

Fair tonight and tomorrow; fresh westerly winds.

The Washington Times.

WHAT have you to sell? A Want Ad in The Times will find you a buyer.

NUMBER 3504.

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1904.

PRICE ONE CENT.

HALF PAST EIGHT IDEA IS STILL MOST POPULAR

Scores of Employees Make Known Their Wishes Through Coupons.

CLERK WANTS TO KNOW Asks How Many Hours Mr. Gillett Works Each Day.

The conflict of ideas as to which end of the working day the extra half hour of Mr. Gillett should be added by the Government is manifest in the continued increase of replies through the medium of The Times' coupon.

Scores of Government clerks have expressed their desire in this way for a change in the hour to 8:30 until 4. Others again favor the present hour, and have taken this opportunity to say so.

The suggestion that heads of departments change the hour from 8:45 to 4:15 has also met the approval of a number of clerks and others interested in the question, who believe this change would prove satisfactory to all.

Volume of Replies.

The volume of replies has been most gratifying as indicating that those interested in the fixing of hours for the Government working day are finding The Times' coupon an easy and effective way in which to record their views. Not only Government employees, but residents of the city in general are taking advantage of the opportunity.

It is urged that no delay be made in sending in these coupons, for the plan will be continued only long enough to gain a fair idea as to which hours have the weight of the majority behind them. The coupon today will be found on page 3. When filled out it may be left in The Times office or sent by mail to the 4:30 o'clock editor, Washington Times.

Favors 8:30 to 4:30.

One man who does not sign his name, and so leaves a doubt in one's mind as to whether he is what he says—a taxpayer—writes his opinion of the change and Government clerks in general. He says: "I favor 8:30 to 4:30 o'clock as the department working day. Keep the clerks at work. They are a set of idlers who get double pay for half work, half day."

Another who declares he is a Government clerk says he favors 8:30 until 4:30, "but 8:30 to 4:30 o'clock as the idea is in giving the clerks yet another half hour is difficult to say, but he is probably one of the devoted slaves of his Uncle Sam, who would rather work than eat."

Clerk Asks Questions.

An apparently vitally interested Government clerk propounds the following questions:

"How many hours per day do the Congressmen, who stir up the discussion, work?"

"How many days in each year do they work?"

"Are they confined to their seats every minute during the time the House is in session?"

"What is the difference in the salary of a Congressman and a clerk?"

"Is a Congressman subject to the whims of some petty chief or superior?"

Answer, Mr. Gillett.

"Does Mr. Gillett or any other member who was instrumental in bringing about this change have to sit in an 8:10 room with six other men 800 days out of the 365?"

The old question of Ann's age never brought so much perturbation to the minds of Government clerks as the foregoing interrogatives.

Philosophy of Ware.

Pension Commissioner Ware has become the philosopher of the 4:30 situation, and posted this short notice yesterday:

"To my Co-workers in the Pension Bureau:

"Let us faithfully carry out the 4:30 order of the department. The taxpayer on the outside is working from 9 to 12 hours a day.

E. F. WARE,
"Commissioner."

Sums Up Situation.

In speaking of the new order yesterday a Government clerk summed up the situation rather tersely, showing the advantages of the change from 9 to 4:30 to 8:30 until 4. He said:

"In the face of these prosperous times the Government has virtually reduced the salaries of its servants .0792 per cent."

(Continued on Second Page.)

WEATHER REPORT.

It is colder in the east Gulf and south Atlantic States, Tennessee, and the Ohio Valley, with frost along the Gulf Coast and in northern Florida. Warmer weather prevails in the Missouri and upper Mississippi valleys.

There will be snow tonight in the upper Ohio Valley, lower lake region, and northern New York, and snow will continue along the lakes Friday.

It will be warmer in the lower Mississippi Valley and the lower Ohio Valley, and somewhat colder tonight in eastern New York. Warmer weather will prevail tomorrow in the lower Mississippi Valley and east Gulf States.

TEMPERATURE.

8 a. m.	39
12 noon	36
4 p. m.	35

THE SUN.

Sun sets today	5:00 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow	7:18 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.

High tide today	5:51 a. m.
High tide tomorrow	6:23 a. m.
Low tide today	12:30 a. m.
Low tide tomorrow	12:40 p. m.

NIGHT SCHOOLS MAY GET MONEY FOR LONG TERM

Success Bids Fair to Crown Times Fight.

AGELIMIT TO BE REMOVED Only Obstacle Now Is Apparent Opposition of House Committee.

Success bids fair to crown the efforts of The Times to obtain more money for the Washington public night schools, so that they may remain open until May or June, giving pupils an equal opportunity with those in the day schools. It is also probable that the age limit will be removed.

The only obstacle yet to overcome is the apparent opposition of the House Committee on Appropriations. The Times has obtained the promises of several members of the House and Senate Committees on District Affairs to approve any reasonable deficiency estimate which the District Commissioners see fit to recommend. The District Commissioners have promised they will approve and urge any such deficiency estimate which may be referred to them by the Board of Education, and this morning The Times succeeded in obtaining from Gen. H. V. Boynton, president of the Board of Education, and A. T. Stuart, superintendent of the public schools, a statement to the effect that they will immediately draft such a bill.

Need of Money Apparent.

If the deficiency item is requested by Superintendent Stuart, and approved by the Board of Education, and the District Commissioners, it only remains for the House Appropriation Committee to look kindly upon the matter, and it will become law. That the extra money is needed has been conceded by all District officers, and Congressmen acquainted with the situation. Two years ago Congress allowed \$8,800 for running expenses of the night schools, and \$500 for contingent expenses.

Last year the Commissioners requested \$10,000 for running expenses and \$1,000 for contingent expenses, but Congress, instead of increasing, decreased the appropriation to \$6,000 and \$500. The same was done for the current fiscal year, and the consequence the schools are compelled to close early next month, unless a deficiency appropriation can be obtained.

Should Limit Be Removed?

There is little doubt that the age limit will be removed, in which case the attendance of these schools will be doubled forthwith, with no more money to run them. If the age limit is removed, more money will be absolutely necessary.

To Be Taken Up Tomorrow.

The agitation for the removal of the age limit and the securing from Congress of a deficiency appropriation for keeping open the schools beyond the limit possible under the present appropriation, will be taken up by the Senate District Committee at its regular meeting tomorrow. Confidence is expressed in several quarters that this will mark the beginning of a successful campaign at the Capitol.

Quick Approval Probable.

The District Committee has received from the Commissioners a request that the age limit be removed, and in response to this letter Senator Gallinger has sent an inquiry as to whether this will not require an extra or deficiency appropriation. This opens the way for the Commissioners to make a request for the extra funds needed, and when such request is received it will, in all probability, receive the approval of the committee.

The only stumbling-block in the way of favorable action is said to be the opposition of members of the House as led to the insertion of the age limit and the reduction of the appropriation as it stands at present. If members of the House agree to a deficiency appropriation, it is thought the Senate will promptly approve. At any rate, the Senate went on record last year in favor of placing no age limit and of voting the necessary appropriation, but in conference the provisions were stricken out.

Should Come From Board.

The position taken by the District Commissioners is that the request for the deficiency appropriation should come from the Board of Education. If this body makes the request the District Commissioners will forward it to Senator Gallinger in response to the latter's communication of today.

In the opinion of those interested in the night schools, a united effort now to obtain favorable action by the House subcommittee will result in a favorable action by Congress within a short time.

CONGRESS TO MAKE OLD APPROPRIATION

Captain McClary, chairman of the subcommittee on the District of Columbia of the House Committee on Appropriations, said today in regard to the appropriations for night schools that the committee would undoubtedly make an appropriation as heretofore for night schools, but that there would be no increase, unless it was shown that there was urgent need for it.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

THE JURY IN THE POSTOFFICE CASES.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
First row—W. P. Cannon, Holly L. Herrell, John F. Gerhold, Charles E. West.
Second row—Clarence Bradburn, Rosh Abell, David A. Wetzel, Douglas Markham, T. E. Clements.
Third row—W. O. Berryman, John Coker, Carl Peterson.
Messrs. Markham, Berryman, West, Bradburn, Cannon, Herrell, Gerhold, Abell, and Clements belong to the regular panel. There are, in consequence, but three new jurors.

MACHEN JURORS HAVE DAY'S REST

Court Adjourns in Respect to Justice Gould.

EVIDENT LINE OF DEFENSE

Trial One of the Most Important Technical Battles Ever Waged in United States.

No hearing was had today in the postoffice trials, as court adjourned yesterday until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, out of respect to Mrs. Margaret G. Gould, wife of Justice A. M. Gould, of the Supreme Court of the District, who was buried this afternoon.

It daily becomes more apparent that the trial will be one of the most important technical battles ever waged in a United States court. Every inch of ground is closely contested on both sides, and there is a running fire of protests and objections. Questions of departmental practice and custom are constantly arising, and each time the ruling is against the defense an exception is noted.

No Line on Defense.

What the line of defense is has not yet appeared fully, but enough was brought out yesterday in cross-examination to show the attorneys will contend that R. J. Wynne, First Assistant Postmaster General, was the man in reality responsible, as the head of the bureau, for any fraud occurring in the divisions under him. Then the defense is bent on showing that the orders for the Groff fasteners signed by Machen were signed in the course of routine business, and he had no more knowledge of the alleged fraud concealed in them than had his superior, Mr. Wynne, between as a monument of offended virtue, the victim of cruel circumstances and official methods.

That the defense will insist upon the assertion that some one below Machen may have been responsible for the ordering of the goods is shown by the questions which have been put to R. J. Wynne and his chief clerk, J. J. Howley. Both have admitted that many letters left Machen's office initiated in a handwriting which so closely simulated his that few could detect the difference. The orders for the fasteners also bear the initials of the clerk who drafted the letter and asked for the supplies. The order, if signed by Machen at all, was signed by him in the usual course of business, and probably he did not sign it, the defense will say, in which case some one basely abused his confidence and he is on trial for the sins of another.

Such is the defense in regard to the evidence thus far adduced. Nothing but preliminary evidence to establish the customs in the Postoffice Department and fix the duties of the officials has yet been offered. Not a word has been said about fraud or the Groff fasteners except incidentally.

The Official Papers.

What will be the line of defense in regard to the papers and witnesses which the Government asserts will show

SEEK REORGANIZATION OF THE NAVAL MILITIA

Gathering of Officers From Twelve States to Consider the Framing of a Suitable Bill.

Reorganization of the naval militia is the object of the gathering of naval officers held in Washington today at the New Willard. There are twelve States represented, and it is the purpose of those present, all of whom are members of the Naval Military Association, to frame a bill which will bring about an entire reorganization of the volunteer naval forces, and also creating an adequate naval reserve.

REDUCTION IN SALARY FOR DIRECTOR OF CENSUS

The House, in Committee of the Whole, today, by a vote of 37 to 41, passed a bill introduced by Representative Cowder of Missouri to reduce the salary of the Director of the Census from \$6,000 to \$5,000 per annum, to conform with the salaries of other chiefs of bureaus under the Department of Commerce and Labor.

DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF RUSSIAN PLEDGES

State Department Officers Inclined to Believe They Mean Annexation of Manchuria—United States Is to Protest if the Attempt Is Made.

Is Russia preparing to formally annex Manchuria? This is a question which is receiving much consideration from State Department officials. Through representatives of the United States in European capitals the State Department was informed today that Russia has assured the powers of its intention to respect treaty rights in Manchuria in all eventualities.

Announcement of this purpose of Russia is practically a declaration of war in formal notes. Count Cassini did not see fit to send a note to this effect to the State Department, but stated Russia's purpose in a conference with Secretary Hay. High officials in the State Department believe Russia is preparing to assume absolute control of Manchuria and regard Russia's assurances to the powers as the last stroke in the severance of Manchuria from China.

America to Protest.

Russian officials have intimated that the United States is so mercenary and commercial that the assurance of open ports in Manchuria will prevent this protest from protesting against the dismemberment of China.

Seeks Neutrality.

Official information has also been received that Japan, through her minister at Peking, recently notified Prince Ching that Japan earnestly desires China, in case of war between Russia and Japan, to observe strict neutrality, and thus limit the area of hostilities, the number of powers engaged, and the preservation of order throughout the Chinese empire.

In reply, Prince Ching stated that the wish of China was identical with that of the Japanese government. "Unmistakable evidence that England is backing Japan in the resistance to Russia."

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It is so easy to take Pilsa's cure for a cough, and be relieved and cured. 25c.—Adv.

RADICAL CHANGE NOW THREATENED IN CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. Hepburn May Introduce Bill Doing Away With the Commission and Its Methods--Cooley Places Blame.

THE PROS AND CONS OF THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM IN ITS DEFENSE.

Congressmen are discussing a matter of which they do not know the law. . . . The great difficulty in getting the best class of clerks is the interference of Congressmen.—Chairman Cooley, of Civil Service Commission.

AGAINST ITS USEFULNESS.

Appointees under the present system are not as able as those for whom members of Congress stood sponsor. . . . Members of Congress, out of self-interest, would not recommend the appointment of utterly incompetent constituents.—One of the Representatives who are attacking the present system.

Would Fix Length of Service at Definite Number of Years.

Civil service, as it exists now, may undergo some material and radical changes in the next few years if Representative Hepburn and those who follow him in the House have their way. Yesterday the House, as a Committee of the Whole, voted to strike out the appropriation for the payment of the salaries of the Civil Service Commissioners and their subordinates. This is not expected to do more than draw attention to the position of the members of the House who are opposed to the present system.

Board Not Responsible for Driftwood," Says Commissioner.

Civil Service Commissioner Cooley, in statements made to The Times this afternoon, placed much of the blame for inefficiency in the Government service on the shoulders of Congressmen who use their influence to get jobs for their friends.

Not for Life.

"After men are once in the department they are not there for life," said he. "Inefficiency, old age, neglect, are all causes for removal, and the heads of departments and chiefs of bureaus all have the power of removal, and are responsible for the inefficiency of the service if it exists."

"There is not a protest coming to the commission from any executive department. The protest comes from the legislative branch of the Government, which, under the Constitution, has nothing to do with appointments in the commission, but is attempting to usurp functions that do not belong to it. It has, however, a constitutional right to hold the executive branches responsible for results. The details of administration should be left with the executive departments, where they properly belong."

Crisis at Hand.

TOKYO, Jan. 14.—A high Japanese government officer today said that in official circles it is believed war with Russia can be ultimately averted. He said:

"The Japanese reply to Russia treats with a number of questions concerning Korea, other than the neutral zone matter. Because of their delicacy I am unable to disclose their nature, but they are such that concessions can be made by both sides."

"If Russia insists on the neutral zone negotiations must be broken off immediately. But Japan has intimated to Russia that she is ready to recognize Russian trading concessions in Korea, provided they are entirely without political significance."

MAY ERECT MONUMENT TO BENJAMIN HARRISON

House Passes Senate Resolution Without Opposition—Chester, Pa., Made a Support of Entry.

When the House met today the Senate resolution granting to the Benjamin Harrison Monument Association the right to erect a monument to the late President on Government ground in Indianapolis was passed without opposition.

WATERTOWN TREASURER SHORT IN ACCOUNTS

WATERTOWN, Conn., Jan. 14.—Former State Senator Burton H. Mattoon's accounts as town treasurer have, under examination, developed a shortage of \$25,527.

Mattoon was arrested in Watertown last night on the charge of making false entries in the books of the Watertown Savings Bank, of which he is the treasurer.

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