

# WASHINGTON POSTOFFICE A CLEARING HOUSE FOR DEBTS OF POLITICIANS

Civil Service Commission Arraigns Administration of Local Office as Opposed to the Public Good.

MERE BUREAU OF  
THE DEPARTMENT

Many Wrongful Appointments Cited, and Protests Quoted—Payne Replies by Citing Certificates of Commission.

Postmaster General Payne made public yesterday the report of the Civil Service Commission on the conditions in the Washington postoffice. The report does not mince matters and contains statements which will make a number of postoffice officials wonder what is going to happen.

It is directly stated that the Washington postoffice was made practically a bureau of the department, that it was packed with political appointments, that it carried people on its payrolls who were illegally appointed, that political favorites were transferred to it from offices in which they had never served, that a woman obtained a good appointment but did not work, that politicians forced proteges on the postmaster when he did not need their services, and that generally, political needs rather than Government requirements were considered in making up the personnel of the office.

The rural free delivery office is said to have been packed with clerks, carriers, etc., who were rushed in there while the positions were unclassified, that they might be advanced later to lucrative jobs, and a remarkable increase in the number of rural free delivery appointments the month before the service was classified is cited. It is fully stated that the rural free delivery service was so misused, in order to promote the interests of individuals, and incidentally, Mr. Procter declared that these favorites of the powers proved on trial to be inferior to the people who obtained their appointments honestly, as the result of competitive examinations.

Postmaster Merritt, of Washington, is exonerated from connection with the manner in which his office was used to further the ends of unscrupulous politicians. Mr. Procter says that Mr. Merritt was forced, by his official superiors, to take the undesirable and unnecessary appointments, to whom he could do no more than make strong protest.

Recently the protests of Mr. Merritt have borne more weight, and his office is gradually being cleared of the dead wood with which it was encumbered.

The report says, in part:

Merritt Exonerated.

"In answer to the question whether all of the employees outside the force of carriers were regularly in the service and entitled to their positions, the report shows that appointments to competitive classified positions in the Washington postoffice during the administration of Postmaster Merritt have been made in close conformity with the spirit and letter of the civil service rules, except when transfers from outside offices of persons appointed for the purpose of classification, and improper assignments of laborers to classified duties, have interfered with the proper method of appointment.

"An inspection of certifications taken at random shows that the postmaster selected for appointment 90 out of 100 persons whose names were certified to him from the registers of the commission, although the requirement of the civil service rules would have been met by the selection of one from each certification of three names, or only 60 out of 100.

Dates From 1897.

"In 1897 a practice was adopted by the Postoffice Department, and continued, for the purpose and with the effect of evading the requirement of the civil service law and rules that appointments to classified positions shall be based upon competitive examination. The method employed was to appoint persons to unclassified positions shortly before the classification of those offices by the establishment of the free delivery service, and to transfer to other offices and departments the persons so appointed shortly after their classification—the effect of the combined appointment and transfer being to admit the persons designated to positions which would have been filled by open competitive examination.

"The number of persons thus entering classified positions by appointments in smaller offices and subsequent transfers increased from 2 in 1897 to 22 in 1898, 28 in 1899, and reaching the maximum number of 61 in 1900, and decreasing to 15 in 1901, 8 in 1902, and 2 in 1903. The last ten were appointed six months prior to their classification. The total number of such appointments and transfers was 138.

Heath's Promises.

"The commission, on February 9, 1898, called the attention of the department to the evil which would result, and requested that the practice be discontinued. The First Assistant Postmaster General, on February 19, 1898, replied in a letter in part as follows:

"I have to say that, in compliance with your suggestion, it is the purpose of the department in the future to con-

## EPITOMIZED DISCLOSURES OF THE POSTOFFICE REPORT

"Appointments to the Washington postoffice without examination afford indications that the department used the Washington postoffice for political and personal purposes."

"Most of the irregularities were directed by the department," or had "the force of a direction."

"The appointments resulted in a congestion of the service."

"The practice continued, notwithstanding this promise to discontinue it."

"The service was packed with employees in the interest of the individual."

Of "at least twenty persons appointed to the Washington office after the establishment of free delivery in said outside offices, only six ever entered upon duty in outside offices. Four drew pay from the outside offices, but did no work there."

fine appointments of persons at post-offices where the establishment of free delivery is contemplated is a period of not less than six weeks prior to the establishment, and the appointments to residents of the city in which the establishment of free delivery is to be made. Unless the emergency is great and necessity extreme, it is our determination to make no appointment at these offices earlier than sixty or ninety days, and, unless the non-resident has expert knowledge of the postal service and his especial abilities are required in the establishment, to refuse all applications for the appointment of others than residents of the city where the establishment is to be effected.

"The practice continued, notwithstanding this promise to discontinue it, and the Commission wrote many letters of protest to the department, among them being the letters of May 16, June 11, and November 7, 1898, April 4 and 11, 1899, and May 24, 1900.

Went to President.

"With a view to curing the evil or greatly restricting it, the commission submitted to the President, on June 20, 1898, a draft of a proposed amendment of the civil service rules to require that no person should be transferred until after six months' actual service in the office in which he became classified.

"On June 11, 1900, this suggestion to the President was renewed. On December 7, 1901, the proposed amendment was submitted again, and became a part of the civil service rules four days later. It is believed that this, with the amendments made in the revised rules of April 15, 1903, will prevent this abuse in future.

"During the whole period of the continuance of this abuse the commission adopted every means which, in its judgment, might lead to a remedy.

Made Office a Bureau.

"The information disclosed by the investigation seems to warrant the statement that appointments to classified positions in the Washington postoffice without examination, by the devious method of appointment in small unclassified offices, or in offices about to be consolidated, and subsequent transfer, and the appointments of those laborers who were appointed and separated during the administration of the present postmaster, show a wide departure in policy from a strict regard for the public interest, and afford indications that the department used the Washington postoffice for political and personal purposes to an extent which left the authority of the postmaster in transfers and appointments of this sort but little more than nominal, and placed the office in many respects in the relation of a bureau to the department.

"Concerning the second subject of the investigation—whether the civil service rules had been observed in the employment and assignment of laborers—the report shows that of the fifty-nine laborers constituting the present laborer force of the Washington postoffice, forty-two are performing, in the main, work properly pertaining to the position of unclassified labor, though three of them formerly did classified work; that ten are performing the duties of watchmen, which should be performed by classified employees, and that seven are engaged mainly upon duties of a classified nature.

Laborers Wrongfully Assigned.

"Fifty-six laborers were appointed and removed during the administration of the present postmaster—a number but slightly smaller than the present total force of laborers. Of this number thirty-five were, appointed by direction of the department, thirteen by the postmaster at the solicitations of members of Congress and other prominent men, and eight by the postmaster on his own initiative. Twenty-nine of these employees

were assigned to classified work with the knowledge and consent of the Postoffice Department.

"It appears from the testimony of the postmaster that he protested against this practice; that in the cases of several of these appointees there was no necessity for their services; that persons appointed under the designation of laborer and assigned to classified work were inferior to those selected from the eligible registers of the commission; and that equal efficiency would have been secured, with much greater economy, had the department left the personnel of the force to his own selection.

Specific Instances.

"Oliver H. Smith, now on the rolls of the office under the designation of finance clerk, is engaged mainly in the supervision of the laboring force, and has never been regularly and actually assigned to act as auditor, such assignment being one of the conditions necessary to the exception of the position of finance clerk from the requirement of examination. It appears that Mr. Smith should be actually assigned to the duties of auditor, or be separated from the service.

"A lady was nominally appointed in the Moorestown, N. J., postoffice, but never left the Washington postoffice.

"She owed her appointment to the classification transfer method, was promoted from September 1, 1900, to July 1, 1901, from \$900 to \$1,000 per annum by direction of the department, and is doing the work formerly done by an employee who received a compensation of \$1,000 per annum.

In Interest of Individuals.

"Nearly all of the clerks and messengers in the rural free delivery service who were covered into the classified service were in positions in Washington, D. C. One hundred and thirty-six of them were appointed prior to July 1, 1901; twenty-six were appointed in the four months immediately preceding the classification, and fifty-six were appointed in the twenty-six days preceding classification.

"How many of these were appointed for reasons other than the needs of the service it is, of course, impossible for the Commission to determine; but that the service was packed with employees in the interests of the individual is indicated by the fact that the number of appointments in the month of the classification was more than twice as great as for the preceding four months. This assumption is strongly supported by the fact that during the entire eighteen months that this service has been classified there have been seventeen persons selected for appointment to positions within the District of Columbia, as against fifty-six clerks and messengers appointed during the twenty-six days preceding the classification.

Anticipated Needs of Service.

"There was no necessity of anticipating the needs of the service by an excessive number of appointments just before classification, for the Commission had registers of eligibles at that time which were ample, and also appropriate, as is shown by the fact that all but four of the thirty-seven appointments, which have been made to rural free delivery service in the District of Columbia and outside since November 27, 1901, were from registers then in existence.

"The appointments made under the circumstances above set forth resulted in a congestion of the service, and when a reduction is to be made the employees appointed for political or personal considerations are cared for, sometimes at the expense of persons appointed upon merit and without influence. In relieving the branches of the service thus crowded with employees, transfers are made to other parts of the service, to the injury of eligibles in line for appointment by reason of their ascertained fitness.

"The passing of the war emergency, the amendment on December 11, 1901, of the rule relating to transfers, and the new provisions of the revised rules which became effective on April 15, 1903, will, it is believed, prevent the continuance of these abuses in the classified service; and the adoption, at the earliest

practicable date, of regulations for the employment of laborers in the Washington postoffice in accordance with the executive order of March 26, 1903, will, there is reason to hope, put the employment of laborers on the basis of fitness and the needs of the service."

Mr. Payne's Statement.

Mr. Payne also gave out a copy of his letter asking the Commission to investigate the Washington postoffice for civil service violations. He also gave out the following statement, which he requested to be published as explaining his position in the report.

"Attention is called to the fact that since my incumbency of the position of Postmaster General the Civil Service Commission reports that there have been but ten persons transferred to the Washington city postoffice by appointment from smaller offices, and that these ten were appointed to their respective places six months or more prior to their transfer, which is in compliance with law, rules, and regulations of the civil service, as they now exist.

"It will be noted that the Commission reports that every person occupying a competitive classified place in the Washington postoffice is there by right of a certificate regularly issued by the Civil Service Commission.

New Laborer Agreement.

"Regarding unskilled laborers, which have not been subjected to classification, it is proper to say that there has been much consideration of this question on the part of the Civil Service Commission and the department, and many conferences have been had on this subject. On July 2, 1902, an agreement was reached and regulations adopted which were agreed to by the Civil Service Commission and the department, which will go away with all cause for complaints as to irregularities in the appointment of this class of employees.

"The point raised by the report regarding the promotion of certain employees in the office which have been directed by the department occurred previous to January 1, 1902. No such directions for promotion as are referred to have been authorized by me since I have been Postmaster General."

## CORPUS CHRISTI FEAST IN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Special Sermons to Be Preached by Pastors.

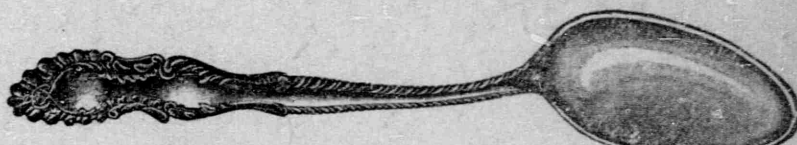
Today will be generally celebrated in the Catholic churches of the city as the feast of Corpus Christi. The actual feast occurred last Thursday, but as it is no longer a holiday of obligation in the Catholic Church, by common consent its celebration has been postponed until today that more elaborate ceremonies may mark its observance.

Solemn high mass will be celebrated in all the churches, and special musical programs arranged by the different choirs. Sermons appropriate to the occasion, will be preached, and the day made memorable as far as solemn services can do so. Processions of the children of the parishes will be held in some churches.

The feast marks the institution of the Eucharist, and formerly fell on Thursday of Holy Week. As the Passion of Christ is commemorated on that day, the date of the feast was changed.

The origin of the feast dates back to the Blessed Juliana, a holy religious of Liege, Belgium, in the eleventh century, who, according to the Catholic version, believed that she had seen a vision enjoining her to influence the ecclesiastical authorities to establish such a feast. In 1220, when she became the head of an order, she consulted several theologians and church dignitaries about the vision, with the result that the archdeacon of Liege, who afterward became Pope Urban IV, became interested and an office was composed. In 1246 Robert, Bishop of Liege, ordered a day set apart for special observance in his diocese. After Juliana's death Henry, the next Bishop of Liege, petitioned Urban IV to establish the feast as a universal one, which that Pope did by a bull issued in 1264. Since that time the feast is so celebrated, the office of the day having been composed by St. Thomas Aquinas on the order of Urban IV.

## Rogers Teaspoons, 6 for 39c



THE teaspoons made by Wm. A. Rogers have been famous a half century. Silver plated on white metal they are practically everlasting. 6 for 75c is the world-wide price. 6 for 39c is a Palais Royal surprise.

## 10% to Times Readers

Any reader who calls tomorrow and says, "I saw it in The Times," will be entitled to 10 per cent discount on all Refrigerators, Water Coolers, Ice Cream Freezers, Gas Stoves, etc. Those who do not see this Times notice will NOT get the discount.

Gas Stoves, here at various prices, from \$4.98 to \$15.00	Refrigerators, here at various prices, from \$4.98 to \$18.75
Gas Ranges, here at various prices, from \$5.98 to \$15.00	Ice Chests, here at various prices, from \$2.89 to \$11.75
Oil Stoves, here at various prices, from \$4.00 to \$15.00	Water Coolers, here at various prices, from \$9.00 to \$15.00
Ice Cream Freezers, here at various prices, from \$4.98 to \$15.00	Water Filters, here at various prices, from \$2.25 to \$5.25

**65¢**

Screen doors, with 4-inch Walnut finish frames. All sizes. Bring measurements with you.

**19¢**

Opaque Window Shades, with attachments. 19c price for tomorrow only.

**10¢**

Window Screens, with extending frames. 10c is a special price for tomorrow only.

**49¢**

Mason's Fruit Jars. One dozen, pint or quart size, with rubbers, in wooden box.

## The Palais Royal

A. LISNER  
G and Eleventh Sts.

## Our Great Retiring Cash Sale

Is Now on the Wing.  
Positively But 28 Days Remaining,

And as the time fleets by, so lessen your opportunities to obtain some of the numerous bargains which are passing daily.

## Speedy Outlet Co. Taken by Surprise.

Our entire sales force completely overpowered by the excited and enthusiastic shoppers clamoring for the astonishing bargains which were clustered throughout the entire store.

Hundreds and hundreds turned away from all departments. Quality and price concessions rule the day with our

**Clothing! Clothing! Clothing!**  
**Department In the Lead.**

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING is the only manner in which we can express the values of numerous items which are here for your picking.

## Monday Will Be a Banner Day.

Time passes quickly, and so must it be with our entire stock.

## Only 28 Days More.

Winter Wearing Apparel, Clothing, Overcoats, Cloaks and Suits, Underwear, etc., must suffer price concessions at this, our BONA-FIDE RETIRING CASH SALE.

## Speedy Outlet Co.,

416 Seventh Street.  
OUR ENTIRE LOT OF STORE FIXTURES FOR SALE.

**Corner 7th and Eye. T. B. REINHARDT & SONS. ESTABLISHED 1876.**

**SILKS.**

TWO GREAT SEASONABLE SPECIALS AT LESS THAN USUAL PRICES.

**YARD WIDE BLACK RUSTLE TAFFETA;** this is our regular \$1.00 grade; has sold as high as \$1.25 per yard; is guaranteed to wear, for **84¢**

**YARD-WIDE WHITE WASH SILK,** very soft and lustrous; will wash and wear; is the rage for waists and dresses; 75¢ value, for **50¢**

**Ladies' Artistic Waists.**

SILK WAIST, made of plain white or plain black wash pongee or Jap. silk; large puff sleeves; a \$2.50 value; all sizes, except 34; for Monday, **\$1.59**

Something new. A white Persian lawn or India linen waist, made in a new way; lots of tucks, embroidery, and lace; look at the bias, large puff, with inserting on the sleeve. A \$2.50 waist, for **\$1.69**

**49c CORSETS REDUCED.**

They are made of fine white batiste; are properly boned; in the new shape; sizes are 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23; an ideal corset for warm weather; better than the old style net corset. We have just 300 pairs. Worth 49c each. To go at **25c** Pair

**Cream Danish Cloth.**

1,500 yards of this popular fabric is the price everywhere, and it is scarce at that; for this sale **9¢**

**White Persian Lawn.**

This fine and sheer dress material is very much in demand this season. We have 1,100 yards 22 inches wide; 15c value; will not shrink, even when laundered; special for **11¢**

**Skirts to Order.**

Come in Monday and select any piece of dress goods at \$1.00 or \$1.25 per yard. We have all colors and black; select the way you want your skirt made; we guarantee the fit, for **\$5.98**

Pay \$1.00 when you leave the order. When the skirt is finished, if the fit is not perfect, we refund the dollar. No alterations.

**25c LACE HOSE REDUCED.**

Seven styles Lisle Lace Ladies' Hose; 500 pair open-work to the toe; they were imported to retail at 25c and 39c; are Hermsdorf or aniline dye; all sizes are here; full regular made; to distribute this bargain and give all our patrons a chance—not over 3 pairs to one purchaser. **17c** Pair

**Ladies' Underwear.**

THEY FIT. ARE REDUCED. LADIES' FINE RIBBED VESTS, long neck, no sleeves, LACE TRIMMED, pure white, are here in all sizes; 12½c value **8½c**

WHITE PETTICOATS are very elaborately made; six rows of lace with deep flounce; made extra wide; also extra size skirt for large ladies. \$1.25 and \$1.50 value, for Friday **98c**

**Hosiery Sale.**

1,000 PAIRS FAST BLACK LADIES' HOSE, seamless, perfect fitting; several styles in the lot; all sizes are here; worth 48c pair; for Monday, pair **48c**

LADIES' BLACK LACE LISLE HOSE; you know the clock-work effects which sell for 50c pair; open work to the toe; all sizes; for Monday, pair **25c**

**GREAT LACE SALE.**

Look in the large window on Seventh Street near the Eye Street entrance. You will see all kinds of narrow and wide laces, inserting, medallions, and Serpentine effects; worth from 12½c to 25c per yard; they are the season's best styles; about 2,200 yards on large table, main aisle, for Monday **5½c** Yard

**Domestics.**

STANDARD Domestics, which will wash and wear, are the only kind we handle.

AMOSKEAG and LANCASTER Best 8c Apron Gingham; 200 pieces; every size check, and all colors, are here for **5½c**

SHEETING, 9-4 wide, unbleached, round thread cotton; 18c value, for **12½c**

TOWELING CRASH, Linen Crash, and Cotton Crash; bleached and unbleached; 5c and 8c values. Friday, per yard **38c**

**Handkerchiefs.**

HANDKERCHIEFS, haven't had this snap to offer for several months, just received 500 dozen Ladies' Fine white heratized handkerchiefs; worth 5c each, for **18c**

**Dress Shields.**

They are perfect; are here in all sizes; a fine odorless dress shield, a 15c value, for Monday, pair **58c**

**82A. 825-815 7th Street. SILK HOUSE Corner 7th and Eye**