

### SEVERER PUNISHMENT FOR ARMY DESERTERS

#### Inspector General Urges Imprisonment at Hard Labor.

#### FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS

#### Believes Investigation Among Deserting Soldier's Company Comrades Should Be Made in Every Instance.

Inspector General G. H. Burton believes the best cure for the epidemic of desertion in the army would be the removal of the limitation of two years as the time in which a deserter may be punished and the fixing of the penalty for desertion at imprisonment at hard labor for not less than two nor more than five years in a military prison like that formerly maintained at Fort Leavenworth.

In discussing desertion the Inspector General says:

"A man who is so morally depraved as to break his solemn oath of enlistment—and many evidently enlist with the intention of getting transportation to certain places and then deserting—should be severely punished for his crime."

"It is the opinion of this office that there is no real cause on the part of the Government for the desertion of a single soldier. If we except the act depriving him of a certain privilege in his club—and the new recruit should have known of that when he enlisted—the Government has done and is doing everything for his comfort and welfare that can be expected. In fact, no soldiers in the world are as well fed, clothed, housed, and cared for as ours."

#### Causes of Desertion.

"The principal causes for desertion in the Department of Texas, as observed by the Inspector General of that department, are the lack of amusements and recreation at isolated frontier posts; the close proximity of the posts to a foreign country affording a near and safe retreat for deserters; the abolition of the canteen feature of the post exchange, causing the establishment of numerous low grogeries in the immediate vicinity of the posts where no restraint can be kept on the soldier, and where drinking and gambling are encouraged until the soldier becomes so deeply involved that he deserts to escape the consequences."

After reviewing the desertion figures for 1902, which show that 4,675 soldiers, or 53 per cent of the entire enlisted force, deserted, the Inspector General suggests an investigation as follows:

"When the very number of desertions has reached an aggregate equivalent to the authorized strength of almost six full regiments, and when the percentage of desertion has shown an increase in one year from 43 to 53, or 20 per cent, the subject of desertion becomes one of deep concern to the Government, and should receive the closest possible investigation and attention."

#### Looking for the Motive.

"It is believed that much valuable information as to the causes for desertion could be obtained from the men of the organization to which the deserters belonged, especially from those who were their associates, and it is recommended that an order be issued directing that when a soldier deserts a board of officers will be convened to thoroughly investigate the circumstances attending the desertion, and especially the causes which induced him to make report to the department commander through military channels."

"A quarterly tabular statement should be compiled from these reports at department headquarters and forwarded for the information of the War Department. This statement should include name and organization; where enlisted; age and length of service grouped into, say, six classes each; and the causes for desertion briefly classified, and, to insure uniformity and facilitate digestion, should be prepared on a blank furnished by the War Department."

### EX-SECRETARY LONG ON HIS RECENT ARTICLE

#### Says He Has Highest Respect for President as Man and Statesman.

In an interview given out in Boston, former Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, whose article on President Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of the Navy has excited much comment, says he has only the highest respect for the President, both as a man and as a statesman. He says the whole of his article was not published in the papers or it would have given the matter a different bearing. As to the charge that Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to sink the British fleet before war was declared, Mr. Long said:

"The Spanish fleet with its torpedo boats was on the way to Cuba, and although war had not been formally declared, a large number of the foremost naval officers thought it best, in self-defense, to meet the approaching fleet and dispose of it. Among that number was Mr. Roosevelt. However, President McKinley and the Navy Department were of the opinion that no such action was in order until a formal declaration of war."

### STOCKHOLDERS TAKE ACTION FOR AN ACCOUNTING

The Freedman's Transportation, Land, and Improvement Company, through its president, Joseph L. Morrison, yesterday instituted proceedings in the District Supreme Court, to compel Lewis Jefferson, its general manager, to make an accounting covering the period from June 2, 1902 to September 15, 1903. The court is also asked to issue an order restraining the James Moseley Steamboat Company from paying over to Lewis Jefferson a certain fund of \$2,000, alleged to belong to the company.

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### ISLE OF PORTO RICO IS GROWING COTTON

#### Though Acreage Is Small, Industry Seems Revived.

#### FIRST BALE IS SHIPPED

#### Prediction Is Made That Two Years Will See Thousands of Acres Under Cultivation.

SAN JUAN, P. R., Oct. 9.—At last the cotton industry of Porto Rico, after a lapse of forty years, seems to have again been firmly established, and the attention of the world has been drawn to this year's crop as something of a criterion for the near future. The first bale has been shipped, and several thousand more will go North in October and November.

A gin has recently been put in operation at Aguadilla, and this week eight gins, with a capacity of twenty-four bales a day, will be in operation on the Marina, the business water front of San Juan.

#### Companies at Work.

Two companies are now regularly interested in ginning cotton here, the one of them having come from the island incorporated under the laws of Porto Rico and having furnished the seed, after two years' experiments on a large scale, for this year's crop. This concern is composed of men who have had a long experience with sea island cotton, most of them having come from the sea island belt, where the finest grade of sea island cotton is grown. It has in its employ a practical "ginner" of more than forty years' experience in that particular branch of the industry, and a "classer" whose duty it will be to grade the cotton on which the prices will be based, while another expert connected with the industry is a cotton merchant of many years' experience in handling the fleecy staple.

#### Ready for Shipment.

It is the purpose of the company to buy all the sea island cotton grown on the island that may be offered, paying for the same according to its grade. The cotton from the gin will be separated into the cotton fiber from the seed and baled the same ready for shipment to market, each bale containing about four hundred pounds.

The San Juan ginners is receiving cotton from Humacao, Bayamon, Arcebo, Guayama, Aguadilla, and other parts of the island. Of ten thousand acres planted, about one-half has given good results as to size of crops and quality of fibre. Of course, the ignorance of many of the press for baling the cotton and a complete electric power system for operating the machinery. There are also six large bins for storing the grades of cotton.

#### Reply Is Awaited.

Acting Governor Hartzel has written to the Secretary of Agriculture requesting Government co-operation by the free distribution of the best available sea island seed and the Secretary's reply is awaited with interest.

The acting governor has also received from a firm of Liverpool and Manchester a list of cotton brokers reports as to the growth of sea island cotton this year in the British West Indies and the announcement that 20,000 acres will be planted in the West Indian colonies next year. The firm concludes by saying: "There is a great future for this fine cotton in the West Indies if properly looked after."

If the legislative assembly, which meets in January next, legally arranges for long, low priced rentals of public lands suitable for cotton growing it is said to predict that there will be from 25,000 to 50,000 acres of cotton under cultivation within two years.

### EXEMPTION REFUSED TO BAPTIST PROPERTY

#### Says Building Is Unsanitary and Not Adapted to Charitable Purposes.

The Commissioners have refused to exempt the property of the Baptist Ministers' Union from taxation, on the ground that it is not a charitable institution. The property referred to is on the Anacostia Road, improved by an old frame dwelling of eight rooms, the interior of which, according to a report made by Acting Assessor Griffin, is in a dilapidated condition. The claim was made that the property is used as a public charity, indigent persons being taken care of without charge. Acting Assessor Griffin, in this regard, says: "The present condition of the property would not appear to be adapted for the purposes claimed, for the reason that the building is in an unsanitary and deplorably bad condition. It appears that the property in question is not used for charitable purposes, and therefore should not be exempt."

### WRIT OF ATTACHMENT ASKED AGAINST REAL ESTATE

In connection with the litigation instituted by the Title Guaranty and Trust Company of Scranton, Pa., against the Union Surety and Guaranty Company of Philadelphia, Pa., E. B. Hay, counsel for the plaintiff, yesterday asked that a writ of attachment issue against certain real property of the defendant. The property is described as lots 20, 22, and 23, in the subdivision of lot 3, in block 14, Meridian Hill.

In the original proceedings the plaintiff used to request that the writ be issued on account of a breach of contract.

### DISTRICT REVENUES NEARLY FIVE MILLIONS

#### Gratifying Increase Which Will Insure Appropriations From Congress Approximating \$9,500,000.

The Acting Assessor for the District yesterday afternoon submitted to the Commissioners his estimate of the receipts of the District of Columbia for the next fiscal year. The total figures given are \$4,776,935.10, from which is deducted \$46,000 for credit to police and firemen's funds, leaving a net balance of \$4,730,935.10. This should insure to the District an appropriation bill of at least \$9,500,000.

The tax on real estate alone will amount to \$2,198,783.42, which is estimated upon a total valuation of \$212,929,228, at \$1.50 per hundred. Police court fines are estimated at \$69,000; fees from justices of the peace at \$21,533.45; tax on receipts of railways, \$115,573.88, and licenses \$574,000. Dog tags are expected to bring in \$17,000, and market rents \$17,000. Insurance should net the District \$52,000, while arrears in real estate taxes amount to \$450, and in personal taxes \$20,000. The straight tax on personal property will amount to \$466,000.

### WYOMING MURDERER WILL HANG HIMSELF

#### Automatic Scaffold to Be Employed by Sheriff to End the Life of Tom Horn.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Oct. 14.—Sheriff E. J. Smalley has ordered plans drawn for the scaffold upon which Tom Horn, the cattle detective, will be hanged on November 20. James P. Jullen, an architect, will make them.

Jullen formerly resided here. In 1902, when Charlie Miller, a fifteen-year-old boy, was sentenced to hang, Sheriff A. D. Kelley, now a prominent grower, had objections about executing the lad. He was talking with Jullen one day, when he expressed his feelings on the matter, and Jullen, who possesses considerable genius as an inventor, told Kelley that he thought he could construct a gallows which would work automatically and thus save his feelings. Sheriff Kelley told Jullen to go ahead, and the Miller scaffold was the result.

The simplicity of construction of this gallows makes its operation sure. When the condemned man steps on the trap his weight opens a valve in a vessel of water under the scaffold, and when this vessel becomes empty, a counterbalance operates and jerks a plug under the trap, letting the drop fall and sending the condemned man steps on the gallows to be used in the Tom Horn case.

It can be arranged to work at any desired time. In the Miller case it was set for one minute, and Miller went plunging through the drop in just fifty-nine seconds.

This is perhaps the only gallows ever invented by which the murderer is his own executioner. It has been adopted at the Colorado State Penitentiary, at Canyon City, where all condemned murderers in that State are executed.

### TRAFFIC MANAGERS STILL IN SESSION

The traffic managers of the Seaboard Air Line, the Central of Georgia, the Atlantic Coast Line, and several smaller systems are still in executive session at the Hotel Raleigh. Traffic Manager Emerson of the Atlantic Coast Line, is presiding. The matter under discussion is the rates to be charged on shipments made to seaports for export. It is understood there is a lack of uniformity in these rates which requires adjustment, and the agents are trying to effect a compromise. Changes in the "emergency" rate of the steamships, a problem with which the Interstate Commerce Commission is now struggling.

### NEWS OF RAILROADS AND OF RAILROAD MEN

#### October Blue Book.

The October number "Book of the Royal Blue," published by the passenger department of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, commences its seventh volume, or seventy-third number. In the six years of its existence it has made a place of its own as a magazine of travel and literature, and has found its way into all the principal clubs and public libraries of the country and built up a circulation of inestimable value. From a historical point of view it has no rival, and its general literature is of the best and lasting quality.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad offers a wide field from both a historical and scenic sense, traveling a territory which is rich in historic lore, from the French and Indian to the civil war. The careful handling of the countless incidents in complete detail affords most interesting reading. This is particularly evidenced in the current number in the sketches of Frederick, of "Star-Spangled Banner" fame; Berkeley Springs, the fashionable resort of the Washingtons and Fairfaxes; Bladensburg, the famous dueling ground of the Revolution. An addition sketch of the new railway station at the National Capital conveys the first ideas of what this magnificent structure is to be; and the information concerning the progress of the World's Fair is most timely.

#### Given by the Gouls.

Miss Helen Gould and her brother Frank, who are large stockholders in the street railways of Richmond, have decided to establish a Y. M. C. A. club in the city at a cost of \$5,000. The only condition is that the club should have a membership of three thousand members by October 20.

#### Directors Changed.

At the annual meeting of the Central Railroad of Georgia, held at Savannah, two changes were made in the board of directors. Ross C. Smith, of Birmingham, was elected to succeed E. T. Comer, and James A. Blair, of New York, to fill a vacancy on the board. The officials of the road were re-elected.

#### Rock Island Change.

A change has been made on the Rock Island directory which is of interest to Washington because of the recent traffic combination with the Seaboard. S. B. F. Winchell, vice president and general manager of the "Frisco" lines, will become the third vice president and the executive head of the Rock Island system in the West tomorrow, with headquarters in Chicago. The office of vice president, William and Second Vice President Robert Mather will be removed to New York. Mr. Winchell is in full control of the Western lines of the Rock Island system.

#### Reading Elections.

The Reading companies held their annual elections Monday, and President Baer was re-elected the head of the following concerns: Dauphin & Berks, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, Schuylkill and Lehigh, Philadelphia and Frankford, Slatton, Rupert and Bloomsburg, Philadelphia and Chester Valley, Philadelphia and Reading Terminal, Reading, Marietta and Hanover, the Philadelphia, Newtown and New York Atlantic City, Reading Railroad Companies, the Ocean Street Passenger Railway Company, Fulton Coal Company, Locust Gap Improvement Company, Tremont Coal Company, Mammoth Vein Coal and Iron Company, Preston Coal and Iron Company, and Delaware and Maryland. In every instance the old officers and directors were re-elected.

#### New Literature.

The Interstate Commerce Commission recently issued two portions of a general report entitled "Railways in the United States in 1902," designated as Part IV, "State Regulation of Railways," and Part V, "State Taxation of Railways" and Other "Transportation Agencies." Another portion of this report, prepared by the auditor of the commission, and designated as Part VI, "A Forty-Year Review of Changes in Freight Tariffs," has just been printed. The data in this review, which mostly consists of tabular matter, are grouped under the heads of: 1. development of

## Schools and Colleges

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### DR. E. J. SCANLON'S BODY TAKEN TO SARATOGA. Dr. Edward J. Scanlon died of heart failure at his late residence, 824 First Street northwest, Sunday, at 8:45 a. m., aged thirty-two years. Dr. Scanlon was born at Saratoga, N. Y., and resided there, excepting a short time when he was employed in New York city, until about seven years ago, when he received an appointment in the Government Printing Office, where he was employed at the time of his death. He graduated with the class of 1900 from Columbia Dental College, and had an office at his late residence. Dr. Scanlon was an ambitious man, of great integrity, good habits, and devoted to his family. He is survived by a widow and an adopted child. His remains were conveyed to Saratoga, where interment will be made.

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### THE OLNEY SCHOOL, 1102 Eighteenth Street. Primary, Academic, and College Preparatory. Miss Virginia Mason Dorsey, Miss Laura Lee Dorsey.

### WANT SCHOOLS AND ROADS. A delegation of citizens from Anacostia called on the Commissioners yesterday and requested legislation looking toward the establishment of another school building across the Eastern Branch, and certain roads in that vicinity repaired.

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