

WASHINGTON.

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The Lobbyists and the New York and Boston Post Offices—Why the Investigating Committee Were Set to Work.

I am more convinced than ever that the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads were started upon their present expedition to New York and Boston by a story invented by those notorious Washington lobby men, G. H. Painter and one Shaw, a news jobber. Painter is correspondent here of the Chicago Republican, the New York Sun and the Philadelphia Inquirer. He was made clerk of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads of the House of Representatives by John B. Alley, ex-Representative from Massachusetts, when the latter was chairman of that committee several years ago. Painter, whose office is a sycamore, took advantage of Alley's ignorance of all legislation and knowledge of postal business. Shaw was Painter's runner, doing his smelling and spying about Washington when Painter could not do it himself. While Painter manipulated the committee Shaw flung around the outside members generally and did Painter's newspaper work, both being partners in the lobby. Shaw, by a certain amount of puffing of Alley and others, obtained employment as Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript, over the signature of "Kappa." Painter, through the Post Office Committee, managed to get Shaw made Postmaster of Towanda, Pa. The secret of this appointment, Shaw having been a secessionist during the war, was a mystery alike to Mr. Johnson who sent the nomination to the Senate, and to that body which confirmed it. How it was smuggled through is an interesting story too long for detail here. Suffice it to say that Shaw ran the office through a subordinate, pocketing the profits and remaining here in Washington, pursuing his part-time business as Painter's spy and news collector about the department, but turning every new comer and attempting to get an interest in every measure about to be brought before Congress. The story goes that Painter and Shaw have put the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads in their several papers to such an extent that the members—especially the republicans—are almost wholly under their control. Parties having business before the committee have to consult Painter. If they don't "come down" liberally they are approached by Shaw and gently reminded that they had better do so, and are informed also that they can "go through easy enough" if they "do Painter." The secret generally is that Painter is a Jew. How far the members of the committee are aware of the extent to which they are thus manipulated in their public duties I will not pretend to say now. Let that be a subject for future treatment also.

There is little doubt that these two wretches (Painter and Shaw) have been very much exercised during the last year about the two great post office buildings now in course of construction in the cities of New York and Boston. They took it for granted that it was impossible for any such works to proceed in this country under the government without having a corruption bill attached, in which the "strickers of the Washington lobby," as a matter of course, were to be a party. The committee of which Painter is clerk, for reasons well known to him, endorsed the plans of the five New York architects. Mallet, the government architect, showed that they were deficient. The commission having the final settlement of the question sustained Mr. Mullett. This was a blow at the "strickers" stored. They became indignant and avenged against Mullett. Painter had an agreement with General Harbord, the architect superintendent of the works, who as chairman of the House Investigating Committee of the Fortieth Congress, refused to screen Painter, who was charged with attempting to blackmail the late Robert J. Walker and his associate counsel in the Alaska purchase, Mr. F. P. Stanton. Mr. Walker denounced Painter in unflinching terms. General Harbord would not permit himself to be used as an instrument to hide Painter and Shaw's acts. Ever since that time they have abused the General. They looked upon him and Mullett as being in their way. They determined to remove them; so they concocted a scare. They organized a rumor. Be it known that a well organized rumor in Washington is often better than a great fact. The latter explains itself and requires no investigation; the former does.

The rumor was "Knutson and Harbord were corrupt; that they had been "hush-money" to locate the Post Office where it is; that they were using the money already appropriated for had purposes. They got the committee by the ears, the members of which did not want much arguing to go to New York and Boston and spend the holidays, and be re-elected and petted and buttonholed at the expense of the government. No sooner said than done. They have been to both cities and Grah Hop Painter, of Westchester, Pennsylvania by birth, Washington correspondent of several papers by reputation, paid clerk of the above named committee by election, and striker general of the Washington lobby by profession, accompanied them. Snow returns here to the Post Office newspaper office. Before this time the committee have discovered that they were sent upon a wild goose chase. The report that the new Boston Post Office was located upon Milk, Devonshire and Water streets, in consequence of a large sum of money having been raised by the real estate owners in the vicinity of the site, for the benefit of certain officials, Mullett intimated, who procured that result, will probably be exploited as the New York Post Office rumor has already been. The committee carry with them Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Le Barnes and Mr. Hayes, an expert photographer, formerly of the Herald and Globe. These officers would be sufficient if the committee really had important business to execute, but you will find that the "strickers" had to go along to watch for the lobby, manipulate the members, look after his papers, the extension of every other journal in the country and to have a good time generally at the expense of the government, getting his mileage of course. Sergeant-at-Arms Ordway has also gone on to accompany him. He will get his mileage extra by so doing. This is republican economy. The House of Representatives should look to it.

A Great Land Swindle in Kansas—Land Sharks Dispossessing Settlers—Congressional Investigation to be Instituted. Mr. C. H. Laughlin reached this city to-day, and will urge upon Congress an investigation into the Kansas neutral land question. It appears a party of land monopolists have been making extraordinary efforts to dispossess about 7,000 families of their title to these lands. The Indian title was extinguished by treaty, in August, 1853, and ceded to the United States. The veterans, by a roundabout way, got the lands into the hands of a shrewd Michiganian.

Originally, it is stated, Harlan, as Secretary of the Interior, sold the lands to the American Emigrant Company. Mr. Browning came in and got an opinion against this sale. Under this judicial authority the sale was set aside. Browning turned the lands over to Michigan. The American Emigrant Company and the Michigan afterwards settled matters so as to harmonize their interests. These parties are now striving to drive out the settlers or to compel them to pay an exorbitant price for the lands. It is alleged that a military force is located in the midst of the settlers to oppress and discourage them. To those settlers who are willing to purchase their lands no deeds will be given, but a trust of seven years is allowed, when the deeds are to be given by the Gulf Railroad Company. It is said that the lands have already been mortgaged to Boston capitalists. The object of the investigation is to unscramble this additional specimen of the fearful swindles perpetrated through the medium of the public lands. The settlers feel confident if the matter is brought before Congress that that body will authorize them to purchase the lands at government rates, according to the treaty between the Indians and the United States. In regard to these lands, in the first instance, the patents were issued to the Indians with reversion to the United States in event of surrender of the lands. The settlers claim that the reversion laws are not to be disregarded, but that by the treaty of 1850 the land was sold to the Government, and they had a right to purchase it as such, as they were prior to the treaty. The land sharks will, of course, fight every effort to investigate, but it is understood Mr. Julian, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands, will take the matter up. Mr. Julian is a terror among the swindlers, and if he sets to work the tur may be expected to fly.

The Vacant Judgeship—Attorney General Hoar's Chances Improving. It would seem that the friends of Attorney General Hoar have come in possession of some new facts which lead them to believe that if a direct vote is taken in the Senate he will be confirmed as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. At all events, it is said they will have the nomination taken from the table and pressed to a vote soon after the recess. Careful inquiry among those Senators now in the city develops the fact that all who were opposed to Hoar, when his nomination was before the Senate, are still against him and would vote for his rejection. They say he would have been rejected at the time had not his few friends begged him off with the promise that his name would be withdrawn. Zach Chandler is reported as saying that Hoar couldn't be confirmed for justice of the peace, and that the Senate would put a head on him, no matter what place he was nominated. There is some talk of the President withdrawing Hoar and nominating him as the successor of Stanton. This, it is said, would do away with what was put forth as one of the chief objections to his confirmation, namely, locality. The Pennsylvanians, however, will steadily oppose any such arrangement, this, because they claim that the appointment to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Stanton belongs to their State. The truth is, the opposition to Hoar is of a personal nature, and the chances are the prediction of Zach Chandler, relative to the action of the Senate in rejecting him for whatever place he may be nominated, is probably correct.

A New Chapter in the Paraguayan Muddle—Lopez Becomes Indignant and Demands an Explanation. The news of the Paraguayan muddle is not yet. I learn to-night that a diplomatic agent of President Lopez is on his way here, charged with some important communications for President Grant. It is said that this agent is also instructed to inquire of the President the reasons which led to the suspension of diplomatic relations with Paraguay at a time when such a step could not fail to have a damaging effect upon the cause of Lopez. The intrepid leader of Paraguay, it appears, regards the withdrawal of our Minister as a very unfriendly act on the part of the United States government, and one that was calculated to operate in favor of the Brazilians and their allies. The expected agent of Lopez will report to the President the matter in the most forcible manner and endeavor to induce the President either to send back McMahon or appoint a new Minister to represent our government in Paraguay.

Appropriation Bills Completed. The holiday meetings of the House Committee on Appropriations have remained so far in the accomplishment of considerable work. The Pension and Military Appropriation bills have been completed and are ready to be reported. The committee will meet again to-morrow and resume the consideration of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial bill. It is expected that the appropriation bills ready will be reported at once upon the reassembling of Congress. The Judiciary bill has also been considered, but is not yet completed.

The Remains of George Peabody. The authorities at the Navy Department are of opinion that her Majesty's ship Monarch, with the remains of George Peabody, will not reach Portland earlier than the 15th of this month. Admiral Porter calculates that it will come by way of the Azores Islands and will have to sail 200 miles a day in order to get here by the middle of the month, that is, allowing her four days stopping at the Azores. If she comes by way of the Madeira Islands and St. Thomas she will not be here till February.

The Radical Fight for the New Orleans Custom House. Collector Casey, of New Orleans, it appears, promised some time ago to reduce the force under him in the Custom House, and in doing so to dismiss the clerks accused of being democrats. To-day he handed Secretary Boutwell the revised list of employees for his approval. In the meantime, it is said, certain of the Louisiana radicals, who have been watching Casey's movements, had forwarded a statement to the secretary, setting forth that Casey, in reconstructing the office, had turned out all the republican clerks, and intended to do the same with the conflicting statements on this point the Secretary proposes to make an investigation before approving the dismissal.

Income Return Blanks. Comptroller Deane to-day gave an order to the public printer for the first instalment of blanks for income returns, the number of which will be 1,500,000, and the aggregate over seventeen tons.

Internal Revenue Receipts. The internal revenue receipts to-day were \$1,575,000. The aggregate of certificates of deposit received at the office during the month of December, 1869, was \$1,075,282. Deduction on articles now exempt..... 1,507,585 Balance from sources now taxable..... \$60,498,578 The aggregate of certificates of deposit received at the Internal Revenue Office during the month of December, 1869, was..... \$6,554,020 Gain during that period over six months of fiscal year 1869, of 25 per cent..... 15,068,748 Gain from the same sources for the same time is 24 1/2 per cent..... 17,094,492 The aggregate of certificates of deposit received at the office during December, 1869, was..... 10,201,510 Deduct now exempt from tax..... 1,605,073 Balance from sources now taxable..... \$10,101,757 Aggregate of certificates of deposit received during December, 1869..... 11,737,325 Deduction on articles now exempt..... 1,635,567

The Boston Bank Robbery—Many inquiries are being made whether the robbers of the Boston Bank safe have been arrested or the stolen bonds recovered, but there seems to be no satisfactory answer given. It is said that the robbers are in the city, and that they are in the hands of the New York detectives, who have been trying to negotiate a settlement between them and the owners of the bonds, who originally offered twenty per cent on the amount recovered, but it seems that the amount is too small, and that the robbers are offering to give up the bonds to other fifty cents on the dollar, and the bonds will be likely to be forthcoming. The way has been reduced to a minimum, and it is said that the robbers are now from an anonymous letter written in hieroglyphics and received by the Chief of Police, Negotiations are still pending with the New York detectives, Joseph M. 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