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The postmaster general has ordered that backstamping of letters be hereafter discontinued, except on registered and special delivery. The order is intended to increase the speed of delivery of mail, and to cut the working force in large offices.

Fish Commissioner L. H. Darwin has been appointed by the governor as state game warden. R. B. Wales, game warden for Spokane county, is appointed as deputy game warden for eastern Washington.

The press of the nation is taking up in earnest the question of proposed currency reform by the present congress, and it now seems evident that congress will be asked by the president to legislate upon this important matter at this extra session, after the tariff bill has been passed.

For many years, in the face of the knowledge that the United States had the poorest currency system in the world, the republican congresses have left untouched this important matter—for reasons probably best known to the Wall street financiers who have made millions out of the operations of the present system.

It is proper that the democratic administration correct this evil at once. The present administration was elected to DO things; was elected because it promised to do things. Let these things now be done.

No time was wasted by the administration in getting action on the tariff evil. Determination to effect the desired change, without compromise, quibbling or trading, has pervaded the Wilson policy thus far on the tariff, and if the same methodical progress attaches to currency reform, this nation will have received benefits for which it has waited many decades.

A cord of wood must hereafter consist of a cord of wood—by order of the legislature of the state of Washington, said order now being in force in the shape of a law.

According to the standard tables of measure, a cord contains 128 cubic feet, and is generally measured 4x4x8 feet. But for some inexplicable reason, wood has been sold by the cord when the cord only contained two-thirds of a cord—the selling being by the "rick." A rick is 4 feet high and 8 feet long, and has no connection with a cord of wood. But many ranchers have sold two ricks of 12, 14 or 16 inch wood for a cord, and there seemed no way to stop it.

Hereafter, under penalty of law, a cord must be a CORD. And if a dealer sells two ricks of 16-inch wood he sells two-thirds of a cord; one rick of 16-inch wood is one-third of a cord; two ricks of 18 inch wood constitute three-fourths of a cord. And when a man now orders a cord of wood, and pays for a cord of wood, but does not get a cord of wood—prosecution of the short-dealer.

The ice man will no longer be allowed to weigh in his tongs and charge the same to his patrons. The new state weights and measures law, requires that the ice man shall have stamped on his tongs the weight of the same, so that the consumer in buying ice will get net weight, less the weight of the tongs.

The indorsement by the Statesman-Index of Senator Wesley L. Jones for reelection calls to mind the fact that since Editor L. O. Ives quit publishing the Humdinger, there had been no paper at the county seat which espoused the cause of the old republican party. Now, with Ives and his Humdinger out of the road, the Index is in a position to step in

and take the place of the Humdinger as a standpat paper. We doubt if even the former editor A. E. Veatch (sometimes called by other names) would have dared take this radical step backward in politics.

The humor of the present situation is that the president of the Index company, Attorney F. Leo Grinstead, announced himself as a progressive last fall, and the Index supported 11 progressives for county office. It may be that the failure to elect these progressives has made the Index feel that the progressive party is a lost hope.

The Stevens county progressives who trooped so gaily to Aberdeen last year, and were shut out of the convention by the stand-patters, ought to be highly pleased to have the Index now support Senator Jones, who backed up the progressive shut-out, and who took the Taft side in the historical shut-out at Chicago.

The many Iowa people in Stevens county are pleased to hear that Cato Sells has been appointed Indian commissioner by President Wilson. Many of the western problems are those connected with the Indian service, and there are few Iowans who do not remember Cato Sells, his years of hard work for democracy, and his ability to handle matters of importance.

That the government printing office and the postal system have been used by the sugar interests in maintaining the tariff on sugar, was shown by the lobby investigation which the senate has been conducting. T. G. Palmer, the Washington representative of the United States sugar industry, has testified that 1,500,000 copies of arguments on sugar were printed free by the government and franked through the mails by senators. He admitted that the sugar industry had saved \$28,000 in postage on one pamphlet.

H. T. Oxnard, the millionaire vice president of the American Beet Sugar Co., said he had spent on an average \$20,000 a year for 20 years in the national capital, in behalf of the sugar industry.

It is no wonder that the tariff remains on sugar, and that the public pays 6 and 7 cents for an article which can be produced at a profit for 2 cents a pound.

Yet past republican administrations have taken no step to free the people, and only upon the selection of a complete democratic administration are these things brought to light.

According to Governor Lister's speech in Colville on June 3, it is evident that the governor does not favor excessive appropriations for state highways, trunk roads and fine automobile boulevards, but does favor a reasonable expenditure of state and county money for lateral roads from the smaller trade centers. Or, as the governor stated, "Let us spend this money building roads that will bring the farmer and his products nearer the market, and not on highways between the large cities for the benefit of the tourists that travel in automobiles."

There is now a road in Stevens county known as the Summit mine road leading from Orin over the Huckleberry range to Rice, and connecting the Colville and Columbia river valleys. This road which has been established for several years is almost useless on account of the heavy grades and hard hills between Orin and the Summit. The entire road however, barring the Lancaster, Harding, Crisman and Summit hills, is good. These hills have from 15 to 30 per cent grade, thus making the entire road impractical.

But according to a recent sur-

vey it has been ascertained that these four hills can be avoided. The new survey which follows down Reidel creek to Haller creek has no grade greater than five per cent, with an increased distance of less than one mile. It is stated that the new road can be constructed for \$500, and would make a good outlet for over 200 ranchers in the vicinity of Rice, Daisy, Arzina, Waterloo, Maud and all Columbia river points south.

A small amount of public funds spent on roads of this character would be of real benefit to the people—much more beneficial than boulevards between points already connected by railways.

Judging from the recent severe criticism in an "editorial" in the Index, relative to employes asking for a vacation on Memorial day, and more particularly employes on a "first-class weekly paper such as the Index," it is evident that one of the two employes of that first-class weekly did have the effrontery to ask the editor of the aforesaid first-class weekly paper to be allowed the liberty of attending the Memorial exercises. Its editor went on by way of argument to say that the telephone office was open, the electric light men worked, that the hotels and restaurants looked after their trade, that the laundry whistle blew, that the pressure was on the city mains, and that even the one-horse Examiner office was open.

But as a matter of fact, four of the six employed in the central telephone office were decorating graves of friends, some of the electric light employes were in the band playing dirges and patriotic airs, a great per cent of the hotel and restaurant service was in the solemn procession, over one half of the laundry girls were given time to roll down their sleeves and attend the services, and even three of the six of the "one-horse Examiner" force devoted an hour and a half of their valuable time in paying their respects to the many loyal dead and the few loyal living. But the industrious stand-pat editor with his two industrious employes seems to think that they are mean and grumpy even to intimate a holiday. Notwithstanding the glorious Fourth will soon be here, it is safe to say that the pair in the Index office will not dare to see or listen to the festivities until the editor blows his whistle.

The one-horse Examiner with its payroll of four men, one woman and a boy, sympathizes with Alonzo Melville with his first-class office employing one man and a girl, and hopes that by next Memorial day the Index will not be so pressed with work as to need the entire day to set up more such "editorials" and other junk for the "first-class paper."

D. H. KIMPLE Architect

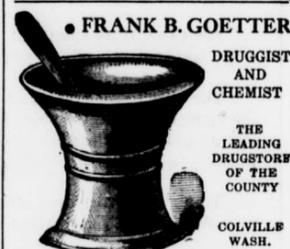
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