WASHINGTON NEWS

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe is now a great-grandmother.

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The National Museum is tormented annually by a pest of white ants. The flooring in one section of the Museum has been undermined and weakened by the ants, and they threaten destruction of a very large section now. They get into the beams and eat them to a shell, and nothing is known about their presence until the beam drops, and lets down the ceiling and the floor. One particular section of the Museum used to have the floor annually undermined, until the authorities finally put in a cement floor, and then there was no further trouble in that section. There is no way of doing anything with the little pests, except they can be found in the nest and killed there.

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During a three-days' rain in Washington the last of March, it is estimated that 67,000,000,000 gallons of water fell to the square mile. This rainfall measured only about three and a half inches, but it was enough to fill a lake one mile square and 32 feet deep, or large and deep enough to float the battleships of the world's navy.

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Col. Winfield Edgerly, who has assumed command of the 2d U. S. Cav. stationed at Fort Myer, was met at the Aqueduct Bridge by four troops of cavalry. He reviewed them as they stood, and was then escorted to Fort Myer, where he formally took charge.

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Prof. William Santelmann has been regularly appointed Leader of the famous Marine Band. He has been its leader for the past four years, but in order to meet the requirements of the law, he had to enlist for a term of four years. This he did, and he has now been regularly assigned to the leadership, with the rank and pay of a Lieutenant of Marines. Lieut. Santelmann succeeded Prof. Fanciulli, and has made a most creditable record.

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Dr. Lorenz, the eminent surgeon and physican who visited us recently, has put in his time pretty well since his return, talking and writing about us. He is nice about it, too. No foreigner who ever came to our shores ever spoke of us in higher terms. He praises our men, extols our women, calling them handsome, brainy, bright, winsome, and says that they are just about the limit for all that is nice. He found everything pleasing, and has not pointed his finger at us once. He spoke particularly of the great endowed institutions for philanthropic purposes, which are monuments to the wealth of private persons, and lamented that there were no public spirited rich men in Vienna to build hospitals and to help the afflicted as they had been helped in the United States. "I would say that charity is the most prominent sport of the rich American," he says. Dr. Lorenz is the kind of foreign gentleman whom we will always be glad to welcome.

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The sad news came to Washington last week of the death in Paris of the wife of Embassador Porter. Mrs. Porter had been ill of the grip, and had spent some time in Switzerland, where she seemed to have fully recovered. On her return to Paris she was stricken with congestion of the lungs, and died immediately following a chill. Mrs. Porter was a woman whom women loved. She was highly cultured, and was a most acceptable member of the brilliant Court circles of the old world, in which she shone conspicuously as an entertainer. Simple funeral services were held in Paris, and the Embassador will return to the United States with the body.

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The Citizens' Association of LeDroit Park, D. C., have adopted a set of resolutions which will amuse President Roosevelt, even if they are never put into operation. The resolutions recite that as it has come to pass in the Capital City of the Nation that proprietors have universally resolved to exclude children from their premises, and only well-trained poodles are allowed within their sacred precincts, the Association resolves that it will use its best endeavors to have some philanthropist erect an apartment house in the city, the walls of which are to be filled with some substance that will deaden sound from other apartments; the floors to be of steel, the walls of rubber, with a general playroom in the shape of a huge cage." This resolution was solemnly adopted in the presence of the Commissioners of the District, who were the guests of the Association.

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The receiving ship Franklin, which is stationed at Norfolk, has an epidemic of diphtheria aboard, and 100 of the sailors attached to it have deserted.

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The Commissioners propose to tag the automobiles in the District of Columbia, and give each a number, so that when any of the horseless carriages exceed the speed limits, the number, which must be conspicuously placed, can be immediately noted by the bicycle police, and the chauffeur of the "wagon" arrested. There is a vigorous protest from auto owners who object to the "tagging" prospect, and consider that it would be humiliating. It probably has its objections, but the "red devils," the "yellow terrors," and the "high roller steamers" have not such pretty cognomens that they should object to a plain figure or two. The figures will really be more distinctive, because there are so many "red devils" and so very few "13" for instance.

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Champ Clark, of Missouri, has a far-seeing eye. He would like to be a United States Senator from Missouri, and he can't have his hopes gratified unless he can side-track Senator Cockrell. With this in view, doubtless, Mr. Clark is now championing Senator Cockrell for Governor of Missouri. The Senator has not been heard from on the proposition yet.

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The immigration to the United States during March was the largest ever known in the history of the country.

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Gov. Taft, who has been lying very ill in Manila for several weeks, has gone to Benguet, a mountain resort a short distance from the coast, hoping that he may entirely recover his lost strength while there.

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President Roosevelt has issued an order to diplomatic and consular officers forbidding such officers to make comments in the press or in any other public manner reflecting on the diplomatic or consular representatives of their own or other countries.

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The Smithsonian Institute is to have its collections enriched by a lot of badges, medals, cuff-buttons, stick-pins and other insignia of the Philippine Insurrectoes. A lot of things of this character are in the hands of the Treasurer of the Philippine Islands, together with a lot of silverware, bullion, and jewelry which the Americans took over from the Spanish authorities when they evacuated the islands. The stuff had been seized from the Filipinos by the Spanish. All the books, papers and other property of like character belonging to the Spanish Government in the Island is to be sent to the Insular Bureau here in Washington.

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President Roosevelt objects to the word "expectorate." When he was Police Commissioner of New York City, an ordinance was adopted protecting the sidewalks, street cars and such places from defilement by the spitting habit. Notices were put up everywhere forbidding "Expectorating." Police Commissioner Roosevelt wrote the President of the Board of Health regarding it after this fashion: "Dear President Wilson: Can't you have our form of notice changed so as to read 'spit' instead of 'expectorate?' Expectorate is a vile word, and the Health Board ought to use good English." And the notice was changed accordingly.

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Ex-Vice-President Stevenson was pretty badly burned about the head and face in extinguishing a fire in his home last week. The report has it that his hair and mustache were burned off. He didn't have but mighty little hair to burn.

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Timothy Rourke, said to be the oldest man in Tennessee, died last week at the age of 108 years. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. There are only a few of these veterans left.

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A chief electrician in the Navy only gets $60 a month and the rank of a chief petty officer. He must be a good mechanic, good electrician, an engineer, and a man of education and brains enough to not only know the mechanical details of his business, but the theories and scientific reasons to account for results. All this for $60. The White Wings get more than that for sweeping the streets, and don't even have to know enough to do that properly.

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Senator Julius C. Burrows, of Michigan, who was in Washington last week, says that President Roosevelt is making and gaining votes wherever he goes in the West. That was what he started out for.

* * *

Just at the present time the affairs of the American Red Cross are being discussed with more or less acrimony, with Miss Clara Barton the National President of that organization for the storm center. There was a time when it was thought indelicate to speak of a lady's age, but Miss Barton is not at all squeamish and does not deny that if she were to follow the prophet she would very shortly be obliged to give up the ghost. In spite of her years, however, Miss Barton does not seem to have lost any of her vigor of either mind or body.

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The bone of contention just now seems to be the Presidency. Somebody else wants it, and Miss Barton has suddenly been found too old for the position. Isn't there an old adage which says something about "old men for counsel," etc? One would scarcely like to say "old women," etc., but just the same, it fits. The American National Red Cross Association has been before us for about 30 years. Miss Barton has been its head for those three decades, and as such has represented the United States at almost every Court in Europe, and several in Asia, to say nothing of the Islands of the sea. In every emergency that has cried out for help for the plague-stricken, storm-ravaged, or famine-scourged of any land, Miss Barton has been promptly on the spot with rations, clothing, volunteer nurses and necessary assistants, and to her as National President of the Red Cross in the United States supplies and money have been sent without stint. She never lacked for anything that a sympathetic people found that she needed. It has never been suggested, until now, that anything had been wasted.

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For 20 years Miss Barton was practically "The Red Cross." For 20 years almost alone she knocked at the doors of Congress, asking to have the Society made a National organization and given a National standing. Up to the time that Congress acceded to her pleadings and made it an incorporated body, there had never been a single dissension, a word of strife, a murmur against the manner in which the association had been conducted. Congress made it an incorporated body, and there has not been a minute of peace since. Now that the American Red Cross has a National standing, many people are moved to desire office in it and to manage it.

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Was Miss Barton's desire to have the organization given National standing a wise one after all? It seems as though the only time that the Red Cross has failed to be the leading and chief factor in succoring the distressed since it became known in this country, was last Summer when Mount Pelee's eruption sent destruction and awful death over the little Island of Martinique. Miss Barton was then in the middle of the ocean, and knew nothing of the disaster till she landed in Russia. The then Executive Committee which now seems to think Miss Barton too old to longer conduct the business of the Red Cross, and which desires to have the rules of the organization changed again to give them the power to act, was in absolute control at that time, and remained inactive. Miss Barton was made quite ill by the disaster and the knowledge that the Red Cross of America, for the first time in its history, had failed the people.

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Congress is to be asked to legislate a new organization. Miss Barton expresses herself as exceedingly anxious for Congress to investigate the affairs of the Red Cross for the last 30 years.

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Chentung Liang Cheng. That is the name of the new Chinese Minister exactly as he directs its spelling himself. "The first part of my name, which corresponds to your John, is spelled C-h-e-n-t-u-n-g, all one word—Chentung. The middle part is my family name—Liang, pronounced as if it were spelled L-e-e-a-n-g, the letter 'i' in our language always having the sound of your 'double e.' The latter part is plain Cheng. My full name, therefore, is Chentung Liang Cheng," he says.

* * *

He has a handle to his name. "Sir," which he came by at the hands of Queen Victoria, who made him a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. This title he is very proud of, and memorialized his Government to permit him to bear, which permission was granted. Count Cassini, the Russian Embassador, says tht Sir Liang Cheng has no right to use the title; that he is a Chinaman and the title is English, and that he couldn't possibly call himself an Englishman, so he cannot bear an English title. Hence, he, Count Cassini, says he will not call him "Sir," but just plain "Mister. It is said that several other members of the Diplomatic Corps have announced that they will not recognize the title. Sir Liang Cheng says that he will not quarrel with any of the distinguished gentlemen about his title. It is his, and he would feel that he was ungracious if he did not assert his right to the title.

* * *

The Chinese suite of attaches is a perfectly gorgeous affair. There are 42 in all, and they are distinguished by buttons, or no buttons, on the tops of their funny head gear, which they wear at all times. There are the coral button people, which is the highest grade, and the gold buttons, silver buttons, crystal buttons, white buttons and blue buttons. Some of them wear yellow satin robes and some blue, while others have red and blue and yellow in layers. The colors and their arrangement all mean rank, and there is no knowing what would happen if a "Six Boards" Chinaman ever got on Sir Cheng's coral button and blue robe.

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The Chinese Minister has three children, two boys seven and 11 years of age, named Arlu and Ardi. They are bright little fellows, who speak English perfectly and who wear pretty sailor suits of white. They will look as nearly as possible like American boys, for they will not wear a "pigtail," but have their hair cut short. The daughter is a young miss of 15. She will wear the dress of her people. Sir Cheng thinks it healthier. The mother has been dead a number of years. Sir Cheng denies that he is even engaged to be married again, and regrets that the story has got abroad. He is a great, big fellow, speaks perfect English, and has the most polished manners imaginable.

CHENTUNG LIANG CHENG AND HIS SONS.

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Judge James Tyner, Assistant Attorney-General for the Post-office Department, has resigned, after a service extending over 30 years. Ill health is the reason of the resignation of an official who stands high in the estimation of the Administration.

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The officers of the Navy are discussing a plan for a General Staff which shall correspond with that now under way in the Army. The plan proposed will place the control of the Navy and movement of the ships under the Bureau of Navigation, and among the objections raised to the scheme is that it will limit the control and power of the Navy. Congress may be asked to pass a special act for the organization of such a staff at the next session.

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The Post-office Department Investigation which has been going merrily on for some time begins to grow interesting. When Postmaster-General Payne went skylarking off with Secretary of the Navy Moody in the Dolphin, he left orders for Acting Postmaster-General Wynne to "go to the bottom" of some little "irregularities" which had developed at that time, but do it quietly. So on that order, Mr. Wynne went to work. He was moving very quietly, when all of a sudden Superintendent Beavers, of the Salaries and Allowance Division, resigned.

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Keeping things quiet after that was out of the question. Things have been going from bad to worse ever since that in the Post-office Department, and everybody who can prove an alibi is proceeding to do so, just on general principles. The whole trouble looks to turn on the Rural Free Delivery business, which seems involved from A to Izzard. The establishment of routes is going to mix a lot of M. C.'s in the muss. The contracts for supplies for the carriers seems to be in question. The very painting of the letter boxes seems smeared with a "job."

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The very last hot thing in the bunch is a hold-up of new appointments and advance of salaries in the New York Post-office. It is said that Otto F. Weis, Assistant Superintendent of the Registry Division up there, admits holding the funds of a syndicate that collected $25 from each clerk receiving promotion in that office, and these funds are used for legislative purposes, which is directly opposed to the specific orders of President Roosevelt, and what he will do when he finds it out will be a plenty. Meantime things are sizzling in fine shape, and the Postmaster-General has just reached Washington.

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If the Postmaster-General really wanted "things found out" he set the right man to work on it. First Assistant Postmaster-General Wynne was one of the best newspaper men who ever tormented a compositor with bad handwriting. He has "wanted to know" things a number of times in his long and varied newspaper career, and he never failed to find out exactly what he wanted to. So, when the Postmaster-General intimated that he wanted exact information about matters and things, Mr. Wynne proceeded on a direct line to secure the data, and those who were culpable knew that it was no use trying to evade the issue.

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There is no doubt at all that there has been more or less intrigue going on concerning conditions in the Post-office Department, but if any hope to win out on that tack, Postmaster-General Payne has dissipated the idea in the following authorized interview:

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"During the months of January and February information and reports reached me which I deemed it for the public interest to investigate, and I, personally, gathered such information and facts as would enable the proper officers of the Department to undertake a thorough investigation as to the truth or falsity of these reports. I directed Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow to take the proper steps to institute the necessary inquiry, using for that purpose the Post-office Inspectors' Division and such other methods as would thoroughly ascertain the truth or falsity of the charges or insinuations made, and he was instructed to proceed promptly and with vigor during my absence.

"Since my return this morning I have not seen Gen. Bristow, so that I am not advised as to the progress made. The investigation will continue, and if any wrongdoing is disclosed, the parties guilty of such wrongdoing will be summarily dealt with. If the system or method of doing business in the Department is faulty, the proper remedies will be applied without fear or favor. I inaugurated the investigation with the determination that it should be exhaustive. It is proper for me to add that I laid before the President the information which I had in my possession, and that he fully approved of the action proposed by me."

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Out in California they do not propose to run any chances. B. P. Brown, of Redlands, made threats against the life of President McKinley when he was in California, and was arrested then, but turned loose after the Presidential party left the Golden State. He has been giving utterance to all sorts of ugly remarks ever since President Roosevelt began to plan for his Western trip, and he has been arrested and shut upon a charge of vagrancy. He will be kept in durance until after the President leaves the coast.

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Desertions from the United States Navy are so numerous that strenuous efforts are being made to counteract them. It is said that they now reach 300 a month. Conditions on board our vessels are also to be studied, and longer time on land when in port given the men.

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Miss Roosevelt has returned from her Porto Rican trip, where she passed, like a young princess, from one end of the Island to the other, fairly treading on flowers in her triumphal progress. Fancy an Old World girl being turned loose to go about as Miss Roosevelt does. After all, blood will tell, and American blood will do more telling to the single girl than any other blood on earth.

* * *

Texas has written to the War Department demanding that Gen. Grant be reprimanded. That is, a certain section of Texas, wherein is a town called Brackettsville. From the way Gen. Grant roasted this town in the case of a court-martial the other day, in which a Sergeant had gone into the town and got drunk with an enlisted man, the "B" should be changed to an "R" for the sake of the unities. He didn't leave the town of "—ackettsville" a leg to stand on in the way of character. Now the citizens of the town are simply wild and say the good name of their town is ruined. The place in question seems to be close to Fort Clark, and the troops stationed there are in the habit of going over to Brackettsville and filling up on booze, then gambling away what funds they have left. Gen. Grant, who is in command of that Department, took occasion to comment rather caustically of the rum holes and the people who hant them—hence the Texas howl.

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Senator Clarke, of "Arkansaw, suh," must be a survival of the "unfittest" of the fine old school of chivalry that we hear so much about. He churlishly refused to permit his one-time enemy, Senator Berry, of Arkansas, to escort him to take the oath of office, nor would he permit anybody else to walk with him. The other day he met his long-time friend, Representative Stephen Brundige, in front of a hotel in Little Rock, and because that gentleman had dared to express an opinion adverse to that held by Senator Clarke, refused to touch his hand, and finished up by calling him a "blankety blanked mephitis mephitica," or in plain United States, a "skunk." Now, isn't that a pretty dish of manners for a United States Senator to carry around? Senator Jones wasn't a St. Elmo's fire of brilliancy, but he was at least a gentleman. Tilman and Clarke bid fair to make a team.

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Rev. William Henry Milburn, the blind Chaplain of the Senate, is dead. He passed away in Santa Barbara, Cal., March 10. Chaplain Milburn was 80 years of age, but did not look it. He was born in Pennsylvania, had lived in Illinois, and preached in the South before the war of the rebellion, where he was once placed on trial for heresy. He had been a lecturer in his earlier years, and had been pretty much over the world. He was blinded in one eye by a playmate when five years of age, and the sight of the other eye left him when he was about 25. He was the author of several books on travel and religious subjects and had had a personal acquaintance with many of the noted men of the last century. The immediate cause of his death was an accidental injury received from Senator Clark's automobile. Chaplain Milburn was just leaving the Capitol, early last December, and was about to enter a cab, when the automobile, which was close to him, became unmanageable and ran over Mr. Milburn's foot. He was never well afterward. He tendered his resignation as Chaplain of the Senate, because of his failing health, but it was not acted upon, so he died holding the office, to which he was first elected in 1889. He was first elected Chaplain of the House in 1845, when he was only 22 years of age.

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When an Army officer dies or is promoted or retires, his place is so quickly filled that the world has not time to say farwell, until hail is already on the lips. Maj.-Gen. Robert P. Hughes, having reached the age of 64 years, the limit of active service, on Saturday, was placed on the retired list. Brig.-Gen. Joseph C. Breckinridge, Inspector-General, U. S. A., was immediately promoted to be a Major-General, and retired for age within two hours. Brig.-Gen. Marshal I. Luddington, Q. M. G., U. S. A., was immediately promoted to be a Major-General, and he will probably be retired for age this week. Brig.-Gen. James F. Wade will then be promoted to Major-General. He will not retire for age until April, 1907.

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The promotion of Gen. Wade gives quite a boost to a number of Colonels, as follows: Col. S. W. Groesbeck, Judge Advocate; Col. Jared A. Smith, Corps of Engineers; Col. Albert E. Woodson, 3d Cav.; Col. L. H. Rucker, 8th Cav.; Col. Theodore A. Baldwin, 7th Cav.; Col. J. B. Rawles, Artillery Corps; Col. John R. Myrick, Artillery Corps, and Col. W. P. Rogers, 30th Infantry.

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All of these officers will be almost immediately retired for age, and the permanent appointment of Brigadier-General will be given to Col. Peter C. Hains, Corps of Engineers, who has gone to Panama with other members of the Isthmian Canal Commission to arrange for the transfer of the canal property to the United States in anticipation of the ratification of the canal treaty by the Colombian Congress. The changes already indicated will be followed by a large number of promotions to the rank of Colonel and in all the subordinate grades of the army.

THE GENERAL STAFF.

Recommendations for First Organization—Choice of Board Unanimous.

The Special Army Board, of which Maj.-Gen. Young was President, appointed to select 42 officers of the Army to complete the first organization, exclusive of general officers, of the general staff as constituted by the act approved Feb. 14, 1903, has announced the selection of the following-named officers:

Colonels—Thomas H. Barry, Adjutant General's Department; John B. Kerr, 12th Cav.; John L. Chamberlain, Inspector General's Department; Enoch H. Crowder, Judge-Advocate General's Department. Lieutenant-Colonels—William A. Simpson, A. A. G. Department; Henry P. McCain, A. A. G. Department; James T. Kerr, A. A. G. Department; Frederick A. Smith, I. G. Department; Crosby P. Miller, Q. M. G. Department; Charles Shaler, Ordnance Department. Majors—John G. D. Knight, Corps of Engineers; George W. Geothals, Corps of Engineers; Henry A. Greene, United States Infantry, A. A. G. Department; Edward J. McClernand, United States Cavalry, A. A. G. Department; James A. Irons, United States Infantry, I. G. Department; Sedgwick Pratt, Artillery Corps; William A. Mann, 14th Inf.; William P. Duvall, Artillery Corps; Montgomery M. Macomb, Artillery Corps; William D. Beach, 10th Cav.; John S. Mallory, 1st Inf.; Samuel Reber, Signal Corps. Captains—William Gibson, Ordnance Department; David Dub Gaillard, Corps of Engineers; Benjamin Alvord, 20th Inf.; Joseph T. Dickman, 8th Cav.; Harry C. Hale, 20th Inf.; Charles H. Muir, 2d Inf.; Frank Dew Ramsey, 9th Inf.; Frank McIntyre, 19th Inf.; Sydney A. Colman, 23d Inf.; Robert E. L. Michie, 12th Cav.; Hugh J. Gallacher, Subsistence Department; John J. Pershing, 15th Cav.; C. T. Menoher, Artillery Corps; William C. Rivers, 1st Cav.; Peyton C. March, Artillery Corps; William G. Haan, Artillery Corps; Charles D. Rhodes, 6th Cav.; Horace M. Reeve, 17th Inf.; Dennis E. Nolan, 30th Inf.; First Lieut. John C. Oakes, Corps of Engineers.

In the case of each of the officers named the recommendation of the board was unanimous.

The board recommended that in order to avoid having the initial detail to the general staff terminate at the same time certain officers in each grade be relieved at the end of two, three and four years, respectively.

The National Tribune Transcontinental Train.

WE REGRET to inform friends that we have concluded to withdraw the proposal to run a train to San Francisco in August. By giving this notice promptly we hope that friends will not be put to any inconvenience. Many have reported as desiring to go with us. The proposal seems to be very popular. It is believed that two or three trains would be required to carry The National Tribune contingent.

This popularity is what is making trouble. It is claimed that National Tribune trains will interfere with creditable showings for some Department trains, and we are inclined to think the apprehension is well founded.

The sincere desire of this paper is to be always helpful and never to be disturbing and contentious. It does not hesitate a moment to sacrifice a little pleasure and glorification for the good of the Order.

Full information as to the expenses from Eastern points to San Francisco are not yet available. We are assured there will not be much further delay and we hope to print full information in an early issue.

THE PRESIDENT'S TOUR.

Scouting in Yellowstone Park—Wild Cats and Wolves His Prey—Six Inches of Snow.

President Roosevelt is now cached up somewhere in the Yellowstone Park, with all newspaper men barred and six inches of snow to make things interesting in the way of tracking wolves, wildcats, and the other beasties that hant that picturesque section of the "hill country" of the United States.

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In passing through the State of South Dakota on his way to the Yellowstone, the President was greeted by very large crowds, and he addressed them a number of times. He was particularly pleased with the groups of children, all in their best bibs and tuckers, who greeted him at his various stops. President Roosevelt is avowedly fond of children. He likes their companionship. He believes that one may learn much from the quaint philosophy of children. In Washington, the President's children are his inseparable companions. Some statesmen who have occasion to call upon the President at the White House have expressed annoyance because the President never denies himself to his children, and if they want to discuss a piece of juicy pie and the condition of their ponies with their father at one and the same time in the Cabinet Room, why, they do so. Archibald and Quentin have a fashion of running in about once in so often to give their father a childish lag, and he returns it with interest.

* * *

The President knows exactly the thing to say to please the people of each section of the country. In the great wheat-raising belt of the Dakotas he spoke of the introduction of the "Macaroni" wheat, a product of the headwaters of the Volga, introduced here, which is especially adapted to semi-arid regions, and which is being raised extensively up in that section of the country. He also spoke of the great hay plant, Alfalfa, which is now one of the productive and valuable crops in the semi-arid lands. He jollied them a little on the "independence" of the Farmer, and discussed quite fully the value of the new irrigation laws.

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At Sioux Falls fully 6,000 people had gathered to hear the President speak. It was a cold, bleak day, and the "Auditorium" was "all-out-doors," a platform having been erected at a convenient intersection of streets, so that everybody might hear and see him. It began snowing just as the President began speaking. He faced the music bravely, however, and declaring that he was glad to be back in the "Banana belt" once more, donned his big fur-lined overcoat, and proceeded to warm his audience and himself up with one of his most vigorous speeches.

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At Scotland, S. D., where the briefest stop was made, hundreds of school children greeted the President, each carrying a flag, making a pretty sight which the President applauded when the little ones began to wave the tiny Old Glory at him.

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When, on Tuesday last, the President got up into the region where Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck and Mandan are located, he felt at home. He used to punch cattle up in that neck of woods, and owned a ranch near Medora, which is not far from the border between North Dakota and Montana. He was at that time, 20 years ago, Sheriff of Billings County. Medora is not a metropolis, even now, but the ranchmen for hundreds of miles gathered in the little hamlet to do honor to the President, and they gave him a welcome to be remembered. Joe Ferris, the foreman of the President's ranch at that time, and his brother, S. M. Ferris, boarded the train at Bismarck, on invitation of the President, and accompanied him to Medora.

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Gathered with the others to greet the President at Bismarck were a number of Chiefs of the Sioux tribes. John Grass, the orator and Chief Justice of the Sioux, presented the welcome and good will of his people in a remarkably fine speech. At the same time he presented the President with a "peace pipe," made of the famous red pipestone. The pipe is beautifully carved, and the President received it with every evidence of pleasure. Among the other Indians present were Red Tomahawk, the Indian who killed Sitting Bull, at the time of the uprising in the early '90's; Red Fish, one of the hereditary leaders of the Sioux; Black Bull, Standing Bear, Crow Ghost, Cross Bear, and several other Sioux Chiefs. After Grass got through with his speech, Chief Water, of the Mandan Sioux, presented a written assurance of the good will of his people toward the "Great Father." The President had met several of these Chiefs during his former residence there, and was pleased to greet them again.

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The decoration of the depot at Bismarck was quite unique, though as a work of art it might have elicited criticism. The main features of the decoration were three large pictures of the President. One of the young trapper and hunter on his ranch near Medora, a second representing him at San Juan, and the third at the White House. The pictures covered three sides of the depot, and pleased the President, for they depicted to him the three great epochs of his life.

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In replying to the address of welcome the President said: "I am an old settler of this State. I lived here 20 years ago, and feel that I am an old-timer." He paid special compliment to the veterans of the war of the rebellion and Philippine wars who were present to greet him. He expressed his great interest in the growth and welfare of the State of North Dakota. "I know the people of the West," he said. "There are two ways to know a man—by working with him or by fighting by him, and on the range there are men with whom I have worked and with whom I have fought."

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At the conclusion of his address the President and party re-entered their carriages, and were driven back to the depot, passing en route the scene of a barbecue, where four oxen and several sheep were being roasted for the attending crowds. At the depot the President was given another ovation, and as long as the train could be seen he bowed his farewell to the crowd and waved his old slouch hat. President Roosevelt stopped long enough at the barbecue to receive a huge sandwich of roast beef and rye bread, which he ate with genuine relish.

* * *

The special train bearing the President reached Gardiner, which is the last station on the railroad, right at the edge of the Yellowstone Park, at noon, April 8. The President was here met by Troop C of the 3d Cavalry, and a lot of cowboys, headed by Maj. Pitcher, the superintendent in charge of the Park. Luncheon was eaten on board the special. It was then run back to Cinnabar and shooflyed out, where it will remain in charge of Secretary Loeb and Assistant Secretary Barnes during the 16 days that the President is tramping round over the Government reservation.

* * *

The President is probably happier right now than he has been before in many a long day. He is a good deal of a boy, after all. He likes to get close to Nature's heart, and to study plants and trees and creatures in their native haunts. He detests espionage such as he has every second of his life when inside civilized environs, and he despises the public posing which he has to undergo in the simplest functions when in the East. He stipulated, when he started West, that no newspaper men should accompany him into the Park. And none did. One correspondent tried riding in on horseback, accompanied by a dog. The dog was killed, as no dogs are permitted in the Park at any time, and the correspondent was speedily shown the way out, and he went.

* * *

The President left his train attired for camp life. He was heavily shod, wore his riding breeches and a brown Rough Rider hat. He probably donned "chaps" and a leather hunting shirt after he got away from prying eyes. His mount was a fine big troop horse which had been especially provided for his use. While he is speedy, that will not count for much where the President is going. That he is strong and safe counts for much more.

* * *

The President led the way on the trip in, followed by his friend, John Burroughs, the naturalist, in a big army wagon, and the troopers who will be his scouts and orderlies while he is in the Park, in the different sections which the President will visit. Only plain camping paraphernalia has been provided, and the simplest of camp fare. The President may not hunt bear, elk, buffalo, or deer on the Yellowstone Reservation, as it is against the law, but the pestiferous mountain cats, wolves, and cougars, of which there are many, will be at his mercy, as it is the desire of the Superintendent to have these cleaned out.

MEMORIAL DAY.

(General Orders, No. 6.)
Headquarters Woman's Relief Corps,
Auxiliary to the G. A. R.,
Le Sueur, Minn., March 15, 1903.

"Again the shadow moveth
O'er the dial plate of time."

Memorial Day! The day of sad, sweet memories—most sacred day of all the year—the one day set aside to cover with Spring's choicest blossoms the grassy mounds of our soldier dead who willingly gave their lives that we might enjoy the blessings of a free country. "They come not back, but rest where they won their imperishable laurels."

It is our mission of love to perpetuate their memory, and, as we cover them over with beautiful flowers, may the perfume that arises from these mute messengers of love and sympathy purify our own hearts and help us to make the lives of those who are yet with us bright with the sunshine of sympathy and human kindness.

Do not forget the thousands of brave men who sleep in "unknown and unmarked graves" where no blossoms can be placed, but let every Corps prepare a loving tribute for our Unknown Dead. Scatter flowers upon the water in remembrance of those who sleep 'neath the ocean's wave, the billows their winding sheet. Call the children from far and near to assist in these sacred ceremonies, and thus teach them that this day is the Nation's holy day—sacred to the memory of her fallen defenders.

"When May has culled the flowers for the Summer waiting long,
And the breath of early roses woos the hedges into song,
Comes the throb of martial music and the banners in the street,
And the marching of the millions bearing garlands fair and sweet.
'Tis the Sabbath of the Nation, 'tis the floral feast of May,
In remembrance of our heroes we keep Memorial Day."

Let each Corps attend with its Post the service on the Sabbath preceding Memorial Day.

Department Chaplains will forward Memorial Day reports to the National Chaplain, Jennie L. Day, Gorham, Me., not later than June 20.

Contributions for the decoration of graves in Southern Cemeteries should be forwarded at once through Department Treasurers to National Treasurer. Corps Presidents will please give their immediate attention, thus making it possible to remember our comrades who sleep in the Sunny South.

By command of Lodusky J. Taylor, National President.

ADA E. MAY, National Sec'y.

Per Diem Service Pension Bill.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Your valued paper is a most welcome visitor in my home. I note the persistent effort with which you urge the passage of the service pension bill of $12 per month for every honorably discharged soldier who served 90 days in the war of the rebellion.

Now, comrade, why not use this valuable ammunition to favor the bill that is known as the per diem bill as presented by the Hon. Vincent Boreing, of Kentucky, and unanimously indorsed by the Department of Kentucky, G. A. R., by the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.:

Headquarters Department of Kentucky,
Lebanon, Ky., May 21, 1902.

To the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic:

Resolved, That the 20th Annual Encampment of the G. A. R. of Kentucky, assembled at Lebanon, Ky., this May 21, 1902, does hereby unanimously indorse and ask the passage at an early date of the bill as prepared and presented in Congress by the Hon. Vincent Boreing, of Kentucky, and known as the per diem pension bill, and as a slight token for his untiring efforts in our behalf, we urge his renomination and election for Congress in the Eleventh District and heartily indorse his past record in that honorable body.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded the Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., asking him to use all honorable means to assist Comrade Boreing in this noble work.

(Signed) W. R. WILLIAMS,
L. M. DRYE,
Committee.

Unanimously indorsed: Jno. Blaes, Department Commander.
By R. M. Buckley, A. A. General.

This bill voices the sentiment of 90 per cent. of the G. A. R. south of Mason and Dixon's line and fully 75 per cent. of those North, East and West. The sacrifices made and the hardships endured by those who served three years and over, in contradistinction to the 90-day men, woefully fails to show that justice would be done the men that did the work by the passage of the service pension bill; by the sacrifices and service rendered justice must be measured.

It would be but a "survival of the fittest" with which to crown the furrowed brows of those old heroes, as now with bent forms, dimmed eyes and tottering step they go marching down the western slope of time to answer the last roll call, the present rate of which is 52,000 per year.

It would be but a fitting tribute of a patriotic Nation and an example to the world to place that crown of joy and peace upon the battle-scarred heroes who in 1861-'2 went forth to save their country, carrying victory after victory, from Mill Spring, Ky., Jan. 19, '62, until the ignominious defeat of Hood's combined armies at Nashville, Tenn., in December, 1864, and stayed until the work was done and the white wings of peace in the dim future first calmly fluttered over the brave "boys in blue."

Neither of these bills can pass unless we unite on one and charge together, and then it will require all our forces—veterans, recruits, auxiliaries, horse, foot and dragoon.

The father of the per diem bill, Hon. Vincent Boreing, is our fire-tested friend and comrade, and stands to-day, like old Gibraltar, ever ready to help, defend and protect his comrades' interests. Those muttering clouds on foreign shores to-day cast their ironclad shadows upon America with wishful smiles, and we are ready again to answer the "first call." Comrades, fall into line, and ask your Senators and Representatives in Congress, from shore to shore, to aid in the passage of Boreing's per diem bill. Respectfully yours, in F. C. and L.—WILL R. WILLIAMS, Sergeant-Major 4th Ky., and Past Aid-de-Camp to Past Commander-in-Chief Eli Torrance, Hustonville, Ky.

Historic Woods.

(Ohio State Journal.)

There has come into the possession of the Archaeological Museum at the State University, Columbus, Ohio, a collection of famous woods from which the gavel was made used in the nomination of McKinley at Philadelphia, June 19, 1900. The gavel for the occasion was made and presented by Benjamin F. Smith, of Nevada, Ohio, a life-long Republican and admirer of the President, and it is through his generosity that the Archaeological Society has received the original woods from which the original gavel was made.

In 1898 Comrade Smith conceived the idea of fashioning a gavel having in it wood gathered from all quarters of the country and representing every State and Territory in the Union.

Comrade Smith began corresponding with acquaintances in every State, asking for pieces of wood of peculiar interest, historically and thoroughly representative of the locality from which it came. It was a hard task. Over 200 letters—answers to which accompanying the wood presented the society—were written and replies to them contained promise to send some historical piece of wood or tree. After many months of labor two gavels, exactly alike, were completed and declared beauties. Each piece of wood that entered into the construction of them bore the name of the State or Territory from which it came, the date of admission into the Union and the number of delegates to be present at the Convention. Both were sent to the assembly, and after the nomination festivities were over, one became the property of Senator Hanna and the other was presented to President McKinley.

Department of New Mexico.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Although probably the largest Department in area, we are probably the smallest numerically. Still, we are alive. We had a very nice visit from Commander-in-Chief Stewart and party as they passed North on their way from San Francisco. We will help to entertain our Presidential party the 5th of May, as our 20th Annual Encampment will be in session at Albuquerque, N. Mex., at that time. The Committee of Arrangements has kindly given us a prominent position in front of the stand, where the old fellows can see and hear the President and may be recognized by him. Next August (not a good time to go to California), when the comrades come over the great Santa Fe route to California, we expect to have lunch here for all trains and to entertain them the best we can while here. It is thought from one to two hours' stop will be made at this beautiful city in the Valley of the Rio Grande River, and have an opportunity to visit the great Indian Curio. We have the largest W. R. C. in the Territory, composed of the best-looking ladies in the land and the most generous, hard-working lot ever associated together.—J. W. EDWARDS, Department Commander, Albuquerque, N. Mex.

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