

THE ITEMS

SATURDAY JULY 4, 1903.

An exchange says the next republican campaign slogan will be: "Vote for Roosevelt and a full baby carriage."

The new King of Servia appears to be inclined to overlook the recent assassinations but it is understood that he is opposed to any continuation of the practice.

The scientific magazines which have contained articles speculating on the cause of the recent floods of the Mississippi and the Missouri have failed to convince the people of Kansas that they were caused by anything but water.

John Barrett, of Portland, ex-Minister to Siam, has been appointed Minister to Argentina to succeed ex-Governor Lord whose term expires October 16. Mr. Barrett is one of the commissioners of the St. Louis World's Fair and will continue his work until he assumes his new duties this Fall.

"After a hard struggle, tariff reform is directly before us. A reduction of tariff changes upon the necessities of life will bring benefits palpable and substantial, seen and felt by thousands who will be better fed and better clothed and better sheltered."—Grover Cleveland in 1893. And we all remember what happened.

The preliminary moves to take up the question of the Nicaragua Canal has apparently brought Columbia to her milk. At any rate advices advices are now received from the Isthmus that the interests which have heretofore been violently opposed to ratification are now gradually undergoing a decided change in sentiment.

There is some talk but no conclusions reached at Washington as to who will be National Chairman next year. It is assumed that Senator Hanna will likely desire to retire when the proper time comes. Senator Lodge has been mentioned as a probable selection but it is pointed that it may not be desirable to have a chairman who is in too close touch with the Presidential candidate as any decisive action might be construed as having been inspired. Suggestion has been made for some young man to take the management of the campaign but no young man has yet been suggested whose personality is sufficiently forceful to convince party men that he is the right man for the place. There is a year ahead yet however and ample opportunity to make selection.

"I had scrofula and cysipelas for eighteen years, until I heard . . ."

Or Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery," writes Mr. Hilary Koons, of Queens, W. Va. "When I commenced to take this medicine I weighed one hundred and thirty pounds. I have taken six bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and three vials of his Pleasant Pellets, and am glad to say I feel like a new man. I now weigh one hundred and seventy-five pounds. When I had used one bottle of the medicine I could feel it was helping me. I realize Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is the best medicine on earth."

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery purifies the blood and entirely eradicates the poisons that breed and feed disease. It cures scrofula, eczema, cysipelas, boils, pimplies and other eruptions that mar and scar the skin. Pure blood is essential to good health. The weak, run-down, debilitated condition which so many people experience is commonly the effect of impure blood. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery not only cleanses the blood of impurities, but it increases the activity of the blood-making glands, and it enriches the body with an abundant supply of pure, rich blood.

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An interesting ruling has just been made by Secretary Hitchcock, whereby lands are classed as non-mineral regardless of the fact that they bear mineral deposits, provided they have been surveyed and recorded as non-mineral by the government. It is further determined that if the surveyor's notes make no mention of the minerals that may subsequently be found upon the land, no investigation for the purpose of showing its mineral character will be had by the government, even though a protest be formally made and evidence offered.

ARID LAND NOT IN DEMAND

Department of the Interior Approved Two Applications.

Salem, June 19.—The rush which was made over a year ago for land under the arid land law is not in evidence this year. Only a very few applications for arid land contracts have been received in the last six months, and all of these are for small tracts which will be occupied reclaimed and cultivated by the applicants. Only two of the applications for large tracts have been approved by the Department of the Interior. One of these is the application of the Portland company organized by W. E. Burke, which company has a contract for the reclamation of about 8000 acres northeast of Malheur Lake. This tract is entirely included within the region recently withdrawn from entry by the department with a view to examining it to ascertain whether a suitable site exists for the construction of large irrigation works by the Government.

The other application approved is that of the Pilot Butte Development Company, which has secured some 87,000 acres near the headwaters of the Deschutes, from which stream the water for irrigating the land will be taken. This is the Company organized by A. M. Drake. Among the applications pending are those of the Oregon Development Company for 78,000 acres near the headwaters of the Deschutes; the Three sisters Company, for 27,600 acres, between the Deschute and the Cascade Mountains, and the Harney Valley Improvement Company, for 69,000 near Malheur Lake, in Harney County. A part of the application of the Oregon Development Company has been rejected on the ground that the land is timbered and can not properly be classed as arid land.

There is a contest pending over the application of the Harney Valley Improvement Company. The Pacific Livestock Company has filed a protest alleging that water cannot be had for reclamation purposes without infringing upon the rights of riparian owners and prior appropriations. The land desired by this company is also largely withdrawn from settlement with a view to the construction of irrigation works by the Government. The land lies just north of Malheur Lake and close to that secured by the Portland company.

The state arid land law requires that the reclamation company shall within one year after the signing of a contract by the Department of the interior, expend 10 per cent of the necessary cost of reclaiming the land. Only one contract is a year old. That of the Portland Company was signed by the Secretary of the Interior on April 12, 1902. There is nothing on record here to show what work has been done by that company, but it is known that work has been commenced on the land secured by Mr. Burke's company.

The law does not require that any report shall be made, but gives the State Land board authority to cancel a contract if the reclamation company fails to perform its agreement.

The contract with the Pilot Butte Company was signed February 13, 1903, and that company has about eight months yet in which to make 10 per cent of its total investment.

BULKY POST CARDS.

Ping-Pong Balls and Other Articles in the Mails.

Banknotes Employed as Writing Paper by Extravagant or Foolish Persons—The Message of a Dying Soldier.

The use of ping-pong balls as post cards is the latest freak of seekers for novelty.

It started in Liverpool quite recently, and despite its obvious disadvantages, is spreading in England. The principal result is much unhappiness to the postman and a recent new regulation in some places forbidding all such unhandy missives.

The balls were stamped, an address written under the stamp, and the message scrawled on the rest of the surface. These clumsy and bulky post cards were posted in Liverpool by the thousands and gave the post office authorities an immense amount of extra work, says Hearst's Chicago American.

Among those idle people who from time to time have wasted their superfluous energies in testing the forbearance of the postal officials, is a man in Southampton, England, whose favorite form of missive used to be a postage stamp. But as he wrote the address on the face of the stamp, the authorities decided that they were not bound to deliver them. It was probably the same person who afterward posted a complete pack of playing cards, each neatly addressed on the back, but with no message whatever on the colored side.

Another very peculiar letter found in a London pillar-box last autumn was a green apple on one side of which was cut an address, and on the other the simple, but expressive message: "Sour—like you."

Bank notes have been employed as writing paper more than once by extravagant or foolish persons. Among the effects of an English miser who died about 15 years ago was found a £5 note on which the deceased had written directions as to the disposal of his property. At Hampstead there lived until recently a wealthy bachelor of whom it was said that he once wrote a proposal of marriage to a lady on the back of a £50 note, and because it was sent back without a word of comment by the recipient, refused ever afterward to have anything to do with the fair sex.

Whiting paper, or, indeed, paper of any kind, is usually at a premium among soldiers on active service. Many very curious substitutes came from the British soldiers in South Africa. One of the commonest has been mealie leaves. "Mealie" is the South African name for maize. Round the maize cob grow a number of strong enveloping sheaths, which, when dry, turn to a pale yellow color and can then be written upon.

After Colenso there was found grasped in the stiffened hands of a dead soldier a piece of leather with a dying message scrawled upon it with a stump of pencil. It was a layer of the sole of the dead man's boot, which had probably been loosened with much marching, and which he had contrived to rip off. It safely reached the poor fellow's family in England.

From the Philippines, too, some curious letters have been received by the friends of American soldiers fighting in those islands. One of the most ingenious was a piece of native bamboo, about a foot long, on which an address had been carved with penknife. The letter was inside this hollow tube, and held there by wooden pins at each end. The writer explained that he had found it impossible to get an envelope or to find any gum to make one, so had had recourse to this expedient.

The ceiling of a room is, as a rule, so far out of ordinary reach that the idea of using it for writing on seems strange. But in a case tried last year in England it transpired that a landlady had been in the habit of using her ceiling in lieu of a rent-book. Upon it were inscribed the various amounts received from her lodgers. As it was, of course, impossible to bring this strange rent book into court, a certified copy had to be made for the use of the judge.

Preserving Dead Bodies. The success in preserving dead bodies that has been achieved by a Naples surgeon, Dr. E. Manini, has excited the wonder of European physicians. He uses a series of special baths, without incisions or injections. The first of the three stages of provisional desiccation, which keeps the body in a condition for ready dissection by the anatomist; the second is petrifaction, giving the hardness of marble in a few hours, and the third is the restoration of natural color, flexibility and freshness, so that the subject appears to be simply sleeping.—Chicago Chronicle.

Blind Woodsawyers. The woodsmen of Atlanta, Ga., 200 in number, have formed a trust and have raised the price of sawing stove-wood from 75 cents to one dollar per day. Every member of the organization is a blind man or a cripple.—Chicago Journal.

Both In and Out. Borroughs—is Mr. Lenders in? Office Boy (who has been "posted")—No, he's out.

"Well, just run in and tell him he's out more than he thought. I came to return \$10 I borrowed last week. Good day."—Philadelphia Press.

WHAT IT WAS. Madge—Dolly seems to be worrying over something.

Marjorie—Yes, she sat on the beach all day yesterday, and doesn't know yet whether she will tan or blister.—N. Y. Sun.

The Chicago Weekly Inter Ocean is the only weekly newspaper published in Chicago in connection with the great daily papers. It contains a judiciously selected summary of the news of the nation and world, the best stories, home, farm, woman's, and other special departments, and fair, patriotic, able editorials, written from a Republican viewpoint. It is by far the best general newspaper of the Western States. The regular price for the Weekly Inter Ocean is \$1.00 and for the Harney Valley Items \$1.50, but subscriptions will be received at this office for the two papers in combination for one year for only \$1.50.

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The Civil Service Commission has notified every Senator and Representative in Congress that examinations will be held all over the United States on July 29, 30 and 31, to provide an eligible list from which President Roosevelt is to appoint eight or ten cadets to the revenue cutter service. In Oregon the examinations will be held at Portland, Astoria, Salem, and Baker City.

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