

# WASHINGTON NEWS

THE MISSOULIAN'S SPECIAL SER. VICE.

Washington, July 28.—The following new postoffices have been ordered established in Montana:

Alton, Fergus county; Eden, Cascade county; Edgar, Carbon county; Lahool, Madison county; Paxton, Dawson county; Savoy, Chouteau county.

The postmasters named for these offices are:

George D. Dyer, Alton; George W. Bickett, Eden; John J. Thornton, Edgar; Charles E. Black, Lahool; Forest R. Hopkins, Paxton; Chester A. Boardman, Savoy.

Patrick O'Brien has been commissioned fourth-class postmaster at Family, and Peter V. Klinka at Fortine.

The director of the census has decided to establish two census districts in Montana for the taking of the next census, to be each in charge of a supervisor.

The district commissioners have begun a war against unsightly billboards in the city.

The department of agriculture has issued a popular review of work recently done by the state experiment stations. This places within reach of the farmers in all the states some valuable information which would otherwise be available only to the farmers of the states where the experiments were carried on.

The Nebraska station has been experimenting with milking machines. It was found that most cows yield their milk as freely and fully when milked by a machine as when milked by hand, but with some individual cows the use of the machine is not entirely successful. Heifers accustomed to the machines from the first appear to do better than older cows which have been milked by hand.

In Minnesota a very important though somewhat unusual line of investigation has been carried on relating to hours of labor on farms, wages paid to hands, and cost of farmers' living. The investigation of farm wages in four localities for the years 1904-1907 showed that the average wages paid during the crop season (April to November) is a little over \$28 a month or 12.7 cents an hour, and the average for the other four months is \$14 a month or 11.2 cents an hour. The hours of labor being much shorter in winter time. The wages paid are not in addition to board, the cost of which has been added to the wages actually paid.

The hours of labor in three localities during six years were found to average for all the months of the year 8.5 hours for week days with three hours work on Sundays.

Studies of the cost of living showed that in Minnesota the average farm family uses annually farm produce worth \$22.87, groceries and fuel costing \$170.88, and home furnishings costing \$32.57, while the value of women's labor involved is worth \$216.56, and that of men and horses \$57.74, making a total cost of \$709.72 per family per year. Of this \$203.35 represents actual cash outlay for supplies, to which must be added whatever wages may be paid to hired women, the balance representing the produce of the farm and the labor of the family. The average cost of the board of hands was found to be \$12.62 per month or 42 cents per day.

Among the other subjects reviewed are the treatment of muck soils, manures for timothy hay, corn breeding, weed seeds in feeding stuffs, Hookworm diseases in cattle and milk supply of cities.

The last annual report of the Philippine commission just issued by the war department contains much interesting data on conditions in the islands. There are now 428 miles of railroad in the islands against 121 miles when this government took hold. Of this number 167 miles were laid and opened for business last year. They seem to be running satisfactorily as but two complaints against them were made.

The islanders are also interested in irrigation, having spent 261,755 pesos for this purpose last year.

This government spent a million pesos in the islands for school buildings, including high, intermediate, arts and trades, agricultural, industrial, domestic science, and pottery. Since the American occupation 2,856 school houses have been constructed in the islands, and prior to this there were but 728 school houses in the islands.

The islanders are also becoming interested in combating disease, having spent 4,000 pesos in sending two delegates to the international tuberculosis congress at Washington last fall.

They have not overlooked the social side, spending 100,000 pesos in entertaining the jockies of the American fleet on their world trip.

Pleasure was also considered, 37,500 pesos having been spent for the laying out of parks in Malate alone.

A very bright light came over the streets of Manila when 402 arc and 257 incandescent street lights were placed last year.

Over a million pesos were spent by the Filipinos in building private houses.

The islanders are also getting together a first rate police force, its roll now numbering 428 bluecoats. Last year they made over 11,000 arrests, which was a decrease of 276 over 1907.

Strange to say 480 of those haled into police court were classed as Americans. Of the others 88 were Europeans; 8,358 natives; 2,085 Chinese; 6 colored Americans; 25 Japs. Their secret service force is also working nicely, having recovered 13,351 pesos worth of stolen property last year. Its fire department has 142 members and combated 125 fires during the year.

The teaching force of the islands now numbers 224 teachers, 62 of whom are Americans, the remainder being native Filipinos. The enrollment last

year was the highest in years, the figures being 8,164 pupils at the day and 1,187 at the night schools.

Senator Thomas H. Carter has introduced the postal savings bank bill, which he has fathered in previous congresses. His object in introducing it at this time is to assure for the right of way in the senate at the beginning of the regular session in December. The bill has been defeated by the Montana senators, and it is now believed that the bill will have no difficulty in passing the senate, although the fear is expressed that it may encounter rough ways in the house, where many members hold the opinion that it will interfere with the private savings banks. Senator Carter will vigorously press the measure next session. He regards the passage of such a bill as a fulfillment of the party's pledge in the last campaign, and is chagrined over the failure of the party to put it through last year. He fears that failure to enact the bill in the face of the pledge will injure the party. This belief is also shared by other senators and congressmen, and it is confidently hoped by the friends of the measure that Senator Carter's bill will have no opposition when it is brought up next winter.

The new bill establishes a system of postal savings depositories under the direction of a board of trustees, consisting of the secretary of the treasury, the postmaster general and the attorney general, which shall prescribe all regulations for the receipt, transmission, custody, investment and re-payment of moneys deposited with the savings banks. The board is to report to congress at each session its transactions. Every postoffice in the United States authorized to issue money orders, and others as may be declared by general mail designate, are declared to be postal savings banks for the receipt of deposits from the public. They are not to be open on Sundays and legal holidays. Deposits may be made by anybody 10 years of age or over in their own name, and by married women in their name, free from control or interference by her husband, but no person shall have more than one account. A pass book is to be issued to each depositor. One dollar opens an account, and that sum or multiples will be received any time thereafter, but deposits shall not exceed \$100 per month. To stimulate small savings, postal savings stamps of 10-cent denomination are to be issued and received in lots of 10 or more. Interest at 2 per cent a year is to be allowed on deposits. The total deposit shall not exceed \$500, including interest.

The books are to be forwarded to the postmaster general, free, once a year by the depositors for their banking. Section 9 provides for the withdrawal of the funds in amounts of \$1 or more, or the whole amount, under regulations to be prescribed. The next section provides for the depositing of the money thus received in any solvent bank in the neighborhood where received, at not less than 2-1/4 per cent yearly interest, on property security. If banks refuse, the deposits shall be made in the United States treasury. Their investment in bonds or other securities of the government or the state controlling the savings banks, is also provided. The trustees are to maintain a reserve fund of 10 per cent of the total deposits, interest and profits from the deposits shall be applied to the expenses of conducting the institutions. Any excess is to be covered into the treasury as part of the postal revenues. The postal savings funds are to be kept separate from other funds by the postmasters, who are to be held accountable for their safe keeping under their bonds. No person connected with the service shall disclose to any one other than the depositor the amount of his or her deposit, unless directed by the postmaster general. Additional bond may be required of postal employees for the keeping of the funds. Additional compensation shall be allowed fourth-class postmasters for attending to the postal savings, at the rate of 1-1/4 of 1 per cent on the average of deposits received yearly, to be paid from the postal revenues.

An appropriation of \$100,000 is made to establish the system. The postal savings funds are declared by concluding section 14 of the bill to be entitled to all the safeguards provided by law for the protection of public moneys and all laws relating to the embezzlement, conversion and improper handling, retention, use or disposal of postal and money order funds, and the punishments provided therefor are extended to postal savings banks. The act is to take effect on the first day of the third month after its approval.

The Albright, Cascade county, postoffice has been ordered discontinued on August 15. The star postal service from Rochester to Twin Bridges has been ordered reduced to three times a week instead of daily.

The plea of friends for the pardon of Charles E. Woods of Livingston, who is serving a penitentiary sentence on charges of robbing the United States mail, have been turned down by the president. Although the losses occasioned by Woods' act have been recovered by the government, and Woods is the only son of a widow, and is suffering from slight hyper-trophy of the heart and mitral regurgitation, Mr. Taft declined to pardon him on the ground that his sentence was light and will expire next November.

During the recent debate on the tariff revision, Senator Stone of Missouri was sent to hold in his hand during the many speeches he made, a small red-bound book. It was none other than the last democratic platform. In the course of one of Stone's speeches, Senator Page, of Vermont, interrupted to say that "from the many times I have observed the Senator reading from that book, I imagine the binding must be worn out and if he will allow me the pleasure I should like to have book bound in calf."

"If the senator will vote for free leather, I will consent," replied Mr.

Stone, Page being a strong protectionist for the leather industry.

"The senator from Vermont should be supplied with a copy of that book," said Senator Johnston of Alabama, a democrat also, "because in my short acquaintance with him I have formed a high regard for his qualities, and I think he needs only a little instruction in the scripture of democracy to be a valiant soldier in the ranks." The senate enjoyed the pleasantry. Senator Johnston said the book reminded him of an incident which occurred in his home town. There was a good old woman, a very devout Christian, he said, faithful in her religious duties. She finally became so feeble by the burdens of age that she was unable to go to church except upon the visitation of the bishop. Upon the occasion of one of the visits of the good bishop, the old lady was unable to attend church because of her infirmities. Her family attended, however, and on their return she asked the subject of the bishop's discourse. One replied that he preached on the doctrine of total depravity. "She threw up her hands," said the senator, "and exclaimed, 'What a blessed doctrine. It would just live up to it.'" Johnston said Page would find a blessed doctrine in the little red book of Stone's "if he will just undertake to live up to it."

Not wishing to unduly prolong the senate debate Senator Dixon did not press his amendment for an inheritance tax. He offered two amendments, but after a brief discussion, and when it appeared the matter would consume a long time, Mr. Dixon withdrew them. One was an amendment prepared in the department of justice, which he said was designed to cure an anomalous condition now existing in the internal revenue law. It was as follows:

Whereas much uncertainty and conflict of opinion having arisen as to when taxes or duties imposed by section 29 of the act of June 13, 1898, and its amendments mentioned in section 8, of the act "to repeal war revenue taxation and for other purposes," approved April 12, 1902, should be deemed imposed, it is hereby declared to have been the true intent and meaning of section 8 of said act, approved April 12, 1902, that such taxes or duties should be deemed imposed prior to the taking effect of said act whenever a taxable legacy or interest or the legal or equitable rights thereto vested in possession and enjoyment before July 1, 1902, whether or not the tax or duty became due or payable before such last stated date.

In explaining the matter, Senator Dixon said:

"It is probable that never before in the judicial history of this country has there existed such a condition as now exists with regard to the \$1,000,000 that we collected six years ago, and that is now being taken out of the treasury every day, while the government is powerless to help itself. A case involving this question was decided in favor of the government by the circuit court of appeals of the Eighth district. The circuit court of appeals of the Second district decided a similar case against the contention of the government. It went up on appeal to the supreme court of the United States, at a time just after Justice Brown had resigned from the bench. An evenly divided court resulted—four to four. So the question again remained undecided. As recently as last May the government tried to get it up again on certiorari before the supreme court of the United States, but they refused to entertain the writ.

"The situation is simply this: The government collected \$4,000,000 of these taxes. The question as to when the tax was imposed depends upon the construction of the repealing clause. The claimants contend that the tax was not imposed until the expiration of the full year, because they had a year in which to pay the tax. The government claims that the tax was imposed at the time of the death of the decedent. The tax was collected years ago; but, under this abnormal condition as to decisions of the courts, claims attorneys representing the larger estates are bringing suits, the solicitor tells me, for the larger amounts, and recovering them, and the government is standing helpless. This is merely a declaration of the intention of congress. It is asked for by the attorney general, and was prepared in his office.

"The court is at a standstill; and this is merely declaratory of the meaning of the act."

Mr. Dixon said he had no personal interest in the matter and withdrew the amendment as it would lead to lengthy discussions.

Mr. Dixon then offered his inheritance tax amendment. It was the same provision as was adopted by the house with the exception that he raised the minimum of the estates to direct heirs to be taxed from \$10,000 to \$25,000. In general, he said, it levied a 5 per cent tax on the collateral heirs; on the direct heir, nothing up to \$25,000; from \$25,000 to \$100,000, on the direct heir, one per cent; from \$100,000 to \$500,000, 2 per cent; and above \$500,000, 3 per cent. He said everybody was familiar with the proposition and he would not take the time of the senate to discuss it. On motion of Senator Aldrich, chairman of the finance committee, the amendment was laid on the table.

During the corporation tax discussion, Senator Dixon spoke briefly, saying:

"I presume I would be classed among those senators who have been persuaded away from the income-tax proposition by the message of the president and by his wish that the corporation tax be substituted for it. I confess that the great virtue of the proposed corporation tax was its publicity feature.

"As I understand the theory of the tax, it is a tax on the right of a corporation to do business, coming from the fact that men doing business under corporate form are exempted from certain liability which they assume when doing business in their own individual names. If that be the theory, it strikes me that it is wholly ill-considered when the facts are brought out, as they must be in an investigation of this kind, and it is expected that as a result of the meeting of the National Irrigation congress,

and for the publicity given to reclamation by the visit of the senate committee there will be a movement of homesekers diverting possibly some of the current which is now setting in toward Canada."

Regarding the work of the department, of which he is the head, Mr. Newell said:

"The season now approaching a close has been the most successful, and at the same time the one most filled with anxiety for the reclamation service. It has been successful in that more than 100,000 acres of productive land has been brought under ditch, and at the same time the anxieties have been great because of the fact that, among other things, there were 2,000 miles of canals and ditches in active use for the first time. All of this earthwork is new, has not had time as yet to settle and consolidate, and the men engaged in operation and maintenance have not had time to become thoroughly familiar with all of the local conditions.

"Many new structures have been completed, notably the Pathfinder dam, in central Wyoming; the Laguna dam in southern California and Arizona; the Gunnison tunnel, six miles in length, in Colorado has been broken through, and literally thousands of smaller structures, such as head-gates, flumes, siphons and turnouts, have been put in use.

"In spite of the great number of these works there have been very few accidents. One or two treacherous banks have given away; others which have been under suspicion have held exceptionally well. It is interesting to note that wherever this earthwork is built up of the burrowing animals, apparently for hundreds of miles, congregate to dig in the fresh banks, and unceasing vigilance is necessary in warring warfare against mice, ground squirrels and other animals until the earth has become hardened by settlement or covered with vegetation.

"Public lands under the reclamation projects are being steadily taken up by an excellent class of men. The adoption of a new rule to the effect that settlers must pay in advance one-tenth of the cost of the water has kept out the improvident or purely speculative entrymen. As a result the men who select farms do it with greater care than in previous years and with a full knowledge of conditions and a determination to make good.

"In the Chicago office during the month of July more than 2,000 persons have made personal inquiries concerning the opportunities on the various projects. Many thousands have listened to descriptions of the irrigation works built by the government and by private parties, and hundreds have obtained personal information concerning the opportunities for home-making in the arid regions.

**Furnishes Facts.**

"The government not only tries to diffuse information concerning its own lands, but furnishes facts, as far as possible, to investors and engineers concerning the opportunities for further reclamation of the country. Millions of dollars have been invested upon impartial statements of water supply and of land conditions, and it may be claimed that for every dollar the government has invested in reclamation individuals or corporations have invested ten during the past year.

"This is significant in view of the fact that at the time of the passage of the reclamation act in 1902 irrigation development was practically stagnant, and although the Carey act has been on the statute books since 1894, few of the states have taken advantage of it, and nothing was being done in the way of actual construction. The fact that the government believed it wise to invest money in reclamation gave all eyes of earnest capitalists.

"Mr. Newell expressed himself as being pleased with the arrangements made for the seventeenth session of the National Irrigation congress, at which he will speak on "The National Irrigation Situation," the morning of the opening day, August 9, and remain throughout the week.

"It is gratifying to note in the public press and other publications that the country has been thoroughly aroused to the importance of the coming congress," he added, "and I believe it will be the largest and most interesting in the history of the association."

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## PLAN TO CONTINUE INQUIRY

INVESTIGATIONS ALONG LINES OF IRRIGATED TO BE CARRIED FURTHER.

Spokane, July 21.—Investigations begun by the senate committee on irrigation at its hearings in Washington are to be continued throughout the arid west, and public attention will be drawn even more prominently than in the past to the opportunities afforded in these regions.

Frederick H. Newell, director of the United States reclamation service, made the foregoing statement in the course of an interview on his way to Portland. He added:

"The committee will probably be accompanied by several press representatives, who will describe from day to day the country and the success attained by individuals as well as by corporations and the government in the general movement for utilizing and conserving the resources as yet untouched. Great good is expected from a thorough study thus made.

"The opportunities for settlers which exist in each of the western states will be better appreciated when the facts are brought out, as they must be in an investigation of this kind, and it is expected that as a result of the meeting of the National Irrigation congress,

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