

\$7,740,700 OF 178,718

NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS PROTECTED FROM SPOILSMEN.

Facts of Interest to Office Seekers Presented by the United States Civil-Service Commission.

PROTEST FROM REPUBLICANS

MCKINLEY WILL BE ASKED TO ABROGATE CLEVELAND'S ORDER

By Which It Is Proposed to Lop Off Pension Agencies—No Objection to the Electoral Count.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The thirteenth annual report of the Civil-Service Commission, covering the past fiscal year, has been submitted to the President. It reviews the growth of the government's civil service, the efforts of the commission to eradicate partisanship in federal offices and important civil-service reforms and extensions contemplated. During the year the commission conducted investigations into charges of favoritism, political or religious discriminations, illegal appointments and removals, and alleged fraud or unfairness in connection with examinations and appointments. In a number of cases of charges of political assessments it was found there had been no technical violation of the law. The promulgation of law on this subject and the commission's warning to employes during the campaign that they could not be forced to contribute to political funds, the report says, had a most salutary effect. One investigation was made at the Columbus (O.) postoffice over a year ago. It developed the fact that several hundred of the many employes, without regard to their party affiliations, to contribute to the campaign fund of whatever party was in power.

In all cases where there was the slightest evidence of fraud or unfairness the commission required the re-examination of the competitors. The most serious case of favoritism in the department was that reported by Erie, Pa., where the records of the postal board was found to have opened a package containing the examination papers and furnished the questions to a competitor, an employe of the office, in advance of examination. Both were removed from the service and are now held in custody for trial. At the Toledo (O.) postoffice an employe was shown to have made false representations to injure the prospects of appointment of certain other eligibles. Action in this case is still pending.

During the last four years the removals from competitive positions in the classified departmental service have averaged less than 2 per cent. a year for all causes, not including such removals as resulted from necessary reductions in force. In the unclassified and excepted service at Washington the removals are believed to have averaged 10 per cent. a year, with a 50 per cent. conclusion drawn is that either the persons brought in through examination are of inferior quality, or the others or the removals from the unclassified positions are made for other causes than the good of the service.

The total approximate number of positions in the civil service of the government is 175,717. Of these 137,307 are in the classified service and 38,410 unclassified. Of the unclassified service 25,000 are in the fourth class. Of those remaining in the classified, but unclassified, group many are in the office of the classified service by the action of the law.

The aggregate compensation paid in the executive civil service of the government during the last fiscal year was, approximately, \$100,000,000. The new civil-service rules the report says, will make the commission sufficient authority to regulate promotions as well as to investigate cases where discrimination is made in making removals or reductions. Within a short time satisfactory regulations are expected to be promulgated and the department so that promotions may be made wholly on the basis of merit and efficiency. The report says that the new rules will be made only for satisfaction with regard to personal, political or religious considerations.

The report says that the temptation to increase the number of employes or to retain employes in the service who do not do, which was such a characteristic feature of the "spoils" system, has entirely disappeared under the new civil-service system. The pressure for office having been removed, decreases of force have been made from time to time in the classified service of the departments during the last fourteen years, as the work was completed, because there was no other work to be done by the employes.

Our administrative system now presents the anomaly of filling certain inferior positions by the test of merit, while in the every four years the higher positions, like collectors of customs and internal revenue, postmasters and the like, are filled by the largest capacity and longest experience are required to fill them. The result is that the inferior positions are filled by incompetent superiors, to the demoralization of the public service. It is asserted, it is bound to force a change in the method of filling them. The report says that the new civil-service laws will be absolutely necessary in the public service commissioned by the President in a few years, it is growing every year. At this rate of increase, says the report, in a few years it will be physically impossible for the President and his cabinet officers to examine the papers and hear arguments and complaints of the candidates. A large number of persons to be commissioned, and the repeal of the four-year tenure laws will be absolutely necessary in the commission is of the opinion that the classification by executive order, when the classification by executive order, when these extensions of the classification have been made, and regulations in connection with the efficiency of the employes, the reforms in executive civil service, it is said, will be practically completed. The commission is now making a card system to show certain information regarding every person in the executive civil service.

The whole number of persons examined for the five branches of the classified service during the year ended June 30, 1896, failed to pass, 20,862 passed and 10,876 failed to pass. This is a material decrease in failures. The whole number of appointments in 1896, an increase of 22 over the previous year, and it is believed will be made to keep the examinations as practical as possible, and radical innovations have been made. For some of the newly created positions, especially those included among the mechanical trades, new elements in examination have been introduced, such as experience, character as a workman, and physical condition. It is proposed to have no educational test, or one with questions are not required.

In reviewing the growth of the civil service the report says that under President

Arthur there was a growth of 1,646 classified places, making a total of 15,000 at the close of the fiscal year. The 1,646 added by President Cleveland during his first administration, and 1,500 added by President Harrison by executive order, naturally grew to 7,000 places at the same time, and at the present time over 87,000.

Cleveland's Pension Agency Order. Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The President's order abolishing nine of the eighteen pension agencies effective next month, has met with vigorous opposition to-day on the part of members whose districts are embraced within the territory affected. Already a petition is in circulation to be presented to President McKinley urging him to revoke or suspend the order. It is argued that greater delay in the payment of pension claims will certainly result, and for this reason Mr. McKinley is asked to restore the status quo. State delegations are moving in the matter.

INTERESTING SITUATION. Resulting from the Failure of the Senate to Confirm a Postmaster. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—An interesting state of affairs has developed at the Caldwell, Kan., postoffice, and a possible temporary discontinuance of the office is involved. Postmaster W. A. Strum was recently removed for alleged embezzlement of public funds and since then his bondsmen, four in number, have been in charge of the office. The President on Jan. 15 nominated Alpha R. Young, a gold-standard Democrat, as successor of Strum, but the nomination has not been acted upon and it is probable Congress will adjourn without confirming it, as well as many other nominations. Meanwhile the bondsmen have telegraphed President McKinley a letter from them received to-day announces their intention to end their responsibility at the close of the fiscal year, and to take their bond, which amounts to about \$5,000, off to the United States. The result of this action has complicated matters at the department and unless a postoffice inspector is sent to take charge, which is, however, likely, the office will be left without a bonded official and therefore necessarily closed. This is an incident rare in the history of the department.

MURRAY WILL NOT OBJECT. The Electoral Vote Will Be Counted Wednesday Without Protest. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Representative Murray, of South Carolina, the only colored member of the House, who it was reported several days ago would object on Wednesday during the counting of the electoral vote to the recording of South Carolina's vote on the ground that the election of that State was unconstitutional, to-day announced that he had abandoned all idea of interrupting the proceedings on that point. Mr. Murray, after consulting with his party friends, has concluded that the objection, if made, would be a mere formality and as he said: "Some harm might result." He has therefore simply filed an objection with the Republicans of his State in the usual way and says that before the session closes he hopes to have an opportunity to discuss on the floor the questions which he invoked.

VOLEY OF QUERIES

FIRED AT JOHN E. SEARLES BY CHIEF INQUISITOR LEXOW.

Sugar Trust's Secretary-Treasurer Examined at Length by the New York Investigating Committee.

ORDERED TO PRODUCE BOOKS

TO SUPPORT HIS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE BIG MONOPOLY.

Corporations a Great Benefit, According to Mr. Searles—Tobacco Trust to Be Probed Next.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—John E. Searles, secretary-treasurer of the American Sugar Refining Company, was examined to-day by the Lexow joint legislative committee on trusts met in this city. Mr. Searles left his home in Brooklyn for Canton, O., last Thursday evening after having been served with a subpoena, and the committee was disposed at its sitting on Friday to declare him in contempt and take steps for his punishment. Mr. Searles was warmly greeted by the members of the committee. Lawyer Edward M. Shepard, arrived soon after, and immediately entered into conversation with the prospective witness. Before taking the stand Mr. Searles, at Senator Lexow's request, made a statement that he only recalled the subpoena as he was on his way to take a train and that he felt it was his duty first to attend to the business on hand at the time. Senator Lexow reprovingly told Mr. Searles that a subpoena of the committee could not be ignored by the millionaire or by a poor man. "At the time you received the subpoena," Mr. Searles, added Senator Lexow, "the committee will pass on the question of contempt."

Mr. Searles said his occupation was that of sugar-refining business and that of bank president and president of several local corporations. He said he had no connection with the American Sugar Refining Company. He said that he purchased and held all the stock of the North River Refining Company. The purchase was an individual purchase, he continued, and had no relation as to the value of the property to the American Sugar Refining Company. Their circumstances were somewhat peculiar, and he added, the whole transaction was ventilated in the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Searles gave the stereotyped reply, "I cannot recall," to a series of questions propounded by Senator Lexow in regard to the purchase of the American Sugar Refining Company, including the inquiry if the price was not about \$25,000. Asked as to the present whereabouts of the company's books of that date, witness said it was his opinion they were in the archives of the subsidiary companies over which he had no control. "Now, you might as well tell us what was paid in the North River Refining Company case, are you going to have it in this world?"

A BIG PROFIT. "I have no figures at the present time which I could give you the exact figures," he said. "The price paid for the stock of the North River Refining Company was \$700,000."

"It is not true that you made \$50,000 over right on the transaction?" "It is not true. I did not make \$50,000 over night in the transaction."

"Did you not consider when you were taking the \$700,000 worth of certificates that you were taking their equivalent in value?" "It would be their value when they became known to the market. I was not sure of my faith in their ultimate value that induced me to take them."

The North River Sugar Refining Company was anxious to get cash instead of certificates and in order to accomplish this the company withdrew the certificates off its hands. Witness further explained that the directors and stockholders of the Sugar Trust. The witness finally admitted that he was receiving \$700,000 worth of stock certificates from the North River Sugar Refining Company he only received \$100,000.

At this stage Stephen Little, the expert accountant, who had been subpoenaed, announced that he had been subpoenaed by Senator Lexow that he in no wise was concerned in the corporation under investigation.

In reply to Senator Lexow Mr. Searles denied the purchase of the stock of the North River Sugar Refining Company was to crush out competition in the sugar market. He said that the price paid for the stock was not less than \$250,000.

"It is not a fact that the \$500,000 worth of stocks were sold for a third of that figure in actual value?" "By actual value do you mean bricks and mortar? I do not know the actual value and on being asked by Senator Lexow if he believed that the stock was worth a third of that figure in actual value?"

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General Notes. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—To-day's treasury notes: Available cash balance, \$26,102,977; gold reserve, \$14,189,438.

The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate: Lieutenant Colonel Edward Moale, Third Infantry, to be colonel; J. E. Lacey, Seventeenth Infantry, to be colonel; Charles G. Smith, to be major; W. Corliss, Eighth Infantry, to be major.

DOORS WERE LOCKED

NO OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE ANGLo-AMERICAN TREATY.

Senator Hill's Motion to Make Whole Proceedings Public Defeated by an Overwhelming Vote.

SPEECH BY JOHN SHERMAN

IN FAVOR OF RATIFICATION OF THE ARBITRATION TREATY.

Reply by Mr. Morgan, Who Thinks Overtures from Britain Should Be Viewed with Suspicion.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The Anglo-American arbitration treaty was under consideration by the Senate from 1 to 5 o'clock to-day. The entire proceedings were in executive session, and consequently behind closed doors. The first half of the session was spent in debating a motion introduced by Senator Hill to consider the treaty in open Senate, and the most animated part of to-day's proceedings was based on this motion. The debate was characterized by several sharp passages at arms between the author of the motion and Senators Morgan, Lodge and Sherman, the three last named contending strenuously for the observance of the senatorial custom of secrecy in the discussion of the treaty. It was stated that it was the wish of the administration that the public should be excluded from the debates. The only vote of the day was secured on the Hill motion, which was defeated, the count showing only 9 for to 49 against. The negative vote was cast by two Democrats, Hill and Lindsay; two silver Democrats, Hoach and Tillman; two independent silver Republicans, Teller and Pettigrew; two Populists, Peffer and Stewart, and one straight Republican, Brown.

This was not considered as in any respect a test vote, as there are known to be many Republicans who are solidly favorable to the treaty. It was not, however, so sanguine of early success as of a favorable result when secured.

A quite determined spirit of delay was made manifest, and when Senator Sherman expressed the hope that consideration could be concluded at another sitting, Senator Morgan, who is a widely-known Republican, was disappointed in this respect, intimating that several more sessions would be necessary to the completion of consideration of a matter of importance so great and so far reaching in its result.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S SPEECH. With the Hill motion disposed of, the Senate took up the treaty upon its merits. Senator Sherman, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, spoke for about an hour, making a strong plea for the ratification of the treaty, which he urged was the realization of a dream which had long been cherished in his mind. He has quoted historical works and congressional reports to show that arbitration was a distinctly American policy, and referred to the resolutions of 1889 and 1893 as proof of the sentiment which he is now advocating. He also explained the amendments which the committee on foreign relations and defended the main features of the treaty, and the proper understanding and interpretation of the agreement. He urged that those amendments which were being proposed in the name of the Monroe doctrine, and referred to the importance of the treaty and urged the Senate to act on it without unnecessary delay.

Senator Sherman contended for the urgent importance of the treaty and urged the Senate to act on it without unnecessary delay. He contended that the treaty would be the realization of a dream which had long been cherished in his mind. He has quoted historical works and congressional reports to show that arbitration was a distinctly American policy, and referred to the resolutions of 1889 and 1893 as proof of the sentiment which he is now advocating. He also explained the amendments which the committee on foreign relations and defended the main features of the treaty, and the proper understanding and interpretation of the agreement. He urged that those amendments which were being proposed in the name of the Monroe doctrine, and referred to the importance of the treaty and urged the Senate to act on it without unnecessary delay.

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THREATS OF MOUNTAINEERS.

Neither Negroes Nor Italians Can Work in Polk County, Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 8.—The mountaineers in Polk county are not satisfied with the substitution of Italian for colored labor by the contractors on the Texas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railway, and are preparing to attempt to drive the Italians out of the county.

DIED IN THE PULPIT.

Wife of a Preacher Falls Dead While Exhorting at a Revival.

SPRINGFIELD, O., Feb. 8.—Mrs. William L. Fee, the aged wife of Rev. Mr. Fee, a well-known former Methodist minister here, fell dead in the pulpit last evening.

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MEMPHIS STREET INCIDENT.

Hugh Brinkley Assaults and Seriously Injures Ex-Congressman Moore.

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