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NO. 8.

A TREASURY SCANDAL.

SOME BOND BIDS WERE SECURED BY BOLD GAMBLERS.

The Big Bidders Held Off to the Last—Speculators Reaped a Big Harvest Selling Options on Bonds.

HOW THEY "WORKED" THE PUBLIC

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 14.—Some speculators with more wit than wealth reaped a golden harvest out of the current issue of \$100,000,000 worth of bonds. The stories told of profits made by bidders who went into it purely as a matter of speculation without responsibility and apparently without responsible backing, read like fairy tales. Fortunes have been made in a day and without the expenditure of a dollar or the assumption of responsibility. It has been in some instances, a dazzling and glittering realization of wild dreams of financial good fortune.

Any man could bid for bonds to an unlimited extent without a cent of guarantee or the deposit of a cent of forfeit. Adventurers with an eye for the main chance could not have imagined a more brilliant opportunity to clear enormous profits without a particle of risk and without the deposit of even the most insignificant stake.

The only wonder is that more men did not take advantage of it, for the game was one which almost any man with a little familiarity with financial methods and the run of the stock exchange might have played with a fair chance of winning. As it was, some men without a dollar to their names and without any personal financial responsibility, put in their bids for amounts of bonds, which nobody but the millionaire could have been able to take up, and which reputable banking institutions would not have dared to assume their names.

All these men had to do was to make out their bids at varying rates with a little shrewd calculation as to the price at which the majority of the bonds were likely to go. For example, it was pretty thoroughly accepted in the financial circles before the bids were opened that any offer of 113 or over was almost certain to command a block of bonds. Offers below that rate might involve larger profits, but there would be less degree of certainty in the realization. It was to be assumed that large syndicates would take a very considerable share of the bonds at the lowest possible rate, but above this there would be a margin which would have to be divided among the smaller bidders who made more generous offers.

All that was necessary, therefore, was for the speculative individual to enter his bid and complacently await the result, knowing that there was nothing for him to lose, and that there was much which he might gain.

If his name should appear in the list of awards, it would be only necessary for him to go to a responsible banker who had facilities for securing gold and sell his option on the bonds at a good margin. There was plenty of time as, according to the terms of the sale, it was not necessary to make the first payment of 30 per cent. in gold until February 15. That day has not yet arrived, but the bonds are already quoted at 117 in the open market, and on a margin of that amount there could be no trouble in disposing of the option at a good profit.

But even if this did not materialize, there could be no risk, for no deposit was required. In a case of a failure to sell the option, or in case the rate offered was too high for a responsible banker to handle the bonds at a profit, no bidder was under any obligation to close his contract and no penalty was involved.

It is true, the Government retained the right to reject any and all bids, and several bids for great amounts were rejected in this way, because they were palpably the offers of irresponsible gamblers. But out of a list of nearly 5,000 bidders it has, of course, been out of the question for the committee on awards, especially where the address on the bids was as general as financial center. Whenever the Government has offered to public competition the contracts for public works of any kind it has been the rule of the Treasury department to require each offer to be accompanied by certified check, as an evidence of the sincerity and responsibility of the competing bidder.

In some instances this safeguard is required by law and its object is to prevent stray bidders from entering into competition with responsible contractors solely for the purpose of reeling or sub-letting the contract or throwing it up altogether in case a purchase is made.

FRAGILE, THIN, AND DELICATE women find that Doctor Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People strengthen their system, build up their strength, and give them a new lease of life. It is not a mere tonic, but a powerful restorative, and is especially adapted to the needs of every afflicted woman. It returns her money, restores her health, and gives her a new lease of life. It is not a mere tonic, but a powerful restorative, and is especially adapted to the needs of every afflicted woman. It returns her money, restores her health, and gives her a new lease of life.

Dr. B. V. French, D.D.—My wife suffered from laceration of the womb and inflammation—she was completely bed-ridden and lingered about one year at death's door. Local applications were given her and Dr. Pierce's Female Prescriptions, she gradually regained strength and continued to do so until she was cured. I can testify that any case of womb disease can be cured and permanently cured by the use of your medicine.

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THE CONSCIENCE FUND

KEPT UP BY THOSE WHO SWINDLE UNCLE SAM.

The Latest Contributions to This Queer Fund—Total Collections for '95 Amount—ed to Over \$700.

EARNST CONFESSION OF PENITENTS

(Washington cor. New York Herald.)
During the last year more than \$700 was sent to the Treasury Department by seventeen persons, who confessed that they had come by money dishonestly at the expense of the Government. This sum was dropped into the Treasury as the "Conscience Fund."

Although few have heard definite information concerning it, Uncle Sam conducts a sort of confessionary agency of his own. He encourages wrongdoers to repent and ease their consciences by returning money for value dishonestly taken from him in the past. He guarantees that there shall be "no questions asked," and so effort to prosecute a penitent brave enough to purge his soul in this way.

The correspondence which this system brings to the Secretary of the Treasury and to other Government officials—often the President himself—is extremely interesting. A letter recently received by the President is from a child evidently but fifteen years old. It reads:

"To His Majesty, President Cleveland.—Dear President: I am in a dreadful state of mind and I thought I would write and tell you all. About two years ago, as near as I can remember, it was two years, I used two postage stamps that had been used before on letters, perhaps more than two stamps, but I can only remember of it twice. I did not realize what I had done until lately.

"My mind is constantly turned on that subject and I think of it night and day. Now, dear President, will you please forgive me, and I promise you I will never do it again. I enclosed find out of three stamps, and please forgive me, for I was then but thirteen years old, for I am heartily sorry for what I have done.

"ONE OF YOUR SUBJECTS."
This pathetic appeal for forgiveness was neither dated nor did the writer sign his or her name. The penmanship is characteristic of a child, probably a girl, but the spelling is good, the whole indicating youth rather than ignorance.

A letter, dated Washington, is from a clergyman, who signs his name and incloses four dollars and a fraction. He explains that it was owed the Government as duty, and interest since accounting on several cheap watches smuggled into his country. He enclosed find out of three stamps, and please forgive me, for I was then but thirteen years old, for I am heartily sorry for what I have done.

A person, evidently at one time connected with the navy, wrote to Secretary Carlisle from New York several weeks ago. His communication was printed in square letters upon a sheet of foolscap, from the top of which the manufacturer's stamp had been carefully torn. Inclosed was \$5, which the sender explained as "for conscience fund, New York, 1888."

"I for the same purpose, on October 17th of October, 1895, I mailed \$10 more to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C., because you did not comply with my request to acknowledge receipt of the same through the New York newspapers; neither did the Treasurer. You will confer a great favor on me—a conscience-stricken man—if you will kindly inform the Herald and other New York papers, and request publication of receipts and proper disposition of the total amount—twenty-five dollars (\$25)."

All conscience money is acknowledged through the newspapers of the city or town postmarked upon the envelope in which it is received. Very often, however, the senders of the money fail to notice these acknowledgments, which simply state that the Treasury Department has received a certain amount from a person living in that locality. The name is never published, even though signed by the sender of the money.

The largest conscience contribution received during the year was a note for \$465 drawn by a bank of Montreal upon a bank of New York. It was addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury in an illiterate hand and enclosed in a piece of paper which bears a note in pencil requesting that it be deposited in the national fund. The sender signs a name, but it is believed to be fictitious. In almost all cases where acknowledgments are sent by the department to contributors giving their names, the receipts fail to reach any one, and are returned.

A yellow envelope, postmarked "Boston," and addressed to "John G. Carlisle," contained a sheet of ruled paper upon which it is stated that the enclosed \$4 "loses the account of an overpaid soldier." It is signed simply "Union Soldier."

ILLUSTRATED HUMOR.

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"Yes, but he is. Do man wot I bought 'im of a offerin' \$30 reward 'f I bring 'im back."—Truth.

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you to buy it. Oh! no. She simply leaves the book for you to look over, and says she will call later. This is apparently a very modest and business-like way to proceed, but the next day a man calls and asks if the book has been examined, saying that the lady leaves the book and he does the soliciting.

The book is given to him, and a day or two later the woman who left it calls. When she learns that it was given to the man, she resorts to tears, lamentations and sometimes hysteria, saying that he has done it all along the street; that he must have seen her leaving the book, and followed before she had time to get back; that she is very poor and cannot afford to lose the book; that she had no right to give it to any one but her, and other things equally convincing, until the victim pays for the book.

Silver and \$1.00 Wheat.
(Farmer's Voice.)
It is possible that we may never again see \$1.00 wheat. It is possible that the pauper labor and cheap land countries that produce wheat will make it impossible for us ever again to compete with them in wheat production. Indeed we may go so far as to say that it is altogether probable. But the only way in which we can insure a rise in the price of farm products—including wheat—is to increase the circulating medium, thus furnishing a stream on which commerce can float, infusing new blood into our industries and especially in to our agriculture; and there are only two practical methods of increasing the circulation, either the admission of silver to the mint on the same basis as gold is admitted, or the issuance of non-interest bearing greenbacks instead of interest bearing bonds. If either or both were done wheat would come near \$1.00 a bushel that it ever will under our present miserable system of finance. The whole duty of this Government is to create conditions under which farm products will bring a remunerative price. That accomplished, we shall all enjoy prosperity, and until this is accomplished, as we have often said before, we shall not have prosperity.

High prices mean prosperity for everybody. As a farmer said to the other day, money is made out of hogs when you are feeding 30-cent corn and not when you are feeding 50-cent corn. Twenty-cent corn signifies low-priced pork and low-priced everything else.

Why pay \$3.00 and \$3.00 per day for board when in Louisville when you can get the same for \$1.00 and \$1.00 per day? Central John Searcy, proprietor, squares neither time nor means in making it pleasant for his guests. Try this home once and you will make it your stopping place in the future.

Sat on by the Coroner.
(Answers.)
Much amusement was caused recently at an inquest held at a certain town in the North. After the usual swearing in of the jurors one of them arose from his seat, and with much dignity, protested against sitting as a juror, as he was managing clerk for a firm of solicitors, and could not waste his valuable time at an inquest.

After making his protest the Coroner, turning to his clerk, said, "Mr. Soames, kindly hand me 'Jervis' (the book of authority on juris). And, fixing the juror steadfastly, said: "Upon referring to 'Jervis' I find that no persons are exempt from sitting as jurors, except idiots, imbeciles and lunatics. Under which heading do you claim exemption?"

Whenever the little children, the ladies or the big men want something to regulate their liver or cure constipation and biliousness, Dr. Bell's Tonic Tablets is what they must have. They cure and you never feel it. Purely vegetable. 25c. a vial every where. For sale by Z. Wayne Griffin & Bro. N. Y.

To Make Good Tea.
Tea should never touch metal. It should be kept in paper, wood, glass or porcelain. To make it, put a small quantity in a porcelain cup, fill the latter with boiling water, cover it with a porcelain saucer, and let it stand three minutes. Then, if you desire to be an epicure, drink only the upper layer of the golden liquid, throw the rest away, rinse the cup and begin again. Do not use milk. It ruins the flavor of the tea. So the Chinese say, and they ought to know their own beverage. Above all things, do not boil the tea.

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