ROSEBURG REVIEW

FRIDAY, JULY, 23, 1886.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 5th, 1886.

Congress has been wrangling all week over the money bills which provide for running the Government during the next fiscal year. The subject sounds like a dry one, but the Congressional debates have not been dull. Appropriation bills always provoke much disagreement and afford an opportunity for discussing the comparative extravagance and economy of the two parties.

The Nation's ballance sheet has just been drawn up again. The Government's bookkeepers have footed up their accounts for the fiscal year that came to an end on June 30th, and the figures are even more satisfactory than could have been expected. The receipts exceeded the expenditures by $90,528,546. The receipts and expenditures for the fiscal compared with the last preceeding one, show an increase of revenue of about $12,500,000 and a decrease in the expenditures of about $14,500,000. Customs receipts are some $11,000,000 better internal revenue $4,500,000 and miscellaneous some $3,000,000. The ordinary expenses are $22,400,000 less than last year, interest is nearly $1,000,000 less and pensions are $8,600,000 more.

Yes, during the year just closed the Pension Office issued 81,422 pension certificates, a larger number by 6,721 than ever were issued in any previous year. And when it is remembered that this immense work has been performed with a force of clerks less by over 100 than for the three previous, there seems to be sufficient reason to congratulate the present Commissioner of Pensions, Gen. Black upon retrenchment in his office.

At a recent Cabinet meeting the question of how many telephones were in use at the several executive departments of the Government in this city came up. The President asked each of his Secretaries how many the department over which he presided used. The Attorney General said 2. Secretary Lamar gave what he thought was his number, and so on around. They made up about fifty altogether. The president asked them to look into the matter and report at the next meeting. They did and Attorney General Garland was the only one who had made a correct return. The total was one hundred and fifty. The average cost of each telephone—because the departments have a number of special wires, is $100 a year.

Thus for telephonic service for the departments in this city alone, the Government pays nearly $15,000 a year. This was thought too high by the Cabinet officers and retrenchment in this line has begun. Fifteen telephones have already been taken out of the Treasury department, leaving only one on each floor,

The salaries of Government clerks comes out of the Legislative Executive and Judical Appropriation bill. The failure of Congress to pass it by the close of the old fiscal year caused an unusual outlook for the new. The departments opened on trust July 1st, it being against the law to make any contracts for services in excess of appropriations, "So you are without pay" was the remark made to a government clerk, "that must be uncomfortable." He showed no anxiety on the subject however. Said he, "the pay of members of Congress is provided for in this appropriation bill just the same as mine is. So you see I am all right. Every Congressman will see that I am provided for in time."

It was Senator Riddleberger who introduced the bill to reduce the salaries of Congressmen and certain high officials twenty-five per cent. This reminds me of the difficulty of getting good business men to take the responsible places in the departments. There is no trouble at all in getting mere politicians for these places, but it has been the President's idea to get good men. Such men come here occasionally tempted by the allurements of office, although they can do much better in private life. For instance, the U. S. Treasurer, Mr. Jordan, has a standing office in private life of exactly double what he receives in his present official position. He is considered by the way, the ablest treasurer that has filled that office since it was first created.

Secretary Lamar recently asked a wealthy business man to hunt him up a good business man for Chief Clerk of the Interior department. How much can you pay such a man? inquired the capitalist, who, himself, employes about four hundred men. Twenty five hundred dollars, replied the Secretary. Oh, said the visitor, I cannot furnish him. I pay $10,000 a year for the services of such a man as you have described. The new administration has been fortunate however, in securthe services of men to whom it would be economy to pay very large salaries in order to retain them. S.

ORIGIN OF THE BANG.

One Who Asserts That The Bang Is of African Origin.

A careful historical chase of the bang through many countries, finally locates the frizzly bang as a native of Africa, the ladies of that continent having advantages of producing this style of hirsute ornament, which their sisters further north never possessed. Established as a fashion in Africa, it lost no time in passing over into Asia, the African slaves assisting in its transit. But the capillary attractions of Asiatic ladies were by no means suited to the African style, and all efforts at frizzing their hair proving failures, the curly bang was evolved as the nearest approach to the African style. Thus did the bang traverse thousands of miles, and so adapt itself to circumstances that some ethnologists have studiously maintained its Asiatic origin.

Exactly when the bang came into Europe is a matter of doubt, some placing its advent in the latter days of the Roman Empire, while others insist that it was brought back from the East by the crusaders; but whenever it came it found that the front hair of European ladies was as intractable as their temper, and so the hair-dressers being unable either to curl or frizzle, the saucer-bang, stiff, straight, soaped, and plastered down, as hideous as a nightmare, was finally evolved. This being settled, there remains the concluding inquiry, whence came the first bang? The most formidable of the animal kingdom is the much-dreaded gorilla. This beast, among other attractions, carries a head of short, bristly hair, and one of the animal's preparations for battle is to pass the paw rapidly down the crown of the head to the eyes, thus bringing the front hair straight out, and giving an aspect of ferocity that never fails to inspire the utmost terror. So well understood is this gesture, that among the gorrilla's fellow-covntrymen it is the signal for an instantaneous and headlong scamper from the spot, and as the female gorilla in defense of her young is even worse than the male, certain African dialects have an expression, "a female gorilla with her front hair down," to indicate the extremity of ferocious bearing.

In time it came to pass that when African ladies wore abused by their husbands, they adopted the same gesture, and, so far as the hair was concerned, with the same result. Then certain wives, to indicate their readiness for battle at all seasons, took to wearing their hair drawn over their forheads, and the fashion rapidly spread to young ladies, who wore their hair in this style as insinuating their resolve never to submit to matrimonial tyranny. The idea spread and the bang flourished alike in African deserts, on the banks of the Ganges, of the Thames, and of the Mississippi Thus does scientific research shed light on social topics, and even the monstrosities of female costume are shown to have their origin in intelligent action; for nothing is more reasonable than that, as one animal taught man how to build his house, and another how to catch his dinner, his wife from a third should learn how to dress her hair.—Boston Times.

Multnomah Falls.

The finest picture ever published of the beautiful Multnomah Falls is the one occupying two pages of the July West Shore. It is printed in three colors and shows the falls with all the gracefulness and tints of nature. As a whole the July number is a magnificent one, all the illustrations being printed in colors. They embrace views at the seaside, pioneers' reunion, etc. In future, all illustrations of the West Shore will be executed in colors, equal in artistic effect to the present number.

This renders the West Shore superior artistically to any other publication Views of our Western scenery at all approaching in beauty those published in this magazine can not be procured anywhere, and it should be found in every house west of the Missouri river. Published by L. Samuel, Portland, Or.

"The Moral Character of Doubt," by W. H. Anderson, D D., abounds in the most beautiful figures and illustrations. It deals doubt some fearful blows. I will give but a single quotation to show his style. Speaking of Doubt, he says: "Along life's pathway its iron feet crush out every wild flower; with barbarian spirit it fills every well and cuts down every palm tree. At the mouth of the tomb, true to itself, its character and office, it rudely plucks up flower of promise, and would dash from the hand of religion, the only torchlight of hope."—SIMMONS.

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