

The "Man's Store." Official Weather Report—Fair.



Those who bought their overcoats or rain coats yesterday were lucky, as it turned out to be quite a wintry day. You'd better buy yours to-day. Exceptional values in "M. S. M." overcoats at \$15 to \$45.

"Money's Worth or Money Back." D. J. KAUFMAN, 1005-07 Pa. Ave.

Wilson & Mayers 1227 and 1229 G St. NEW FURNISHINGS EXCLUSIVELY. FINE NEW FURNITURE AT AUCTION TO-DAY

Piano Purchasers' Coupon. \$50 to \$100 Reduction ON ANY CHASE BROS. PIANO Present this COUPON at Once.

M. A. LEISE, Manufacturing Optician, 614 Ninth St. N. W. Two Pairs of Glasses in One. Invisible Bifocals mean comfort and perfect vision to the wearer.

FISCHER PIANOS Known Everywhere. Good Always. SOLD ONLY BY W. F. Frederick Music Co.

The Perfume Preferred —by those who eschew the unrefined is Thompson's DOUBLE COLOGNE.

Over 60 Years Established. THE ARTISTIC STIEFF PIANOS 1008-1010 F St. N. W.

APPEAL FOR POWER

Commissioners Ask Congress to Grant Authority.

AFTER PUBLIC CORPORATIONS

Annual Report of District Body Shows Pressing Need for Full Dominion Over Railway, Gas, and Telephone Companies—Would Reduce Taxation Imposed on Banks.

That the many vexatious questions which arise between the corporations and the public could be more readily determined if the Commissioners should be given additional powers for the regulation of public utility corporations in the District, was brought forth in the annual report of the District Commissioners, which was sent to Congress yesterday.

The report states that under different acts of Congress the Commissioners now have considerable powers of this character, but that experience has shown that they cannot properly conserve the interests of the public without additional authority.

Particular stress is made by the Commissioners on street railway companies, gas companies, telephone companies, and other corporations of a similar character.

The Report in Detail.

The question of the regulation and control of public utilities is one that is now properly engrossing the attention of municipal authorities everywhere, and it is appropriate that Washington should be a model in respect to its treatment of public-service corporations.

It is true that they now pay a small percentage of their gross earnings in lieu of a franchise fee, but for many years they enjoyed the monopoly without making any recompense therefor.

In the cases of the street railways, which occupy the principal streets and avenues, such rivalry is a physical impossibility, and even should another gas company or another telephone company seek to establish itself here, the difficulties and embarrassments, to say nothing of additional expense imposed upon the citizen, would undoubtedly operate to prevent such a monopoly being granted.

Complain Against Railways.

With these privileges come great responsibilities. Having surrendered the occupation of the streets and avenues, the public is entitled to the best and most generous service which can be rendered, consistent with a fair return upon capital invested.

The extent and character of this service is always a vexatious problem. The convenience of the citizen who demands a more frequent street-car service conflicts with the views of the corporation officials, who, quite naturally, seek the largest possible dividends.

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Include Other Corporations.

They have been asking additional power of supervision over street railways, and they feel now that they should ask for similar authority with respect to the other public utility corporations—the two gas companies, the electric lighting and power company, and the telephone company.

With these powers should be given authority and money with which to employ experts from time to time in special investigations as to those public utility corporations. The assistance of such experts in special commissions could make all necessary inquiries and subsequently could make all necessary reports to Congress.

Taxes on Public Utilities.

Under the direction of the Commissioners the assessor's office prepared for the first time in its history a detailed statement upon the subject of the taxation of public utility corporations in the District of Columbia, in order to determine whether these corporations are fully assessed under the law.

The following summary of the statement shows the taxes assessed against such corporations in the District of Columbia for the year ended June 30, 1907:

Table with 2 columns: Corporation Name and Tax Amount. Includes items like Gas companies, Electric lighting, Telephone companies, Steamboat companies, Canal company.

Rates Should Be Adjusted.

The personal-tax law, approved July 1, 1902, which provides for the taxation of public utility corporations and financial institutions, provides for a tax of 4 per cent upon the gross receipts of the street railway corporations, 5 per cent per annum on the gross earnings of the gas companies, 4 per cent per annum on the gross earnings of electric lighting companies, 4 per cent per annum on the gross earnings of the telephone companies, and 15 per cent per annum on the value of vessels, ships, and boats owned by steamboat companies, and 6 per cent per annum on the gross earnings of national banks and trust companies.

It is suggested to Congress that a more equitable arrangement of these taxes might be arranged. It has already been shown that the tax upon the gross receipts of the street railway corporations might well be increased from 4 to 6 per cent, and it is quite possible that a similar increase could be imposed without detriment upon other public utility corporations. On the other hand, a reduction of the tax on national banks and trust companies would seem to be equitable.

Reduce Bank Tax.

The national banks hold no franchise for the use of the streets, nor do they possess the monopoly which is enjoyed by public utility companies. One of the main features of trust companies is the loaning of money upon real estate mortgages and upon the savings from this source. They are, under

existing law, taxed 6 per cent. On profits from the same class of business incorporated savings banks pay 4 per cent, while building associations operating in similar lines of profit pay 2 per cent. These various rates for practically the same class of business are inequitable.

Need of Another Conduit.

Attention also was invited by the report to the necessity for the erection of another conduit from Great Falls to the city. It is stated that the present conduit is not in good condition, and in case of any accident to it the entire water supply would be cut off until repairs were made.

This additional conduit has also been recommended by the chief of engineers, and his estimates contain an item of \$10,000 for making the preliminary survey. The report shows that the water department of the District is self-supporting.

The Commissioners also recommended that the day of the inauguration of the President and Vice President of the United States be changed from the inclement month of March to the month of April. A renewal of the recommendation that a civil service law for the District government should be given by Congress is made by the report.

That the District should be given two representatives at the United States Military Academy, instead of one, is the opinion of the Commissioners. The report states that Congress acceded to the request of the Commissioners that the District should be given two representatives at the Naval Academy, and for that reason it is hoped to secure that additional representative at the Military Academy.

Power to Sign Contracts.

The report further recommends that provision be made, so that contracts for construction work shall be valid when signed by a majority of the board, instead of requiring all three Commissioners to sign the contracts, as is the case at present.

Considerable space was devoted in the report regarding the improvement of the Anacostia River basin. A request of \$10,000 is made by the Commissioners for the purpose of hiring counsel to look into the matter of titles and to make a report to the board.

The largest item in the estimates of the Commissioners was for the public schools. Nearly all the estimates of which the education was recommended by the Commissioners. From the total amount of \$4,161,290 only \$36,200 was deducted.

A recommendation that an appropriation of \$186,000 be made for the purpose of purchasing suitable sites on which to locate public play grounds was contained in the report. It was also recommended that \$25,500 be appropriated for the preparation and equipment and maintenance of municipal and school playground sites.

Ask Money for Books.

The Commissioners earnestly recommended that favorable action be taken by Congress on the whole Public Library budget, which includes an increased force at better salaries, more money for books, and a larger contingent fund to meet the increased expenses for heating, lighting, repairs, and supplies.

In touching upon the Board of Charities, the Commissioners highly commended the excellent work done by that body in the past year. It was recommended that an immediate appropriation be made for a third wing to the workhouse, as many of the prisoners now have to be kept in the old building.

It is also recommended that 100 additional patrolmen be added to the police force of the District. A recommendation that Congress provide better ventilated cells and sanitary cells at several of the police stations was also made. The report stated that it was important that provision be made in the near future for building new and improved station houses.

Want Central Police Station.

Continuing, the report stated that it was particularly desirable that a central police station be erected in the heart of the city, to take the place of the present First precinct station, which, the report states, is insanitary and ill adapted for the purpose for which it is used. A new station in Anacostia is also recommended.

The Commissioners recommended that an appropriation of \$46,000 be made for the purpose of keeping the streets of the city clean, with the additional recommendation that the cost for hand cleaning be increased.

The report states that the Commissioners expect to occupy the new Municipal Building, which is in progress of construction in Pennsylvania avenue, about July 1, 1908. The Commissioners requested the appropriation of \$400,000, to be used in repairing the streets, that more resurfacing may be done.

Address by Prof. Raymond.

At the regular meeting of the Society for Philosophical Inquiry at George Washington University yesterday afternoon, Prof. George L. Raymond, of this city, delivered a talk on "Inspiration from the point of view of psychology."

Speaking of Flowers.

One always gets the best at Gude's and his flowers last longest. 1214 F.

LOCAL MENTION.

EXCURSIONS TO-DAY. To Fort Monroe, Norfolk, Newport News, and all points South-Norfolk and Washington steamers every evening in the year at 6:30.

Buy Your Christmas Money

From the Mercantile Society, 109 F st. n.w. Lowest rates; investigate.

Purissima a Superior Rye Whisky.

Ripe with age and of the mellowest development. A whisky of medicinal value. Wm. Cannon, 1225 7th st. 'Phone N. 523.

Oppose Erection of Stable.

At a hearing before the Board of Commissioners yesterday morning a protest was made against the erection of a stable in the coal yard of J. W. Loveless, North Capitol street and Florida avenue northwest, by property owners in the immediate vicinity of the yard.

\$1 a Gallon for Helsing's Ice Cream.

Is the purest and best medicinal whisky on the market. Physicians recommend it. 'Phone Main 262—Joseph P. Fegan, 408 9th st. n.w.—for a full qt., \$1 delivered.

Anything to Sell by Auction?

Include it in Saturday's sale at Weschler's, 520 Pa. ave. n.w. You will be pleased with results. Prompt returns. 'Phone 1232.

Sea Foods, Always Fresh and Fine.

Great Beer & Chop House, 513 11th st. n.w. Office, 704 11th st.

Rechnic Co-operative Society

Of the District of Columbia saves you from 5 to 20 percent on your Christmas shopping. Original membership costs \$100 per year; renewals, 25c. See H. C. Emery, Secretary, 625 G st. n.w.

Table d'Hotel Dinner, 75c Lunches a la carte.

Park Hotel, Winter Gard. n. N. Y. ave., and 11th st. Hungarian Orchestra during lunch, dinner, and supper.

Do Your Christmas Buying Now Before the holiday rush begins. Take ample time to make your selections, and don't be "rushed to death." Many new suggestions in our stock this year, and all of them reasonably priced.

DEATH OF FRANK W. PALMER Former Public Printer Passes Away in Chicago.

Had Been Editor, Congressman, and Postmaster of His Home City. Held in High Esteem.

Hon. Frank Wayland Palmer, former national Public Printer, died in Chicago yesterday at the age of eighty years. Mr. Palmer was best known in Washington as Public Printer, in which capacity he served for many years.

In the Government Printing Office he was loved, honored, and respected by all the thousands of employees in the big establishment who ever held the office.

Mr. Palmer was born in Manchester, Ind. He learned the printer's trade in the office of the Jamestown (N. Y.) Journal, afterward becoming editor and joint publisher.

From 1878 to 1881 he published the Dubuque (Iowa) Daily Times. He was State printer of Iowa from 1861 to 1888, and was elected to Congress in 1889, serving two terms in the Forty-first and Forty-second Congresses, in which were James G. Blaine, James A. Garfield, Roscoe Conklin, William B. Allison, Shelby M. Cullom, S. S. Cox, Simon Cameron, Humbal Hamlin, John Sherman, Allen G. Thurman, and many other great men.

At the close of his Congressional term Mr. Palmer went to Chicago and became editor-in-chief of the Chicago Inter-Ocean. He was postmaster of Chicago from 1871 to 1885. In 1889 he was appointed Public Printer by President Harrison.

and served until 1894. He was again appointed by President McKinley in 1897, retiring in 1906.

During his life he held many positions of honor and trust, and he was respected, honored, and loved by all who knew him, and his death closes a remarkable and worthy career. The following is a tribute by Mr. Oscar J. Ricketts, who was associated with Mr. Palmer for many years:

"Next to my father, Frank W. Palmer was the most lovable man I have ever known. I had the good fortune to be associated with him intimately a long time, and, therefore, speak advisedly. He possessed in such unusual degree those high traits of true manhood as at once stamped him a man far more than ordinary attainments. His daily life was a literal exemplification of the Golden Rule.

"As a public officer he was the ideal executive, ever just, broad-minded, conservative, and far-sighted. When vexatious questions presented themselves, affecting the welfare of individuals or employees, Mr. Palmer preferred as a remedy the broad mantle of charity as opposed to the methods of cold commercialism.

"No employee of the great work shop which he presided was too unimportant to gain his presence, and no man who has ever held the office of Public Printer has retired from it holding the unbroken esteem and love of the operatives, public men, and the public in general, as did Frank W. Palmer. His was a life, characterized by clean-handed methods and devotion to duty."

War Department Clerk Dies. After an illness of only two days, Edmond Cotterill, a veteran clerk of the War Department, died at 2:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his home, 1707 Corcoran street. He is survived by his wife and three children, Charles A. Cotterill, of the Associated Press; Mrs. S. B. Parnbaker, and Mrs. C. J. Gillette.

Floral Tokens for Shoppers, 14th & I. 'Phone Your order to Debutter.

Gift Furniture at Underselling Prices and On Easy Terms.

Xmas Morris Chairs At Special Prices.

Soft Oak Morris Chair, with reversible velvet cushions, \$4.95 Special for..... \$6.75

Massive Quartered Oak or Mahogany Finish Morris Chair; reversible oak Verona Cushion; worth \$12.50. Special for..... \$7.75

An elegant Morris Chair; Imperial Golden Oak Frame; claw arms; side head rests; removable spring seat; all upholstered in genuine Boston leather; \$13 value for..... \$7.75

Massive Quartered Oak Morris Chair, elaborately carved; best reversible cushions, handsomely upholstered worth \$22. Special for..... \$15.50

Mission Furniture For the Doll's House.

Another chance for the disappointed ones to get this \$2.50 Set of Mission Furniture for..... 79c

Genuine Mission Furniture, like cut, 12x10 1/2-inch bed with removable slats, Arm Chair, Arm Rocker, and Table with low-cushion seat. Substantially built and weathered oak finish. \$2.50 value; special for..... 79c

None delivered. None sent C. O. D. Bring exact change.

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Extra! New Trends and Dress Suits for Him. Extra! OVERCOATS

Finest \$25 and \$30 Real English Beaver, Kersey, Melton, and Irish Frieze Overcoats to Order..... \$17.75

Genuine \$25 and \$30 "ROCK" Black Thibel Suits to Order..... \$14.75

Our Mr. Mudd, formerly of Keen's, personally designs and cuts all Stein-built garments.

M. Stein & Co., 808-810 F Street. Tailors.

Purity—Cleanliness—Excellence. Authorities Concede Heurich's Beers to be the world's most perfect brewing products. MAERZEN, SENATE and Lager at the expositions of Paris, 1867; Liege, 1885, and Jamestown, 1887. You're entitled to the BEST—got Heurich's.

YOU CAN'T BEAT IT Because it was lauded at the West End Laundry. Garments left with us are washed absolutely clean, thoroughly rinsed, and ironing are given that perfect finish which is recognized by all who dress right.

Best in the World CERES Fancy Roller Patent Flour

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Holiday Stationery R. P. Andrews Paper Co., Inc. 627-29 La. Ave.

DIAMONDS AND OTHER Precious Stones. You will find my prices low, quality considered. HENRY C. KARR 1436 New York Ave. Corner of 15th St.

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Carvers, \$1 At a special we're offering very fine 2-piece Stag-handle Carving Sets for..... \$1

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