

BATTLES OF THE BOARDS.

Secretary Root About to End Old Disputes.

CONTROVERSIES OVER ORDINANCE.

Date Back to the Time the Fortification Board Was Formed. Involves Experiments, Investigations, and Recommendations in Connection With Army Material.

A controversy which has been going on for several years between the Board of Ordnance and Fortification and the Ordnance of the Army as to their relative powers, is about to be brought to a close by Secretary Root.

The question involved is as old as the Fortifications Board. It may be said to have originated with the formation of that body, which caused much bitterness among some of the army officers at the time.

Contention Over Rights.

The right to experiment with ordnance material had been conferred upon the Board of Ordnance by Congress years before that and such tests had been conducted up to that time. The Fortifications Board, which had before it the work of preparing for the fortification of the country, contended that it alone had the right to conduct these experiments, and for several years this contention has been before the different Secretaries of War.

Peace Efforts That Failed.

In order to bring about, if possible, amicable relations, Congress, upon the recommendation of Secretary Root, passed a law providing that the Chief of the Ordnance Bureau should become a member of the Fortifications Board. But this did not end the friction, particularly as General Duffington favored the disappearing type of gun carriage and the majority of the members of the board the non-disappearing type.

Antagonistic Claims.

It was contended by the Ordnance Bureau that the Fortifications Board had no jurisdiction whatever over the Ordnance Board, which was merely a creature of the Chief of Ordnance to carry out his orders.

It was then claimed by the majority of the Fortifications Board that under its power from Congress it alone had the authority to conduct tests and therefore had jurisdiction over those officers conducting the test.

The Secretary's Decision.

This view is not sustained by Secretary Root, who has decided that the Fortifications Board has not exclusive power to conduct experiments, but that each department may conduct its own investigations independent of the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications.

The effect of the decision will be that the Fortifications Board is a body separate from the routine investigations of the different bureaus, while it may conduct investigations along the same line as the Ordnance Bureau, or the Engineer Corps, it has not exclusive power.

SUCCESS OF BRADBURY PLANOS.

Merit and Times Advertising Credit.

The Bradbury piano and Christmas come together naturally. Such is the opinion of W. P. Van Wickie, manager of the local branch of the big piano house, at 1225 Pennsylvania Avenue northwest.

Mr. Van Wickie has already been the means of making many people happy with a new Bradbury, and he predicts that when the account for the Christmas season has been reckoned up it will be found that the present year has been the most prosperous in the history of the house which he represents.

Incidentally, the manager of the store said The Times a compliment and attributed a large measure of the success which the Bradbury piano has had during the holiday season to judicious advertising in The Times.

About the piano trade in the Bradbury store there is this to say. The firm is selling many instruments, more than ever before, and anticipates selling many others before the Christmas holidays are over. An advertisement in The Sunday Times, the store is selling Bradbury for Christmas gifts, deferring the first payment until after January 1.

LEFT HONORED NAME.

Funeral Tomorrow of Long-respected Local Merchant.

The funeral of Solomon Fishman, who died Thursday morning, will be held tomorrow, at 10:30 o'clock, at 627 I Street northwest, interment being at St. Temple burying ground.

Mr. Fishman was eighty-four years of age, and had resided in Washington since 1882, being one of the oldest residents in the city.

He was a native of Sax-Meinigen, Germany, where, after obtaining an exceptionally thorough education, he taught school for some years.

Soon after coming to this country he established a dry goods business here, on the site now occupied by Hahn's shoe store. The neighborhood was then called North Liberty, and was the scene of much excitement on election days, bullets at one time lodging in the shutters of Mr. Fishman's store.

Notwithstanding his age, Mr. Fishman was, until a few months of his death, an active in business affairs as ever. He left an enviable name for strict integrity, and was a man of great benevolence.

A Splendid Display of Jewels.

The magnificent display of diamonds, jewelry, and silversware at Salvatore Desio, 1612 F Street, is well worth seeing. The establishment is crowded daily with throngs of eager buyers, seeking the many bargains offered there. Mr. Desio can justly lay claim to doing the largest holiday business in his career.

"THE NAME IS EVERYTHING."

Esterbrook

on a pen is an absolute guarantee of its excellence

ESTERBROOK No. 648 is the most popular pen in the world. Over 150 varieties of other styles to suit every purpose. All stationers have them. Accept no substitute.

THE ESTERBROOK STEEL PEN CO
Works, Camden, N. J. 25 John Street, N. Y.

TALES OF CRUEL TREATMENT.

Oyster Boat Workers Apply to District for Transportation.

Deserting from the oyster fleet in the lower Potomac continue to drift into the city with stories of cruelty and maltreatment on the part of the commanders of their vessels. Yesterday three of them called at Police Headquarters to ask assistance to their homes. All were referred to the Board of Charities, which now dispenses transportation funds.

The first to arrive were Hilyard Clayton and Frank Johnson, two colored youths, sixteen and seventeen years old, respectively, who claim Jackson, N. C., as their home. The boys claim that for more than a month's work they were paid only 25 cents each. The shutting down of a brick yard in Baltimore threw them out of work, and they shipped on an oyster boat November 13. They were promised \$12 a month.

During the time of their service they claim that they were beaten, kicked, and poorly fed, and were finally put ashore at Vivian, Va., last Monday evening, making it to reach this city Wednesday night, and since then have been stopping at the Central Union Mission.

Later a good-looking young fellow, who gave his name as Charles Lewis, and who said he lived at 1320 East Lanvale Street, Baltimore, with his mother and sister, visited Headquarters seeking means to reach his home.

He claims that for seven weeks' work on the oyster sloop Lena, under Capt. Herbert Drummond, he had been paid only \$2. He said he was put ashore at Colonial Beach Saturday with five other men, as the oyster season had closed and there was no further need of them.

He came to this city on the Harry Randall Saturday and has been at the mission while trying to secure employment. Lewis claims that he was in the vicinity of the lower Machodoc Creek at the time that Herzog was assaulted and forced to sit on a red-hot stove, but has no personal knowledge of the occurrence.

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TRYING TO STOP SURPLUS INCOME

REDUCTION OF INTERNAL REVENUE

Ways and Means Committee to Consider Schedules Shortly—Perplexities of the Proposed Legislation.

Immediately after Congress reconvenes the Ways and Means Committee will take up the matter of reduction of the internal revenue with a view to reducing the income of the Government so as to prevent the accumulation of additional surplus. The committee will not hold public hearings on the matter, but thereafter it will grant hearings to a number of interested parties for taxation reduction.

Tax Changes Opposed.

The problem which confronts the committee is not an easy one. Such leaders on the Republican side as Chairman Payne and Representative Dulack are determined to fight any reduction of the customs tariff duties. They want to avoid reopening the tariff question, and will strenuously oppose Representative Babcock's plan to remove the duty from certain trust-made goods, especially certain schedules in steel. They propose that whatever revenue reduction is made shall be made in the internal revenue.

A Strange Consequence.

Just here is a knotty problem. To reduce the internal revenue tax upon whisky, for instance, would mean to increase the revenue, paradoxical as that may seem. A reduction of tax would cause, it is said, an increased production and consumption, which would accordingly yield a greater revenue. Therefore, while the distillers would be glad to have the tax reduced, the effect upon the Treasury would be to increase rather than to diminish the surplus.

The same thing is also said to be true in certain of the tobacco schedules. The high rates of internal revenue tax upon whisky and tobacco produce, it is argued, less revenue than a lower rate would bring.

The brewers have already received consolation when the first reduction in the war tax was made, and it is not probable that the committee will recommend any further material decrease at this time, although an effort will be made by the Treasury in this direction. There seems to be little or no doubt that all of the other war revenue taxes will be removed.

There is also a strong movement on foot to abolish the tax on an article which was imposed as a war measure. A majority of the dealers are said to favor it, and they will have a hearing before the committee during the early part of January.

Indications now point to there being some interesting sessions of the Ways and Means Committee immediately after the recess in an effort to reduce the revenue so that the surplus will not continue to pile up in the Treasury vaults.

MAX O'RELL'S ILLNESS.

To Be Operated on for Appendicitis at the French Hospital.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Max O'Rell returned here last night from Baltimore, where he delivered a lecture on Wednesday evening while suffering from appendicitis.

The trouble in two years' standing and frequently attacks him. Dr. Henner of the French Hospital has prevailed upon him to undergo an operation before he leaves this country, and the writer's secretary said yesterday that this will be performed in about three weeks at the French Hospital in Dr. McBurney. In the meantime, it is the intention of M. Blouet to keep very quiet in his apartments at Morelle's.

According to his secretary his illness has obliged him to cancel all the contracts for his American tour.

SMALL HOUSE FIRES.

Early Discovery Prevents Any Considerable Damage.

Fire visited the residence of Frank J. Wagner, Assistant Chief of the Fire Department, at 1918 Eighth Street northwest at 6:26 a. m. yesterday. The blaze was caused by a lace curtain blowing against a gas jet, and quickly spread to the woodwork of the window. Engine Company No. 7 was telephoned for and quickly subdued the fire. The damage will not exceed \$10.

A small fire in a house at 1265 Clinton Street northwest at an early hour yesterday morning was caused by a defective fuse. The building is owned by A. O. Bliss and occupied by Samuel B. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The police report that no damage resulted.

GROGAN'S BIG HOLIDAY SALES.

Handsome Lamps and House Furnishings for Christmas.

A very pretty display of handsome lamps and housefurnishings is on exhibition in the windows of Grogan's Mammoth Credit House. The popular Washington establishment is doing the largest business in its history. From early morning until 6 o'clock in the evening the store is packed with Christmas purchasers.

Open Late Evenings UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

The Saks Stores

Leaders Since 1867.



Put Yourself in His Place.

Buy for him what you'd like to receive if you were he. Acceptability enhances the value of any present. Swells the heartiness of the "thank you." Utility is the parent of acceptability. That leads you here. It is in just these critical times that this store's service can be best appreciated. With its vast but carefully and intelligently gathered stocks to prompt the perplexed donor what to give—with its consistent prices rendering the gift-purse, be it well-filled or meagre, competent to command the fullest measure of worth and preference. We're practical in our methods even in this season of sentiment. We've provided ample assortments; we've increased every store-keeping facility—yet for your own comfort and satisfaction we urge you to **Don't Wait Till the Last Minute!** SHOP TODAY—

500 New House Coats---and as Many Bath Blankets.

Never have we had such a season in these luxuriant necessities. Patrons tell us we're the only complete stock in town—and we are maintaining its completeness—and distinguishing the closing gift-buying days with offerings of special values that come as the perquisite of our enormous buying.

ABOUT 100 Brown-mixed House Coats, all wool; with lapels, revers, pockets and cuffs faced in red plaid and finished with silk. Very serviceable and practical House Coats; but there are none larger than 37. **\$3.25** Worth 45. Choice.....

IMMENSE variety of Double-faced Cloth and Plain Tricot House Coats; the very latest combinations and the richest satin linings. Stylish and dressy effects, every one of them. All sizes, and the values reach up to \$7.50 in this lot. Choice..... **\$5.00**

LOT of Men's Eiderdown Bath Blankets, in pretty stripes and plaids; full length and width; with girde of goods for the waist and cord for the neck. Best \$4.50 value ever shown here. Special..... **\$2.95**

ENGLISH Blanket Robes, in striking patterns; strictly all wool; cut long and extra full, with girde at waist and cord at neck. Made to retail at \$10. Special..... **\$5.45**

Give This Suit and Overcoat Sale Consideration.

If it wasn't offering exceptional value we'd have held this purchase over until after Christmas. But it is too important a sale to keep—the saving too strong a magnet, and it helps to solve the gift question for some; helps to supply a personal want to others. And climaxing all, we are glad to make such a Christmas offering.

The Suits are in several stylish and handsome patterns of Fency and Mixed Cheviot and Cassimeres; cut in the best Single and Double-Breasted types; perfect fitting and strongly guaranteeable. Worth up to \$12.50, for..... **\$8.50**

The Overcoats are nearly all the long, full back fellows, that are most in demand; some with yokes; others without; velvet collars and cuffs—Oxfords and Fency Scotch Cheviots; also two lots of Kerseys, silk and poodium length that every taste may be satisfied. All sizes—worth up to \$12.50, for..... **\$9.50**

Lot of Men's Fency Silk and Wool Fency Vests; both Single and Double; attractive patterns and values up to \$5, for, choice..... **\$1.50**

Don't Overlook the Boys' Clothing Needs.

We haven't—with all the holiday rush and excitement. And we shall give you unusual reason to bear them in mind to-day—because of the long reach a little money will have in the purchase of Boys' Suits and Overcoats.

Bargain opportunities do not pick their time of happening—and such as these we'll take whenever we can get them.

BOYS' Double Breasted Knee Pants Suits, in choice effects; strictly all-wool and fast colors; double attached edges and patent bands in Tans; all sizes. Regular \$2.75 value..... **\$2.25**

LOT of Boys' Double Breasted and Plain Pants Suits, including Sallors; all wool and fast and trimmed with silk; sizes 3 to 16 years. Reg. Special..... **\$1.95**

BOYS' Double Breasted Knee Pants Suits, in serviceable Oxford Grey Cheviot; strongly made; all sizes, 8 to 16 years. Regular \$3 value. Special..... **\$1.95**

REEFERS, for Boys 3 to 10 years; in Plain Blue and Oxford; guaranteed all wool; Double Breasted cut, with small velvet collars; worth \$2.50, \$1 and \$4.50. Choice..... **\$2.15**

BOYS' Oxford Gray Overcoats, cut long and full; slash pockets, yoke back and front, and in all sizes from 4 to 14 years. Worth \$5. Special..... **\$3.45**

BOYS' All Wool Oxford Gray Overcoats, with yoke effect, slash pockets; long and full back; sizes 3 to 16 years. Worth \$6.50. Special..... **\$5.00**

Umbrellas—Samples at about half.

The maker's line that impresses us most favorably we secure the promise of the samples far in advance—and thus we have at holiday time a splendid bargain to offer the gift giver. This is the best lot we've had. The silks with which they are covered are finer; the handle mountings are more elaborate and richer. Both 28 and 28-inch—Horn, Ivory, Mother-of-pearl, and Natural Wood, heavily trimmed with sterling silver, upon which we'll engrave the initials without extra charge.

Samples of values up to \$10; choice for..... **\$4.95**

Samples of values up to \$5; choice for..... **\$3.15**

Holiday Gloves—every pair in a box.

A Glove that is good enough to give anybody, and won't cost you within 25c or 50c, of what it is, is actually worth. Lined and Unlined, in Tan Dogskin and Grey Mocha, with the latest attaching and finished backs; perfect fitting—and as we carry them constantly in stock exchange for another size after the holidays can be easily effected. Equal to the best \$1.25 Glove..... **\$1.00**

Men's and Boys' Hats and Furs.

MEN'S Derby and Soft Hats.

MEN'S Black

MEN'S Slippers

MEN'S and Children's

LADIES' Black, Red, and

CHILDREN'S Red, Brown,

MEN'S Solid Plush Caps, lined

Saks and Company,

Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventh Street.

PALAIS ROYAL SPECIALTIES.

Every Department Has Noteworthy Articles of Value.

A Christmas atmosphere pervades every foot of the Palais Royal, where bargains in almost everything under the sun can be found by even the unskillful shopper. All the gift articles which go to make up perfect Christmas festivities are packed together, sold by experienced clerks, and at prices which no other store in Washington can afford to make lower.

The holiday assortment of desirables includes handkerchiefs, and the accompanying perfumery; dainty bottles filled with daintier perfumes, and packed in dainty baskets and boxes, which make among the most desirable of Christmas presents. The Palais Royal has long been famous for the variety and value of its size of handkerchiefs, and this Christmas the big firm has more than sustained its reputation made in the past.

Ribbons, laces, fancy pins, stick pins, and hair pins, and all the accessories of my lady's toilette, abound in profusion at low prices. All of these make excellent gifts, while the quality of everything purchased at the big store. Eleven and G Streets assures their reception being a cordial one. In other lines, other than those including dress goods, of which the Palais Royal has a large stock, the store is pre-eminently fitted to supply the wants of masculine, as well as feminine Washington.

PIANOS FOR THE BEST HOMES.

The Knabe Warehouses Attractive During the Holidays.

The Knabe piano as a Christmas gift will be seen in many homes in Washington on Christmas morning, and the great stock of instruments at the store of William Knabe & Co., at 1205 Pennsylvania Avenue northwest, by the end of the year, will have been greatly reduced. More instruments have been sold here this year, probably than ever before. Among the holiday features of the city the big warehouse here are interesting ones. The firm in Washington are agents for the wonderful pianos and acoustics, the Knabe piano, and other instruments of standard make.

MR. GANNON'S SPECIALTY.

Celebrated Brands of Whisky Used by Washingtonians.

"Old Potomac" and Duffy's Pure Malt Whisky, put up in quart bottles for one dollar, are being made a specialty of at William Gannon's Liquor House, 1225-27 Seventh Street. He is having a great run on these brands of goods for the holidays.

MAN'S COMFORT AND VANITY.

Both Can Be Met by Parker-Bridget Shopping.

The Parker-Bridget stock of holiday merchandise is one of the largest in the history of that house. There are all sorts of things gathered here to give as gifts to men—things which are of the useful, and at the same time of the ornamental varieties. In other words, almost everything under the sun for mankind, almost everything necessary to satisfy his wants and tickle his vanity, can be found within the four walls of the big building at Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

From the opera hat atop of the raglan, every article of clothing worn by man is to be purchased at this store, and at prices so reasonable as to make it a question of doubt as to whether there is another emporium in Washington where things may be purchased so cheaply, and at the same time, of such excellent quality.

WIFE GIVEN THE DIVORCE.

Husband Instituted the Original Proceedings.

Rebecca Liverpool was yesterday granted a divorce from William Liverpool. In the original proceedings Liverpool asked for divorce from his wife on the ground of desertion. She filed an answer denying the charges and filed a cross-bill asking for a divorce on the ground of cruelty. The proceedings instituted by the husband were dismissed. The decree, which is signed by Justice Hagner, allows Mrs.

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STORE OPEN EVENINGS

Established 1892.

Only 3 More Shopping Days Until Christmas.

Three Truths.

1. Our stock of FINE Diamonds and other Jewels, Watches, Jewellery, Sterling Silver Ware, Etc., is UNQUESTIONABLY THE LARGEST.

2. The QUALITY of our goods—UNDOUBTEDLY THE FINEST.

3. OUR PRICES—INVARIABLY THE LOWEST.

Inspection of our goods invited—it in no way implies an obligation to purchase.

GALT & BRO.,

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Stationers, 1107 Pennsylvania Avenue.

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