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HITCHCOCK HELPS

Spies Out Land for Third Terms Prospect.

EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Harlan Goes to Europe in Hope of Benefiting U. S. Diplomatic Service—Money For Western Army Posts—Big Trees Preserved in Oregon.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock, who is becoming known as the political "pathfinder" for the Administration, is leaving in two or three days for an extended western tour. His trip this time will really begin in Ohio and will go as far west as the Pacific Coast. The Postoffice Department official is now at Oyster Bay, where he is receiving final instructions from the President. It is believed by some that Mr. Hitchcock is being sent to make a careful analysis of the Taft sentiment, while others are of the opinion that he is under secret orders from President Roosevelt himself to ascertain just how deep and earnest is the third term idea. So far as Mr. Hitchcock is concerned, there is no hope of getting any information from him. He protests against the newspapers of the country designating these frequent trips as political tours. It is a fact, nevertheless, that there is a good deal more politics in these flying journeys than there is postoffice business. On his recent tour of the Southern states, for instance, he rounded up the chairman of the Republican committee, the "patronage referees," and got in touch with Republicans generally. The newspapers, without regard to the political complexion, insist that he saw these men not altogether on behalf of the postal service but more largely on strictly party political business. Therefore, Mr. Hitchcock's forthcoming western trip is exciting considerable speculation.

Dr. Richard D. Harlan, son of Justice Harlan of the Supreme Bench, and special representative of the George Washington University, left Washington this week for a tour of investigation abroad. He goes to Paris and London principally, to make a close study of the schools of the political sciences in those cities. The French institution is one of the most noted of its kind in the world. According to Ambassador Jusserand, for the last ten years all appointments made by the French government to the diplomatic or consular service have been, with three exceptions, from graduates of the school. Through following this policy, French commerce has been built up more rapidly in the last decade than ever before in the history of the republic. The school at present has more than 1000 students. It is the intention of the George Washington University trustees, who have launched a movement for the naturalization of the University, to adopt the most valuable features found in this Paris school and in the one situated in London. It is the hope of the University authorities to make their new College of the Political Sciences, which is reorganized this year, the training school for representatives of the United States in foreign countries. This ambition has been applauded by Secretary Root and by John Barrett, director of the Bureau of American Republics. While he is abroad, Dr. Harlan expects to lay the matter before leading members of the American colonies in both the French and English capitals, and believes that he will obtain considerable financial assistance from those who hope to see the commercial and political prestige of the United States strengthened in foreign lands.

Western forts and army posts are to benefit as the result of the approval by the War Department of recommendations for new buildings made by Quartermaster General Humphrey. This is the first installment of a large building program Secretary Taft has in view. The forts at which these buildings are to be erected, and the cost entailed, are: Fort Bayard, N. M., \$39,350; Fort Lincoln, N. D., \$12,900; Fort Mackenzie, Wyo., \$43,500; and Fort Yellowstone, Wyo., \$17,900; Presidio of Monterey, California, \$8,795; and Fort Wright, Wash., \$13,350. In addition to these amounts, a large number of smaller appropriations have been made for store houses, stables and paint shops.

Lovers of the big trees of the West are highly pleased with the action of Secretary Garfield in withdrawing from all forms of entry certain lands in Oregon. These lands surround Multnomah Falls and include the Siskiyou big trees. It is intended to create national parks for the protection both of the falls and of the trees. However, if the Interior Department has withdrawn lands in Oregon it is throwing open to settlement

a much greater tract in Alaska. This tract, which is about 2,930,000 acres in extent, was withdrawn on June 30, 1903, for the proposed Norton Day National Forest. While it will become subject to settlement on September 30 and to entry on October 31, this year, it scarcely is probable that there will be a wild rush on the part of agriculturists. The land is situated on the north shore of Norton Sound, north of St. Michael, and about fifty miles south of the Arctic Circle. So far as can be learned, it is an ideal place for the cultivation of leicels and chilblains.

According to the plans of the Navy Department, the cruiser Charleston will be present at the Fourth of July celebration at Portland, Ore., and will then proceed to Astoria to participate in the festivities there on July 14, when Vice-President Fairbanks will be present and deliver an address. There has been a decided shake-up in the naval establishment, and two big battleships the Indiana and the Iowa, have been taken out of commission and have gone to join the Texas. It is reported that three of the older cruisers also will be placed in temporary retirement, and the crews thus released placed on the battleships being turned out, a number of the officers and men going to man the new Nebraska, the only battleship on the Pacific Coast. A scarcity of officers and men in the navy at the present time is worrying the Department. By reason of this scarcity the vessels are badly hampered and it is feared unless there is a change for the better in the number of enlistments that several other vessels will have to be retired.

A new plan for connecting the Mississippi with the South Atlantic is now attracting attention. Lewis K. Haupt, a well-known engineer, would construct a ship canal reaching from Cairo, Ill., to Brunswick, Ga. He would assert that this route is only 1308 miles long and that it would be the shortest and most practicable connection obtainable between the Mississippi Valley and the Atlantic Coast. Mr. Haupt would utilize a number of the rivers of the South, and thinks that the entire canal could be constructed for \$40,000,000. He is confident that it would pay for itself within thirty years. There is not the slightest question of the value of a waterway connection between the Middle West and the South. Both sections would benefit by it to a great degree. It would have a direct and immediate effect on railroad rates—something that the National Rivers & Harbors Congress long has pointed out. This organization, however, is not advocating any special scheme, but is devoting its efforts to furthering the general cause of national waterway betterments. It believes that the federal government should expend \$50,000,000 a year in improving the rivers and harbors of the country, and while its efforts have been evidenced in the big appropriation bill crowned with considerable success, as is passed at the last session and the Inland Waterways Commission, it is endeavoring to keep alive the sentiment already created. Its secretary, Captain J. F. Ellison of Cincinnati, O., is striving to bring this about by increasing the membership, which already is large and to be found in every state in the Union.

A fraud order was issued this week against an alleged land lottery scheme operating in Missouri. It was known as the Saloam Springs Colonization Co., with headquarters at Kansas City and Saloam Springs. According to the literature of the concern, millions were to be made out of property in Howell County, and the mails bore thousands of copies of these alluring promises to prospective investors. Investigation by postoffice inspectors, it is said, developed the fact that the statements were very much overdrawn. As a result of this investigation, the head of the colonization company was ordered to show cause why such an order should not be issued against him by the Postoffice Department, but he failed to appear and defend himself.

Westerners who have been nipped by the increasing severity of the land laws are laughing in their sleeves over the predicament of Congressman Mondell of Wyoming. Mr. Mondell has been very active in land law legislation, and a bill bearing his name does away with the assignment feature of the law, by which one claimant could assign to another. The humor of the situation is that the Department of the Interior has compelled the Wyoming representative to relinquish a homestead claim of 100 acres of land near Newcastle, in his state. The general land office investigation to make sure of its ground, called upon him to prove his title. Seeing that a contest would be useless, Mr. Mondell relinquished his claim without protest.

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