The Washington Times

(Every Day in the Year)

OWNED AND ISSUED BY

The Washington Times . . .
. . . Publishing Company

OFFICE: CORNER TENTH AND D STREETS NORTHWEST
Telephone—Editorial Rooms, 337-3.
Business Office, 337-2.

Price, Daily Edition.....One Cent.
Sunday Edition.....Three Cents.
By carriers, by the week.....Ten Cents.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 11, 1894.

The Weather To-day.

For the District of Columbia and Maryland, increasing cloudiness; cooler; southeast winds, shifting to westerly. Virginia, increasing cloudiness and showers; cooler in western portion; winds shifting to westerly.

FOR LOWER FARE.

The American Ticket Brokers' Association is in session at the National hotel. The only matters of interest so far reported are the successful resistance of the association against the prohibitory legislation inspired by the railroads and passed in the states of Minnesota, Texas, and Montana, and the prosecution of ticket forgers.

These free traders in passenger transportation have proved of great service to the traveling public by affording a sale of unused tickets and enabling those who wish to take advantage of their offers to reduce their railroad fare considerably. They have representatives in every city of note and rigid regulations, which insure good faith and honest dealings with their customers. A tourist can now buy a "scalper's" ticket from any member with absolute assurance that it will be honored with the same certainty as one purchased over the counter of a regular railroad office.

While railroad fares are far from being what they would be under a system of government control, still this association and the occasional falling out of pools—whereby honest travelers come to their rights—are the only barriers to an universal putting up of rates, which only stops short of the prohibitive point.

The ticket brokers make a very comfortable living for themselves, but they also cheapen journeys for the people, a fact which their patrons duly appreciate.

A MORNING paper says "the Coxey camp must go." Where?

THE Brightwood trolley car killed a little girl Wednesday, but it economizes on fenders.

THE Washington Baseball Club has an advantage over the thermometer. It cannot fall below zero.

THE ice man and the garbage collector are looming up as important factors in our Summer civilization.

RIVAL Summer resorts will quote Washington's health board as authority that this city is in danger of epidemics. Go slow.

MARK TWAIN'S liabilities are $80,000, his assets $25,000. Twain himself is off for Europe. He dearly loves a good joke.

AT THIS juncture the woman's suffrage movement in Kentucky does not receive the full indorsement of Col. Breckinridge.

BEFORE trying further to tire out Mr. Coxey's remarkable patience, the authorities should reflect that he has had two wives.

VENEZUELA has changed the usual procedure of South American countries by trying an earthquake instead of election or revolution.

KELLEY'S bad-lands irrigation plan ought to recommend itself to Congress. They have a record for taking stock in anything that can be watered.

OUR friend Rosebery gives notice to the enemy that he is out for a long fight, and he wants the British conservatives to tread on the tail of his coat.

IT is said the coachman has been found, and that he is willing to testify that Breckinridge did scream. This information comes from the National Capitol.

THE new Congressional Library is going up without the assistance of contractors, and on its completion will compare favorably with any building in America.

J. STANLEY BROWN, a relic of the Garfield administration, has received a $10 a day appointment to protect the Alaskan seal fisheries. Seal and Brown have a natural chromatic affinity.

WHILE questioning Mr. Coxey at the House committee meeting Wednesday Representative Ryan is reported to have deliberately turned his back on the former—a case of good roads versus bad breeding.

EX-SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY CHARLES FOSTER'S creditors will receive 50 cents on the dollar. They ought to be very thankful. There was a larger discount than that on his financiering for the government.

WOULD it not be well for some of those papers which are flinging epithets at those two bills of Coxey's to print the bills in full and let their readers judge for themselves? Newspaper judgment is not infallible.

EX-PREMIER WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE is gradually weakening, say the dispatches. As dispatches have been saying that for twenty years, either the process of weakening is very gradual or he had a wonderful strength at the start.

SECRETARY CARLISLE is reported as favoring another bond issue should the gold surplus in the Treasury fall below $65,000,000. It is safe to say that the proposed bonds will not bear the commonweal trade-mark, and that they will bear interest. Else why issue?

THE declaratious made by Senator Mills on the 400 Senate amendments to the Senate tariff bill have created a sensation throughout the country. If he would give his personal views on the whole question of tariff we think he would profoundly interest the majority of the people of this country. The columns of THE TIMES are open to you, Senator.

GOVERNOR BROWN, of Maryland, has released from prison ex-State Treasurer Archer, who robbed the state treasury of $133,000. Archer served four years. Divide the swag in four piles and Archer's yearly salary will be $33,255, or about $106.66⅔ per day. A workman to-day is lucky if he gets $2. Verily, if honesty is the best policy, the money dividends are small.

NOTWITHSTANDING the secrecy which Secretary Herbert's committee of naval officers have thrown around their investigation of the armor plate frauds at the Carnegie mills, assisted by the Carnegie detectives, some of the testimony has got out. We read in yesterday's New York World of some evidence regarding flim-flam work done under the direct instructions of Carnegie's superintendents, for which work, after it was done, the workman engaged in doing it had his wages raised, besides being complimented on the skill displayed. "That's the stuff!" said one of the "supers" to William F. Brown, the workman. "That's the stuff" that paid the Pinkertons for shooting down the workmen at Homestead. "That's the stuff" that has enabled Carnegie and his "dear Frick" to amass millions, while their laborers have sunk deeper and deeper in the bog of poverty. "That's the stuff" that will, if justice is done, bring upon Carnegie the contempt of all good men, even if he and his colleagues are enabled through the power of their money to keep outside prison walls.

IDLE LABOR.

"The Commissioners believe that the creation of a fund solely for the purpose of furnishing work to unemployed persons in the District would bring here the unemployed from other sections, to the prejudice of our own unemployed."—News item.

As an exhibition of the phenomenal intelligence with which we are governed we commend the above.

The Commissioners are undoubtedly correct in believing that if work at good wages were furnished the unemployed here the unemployed from elsewhere would come to share the work and get some of the wages. Almost any ordinary citizen can comprehend that.

But it is somewhat surprising that the intellects that "considered" the bill about which the above quoted "opinion" was expressed should have overlooked the fact that if it resulted "to the prejudice of our own unemployed" the special interests that they so well represent would be thereby benefited. But even the brightest of us cannot always see everything.

We hazard the statement that the real motive for that "opinion" was not regard for "our own unemployed," but, instead, a more or less clear comprehension of the fact that in the details of the bill the interests of the class the Commissioners most desire to serve were threatened.

Whether the relief proposed would really operate to the prejudice of our own unemployed would depend on whether such relief were limited and finally withdrawn. If not, then it could not be otherwise than for their benefit. And there is no reason why it should be limited or not continued indefinitely. The ground rents of the District are sufficient to give employment to many thousands, and the result would be to enormously benefit our city.

Feeling pride in our city, we desire to see our population increased; and we know of no better way to secure such increase than to draw here by the offer of good wages all who can be induced to come, whether now employed or "unemployed." We believe that the best way to reform tramps and vagabonds and petty thieves is to give them an opportunity to earn good wages; and that, having such opportunity, most of them will quickly be respectable, lawabiding, and self-sustaining citizens. We differ from those mistaken people who think that a policy of repression is the best for law-breakers, and that a policeman's club and a jail are the only means of protecting society against their depredations.

We assert that our laws are alone responsible for most of our social and industrial troubles, and the purpose of our existence is to secure the repeal of those laws and the enactment of proper ones.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHY.

Unless something unforeseen happens advocates of the bills for governmental ownership and control of the telegraph will be given a hearing this morning at 10.30 before the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. The first hearing on the subject was given on Friday last and continued on Saturday.

At to-day's meeting it is expected that Hon. Marion Butler, of North Carolina, president of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, will be the first speaker in support of the general principle of governmental control. Hon. Isador Rayner, of Maryland, who introduced in the House the bill prepared by the International Typographical Union committee, will follow, and Hon. James G. Maguire, of California, will occupy the remainder of the time.

The telegraph is naturally an adjunct of the postal service. It is only a quicker means for the transmission of intelligence among the people. There is no more reason why it should be controlled by a private corporation for its own profit than that the carrying of the mails should be intrusted to private hands.

Just half a century ago this month the first telegraph line in the world began operations. It was constructed between this city and Baltimore, and the entire cost was met by an appropriation by Congress. By this governmental aid the utility and future possibilities of the telegraph were demonstrated. It was operated as a public function until 1847, and the rates for its use were fixed by officials of the government. In the years between 1844 and 1847 a number of other lines were established in various sections of the country, and some of them were quite successful and paid handsomely on the investment, but the government line between Washington and Baltimore never paid operating expenses, and thus it came to pass that the control was surrendered to private parties.

In taking this step, however, Congress did not in anyway waive the right to control the telegraph as a public function. Nearly every Postmaster General, from Cave Johnson, who was in office at the time of the surrender and earnestly protested against it, down to John Wanamaker, of the last administration, made strenuous efforts to induce Congress to resume some sort of control, either by actual ownership and operation or by leasing the lines for postal telegraph purposes.

What is known as the "national telegraph act" became a law June 24, 1866, and by it the Postmaster General was vested with authority to arbitrarily fix the rates to be paid for all government business, and it also provided that at any time after the expiration of five years Congress might assume control of any or all the lines by paying their appraised value. These terms were accepted by all the companies then in existence, and the law is still on the statute books.

Shortly after the passage of the act of 1866 several of the leading companies were consolidated, and the process of absorption progressed so rapidly that in a few years one company controlled practically the entire telegraphic business of the country and its communications with foreign nations. Many attempts at competition have been made, but all ended in the same way—the rival was either crushed or swallowed up by the great anaconda.

From very small beginnings the company which now controls the telegraphic business of this country has grown to be one of the most colossal monopolies the world has ever known. Starting with a capitalization of $240,000 in 1852, it has grown to $100,000,000 in 1893, with a bonded indebtedness of nearly $15,000,000 more, on which the people must pay dividends. Last year its receipts were, in round numbers, nearly $25,000,000, the profits on which were nearly $7,500,000.

The present agitation for governmental control of the telegraph is based on broader lines and has behind it a more substantial support than any similar movement heretofore. Bills have been in almost every Congress since 1869 for postal telegraphy, and they have been indorsed by state legislatures, chambers of commerce, and boards of trade, besides meeting with considerable favor among large masses of the people. In later years organizations of workingmen have also fallen into line.

The International Typographical Union inaugurated the present movement, and behind it is almost every labor organization in the country. The American Federation of Labor, with its 800,000 members, has resolved to oppose for re-election to legislative positions any man who will not unqualifiedly pledge himself to the support of this measure in the event of its failure at the present session. The Knights of Labor embrace this reform as one of the most essential planks in its platform. The Farmers' Alliance, the greatest and best organization the farmers of this country have ever formed, are also enthusiastical in its support, and their chief executive is here to voice their sentiments before the Post Office Committee.

The movement for postal telegraphy may not succeed in this Congress, but that will not end the struggle. The men who are behind it are terribly in earnest, and, if needs be, will make it an issue at the polls.

THE NEW "TIMES" BUILDING.

THE TIMES to-day greets its 50,000 readers from the newly erected TIMES building, on the southeast corner of Eleventh and E streets northwest.

The change was made early this morning as if by magic, and the new paper is now in a new building. This is a truly good and worthy proceeding. Established in a building fresh, new, and dedicated to itself Washington's latest paper will feel more than ever its high duty in voicing those principles toward which it feels called, irrespective of the musty corners and hoary civics in which some of its figuratively and literally contemporaries have fallen.

The street on which "THE TIMES" building stands is rapidly becoming the cross-town business thoroughfare between Ninth and Fifteenth streets, and the new location of the paper is only a short block from Pennsylvania avenue and Eleventh street, which the long years of the Star's establishment has made the newspaper center of the city.

Come and see THE TIMES in its new building. All Washington is welcome.

THAT little buncombe provisional government over in Hawaii is not having as slick a time of it as they had hoped. Land and sugar speculators have had their way so long in the Sandwich Islands that they are surprised when they meet with opposition. The "royalists," so called, seem to be a thorn in the side of this ilk. The latest news is that they won't take the oath of allegiance to what Senator Hoar calls "the de facto government."

A BILL for a $200,000 post office at New Orleans has been introduced in the House. It stands a fair chance of passing. The bill for a new government printing office, which will shelter many more people than several metropolitan post offices, drags its slow length along from session to session. As a vote-gathering device a post office is far ahead of a government factory.

THE Heurich Brewing Company will construct new buildings at a cost of $200,000. The contracts will be given out in town as far as possible, on the eight-hour basis and to union workmen. Mr. Heurich's example might be followed with advantage by many of our resident philanthropists.

A PENURIOUS RICH MAN.

Traveled Without Baggage and Did Not Wish a Berth in the Sleeper.

"I have a friend," said an out-of-town coal operator to a Pittsburg Dispatch man, "who is worth nearly $500,000, and yet is the most penurious man I ever say. The other night we were going on to Chicago on business. We went into the sleeper together, and as I was quite tired I suggested going to bed. 'Where's your berth?' I asked. 'Berth?' repeated my friend; 'why, I'm not going to take a berth. I shall sit up in the day coach.'

"When I told him there was nothing but sleepers on the train his face fell and he seemed worried. I knew what the trouble was, he was thinking of the few dollars he would have to spend for a bed, so he said: 'I guess you'll have to hand over to-night.' He appeared much distressed, and suggested that we double up and both sleep in one berth, 'for,' he said, 'it will be cheaper for both.' I laughed at the idea, and informed him that I did not care to make myself uncomfortable for the sake of a few dollars. Well, he resigned himself to his fate, and I noticed when a berth was assigned him he was without a handbag of any sort. As he was going to stay in Chicago but a day I said: 'Where's your bag? Surely you didn't bring a trunk for one day?'

"He then sat closer to me, and, crossing his legs, began in a most earnest manner: 'That's just where you fellows make a mistake. You carry a bag with you as a sign that you are a good subject to beat. Now, I carry nothing—not even so much as a package for my night shirt, for I have that on now, under my other shirt—and you see that I dress shabbily. Why, if I carried a bag hotels, hackmen, porters, and everybody would charge me double what they do now. I've got too much common sense to lay myself open to high prices.' He seemed satisfied with himself after he had given me this oration. As I crawled into my berth I wondered for what object some people with $500,000 lived, anyhow."

PERU'S NEW PRESIDENT.

Gen. Caceres Elected, but Trouble Feared on Account of the Opposition.

News comes from Buenos Ayres that Gen Caceres has been elected president of Peru He had announced his candidacy before the sudden death of the late President Bermudez. The army voted solidly for Caceres.

Recent advices to the State Department, however, indicate the existence of a formidable opposition party, finding its leaders in the House of Representatives, that may yet cause serious trouble, and therefore the U. S. S. Charleston sailed this morning from Montevideo for Callao, Peru, to be on hand and watch American interests.

Professional Organ Recital.

The ability of Miss Jennie Lind Muller Green to please an audience with her talent as an organist was evidenced last night at the Mount Vernon Place church, where she appeared in a grand organ recital, ably assisted. There was a fair audience present, and the excellence of the recital well merited the applause received.

Legislative Cult on Record.

BOSTON, May 10.—By a vote of 114 to 60, on a roll-call, the house of representatives voted to adjourn at 3 o'clock this afternoon to attend the baseball game.

The Time to Laugh.

Little man at the theater, vainly trying to catch a glimpse over the shoulders of a big man in front of him, at length touches him on the shoulder. Big man (turning round)—"Can't you see anything?" Little man (pathetically)—"Can't see a streak on the stage." Big man (sarcastically)—"Why, then, I'll tell you what you do. You keep your eye on me, and laugh when I do."—Harlem Life.

How She Lies for Him.

A bride tells her friends that her husband—sweet fellow—does all the chores around the house, but we have noticed she usually has two or three fingers tied up with rags, the result of trying to open canned sardines and chop kindling.—Atchison Globe.

Cable Flashes.

LONDON, May 10.—At a meeting of a parliamentary colonial party Sir George Grey, formerly governor of New Zealand, deprecated the proposal to annex Samoa.

PARIS, May 10.—The court before which the Panama canal affairs has been ventilated has ordered M. Hugo Obendoerffer to pay the liquidator of the Panama Canal Company the sum of 3,653,000 francs which he obtained under the plea that he was a member of an underwriting syndicate.

CLOAK ROOM AND GALLERY.

Congressman Tracey, of Albany, as everyone knows, was a member of the Papal Zouaves in 1870. At this time Mr. Tracey was traveling abroad and became very much interested in the agitation for the restoration of the temporal power of the Pope.

With all the ardor of youth he enlisted under the banner of the Church for two years. He served, however, after his original enlistment only about two days. Rome was captured, and with the fall of the ancient capital, the Church yielded to the inevitable and established itself upon the Palatine.

Mr. Tracey has two souvenirs of his Roman sojourn—one an excellent knowledge of the rich Italian tongue, the other a pretty mosaic scarfpin, with a picture of the famous temple of Vesta, which he wears regularly.

It has been semi-officially announced that no changes will be made at the Government Printing Office until the first of July—that is, so far as any of the minor appointments, for which there is such a great scramble, are concerned. This statement came from a Congressman who has had no end of applications for positions under Mr. Benedict, and took the trouble to find out what the plans of the new Public Printer were.

As there are now about 800 more people on the rolls than the appropriation will cover it is very clear that there is little hope for the great bulk of the applicants.

Nevertheless there has been the most remarkable desire to get appointments under the Public Printer from people who reside thousands of miles away from Washington and already have employment. A candidate appeared the other day who had left a paying position as far west as Montana as soon as he heard of Mr. Benedict's possible confirmation by the Senate, and came on to Washington because he was so anxious to serve under the government. It is the same old craze for office.

A different story is being told now with regard to the real attitude of Senator Mills toward the vacant place on the Finance Committee.

It is said that the Texas statesman is really very anxious to get the late Senator Vance's place, but wants it to come to him without his showing any wish therefor, even against his protests.

If this is so, Senator Mills is likely to do some waiting. The Democratic members of the committee are not overpleased at Mr. Mills' criticisms of their course, and are not at all impressed with the necessity of his counsel and advice on the question of tariff reform.

The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has prepared a report which will provide for an appropriation to enforce the laws relative to the protection of the salmon fisheries on the Alaska coast.

There are laws providing for regulation of this important industry, but no appropriations to carry out the law or pay the salaries of inspectors therefor. The committee thereupon suggested to the Secretary of the Treasury that he write a letter urging such an appropriation. This being done, the committee will make every effort to secure the proper carrying out of the laws, which are intended to prevent the improper use of nets, to the injury of the permanent interests of this important industry.

State Senator Bradley, of New York, was on the floor of the House yesterday, where he met a number of his old friends among the New York Congressmen.

There is a bad practice in the Congressional Library of holding back books just copyrighted and recently received for a period of a month or more, at the option of the chief librarian.

If this were done for any purpose it must be justifiable, but apparently it is not.

Inasmuch as one of the greatest benefits of a public library, or a library open to the public, is the ability to secure new works soon after publication to avoid the necessity of purchase, and inasmuch as there are more applications, generally speaking, at that time than in the two or three months following, it is clear that newly acquired works should not be withheld from consultation merely because individuals in the library have not had time to read the book through themselves.

Senator Dubois, of Idaho, has an old chum in the Senate in the person of the new Michigan Senator, Mr. Patton, and the two spent considerable time in reviving old reminiscences yesterday.

Senator Patton is a graduate of Yale in the class of '76, and was a classmate of the late Walker Blaine. Although a college generation—four years—after the Idaho Senator or the big New England university, the two have been warm friends ever since college days.

Senator Patton is said to be a hard worker, as he was in his college days, a good deal of a politician, and ambitious to wear Senatorial dignity for something more than his appointed term.

The House Committee on the Revision of the Laws, which has codified the existing pension laws, has had its work claimed in advance by some pension agents in this city, who have published it in their own digest of the pension laws, making some very minor and unimportant changes in support of their claim. This speaks very well for the excellence of the codification, as does also the fact that it has been put into informal use in the Pension Department already.

Among the visitors to the Senate private gallery yesterday was Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, who was escorted to her seat by Senator Hale. As soon as it became known through the chamber there was a bustle and craning of necks in the ladies' gallery opposite, and the infection even spread to the Senate floor.

The Bohemian Girl.

The old, dear songs of Balfe's sweetest of the light operas "Bohemian Girl," were sung by the Hinrichs' opera company last night. Those who have heard the company in "Trovatore" and the other operas this week have looked forward to these songs with pleasurable expectations of being delighted again, and they were not disappointed. Miss Bertini Humphreys sang "I Dreamt that I Dwelt in Marble Halls," Miss Fleming, "Would that I Had Died Ere Now," and Mr. Warwick Ganor, "The Heart Bowed Down." Miss Bertini Humphreys was suffering from a severe cold and sang with some difficulty, but she could not hide her beautiful voice or the exquisite tenderness of the song. Warwick Ganor showed the magnificence of his voice to be equal to an almost perfect rendering of "The Heart Bowed Down." The innumerable concerted numbers for which the opera is famous were also done in most pleasing fashion. The chorus again showed its strength and excellent training. To-night "Carmen" will be given. Del Puente will sing the tenor.

Going to San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10.—Information has been received from Washington that Assistant Secretary Hamlin is coming here from the Treasury Department to personally investigate charges of wholesale fraud in the San Francisco custom house. Rumors of frauds in the landing of Chinese contrabands and a suspicious decrease in the port's opium revenue are heard. A special agent of the Treasury now here is said to have made the report that brings Assistant Secretary Hamlin to San Francisco.

Crimes and Casualties.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., May 10.—Mrs. Schilling, who was shot at her home in Scarsdale Tuesday night, will probably recover. Schnellback, who fired the shots, has not yet been arrested.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 10.—A Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis freight house in this city was burned to-night. Loss, including seventeen freight cars, building and merchandise, estimated at $60,000.

NEWARK, N. J., May 10.—The police of this city are searching for Beatrice Johnson, 15 years old, a colored girl, who is missing from her home. William Cooper and Martha Jackson, both colored, were arrested this morning charged with abducting her. They claim that they do not know anything of her whereabouts.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., May 10.—The military authorities are investigating a deadly conflict which occurred at Rio Grande City two nights ago between police officers of the county and United States solders from Fort Ringgold, in which Corp Inglehart was instantly killed and Eulalio Garcia, a spectator, was mortally wounded. Several parties have been arrested for conspiracy in the affair.

IN AND OUT OF OFFICE.

A clerk in the navy yard, a Republican, was discharged a few months ago. He was a relative of one of the New York Tribune's Washington staff. This newspaper gentleman interviewed Secretary Herbert. A month ago a clerk of the same grade in the Navy Pay Office was removed against the protest of Pay Inspector Caswell. The Navy Pay Office clerk was a Republican, too. The clerk who had been fired from the navy yard was put in his place. And the Tribune now rightly thinks that it has a valuable pull with the administration.

* * *

Mr. Anthony, the erstwhile assistant chief clerk of the Pension Office, has gone to California as a special examiner. Mark Anthony! he is going to do some remarkable work in ferreting out frauds.

* * *

This question of frauds and the record that the Pension Office is making for unearthing and punishing the offenders is not talked about sufficiently. Leave Mr. Anthony out. The examiners themselves simply obey instructions, of course, and they do usually or quite frequently discover cases of fraud. But when these cases are discovered how often is it possible to convict the offenders? The other day the papers published a statement of the Pension Office with regard to this matter. It was mentioned a certain number of persons had been convicted during the last year. Yesterday there was a story of another perjurer brought to justice. To-morrow there will be another, perhaps. It all means simply that a tremendous amount of money is annually spent in investigating cases of this kind, that costly trials are held, that the office gets the reputation for being a fearless and intrepid and skillful detective, a menace to wrongdoers, and that usually the perjurers and bogus soldiers and soldiers' widows and sisters and mothers get away finally.

I knew of certain a much-talked-of great swindle, in which it was asserted that two or three hundred people were criminally concerned and in which thousands of dollars had been stolen from the government. Thirty of these criminals were tried. The trial lasted weeks and weeks, and the district attorney's fees mounted up tremendously, as district attorney's fees sometimes do. The district attorney was a new man of the party then running the Pension Office. He didn't have much to do usually. The trial was a godsend to him, but no one else ever reaped any benefit. The cases were all lost finally.

* * *

Mr. Coxey's men are visiting the departments while they are here. I have not heard yet that anyone of them wishes an office.

* * *

There is a reporter at the down-town departments who has kept tab on the scales in the Interior Department lobby. He tells me that he knows the weight of every fair clerk in the department.

* * *

The letter carriers of San Francisco have sent to Postmaster General Bissell a beautiful present in the form of an invitation to attend the California mid-winter fair on letter carriers' day. The souvenir is of solid silver, handsomely mounted and artistically engraved, and is of great intrinsic value.

This seems to be a very right and proper thing to do. I have no doubt that it did the letter-carriers good to send it, and, of course, Mr. Bissell was pleased. It shows how really foolish and pernicious is the law against giving presents to superior officers in the government service when such an offering cannot be made without violating it. But Mr. Bissell is a Cabinet officer, and hundreds of letter-carriers have unquestionably violated the law. Of course no notice will be taken of such a violation, as it should not, as the countless other lesser violations of the same law every week are not noticed.

* * *

There is, for instance, a smiling-faced blonde-moustached, blue-eyed young chief of division in the Pension Office, whom you will recognize from this accurate portrait if again you are a Pension Office clerk. He receives innumerable sweet peas and buttercups and wild roses these days from certain young women clerks with him. Who can possibly cavil at this—who that knows the delight of receiving sweet peas from a rosy-cheeked, tender-eyed woman's pretty hand? And yet this chief and these girls are breaking a United States statute which has some dire penalty attached. And they are only a few of the offenders.

* * *

In Mr. Bissell's case, he has earned, by his strict adherence to his civil service reform promises, the friendship of every man in the Post Office Department service. The clerks feel safe about their positions, and they show it by giving him a beautiful present. I consider it a very nice thing.

* * *

In the time that Mr Bissell has been in the department not one man, in the office classified force at least, has been discharged, or appointed, or promoted, or reduced because of partisan reasons. Mr. Bissell is the only Cabinet officer who can say anything like this with truth, although nearly all of them say it, of course, as officials always have since the civil service law was passed. The recent changes in the Post Office Department force noticed in THE TIMES were cases in point, but they were very striking ones.

* * *

Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Smith are, of course, the gentlemen whom Mr. Bissell reminds me of in this regard—they are so different. I have spoken of Mr. Smith's interesting regulations regarding promotions in his department once or twice, the regulations that every department head makes so regularly and do not keep. Mr. Carlisle is certainly the peer of Mr. Smith, as his manifold removals of Republicans show. The difference is that Mr. Carlisle has never made any particular claim to be a reformer in this regard. I am told now, however, that he is really going to reform. In July, if the Hockery Treasury Department purge bill passes, 148 clerks will be discharged. Despite the strongest kind of protestations of purity of motives with regard to this 148, I know clerks, Republicans, who are making plans to start real estate offices in July. All government clerks with one exception in ten when they leave Uncle Sam start real estate offices or become lawyers, don't they?

EFFORT FOR EARLY MEETING.

Senator Harris' Resolution Will Be Resisted By the Republicans.

Senator Harris made an effort yesterday to obtain consideration for his resolution for providing for 10 o'clock sessions, but was repulsed by Senator Hoar with an objection to its presentation while the tariff bill was before the Senate. It is now the purpose of Senator Harris to introduce the motion during the morning hour to-morrow. Under the rules a resolution cannot be considered the same day that it is introduced; consequently the discussion which the resolution is sure to provoke will not take place until Saturday.

Senator Harris said in an interview after the failure of his effort to introduce the resolution that the resolution was debatable, but he had some doubts about the Republicans resisting it in that way. "If they do," he said, "they will simply convict themselves before the country of an intention to delay the consideration of the bill."

He said further that the meaning of the resolution was that the tariff bill should be pressed forward with all possible dispatch, but when asked to say whether the present resolution would be followed by another for night sessions he declined to convict himself further than to say that his course in that event would depend upon the progress of the bill.

It is understood to be the purpose of the Democrats to ask for night sessions later if they are not satisfied that the Republicans are using proper expedition in their discussion of the bill. Senator Jones said in referring to the resolution that he thought it better to begin at 10 o'clock than to have any specific provision for sitting at night.

The Republican side of the chamber will certainly resist the Harris resolution. Senator Aldrich, in speaking of it said that the present hours were sufficiently long, beginning as they do at 11 o'clock and closing at 6, and that he for one should decline to yield to the request to lengthen them. He also said that the resolution would itself afford material for debate, and intimated that the resolution might not go through upon the instant.

It appears probable, therefore, that unless Mr. Harris should reconsider his determination to press the resolution, the proceedings on Saturday will be enlivened by a spirited debate over the question of time.

At the District Buildings.

The Commissioners recommend favorable action on house bill 6755, "to regulate Canal street in the city of Washington."

The request of the president of the Hope and Help Mission for an appropriation of $1,000 has been favorably considered by the Commissioners.

Mr. O. F. Smith has protested against the granting of a permit to hold picnics at the park located at the corner of Florida avenue and Eighteenth street northwest.

The Commissioners have discussed the merits of the Anderson Crematory Company of Chicago, and have requested the representative to submit a proposal to perform the work.

Col. Henry W. Closson, commanding the Washington barracks, has received assurance that the dumping of street sweepings will be discontinued in the vicinity of the arsenal gate.

W. K. Schoepf, vice president of the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railroad Company, has been notified to complete the work of laying the tracks of his road on Fifteenth and G streets northwest.

House bill 6816, to amend the charter of the District of Columbia Suburban Railway Company, was the subject of a public hearing before the Commissioners yesterday afternoon, but nothing definite was arrived at.

Building and repair permits were yesterday granted as follows: The Chris. Heurich Brewing Company, to erect brewery plant on square between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth, D and Water streets, to cost $200,000; E. T. Simpson, to build dwelling at 3110 N street northwest, to cost $6,000; H. H. Jacobs, to build dwelling at 937 R street northwest, to cost $4,500; G. W. Merrill, to build dwelling at 454 New York avenue northwest, to cost $800; D. Johnson, to repair 1528 Third street northwest, to cost $850, and Mrs. Mary Hartigan, to repair three sheds on Good Hope Hill road, to cost $600.

We Want to Give Away $10,000 To Prospective Housebuilders.

As an evidence of our appreciation of the unparalleled sale of home sites at both "DEL RAY" and "ST. ELMO," and to stimulate the quickest development and most rapid upbuilding ever experienced in the history of Washington's suburban growth, we have determined to give ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN GOLD, in addition to a lot and free transportation for one year, as advertised, to each and every patron who commences to build a house at either place (to cost not less than $1,000) not later than June 1, and completes same on or before November 1, 1894.

"DEL RAY" is situated five miles from Washington on the P. R. R., one mile this side of Alexandria.

We have some very choice $100 and $150 lots which we will sell for $1.00 down and $1.00 to $1.50 weekly payments. No interest. No taxes. No notes or trusts, but we do insure your heirs a deed to the property without further cost should death prevent your making the payments.

Call at the office for transportation to "DEL RAY" or go down on excursion next SUNDAY at 9.45 A. M. or 2.43 P. M.

WOOD, HARMON & CO.,
525 Thirteenth St. N. W.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

A Colored Waiter Shoots His Wife and Takes a Dose of Strychnine.

Frank Wilson, colored, aged 38 years, was the perpetrator of what was intended to be a terrible double tragedy on O street, near Tenth street northwest, last evening at 7 o'clock.

He fired five shots from a 22-caliber revolver at his wife, who goes by the name of Lizzie Carroll. One of the shots took effect. She was shot in her left lung and another bullet found lodgment in her arm.

The other three shots missed their mark. Wilson then ran from the sidewalk where the shooting occurred to the steps of an adjacent house, and swallowed nearly half of the contents of a four-ounce bottle of diluted strychnine, which he carried in his pocket.

Before he had finished the dose, however, he was seized by several men from the crowd, which had been attracted by the firing, and held until Policeman E. J. Duvall arrived a few minutes afterward.

Meantime the woman had been removed to Johnson's drug store, across the street, and an ambulance summoned. She was removed to Freedman's hospital, where it was found that her wounds were not of a dangerous character.

Wilson was removed to the Homepathic hospital, where an emetic was given him. When he recovered he was taken to the Second Precinct police station and locked up.

It seems that Wilson and his wife, who were married in 1888, separated a little over a year ago. Since then they have had frequent quarrels in regard to their two daughters, aged 8 and 10 years.

Wilson has been working in the Ebbitt house as a pantryman until about a week ago. Yesterday afternoon he went out to look for his wife. The two met at Iowa circle, and walked together to the place of the tragedy.

REPUBLICAN LEAGUES.

Preliminary Conference of Representatives in New York.

NEW YORK, May 19.—A conference of representatives from the Republican league organizations from all the eastern and Atlantic states was held under the joint auspices of the National League and the State League of New York in the Fifth Avenue hotel this afternoon. The object of the gathering was to make arrangements for a full delegation from the eastern states to attend the national convention of the League of Republican clubs at Denver, Col., on June 26 next.

There were about 150 delegates present from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, with visiting delegates from Ohio and Illinois.

The executive committee of the state league of Republican clubs met at noon at the Fifth Avenue hotel, President George E. Green, of Binghamton, in the chair. The discussion was warm and lengthy, and resulted in the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Republican League of the state of New York disavow and condemn all factional disputes which have arisen or may arise within the ranks of the Republican party in any section of the state. While it advocates individual responsibility and extends perfect freedom of action to all members in any and all matters pertaining to local politics, still the league will in no way assist or interfere with party differences, but welcomes all true Republicans to its membership.

A committee was appointed to attend the conference of eastern state representatives of the league called to meet in the same place later in the day.

Does Not Fear to Be Called a Crank.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I notice what you say in THE TIMES of May 5 about the vast amount of untilled land in sight from the Washington monument, while thousands of men are in idleness. You ask the Post if it has a remedy, and you intimate that fear of being called a crank keeps men from suggesting remedies.

I believe there is such a fear, but I believe that in spite of it a remedy clearly just and consistent would have many advocates as soon as understood.

Is it not often the case that reformers are so enthusiastic that they refuse to see that their proposed reforms are imperfect and unjust? I was an enthusiastic single tax man many years ago, and it then seemed to me that the rest of the world did not look far enough to see the justice of the scheme.

I used to compare the poor man who owned a lot of land on which he had built a home to a slaveholder who owned one slave, while I compared the land speculator who held several thousand acres of idle land to the man who owned many slaves. Then I would say that as it would be inconsistent to free one man's slaves an'l not the other's, so would it be inconsistent to confiscate the speculator's land and not the poor man's lot. It seemed to be a clincher, but I now see that I was the one who did not take a correct view of the case. The man who owns only a reasonable homestead or lot of land in legitimate use is only enjoying his natural right to a foothold upon the soil as a means of existence.

He is not to be compared with a man who has bought another man's liberty and is holding him in slavery, but he stands in the attitude of one who was enslaved but has bought his own natural right to be free. The man who owns large tracts of land, which he hold in idleness for speculation, is standing in the way of the man who has no home; he is depriving him of his natural right to the use of the soil when he does let it go. The profit he makes is the profit of other men's toil.

If we levy a special tax on the speculator to take away part of these profits and discourage this speculating in other men's rights, and if we at the same time exempt the homestead holder from this special tax, because he is only claiming his natural rights, we are violating no principle of justice.

In abolishing slavery we recognize the right of each man to own one person, himself. In abolishing land monopoly we must recognize the right of each man to own a piece of land if he wants it to use, especially if he has already paid for that land.

When those who propose land reform will make a distinction between land titles that cover only a man's natural right as the title to a homestead, and land titles that monopolize other men's rights as the titles to idle land held for speculation, when they stop proposing to discourage speculation and monopoly by treating the speculator and the homestead holder alike, their propositions will appear more consistent and just, and they will no longer be cranks.

L. O. U.

WOULD LET SAMOA GO.

Senator Morgan Opposed to Protectorate, but Wants Pago Pago Harbor Retained.

Remarking upon Secretary Gresham's recommendation that the United States withdraw from the tripartite agreement for the control of the Samoan islands, Senator Morgan, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said yesterday that he had never considered the Berlin arrangement a wise one, and that he thought the islands should be relieved from the divided control provided for under that convention. He should not object to this government's withdrawal from the agreement if in doing so it could perpetuate its rights on Pago Pago harbor. "Germany and England have perpetual harbor rights there," he said, "while our right to Pago Pago is terminable at the will of the native rulers.

"Secretary Evarts felt when he secured that concession for the United States that he had accomplished an important result. I agreed with him and willingly assisted a few years ago in obtaining an appropriation from Congress for the protection of our interests. Fortunately the occasion did not arise for the expenditure of the appropriation. I still think we should hold the harbor, and I believe the next move made should be toward having the concession made perpetual, and that we should not surrender our part in the management of affairs in the islands except upon this condition."

The Senator added that with this right permanently secured he saw no reason why the United States should continue its interference with the government of Samoa, and that he saw plainly how the present arrangement might lead to entanglements which would prove very embarrassing.

VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL

Are the Instructions Given to British and American Bering Sea Fleets.

LONDON, May 10.—In the House of Commons Sir George Baden-Powell asked whether the government would present the House with a copy of the Russo-American sealing treaty, and whether negotiations for a similar treaty with England were proceeding.

Sir Ed