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Special Notices

HELP COLORED PEOPLE TO BUILD A HOME. The Washington Home Building Association, 1415 14th St. N.W., is now accepting applications for the purchase of lots in the new city.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE INDEPENDENT ICE COMPANY desires to inform Brokers, Butchers and other large consumers of ice that we are now prepared to furnish ice in quantities for this season of the year. C. B. CHURCH, 1320 22d St.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

EDISON'S SYSTEM CHALLENGED. THE EDISON SYSTEM OF INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LIGHTING CHALLENGED AS DANGEROUS BY THE UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND THE UNITED STATES ILLUMINATING COMPANY, WHO OFFER IN AN OPEN LETTER, TO SUBMIT TO ARBITRATORS FOR INVESTIGATION THEIR CLAIMS AS TO THE GREATER ECONOMY AND SAFETY TO THE CONSUMER OF THE WESTINGHOUSE CONVERTER SYSTEM AS USED IN THIS CITY BY THEM.

An open letter, of which the following is a copy, was sent on Friday, December 20, to the Edison Electric Illuminating Company by the United Electric Light and Power Company and the United States Illuminating Company.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, 59 LIBERTY ST., NEW YORK, DEC. 20, 1889.

To the President of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of New York:

DEAR SIR: You have for some time, by sending your officers and agents to our customers with incorrect and misleading statements and spreading broadcast through your agents and paid advertisers grossly incorrect and absolutely false information, been attempting to prejudice the public against the converter system of incandescent lighting as used by us in this city. You have even gone so far as to attempt to influence the Board of Health against us. We are prepared to say without fear that which is open and straightforward, and therefore to settle the question to the satisfaction of the insurance companies, the users of incandescent lights and the bewildered public.

We make the following challenge:

We challenge your company to a full and careful investigation of the relative economy and safety to the customer of the direct current three-wire system of incandescent lighting as used by your company and the Westinghouse converter system used by us; the investigation to be conducted by a board of seven experts, three to be chosen by each side and the seventh by the six so chosen; one on each side to be familiar with insurance matters and the others practical electricians.

We expect to prove by such an investigation: 1st. That conductors carrying high-tension alternating currents have been and can be safely and successfully operated underground.

2d. That the Westinghouse converter system, as used by us, insures absolute safety to the user of incandescent lights, as the converter or transformer placed on the premises of each of our customers serves as an effective barrier against fire or accidents and reduces the current of the street mains to a harmless current, usually of 50 volts, or one-fourth the intensity of the current introduced into the premises of the consumer under your system.

3d. That the converter or transformer, accomplished as it does a complete separation of the currents in the street from the wires on the premises of the consumer, is absolutely essential for safe incandescent lighting.

4th. That under our system the quantity of current used by the consumer can be measured by our meter with the greatest accuracy, and that the measurements on the meter can be read by every customer.

With regard to the Edison system we expect to prove: 1st. That the Edison underground system is dangerous in the extreme because of its leakage, which may at any time cause a fire on the premises of the consumer, as shown by the large number of fires which have been caused by that system in this and other cities.

2d. That your business can only be rendered safe and the great fire risk incident to its use removed by the adoption of the converter or transformer system.

3d. That your company has no meter which is reliable, and that as a result its bills rendered to its customers are largely a matter of guesswork.

We will be glad to submit to the committee any other questions as to the relative merits of the two systems which you would wish to have investigated.

In order that our position may not be misunderstood by the public we have sent copies of this letter to the daily papers for publication. We do not fear publicity as we feel confident that the converter system, which has come into almost universal use in Europe, to the virtual exclusion of the Edison direct-current system, will not suffer from a fair investigation by fair-minded men. Very respectfully yours,

THE UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO., THE UNITED STATES ILLUMINATING CO., THE WASHINGTON LOAN AND TRUST CO., TEMPORARY OFFICES, 1001 F Street N.W., RICHARD W. CLAY, President.

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Washington News and Gossip.

AT THE CAPITOL TO-DAY. THE OKLAHOMA BILL PASSED. OTHER BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE. FARM MORTGAGES IN THE SENATE.

A joint resolution was reported from the committee on foreign affairs and passed appropriating \$2,000 for supplying the international exchange office with a sufficient number of documents.

Also a joint resolution (which was also passed) authorizing the legal representatives of Rear Admiral Charles B. Dahlgren to receive a small box, set in diamonds, from the care of Russia.

Among the bills reported from committees and placed on the calendar was one increasing to \$2,000 the amount of money allowed to the widow of Gen. Judson S. Kilpatrick.

To investigate the working of immigration laws. (Which went over till tomorrow) authorizing the committee on immigration in the two houses to investigate the working of the various laws of the United States and of the several states in regard to immigration from foreign countries (especially the law of Congress of August 3, 1882), and also to investigate the working of the contracts made by the Secretary of the Treasury under the law with various state commissions, boards and officers.

FARM MORTGAGES AGAIN. The Senate resumed consideration of the bill that was discussed yesterday to require the superintendent of the census to ascertain what percentage of the people own their farms, the number of farms under mortgage and the amount thereof.

THE HOUSE. Mr. Burrows (Mich.) introduced a bill for the improvement of St. Mary's river and Hay lake channel. Referred.

Mr. Payson (Ill.) introduced a bill to forfeit certain land grants to aid in the construction of railroads. Referred.

Mr. Conger (Iowa) introduced a bill making Des Moines a port of delivery. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Rogers (Ark.), acting under instructions from the committee on the bill which was passed providing that the terms of the circuit and district courts in Texas shall begin on the third Monday of May and the third Monday in November of each year.

REVENUE RECEIPTS TODAY.—Internal revenue, \$180,807; customs, \$633,560.

THE RESIGNATION OF CAPT. CHARLES S. BLACK, assistant surgeon, has been accepted by the President to take effect April 30, 1890.

PENSIONS FOR DISTRICT PEOPLE.—Pensions have been granted to residents of the District of Columbia as follows: Increase, Joseph Huff; original widow, Mrs. Anna M. Wood; Herman Stiebeling.

EVERY BANK HAS RESPONDED.—All the national bank depositories have now responded to Secretary Wilson's call for a partial reduction of their holdings. The total amount of bonds purchased to date on this account is \$7,333,500.

COAL FOR THE CRUISER BALTIMORE.—One thousand tons of coal are to be brought from the Potomac river to Norfolk navy yard to give the new flagship Baltimore her first coaling.

THE NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.—Postmaster General Wanamaker has approved the design and color for the new two-cent postage stamp. The designs for the other denominations are well under way and it is thought that the new series will be ready for distribution in about a week. Postmasters are expected to curtail their requisitions accordingly.

FATHER AND SON ARRESTED.—Chief Post Office Inspector Robinson has been notified of the arrest of L. E. Darling, postmaster at Shiocton, Wis., on a charge of secreting and destroying mail. Darling's son was also arrested. Darling has made a confession, it is said, and his office placed in the hands of the authorities.

QUIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.—An examination will be held on the 27th instant, commencing at 9 a. m., for the purpose of the civil service commission, to fill vacancies in the geological division in the position of stenographer and typewriter. Only males will be eligible. The copyist examination will be required as a basis, to which will be added a practical examination in scientific (especially geologic) terminology and draughting. Typewriting and stenography will be supplementary to the copyist examination. The salary of the position is \$900.

ARMY ORDERS.—The army retiring board ordered to meet at Los Angeles, Cal., has been ordered to examine Maj. Leonard Y. Loring, of San Diego, Cal., Maj. Wm. A. Edinger, of Fort Snelling, Minn., and Maj. J. H. Brown, of Fort Snelling, Minn., who have been detailed as members of this board. Lieut. Col. Robt. H. Hall, fifth infantry, Capt. Philip H. Remington, nineteenth infantry, and Lieut. Martin L. Torrance, W. Troop, U. S. Cavalry, are also members of the board. Col. Jared A. Smith, engineer corps, has been ordered on temporary duty from Portland, Me., to Fort Leavenworth, Mo.

THE PAN-AMERICANS IN BALTIMORE.—Arrangements are progressing rapidly in Baltimore for the entertainment of the Pan-American conference of the merchants and manufacturers' association of that city Saturday night to the delegates to the Pan-American conference. An elaborate banquet will be given. The menu will be prepared by a distinguished chef, and will consist of a menu of the most choice and delicious dishes. The banquet will be held at the Hotel de Ville, and will be opened by the Mayor of Baltimore, who will deliver an address on the occasion. The banquet will be a most successful one, and will do much to promote the interests of the Pan-American conference.

PERSONAL.—Miss A. E. Stone of New York, Wm. B. K. of Chicago, A. M. Farwell of Watertown, N. Y., Chas. H. Cramp of Philadelphia are at the Normandie. —