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The Evening Star.

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To reach all the people in Washington all the time advertise in The Star.

HANDKERCHIEF A CLUE

Young Woman "Detained" in Burdick Case.

NAME IS HUTCHINSON

FORMERLY EMPLOYED AS CLERK IN HIS OFFICE.

Attorney Fennelly Secures Her Release on a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 7.—Superintendent of Police Bull announced at 10 o'clock this morning that a woman had been taken into custody in the Burdick murder mystery.

"We strongly suspect this woman," said Superintendent Bull. "Her name is Miss Marion Hutchinson, who was employed as an extra clerk in Burdick's office. Her former home was in London, Ontario. She is a woman of refinement and a fine musician. She came to Buffalo last summer with her mother and sister. Her father is dead. She is short and slight and has a light complexion."

Miss Hutchinson was taken to police headquarters by detectives at an early hour today. Much secrecy was maintained by the police.

It appears that a handkerchief plays an important part in the identification, and that one not belonging to any one in the Burdick household was found in the den after the tragedy.

As she sat in the office she was approached by Detective Cornish, who asked her for her handkerchief. She gave it up rather reluctantly.

Compared With the One Found.

Then Superintendent Bull stepped into the outer office and took from his drawer a handkerchief which had been concealed there.

It was taken into the inner office, laid on a table, and carefully examined by District Attorney Coatsworth and Superintendent Bull, and compared with the other taken from the woman.

The woman was put through a searching cross-examination in the private office of Superintendent Bull. While refusing to divulge any of the case in the hands of the police, Superintendent Bull made the statement that he was confident that the mystery of the Burdick murder had been solved, and that complete proof would be forthcoming.

Miss Hutchinson was taken into Superintendent Bull's private office and cross-examination was begun. Besides Miss Hutchinson in the office were Superintendent Bull, Assistant Superintendent Cusack, Detective Cornish and District Attorney Coatsworth.

Released on Habeas Corpus.

After her examination at police headquarters Miss Hutchinson was taken to the district attorney's office. Later Attorney Fennelly, the lawyer retained by Mrs. Seth T. Paine, appeared at police headquarters and demanded to see Miss Hutchinson. Superintendent Bull denied that she was there, whereupon Mr. Fennelly repaired to the city hall and obtained from Justice White a writ of habeas corpus ordering that Miss Hutchinson be produced in court on the ground that she was being illegally held for the murder of Edwin L. Burdick.

No defense to the writ was interposed by the police, and Miss Hutchinson was thereupon released.

Superintendent Bull issued a statement saying she had at no time been technically under arrest, although she was detained and questioned.

Another Suspect Questioned.

This afternoon Assistant District Attorney Abbott arrived at police headquarters, having with him in a closed carriage another young woman, apparently about twenty-four years of age. She was handsomely attired. She was taken into the private office, where she was questioned by the authorities.

WAS PRAYING FOR HIS MOTHER.

Crown Princess Louise's Missing Son Found in Chapel.

DRESDEN, March 7.—Little Prince George, eldest son of Crown Prince Frederick, was missed from the palace and for several hours his tutors and the household officials were in consternation. The favorite rumor was that the prince had been abducted by agents of his mother, the former Crown Princess Louise; but the boy was found praying in the cathedral that his mother might return.

The socialists are using the crown princess' episode for political agitation, and the unpopularity of the Saxon monarch appears to have been considerably heightened. The carriage of Princess Mathilde, sister of the crown prince, was surrounded by a crowd in Wilsdruffer strasse, one of the principal shopping streets of Dresden, one day last week, and cries of "Give us our Louise!" were raised. Princess Mathilde was so frightened that when the police reached the scene she was escorted into a shop and eventually went out by the rear door and took another carriage home. Several similar incidents, showing the unpopularity of the royal house, have occurred since the agitation caused by the elopement of the Princess Louise, but none of them has been mentioned in the newspapers of Dresden.

THE TWO TREATIES.

Were Not Reported by Senate Committee Today.

The Senate committee on foreign relations met today to act upon the Panama canal and Cuban treaties. After some desultory discussion the committee adjourned until Monday morning without acting upon the treaties.

When the committee assembled it was found that the democratic membership was rather attenuated in numbers. Mr. Clark of Montana, who takes Mr. Bailey's place, was absent, Mr. Rawlins' seat was vacant and Mr. Money was absent on account of the recent death of his daughter. As it was understood that Mr. Money desired to be present when the treaties were considered, and that he would be here next Monday, it was suggested to postpone reporting the treaties until the next meeting.

It is believed that the Panama treaty will be considered in the Senate ahead of the Cuban treaty.

Received by Queen Margherita.

ROME, March 7.—Dowager Queen Margherita received in private audience today United States Consul General DeCastro and Mrs. DeCastro. The queen showed considerable interest in the large number of Italian emigrants going to the United States, and expressed satisfaction at the fact that there were now so many Americans in Rome.

MR. MERRIAM RESIGNS

Will Leave Census Bureau May 15.

PROBABLE SUCCESSOR

INDICATIONS POINT TO DAVID R. MERCER OF NEBRASKA.

He Has Been Recommended by Members of the House, Labor Leaders and Many Others.

Ex-Governor William R. Merriam, director of the census, personally tendered his resignation to President Roosevelt today, to take effect May 15. The President had not received any advance notification of Mr. Merriam's intentions to leave the government service except what he had seen in newspapers, coming from New York. He expressed regret that Mr. Merriam had concluded to leave the census office, and wished him great success in his new field. Mr. Merriam stated that he had fixed upon May 15 that he might complete some of the work of his office before leaving here.

Active in Politics.

Gov. William R. Merriam has been active in politics for many years, and has held some important positions in his native state, Minnesota, although he never held a position under the national government until appointed director of the census, March 4, 1899. He was known for many years as one of the foremost republicans of his state.

He was a member of the state legislature several years, and while in the legislature

Wm. R. Merriam.

was elected speaker of the house of representatives. He is said to have made an admirable presiding officer. Shortly afterward he became the republican candidate for the nomination for governor of Minnesota, and was elected by an overwhelming majority in 1888. His administration was such that he was re-elected governor in 1890. On retiring from the gubernatorial chair Mr. Merriam returned to his business as president of the Merchants' National Bank of St. Paul, in which institution he had been interested, and of which he had been president before being elected to the legislature. In 1896 he was a member of the national committee from Minnesota and attended the St. Louis convention. He was a member of the committee on resolutions and was active in having the gold plank put in the republican platform.

As Director of the Census.

Gov. Merriam took an active part in the campaign in 1896, after which he again took up his private business. Later he was tendered the appointment of director of the census and accepted. His nomination was sent to the Senate March 4, 1899, on the last day of the session, and was immediately confirmed. Mr. Merriam assumed the duties of his new position July 1 and has held it ever since. He is regarded as one of the most successful executive officers of the government, and it is said that in no government department has such a mass of work been done in the same time as that done by the census office during the taking of the last census. A force of over 3,000 clerks was employed in the work, and it was hurried through to completion in record time. Gov. Merriam was active in the agitation for a permanent census bureau, and had much to do with the drawing up of the bill in which it was provided for.

Mr. Merriam gives up his official position for the purpose of accepting the vice presidency of the International Mercantile Agency, a large corporation in the city of New York engaged in the rating of credits in the United States and Canada. The concern was organized some time ago by wealthy Canadians and New Yorkers. It will do a business similar to that of Dun and Bradstreet.

Mr. Mercer His Probable Successor.

Several men have been mentioned to succeed Mr. Merriam, but the President has given no indication of his intentions in that respect. The name of one man has been presented that promises strength. This

David H. Mercer.

man is ex-Representative David R. Mercer of Nebraska. Representatives of every republican delegation in the House called on the President to ask that Mr. Mercer be appointed to a good place in the government service, and the President replied that he thought a great deal of Mr. Mercer. Since that time Mr. Mercer has been urged for the directorship of the census bureau by a delegation of workingmen of this city. Still stronger support from all directions will be given to his candidacy for this position.

Mr. Mercer's Career.

Former Representative David Henry Mercer of Omaha, Neb., who has just retired from Congress after completing his fifth term in the House, has undoubtedly the strongest backing to succeed Gov. Merriam. Mr. Mercer's retirement from Congress has

been a matter of universal regret on the part of members of both parties in the House, as well as in the Senate. His service for five consecutive terms breaks the record so far as Nebraska is concerned, and as chairman of the House committee on public buildings and grounds he has disbursed over $46,000,000 during that time. The bills which have been prepared under Mr. Mercer's hands for the erection of public buildings throughout the country have been compiled with such diplomacy and skill that they have been in every respect the most popular measures on which the House has taken action.

He originated the idea of the omnibus public building bill, which combined the necessities of the country into one bill, and thus obtained the unanimous support of delegations from every section.

Mr. Mercer has been a consistent and enthusiastic friend of the District of Columbia so far as legislation in Congress is concerned. He was a member of the District committee and as chairman of the public building committee was in a position to do the District much good. He was a firm believer in "Greater Washington," and lost no opportunity to show his friendship in a substantial way. Every omnibus public building bill contains something for the District and the District items were looked after personally in the House and in conference by Mr. Mercer.

Friends Working for Him.

When it became known that Mr. Mercer had been defeated his friends in both houses of Congress began a movement at once for a place for the popular Nebraskan which would serve as a promotion rather than a demotion in his retirement from Congress. He has been mentioned for a place on the isthmian canal commission and for membership on the board of general appraisers, either of which places his ability and attainments amply fit him for. As director of the census, however, Mr. Mercer's qualifications perhaps combine most happily so far as diplomacy, firmness and good judgment are concerned, to make him the ideal man for the place.

Ever since Mr. Mercer has been in Congress he has been a strong factor in the House. He has an exceedingly engaging manner, and has a fine quality of discriminating in his friendships. When he came to Washington first, ten years ago, it was to represent the district, a portion of which was previously represented by William J. Bryan. He was appointed by Speaker Crisp in the Fifty-third Congress to the committee on public buildings and grounds. When the House was reorganized by the republicans in the Fifty-fourth Congress, Mr. Reed appointed him on the same committe, and he was within three places of the head of which Representative Milliken was then the chairman. In the Fifty-fifth Congress, by the death of Mr. Milliken and the refusal of Representative Morse of Massachusetts to take the position of chairman, Mr. Mercer took the head of the table in this committee.

Mr. Mercer is a native of Iowa, having been born in Denton county in 1857. His parents removed to Illinois soon after. His father was a captain in the civil war and marched with Sherman to the sea, going to Nebraska and settling at Brownville immediately after the close of the rebellion. Mr. Mercer's father was a blacksmith, and young Dave received his earliest training at the forge. His father, however, provided schooling for him, and he was graduated in law and began practicing that profession before he entered politics.

MINISTER POWELL'S SUCCESS.

Has Made a Settlement With San Domingo for Long-Pending Claims.

Mr. Powell, the United States minister at San Domingo, cabled the State Department this morning that he has made a complete settlement with the Dominican government of the long-pending Clyde and Ros claims. He promises to send the details of the settlement by mail. The Clyde case is based on a claim by the Clyde Line Steamship Company for a continuance of preferential treatment by the imposition of port dues on other steamship lines from which they themselves are exempt. The Ros claim is based upon a concession granted to Ros, a naturalized American citizen for the creation of a port of which concession was deprived.

$100,000 Fire in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—The plant of the Franklin Baker Company, importers of cocoanuts, Beach street and Fairmount avenue, was partially destroyed by fire today. Loss, $100,000, partly covered by insurance.

THE EIGHTH PROTOCOL

MINISTERS BOWEN AND MONCHEUR SIGN AN AGREEMENT.

Providing for the Settlement of the Belgian Claims Against Venezuela.

Minister Bowen and Baron Moncheur, the Belgian minister, this morning signed the Belgian protocol for the settlement of the claims of Belgium against Venezuela. This last convention, which is the eighth signed by Mr. Bowen since his arrival here, follows the lines of the American protocol, and provides that the Queen of the Netherlands name the umpire in the event of the Belgian-Venezuelan commission's failure to agree.

This morning Mr. Bowen sent notes to the representatives of the allies here announcing his return to Washington and his readiness to continue the negotiations. As the draft of The Hague protocol submitted by Mr. Bowen some days ago was sent by special bag to London, Berlin and Rome, it is not probable that the instructions to the Italian and British ambassadors and the German minister will arrive before the middle of next week.

It is, of course, to the interest of the allied powers that the Venezuelan case go to The Hague and be settled as early as possible. At the instance of Mr. Bowen February 14 the allies' representatives signed an addendum to the peace protocols providing that the 30 per cent of the customs receipts of the ports of Puerto Cabello and La Guaira, set aside for the payment of the debts of Venezuela, should be paid out by the representative of the Bank of England in Caracas "in conformity with the decision rendered by The Hague tribunal." Venezuela will insist that that agreement be carried out to the letter, though thus far there has been no indication on the part of the allies that they will attempt a settlement of the preferential question either at Caracas or Washington.

ARMY PROMOTIONS.

Nominations That Will Be Sent in Next Week.

Nominations of army officers will be sent to the Senate next week as follows:

Maj. R. E. Thompson, signal corps, to be lieutenant colonel.

In the cavalry arm: Lieut. Col. C. A. P. Hatfield, 5th Cavalry, to be colonel, March 2, vice Dimmick, retired; Maj. Frank West, inspector general, to be lieutenant colonel, March 2, vice Hatfield; Second Lieut. N. M. Cartwell, 7th Cavalry, to be first lieutenant, February 17, vice Kennington, promoted; O. W. Rethorst, 14th Cavalry, to be first lieutenant, February 22, vice Parsons, promoted.

In the infantry arm, to be first lieutenants: Second Lieuts. W. B. Graham, 15th Infantry, December 20; R. A. Jeunet, 1st Infantry, December 30; DeW. C. Lyle, 12th Infantry, December 31, vice Welborn, Lyle and Williams, respectively, promoted.

In the corps of engineers, to be captains: First Lieuts. M. L. Walker, December 23, vice McGregor, deceased; R. P. Johnston, January 20, vice Burr, promoted; R. R. Raymond, February 20, vice Beach, promoted. To be first lieutenants: E. N. Johnston, December 23; C. O. Sherrill, January 29, and J. H. Poole, February 20, vice Walker, Johnston and Raymond, respectively.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS.

Steering Committee Hold a Meeting, but Take No Action.

A meeting of the democratic steering committee of the Senate was held at noon today in the room of Senator Gorman. The steering committee named by Mr. Gorman is composed of Senators Gorman of Maryland, chairman; Cockrell of Missouri, Martin of Virginia, Bacon of Georgia, Dubois of Idaho, Money of Mississippi, Bailey of Texas, Blackburn of Kentucky, and Tillman of South Carolina. The new members of the committee are Messrs. Gorman, Blackburn and Tillman.

Messrs. Money, Dubois and Tillman were not present at the meeting today. Senator Bacon attended the meeting of the committee on foreign relations and could not be present until after 1 o'clock. Various matters were discussed in an informal way and the committee did not take formal action on any subject.

They will wait until hearing from the republican steering committee as to their intentions before formally naming a successor to Senator Rawlins. The democratic committee will also be called on to confirm the placing of Senator Clark of Montana on the committee on foreign relations. Senator Clark was placed on that committee upon the withdrawal from it of Senator Bailey, and upon Senator Bailey's suggestion. The democratic steering committee had not acted on the matter and there is a strong sentiment on the part of many senators unfavorable to the filling of vacancies in that manner.

Senator McCreary of Kentucky is strongly urged as a democratic member of the committee on foreign relations. While a member of the House of Representatives Mr. McCreary was at one time chairman of the committee on foreign affairs and is regarded as particularly fitted for such an appointment.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Will Have Headquarters on 13th Street.

The headquarters of the Department of Commerce and Labor after the first part of next week will be in the building 721 13th street northwest. This will be the temporary location of the department. The building is already occupied by the lighthouse service, which is to be a part of the new department after July 1. The half of one floor has been found in this building and will be occupied by Secretary Cortelyou and Commissioner Garfield of the bureau of corporations. There is not as much space as Secretary Cortelyou would desire to start off business for his department, but the negotiations for a building have not been carried far enough to insure success. Mr. Garfield expects to get right down to work in his new department.

Mr. Cortelyou may not transfer his own desk from the White House to the new location until toward the end of the week, but Mr. Garfield will take up his work in the building without loss of time.

The first announcement made by Secretary Cortelyou of an appointment in his department is that of William J. Lee as telegraph operator. He will have charge of telegraph and telephones in the department. Mr. Lee for ten years has been the Associated Press operator in the Senate, and is well known to newspaper workers of Washington and elsewhere. He is competent to fill the important position to which he has been selected.

NO SELECTION MADE.

Commission Inspects Site for Representatives' Office Building.

The commission appointed to select a site for the new office building for the House of Representatives met today, but reached no conclusion. Adjournment was taken until 2 o'clock Monday. There are four squares immediately south of the Capitol grounds from which the selection is to be made, and the engineering features of each of these squares were discussed before the commission in every detail this morning by Mr. Bernard R. Green and Capt. Sewell of the army.

The members of the commission then went out in the rain and made a personal inspection of the four squares in question. There seems no doubt that the square on top of the hill will be the one selected. As the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel will touch on the east side of this square as it penetrates the Capitol grounds, these features were also made a topic of discussion before the commission, and representatives of the road were before the commission. It is understood the tunnel will go no nearer the proposed office building than it will to the library building, and no apprehension of injury to either structure is felt. Although the commission has thirty days in which to make a selection, it is believed a conclusion will be reached Monday.

When the selection has been made the law provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall acquire the site, either by private sale or condemnation proceedings.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The 'Frisco Naval Officership Hung Up.

SENATOR HOPKINS

THINKS THE EXTRA SESSION WILL NOT BE OVER TWO WEEKS.

Report on the St. Louis Post Office Submitted — Kansas Protests Against Lee Statue.

Senator Bard of California called on the President today to present a friend. The call of the senator had no relation to the effort to have Colonel John P. Irish removed as naval officer of the port of San Francisco, and the appointment of ex-Representative Samuel D. Woods to his place. The matter is hanging up rather high just at present. Some time after the Calinofrnia senators and representatives had unanimously recommended that Mr. Woods be appointed, the President received from California a copy of a speech made before the Union League Club of San Francisco by Representative Woods last July, during which he passed some pretty sharp criticisms upon the Cuban policy of the President. The President came to the conclusion that he would be in no haste to confer a fine position upon Mr. Woods after looking over the sentiments of that citizen. Consequently he placed the recommendation of Mr. Woods upon the top shelf of his appointment cabinet, and there it lies, with the probability that it will not be taken down. Mr. Woods is understood to have written the President disclaiming any intention of reflecting upon the President personally, but he went away from Washington without calling personally to state the case. The President is thought to be willing to act upon the recommendation of the California representatives in the appointment, and to replace Colonel Irish if a suitable man is presented, but he is in no hurry about doing this.

Thinks Two Weeks is Sufficient.

Senator Hopkins of Illinois fails to see any reason why the Senate should be in session over two weeks from next Monday, and predicts that this time will be amply sufficient. Senator Spooner and other senators who were at the White House during the day say that it is entirely a matter of guesswork as to how long the session will last. The republican senators, however, express the opinion that under the leadership of Senator Gorman the business of the Senate will proceed in a more organized manner so far as the minority is concerned. Heretofore the democratic plans, a senator said today, had been conducted in an individual manner, but now that a skilled man is at the head of the minority the republicans can count on confronting organization and business in all that they may do. They do not regret this, either, they say, as they may know just what to do and how to do it.

Mr. Barney for a Judgeship.

Representative Babcock of Wisconsin spoke to the President today to suggest the name of ex-Representative Samuel S. Barney of Wisconsin for a judicial position of some kind. There are no federal judgeships lying around now, and the President does not know that anything can be done for Mr. Barney. Some time in the future a vacancy is expected on the Court of Claims bench, and the Wisconsin delegation will push him for a judgeship on that court. Mr. Barney is a lawyer of standing in his state.

Senator Clapp and Representative Fletcher of Minnesota consulted with the President today about a pardon case.

Senator Dillingham introduced some constituents, among them being ex-Lieutenant Governor Allen and Horace L. Graham, auditor of accounts of Vermont.

The St. Louis Post Office.

Commissioner Foulke of the civil service commission has presented to the President his report on the charges against Fred. Baumhoff, postmaster of St. Louis. The charges have been pending a long time and there is considerable bitterness connected with the whole affair. After investigations at this end of the line it was decided that it would be best for Commissioner Foulke to personally examine the charges and he went to St. Louis more than a week ago. Whatever action the President takes in the case is likely to cause trouble, it is said by those familiar with the case.

Senator Martin of Virginia, Senator Clarke of Arkansas, Representative Cooper of Wisconsin and ex-Delegates Rodey of New Mexico and Flynn were callers today.

That Statue of Lee.

The Kansas members of Congress will lead a fight on the Lee statue. Speaking today of the suggestion that Kansas might want to place John Brown's statue alongside that of Lee, Representative Curtis of that state said: "I do not know about John Brown, but I do know here is one man who will fight putting Lee's statue in the hall. I think it will be a disgrace. He was a traitor to his country, and I will not sanction an official honor for a traitor."

Representative Miller of Kansas, who accompanied Mr. Curtis, added that those sentiments were his own, and that he, too, would fight the placing of the statue.

Representative Cooper of Wisconsin thought it would be unwise to officially honor the memory of a man who had tried to destroy the government.

Representative Livingstone of Georgia holds an opposite view. He said: "This talk against the Lee statue is all misdirected. Virginia has been given the right to place the statues of two of her sons in the hall, and that right cannot be taken away, although there may be a great deal of fuss and feathers about the acceptance of the statue by Congress. The Marquette statue was never accepted by Congress, but it remains in Statuary Hall, all the same. Georgia has a statue of Alexander Stephens in the hall. He was a vice president of the confederacy. If hatred of the confederacy is at the bottom of this movement why any more objection to Lee than to Stephens? Both represented a principle and each in his way did all he could to make that principle permanent. If Kansas wants to place John Brown's statue in the hall no one can object. If Kansas thinks he was one of her great men nobody can object to her ideals of what great men are. The reflection will be on Kansas, the same as will be the case as to Lee, if there is any reflection."

HICCOUGHS PROVED FATAL.

Rev. J. F. McCleary Passes Away at Fort Sheridan.

CHICAGO, March 7.—Exhausted by an attack of hiccoughs, which had lasted without interruption for seven days, the Rev. J. F. McCleary, an army chaplain, formerly of Fort Logan, but lately on the retired list, is dead at the residence of his son-in-law, Capt. Alvord, at Fort Sheridan.

The chaplain, a hale and vigorous man of sixty-eight years, had an attack of pneumonia three weeks ago, but recovered after a stubborn fight against the disease. He was rapidly convalescing when, seven days ago, he was attacked by a spell of hiccoughs.

LACKS JURISDICTION

Justice Bingham Renders an Important Opinion.

HABEAS CORPUS CASE

JOHNSON CONVICTED OF THEFT IN PHILIPPINES.

Chief Justice of District Court Says United States Supreme Court Only Can Issue Writ.

Chief Justice Bingham of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia this afternoon rendered his opinion in connection with the proceedings for writ of habeas corpus instituted for the purpose of requiring the Secretary of the Navy to produce in court here Edward Johnson, an enlisted man of the United States marine corps, now imprisoned on the Island of Guam. The ultimate object of the proceeding was to secure the discharge of Johnson from custody.

Chief Justice Bingham, in disposing of the matter, sustained the contention of the Secretary of the Navy, presented through United States Attorney Beach and Assistant United States Attorney Adkins, that the District Supreme Court was without jurisdiction to act in the cause. The chief justice intimated that the Supreme Court of the United States is the only tribunal that has power, under the circumstances, to issue the writ of habeas corpus.

Attorneys W. D. Davidge and F. H. Mackey, counsel for Johnson, noted an appeal from the ruling of Chief Justice Bingham to the Court of Appeals.

An Important Question.

The question at issue was regarded as an important one. Johnson is in prison and restrained of his liberty in a jail near the town of Agana, Island of Guam. It was contended that the prisoner has not been committed, and is not detained by virtue of any judgment, decree, order or process issued by any court or judge of the United States, or by any court-martial in any case where such courts or judges have jurisdiction under any of the laws or treaties of the United States.

The cause of imprisonment, it is stated, is that Johnson, about May 7, 1901, was arrested by military authority on a charge of the theft of a box of clothing and about $300 in Mexican currency from Clarence J. Hoskins, also an enlisted man in the marine corps. He was kept in confinement until May 17, when he was turned over by the military authorities to the alleged civil authorities of the island, these latter being officers of the navy and marine corps.

Sentenced to Six Years.

About October 3, 1901, in the meantime not having had a hearing, Johnson was taken before an alleged court, consisting of Alfred W. Pressy, an ensign in the navy, and after what is alleged to have been a pretended trial, which, it is declared, was conducted in the Spanish language, and which was not understood by Johnson—the authorities refusing to furnish him with an interpreter—the alleged court assumed to sentence Johnson to six years' imprisonment, which he is now serving.

The contention of the petitioner was that the alleged court was without jurisdiction to try Johnson. It was pointed out that the naval regulations provide that such offenses as it is charged that Johnson committed may be punished as a court-martial may adjudge. The Navy Department, however, in a general order issued May 25, 1896, published a limitation to the punishment of such offense in time of peace to be confinement for two years and dishonorable discharge. The limitation, it was claimed, should apply to Johnson's case even if the tribunal mentioned had been competent to try him.

By Order of Commander Schroeder.

The alleged trial of Johnson was in accordance with a general order issued by Commander Seaton Schroeder, United States navy, in his capacity as governor of the Island of Guam. The order follows:

"For the present I order and command that power be vested in the courts of general jurisdiction to hear and determine those offenses which constitute crimes or misdemeanors committed by individuals subject to the special jurisdiction of war or navy, provided that said crimes or misdemeanors correspond to the kind of those called 'common,' and which, because of their nature and special circumstances, do not fall exclusively within the jurisdiction vested in the authorities of war or navy.

"Every law or part of law which is inconsistent with this order at present is repealed."

DEAN OF THE POSTMASTERS.

Milo T. Winchester Has Been in the Service Over Fifty Years.

Mr. Milo T. Winchester, postmaster at South Amenia, Dutchess county, N. Y., has been given the position of honor as dean of the corps of fourth-class postmasters employed by Uncle Sam. Mr. Winchester has been in office since July 10, 1849, more than fifty years. The salary of his office is $133 a year. Up to December the late Roswell Beardsley of North Lansing, N. Y., was the oldest living postmaster. He had been seventy-five years in the service at the time of his death. When the facts regarding his service became known at the time of his death the clerks of the office of the fourth assistant postmaster general made an investigation of the records of the office to discover who was next in line and have recently discovered that Mr. Winchester is entitled to that honor. Mr. Winchester was appointed postmaster of South Amenia by Postmaster General Jacob Collamer, by direction of President Zachary Taylor, July 10, 1849, and has served ever since that time. His office is in excellent condition and there has never been a complaint filed against it.

IMPORTANT NAVAL CHANGES.

Reassignment to Command of Various Officers.

A number of important naval changes were made today. Captain Charles J. Barclay, who will shortly be advanced to the grade of rear admiral, was relieved from duty as captain of the navy yard, Boston, and assigned to the vacant command of the naval station, Bremerton, Washington. Captain G. F. F. Wilde, captain of the navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H., was transferred to similar duty at the Boston yard.

Captain Henry B. Mansfield was relieved from duty in charge of the recruiting rendezvous, New York city, and ordered to the command of the battle ship Iowa of the North Atlantic station at Pensacola, to relieve Captain Thomas Perry, who is assigned to duty as captain of the New York navy yard, vice Captain Rear Admiral P. F. Harrington, transferred to the command of the navy yard, Norfolk.