

SALARIES TOO LOW

Poor Service Rendered by Cheap Clerks in Postoffices.

MONEY ORDERS SHOW INCREASE

Large Amount of Money Received in Dead Letters Mailed to Fraudulent Concerns.

Washington, Dec. 28.—In his annual report made today First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock says that the low salaries paid clerks in first and second class postoffices are decreasing the standard of efficiency. It is impossible, he says, to induce efficient men to enter his branch of the service, when the salary to begin with is but \$600 a year, with no certainty of promotion for perhaps several years.

Mr. Hitchcock strongly recommends a discontinuance of the practice of installing postoffices in public buildings devoted in part to other branches of the government service. The best type of quarters for postoffice purposes, he says, is a single large room in a one-story building.

Much embarrassment has been occasioned the postal authorities to provide emergency mail facilities in mining towns, and Mr. Hitchcock recommends an emergency appropriation of \$75,000 to meet such requirements.

There has been an increase of more than \$18,000,000 in the amount of domestic and of more than \$5,000,000 in the amount of foreign money orders issued during the year over the year preceding.

While the number of undelivered letters which are on their way to the dead letter office during the year was smaller than during the previous year, the number of undelivered letters with valuable enclosures greatly increased. General prosperity of the country is given as one reason; another is the suppression by the department of concerns using the mails for fraudulent purposes. Mail for such concerns containing money, money orders and commercial paper was received at the dead letter office in unusual quantities. Nearly 11,000,000 pieces of mail were received at the dead letter office during the year, including 1,668 that failed of delivery in the Panama canal zone.

Over 1,500,000 cases of alleged indecent and scurrilous matter received attention. In the summer the influx of offensive pictorial post cards became so great as to call for a special order by the department looking to the abatement of the nuisance. As a result of this order, many thousands of objectionable cards have been withdrawn from the mails by postmasters and forwarded to the department for destruction.

NO INTERVENTION.

Civil War in Santo Domingo No Affair of United States.

Washington, Dec. 27.—For the present there will not be any interference by the United States in the difficulty which has arisen in Santo Domingo. The trouble is regarded by the State department officials as entirely an internal one, and so long as outside interests are not menaced this attitude of non-intervention will be maintained.

If, however, conditions should change materially and lawless acts should be committed against Americans and American interests, involving the collection of the Dominican customs by this government, or other violence should occur which, in the opinion of the officials here would make it proper for this government to interfere, this step will be taken, and measures adopted to quell the trouble.

This decision was reached by State department officials during the day and was confirmed at a conference at the white house late this afternoon, in which the president and Secretaries Taft, Root and Bonaparte participated. The cabinet officers remained in the white house until nearly 6 o'clock. The gathering, however, was not called specifically for the purpose of discussing matters bearing on the developments in Santo Domingo, but to talk over a number of questions which the president was anxious to dispose of preliminary to his departure for an outing of several days in Virginia.

FLOUR TRADE MENACED.

Puget Sound Mill's Oriental Business Falls 30 Per Cent.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 28.—According to Superintendent Armstrong, of the Tacoma Warehouse & Sperry Mills company, the boycott in China is proving a serious menace to the milling interests of Tacoma. Where years ago full cargoes of flour were being shipped to China and mills were running overtime to fill orders, shipments to the Orient have fallen off over 30 per cent and mills are running only part of the time.

"The boycott in China has knocked the bottom out of the flour business, as far as exports are concerned," said Superintendent Armstrong. "Local freight keeps up well but we need foreign shipments. It would be good business policy to get that boycott out of the way as soon as possible."

Ralph Smith agent of the Puget Sound Flouring Mills company, says: "We are shipping less flour than usual to China, and the boycott is responsible for it. I don't know what else could be the trouble. Home trade keeps up about as usual."

Volcano Smothers Savail.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—According to the passengers who arrived yesterday on the liner Ventura, the volcano on the island of Savail, in the Samoan group, is still in vigorous activity. The blaze from the crater at night, it is said, is visible at sea many miles away. The lava has covered an area of 30 square miles. This molten flow has filled 11 miles of a deep valley and is heading for the seashore. Natives whose homes are near the beach are preparing to abandon their houses and coconut groves on short notice.

Many Horses Fall Dead.

New York, Dec. 28.—Afflicted with spinal meningitis, more than a score of horses dropped dead in the streets of Williamsburg today, and at least half of them succumbed to the disease before a veterinary could reach them. Every veterinary surgeon in Williamsburg was called into service, and they were kept busy from before daylight until tonight trying to check the spread of the disease. Up to 6 o'clock one had been called to attend 18 cases.

Will Adopt Extreme Measures.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—After an exciting meeting of the workmen's delegates to the Union of Unions, it was decided to continue the strike and adopt the most desperate measures.

BATTLE IN MOSCOW.

Rebels Receive Reinforcements From Neighboring Cities.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—The battle in Moscow is still raging, the victory being undecided. Considerable reinforcements for the revolutionists have arrived from the neighboring districts of Yaroslavl, Vladimir and Tsimbuz. The loyal troops of the government now in Moscow number 8,000 cavalry and Cossacks, while the infantry regiments there incline toward the revolutionists. The number of killed and wounded in the fighting thus far exceeds 10,000. The artillery and fire lighted by the revolutionists have destroyed many blocks of houses, and it is feared that Moscow will be involved in a conflagration before the present struggle is over.

Members of the government are reported to believe, from information which has reached them, that the Moscow affair is only a demonstration, and that the decisive battle with the revolutionists is to be fought in St. Petersburg before many days. In this city and its suburbs and on the frontier of Finland are concealed large quantities of revolutionary arms and ammunition. Eighty thousand laborers are expected to march on the capital from Narva and Revel at the appointed time. At present, however, the city is comparatively quiet.

Encounters with strikers in the suburbs have lately caused the death or injury of several hundred victims. The chief city surgeon, M. Rosen, says he examined the wounded and killed and found among them many schoolboys and young girls. This fact further affords proof of the cruelty of the Cossacks.

NO INTERVENTION.

Civil War in Santo Domingo No Affair of United States.

Washington, Dec. 27.—For the present there will not be any interference by the United States in the difficulty which has arisen in Santo Domingo. The trouble is regarded by the State department officials as entirely an internal one, and so long as outside interests are not menaced this attitude of non-intervention will be maintained.

If, however, conditions should change materially and lawless acts should be committed against Americans and American interests, involving the collection of the Dominican customs by this government, or other violence should occur which, in the opinion of the officials here would make it proper for this government to interfere, this step will be taken, and measures adopted to quell the trouble.

This decision was reached by State department officials during the day and was confirmed at a conference at the white house late this afternoon, in which the president and Secretaries Taft, Root and Bonaparte participated. The cabinet officers remained in the white house until nearly 6 o'clock. The gathering, however, was not called specifically for the purpose of discussing matters bearing on the developments in Santo Domingo, but to talk over a number of questions which the president was anxious to dispose of preliminary to his departure for an outing of several days in Virginia.

SMITH TO BE GOVERNOR.

Will Soon Succeed Wright in Philippine Possessions.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Despite denials and assurances recently credited to Governor General Luke E. Wright, there is no longer serious doubt of the administration's purpose to make a change in the head of the Philippine government. James F. Smith, formerly of San Francisco, now a member of the Philippine commission, is the man picked for the succession as governor general. His installation in the post is likely to be accomplished in the not distant future.

There is high authority for the statement that American prestige in the islands has waned seriously in the last year. The fact is hardly disputed by those familiar with conditions there. It was recognized by members of the Taft party, some of whom have expressed grave concern about it.

Abolish Hanging in Jersey.

New York, Dec. 27.—Assemblyman Berg, of New Jersey, has drafted a bill to abolish capital punishment in that state, and will go to Trenton tomorrow to ask Governor Stokes to grant reprieves to all condemned murderers until the legislature shall have acted on the question. If Governor Stokes accedes to the Assemblyman's request, two women, Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Lotta, and a man awaiting death in the Hackensack jail, and three men under sentences in other county jails, will be given reprieves until well into spring.

Big Factory Building Burns.

New York, Dec. 27.—Five alarms, summoning 32 fire companies and the reserves from nine police precincts, were sent out tonight for a blaze which completely gutted the six-story factory buildings, Nos. 102, 104, 106 Wooster street, entailing a damage estimated at \$300,000. Five firemen sustained slight injuries. No one was in the building when the fire started and its origin is unknown. Some insurance was carried.

China Makes Demands.

London, Dec. 27.—The correspondent of the Morning Post at Shanghai says that the Chinese foreign office has instructed the Chinese minister at London to negotiate with the British government regarding the mixed court dispute, to demand the dismissal of the British ambassador, and to insist on the punishment of the police concerned in the recent outbreak.

CAMPAIGN OPENED

Senators Plan Attack on Taft to Aid Own Candidates.

CRITICIZE HIS OFFICIAL RECORD

Outcry About Canal Salaries Will Be Followed by Crusade Against Philippine Administration.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Walter Wellman, in a dispatch from Washington to the Record-Herald, says in part: "Taft is next on our list. We're going after him as soon as congress reconvenes next month."

"So said a prominent Republican senator. He added that it was the intention of the leaders of the senate not only to continue their criticism of Panama management, but to take up the administration of Mr. Taft in the Philippines and subject it to rigid scrutiny. The meaning of this and of the whole course of the senate toward President Roosevelt and his associates in the executive branch of the government is that the presidential game of 1908 has already opened. There are candidates for the next Republican nomination in the senate, plenty of them, and they are already maneuvering to bowl out all aspirants for the nomination.

"Now comes the threat to 'make it warm for Taft.' It goes without saying that against the secretary personally no one has any harsh feeling. He is everywhere recognized as a man of great ability, of extraordinary sincerity and devotion to the public interest. He is noted also as the cheeriest, most refreshing, sweetest character in the public service at this time. As a man, almost everyone loves him. It is impossible to do otherwise.

"But Taft the man, and Taft the probable nominee of the Republicans for president in 1908 as a product and representative of the Roosevelt administration, are different, and the scheming, plotting, maneuvering, intriguing, senators would like to cut his comb."

FIGHT TO DEATH.

Russian Rebels and Troops Clash in Streets of Moscow.

Odessa, Dec. 26.—Russian soldiery is unable to overthrow the dauntless spirit of the Moscow townspeople, and despite superior arms, enormous advantages in military training and a complete supply of all warlike appliances, the troops are hardly holding their own. Fighting is now going on in every section of the city, and the dead number hundreds—some reports say thousands—and the end is not in sight.

A terrible slaughter of revolutionaries took place during Sunday night and early Monday, when the terrorists attempted to capture the enormous ammunition factories held by the soldiers. By order of General Mitchenko, the famous Cossack chieftain, who is now in command of the garrison, the artillery was instructed to mount rapid fire guns in every window and on the roof so that they would command all avenues of approach to the storehouses. The order was given that these rapid fire guns should not be unmasked until the people actually began breaking into the structures. The result was that the mob packed the open street in front when the signal was given to fire.

Immediately, as one, all of the wooden shutters fell back and withering volleys poured into the crowds, while the guns on the roofs were turned on the crowd that had been unable to get into the immediate vicinity. The carnage was something awful, according to private advices received here.

Justice Van Dyke is Dead.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 26.—After an illness of only 24 hours Justice Walter Van Dyke, of the Supreme court of California, died yesterday afternoon at his residence in East Oakland. The eminent jurist was stricken so suddenly that his life of 82 years had ended almost before there was a realization that he was ill. Justice Van Dyke was born at Tyre, Seneca county, New York, on October 3, 1823. He was admitted to the bar at Cleveland, O., in 1848, coming to California across the plains in 1849.

Bluejackets Guard Concessions.

Shanghai, Dec. 26.—The mixed court was reopened Saturday. The German assessor and armed foreign guards were present, but everything was normal. All is quiet today, but bluejackets and guards are still posted around the foreign concessions. There are rumors of another riot to occur tonight, but all precautions have been taken. Reports of Japanese complicity in the recent trouble are generally considered with out foundation.

Dowie's Mexican Deal Fails.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 26.—Manuel Gonzalez, with whom Alexander Dowie was negotiating for the purchase of plantations in Tamulipas for the Zion colony, has given out a lengthy statement in which he says Dowie wanted long time payments and other conditions, which were rejected.

Massacre Tartars.

London, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Evening Standard from Constantinople says that the Turkish consul at Batoum reports that the Armenians are massacring Tartars at the rate of 500 daily.

MACKENZIE PROMISES AID.

Recommends Total Appropriation of \$1,400,000 for Jetty.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Senators Fulton and Gearin today called on General MacKenzie, chief of engineers, in regard to the needs of the Columbia river jetty. General MacKenzie gave them renewed assurance of his friendliness and said he was doing everything in his power to secure money to keep work in progress.

He has recommended not only an appropriation of \$400,000 in cash, but has urged that authority be granted for the expenditure of an additional \$1,000,000. He explains that \$400,000 is required for "rocking" the jetty as far out as the end of the present tramway, but will not be ample for any extension. If authority can be secured for the expenditure of \$1,000,000 additional, it will be possible next season to push the jetty much farther seaward, and in fact approach the point where it is expected to end.

Major Roessler, in his report, recommended an appropriation of \$1,900,000 to complete the jetty. This is a higher figure than the previous estimate, but his estimate is reduced materially by the War department.

The Oregon senators will exert their best efforts to secure the appropriation recommended by General MacKenzie, and will furthermore insist upon the authorization of additional work to the extent of \$1,000,000. The other Northwestern senators and representatives will work in accord with them.

INVESTIGATES INSECT PESTS.

Government Solves Problems of Cotton and Wheatgrowers.

Washington, Dec. 26.—According to the annual report of L. C. Howard, in charge of the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture, the main work of the bureau for the past fiscal year, ended June 30, 1905, was in connection with the cotton boll weevil, the cotton boll worm, importation of beneficial insects from abroad, investigations of insects damaging forests and deciduous fruit trees, work on insects injurious to vegetable crops and effecting the great staple field crops, and work in silk and bee culture.

The investigations into the cotton boll worm were such that cotton planters will, it is stated, be enabled to control that injurious pest.

Experiments on a large scale, extending over practically the whole of the wheat growing area, have been looking toward the elucidation of certain as yet unsolved problems in the propagation of the Hessian fly and of the joint worms of wheat, and also to determine the best time to sow wheat in the autumn in order to ward off the autumn attack of the fly. Investigations of the same insect in the spring wheat regions have been begun, since only recently has the Hessian fly spread into this new country.

IRRIGATE YAKIMA RESERVE.

Jones' Plan to Secure Water and Admit White Settlers.

Washington, Dec. 26.—As the first step in the direction of adjusting conflicting water rights on the Yakima Indian reservation, Representative Jones will introduce a bill, when congress reconvenes, authorizing the Yakima Indians to sell 60 acres of their respective allotments, and directing the secretary of the interior to apply a portion of the proceeds to the purchase of water rights for the remaining 20 acres of each allotment.

The passage of this bill will permanently provide for the irrigation of Indian lands and at the same time open the way for the settlement of a large portion of the Yakima reservation. This Indian land has been selling for from \$40 to \$50 per acre, and a large surplus will be realized for the benefit of the Indians.

Indian Commissioner Leupp is in favor of this plan and will lend his assistance to secure its favorable consideration by congress.

New York Traction Merge.

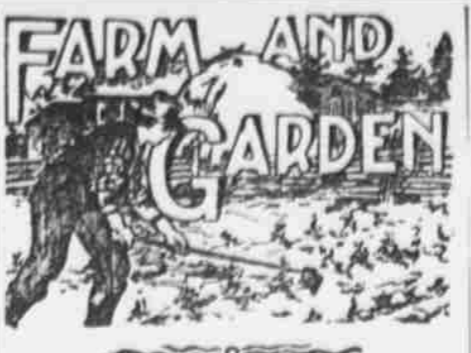
New York, Dec. 26.—A consolidation of the subway, elevated and surface traction lines of Manhattan island is believed to be probable, as a result of the sale of the interests of Thomas F. Ryan in the Metropolitan Street Railway system to August Belmont. The Metropolitan system includes practically all of the surface roads on the island, and Mr. Belmont is president of the Interborough Rapid Transit company, which operates the elevated roads and subway. The price paid was not made public.

Irish Leads May Get Together.

Dublin, Dec. 26.—William O'Brien is making overtures to the parliamentary party, led by John Redmond, for a working agreement and the adoption of a common line of action in the forthcoming general elections. The overtures have been received in a friendly spirit, but so far there has been no interview between the leaders. Mr. Redmond and John Dillon have issued an announcement that nothing has yet resulted from Mr. O'Brien's action.

Alfonso Betrothed at Last.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The Figaro this morning declares that a definite agreement has been reached between the British and Spanish governments regarding the betrothal of King Alfonso and Princess Ena of Battenberg, but that the official announcement will not be made for several weeks.



FARM AND GARDEN

Hoe Attachment.

American agricultural implements are known the world over as the best procurable, especially for saving time. This is true both as to the large appliances used on farms and the smaller garden implements. A Texas farmer is the inventor of a hoe attachment applicable to hand weeding or garden hoes of various forms and sizes. The attachment consists of a cutting blade, which is designed to be used in detaching growing vines and runners from the growing plants. The improved device comprises a weeding blade of the usual form, and connected to the handle by a shank which curves upward. Extending from the shank is a cutting blade, curved away from the handle and shank.

In using the implement the cutting blade is forced forward or away from the operator by a pushing motion, and by its peculiar form and position is very convenient for severing vines, runners, creepers and similar plant life from the stalks of the growing and valuable plants. The implement will also be found very convenient for chopping corn, or thinning cotton and

STALL AND FEED BACK.

A piece of 2x4 material to keep the bedding in place and the animal from stepping back into the gutter. The idea of the fence-like sides is to insure ventilation, and if any two animals are inclined to quarrel they can be separated by having an empty stall between or by building up higher the dividing fence. The illustration shows the idea perfectly.

Value and Use of Pomace.

Hatch experiment station has been experimenting with apple pomace to determine its value for feeding purposes, and the opinion reached is summarized as follows: Apple pomace is a carbohydrate feed similar to corn silage. It contains about the same amount of water, rather less protein and woody fiber and a larger proportion of non-nitrogenous matter. Experiments with six sheep have shown it to be about as digestible as the best grades of silage. Experiments with dairy animals show that twenty to thirty pounds daily can be fed to dairy animals with satisfactory results. It is not advisable to feed over ten pounds at first per day, gradually increasing until the maximum amount is reached. Thus fed, danger of a sudden milk shrinkage, or of animals getting "off feed" is avoided. It is believed that four pounds of pomace when fed in what has been termed a "balanced ration" is equivalent to one pound of good cow hay, and to 3 1/2 pounds of well-cared corn silage.

A Simple Saw Clamp.

This simple saw clamp can be made by anyone, and does not need any bolts or screws. The two clamps are made of 1-inch boards, 5 or 6 inches wide, beveled on top and then dressed down to nearly an edge at the bottom. The saw is placed in the clamps in

Amateur Mushroom Growing.

The Cornell experiment station has undertaken to tell amateurs how they may grow mushrooms for profit in a small way in old stables, available cellars and similar out-of-the-way places. The fundamental requisite is a dark room of uniform temperature, that is, one that does not go below 55 degrees or above 65 degrees, Fahrenheit. Considerable success was obtained in growing mushrooms in boxes under benches in a greenhouse, and under benches in a basement of the college buildings.

The beds, spawned Nov. 23, and covered with dirt a week later, produced the first of the crop Jan. 1, though the regular pickings did not begin until a week later. The boxes contained about 90 square feet of surface and yield at the rate of 2 pounds of mushrooms for each square foot.

A word of warning is included not to attempt to grow mushrooms in the cellar of a dwelling, as the odors arising from the compost in the beds is sure to permeate the living apartments, despite the best efforts to prevent it.

Protecting the Harness.

Every farmer appreciates that the expense for harnesses and for harness repairs is considerable during the year, hence should be pleased at the suggestion of some plan which will enable him to keep the harness in good condition. A harness should always be hung up. Here is a simple plan. Make three letter T's of strong but light lumber and especially making the cross bar strong. Fasten these to

FOR HANGING THE HARNESS.

a joint in a convenient place with the cross bar at the bottom. Simply use the arms on which to hang the different parts of the harness. If this arrangement is not easy to put in operation, then use hooks fastened to the ends of stout ropes, but arranging some way so that the ropes may be looped back over a hook or nail during the time they are not in use, so there will be no danger of any one being injured by them. The illustration shows both plans plainly. They are entirely practical and the use of either of them will add greatly to the long life of the harness.—Exchange.

Bolled Timber.

A new process has been discovered for warring against white ants, the pests of the tropical regions. These termites—as they are called—destroy the woodwork of the finest buildings within six months. Their action is insidious, says the London Mail, inasmuch as the outward appearance of the wood does not betray the rotteness within, and their ravages, if not discovered in time, lead to the total collapse of the buildings. Some time ago it was suggested experiments should be carried out by a London wood-process syndicate. Specimens were prepared and sent out to a number of tropical countries. After a somewhat protracted trial news has been received from the Madras presidency that the specimens sent there have successfully resisted the attacks of the white ants. The process improves, toughens and strengthens the wood. This is accomplished by boiling the timber in saccharine solution, and afterward drying it at a high temperature. A revolution in the export timber trade to tropical countries is probable, as in places where termites abound soft wood will be used instead of the more expensive varieties.

Fighting Weeds.

There is nothing which hold to the soil with such pertinacity as weeds. It is probable that the Egyptians are to-day fighting the same weeds which they were trying to exterminate by the aid of the Israelites when they were in bondage. We must always bear this in mind, that we manure and cultivate all the weeds we do not destroy. Eternal vigilance is the price we pay for the extermination of weeds.

