

CHAIN LETTER FRAUDS

The Government Investigating a Number of Suspicious Looking Deals.

The "Home Work" Advertisement and How It Is Used for Profit.

Enormous Number of Fountain Pens Disposed of by the Scheme.

Special to Times-Republican.

Washington, July 22.—The postoffice department is just at present making head sledding for a multitude of concerns in all parts of the country, also principally in the east, operating what are departmentally known as "chain-letter" schemes.

The scheme usually appears in the daily papers in the form of an advertisement offering home work. From \$5 to \$25 weekly are assured those who are willing to work a little while each day, or evenings. No canvassing. When replies are received a printed circular letter is sent by the concern informing the applicant that upon receipt of \$2.50 a solid gold fountain pen will be sent.

The applicant is offered \$5 per week to write ten letters per day to parties whose names will be furnished by the company, or the agent himself may select the names. One dollar and fifty cents additional to cover cost of postage, etc., is also guaranteed.

The salary is not to begin for one week, but the \$2.50 will be allowed for the first week's postage, etc. The letter which the agent is to write and mail to ten persons each day is as follows:

"Dear Friend: Enclosed find an agreement and offer from & Co. If you take advantage of this offer you must sign this agreement and send \$2.50 for the pen. They will then sign this and return to you with names and addresses of people. You must write ten letters every day to people whose addresses you know or those furnished by the company. You must enclose one circular and agreement in each letter you write. All letters you write must be copied from this letter word for word from beginning to end. Always sign your name and address when you copy this, and return this letter to the company. They will furnish you with a number you must always sign after your name."

On the face of these circulars it will be seen that the plan of business belongs to the so-called "chain-scheme," and that after the promoter has started it, it is impossible for him to discontinue without breaking the promises which he has thus given. A pen and work at \$5 per week for postage, etc., are promised, the salary to begin at the end of the first week. The consideration therefor is \$2.50, which is paid by patrons of the scheme before the work will be sent. By this system at least two weeks' work must be given each patron of the scheme to fulfill the promise made; an expense of \$8. The income from this patron is but \$2.50. The whole scheme resolves itself into this proposition: For a consideration of \$2.50 and the writing of 120 advertising letters & Co. promise to give a pen and \$8, an impossible proposition, inasmuch as the letters all hold out similar promises and if returns are received therefrom it means other promises similar to the above for the small consideration named. The only gain the company receives either from a theoretical or other standpoint, as shown by the explanations of attorneys who have undertaken to defend the companies, are from persons who are expected to pay \$2.50 for the pen and the work and subsequently decline to work. This is unreasonable inasmuch as the main inducement is work—not the pen.

To cite a specific case, a company was called upon to make showing of the investigation revealed that it was established about Feb. 1 last and had been doing business actually but nine weeks, during which time it delivered about 10,000 pens, falling to fill many orders by reason of an inability to get pens from the makers. The time was too short to test the outcome of the scheme, but was long enough to show that the company received about \$48,000, while it had agreed to pay over \$32,000.

Admitting the statement of the company's attorney to be true that it intended to make payment to this extent (assuming that each customer had involved the company in a debt of \$8, and that the number of this district was one person for each ten, or 19,000) it is apparent that the loss of the company would have been about \$165,000.

The attorney for the company said it was expected the profits would come from losses; that the scheme was to work, a rather improbable hypothesis in view of the fact that work is the sole object for which a reply to the advertisement is made.

The postoffice department takes the view that a business which proceeds upon the theory suggested is conceived in iniquity and sure to defraud in the end. This scheme once started would continue indefinitely, or as long as printed matter held out, and as agents were instructed to send letters to any addresses they might have, no one could tell when the company would cease to be called upon to make good its promise.

It is almost inconceivable that people of intelligence in any considerable number could be gulled by a proposition so gaudy, and yet in two months one concern took in 19,000 such people and the department is swamped with similar cases. It would seem to be as plain as daylight that with nothing involved but a pen and work, and the work simply getting other people to work for which \$5.00 more than received was promised to every new buyer, that the more agents and writers the company secured the more money it would lose.

The department has become very watchful of these schemes and scans the "small advertisements" in the newspapers closely with a view to getting evidence against new schemes. The department takes the ground that even if people can not see the gold brick the government officials can and will protect those who do not know how to protect themselves. The "fraud" order does the business.

PHILADELPHIA LEDGER SOLD.

Adolph S. Ochs Secures Great Eastern Newspaper.

Philadelphia, Pa., July 22.—The Philadelphia Public Ledger was yesterday purchased by Adolph S. Ochs from George W. Childs Drexel and the Drexel estate, and possession was at once given to Mr. Ochs. The purchase includes all the Public Ledger estate comprising about a half block of improved property on Chestnut and Sixth streets, facing Independence Hall.

The price paid is not made public, but it is stated on good authority that over two and one-quarter million dollars are involved in the transactions.

Mr. Ochs has no associates in the transaction except that a substantial interest has been acquired by James M. Beck, of Philadelphia, who represented the purchaser in the negotiations. The new owners say there will be no radical changes in the appearance or policy of the paper. Mr. Ochs, who is the principal owner of the New York Times, Philadelphia Times and Chattanooga Times, is now being successfully conducted by his brother, George W. Ochs, is to be consolidated with the Public Ledger, replied:

Not at present, perhaps not at all. The Philadelphia Public Ledger is one of the oldest and most prosperous newspapers in America. It was established in 1836, and from 1864 to 1894 was conducted by George W. Childs.

TO FIGHT GLUCOSE TRUST.

New Company with \$5,000,000 Capital Will Construct Plant Near Chicago.

New York, July 22.—The Imperial Glucose and Syrup Company, the name of the projected competitor of the Corn Products Company, popularly known as the glucose trust. The new company, which will be organized probably under New Jersey laws, will have a capital stock of \$5,000,000, and will have authority to issue \$2,000,000 of 5 per cent thirty-year bonds against the real estate and plants. According to present plans, a syndicate is to be organized to purchase land, upon which an option has already been obtained on Lake Michigan near Chicago. The plant will have a capacity for grinding and converting into its products 20,000 bushels of corn a day. Charles M. Warner is the head of the organizing syndicate.

MAYOR'S LIFE THREATENED.

Executive of Kenosha Told to Quit Office or Be Killed.

Kenosha, Wis., July 22.—Mayor Charles H. Pfening, the newly elected republican mayor of Kenosha, has been threatened with death. During the last few days he has received a number of letters supposed to have been written by an Italian, demanding that he vacate the office of mayor or prepare to die. The letters state that the death of the mayor has been planned and that a man has been selected to kill him, and the writer of the letters, which are not signed, claims to be the man elected.

TALK OF NEW RAILROAD DEAL.

Chicago & Eastern Illinois May Go to St. Louis Western.

New York, July 22.—Chicago & Eastern Illinois and the St. Louis Western are again linked in rumors of a possible deal. No one seems to doubt that the Chicago & Eastern Illinois will eventually be merged with some of the big lines, and the St. Louis Western seems to be the favorite for this combination. It is pointed out that this combination would be of material benefit to both roads and would establish a new thru line from Chicago to the Gulf.

GROESBECK ASKED TO EXPLAIN.

War Department Demands Reasons for Recent Interview.

Washington, July 22.—By direction of the secretary of war Gen. Corbin yesterday wrote to Col. Groesbeck asking him for an explanation of the interview published regarding the court-martial of Major Waller. Col. Groesbeck was judge advocate of the court, and the opinion expressed at the war department is that an officer should not talk about such matters.

HEAVY HAILSTONES FALL.

Chunks of Ice Weighing Quarter of a Pound Damage Crops.

Hastings, Neb., July 22.—A terrific hailstorm prevailed over a considerable part of the farming country in this county yesterday afternoon. Chunks of ice weighing nearly a quarter of a pound fell for fifteen minutes. Chickens and corn were driven into the ground.

NEW ILLINOIS JUDGE ELECTED.

D. H. Farrand, of Dixon, to Succeed to the Circuit Bench.

Freeport, Ill., July 22.—D. H. Farrand, of Dixon, was elected circuit judge of this district yesterday, to succeed the late Judge Crabtree.

Sails Ocean in Small Boat.

New York, July 22.—The Abiel Abbot, a thirty-eight foot launch equipped with a two-horse oil engine and in which Captain Henry Newman, a well known New England boatman, accompanied by his 16-year-old son, sailed from College Point, L. I., on July 9, on a 3,000 mile voyage to Edinburgh, England, was reported to have been spoken by two vessels which reached this port yesterday.

Captain Ivan of the French bark Tourville from Nantes, reports having sighted the little craft on July 13 in latitude 49.23 degrees north and longitude 61.2 degrees west. The American liner St. Louis from Southampton and Cherbourg also reported having sighted the little boat exchanging colored with the big liner on July 18 in latitude 41.34 degrees north and longitude 55.35 degrees west.

Will Print the Bible.

Penna., Ill., July 22.—The assumption Independent, a weekly newspaper, announces that it will begin the publication of the Holy Bible this week, commencing with Genesis and continuing until the whole is published. It will require fifty years to complete the publication.

New Sugar Company Formed.

Trenton, N. J., July 22.—The Teocajo Cocoa and Sugar Company, capital \$2,000,000, was incorporated here yesterday to grow and manufacture sugar cane and cocoa. The incorporators are Horace S. Gould, John I. Billings, and Louis B. Daitley, all of Jersey City.

Andrew Carnegie has offered to give \$50,000 for the building of a library in Lorain, O., on the usual conditions.

THE MACKAY MILLIONS

A Close Friend Estimates the Dead Man's Estate at About \$80,000,000.

He Had Big Interests Abroad and His Investments Were Successful.

Charities Not Likely to Receive Much in the Way of Bequests.

Special to Times-Republican.

New York, July 22.—Conservative estimates of the estate left by the late John W. Mackay place the amount at \$80,000,000. It is thought that Edward C. Platt, treasurer of the Commercial Cable Company, and confidential friend of Mr. Mackay for many years, could make a close estimate, but he declined to discuss the matter.

One of Mr. Mackay's life-long friends, a Californian and many times a millionaire, was asked the same question. The man thought for a few minutes and said:

"With the possible exception of United States Senator William A. Clark, John Mackay died, I should say, the richest man who ever came out of the west. By that I mean that he died leaving more property behind him than any man who laid the foundation for his fortune in the western country. He left more money than Stanford or Huntington or Marcus Daly, and much more than Fair, Crocker, Flood or O'Brien. Of course, anything that I might give in the way of an estimate of his estate would be pure guesswork, but I would say that Mackay left not far from \$80,000,000."

"Some of his ventures were just as daring as that of tunneling the mountains of Nevada. But anything that engaged his attention had to have what he believed to be a solid foundation, and John Mackay rarely made mistakes of judgment. His big investments almost uniformly panned out well. Look, for instance, at the Commercial Cable Company. Many of Mackay's friends did not like it when he went into it, but he thought it was a good thing, and that settled it. He liked to reply on his own judgment."

"Mackay owned a good deal of valuable European real estate that most people over here will not take into account in estimating the value of his estate. I am not quite sure, but I think Mackay was the largest American taxpayer in Europe."

"Is there any one who will be to the Mackay enterprises what John W. Mackay was?"

"There could not be," was the answer, "unless there was a duplicate of the original. Clarence Mackay, however, is well informed as to his father's interests, and for several years he has spent a part, at least, of nearly every day at his office in the Commercial Cable building. He has a rare business foresight for a young fellow of his years, and his father once told me that it was Clarence who first suggested to him the Pacific cable, just after Dewey gave us the Philippines. The father was struck with the suggestion and began to work on it."

"Nobody could say anything about the disposition of the estate, but there would be no very large bequests to charity."

The last cablegram from Mr. Mackay was one in regard to the proposed Pacific cable, an enterprise which has been his dream for twenty years. This cablegram was transmitted from London to New York only a few minutes before he was stricken.

It was addressed to Mr. Cook, one of his associates in the cable, explaining the progress of the Pacific cable project and giving assurance of its completion by July of next year if the United States government would furnish the survey made by the Navy.

Mr. Cook, when asked today as to whether Mr. Mackay's death would delay the completion of the Pacific cable, said that while Mr. Mackay's death was a serious loss, yet the work would go on without interruption and the cable would be completed and in operation by July 1, 1903, unless the government soundings were withheld from the company.

Some of Mackay's Ventures.

San Francisco, Cal., July 22.—Richard Dey, a close personal friend and former confidential secretary of the late John W. Mackay, says in an interview: "I don't suppose Mr. Mackay himself knew of this \$20,000,000 of what he was worth. His business was in such order and his arrangements were so carefully made that everything will go on just as if he were still alive."

He was president of the Mackay-Bennett Cable Company, president of the Postal Telegraph Company and president of the prospective Pacific Commercial Cable Company, vice president of the new \$7,000,000 sugar refinery at Yonkers, N. Y., of which Gus Spreckels is president; director of the Canadian Pacific railway, director of the Southern Pacific railway and director of the new proposed railroad from Havana to Santiago, in Cuba. He was one of the largest owners of the White Sulphur Copper Company of Mackay, Idaho, to which the Union Pacific built a ninety-mile branch. He was interested with Charles D. Lane in the Wild Goose Mining Company at Nome. He was heavily interested in the Sprague Electric and Electrical Works of New York.

In San Francisco Mr. Mackay owned half the Nevada block, the Grand opera house, and the big lot at the southeast corner of Market and Fourth streets. He owned, together with Flood, the Burbank ranch of about 1,600 acres in San Mateo county, the Coleman tract of about 1,500 acres in and adjacent to the city of San Rafael, and 3,000 acres of timber land in Mendocino county.

"He owned several thousand acres of woodland in Nevada between Reno and Truckee. In New York City he owned the Postal Telegraph building, a sixteen-story structure, and he was the largest owner of the Commercial Cable Company's building, a twenty-one-story structure, and the property adjacent to it."

"He owned the Territorial Enterprise, a newspaper in Virginia, Nev. Mrs. Mackay owned the palatial house in which he died in London."

MORES' MURDERERS' TRIAL.

Men Who Killed Marquis de Mores on Trial at Tunis.

Tunis, July 22.—At Susa, near here, the trial of the murderers of the Marquis de Mores, who married a daughter of L. Von Hoffman, the banker of New York, and who at one time conducted a large ranch in North Dakota, opened yesterday. There were three of the assassins in August, 1898. One of them, named Hamma Ben Youssef, has since died. The remaining two, El Kirhr and Hammet Chiekh, were in the prisoners' dock yesterday.

Seventeen accomplices belonging to the Toureg tribe are still unaptured. Hammet Chiekh and Ben Youssef, before the latter's death, admitted taking part in the murder, but accused El Kirhr as being the instigator of the crime and the actual murderer. The widow of the Marquis de Mores, whose perseverance led to a thorough investigation of the affair, has been at Susa for the last three days in view of the trial. She offered 2,000 francs reward for the arrest of the principal murderer. The widow blames the government for not taking proper precautions for the marquis's safety.

At the opening of the proceedings El Kirhr denied his guilt and thanked the court for being tried by Frenchmen. He spoke and gesticulated with such vigor that those in court who did not understand Arabic thought he was in fury. The court cast a week. Both prisoners rose and saluted the widow in military fashion when she entered the court room.

El Kirhr is a tall, well built Arab with energetic features. He evinced no anxiety.

Hammet Chiekh, a younger and a smaller man, appeared very uneasy.

The Marquis de Mores was killed in 1896 in the Soudan, where, it is asserted, he had gone to enlist the services of the Arabs against the British. He and his party were attacked by a band of tribesmen and all save a few were killed. The journey of the marquis, it was officially stated, was part of his plan to extend French commerce by diverting the route of the caravans from Tripoli to Babes.

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DECLINES THE OFFER

Senator McLaurin Refuses Appointment to Vacancy on Court of Claims Bench.

Has Written President Roosevelt a Letter Giving Reasons for His Refusal.

Criticism of a Newspaper Believed to Have Influenced His Action.

Special to Times-Republican.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., July 22.—President Roosevelt is in receipt of a letter from Senator John L. McLaurin, of South Carolina, declining the proffered appointment to the vacancy on the bench of the United States court of claims.

The president, it can be said, much regrets Senator McLaurin's decision, as he believes that McLaurin's senatorial experience and his career as attorney general of South Carolina would have rendered him a particularly good addition to the court of claims.

The president now is uncertain what he will do about Senator McLaurin. It is understood that he is anxious to appoint him to some position in recognition of what he has done for his services to the country and his demonstrated ability in public life.

Senator McLaurin's letter is couched in the most positive terms, and evidently was based in particular upon a newspaper article which accompanied the letter.

The article stated that the senator had sold himself for the prospect of getting such an office as that offered him. It can be said, however, that the president regarded such a type of accusation as beneath notice and sincerely regrets that Senator McLaurin should have deemed it necessary to pay any attention to it.

Senator McLaurin evidently has changed his mind about accepting the proffered appointment since he was in Oyster Bay on July 11. At that time he indicated his readiness to accept the vacancy on the court of claims, and the only question then was when he should resign from the senate.

When the president goes to Sea Girt on Thursday to visit the camp of the New Jersey National Guards, he will be accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Alice Roosevelt, Mrs. Cowles and several other women.

Iowa at Washington.

Washington, July 22.—The postoffice at Emery, Cerro Gordo county, has been discontinued; mail to Mason City.

The contract for painting the interior of the extension of the public building in Dubuque has been awarded to Neuburg & Co., of Dubuque, at \$2,075.

Civil service examinations will be held as follows for positions in the departmental service in Washington: Burlington, Oct. 16; Cedar Rapids, Oct. 17; Des Moines, Oct. 19, 11 and 21; Dubuque, Oct. 14; Mason City, Oct. 10; Sioux City, Oct. 7.

The comptroller of the currency has approved changes in national bank officials as follows: First National Bank, Montezuma, John Hall, Jr., president; vice Thomas Harris; E. D. Rayburn, cashier; vice John Hall, Jr.; no assistant cashier, vice E. D. Rayburn. First National Bank, Pocahontas, W. D. McEwen, vice president; James Bruce, assistant cashier.

The contract for furnishing special furniture for the Oskaloosa public building has been awarded to the Thomas Manufacturing Company of Indianapolis at \$1,495.

Pensions to townships have been granted as follows:

Original—Albert Young, Scranton, \$5; William L. Orlick, Buffalo, \$5; Alfred K. Stanford, Rowley, \$5; Thomas McDonald, Cedar Rapids, \$10; Harrison Weeden, Batavia, \$5.

Increase, reissue, etc.—Warren Martin, Brooklyn, \$12; Jonathan F. Haines, Hillsdale, \$8; Leander Underwood, Kokomo, \$12; Philip H. Stockman, Brandon, \$12; George Dean, Lake City, \$10; Philander Read, Des Moines, \$12; George W. Tee, Fort Madison, \$8; Edwin R. Ellsworth, Cedar Rapids, \$12; Samuel Bye, Springfield, \$12; DeWitt C. Wood, Waterloo, \$12; James E. Green, Riverside, \$5; George O. Iekis (dead), Creston, \$10.

Widows, minors and dependent relatives—Sarah A. Dusky, Allerton, \$5.

Base Ball Yesterday.

Alex. Leverage, Boston 5, Chicago 3.

Philadelphia 11, Cleveland 10. Detroit 8, Baltimore 6.

Washington 2, St. Louis 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Brooklyn 10, Philadelphia 1.

Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 2.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Columbus 3, Louisville 2.

St. Paul 4, Milwaukee 3.

Indianapolis 6, Toledo 5.

Kansas City 3, Minneapolis 5.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

St. Joseph 2, Des Moines 1.

Denver 7, Milwaukee 3.

Omaha 2, Kansas City 1. (Sixteen innings.)

Colorado Springs 4, Peoria 3.

THREE-EYE LEAGUE.

Rockford 6, Decatur 5.

Rockford 5, Decatur 0.

Cedar Rapids 2, Evansville 6.

Cedar Rapids 4, Evansville 2.

Bloomington 8, Rock Island 7.

Coal Strike Statistics.

Indianapolis, Ind., July 22.—President McKinley has made an estimate of the number of strikers and dependents and weekly revenues to be derived under Hood's Pills.

Do not gripe nor irritate the alimentary canal. They are gently yet promptly, cleanse effectually and

Give Comfort

Sold by all druggists. 25 cents.

GAR-GOL an absolute specific for all kinds of SORE THROAT, acute cure for Hoarseness, Tonsillitis, Inflammation and Ulcerated Throat. A preventive of Diphtheria, Erysipelas and Scarlet Fever. Purifies the Blood, Soothes the Throat, and is the most prominent throat specialist in the country.

BERG MEDICINE CO., Des Moines, Iowa. McBride & Will Drug Co.

KNOCK THE SPOTS OUT.

BRUISE

Use ST. JACOBS OIL

It is magical.

STRENGTH IAS. BOSS Stiffened GOLD Watch Case

"CAMEO" BRAND CALIFORNIA FRUITS CANNED LETTS-FLETCHER COMPANY

\$15 Colorado and Back FROM OMAHA VIA Burlington Route