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POSTAL MATTERS.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POSTOFFICE SYSTEM.

Rules and Regulations of General Application and Interest—Rates of Postage—Local Information.

Those who at the present day are enjoying the beneficent and almost unlimited advantages afforded directly and indirectly by the postal system of the world, can hardly bring themselves to a comprehension of what the world would be without this grand feature and agent of our civilization. It seems hardly possible that so necessary an agency for the welfare and happiness of mankind could have had an existence but for so few recent centuries, yet the rapid strides which have taken place in the improvement of the service, within the memory of the present generation, recalls that even fifty years ago the postal facilities were so crude and limited, that, compared with what we now enjoy, they were like the primitive ox-cart beside the lightning railroad trains and palace drawing-room coach.

The name Postoffice originated in the use of posts placed at intervals along the highways of the Roman Empire, where couriers were stationed in readiness to carry dispatches and intelligence between public officials of different localities. No private correspondence or service was for a long time conducted. The first letter post appears to have been established in the Hanse towns, in the thirteenth century. A line of letter posts soon followed between Austria and Lombardy, and another connecting Vienna and Brussels. The descendents of the royal families which established these lines still enjoy certain prescriptive rights to them, and are recognized under the present German postal system. From this vague beginning, the methods of carrying written communications between different localities slowly increased and improved until in the fifteenth century a foreign post for carrying letters between London and the continent was established.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SYSTEM.

In America the Postoffice was established by the Colony of Massachusetts in 1639, and in the Virginian Colony eighteen years afterwards. In 1672 the commercial relations between the Colonies were regarded as having become so important that a monthly post was established between Boston and New York. One of the first Acts of the Continental Congress was the establishment of a postal system, and Benjamin Franklin became the first United States Postmaster-General. Up to 1845, however, the rate of postage was so high that letter-writing was limited, and the missives which were written were perhaps more frequently transmitted by private hand or express, than through Uncle Sam's high tariff mail-bags. In that year, what was then called cheap postage was adopted, and immediately the increase in mail matter became very great, and under subsequent reduction in rates, and the marvelous increase of population, the postal system has become, perhaps, the grandest institution under our Government, reaching to every nook and hamlet, and, between leading points, carried on lightning special trains, bearing nothing but United States mail. Such a system, so well and efficiently maintained as at present, is a representative branch of the great unity of our free institutions, the contemplation of which may well make all who live beneath them, and enjoy their advantages, feel nobly proud.

In this connection, a glance at the general postal system of the United States, the rules and regulations at present in force, together with the immense volume of transactions, will be of interest, and to those who do not live in cities and towns, where they can readily apply to Postmasters for specific information, will also be of much value. The following has been obtained from Postmaster R. D. Stephens, and is by him furnished by latest official sources:

ORGANIZATION OF THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Postmaster-General—William F. Vilas, Wisconsin.

First Assistant Postmaster-General—Adlia E. Stevenson, Illinois.

Second Assistant Postmaster-General—A. Leo Knott, Maryland.

Third Assistant Postmaster-General—A. D. Hazen, Pennsylvania.

Superintendent Money Order System—Charles F. McDonald, Massachusetts.

Superintendent Foreign Mails—Nicholas M. Bell, Missouri.

Superintendent Railway Mail Service—John Jameson, Wisconsin.

Assistant Attorney-General for the Postoffice Department—Edwin E. Bryant, Wisconsin.

Auditor—D. McConoille. Ohio.

POSTOFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The whole number of postoffices in the United States is 51,252, divided into four classes, as follows: First, 70; second, 382; third, 1,781 (Presidential offices); fourth, 49,019; total, 51,252. The total number of postoffices in the United States, in 1875, was 35,547, showing an increase in ten years of 15,705. In California we have 999 offices, divided into four classes, as follows: First class, 4; second class, 5; third class, 52; total number of Presidential offices, 61; fourth class, 938; total, 999. In the year 1875 we had in California 731 offices, which shows an increase of 268 offices in ten years.

Pennsylvania has the largest number of postoffices of any State in the Union, numbering 3,894; New York coming next, numbering 3,157. There are twenty-one States having a larger number of offices than California, and twenty-seven Ssates and Territories having a smaller number.

The total amount of revenue derived from all sources for the year ending June 30, 1885, was $42,560,843 83, divided as follows: Postage, $40,056,226 69; box rents, $2,095,683 84; money order business, $408,933 30; total, $42,560,843 83; expenditures, $50,942,415 24; total net deficiency, $8,381,571 41. The total revenue derived for the year ending June 30, 1883, was $45,508,692 61; expenditures, $44,475,459 44; total net surplus, $1,033,233 17. The difference in the pecuniary result of the service, realized during the two years, amounts to $9,414,804 58. The difference is due first to the decrease of revenue caused chiefly from the diminishment in the rate of letter postage from three to two cents upon the half ounce, amounting to $2,947,848 78. Secondly, to an increase of the expenditures, caused principally from the extension of the service, amounting to $6,466,955 80; total, $9,414,804 58.

FREE DELIVERY.

The total number of cities enjoying the carrier-delivery service is 178. The number of carriers employed in the service is 4,358. The average compensation paid the carriers is $912 90 per year each. The cost of the service for the year ending June 30, 1885, amounted to $3,985,952 55. The postage upon local mail matter at the carrier delivery offices (from which the carriers are paid) amounted to $5,281,721 10, exceeding the cost of the service by $1,295,768 55. The great labor performed by the carriers may be conceived from the fact that 1,744,537,413 pieces of mail matter were collected and delivered in all, an average to each carrier of 400,307, an increase of 1.08 per cent over the preceding year. The average cost per piece was 2.3 mills, the same as the preceding year.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

On the 30th day of June, 1866, the mails were carried over but 32,092 miles of railroad. The number of miles on the 30th day of June, 1885, was 121,032.

The number of postal clerks in the service on June 30, 1885, were 4,387, whose aggregate annual salary amounted to $4,364,744. The average annual salary per clerk was $994 93.

The total annual miles of railway postal service by clerks was 96,401,800. The average annual distance run by each postal clerk was 40,167 miles. The number of pieces of mail handled by postal clerks were 4,964,673,577; average daily number pieces handled by each clerk, 3,424. Total number of errors in distribution, 887,704; average annual number of errors made by each postal clerk, 223. The total number of miles of steamboat mail service was 6,781.19. Total annual miles of service, 2,063,864.

Total number of casualties, 102. Number of clerks killed, 2; seriously injured, 35; slightly injured, 65.

RATES OF POSTAGE, ETC.

First Class—Letters, and all other written matter, whether sealed or unsealed, and all other matter sealed, nailed, sewed, tied, or fastened in any manner, so that it cannot be easily examined, two cents per ounce or fraction thereof. Postal cards, one cent each. Postal cards are unmailable with any writing or printing on the address side, except the direction, or with anything pasted upon or attached to them.

Second Class—Newspapers and periodical publications when sent by publishers or news agents, one cent a pound or fraction thereof. Newspapers and periodical publications sent by persons other than the publishers and news agents, one cent for every four ounces or fraction thereof.

Third Class—Printed matter, in unsealed wrappers only (all matter inclosed in sealed envelopes notched on the sides or corners must pay letter rates), one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, which must be fully prepaid. This includes books, circulars, chromos, hand-bills, engravings, lithographs, magazines, music, newspapers, pamphlets, proof-sheets and manuscript accompanying the same, reproductions by the electric pen, hektograph, metallograph, papyrograph, and, in short, any reproduction upon paper by any process, except handwriting, type-writing and the copying press, not in the nature of a personal correspondence. Limit of weight, four pounds, except for a single book, which may weigh more. Third-class matter must be fully prepaid or it will not be forwarded.

Fourth Class—All mailable matter not included in the three preceding classes which is so prepared for mailing as to be easily withdrawn from the wrapper and examined. Rate, one cent per ounce or fraction thereof. Limit of weight four pounds. Full prepayment compulsory.

Rates of Postage to Canada—(The Dominion of Canada embraces all the British North American provinces except Newfoundland).

Letters and Postal Cards—Same rates and conditions of prepayment of postage as for domestic letters and postal cards.

Other Matter—Same rates and conditions of transmission as for matter for delivery within the United States, except that merchandise is rigidly excluded. Samples of merchandise are mailable, but they must not exceed eight ounces in weight, and are subject to a postage of 10 cents each. They must also be strictly specimens of goods for sale.

Rates of Postage to Postal Union Countries—Letters, five cents per half ounce or fraction thereof (fifteen grams being the postal equivalent of half an ounce.) Postal cards, two cents each. Registration fee, ten cents. Printed matter and samples of merchandise, one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

Rates to Other Foreign Countries—For rates of postage, conditions of prepayment, limit of size and weight, and manner of wrapping matter addressed to other foreign countries, ask your postmaster, who is furnished with a monthly "Official Postal Guide," containing all necessary information on this subject.

Unmailable Matter.—Obscene books, papers, pictures and postal cards; lottery circulars and letters; liquids, gunpowder and other explosives; live reptiles, animals and insects (except queen bees); poisons; any article liable to injure the mails or the persons of those handling them.

Weighing Packages.—If you have no scales, have all packages weighed at the Postoffice. Postage must be prepaid in full or the package will not be forwarded.

Letters will be re-forwarded from one Postoffice to another upon the written request of the person addressed, without additional postage; but packages of third and fourth-class matter cannot be forwarded or returned without a new payment of postage.

UNMAILABLE MATTER.

Liquids, poisons, canned goods containing liquid, explosive and inflammable articles, fatty substances easily liquefiable, live or dead animals (not stuffed), live insects and reptiles, fruits or vegetable matter liable to decomposition, comb honey, pastes or confections, guano and other substances exhaling a bad odor, ink powders, red pepper, oils, ointments, soft soap and articles of similar consistency, will, under no circumstances, be admitted to the mails. Candy or confectionery, dried fruit, loaded pistols or revolvers cannot be sent in the mails, but pistols when not loaded, or when sent in detached parts, may be sent in the mails, if put up in accordance with Section 223, Postoffice Laws and Rules. So may "queen bees" or dried insects, if put up so as neither to injure the person of any one handling the mails nor soil the pouches or their contents.

MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

The money order system was inaugurated in the United States 20 years ago. During the first fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, the money order system was established at 766 postoffices. There are now 7,355, nearly ten times as many.

The number of domestic money orders issued during the year ending June 30, 1885, was 7,725,893, amounting to $117,858,921 27. The number paid during the same period was 7,712,913, amounting to $117,996,205 06. The total amount of fees received from the public was $923,930 85.

The number of postal notes issued was 5,058,287, valued at $9,996,274 37. The number paid was 5,012,097, valued at $9,948,023 80. The amount of fees received from the public was $152,018 58.

The net proceeds of the money order business for the year ending June 30, 1885, was $408,933 20. The total amount drawn in the United States on foreign countries, covering the same period of time, was 448,921 orders, amounting to $6,840,358 47. Drawn in foreign countries and paid in the United States, 202,362 orders, amounting to $4,036,616 90, showing that there was $2,803,741 57 more sent out of the United States than received.

The following table shows the amount sent and received from other countries:

Countries.	Sent.	Received.	Balance in favor of United States.	Bal. in favor of Foreign Countries.
Canada	$831,715 08	$1,276,482 70	$444,767 62	
Great Britain	2,091,526 16	1,634,267 59		$457,258 57
Germany	1,658,285 60	1,115,499 44		542,786 16
Switzerland	283,949 69	167,550 95		116,398 74
Italy	585,847 51	551,510 75		34,336 76
France	141,734 45	82,834 78		58,899 67
Jamaica	2,834 07	51,041 83	48,207 36	
New Zealand	4,473 20	23,699 06	19,456 86	
New South Wales	5,231 76	16,369 44	11,137 68	
Victoria	3,223 20	15,861 98	12,638 78	
Belgium	20,961 93	28,497 69	7,535 76	
Portugal	5,771 77	3,487 01	2,284 76	
Tasmania	94 64	1,101 91	1,007 27	
India	1,022 75	5,084 58	4,061 83	
Hawaiian	2,296 95	125,988 88	123,691 93	
Queensland	665 38	5,110 83	4,444 45	
Cape Colony	1,935 13	10,939 96	9,004 83	
Newfoundland Islands	15,520 46	8,393 73		7,126 73
Sweden		9,558 32	9,558 32	
Totals	$6,840,358 47	$8,996,616 96	$8,495,901 96	$692,160 39

The money-order business for the year ending December 31, 1885, is as follows: Money-orders issued, 10,439; postal notes issued, 5,346; valued at $185,677 31; money orders paid, 26,293; postal notes paid, 11,936; valued at $446,007 98; total number of transactions, 54,014, valued at $631,685 29. Rates of commission or fees charged for the issue of all international money orders are as follows:

For sums not exceeding $10 ..... 10 cents.
Over $10 and not exceeding $20 ..... 20 cents.
Over $20 and not exceeding $30 ..... 30 cents.
Over $30 and not exceeding $40 ..... 40 cents.
Over $40 and not exceeding $50 ..... 50 cents.

The fees or charges for domestic money-orders are:

Not exceeding $10 ..... 8 cents.
Exceeding $10 and not exceeding $15 ..... 10 cents.
Exceeding $15 and not exceeding $30 ..... 15 cents.
Exceeding $30 and not exceeding $40 ..... 20 cents.
Exceeding $40 and not exceeding $50 ..... 25 cents.
Exceeding $50 and not exceeding $60 ..... 30 cents.
Exceeding $60 and not exceeding $70 ..... 35 cents.
Exceeding $70 and not exceeding $80 ..... 40 cents.
Exceeding $80 and not exceeding $100 ..... 45 cents.

Twenty-five Postoffices, including some of the largest offices in northern California, and the State of Nevada, deposit their surplus money-order funds with the Postmaster at Sacramento, aggregating about $300,000 per year.

REGISTERED MATTER.

The fee on registered matter, domestic or foreign, is ten cents for each letter or parcel, to be affixed in stamps, in addition to the postage. Full prepayment of postage and fee is required. Two or more letters or parcels addressed to, or intended for, the same person cannot be tied or otherwise fastened together and registered as one.

Postmasters and their employes are forbidden to address a registered letter or package for the sender, to place contents therein, to seal it, or to affix the stamps thereto. This must in all cases be done by the sender, or for him by some other person.

The total number of letters and parcels registered for the year ending June 30, 1885, was 11,043,256; fees received, $928,898 40. The total registered in California was 288,144; fees received, $25,427 80.

The following are the prices paid the American Bank Note Company, of New York, who has the contract for four years, beginning July 1, 1885, for the printing of stamps: Ordinary postage stamps, per 1,000, 6.99 cents; newspaper and periodical stamps, per 1,000, 18 cents; postage due stamps, per 1,000, 8.49 cents; special delivery stamps, per 1,000, 18 cents. Postal cards are manufactured by C. C. Woolworth, of Albany, New York, at a cost of 47.71 cents per 1,000 for one cent, and 40 censs per 1,000 for two-cent cards.

The following is a summary of the operations of the stamp division, showing sales of stamps during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1885:

	No. Stamps.	Value.
Ordinary stamps	1,465,122,935	$28,429,628 00
Newspaper stamps	2,717,314	2,047,268 50
Stamped envelopes	279,168,000	5,773,257 54
Due stamps	12,607,741	308,492 60
Newspaper wrappers	43,582,500	506,705 00
Postal cards	339,416,500	3,394,965 00
Total	2,142,615,890	$40,460,316 04

The weight of newspaper and periodical (second class) matter mailed during the year from regular offices of publication, and from news agencies, not including free circulation within the country of publication, was 101,057,963 pounds, or 50,528,963 tons, the postage on which was $2,021,159 26.

SACRAMENTO POSTAL MATTERS.

The total number of pieces handled by carriers at the Sacramento office for the year ending June 30, 1885, was 1,434,257, divided as follows: Letters, 870,812; postal cards, 136,771; newspapers, 424,406; registers, 2,262. Total, 1,434,257.

Cost of the service at the Sacramento office covering the same period of time, $6,512 93; cost per piece (in mills), 4.5; cost per carrier, $814 11; postage on local matter, $2,241 39; number of carriers employed, 8 (increased to 9 since June 30, 1885).

The postal receipts for the month of January, 1886, were as follows: Stamps, $2,611 37; envelopes, $1,079 50; box rent, $418; total, $4,108 87. Expenses for the month, $2,337 98.

Number of money orders and postal notes issued for the month, 1,571; amount received, $14,027 85. Number of money orders and postal notes paid, 2,533; amount paid, $26,626 07. Total number of money orders and postal notes, 4,104; total amount received and paid, $40,653 92.

The amounts paid for rents of Postoffice buildings in California are as follows: Los Angeles, $900 per year; Oakland, $900 per year; Sacramento, $2,000 per year; San Diego, $480 per year; Stockton, $1 per year. The business men of Stockton lease the present Postoffice building at that place to the Government for $1 per year, in order to keep it at its present location.

OUR CARRIERS.

SACRAMENTO CARRIERS' REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1886.

Numbers.	Names.	Number Registered.	Mail Letters. Received.	Mail Letters. Returned.	Mail Postals. Received.	Mail Postals. Returned.	Local Letters. Received.	Local Letters. Returned.	Local Postals. Received.	Local Postals. Returned.	Papers, Etc. Received.	Papers, Etc. Returned.	Collections. Mail.	Collections. Drop.	Collections. Postals.	Collections. Papers.
1	Mott	52	8,906	17	629	1	537	1	448	0	4,724	0	1,864	135	266	242
2	Phelps	44	6,277	11	567	0	495	0	417	0	5,094	0	891	93	90	113
3	Wertz	45	6,194	13	486	0	378	0	358	0	4,375	0	2,115	216	441	215
4	Altman	47	5,565	8	595	0	294	0	169	0	4,919	0	1,695	99	382	215
5	Butler	46	4,194	12	286	0	251	0	157	0	2,811	0	3,553	323	550	686
6	Cochrane	15	2,429	3	231	0	254	0	162	0	2,663	0	5,792	361	1,280	400
7	Smith	9	2,631	3	173	0	135	0	187	0	3,958	0	7,764	698	1,045	700
8	River	7	1,097	1	130	1	125	1		0	1,671	0	3,737	424	449	262
Totals		325	48,630	20	3,042	1	3,045	1	2,523	0	38,390	0	18,132	2,167	4,174	2,121

LOCATION AND TIME OF COLLECTIONS FROM STREET BOXES.

Third and M, Second and M, Second and K, Second and J, Sixth and J, Seventh and I, Eighth and J, Tenth and K, Seventh and K and Sixth and K. Three collections—4:30 A. M., 12:05 P. M. and 3:30 P. M.

Depot, Third and O, Second and Q, Sixth and O, Sixth and M, Ninth and M, Ninth and O, Twelfth and O, Fifteenth and O, Eighteenth and N, Twentieth and H, Seventeenth and H, Fourteenth and H, Thirteenth and K, Sixteenth and K, Twentieth and K, Ninth and H, Eleventh and H, Twelfth and E, Tenth and F, Eighth and F, State Capitol. Two collections—4:30 A. M. and 12:05 P. M.

Twentieth and O, Twenty-fifth and O, Twenty-eighth and M, Twenty-sixth and H, Twenty-third and H, Third and S, Tenth and S, Tenth and Y, Twenty-first and T, Twenty-ninth and J. One collection—8 A. M. (Sundays excepted).

Total number of boxes, forty-two.

Average number of miles per day per carrier, eighteen.

SAN FRANCISCO STOCK SALES.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 5, 1886

MORNING SESSION.

Ophir ..... 60@50c
Mexican 49c
G. & C. 85c
B. & B. 85c
Con. C. Va ..... 2 85@2 80
Savage ..... 1 15@1 20
Choller 1 00
Potosi 35c
do...assessed 30c.
H. & N. 2 45
Jacket 90c
S. Nev. 75c
Union 35c
Andes 15c
Navajo 10c
Bodie 1 65
Syndicate 15c
Mono 3 80
Peerless 15c

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mono 3 80
Con. Pacific 25c
Peer 5c
Peerless ..... 15@10c
Ophir 55c
Mexican 35c
G. & C. 80c
Weldon 5c
B. & B. 85c
C. C. Va ..... 2 75@2 70
Savage ..... 1 20@1 15
Choller 1
H. & N. ..... 2 45@2 50
Union 85c
Ophir 75c
Exchequer 15c
Union 30c
S. King 8 00
do—dividend, 25c

WASHINGTON.

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Silver Question—Fred. Douglass—The President and Garland—Liquor Traffic.

[SPECIAL BY TELEGRAPH TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

The Alcoholic Liquor Traffic.

WASHINGTON, February 5th. — Senator Blair, from the Committee on Education and Labor, reported favorably Frye's bill to provide for the appointment by the President of a commission of five persons to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic. It provides that the members shall be selected solely with reference to their personal fitness and capacity for honest, impartial and thorough investigation. It stipulates that all of them shall not be advocates of prohibitory legislation or of total abstinence, and that they shall serve without salary. Their duties shall be to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic, its relations to revenue and taxation, and its general economy, its criminal, moral and scientific aspects in connection with pauperism, crimes, social bearing, public health and the general welfare of the people; to inquire and take testimony as to the practical results of license and prohibitory legislation for the prevention of intemperance in the several States, and to report the result of the investigation to the President, to be transmitted to Congress. It appropriates $10,000 for expenses of the investigation.

Volunteer Cavalry of Arizona and New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—The House Committee on Military Affairs, by a vote of 6 to 1, passed favorably upon Representative Laird's bill for the protection of the people of Arizona and New Mexico. It provides for the raising of one regiment of volunteer cavalry in each Territory for one year's service, to be composed of and officered by the actual residents of the Territories named. Two Mexican ponies are to be furnished each officer and soldier, and whenever these are insufficient to make vigorous pursuit of the hostile Indians, the regimental Quartermasters are authorized to supply the deficiency from any herds accessible, without delay of advisement or inspection, giving vouchers for such animals as may be taken from private citizens. Pack animals are to be provided as means for the transportation of supplies, in addition to the Government wagon trains.

The Administration's Silver Views.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—The Cabinet meeting yesterday was attended by all the members except Secretary Lamar, who is not in good health. The principal topic of discussion was the action of the House of Representatives in adopting Mr. Bland's resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information in regard to his past and future policy on the silver question. The propriety and expediency of disclosing the future policy of the Administration on this question was considered at length. It is understood that the conclusion reached was that the Secretary could but reply to that portion of the resolution by reference to the views expressed by the President in his message to Congress, and by the Secretary of the Treasury in his annual report on the subject, with an explanatory statement that their sentiments in regard to silver remained unchanged.

Democratic Silver Men.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—Representative Bland, voicing the opinion of the silver Democrats of the House, desires to correct an impression which, he says, was created on Wednesday last by the vote against Hewitt's motion to commit, with instructions, the resolution and report from the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, calling for information as to the silver circulation. He says that of 90 votes for the motion, 30 were Republican and 60 Democrats, while of the 164 votes against it, 86 were cast by Democrats, showing a majority of 20 Democrats against the motion. He further says: "There were many Democrats who are silver men who voted for the Hewitt motion because they doubted the propriety of asking the Secretary of the Treasury to define his future policy as to silver payments."

Fred. Douglass' Position.

NEW YORK, February 5th.—A *Tribune's* Washington special says: The resignation of Fred. Douglass has been in the hands of the President for several weeks. He was given to understand that his successor would be appointed on the expiration of his term. There are a number of applications for the office of Recorder of Deeds. The income of the Recorder has been grossly exaggerated. Colonel Lamont says the place is possibly worth $3,500 a year. George W. Weston, the present Librarian of the Senate, is the most prominent candidate mentioned. He is a Democrat, and strongly recommended by the Senators belonging to both parties.

The President Will Stand by Garland.

NEW YORK, February 5th.—The *Commercial's* Washington special says: The President has determined to stand by the Attorney-General in the telephone matter, and Garland's withdrawal from the Cabinet will now depend entirely upon his own wishes. The editor of a New York paper, which has been the constant advocate of the Administration, but has attacked this telephone scandal vigorously, called upon the President, and Cleveland argued at length with him in behalf of Garland. He is reported as saying that while not convinced by Cleveland's argument, his defense of the Attorney-General was the best that has yet been made.

To Investigate the Yellow Fever.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—The House Committee on Commerce to-day agreed to report favorably a bill for the appointment of a commission of three to visit Mexico and the Central American States, for the purpose of investigating the methods pursued in those countries for the protection of the people against yellow fever. The bill provides that two members of the Commission shall be appointed from among persons now in the Government employ and the third from civil life.

To be Decapitated.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—Commissioner Sparks, of the General Land Office, is said to be much displeased with the work of special agents in his bureau who are located in the various Territories, and whose duty it is to detect frauds upon the public land laws. He has determined to remove the special agents in Wyoming and Washington Territories, on the ground of incompetency. The agent in the latter Territory is John G. Thompson, a former leader of the Democracy in Ohio, and ex-Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives.

The Killing of Captain Crawford.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—Senor Romero, the Mexican Minister at Washington, has received from the Governor of the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, an official report of the unfortunate encounter which the Mexican forces had with the United States troops commanded by Captain Crawford, in the mountains of Bavis, Chihuahua, on the 11th ultimo. It is stated in the report that the Mexican force, commanded by Major Carredor, arrived on that day at a place called Tiopar, in the Sierra Bavis, where they knew that the Apache Indians which had revolted under the leadership of Geronimo were. The Mexicans fired on the United States troops, in the belief that they were hostiles. In the fight which ensued, Major Mauricie Carredor, First Lieutenant Juan de la Cruz and privates Mariaina Madid and Luz Estrada were killed, and four other soldiers wounded; that as soon as the Mexican forces found out that they were firing on United States soldiers they stopped firing, and expressed to the latter their regret at the losses occasioned to both commands. The report gives as an excuse for the above mistake, the difficulty of distinguishing the renegade Indians from the scouts.

The United States Marshalship for California.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—Representative Henley is unable to obtain any assurance from the President regarding the appointment of United States Marshal for California. The term of the present incumbent expires on the 20th of this month. In event of no appointment being made before that date, Justice Field, in the exercise of the authority reposed in him as Supreme Judge of the California District, will appoint John C. Maynard to the office. Of course Mr. Maynard, if appointed by Judge Field, would hold the office only until such time as the President should designate some person as its permanent incumbent. Henley still urges the appointment of Woltskill, but he would prefer that Pat. White should receive the appointment rather than it be given to Maynard.

Morrow's Chinese Bill.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—A favorable report from the sub-committee to which was referred Mr. Morrow's bill to further restrict the immigration of the Chinese is expected next week. The bill will be reported to the House much sooner than was expected when it was introduced, and no doubt of its passage, when it is reached in the regular course of business, is entertained by members of the delegation.

United States Senate.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—On Harrison's motion this morning business was laid aside and the Dakota bill taken up.

A long discussion ensued, participated in by Butler, McMillan, Logan and others, at the close of which the bill reported from the committee was passed—ayes 32, noes 22.

The only Democrat voting in the affirmative was Voorhees. The negative votes were all Democratic. [The bill divides the Territory of Dakota on the line of the 46th parallel of latitude, and provides for the admission of the southern portion as a State, under the title of Dakota, and the organization of the northern portion into a separate Territory, under the name of "Lincoln."]

Payne presented the credentials of the re-election of Senator Sherman, which were read and filed.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, February 5th. — The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President transmitting the response of the Secretary of the Interior to the House resolution, calling for copies of any contract or lease between the Southern Pacific Railway Company and any land-grant road, and the Pacific Steamship Company and any land-grant road. Referred.

At 12:50 the House went into Committee of the Whole on the private calender.

The committee remained in session until 3:40, when it rose and reported various bills to the House, leaving the Fitz John Porter bill standing at the head of the calendar.

On motion of Laird of Nebraska, a resolution was adopted, making the Fitz John Porter bill a continuing special order from Thursday, the 11th inst., until Thursday, the 18th inst., including the night session on Tuesday evening.

The House then adjourned until Monday.

Capital Notes.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—Richard Lambert made an argument before the House Committee on Claims to-day, in favor of the bill for the relief of detective officers Lees and Ellis, of San Francisco.

Representative Felton has decided to appoint Milton J. Holligan, of San Jose, naval cadet at Annapolis. Holligan was recommended for the appointment by prominent citizens of San Jose, and by the school authorities. He is a poor boy, and it is believed his appointment will meet with general satisfaction.

Ex-State Treasurer Findley, of California, visited the Capitol to-day, and saw the members of the delegation. Mr. Findley is interested in securing the appointment of a relative to a cadetship at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

David Nero, a colored preacher, is under arrest at Glasgow on charges of swindling.

It is charged that the passage of the Broadway Railroad bill by the New York Aldermen was secured by bribery.

The House Committee on Public Lands will probably report a bill forfeiting the unpatented portion of the Northern Pacific land grant.

There is an intimation from a reliable source in Washington that a new Postmaster for San Francisco will be appointed in a day or two.

The principal landlords in Wales have combined to resist the demand of the Farmers' League for a reduction of 25 per cent. in farm rents.

An Arizona dispatch reiterates the statement that the recent killing of Captain Crawford by the Mexicans was a cold-blooded murder, and not the result of an accident.

The trial of Mrs. Harrie Howard for the murder of her husband in December, 1884, at Petersboro, N. Y., was concluded yesterday morning, the jury rendering a verdict of acquittal.

An attempt was made in East St. Louis Thursday night to burn six men to death by firing a cabin in which they were sleeping. The men were all fearfully burned, and it is doubtful if they recover.

Congressman Morrow has called Secretary Bayard's attention to the fact that Consul Withers, at Hongkong, is issuing Consular certificates to coolies in defiance of the instructions of the Treasury Department.

Gladstone is being sorely pressed by the Irish leaders, and when he brings forward his land bill it will certainly contain provisions drawn on the lines of Collings' amendment, which will be a long step toward home rule.

The President has pardoned George R. Sims, who was convicted of participating in a conspiracy to defraud the Government in a pension case, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Southern Illinois Penitentiary.

There are many Liberal members of the British House of Commons who insist that nothing short of absolute separation will ever satisfy Ireland, and this point they will not concede. They will vote for reforms of the broadest kind, but not for disunion.

John Macmahof, defaulting ex-Collector of Revenue of Hoboken, who absconded two years ago, leaving a deficiency of over $51,000, was sentenced in the Court of Special Sessions, at Jersey City, yesterday, to five years in State's Prison, the full extent of the law.

Wallace Ross and Fred. Plaisted say they will make an attempt next August to go through the Niagara whirlpool in a boat. They claim that Capt. Webb was drowned through an accident, and that the boat they contracted for in the United States will carry them through safely.

It is announced in the forthcoming trial of the breach of promise suit for $10,000, brought by Miss Annie Messmore, a pretty girl of Chester township, against Edward T. Green, Postmaster at Spainsville, Ind., 300 burning love letters, written by Green to Miss Messmore, will be used in Court.

A dispatch from Matamoras, Mex., says: Deputies of the State Congress will be elected Sunday, and it is hoped that after the election some sort of order will be restored. Every night pistols are fired in the streets, and murders are of frequent occurrence. The better class of the community stir about very little after dark when everybody goes heavily armed. On Tuesday night an attempt to assassinate General Villareal, commander of troops, was made.

Donner lake is literally covered with ducks and geese. Good bags are being brought in by local sportsmen.

GENERAL NEWS.

ANOTHER COLD WAVE STRIKES THE EAST.

Execution for Murder—The Chess Match—Lorillard's Fortune—Foreign Items.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

DOMESTIC.

The Florida Orange Crop.

PHILADELPHIA, February 5th.—A *Times'* editorial says: It is all right to tell the public that this year's crop of Florida oranges is frozen on the trees, but when an anonymous interview starts on its rounds to convince the world that the frost killed a large number of trees, and that everybody will have to wait six years before Florida oranges can again be as plentiful as they were last year, it is about time to call a halt. The Delaware peach-grower has a keen eye for points calculated to encourage a rising market as any one, but in his palmiest days he never asserted that next year's crop was killed. If there is going to be a permanent corner in Florida oranges, Havanas and Messinas will capture the American market.

NEW YORK, February 5th.—An orange-grower of Georgetown, Florida, writes to the *Tribune* as follows: "To date I have not seen reported by our State press a single instance of bearing orange trees having died, or to have been seriously hurt by the late cold spell. I have personally inspected many hundreds of bearing trees in this vicinity, and have not found one with the bark cracked or showing any symptoms of injury. Besides the loss of fruit now on the trees, the damage done to bearing trees will be very little. The young trees set out in groves have not suffered to the extent at first supposed, while the nurserymen who, immediately after the freeze, were reported to have lost their entire stocks in their nurseries, are daily coming forward with offers of uninjured trees for sale. Your statement that the loss of picked oranges will reach half a million boxes is an error. On the contrary, all oranges picked prior to the freeze are saved and are selling at this date for high prices. I very much doubt if there are lost 250,000 boxes in the State. Certainly the loss of this fruit is the greatest part of our disaster. What the effect will be on next year's crop is uncertain."

Colder than Florida.

NEW YORK, February 5th.—The thermometer this morning stands 6° below zero. The present cold snap is by far the coldest of the season, and the suffering among the poor is very great. Trains on the elevated roads are greatly delayed, and owing to the snow it is almost impossible for horse-cars to make headway. Twenty persons who walked across the Brooklyn bridge yesterday had some portion of their bodies frozen. Charitable persons bought large numbers of tickets for rides in the Brooklyn bridge cars and had the police give them to the poorly-clad persons who attempted to walk across. Four steamers arrived at this port yesterday, but no sailing vessels have been reported.

WASHINGTON, February 5th.—This morning was the coldest of the season. The thermometer at the Signal Service Office registered 2° below zero at 7 o'clock.

Conkling as a Party Leader.

NEW YORK, February 5th.—The *Sun's* Albany special says: All the Republicans here are rejoicing over the acceptance by Roscoe Conkling of a retainer offered by the Republican committee that is going to investigate the alleged Broadway steal. When the news came to-day that Conkling had agreed to serve, the Republicans fell to rejoicing so loudly that it was plainly apparent that Conkling, the lawyer, was of small account in their eyes in comparison with Conkling, the leader, whom the party so greatly missed and so sincerely mourned. There is no disguising the fact that the offer of this trifling employment is intended to carry with it a hearty invitation to Conkling to return to the fold and resume a leadership under which the party triumphed from 1869 to 1881.

A Gift to Wellesley College.

BOSTON, February 5th.—Professor E. K. Horsford has made a generous gift to Wellesley College, which has been kept so far quiet and the amount is not now stated. It is provided, in brief, for extending the college library and scientific departments, increasing the salaries of the professors, and for one year's vacation in every seven for the professors.

Tammany's Contribution to the Irish Cause.

NEW YORK, February 5th.—The Tammany Parnell Committee received reports from the various Assembly districts yesterday, and also $6,256 in cash as the first installment of the organization's contribution to the Parliamentary fund.

Hanged for Murder.

DENVER (Col.), February 5th.—Si. Minich, one of the three men who murdered Samuel Baldwin, near Leadville, October 18, 1884, for $1,700, was hanged in Leadville this afternoon. Up to yesterday evening Minich expected that Governor Eaton would commute his sentence to life imprisonment. He was very indifferent, driving the clerymen out of the cell with violent blasphemy. This morning, when he discovered that he must hang, he called loudly for a preacher, and earnestly prayed for the Almighty's forgiveness. He ascended the scaffold at 1:30, with a cigar in his mouth and a smile on his face, and was launched into eternity, denying his guilt to the last minute.

**George Lorillard's F