

### HAND L OF RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS SHOWN

Receive \$2.15 a Day; Garbage Man Gets \$4—Pay Own Expenses; Army Officers Allowed Thousands of Dollars.

By John E. Lathrop.  
Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—It is hard to induce efficient men to enter the railway mail clerk service, because of the poor pay, the dangers incident to service and this is especially true in the thirteenth division of the clerk's association, which includes the Pacific northwest.

Yet, when members of the congress are interviewed they admit that the clerks deserve more liberal treatment at the hands of the government. I have seen all the members of the Oregon delegation, and each one unreservedly commits himself to support of the bill, which it is hoped by the clerks to pass at this session—the Lathrop bill—providing that "from and after July 1, 1910, railway postal clerks shall be paid their actual and necessary traveling expenses, not to exceed \$1 per day, while away from the terminal where their runs or series of runs begin and end, when actually on duty, such expenses to be paid under the direction of the postmaster general."

Postmaster General "Suggests." Some additional help—not much, however—comes from the postmaster general, who on page 45 of his annual report "suggests," but does not recommend, that substantially the Lathrop bill's provisions be adopted. The report in other instances recommends adoption of certain improvements in the provision for the clerks; the postmaster general refuses to recommend and merely suggests in the case of travel pay for the mail clerks.

However, some of the friends of the clerks begin to hope for action this session, in the form of the adoption of the Lathrop bill's provisions as an amendment to the appropriation bill.

Can't Ask for Increase. The clerks labor under the handicap of what appeals to most persons as a very unjust command by the executive department, known as executive order No. 2791, which says:

"All officers and employees of the United States in every description, serving in or under any of the executive departments, and whether so serving in or out of Washington, either directly or indirectly, individually or through associations, to solicit an increase of their pay, or to attempt to influence in their own interest any legislation whatever, either before congress or its committee, or in any way save through heads of the departments, in or under which they serve, on penalty of dismissal from the government service."

Some of the clerks remark, as one did to me:

"Russia might learn from our government some lessons in restrictive measures. Little has come to light in that benighted country which exceeds this in oppressive character. What sort of men are these clerks? What character of work do they do? It is generally recognized that they rank high in personal qualities, are as a class sober, industrious, active and immensely useful to the nation. The average marks received by them in their examinations—and the examinations are searching in severity—are 98.65 per cent. This applies to the country over.

Almost Perfect Service. The record shows that for every 12,000 pieces of mail matter handled correctly by them on the trains only one is handled incorrectly. In other words, so perfect is their service that they attain this remarkable percentage of accuracy—12,000-12,000ths; or, stated the other way, they reach only 1-12,000th of error in their daily labor.

The average reader of a daily newspaper knows some railway mail clerk, knows him as a citizen, and as a worker. It might enlighten that average reader to learn that in one case brought to my attention a railway mail clerk received \$2.15 a day from the government, while the man who came daily to collect the garbage from that clerk's house received \$4 a day.

The conditions entailed on the railway mail clerks by the high cost of living are simply oppressive, in view of the fact that they are allowed no expenses for meals and beds while away from their runs. It is a fact that Uncle Sam has allowed numberless items of "help" by army and other officers; that officers receiving into the thousands of annual salary receive allowance for travel pay.

Army Officers More Favored. I have in mind an officer who traveled to the Orient via England, France and the Mediterranean route, stopped at palatial hotels, lounged along the way as he chose, and turned in and was allowed a bill of several thousand dollars for travel expenses.

Yet a railway mail clerk, expected to perform important work at a modicum per day of salary, gets no allowance for absolutely necessary expenses, although he asks the government for not more than \$1 a day for such expenses.

The efficiency of men entering the service today is low as compared with that of men who in past years entered. Expenses of living are at least 50 per cent higher. This statement is merely a reproduction of what former Superintendent Thrall said.

The average annual expenses on the runs of the men in the service are for the nation \$132.70; in the thirteenth division—the Pacific northwest—the expenses are \$160.70.

"'Tis not in mortals to command success; But we'll do better, Sempronius, we'll deserve it."

The feeling in Washington is that the clerks have deserved success; it is decidedly that they have not. It is in getting what common decency on the government's part calls for.

Town 100 Years Old. Washington, Pa., Feb. 12.—Flags were displayed in profusion here today in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the erection of Washington borough. Although the first settlement here was made in 1775 it was not until February 12, 1810, that the town was incorporated. A week's celebration of the centennial is being planned for next fall.

Death of Lewis Hasslebrink. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Wilsonville, Or., Feb. 12.—Lewis H. Hasslebrink, Jr., died at his farm home, one mile north of here, on the Oregon Electric line, after an illness of a couple of days. He was 70 years of age and leaves a wife of four months.

### JAPANESE WAR SCARE ALARMS RUSSIAN PRESS

St. Petersburg Papers Persist in Calling Attention to Fact That Japan Is Arming for War.

By George Fraser. (Publishers' Press Leased Wire.) St. Petersburg, Feb. 12.—The Japanese war scare continues to worry the St. Petersburg papers, and government assurances that there is no cause for alarm have little effect in quieting apprehension that the situation is serious. It is stated on high authority that the government has been informed that Japan is purchasing large stores of military and surgical supplies, and that Japanese naval and military officers will leave have been ordered to rejoin their colors.

Bearing in mind the quietness of Japan's preparations previous to the late war, Russian newspaperdom not unnaturally is suspicious that the Asiatics are getting ready for more trouble. Either Russia or the United States must be, in their opinion, the object of any hostile movement on the part of the Japanese. As the situation in Manchuria has given rise to much friction, it is believed here that in case the Japs are looking for trouble, Russia will be again called upon to bear the white man's burden in Asia.

The Novos Vremya says: "No appeasement of the public alarm has resulted from the governmental communication, for it can no longer be doubted that Japan is arming. It is her right, and even her duty. Russia has the same right and the same duty. Japan assures her conquests by military armaments. Russia, on her side, must not forget the principal basis of peace, the creation of a power. Nobody is excited or provoked or threatened by the silent strengthening of one's positions, but everything is saved by it. We insist upon that without respite in the future, as we have demanded it in the past."

The Birzhorvya Viedomosti says: "Of course the official communication cannot set upon one side the fact that Japan is making feverish military preparations, and as there can be no question of the proximity of a new Russo-Japanese war, Japan's enormous outlay on her army and fleet is evidently directed at another object. According to precise information and news arriving from Berlin, Japan is preparing to annex Korea shortly, and it is evident these military preparations are the best guarantee of the forced consent of Russia to the annexation."

The Rech says: "We are willing to believe in Lavinsky's declaration, but in order to be really sure of the morrow it is indispensable that not only our diplomacy should be in order, but also that our means of defense should attain the desired standard."

Surveys have been started for a new railroad from Izhevsk to Kizil, a distance of 200 miles. American mills will be asked to bid for the equipment when building begins.

A story of how the czar, like Hausrath-Raschid, took a two hours' walk disguised as a simple soldier, is officially reported from Livadia by the Court Bulletin. His majesty wore the uniform of a private of the Sixteenth Rifle regiment, with complete accoutrements: a rifle, 120 cartridges and a flask filled with water.

The czar walked alone. Unrecognized, he saluted the officers, and he thus had an opportunity of seeing the soldier's life as it really is, and not as it appears at imperial parades.

A second anecdote also comes from Livadia, though unofficially. The czar, accompanied by an adjutant, was strolling in the gardens when he suddenly noticed a sentry attacked by hemorrhage. The man vainly tried to salute the emperor.

His majesty at once sent his aide-de-camp to order the soldier to leave his post and to report himself to a doctor. But the sentry refused, declaring that he was bound by oath rather than to leave his post without being relieved. The emperor himself then approached the soldier and observed to him that by the same oath he was bound first to obey his emperor, and that by the military code he, the czar, had, together with the officer of the guard, alone the right to relieve a sentry.

The czar ordered the soldier to pass him his rifle and to be off at once. The emperor then stood on duty till the guard hurried to relieve the imperial sentry.

### Barnard College Celebrates.

New York, Feb. 12.—Joseph H. Choate, former ambassador to Great Britain, and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, were the chief speakers at a celebration held at Barnard college today to mark the completion of the college's twenty-first year and the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Frederick Augustus Barnard, the founder of the college which bears his name.

### Quaker Maid Rye

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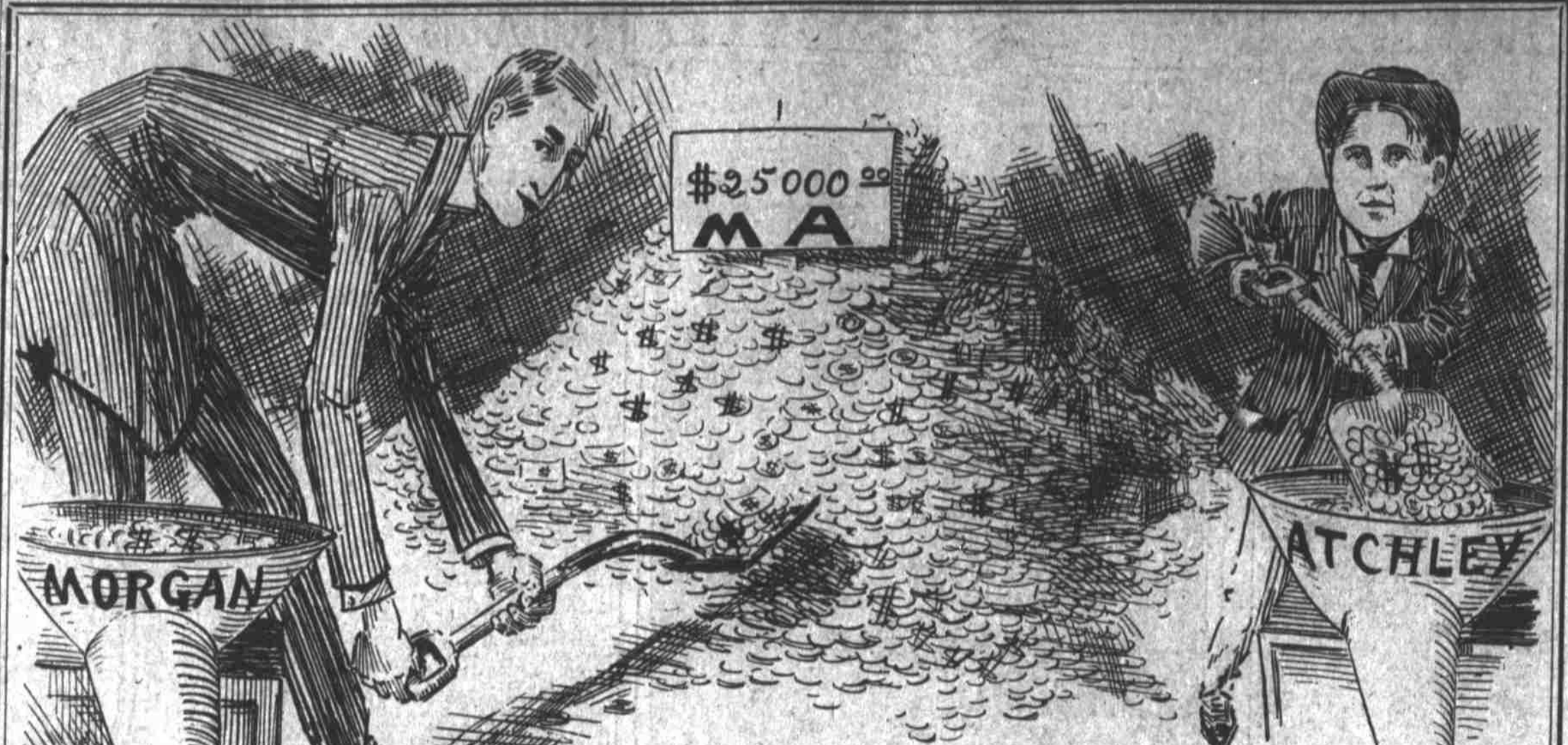
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A quarter block in the Central West Side business district would have cost us four times as much as both the land and building which we now own and occupy on the East Side. Furniture requires too much space to pay either the rent or interest and taxes on the investment on the West Side. Only big department stores, hotel and office buildings can afford so much expensive space. We would have to sell the same quantity and quality of Furniture at such increased prices as would give us an annual profit of \$25,000.00 in excess of what we now get, if we had the same store on the West-side, in order to make the same profit we now make. There is no possible way out of it—customers must pay the merchant's entire expenses of doing business—and then some. We have experienced the most wonderful growth ever known in Portland simply because we could afford to, and have, sold furniture very much lower than any other store.

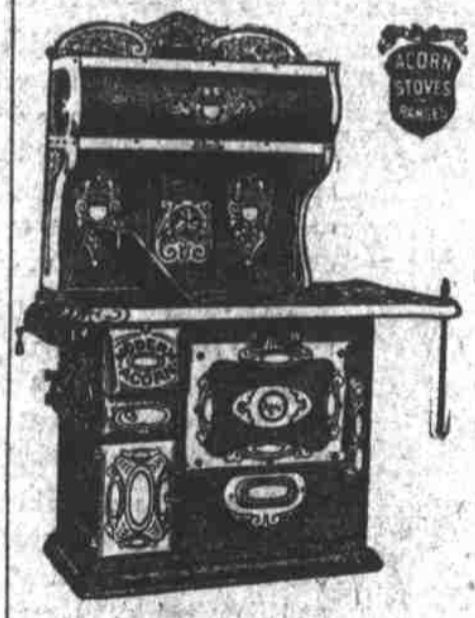
SEE THE GREAT WINDOW DISPLAY OF STOVES AND RANGES ON THE STARK STREET SIDE OF OUR STORE—NOTHING LIKE IT EVER SEEN IN PORTLAND. ATTEND OUR GREAT RANGE SALE THIS WEEK. HIGH-CLASS, BEAUTIFUL RANGES AT THE PRICE OF UGLY, INFERIOR GOODS ON THE WEST SIDE.



### Lighting the Acorn

THE IMPROVED ACORN SAFETY OVEN LIGHTER, with independent valve, can be used either through the open oven door or will light at side of oven. It is the simplest, safest and best lighter ever produced.

THE OPEN DOOR LIGHTER of the Acorn is a feature of greatest importance, as it insures absolute safety from accidental ignition of gas in the oven at the time of lighting. The lighting is simple, positive, quick, safe, reliable and never fails.



Most all our ranges have smooth nickel trimmings, easily kept clean, and are also provided with large fireboxes, especially adapted to the fuel used in the Northwest. Our Gas Ranges are absolutely the best ranges in America—the famous Acorn—made by the oldest stove-makers in America.

<b>\$7.50 2-Burner Alcohol Gas Stoves at \$5.65</b>	<b>\$12.75 3-Burner Alcohol Gas Stoves at \$9.60</b>	<b>\$5 Alcohol Gas Stoves Now \$3.75</b>	<b>\$9.50 Air-Tight Heaters Now \$7.00</b>	<b>\$3.75 Laundry Stoves Now \$2.80</b>
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### Karpen Leather Sofa Cushions Each \$1.50

Karpen Leather Sofa Cushions, 22x22 inches. These are filled with pure silk floss and are real bargains.

**Iron Cribs \$5.50**  
Plain design, deep sides, 7 spindles on either side; woven-wire spring. All guaranteed for 25 years.

**Iron Cribs \$10.50**  
Neat and attractive, 14 spindles on each side, which is built high and slides up and down. Cream color.

**Iron Cribs \$12.75**  
Chill-less design, sides high and slides up or down; 14 spindles in each.  
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