WASHINGTON NEWS

Senator Stewart as a rehabilitated Republican is yet a croaker. He "views with alarm" just the same now as when he was herding with the Populists. Then, as now, it is the currency question which is giving him trouble. Representative Cannon's plan, he says, is very bad.

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"To let the crash come and thus squeeze the water out of these stocks, and after the crash to reestablish things on a firmer basis, is more dangerous than appears on the face of it. The whole country is likely to suffer. I think that the best way to straighten matters out is to increase the volume of currency a little, thus preventing an immediate collapse. It is my belief that Congress is going to take this view of the matter, because should the big crash come it is likely to carry down with it the prosperity that the country is now enjoying, and this would mean hard times again for several years."

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The new pure food law went into effect on July 1. It slipped through Congress last Winter and became a law before anybody knew it, almost. Such a bill has often been introduced, but it has never been possible to get it passed before. It provides that all imported goods shall be exactly what they are labelled to be. Very often, because the duty is high on a fine quality of an article, importers label the goods as an inferior article and then after it has come into the country, put upon it the proper label. It is also aimed at importers who bring in inferior articles, such as wines, for instance, and then label them as something much finer. The exporter must now make affidavit that the articles he is sending to this country are just exactly what they are labelled to be, that they are pure, and that the samples he submits for examination are fair samples of the identical cargo, and not of a cargo of similar goods. Despite this affidavit, the Agricultural Department will select samples of its own, and examine them whenever it sees fit, which is expected to act as a check on would-be dishonest shippers. Dr. Wiley, of the Agricultural Department, thinks it a very good law. It will be in his hands to enforce.

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Mr. H. O. Weaver, of Ohio, has been appointed Private Secretary to Secretary Cortelyou, of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

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A woman and a little child burned to death in Washington one day last week, in plain view of a panic-stricken crowd, when they might have been saved if a single man or woman had seen fit to exercise a little common sense. Instead, the little child stood in a second story window begging for help, when a man could almost have reached him by standing on a store box, and there were 40 inside the little grocery store just below him. There is work yet for the fool killer.

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There are four new ushers at the White House. They are Charles Thairn, I. H. Hoover, Patrick E. McKenna and George S. Vincent. The two former are old White House employees.

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The annual report of Chief Wilkie, of the Secret Service, is full of interesting facts. It shows that the arrests for the year numbered 424. New York led with 54 cases, Pennsylvania came next with 42, and Missouri third with 34. The total amount of counterfeit notes captured and withdrawn from circulation during the year was $16,212. Counterfeit coin captured, $15,479.

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Strikes and lockouts in the building trades of the District of Columbia are no more. These gratifying results are assured by the operation of an agreement entered into last week between the Employers' Association of the Building Trades of the District of Columbia and the Council of Allied Building Trades of the Central Labor Union, an affiliated body of the American Federation of Labor. In the future all grievances, no matter what may be the bone of contention, arising between the employer and the employee of the building trades will be submitted to a board of arbitration, as provided for in the agreement referred to. The provision that there shall be no suspension of building operations during the pendency of a dispute or controversy is especially significant.

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The establishment of such a board of arbitration has long been desired, and is regarded by employers and labor leaders as solving a great labor problem. It is thought that the adoption of the arbitration plan in the District of Columbia may be followed by New York. Indeed, it is said to be an assured fact that the New York building employers will proceed along lines laid down by the District of Columbia labor leaders.

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Mr. C. H. Carmichael, of London, is in Washington, and he is complaining that so few Americans whom he meets abroad know anything about their own country. He considers this a wonderful country, with very beautiful scenery, but he says that when he would talk about this country to an American, the American immediately begins to talk of something he has seen in Caine, or Asia, or Australia. He thinks it is very bad taste, to say the least, that an American should prefer England or any other old place to his native land in which to take a vacation. Mr. Carmichael must not get it into his head that the Eastern swells who go to Europe to spend their wealth are typical Americans. As a matter of fact we think mighty little of that kind of people over here. They serve to put money into circulation, and that far they are tolerated, but no further. They know the United States as far west as Niagara Falls, perhaps, but it would not be healthy for them to penetrate much west of that, because they would go under in the strenuous life of the Middle and Far West. There is no place in the plan of the Western life for these parasitic creatures, and fortunately there are not so very many of them.

* * *

Gen. Henry V. Boynton has been reelected President of the School Board of the District of Columbia. Gen. Boynton, it will be remembered, has been putting in his spare time picking flaws in the school histories in use in the District Public Schools. He has managed to infuse some new blood into these, but he cooked things for the publishers of them who hoped to send the renovated histories South. The South will not have them. They—the National organization of Confederate Veterans—sat in solemn conclave over these histories which were made over by Gen. Boynton to correspond with the official records, and they have concluded that they can not afford to put into the hands of their young children anything which deliberately and with malice aforethought condemns the course of the South during the war, or which shows that the South came off conquered. When the Southern fire-eaters get up North to attend Reunions and Encampments, they talk very smoothly, but when they go back home again, the paint is washed on the leopard's spots. Gen. Boynton did a splendid work, and its results have been felt in all the schools of the United States where the histories which he roasted are used.

* * *

Little Cuba, the youngest member of the Union of American Republics, has come forward with $1,500 in cash, the very first contribution toward the fund of $125,000 required to provide a new home for the Bureau in this city. It is the full amount of Cuba's quota, and Director Buckhill is hoping that the South and Central American countries will come forward with just as generous donations.

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Assistant Secretary of the Interior Thomas Ryan, who has been quite ill, is recovering, and will soon be at his desk again.

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At a banquet given in this city the other evening, T. Thomas Fortune, the well known colored writer and economist, who has recently returned from the Philippines and Hawaii, where he made a special investigation for the United States Government, was the guest of honor. He made a brilliant speech in which he hinted at the immigration to the Pailippines as the true solution of the race problem in this country. He says that the islands are rich beyond the dreams of avarice in agricultural and mineral resources, and that they are capable of sustaining 50,000,000 instead of the 10,000,000 they now sustain. He says that they need new life, they need an increase of population of men and women who have strong physical development, who love eternal Summer, and who are not afraid of honest toil. He thinks that nature has ordained it so that the white man can not live in the Philippines except as a parasite, but the negro, who was born in the sun, and whose portion should be honest toil, he thinks would prosper there.

* * *

This must jar some of the lazy ones. Return J. Meigs, Assistant Clerk of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbit, has started on a two weeks' vacation at Nashville, Tenn., his former home. Mr. Meigs not long ago celebrated his 40th year in his District position, and for 30 years has not been away from his desk a day.

* * *

The War Department not long ago decided to change the name of the fortifications on Sullivan's Island, Charleston Harbor, from Fort Moultrie to Fort Getty. The order was issued several weeks ago, but has since been revoked. The people of Charleston, S. C., sent in a petition to the War Department to retain the old name. Fort Moultrie was named in honor of Maj.-Gen. Wm. Moultrie, of the Continental Army, who served gallantly in the Revolutionary War, and died in Charleston in 1805.

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The Chinese Minister, Sir Chen Tung Liang Cheng, is now a Doctor of Laws, Amherst College conferring the degree upon him. Sir Chen Tung was a student at Amherst when a boy.

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Secretary of Agriculture Wilson says that the Government's experiment with the propagation of the silk worm has proceeded very satisfactorily, and that in a very short time the Department will begin the reeling of silk. With a view to increasing the interest in this industry the Department has encouraged in every way possible the growing of white mulberry trees, which investigation has shown aid the development of the worms, which make beautiful cocoons. The Department also experimented with the Osage orange leaf, but these experiments were unsatisfactory.

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The incident of the famous order of Gen. Dix, which is recalled by the death of George B. McCartee, who took down the telegram, will bear repeating. Gen. John A. Dix had succeeded Howell Cobb as Secretary of the Treasury. One of his earliest acts was to send William Hemphill Jones, then Chief Clerk of the Comptroller's Office, to New Orleans and Mobile in the hope of saving for the Union two revenue cutters, the Lewis Cass and the Robert McClelland, stationed at those ports. Mr. Jones telegraphed from New Orleans that Capt. Breshwood, commanding the McClelland, had refused in writing to obey any instructions from the Treasury Department of the United States. The Lewis Cass had already been surrendered.

* * *

On receipt of this message, which reached Gen. Dix at the White House, he hastened to his own office in the Treasury Department and wrote Mr. Jones the following telegram:

"Treasury Department, Jan. 29, 1861.

"Tell Lieut. Caldwell to arrest Capt. Breshwood, assume command of the cutter, and obey the order I gave through you. If Capt. Breshwood, after arrest, undertakes to interfere with the command of the cutter, tell Lieut. Caldwell to consider him a mutineer and treat him accordingly. If any one attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot.

"JOHN A. DIX,
"Secretary of the Treasury."

* * *

Mr. McCartee, who died last week, took the telegram. It was intercepted, however, and never reached Mr. Jones. The Stars and Stripes were hauled down and the flag of Louisiana was run up in their stead. An ordinary seaman on board the McClelland watched where the American Flag was hidden after it was taken down, and when the cutter reached New Orleans, he secretly got possession of the Stars and Stripes and the rebel flag as well. He carried them to Gen. Butler, and he forwarded them to Gen. Dix. Upon his recommendation the patriotic tar, whose name was David Ritchie, was appointed a Lieutenant in the Revenue Marine, and rendered gallant service throughout the war. The original telegram and the two flags are now in the possession of Gen. Dix's son, Rev. Morgan D. Dix, D. D., Rector of Trinity Church, New York City.

* * *

The Post Office Department cats have stumbled on evil days since the passing of George W. Beavers, the former head of the Salaries and Allowances Division. Mr. Beavers was a lover of cats, and believed that the Departments needed them. Rats and mice get in among the valuable papers and commit fearful depredations sometimes, and cats are necessary to clean the rodents out. A certain sum is set aside in many of the Departments to buy meat and milk for the cats, the same being charged up to incidental and miscellaneous expenses in their reports.

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In the basement and sub-basement of the Treasury Department there are many cats that are as wild as can be, and which never have seen the outer world. No human being can get near them, but they are invaluable in keeping the Department clear of rats and mice. One big old gray cat in the Treasury Department is said to be 30 years old. Some of the cats are very aristocratic, and will stay only in the office of the Secretaries. At the Government Printing Office there are many cats, and they have battles royal sometimes, the result being pied forms and much-mussed-up copy. One cat fight in the composing room cost the Government $400 before the felines got enough of it. Wherever there are women, cats are to be found in the greatest numbers, though many of the male clerks are fond of cats also.

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The whole society world of the East was shocked to learn of the death on last Saturday of Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston, niece of former President Buchanan. Mrs. Johnston was 72 years of age, but as seen by the public looked scarcely 40, excepting that her once-dark locks were snow-white. She was tall and regal looking, with the neck and arms of a girl, and to the end kept her title of "belle." She was the mistress of the White House during her uncle's incumbency of the Presidential office, but even before that, while Mr. Buchanan was representing us at the Court of St. James, Mrs. Johnston was with him, and won laurels as a beauty and a belle in the foreign court. There have been hints that King Edward, who visited Washington in 1861 as the Prince of Wales under the alias of "Lord Renfrew," was smitten with her charms, and it is known that Queen Victoria was very fond of her, but it is not probable that the heir apparent to the throne of Great Britain ever talked marriage to an American girl.

* * *

The probable secret of Mrs. Johnston's retaining her beauty was that she belonged to the class who toil not, neither do they spin, and she never worried. She had a calm, even temperament, and having great wealth, every whim of her life was gratified. She traveled much, and entertained in magnificent style in her Washington home, which is filled with mementoes of her long career as a belle and society dame. She had broken much in the past year, through continued ill health, but had known but little sickness up to that time. She was nearly 40 when she married Henry Elliot Johnston, a lawyer of Baltimore. Two sons were born of this marriage, but sons and husband died many years ago. Mrs. Johnston is almost the last one of that celebrated coterie of women who wielded such an influence in politics half a century ago. Not openly, but through the society salon. In the day when Harriet Lane queened it over the Administration circles, women were a strong power in the political world, and many a man's fate hung trembling in the balance while the women of official circles discussed—not his fitness—but that of his family for advancement or promotion in official and social life. The day of of the grand salon in Washington is gone. In its place has come insipidity and inaneness, while originality has given way to the deadly commonplace.

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Last New Year's Day some drunken clerks in the Post Office Department thought it would be a great joke to play horse with the old Deadwood coach, which is part of the Post Office exhibit. This they proceeded to do at midnight, ending up by badly smashing the old ramshackle thing. As it is almost the only coach of the kind now in existence, it is highly prized. The sentence on the clerks has finally been pronounced. They are to have the coach restored to its former condition. When they have paid for this they will be no longer held responsible. As this will cost a month's salary each, they probably wish they had not been so larky.

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"The University of Porto Rico" is the very newest. It was launched on its career last week with one department, the Insular Normal School. It has now 150 students and four buildings, with an Agricultural school and 50 acres of ground, several acres of which are under a high state of cultivation.

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Senator Chester I. Long, of Kansas, who was in the city last week, says that he does not believe that there will be any general tariff legislation at this session of Congress.

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The Fourth of July was observed in the District of Columbia in very patriotic fashion. The District Commissioners, in connection with the Sons of the American Revolution, had a very swell celebration in the front yard of the White House, with a street parade of the troops from Fort Myer, the District Guards, commanded by Gen. George H. Harries, and the marines and jackies from the barracks with bands galore. Among the speakers was M. Jusserand, French Embassador, who says fine things and says them well. He fairly outdid himself on this occasion, and it is a thousand pities that he did not have a larger audience, because he is worth listening to. Secretary Moody was also one of the orators. Mr. Moody made a rattling good talk. He is like the President in face and figure, and somewhat so in style of delivery, though a smoother talker than the President. He does not mince his words, and with him a spade is a spade, unless it is two spades. He was vociferously applauded at every sentence. A small chorus of school children rendered patriotic songs, and the Marine Band was there in all its glory. The stand was erected under a spreading oak tree that has century rings around its heart, and looked most picturesque under its draping and canopy of big flags.

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The United Societies of Patriotic Women also held a celebration out in Sherman Square. The organizations taking part were the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., Ladies of the U. V. U., Legion of Loyal Women, and Auxiliary to the Spanish War Veterans. Arrangements had been made to hold the exercises under the big oak trees, the speaker's stand being a big, much-decorated Army wagon. The torrents of rain which fell at the hour for convening drove everybody into the tents, of which there were a dozen big ones on the grounds. Lincoln Corps hastily cleared out the big tent occupied by them, spread a huge fly over the ground, and then filled it with chairs to the number of a hundred or more. An organ was brought from an adjoining tent, and all the people on the grounds asked to come to the "speaking." The tent was soon filled, and those who couldn't get in grouped themselves around the outside, and under umbrellas listened to the very fine exercises. Department Commander, Ivory G. Kimball, presided, and was accompanied by his staff. The speakers were Hon. William E. Andrews, Auditor of the Treasury Department, and Rev. James Van Schaick, of the Universalist Church. They spoke eloquently and entertainingly, Mr. Andrews of the "Men and Women of the Revolution and other war days," and Rev. Van Schaick of the "Bright side and the dark of Revolutionary days." Both drew parallels of what men and women would do for a love of the Flag, by the way in which the plans for the patriotic celebration of the Fourth had been carried out, dispite the many seemingly insuperable obstacles. Mrs. Isabel Worrell Ball, in the absence of the one designated to do so, read the Declaration of Independence, her reading meeting with hearty approval and much applause. Mrs. Flora G. Lewis, President-General of the Spanish War Auxiliary, sang the Star Spangled Banner in splendid voice, and later spoke briefly. Two other fine musical features were presented by Prof. J. T. Layton, and his little son, Master Turner Layton. Prof. Layton sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" with magnificent expression, and Master Turner sang "The Meaning of U. S. A." in high, clear notes, with pleasing effect. The audience sang America, and helped on all the choruses, and never minded the pouring summer rain in the least. The organists were Mrs. Rowe, President of the U. V. U., and Mrs. Wood, Junior Vice-President of the Edith K. Roosevelt Auxiliary. Mrs. Rosamond B. Meacham, President of the Dept. of Potomac, W. R. C., and Miss Lizzie Calver, also spoke. The exercises closed with the presentation of the Flag Salute by little Miss Josephine Oldroyd Tiefenthaler.

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Many celebrations were held elsewhere by the different patriotic societies of the District. The Woman's Relief Corps had asked that the citizens hang out their Flags, and this was very generally done. In the evening a fine display of fireworks was sent up down on the Monument grounds.

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Much dissatisfaction was expressed that the Commissioners had not seen fit to include the Grand Army of the Republic in its arrangements for a celebration of the birth of the Nation. The President very aptly gave the reason why no anniversary of the Nation's birth or that of its Flag could be complete without the Grand Army in the following sentences of the speech which he delivered at Oyster Bay on Saturday; in opening his address, he said:

* * *

"In greeting all of you, I wish to say a word of special greeting to those whom no others will object to my greeting first, to the men because of whom we have today a country and a President, to the men of the Grand Army (applause).

* * *

"The men of 1861, the men of the great war, left us more than a reunited nation, for you left us the undying memory of the deeds by which it was kept united, and you left us examples for peace; and we can continue to keep this Nation as it was and is only if we handle ourselves in meeting the lesser tasks of to-day as you handled yourselves in the face of the great crisis of the past. No task of recent times left what these terrible four years of war left this nation—the right to feel pride in each American who did his duty as it was given him to see his duty, whether he followed Grant or Lee.

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"Having said that and paying the fullest heed to the valor, the self-devotion, and steadfastness of the brother in gray, it yet remains true that the man in blue fought in the one contest which our history has seen in which success meant not merely greatness for the Nation, but the welfare of all mankind in the future. (Applause.) To you it was given to fight in the one contest wherein failure would have meant that all our past history was meaningless. If when Lincoln called, if when Grant strode into the field, the people of this country had not rallied to uphold the statesmanship of one and the generalship of the other, the Declaration of Independence would have rung as an empty platitude, because it would have been another example of failure of free government."

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So much has been said about Representative Jos. G. Cannon's attitude on financial legislation, that he has given out the following authorized interview:

"It seems to me that, so far as the currency is concerned, the country is in very good condition at this time. In the last year the increase in the currency has, in round numbers, amounted to more than $126,000,000, of which amount $57,000,000 has been the increase in national bank circulation. No country ever had a better currency than we now have, and we have more of it than ever before.

"In addition to this, at the present price of Government 2 per cent. bonds, there is in round numbers a profit of 1 per cent. on national bank circulation; and, without any legislation, there is no reason why the volume of currency should not increase in the next 12 months as much as, if not more than, it has increased in the last 12 months if the business of the country calls for it.

"Commercial paper is accommodated at an interest rate of from 5 to 6 per cent. all over the country. There is no difficulty in placing loans on farm lands and other real estate at from 4½ to 5 per cent. interest, and in some instances at a lower rate. I must confess that I am not one of those who see lions in the path in either the producing, the financial, or the commercial world."

* * *

Maj. John E. Weyss, a veteran of the war of 1861-65, died at Washington, D. C., June 24, 1903, from the ailments due to advanced age. He was the last of the "Old Topographers" who connected us with the early explorers of our domain. In his youth he was the friend and companion of Preuss, Egloffstein, Custer and Schott, and others in similar pursuits. He was born in Austria 83 years ago, and came to this country during the revolution in Germany in 1848. After a short stay in New York City he came to Washington and entered the Smithsonian as an expert draftsman. Under Gen. Emory he joined the Government expedition for the marking of the Mexican boundary. He remained in that survey as a topographer until its conclusion, and in its publications may be found many examples of his skill in topographical and landscape drawing. Afterwards he was similarly engaged in the making of the Kansas boundary, under Col. Joseph E. Johnston, and the New Mexico and Texas boundary, with John H. Clark, as Commissioner. The office work of the latter survey was closed abruptly by the exciting condition of National affairs in 1861. Gen. Johnston wished him to go South with him, saying that "The Abolitionists will back down as soon as a bold front is made, just as before. And, it will soon be over." Weyss did not approve of such a course, and told Johnston that, "If it is not going to last long, even for no other reason he would not go." Soon after, under Capt. Nathaniel Michler, who was an officer in the Mexican boundary survey, he became a Military Surveyor and Engineer in the United States forces, and finally became the Chief Topographer of Gen. Rosecrans's staff.

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His most noteworthy exploit was the making of a survey by night after the first day's battle of the lines at Stone River, Tenn. This plat showed that the position occupied was good and the condition of the soldiers so resolute that Gen. Rosecrans decided to remain and await further attacks instead of retiring to a new position. The value of even a rough military sketch was never better exemplified.

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After this, one day during a flag of truce Gen. Bragg as a P. S. stated that he "desired to be remembered to Maj. Weyss, and was pleased to see that he still retained his skill in topographical drawing." This was a courteous way of saying that he had captured some of Gen. Rosecrans's issues of field maps. When Gen. Michler was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, Maj. Weyss, who had been given a commission in the Volunteers, accompanied him and took an active part in the historic Wilderness Campaign. He was on detached duty, making a survey of the captured works at Fort Fisher, Charleston, S. C., and at Petersburg, Va., as well as a number of the battlefields.

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After a period on river and harbor surveys, he joined the Office of Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, taking an active part in the usual fieldwork until he was kept permanently at the office in topographical drawing, for which he had a special and unrivaled gift. Through his own surveys he was a great contributor to our knowledge of the West, and altogether he delineated, comprising the work of other topographers, over 500,000 square miles of our territory. This was published on a scale of four and eight miles to an inch. After the close of that office of Surveys, in 1885, he was engaged in some minor surveys, but having a comfortable income, and not content to engage in any but beautiful drawing, he finally retired to well-earned ease and the companionship of a few chosen old friends.

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Auditor Petty, of the District, whose confidential clerk, James Watson, went wrong to the tune of some $60,000 and is now behind the bars for it, has been asked by the Commissioners to resign, and has resigned to take a place under the District Government at a smaller salary. It has been discovered since this defalcation came out, that the District accounts have not been audited for five years. For grafters, the District Government would seem to be an ideal place.

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In addition to the above, it was learned quite accidentally last week that E. G. Davis, the Collector of Taxes of the District of Columbia, who began his work some 15 years ago, had no bondsmen, although he handles over $4,500,000 a year. When he began tax collecting 15 years ago he filed a bond for $100,000. Five years ago the very last of these bondsmen died, and his estate was settled up. Since that time Mr. Davis has been worrying along without a bondsman! The Commissioners suggested to Mr. Davis that it would be a pious notion to get some new bondsmen, and he proceeded to do it. What next?

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Baron Von Sternberg, of Germany, who has been accredited to the United States for many months as Minister Plenipotentiary, has at last been appointed Embassador, and when he returns to Washington he will be received with full honors. He will be at the foot of the list just the same.

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The Treasury surplus for the year was over $50,000,000.

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The Roosevelt youngsters had a gay Fourth of July. Three great boxes of fireworks were carried to Oyster Bay for them, and they had a wagonload of stuff from friends.

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Isn't it just a little funny that newspapers and individuals will howl about the nuisance of firecrackers and the nonsense of a noisy Fourth of July, yet those same newspapers will cough up $25 to give to a fireworks committee, and the individual will divide that sum by 5 and pony up for the sake of getting his name mentioned on the Fourth of July Executive Committee? Then, who sees the fireworks? The children? Not a little bit. Grown folks and hoodlums. Children with careful parents are cajoled into going to bed early, on the plea that it has been a wearing day on the kidlets, and then those same parents will go to the fireworks and sit for two solid hours "O-o-ing and A-a-h-ing" over the magnificent display and be grumpy all the next day because of rheumatic twinges and cricks in their necks from looking up so long. All the children who will be in the horizon that evening will be the hoodlums and street waifs who have no parents to keep them off the street and to put them to bed. It certainly is funny!

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The Wesleyan University of Middletown, Conn., has conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Leslie M. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury; Abriam Chamberlain, Governor of Connecticut; John L. Bates, Governor of Massachusetts; James W. Bashford, President of Wesleyan (Ohio) University; Richard Watson Gilder, editor of the Century Magazine, Brooklyn; Rev. William J. Tucker, President of Dartmouth College, and Prof. Henry Van Eyke, of Princeton University. Bishop E. R. Hendrix, Methodist Church South, received the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

The Post Office Scandals.

"There is graft on every side." That is what a prominent man says of the manner in which the Government Departments are carried on. The deeper the Inspectors go into matters the more they find that is unsavory and dishonorable. It has been found that supplies have been forced upon the Government whether the same were needed or not, and in many instances the supplies and fixtures are never unboxed, but lie in some basement to gather rust, mildew and mold. One lot of post office box fixtures weighing many tons, and costing several thousand dollars, have been found in one of the big post offices, where they have lain for 14 years. They were perfectly useless when ordered—in fact were not ordered, but sent to the office without requisition. No record of payment has been found, but it is not at all likely that the manufacturers have been waiting all these years for their money.

It is being learned on all sides now that the Civil Service law in regard to post offices has been violated times without number. Postmasters have been appointed who have had criminal records, and when affidavits were placed on file in the Post Office Department saying so. These Postmasters have since defaulted and have been dismissed.

The Money Order printing has been done at excessive rates, and the Post Office official whose son was connected with the Money Order printing establishment has been summarily dismissed. The man who made the lowest bid has been given the contract.

"Postal Physicians" who drew big salaries for doing next to nothing have been discontinued. There was never any necessity for them, as they were never employed by the clerks, but were simply detectives who called at the homes of the clerks who were ill, to ascertain if the clerks were really ill or only shamming to get an extra day sick leave.

Because of the rottenness that has been developed from the investigations of the Rural Free Delivery it is very likely that there will be a shock in that direction for the next set of Congressmen. This has been a prolific source of graft for the members of Congress who could win a seat for a second and even a third term by establishing new rural routes in his district. All this is to be done away with. The plan is to consider the extension of rural free delivery by States.

Petitions from Ohio, for example, will be taken up by Inspectors in the order in which these petitions have been filed. Of course, a great amount of work will remain for the members of Congress to do in inquiring after the progress made in placing a given route. Some think the Senators will have a larger share of responsibility in the eyes of the public under the new arrangement.

No credence is given the report current in the West that all rural free delivery routes supplying less than 100 families are to be discontinued. Of the $12,500,000 appropriated for the service by the last Congress $3,000,000 is yet unprovided for and will be used for new routes, and the routes now established will not be disturbed except, possibly, in a few flagrant cases of routes established in unfavorable sections.

DEP'T OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

The Baby Cabinet Portfolio in New Quarters. Handsome New Seal, Heraldically Correct.

The Department of Commerce and Labor is now housed in its new home near the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 14th streets, and has adopted a new seal which is very handsome.

Section 1 of the act approved Feb. 14, 1903, establishing the Department of Commerce and Labor, provides that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor "shall cause a seal of office to be made for the said Department of such device as the President shall approve." After careful consideration of many designs, the design shown here has been recommended by Secretary Cortelyou and approved by the President.

The ship is a symbol of commerce, and the anvil and hammer are symbols of Industry and Labor.

The crest is the Eagle of the American arms and denotes the National scope of the Department.

The original of the seal is correct in all heraldic details.

On the 1st of July the Bureau of Foreign Commerce of the Department of State, which has charge of the collection, publication and distribution of the commercial reports of Consular officers, will be transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor and consolidated with the Bureau of Statistics, which is to be transferred from the Treasury to the new Department.

The collection of the reports will be made through the Consular officers, under the direction of the Secretary of State, through whom the reports will be transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. The two Departments are expected to work in harmonious cooperation, as the functions of each are clearly defined and there is a full agreement between them.

James O. Monaghan, chosen by Secretary Cortelyou to edit the reports under the supervision of Mr. Austin, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, is a Professor in the Commercial Department of the University of Wisconsin, and was Consul at Mannheim, Germany, from June 17, 1885, to March 24, 1890, and at the important industrial center of Saxony, Chemnitz, from May 5, 1893, to March 31, 1900, so that he has had exceptional experience in Consular work. While Consul at Chemnitz he was a frequent contributor to Consular reports on a great variety of subjects and wrote a valuable series of articles on the technical and trade schools of Germany.

It is to be assumed, therefore, that the efficiency and celerity attained by the State Department in the publication of Commercial information from abroad will not only be maintained by him, but the value of the publication will be enhanced because of the greater variety of information obtained by the consolidated Bureaus.

Buncoed.

First Farmer: "Say, Zeke, who wuz that feller doin' all that laughin' 'cause you bought a gold brick?"

Second Farmer: "He's the city galoot that thinks he is gittin' healthy on the Sulphur Spring water that he's buyin' a barrel at a lick from my mill-pond."

FREE ADVICE on Curing DYSPEPSIA

HEALTH SPECIALIST SPROULE
The Great Expert in Stomach Troubles.

Don't suffer with Dyspepsia any longer!

I'll willingly give you medical advice free in regard to its cure. I'll gladly help you, as I have thousands of others, to conquer your painful, annoying trouble.

I make this offer because I well know just how discouraged Dyspepsia victims become—how at last they grow to believe that Dyspepsia can't be cured—that it's no use trying to cure it any longer.

Perhaps you've become disheartened over your Dyspepsia—maybe you've tried remedy after remedy—doctor after doctor—and all to no avail. Then let me tell you the way to a thorough, permanent cure. Let me show you how to put your sore, tender, useless stomach into perfect working order—how to make it digest food easily and without any pain or discomfort whatever.

SEND FOR HELP TODAY

Don't delay any longer. Neglected Dyspepsia is a dangerous thing! Ulcers and cancers of the stomach, serious blood diseases, nervous breakdowns, insanity, appendicitis and many forms of heart trouble are the direct results of chronic Dyspepsia. Take it in hand now—before it's too late! Learn what I will do for you entirely without charge. Let your stomach become strong, healthy and able to do its duty. Then the blood will be clean and pure, the brain active, the eyes bright, the skin clear and glowing, and the whole system will be completely refreshed and put into perfect health.

Answer the questions I've made out for you, write your name and address plainly on the dotted lines, cut out the Free Advice Coupon and send at once to **Health Specialist SPROULE, 4 to 14, Doane St., Boston.**

Free Medical Advice Coupon.

Does your food sour?
Do you have headache?
Do you have bad dreams?
Is your sleep disturbed?
Is your complexion dull?
Is your appetite variable?
Does your mouth taste bad?
Does your stomach feel full?
Are you worse after eating?
Does your food distress you?
Do you crave improper food?
Is there a gnawing sensation?
Do you feel drowsy in the day?
Does gas form in your stomach?
Does your heart sometimes flutter?
Do you have an "all-gone" feeling?

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

PEONAGE IN THE SOUTH.

Reign of a New Form of Slavery More Obnoxious Than the Old.

The recent decisions by United States Judges Emory Speer and T. G. Jones, both Southern born and bred, and both Democrats, against the institution of peonage in the South have startled the country as to the existence of this system. The word is new to most ears and all Southerners will be startled to learn that they have a thing with such a name in their midst, though they are all perfectly aware of the thing itself. Peonage comes from a Portuguese word meaning one who travels on foot. It next came to mean a foot soldier, and then a messenger. Later, it was applied to substantially all the lower classes, especially those in Spanish-American countries. These, while not slaves, were held to service by a practice which virtually amounted to slavery; that is, they made a contract for service in return for which they were to receive food, clothing and shelter, and the master who supplied these managed to keep them in constant indebtedness, while the law compelled them to serve him until they had discharged that indebtedness. Nearly all the laboring class of Mexico is now, and always has been, in a state of peonage, and the same is true of most of the same class in other Spanish-American countries.

The Southern States, with their drastic debt laws and their summary capiases for bringing back any debtor who attempted to leave the country, have always had the poor whites in as much peonage as the planters and wealthy men cared to maintain. Before the war, any poor white whose services were of any value to anybody had much difficulty in leaving the country, because there was generally a way to keep him.

After the negroes were freed this system was extended to them. It is true that the negroes gave much excuse for the enactment of these laws, because a large proportion of them had little idea of the honor of debts or contracts, and they were constantly prone to abandon the plantations at the most critical period for the crops, to go elsewhere where higher wages were promised them, or for no other reason than just a desire for a change. The result was the passage by the Legislatures of laws intended to compel the negroes to fulfil their contracts and to pay their debts.

These laws were in themselves quite strenuous, according to Northern ideas, and their application by the poor white trash who were the overseers in slavery days and still held the same position on the large plantations, made them as severe as anything which had existed before the Emancipation Proclamation.

It was legalized slavery, without any of the ameliorating features of the old slave system, since the men are treated precisely as working stock, from whom the most labor must be gotten within a specified time, after which there is no care or consideration for them. Negroes could not leave the plantation on which they were employed and go to work elsewhere, they could not board a railroad train without permission, they could not decide for themselves whether they were too sick to work or not, and offenses were punished as in the old time by the lash or the buggy trace, which seems to have been a favorite instrument of discipline on the Alabama and Georgia plantations.

It is useless to say that the negro himself was not responsible for much of this. It can not be otherwise than that the mass of the negroes are still shiftless and improvident, that they allow themselves to be gotten into debt for all manner of useless things, and before one debt is discharged the negro contracts another, and so produces all the conditions of peonage.

Very few of them can read or write, or have any idea of business conditions, and they are ready to be taken advantage of by unscrupulous men who want to secure their labor at as near nothing as possible. There was still another way of doing this. All that was necessary was for some unscrupulous white man to charge a negro whose labor he wanted, with the commission of some small misdemeanor or crime, when the alarmed colored man, fearful of the horrors of the prison camps, would agree to almost anything. He would be taken before a magistrate and put under a bond which nobody but the white man could furnish. Then the white man had him, and took care that every advance to him for food and clothing was priced beyond the value of the labor he performed.

The specific case which brought down the wrath of Judge Spear, stirred up the Federal Grand Judy and resulted in the fining of Will Sly, Arthur Glosson and Frank Turner, of Jasper County, Ga., $1,000 each, was an allegation by Will Waters, a negro that had made a contract with Sly to work for him from January until August, and began obtaining advances of money and rations. He was soon informed that he was in debt for $35 beyond the value of his contract, whereupon he ran off at night, and went to work for another farmer some distance away. He was soon traced there, and Sly and Turner brought him back tied to the back axle of the buggy, whipping him cruelly all the way.

The negro's wife managed to get to Macon, where she swore out the warrants securing the arrest of his assailants.

It is fair to the better class in the Southern States that these abuses are not practiced or permitted on most of the plantations. The labor contracts, according to the law, must be executed in the presence of a Magistrate, who explains to the laborers the terms, which must be as the Magistrate approves of. On most of the large plantations, which are conducted in a humane, business-like manner, the negroes are held to a careful execution of their contracts. They are worked a certain number of hours every day, and made to work all the time, and accounts are kept with them as to the supplies furnished, but the laws are such that harsh, unscrupulous and unjust men can take advantage of them to extort unpaid labor from the negroes, and practice the greatest cruelties upon them.

A great many offenses charged against the whites are directly in violation of the State laws, but there is nobody to take the poor negro's part, and the interpretation of the laws everywhere is likely to be such as some drunken brute of a white man may choose to give it.

The action of Judges Speer and Jones will rectify a large part of the most flagrant abuses. They pronounced features of the contract labor law as directly unconstitutional, and therefore void, and Judge Speer delivered a stirring lecture to the Federal Grand Jury, commanding it to throughly investigate the system of peonage in Georgia.

All in the Game.

(The Tatler.)

There is an old card story which always appears to me to contain a moral for the direction of the young who are prone to rush in where their elders fear to tread. Two old "sports" were playing poker in the saloon of an Atlantic liner, and a group was watching them. A youth among the bystanders was appalled to observe that one of these old gentlemen appeared to be cheating in a most flagrant manner.

So he presently exclaimed to the other player: "I beg your pardon, sir, but I feel it is my duty to tell you that the—the—person you are playing with dealt that last card from the back of his neck!"

"Well, and why not?" replied the player he had addressed. "It was his deal."

How a Woman Paid Her Debts.

I am out of debt, thanks to the Dish-washer business. In the past three months I have made $600.00 selling Dish-washers. I never saw anything sell so easily. Every family needs a Dish-washer and will buy one when shown how beautifully it will wash and dry the family dishes in two minutes. I sell from my own house. Each Dish-washer sold brings me many orders. The dishes are washed without wetting the hands. That is why ladies want the Dish-washer. I give my experience for the benefit of any one who may wish to make money easily. I buy my Dish-washers from the Mound City Dish-Washer Co., St. Louis, Mo. Write them for particulars. They will start you in business in your own home. L. A. C.

A Splendid Souvenir.

SEVENTEEN years ago THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE placed in its safe some of the very fine official badges of the 20th National Encampment, G. A. R., held at San Francisco in the year 1886.

This badge has been pronounced one of the finest ever designed. The illustration shows its size. It is heavily gold plated—**real** gold plate—and will retain its brilliancy when our grandchildren become grandparents themselves.

No fin