

WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS

Uncle Sam Wants Foreign Trade Investigators

WASHINGTON.—Young Americans afflicted with wanderlust, who have a speaking acquaintance with Spanish, German or French, will be given an opportunity to travel at good pay if they can satisfy the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce of their ability to investigate and report intelligently on foreign trade conditions. The most extensive campaign ever undertaken at one time will be under way soon after the beginning of the new fiscal year in July.

These investigations will be aimed at the newer and more undeveloped markets lying well outside the fighting zone, especially those in South America, China, India, Africa and Australia. Twelve different lines are to be investigated. The difficulty the bureau has experienced in getting suitable men for its foreign investigations illustrates the lack of trained men for foreign commercial work, which has so often been called to the attention of Americans in the last year. There are plenty of men capable of sizing up market conditions in any part of their own country, but there is a different story to tell when a man is wanted to study the prospects of selling goods in foreign countries.

For South America, for example, the bureau wants men who can speak Spanish; who understand their particular line well enough to learn the essential facts so necessary to American exporters, and who, when in possession of these facts, can write them up in clear-cut, logical, convincing fashion. Such men are scarce.

For investigations in the far East a foreign language is not essential, although extra credit is given in the examination for a knowledge of French, German or Spanish.

Playing for High Stakes in the Court of Claims

THERE is a government firing line where firing is almost constantly going on. No blood is spilt, but interest is intense always, for it is shooting for money—big money. Long shots predominate. It is in a queer place for a firing line—in a former art gallery. In other words, the old abode of the Corcoran gallery, Seventeenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, now houses the United States court of claims; and there nearly every day of the court's sessions eminent counsel endeavor to score a bull's-eye and thereby win for themselves and their clients coin of the nation in sums all the way from a few thousands to many millions of dollars. It is a mighty absorbing and always alluring game because, as a rule the stakes are high. Competitors are numerous because, if a hit is made, the pay is sure.

At the present writing some \$90,000,000 (in fresh crinkly notes of Uncle Sam worth 100 per cent of each 100 cents) are involved. That is, cases are now pending in the court of claims calling for \$98,730,115.70.

A judgment by the court of claims, unless reversed by the United States Supreme court, is as good as cash. It follows that the prize of prizes in legal circles today is some sort of a fairly well substantiated claim against the United States government. Innumerable such claims are discovered and made. The cases now pending number more than 10,000.

Needless to say if all or any considerable part of this \$98,000,000 is paid it will come out of the United States treasury—i. e., out of the pockets of the people of the United States. Therefore, on this firing line the people have their representatives, the same consisting of an enormous staff of attorneys retained upon salaries by Uncle Sam. Nominally their chief is the attorney general, but the attorney general in person is engrossed with greater matters—the construction and enforcement of the greater laws, particularly the anti-trust laws. He has very little time to devote to "routine."

The gentleman in actual charge, therefore, is the "assistant attorney general in charge of the defense of suits against the United States." Under the present administration this gentleman is Huston Thompson of Denver, former classmate at Princeton of President Wilson. Mr. Thompson holds one of the many big submerged jobs in the government service.

Insists United States Pay Him Thirty Cents

SOME years ago the crew of a government revenue cutter gave an entertainment, and, according to custom, assessed the cost of the affair among those aboard. Each man's share was taken from his pay. One young man was not in sympathy with some feature of the entertainment and objected to having to pay his share. It cost him only 30 cents, but it was the principle of the thing.

He began to write to the assistant secretary of the treasury, who had charge of the revenue cutter service, and demanded justice.

That was about seven or eight years ago and the man has averaged about two letters a week ever since. He numbers his letters, and the last one numbered seven hundred and something. Two or three years ago he resigned from the revenue cutter service and is now living in New York, but he is still after his 30 cents and the establishment of a great principle. When Charles Dewey Hillis was an assistant secretary of the treasury he sent the man his personal check for 30 cents in the hope that it would end the long correspondence, but it did not. The man promptly sent back the check, saying that he did not want the money, but justice, and that the 30 cents must come from the government itself.

And so the correspondence goes on with no sign of ever letting up.

Where the Government Takes Tremendous Chances

A FIRE occurred recently in one of the detached buildings of the bureau of engraving and printing, which, fortunately, was confined to its place of origin and to a comparatively small damage. The building is used in part as the rag laundry, where the cloths which are employed in wiping the printing plates are washed. Though of brick walls it is far from being fire-proof, and the fire department was fortunate in confining the flames. Only the detached situation of the structure enabled it to check the blaze.

The fire did immediate damage of about \$20,000. The actual loss to the government, however, was heavier by the delay of the work in printing money and stamps, which cannot proceed without the cloths, for the treatment of which this department is maintained. The engraving bureau is well equipped in the new main building, but it is compelled to use some of the old parts, and in this respect the situation is much like that of every other branch of the government.

There is scarcely a department that has not some part of its organization housed in a flimsy, fire-inviting structure. The government never insures and indeed it would have to pay some rather high rates if it did seek insurance on the ordinary commercial basis. Many of the "risks" of the public service equipment are decidedly bad, and considering the values dependent upon the conditions in which the departmental work is done the United States is taking alarming chances of disaster in its regular routine.

CONDENSATIONS

Before the war there were 6,000,000 more women than men in Europe. Japan's production of aniline dye is rapidly increasing. The dye merchants have formed a trust with the object of regulating the market.

To raise an endowment fund of \$5,000,000 and to bring alumni everywhere into closer touch with the university, is the object of a nation-wide campaign which Cornell men recently have instituted.

Next to sheep raising, agriculture is the largest industry of Australia.

Canada's financial embarrassment is apparently not very grave. Minneapolis bankers having been able to obtain only \$250,000 of the \$1,000,000 they subscribed for from the latest Dominion loan of \$75,000,000.

As an addition to the Berrillon system of identification, an Omaha dentist has perfected a way to register the ridges of upper gums, which, he says, never change and are different in every individual.

EAGLETS.

H. Schmidt of 207 Center street has a host of friends who would back him for public office.

Harry W. Cooper reports a big demand for Batavia tires. They are more popular than ever.

Dow B. Lewis would make a good County Commissioner.

Dr. George Sultan always made a good record in public life.

Judge John R. Caverly is daily adding to his popularity in Chicago by his splendid record on the Municipal Court bench.

John E. Vogelsang has done much to make the restaurant the attractive feature of Chicago life that it is today.

Stilmas B. Jameson is one of the coming men in the Republican party. He is honest and able.

Nelson N. Lambert is the strongest Republican candidate named for State Treasurer.

President Thomas A. Smyth, of the Sanitary District, has increased the efficiency of the service one hundred per cent since he took office.

Tony Schroeder of North Halsted and Roscoe streets is not only one of the solid men of Lake View but he is a political leader who numbers his friends by the thousands.

One of the very best Aldermen in the City Council, is Edward F. Cullerton. He has been longest in the public service of any member of the City Council and his usefulness to the people has been demonstrated over and over again.

Samuel W. Jackson, the well known lawyer, who was one of the best Presidents of the Law Institute ever had, is frequently mentioned for judge.

C. A. Smith, the veteran pianomaker, is respected by all who know him.

W. L. Bodine, the efficient chief of the bureau of compulsory education, has made a nation wide name for his department.

Joseph A. O'Donnell, former legislator and park commissioner, is one of the most popular members of the Chicago bar.

The theatrical profession, men and women, the legal profession, leading business men and all other callings praise the Morrison photograph studios. Clara Louise Hagins, secretary of the studio, is always there to see that ladies receive every attention.

Judge Charles A. McDonald is making a splendid record on the Superior Court bench. He is a conscientious and fair-minded judge.

Judge Edward T. Glennon, the well known railroad lawyer, is respected by bench, bar and public.

There are no more criminals. Every cold-blooded murderer and thief is a "moron" now days according to the stitiferous reformers who are running things in Chicago. A woman is slain in her kitchen. The murderer is caught. "Don't hang him, he's a 'moron' about the reformers," and he is not hanged. A mother and her babe are killed by a brute. "He is a moron" declare the reformers. It is bad enough for the reformers to be stealing the taxpayers' money for a hundred alleged "reforms," but when they keep on breeding murderers, they deserve the rope themselves.

George W. Paullin, the great furrier, has made a business record for honesty and integrity that wins for him hosts of friends.

Frank Weeger, the well known brewer and business man, is talked of for State Auditor and State Treasurer. He would fill either position well.

Harry E. Kellogg, the popular proprietor of the Blue Ribbon Laundry at 513 North Clark street, is building up a fine business.

Judge Thomas F. Scully has made a splendid record in the County Court. The people have confidence in him and their confidence has never been misplaced, either when the judge was on the Municipal bench or in his present responsible position.

Adam Wolf is one of the most popular men in Chicago. You can't beat him.

William F. Quinlan, "the father of Edgewater," has a host of friends all over Chicago.

Hempstead Washburns, the popular former mayor, is active in many branches of public life.

Judge William E. Dever is making a good record in the Superior Court.

Jeremiah E. O'Connell, the able lawyer, has thousands of admirers who want to see him on the judicial bench.

Frank J. Hogan, the popular and well-known lawyer, would make a fine Municipal Judge.

Popular Jack Henderson would make a good member of the State Board of Equalization.

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