One year's tuition in music department. Value of scholarship \$100.
WESTERN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND ELOCUTION, PORTLAND, OR. Course in elocution, oratory or dramatic art. Value of scholarship \$150.
WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, SALEM, OR. One year's tuition in college department. Value of scholarship \$50.

Rates and Credits.

Prepaid subscriptions, only, count for votes in the Oregon Journal contest, many more points allowed for new subscriptions than for payment on old subscriptions. The same number of votes are allowed whether the paper goes to the subscriber by mail or by carrier. In order to procure votes on an old subscription, the advance payment shall be made for not less than three months. Votes are allowed on new subscriptions, for advance payments for one month or more, an outline of the voting values being as follows:

Daily and Sunday. One month: Price by mail, 65 cents; price delivered by carrier, at points having carrier service, 65 cents; votes allowed, if new, 65 votes; if old, none. Two months: Price by mail or delivered, \$1.30; votes allowed, if new, 125 votes; if old, none. Three months: Price by mail \$1.90; delivered, \$1.95; votes allowed, if new, 300; if old, 175. Four months: By mail, \$2.60; delivered, \$2.60; votes allowed, if new, 400; if old 200. Five months: Price by mail, \$3.25; by carrier, \$3.25; votes allowed, if new, 500; if old, 225. Six months: By mail, \$3.75; by carrier, \$3.90; and so on. Twelve months: By mail, \$7.50; by carrier, \$7.50; votes allowed, if new, 2,000; if old, 1,000.

Daily Without Sunday.

One month: Price by mail, 50 cents; delivered, 45 cents; votes allowed, if new, 40; if old, none. Two months: Price by mail, \$1.10; delivered, 90 cents; votes allowed, if new, 100; if old, none. Three months: By mail, \$1.40; delivered, \$1.35; votes allowed, if new, 150; if old, 50. Four months: By mail, \$1.75; by carrier, \$1.50; votes allowed, if new, 250; if old, 110. Five months: By mail, \$2.30; by carrier, \$2.25; votes allowed, if new, 300; if old, 140. Six months: By mail, \$2.75; by carrier, \$2.60; votes allowed, if new, 400; if old, 200; and so on. Twelve months: By mail, \$5.50; by carrier, \$5.20; votes allowed, if new, 1,000; if old, 500.

Sunday Journal Only.

Twelve months: Price by mail or by carrier, \$2.50; votes allowed, if a new subscriber, 400; if an old subscriber, 150. Six months: By mail or by carrier, \$1.25; votes allowed, if new, 175; if old, 75. Three months: By mail or by carrier, 65 cents; votes allowed, if new, 50; if old, 25.

Semi-Weekly Edition.

This edition of The Journal is sent to subscribers by mail only. Price for 12 months \$1.50; votes allowed, if new, \$50; if old, \$25. Six months: Price, 75 cents; votes allowed, if new, 200; if old, 100.

CASH AWARDS

In addition to the scholarship awards The Journal will make the following cash awards to help defray expenses of the students who may poll the largest vote:

- Cash with first choice of scholarship \$150
Cash with second choice of scholarship \$125
Cash with third choice of scholarship \$100
Cash with fourth choice of scholarship \$75
Cash with fifth choice of scholarship \$50
Cash with sixth choice of scholarship \$25

The above sums in cash will be paid contestants immediately after the close of the contest, in the order of their standing. Cash commissions will be allowed on all new subscribers, in addition to the cash awards, so that a contestant may earn money every day during the contest.

This contest began June 22 and will last about three months. No ambitious boy or girl, young man or young woman should allow this grand opportunity to acquire a good college education pass by without making a vigorous effort to win a scholarship and a handsome cash award. All between the ages of 10 and 30 years are eligible.

FOR FULL PARTICULARS APPLY TO CONTEST MANAGER