

The Washington Times
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GETTING CARS INTO USE
The Interstate Commerce Commission has taken a progressive step in announcing a new demurrage schedule...

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The Department of Agriculture is investigating the question of municipal abattoirs, according to Secretary Houston. Legislation looking to establishment in Washington of both a municipal dairy and a municipal abattoir is being drafted and will, it is stated, shortly be introduced...

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Messrs. Taft and Bryan are to hold a joint debate on the question of how to establish and maintain permanent peace. French Chamber has been having a young riot over peace. In fact, peace seems of all subjects about the most inspiring to war activities...

Berlin is confident that the allies' failure on the Somme means that they are defeated. The allies some time ago were as sure that the Teuton failure at Verdun was equivalent to the loss of the war...

Autocracy and democracy are curiously alike, in their final outworking of processes. A truly intelligent and sincerely benevolent autocracy would produce a society that could hardly be differentiated, in its results, from that brought about through a really capable and intelligent democracy...

Now if Mr. Lloyd-George can settle the Irish question and get the Irishmen to support him, he will have a solid House of Commons at his back. Some people certainly have a fetching way of winning friends by making themselves troublesome...

If the scheme of illuminating the Washington Monument after the fashion of Bartholdi's Liberty is carried out, how'll the Raleigh Herald searchlight spend its time on dark nights? Many busy couples on umbraeous park benches desire an early answer...

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Butcher Refuses to Pay Fine for Son's Truancy
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lets assume it might—would doubtless be a good thing for a good many people of the lowest strata.
These reflections are inspired by reading what England's foremost democratic statesman, Lloyd-George, proposes to do in order to gird Britain for its prosecution of the war. He is going to "reorganise the country on a sweeping socialistic basis..."

In addition to the nationalization of shipping, mines, and agriculture, drastic reforms in the drink problem and the temporary settlement of the chaos in Ireland are discussed as major tasks.

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NO SUNDAYS FOR DISTRICT TROOPS
Militarymen Marched Out to Range to Complete Their Rifle Practice.

RECORD COURSE TOMORROW
William Ahearn Leaves Camp to Attend Funeral of His Mother in Capital.

LEON SPRINGS, Tex., Dec. 10.—There are no Sundays on Col. Lyman Kennon's calendar, and as a result the District militiamen, who had looked forward to the day of rest were marched to the rifle range to complete their rapid firing today.

Colonel Young expressed the belief today that the majority of the new recruits would qualify as marksmen, sharpshooters or expert riflemen and at creating their monthly pay and at the same time improving the efficiency of the regiment.

Tomorrow all the members of the regiment will begin firing the record course. Following this the District militiamen will participate in battle practice and field maneuvers.

William Ahearn, a member of Company H, left camp today for Washington to attend the funeral of his mother, who died yesterday at her home, 632 D street southeast.

Ahearn went to Fort Sam Houston yesterday to participate in a football game between the District team and the Sixteenth Cavalry eleven, and the telegram was handed him when he arrived at the field.

Owing to the absence of Ahearn, and Sergeants Kelly, Leonard, and Rathbone from the district line-up the cavalrymen won an easy victory by a score of 27 to 0. This defeat puts the District regiment out of the competition for the consolation prize.

Assigned to Thirty-Seventh.
Lieut. Arthur Comfort and Lieut. Willis E. Goddard, of the regular army, formerly privates District militia, have been assigned to the Thirty-seventh Infantry, stationed at Fort Sam Houston.

The seven members of the District militia who remained in the city after the recruiting duty when the Third Regiment left in October, arrived at Camp Wilson today and reported to Lieut. Chester Ross in charge there. The seven men are expected here for rifle practice tomorrow.

Although the District militiamen have not yet received their assignment to the border patrol protocol, they do not expect to be ordered to Washington for several weeks.

Have New, Warm Tents, and "Chow" is Good.
CAMP WILSON, SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 10.—The troopers are now living in the finest tents possible in the field. Their large pyramidal tents have been walled up with lumber, making them almost twice as spacious as before, and each of the canvas houses has a stove in it, which keeps it as warm as toast.

Although the Government furnishes a non-sharp tent, the soldiers here, the troopers have purchased small heaters for their tents, because they give more heat and are not unclean.

All of the tents have been floored and shelves provided for the troopers. While in each tent hangs an electric light of high power. The mess which has been converted into an air-tight building, and is equipped with a number of windows and doors to afford light.

The troopers' "chow" has also improved, although there was but little room for betterment, according to most of them. The arrival of Mess Sergeant Herbert E. Rickard gave the troops the services of a man who not only knows how to provide an organization with food above the average enjoyed by soldiers, but a man who can give his entire time to the mess of his unit.

Mess Sergeant Rickard was ill at the time the troops were ordered here, and has just recovered from an operation performed on him in Washington. He was given a warm welcome when he reported here. During his enforced absence Corporal Don Long served as mess sergeant, and made a remarkable success of the job.

All Contributors.
The members of Troop A fare better than the enlisted personnel of any organization of Camp Wilson, and in many cases their "chow" is superior both in quality and quantity to that of many officers. All the troopers contribute liberally to the mess fund, which is used to purchase extra to supplement the army fare.

WOUNDED STUDENT IS GETTING BETTER
John S. Kane So Much Improved Mother Goes Home From Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 10.—John Stephen Kane, the young man who was shot by Policeman Kearns, continues to improve. His mother, who came here from Adams, Mass., returned to her home yesterday.

Shortly after entering St. Mary's Catholic Church last evening at 7 o'clock, Mrs. Emma McKenny, wife of Capt. Charles H. McKenny, of 405 South Fairfax street, suffered an attack of heart disease and died before medical aid could reach her.

Her husband, who was seated beside her, assisted her to a chair when she was stricken. There were only a few people in the church at the time, and three sons survive. They are: Mrs. Gordon Knight, Washington; Mrs. Cora A. Chubb, Alexandria; and Mrs. Marie C. McKenny, of this city, and John, Leo, and Harry McKenny, the latter now in Texas.

The reception given last evening by Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett and Mrs. Robert S. Barrett at their home, was attended by many guests.

K. of C. to Give Dance.
The Knights of Columbus are arranging for a dance to be held on the evening of Tuesday, December 26, in the auditorium of the Elks' home.

John D. Normoyle has sold the two-story building at 1220 Prince street to James F. Hammett, of the present location of the Elks' home. Mr. Normoyle has also sold for Mrs. Clara A. Huggins, of Washington, D. C., the house at 1220 Prince street, which she has purchased a house on the east side of Patrick street between Queen and Princess streets from Clarence C. Shaw and others.

At the annual meeting of Potomac Lodge, No. 38, I. O. O. F., officers were chosen as follows: G. R. Gaines, Noble Grand; W. Clifton Cunningham, vice grand; N. L. Williamson, recording secretary; William E. Latham, financial secretary; J. H. G. present. Officers to be appointed will be announced on the night of the installation.

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Washington Navy Yard Branch Georgetown Class.
Addresses by G. W. Nushbaum, George Thorne, W. E. Rose and J. C. Darnall, and a musical program were features of the fourth annual banquet of the Society of Marine Draftsmen at the Hotel Continental last night.

Those who participated in the entertainment were: W. E. Rose, J. C. Darnall, L. M. Stremmer and L. A. Vanhook.

Those present were H. J. Blondi, H. L. Boesch, W. E. Bruder, L. H. Butts, A. B. Campbell, J. C. Darnall, J. H. Crockett, S. C. Cross, J. H. Curry, H. H. Cummings, A. V. Currier, C. Darnall, W. E. Davidson, J. Davidson, E. L. Danner, H. O. Darnall, R. E. Ellis, G. S. Foreman, H. K. Griffith, C. S. Halsey, J. S. Hardister, H. Hazel, C. W. Ingram, C. E. Jones, E. J. Kaiser, W. E. Klinger, G. A. Knox, P. H. Kramer, H. A. Kruger, F. Leland, J. D. McCormick, J. H. Mitterdorf, C. W. Nelson, J. H. O'Halloran, G. W. Orem, F. P. Peel, C. R. Perry, J. P. Rader, W. E. Rose, S. A. Sanders, H. J. Schmitt, L. M. Stremmer, J. A. Swida, J. J. Talcott, W. C. Thom, George Thorne, L. Vanhook, Charles Vanhook, L. M. White, P. L. Strawn and W. Burrell.

Clubhouse for Clerks
A club house for employees of the Federal Government in Washington is suggested in the current issue of the Home Club Bulletin. It is pointed out that the Home Club Bulletin paves the way for the proposed larger organization.

A healthy interest in the business of the Government could also be fostered, it is stated, by the offering of the service to such a degree that the highest official positions were open to the employees. This is the American doctrine as applied to private opportunity.

VESSEL BRING'S BIG PRICE
Stranded Ship Sold for 200 Times Her Value.
LONDON, Dec. 10.—A vessel has just been sold for 200 times her value several years ago. As a shipping investment it was a failure, but the vessel was sold for 1,500 pounds. The purchasers had her refitted and repaired, and employ her in trade. She has now been resold for 300,000 pounds, being 200 times the price paid for her as a wreck.

This price takes no account of the cost of fitting and repairing the ship, but presumably these expenses would have been amply covered by her earnings since she was refitted. The vessel was sold for 1,500 pounds, and two years of extremely high freight. The present price merely represents the current value of tonnage.

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WHAT'S ON PROGRAM
Many interesting events of importance are scheduled.
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23 D. C. TROOPERS TAKE EXAMINATION
Men Understood to Be Given Preference for Cavalry Commissions Here.

CAMP WILSON, San Antonio, Dec. 5.—Twenty-three members of Troop A, First Separate Cavalry District Militia, have taken examinations for commissions in Troop B and the other two troops to be organized in Washington to form a squadron.

The names of the successful candidates will not be known for several weeks, as Capt. James Washburn, Lieut. Benjamin R. Rhees, and Lieut. Frank Langdon, who conducted the examination, will leave a month or more in checking up the papers.

Men Given Preference.
It is understood by the officers and men in Troop A that the members of the District cavalry organization here, who have already had more than five months' actual field experience, will have the call over other aspirants for commissions in Troop B and the others to be formed.

The examination was ordered by J. C. Palmer, adjutant general of the District militia. Although the members of Troop A have heard that the commissioned personnel for Troop B are already selected, they are inclined to doubt this, in view of Major Castner's order for the examination here.

Twenty-three men designated by Captain Washburn to take the examination are Private Simon Allen, Private Henry P. Ames, Private Frank Maughan, Sergeant James D. Ebbot, Sergeant George A. Bell, Sergeant James F. Brittingham, Private Henry M. Brown, Private Joseph L. Brooks, Private Maurice P. Collier, Sergeant Kelly Cugler, Private Henry J. Dean, Private Alexander M. Hitz, Private Ernest M. Johnson, Private John Lawrence, Private James H. McCall, Sergeant First Sergeant Samuel H. Ray, Sergeant Herbert E. Rickard, Sergeant John A. Roth, Private Frank R. Belleck, Sergeant Harry H. Sumner, Sergeant W. E. Ruler, Private Robert C. Watson, and Private Jesse H. Wilson, jr.

The examination was divided into practical and theoretical tests. All were allowed a brief time in which to "bone up" and the men put forth their efforts.

Forty questions dealing with cavalry drills and other duties, including the care of horses and equipment, the use of pocket lines, etc. made up the written examination, while each of the candidates was given an opportunity to drill the troop mounted to enable the examiners to pass judgment on his practical ability.

The three officers estimated that "the three officers estimated that the non-commissioned officers and back privates from the rear rank to command the troop. Several of the high privates from the last squad maneuvered the troop through intricate squad and platoon movements and a charge was drawn and a charge made.

The regulations governing examination prescribed that upon taking the examination of the troop the candidate should give a command and explain to the non-commissioned officers and the members of the first squad what was expected of them.

This regulation governed the first two commands, the idea being to let the examiners judge how much the would-be officers knew about the drill movements. None of the candidates failed to give the proper explanation.

After the first two commands the candidates were allowed to select a troop without elucidating the mechanism of the movements.

The practical examinations was pronounced of considerable humor the privates availing themselves of the opportunity to "hurl out" their non-commissioned officers and fellow troopers on the slightest provocation for their personal appearance, the looks of their steeds and harness and the manner of their execution in executing commands.

The examiners watched the candidates very closely, trying to estimate their soldierly bearing, their force of character, the distinctness of their commands, the manner in which they performed their duties, and the manner in which they performed their duties.

Defects Are Missing.
None of these defects were observable among the twenty-three candidates was seen. Each of them showed the proper attitude toward the examiners during the drills and when they were called upon to command the organization he strove to outdo his predecessor in all departments.

The examiners said the ratings would be difficult to compile as all the candidates did much better than was to have been expected.

TROOP A HEALTHY
Little for Medical Officer to Do, Says Capt. Bryson.
CAMP WILSON, SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 10.—Capt. James H. Bryson, medical officer assigned with Troop A, said: "The health of the organization is disgustingly good. There is little for a medical officer to do with this bunch except to watch them get fat."

HIGHER NEWSPAPER MAIL RATE PLANNED
House Committee on Postoffices Recommends Increase in Amendment.

MAIL ORDER HOUSES HIT
All Second Class Matter Sent More Than 300 Miles Affected by Scheme.

Despite the increased cost of print paper and other expenses that beset the publisher, newspapers and magazines will take high postage rates if an amendment to be included in the postoffice appropriation bill is approved by Congress.

The House committee on Postoffices has decided to include in its budget a legislative rider materially increasing second class mail rates. Catalogues issued by mail order houses and other establishments are also hit.

The increased rates on newspapers and magazines apply particularly to those put into private mails for circulation more than 300 miles from the office of publication.

If the committee amendment becomes law it will cost five cents to send a newspaper or magazine weighing one pound half-way across the continent. Truly shipments within a three hundred mile zone are unaffected by the proposed change.

Amendment Adopted.
After voting yesterday to permit the mailing of "drop letters" for city or local rural route delivery, under a 1-cent stamp, the House committee turned vigorously to second class mail matter, and adopted an amendment sponsored by Congressman Randall of California, which provides that hereafter second class mail matter postage, in lieu of 1 cent a pound, shall be as follows:

Proposed Charges.
Local, first, second and third zones (under 300 miles), 1 cent per pound.
Fourth zone, 300 to 600 miles, 2 cents per pound.
Fifth zone, 600 to 1,000 miles, 3 cents per pound.
Sixth zone, 1,000 to 1,400 miles, 4 cents per pound.
Seventh zone, 1,400 to 1,800 miles, 5 cents per pound.
Eighth zone, over 1,800 miles, 6 cents per pound.

Applied To All.
The amendment applies to "all newspapers, magazines, and other publications regularly admitted to the mails as matter of the second class." It is stipulated that there shall be no change in the free-in-county circulation as now provided by law, this exemption being limited to the territory of so-called "country papers" that are carried free within the county of publication.

It is estimated that the amendment would take a third class rate, instead of a parcel post rate.

Aimed at Big Houses.
This amendment is understood to be aimed at large mail order houses who have recently been using the cheaper rates of the parcel post system for the circulation of bulky catalogues.

In defense of his amendment, to which there was little opposition in the House, Mr. Randall said today he estimated the average postage under the terms of the proposed law would be 1 cent per pound. He argued that ordinarily the circulation radius of a newspaper is 300 to 600 miles, or under 300 miles, and the increase in postage would not be excessive. Mr. Randall admitted that the rates for the remaining zones were far in excess of the rate that now prevails, but stated that the Government should not carry newspapers at a loss.

Six Cents Required.
If the Randall amendment is approved it will require 6 or more cents to mail a Sunday edition of the average newspaper from New York to the Pacific coast. Mr. Randall said he had hard hit by the legislation.

The change in second class rates was voted at an executive session of the committee, and members were reluctant to discuss it or admit an agreement had been reached. It was learned, however, that conservative few votes were cast against it in committee, and the rider will be carried in the postoffice budget.

Approve Cent Rate.
The committee also approved 1-cent postage for "drop letters" for delivery on a local rural mail route or within the city wherein the letters are mailed. This was recommended by the Postmaster General in his annual report.

The Postmaster General originally suggested a moderate raise in second class mail rates but is understood later to have written the committee recommending that the rate be postponed until it could be ascertained what effect the change would have upon agricultural and certain other publications.

Radical Increases.
Nevertheless, the committee voted for the radical increases carried in the Randall amendment, and the fight will go to the floor of Congress. Dissenting members of the committee have not decided whether they will file a minority report, although one view of the high cost of print paper and other circumstances militating against the bill, the committee would not acquiesce in the committee's recommendation.

Will for 1-cent postage on "drop letters" was introduced only two days ago by Mr. Rouse of Kentucky, a Democratic member of the House. The bill shows no inclination to act upon. The Administration is understood thoroughly to approve of this change.

"RETIREMENT" HIS SUBJECT.
"Retirement" will be the subject of an address by Congressman James A. Hamilton, of New Jersey, at a meeting of the Department of the Interior branch of the Federal Employees' Union at Pythian Temple, tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. Nominations for officers for the branch will be made at the meeting.

SERVICES FOR NEWSBOYS.
At the request of newsboys, the Bible Scouts will hold services, beginning tomorrow, at meetings in Potomac Hall, Georgetown, Wisconsin avenue and M streets, throughout the week.