

PICKINGS IN PLENTY

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GET MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS YEARLY

IN SHAPE OF ALLOWANCES

Clerk Hire and Stationery Alone Bring the Total Up to Over Six Thousand Dollars, White Chairman of the Committee Live in Legislative Clover-Books of High Market Value Among Perquisites.

The compensation of a member of congress is supposed to be \$5,000 a year. As a matter of fact it is \$5,000 and perquisites. Since the famous "back-pay congress" the forty-third when the members raised their salary from \$3,500 to \$5,000, and made it retroactive, for the entire term of two years, no one has stipulated, but year after year there have been tacked into the corners of appropriation bills items which are in the nature of a bonus to members.

The most substantial perquisite that goes with a seat in congress, says the Philadelphia Press, is mileage at the rate of 20 cents per mile each way, to and from the capital, once each session. For example, if the member lives 1,000 miles from Washington, on arriving at the capital, he finds the sergeant-at-arms of the house, if he is a representative, or the secretary of the senate, if he is a senator, has credited his account with \$40, or nearly an extra month's pay. The rate of 20 cents per mile was fixed long ago, when transportation was high. The members from the Pacific slope are luckiest in the mileage hand out. One of them gets \$1,412 per session, or \$2,824 for the term. If a member rides on railroad passes the mileage is all clear gain.

ALLOWANCE FOR STATIONERY.

Congress appropriates every year \$125 per member for "stationery, postage and newspapers." The stationery clerk opens an account with the member, crediting him with \$15 at the start. He may take his choice between drawing \$15 the first day of the session, or he may let his account remain open during the session, drawing from time to time such supplies of pens, ink, paper, etc., as he needs, which are charged to his account as he gets them. At the end of the session he signs a voucher for the unexpended balance. Wise members, old in the service, never leave a pen and holder on their desks in the house. If they do before the ink dries on the pen some colleague borrows it and absent-mindedly locks it up in his desk. Then, too, the congressman need not buy any letter paper when he can get it from the committee of which he is a member, paper on which his name appears in splendor as a part of the committee's official heading.

The clerk of the house contracts with various jobbers for these supplies, and they are furnished to members at their actual cost to the government. Thus whether he draws his \$15 in cash and pays for what he takes from the stationery room or keeps an open account, the member pays about one-third to one-half what other people would pay for the same article.

ABUSE OF FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The franking privilege has had its ups and downs. Years ago it was practically carte blanche—members franked everything, but that was not the way it was intended. The privilege was limited to public documents and letters to officers of the government on official business. The last change was made in 1876, when congress authorized to send under frank any communication "on official business" to any person, provided the weight did not exceed two ounces. The weight limitation is ignored by members and is not enforced.

The congressman determines for himself what constitutes "official business." At the beginning of the session, members of congress there came into the house post-office one day a typewriter, boxed, bearing the frank of a Boston member of congress. To him that was "official business." Not very long ago one member used to frank to and from his home, 50 miles away, weekly, the family wash, which was laundered and returned to him under frank as "official business." An agrarian member was accustomed to have sent in from his farm fresh supplies of butter, green vegetables, etc., under a frank which declared them to be "in the nature of an opinion." Official business.

Then comes the matter of clerk hire. Up to the time of the Fifty-third congress members not chairman of committees had to pay the clerk out of their own pockets. Some rich members maintained competent secretaries at a reasonable salary, but the majority simply paid small sums to a stenographer for an occasional batch of letters.

JOE CANNON AND HIS CLERK. The Fifty-third congress, therefore, provided that members should receive \$100 per month during the session for clerk hire. But it was only during the session. The Fifty-fourth congress met the proposition that a good clerk could not be had on a session basis by making the clerk hire \$100 per month the year round. This did not include clerk hire for chairman of committees. The chairman of a committee appoints the clerk of the committee and the clerk of the committee acts as the chairman's private secretary. Twenty clerks on the annual roll of the house get \$2,500 a year each. Clerks to committees for the session only—session clerks, as they are called—get \$6 a day during the session.

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But what the member really looks for is to be chairman of a committee. Arrived at that distinction, he is in clover. The chief clerk of the house contracts with various jobbers for these supplies, and they are furnished to members at their actual cost to the government.

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Minister Fired at a Mad Steer and Almost Eadly. HELENA, Mont., Jan. 13.—The Rev. E. W. Pool returned this afternoon from Fort Belknap Indian reservation, where he delivered a lecture to the students at the Indian school. While hunting yesterday with Mr. Campbell, superintendent of the school, the man was pursued by a raging steer. Mr. Campbell, in endeavoring to escape, fell, and the animal was upon him in an instant. Mr. Pool fired at the steer, causing the animal to divert his course, but a portion of the charge struck Campbell in the lungs, inflicting a serious and possibly mortal wound.

WEDDED BEFORE WAR.

ROMANTIC MARRIAGE OF AN AMERICAN GIRL TO A BRITON. LONDON, Jan. 13.—C. B. Ismay and Miss Constance Schieffelin were married in London this morning by special license. Mr. Ismay starts for South Africa this afternoon.

His bride is the daughter of George R. Schieffelin, of New York, and the bridegroom is the son of the late Thomas H. Ismay, the founder of the White Star Steamship line. Miss Schieffelin sailed for England with her father about two weeks ago. Her elder sister, Florence, is the wife of T. Bruce Ismay, brother of C. B. Ismay. The marriage, it is said, was hastened by Mr. Ismay's intention to sail for South Africa as a volunteer.

TO AID COLORED MEN

ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL IN ITS SCOPE TO BE LAUNCHED AT CHICAGO

IS OPEN TO ALL CLASSES

Designed in the First Instance to Give the Negro the Benefits of a Fraternal Insurance Society, It Will Be Open to Every Class and Race—Prominent Men Are Interested in It.

CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—(Special.)—Booker T. Washington, the foremost colored educator in the world, will arrive here tomorrow from Tuske