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NEW DEPARTMENT

First Annual Report of Secretary of Commerce and Labor, George B. Cortelyou.

THE BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE.

The Personnel of the Department on July 1, 1903, Comprised 10,125 Employees in All.

The Appropriations to Be Expended Under the Direction of the Department Amounted to \$9,796,847—Other Matters.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The following are abstracts from the lengthy first annual report of the secretary of commerce and labor, George B. Cortelyou: On July 1, 1903, the following offices, bureaus, divisions and branches of the public service became parts of the department of commerce and labor:

Light-house board, light-house establishment, steamboat inspection service, bureau of navigation, United States shipping commissioners, national bureau of standards, coast and geodetic survey, commissioner general of immigration, commissioners of immigration, bureau of immigration, immigration service at large, bureau of statistics, census office, department of labor, fish commission, office of commissioner of fish and fisheries, bureau of foreign commerce, Alaskan fur-seal and salmon fisheries.

The personnel of the department on that date comprised 10,125 employees, of which number 1,289 were on duty in Washington and 8,836 in the country at large. The appropriations to be expended under the direction of the department amounted to \$9,796,847.

The department is empowered to acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with labor, in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word, especially regarding its relation to capital, such as the hours of labor and the earnings of laboring men and women; the means in general of promoting their material, social, intellectual and moral condition; the elements of cost, or approximate cost, of products; the comparative cost of living, and the kind of living; the articles controlled by trusts or other combinations of capital, business operations, or labor, and the effect such trusts or other combinations have on production and prices; the causes of and facts relating to all controversies and disputes between employers and employees.

Capitalists and wage receivers are to be treated on an equality, for in these matters relating to labor and capital and to their respective representatives the department must stand in the position of an educational office, collecting and publishing such information as will enable each party to understand more fully the prevailing conditions.

The department has no executive functions relative to the settlement of labor disputes. It can not interfere on behalf of either employer or employee in controversies arising between them.

As a result of the killing of fur seals on the Pribilof islands during the season ended August, 1903, there were taken 19,292 sealskins for the quota of 1903, and 82 rejected skins shipped by order of the department and charged to the quota of 1902. Of the 19,292 skins so taken, 3,092 were from St. George and 16,200 from St. Paul. The 82 rejected skins came from the latter island. The catch of 1903 was 3,094 less than that of 1902.

The department has under consideration the question of establishing, in connection with the bureau of fisheries, a national aquarium of such size and architectural excellence that it will be a credit to the nation. Public aquaria are recognized as important aids to education and are among the most attractive and useful exhibits that can be maintained at public expense. An appropriation for such an aquarium will in due course be recommended.

The work of constructing the Panama canal will probably soon be undertaken. It will involve the transportation of considerable material and some passengers from the United States. Trade by way of the isthmus between our Atlantic and Pacific coast ports is now confined to American vessels. American control over the strip of territory through which the canal is to be built is to be guaranteed. The situation suggests the inquiry whether the special trade between the United States and the isthmus, involved in canal construction, shall be confined to American vessels.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Chairman J. K. Jones Wednesday issued a call for the meeting of the democratic national committee, naming January 12 as the date, and the Shoreham hotel, Washington, as the place.

THE COURT OF APPEALS.

It Defines the Willful Waste of Natural Gas.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 10.—The court of appeals Wednesday delivered a very important decision as to what constituted a willful waste of natural gas as contemplated by the statute. The style of the case decided is commonwealth against J. H. Trent, Jr., etc., from Meade county.

The action was brought by the state, charging conspiracy to waste the natural gas in the Meade county fields. Trent and the others claimed to be making lampblack out of the gas, but the state charged that the sole purpose was to waste the gas and destroy the supply. Judge Hobson, delivering the opinion says: "The purpose of the legislative act is to prevent waste of the natural gas, and if defendants maliciously and willfully wasted and intended to waste the gas from their wells it is immaterial whether they suffered the gas to escape at the well or piped it off to another place and there allowed it to escape. It must be presumed that appellees knew the law, and when they knew that they could not leave their wells open they can not be allowed willfully to accomplish the same result under a pretext of using it. To hold such a state of facts not within the statute would be to allow a mere evasion to defeat it. The position that they may do as they please with the gas after it is reduced to possession can not be maintained."

BIG APPROPRIATION.

The Legislature Will Be Asked to Provide Funds For Asylums.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 10.—The next Kentucky legislature will be asked to appropriate the sum of \$1,250,000 to improve and make additions to the insane asylums in Lexington, Lakeland and Hopkinsville; also, for the feeble-minded institute and the deaf and dumb asylum, to be equally divided between them, or \$250,000 for each of the institutions. The suggestion came from State Auditor Gus C. Coulter, and acting thereon representatives of these institutions will meet in this city Thursday to draft a petition.

Went Up in Smoke.

Petersburg, Ky., Dec. 10.—The Boone County Tobacco Growers' association met at Burlington Wednesday for the purpose of paying over to the county treasurer the amount of their subscription. Boone failed to produce the required amount and the Burley Tobacco Growers' association went up in smoke.

Postmaster Kirby Dead.

Warsaw, Ky., Dec. 10.—Thomas H. Kirby, aged 49, postmaster of this place, and prominent republican politician of the Sixth district, died at his home here. Mr. Kirby had been postmaster for about 20 years under different republican administrations.

Prof. H. H. White Dead.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 10.—Prof. H. H. White, 82, former president of Kentucky university and later professor of mathematics in the same college, died Wednesday. He was one of the most noted educators in the south. Henry W. White, of Chicago, is his son.

Died in a Sanitarium.

Sturgis, Ky., Dec. 10.—A telegram from St. Louis announces that both Dr. W. A. Gill and wife lie dead in a sanitarium there. Dr. Gill was a prominent physician at Caseyville, near here. The bodies will be brought home for interment.

One of Morgan's Men.

Georgetown, Ky., Dec. 10.—Henry S. Halley, 62, a farmer, died near Payne Depot. He served in the confederate army throughout the civil war, and was a member of Company A, Ninth cavalry, Morgan's famous command.

Soon Followed His Father.

Owingsville, Ky., Dec. 10.—Charles J. Vice, aged 42 years, died of pneumonia at his home in the county after a short illness. His father, Geo. Vice, died one week before him of the same disease. Both men were well-known farmers.

Died in Oklahoma City.

Newport, Ky., Dec. 10.—Dr. James R. McIlvain died Wednesday in Oklahoma city, Okla. Dr. McIlvain was a former resident of Newport, but left the city ten years ago for the west, where he built up a successful practice.

Logan County Farmer Dead.

Adairville, Ky., Dec. 10.—William Gilbert, 88, one of Logan county's oldest and best-known citizens, is dead. Mr. Gilbert had always been one of the influential farmers of this county. The interment took place Wednesday.

A Constitutional Law.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 10.—The court of appeals decided that the statute prohibiting the sale of milk from cows that had been fed on distillery slop was constitutional, and the seller of the milk is liable to a fine.

ON A LONG JOURNEY

The Cruiser Baltimore Will Convey the First Torpedo Flotilla to Key West.

WILL SAIL FROM HAMPTON ROADS.

Flotilla Will Then Be Conveyed From Key West to Manila by the Cruiser Buffalo.

The Discovery Was Made That Heavy Plates of the Latter Vessel Were Damaged and Rivets Badly Strained in Collision.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The cruiser Baltimore will convey the first torpedo flotilla, which has been fitting out at the Norfolk navy yard here preparatory to a voyage to the Asiatic station and which will sail from Hampton Roads Saturday next with the board of inspection and survey aboard, for Port Royal and Key West.

The Baltimore will return from Key West to Hampton Roads, and the flotilla will be conveyed from Key West to Manila by the cruiser Buffalo. It was said at the bureau of navigation Wednesday that the object of having the inspection board accompany the flotilla to Key West was to make sure that the fleet is in shape to make the long journey.

New York, Dec. 10.—The discovery was made Wednesday at the Brooklyn navy yard that six of the heavy plates forward on the cruiser Buffalo were damaged and the rivets badly strained. In addition to repairs required on the plates the Buffalo will also have several old propeller blades replaced by blades of new composition, and it is thought the vessel may not be able to leave the yard on Sunday. The damage to the cruiser, which is being put in readiness to convey the torpedo boat flotilla to the Philippines, is said to have resulted from a collision with a wreck in Boston harbor.

IN THE SENATE.

The Cuban Bill and the Canal Question Discussed.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Senate—Senator Teller concluded his speech in opposition to the Cuban reciprocity bill Wednesday and Senator Morgan also was heard in opposition to that measure. The Alabama senator devoted the greater share of his attention to the Panama canal question. He said that the United States had broken faith in failing to obey the Spooner law and warned Cuba that the same course might be followed by us towards that country in case the pending bill should become a law.

BIG ARTESIAN WELL.

A Six-Inch Column of Water Spouts to a Height of 40 Feet.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 10.—In sinking an artesian well on a ranch six miles west of here the drill, at a depth of 265 feet, penetrated a lake or stream and a column of water six inches in diameter spouted out to a height of 40 feet. Soundings failed to find bottom. The flow is so great that it is estimated more than ample to supply the entire needs of the city of Cheyenne.

AGED LABORERS.

Congress to Be Asked to Give Them a Pension of \$12 a Month.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 10.—The Tennessee state labor convention, in session here Wednesday, passed a resolution asking congress to pass a law granting a pension of \$12 a month to every workman who shall have reached the age of 60 years and earned less than \$1,000 per year. The law is to be modeled along the lines of the New Zealand pension law for laborers.

Col. Butler Discharged.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 10.—The supreme court reversed the decision of the lower court in the case of Col. Edward Butler, of St. Louis, convicted at Columbia, Mo., in October, 1902, of attempted bribery, and discharged the prisoner.

Private Soldier Dangerously Wounded. Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 10.—Thomas Burton, a private in Company E, Second infantry, was shot and dangerously wounded here by Private George Hood. Burton was dressed in citizens clothes and is said to have been attempting to escape.

The Forestry Movement.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson presided at the opening session of the American Forestry association Wednesday. The report of the directors indicated a substantial advance in the forestry movement.

CONFESSED TO LARCENY.

He Robbed Harvard Students and Express Companies of \$2,500.

Boston, Dec. 10.—Clarence Lee, the Negro who was arrested at Brockton, charged by the federal officers with obtaining by forgery registered packages from the mails and by the Cambridge police with larceny, Wednesday confessed to the larceny of goods valued at nearly \$2,500 from Harvard students and from express companies. He said he pried open the students' closets with a jimmy. Lee claims that he is a son of former Congressman Lee, of South Carolina, and that he was sent to Harvard to complete his education.

The charge made by federal authorities against Lee is that of representing another in the obtaining of registered letters from the Cambridge post office and thus obtaining 45 tickets to the Yale-Harvard football game, which were reported stolen.

MRS. McCORMICK DISCHARGED.

The Prosecuting Attorney Could Not Get Witnesses to Appear.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 10.—Mrs. Lizzie McCormick, who was arrested here several months ago at the instigation of the Cincinnati police on a charge of having sent a bottle of poisoned whiskey by express to a woman in that city, was discharged in the criminal court upon request of the prosecuting attorney, who announced that he could not get witnesses to come here from Ohio. J. B. Flicker, an express employee at Cincinnati, died, and other employees of that office were seriously poisoned by drinking from a poisoned bottle of whiskey alleged to have been sent by Mrs. McCormick.

FOR CRIMINAL LIBEL.

The Attorney of the Striking Miners Jailed at Scofield, Utah.

Scofield, Utah, Dec. 10.—Much excitement exists here over the arrest Wednesday afternoon of Attorney Edler, of Salt Lake, who had been employed to look after the interests of striking miners, who have been imprisoned upon various charges.

Edler was arrested as he stepped from the train, and although he attempted to resist he was hustled to jail by a deputy sheriff and several company guards. The charge against him is criminal libel, based upon a recent newspaper interview and is preferred against him by Noah Potter, one of the guards.

THE DOWIE RECEIVERSHIP.

Settlement May Not Pass as Quietly as at First Indicated.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Settlement of the Dowie receivership may not pass as quietly as the order signed by Judge Kohlsaat Tuesday indicated. Attorney for one of the creditors served notice Wednesday on representatives of all the other interested parties that a motion would be presented before Judge Kohlsaat Thursday to strike out that part of the order providing for payment by Dowie of all expenses of the receivership. The point will be made that Dowie has no right to agree to pay these costs until he is proved solvent.

NEW ORGANIZATION.

The Suspended Lodges of Boilermakers Held a Meeting.

Pittsburg, Dec. 10.—The contention between the eight lodges of suspended boilermakers and the national organization which resulted in the calling of a special convention terminated Wednesday when a new organization was formed by the suspended lodges. In the national organization are 20,000 and of this number 1,400 were represented at the special convention.

The new organization will meet in Chattanooga, Tenn., on March 1, 1904, on the same day the national organization holds its convention.

A TRAY OF DIAMONDS.

A Stone Hurlled Through a Jeweler's Window and Gems Stolen.

St. Louis, Dec. 10.—An unknown man hurled a stone through the window of the E. H. Kostkamp Jewelry Co., seized a tray of diamond rings valued at \$6,000 and escaped. Two clerks heard the glass crash and running to the door, saw a man disappearing in the distance. They gave chase and fired two shots but the man ran into an entry way and escaped.

Later the police arrested Samuel E. Kendrick, a laborer, and Thos. Treaster, his brother-in-law, on suspicion.

Writ of Habeas Corpus Suspended.

Denver, Col., Dec. 10.—Gov. Peabody issued a proclamation suspending the writ of habeas corpus in the case of Victor Poole, the union miner now held by the military at Cripple Creek and in whose case Judge Seeds has granted a writ.

AN APPEAL FOR AID

To Stamp Out the Typhoid Epidemic at Butler, Pa., \$100,000 is Necessary.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ASKED FOR.

More Than 1,200 Persons Are Ill; in Many Instances Whole Families Are Prostrated.

Money Is Needed to Employ Physicians, Nurses and Domestic—The Poor Are the Greatest Sufferers For Food and Care.

Butler, Pa., Dec. 10.—Burgess William Kennedy Wednesday night issued a general appeal to the American public for aid. He wants \$100,000 more to stamp out the epidemic and earnestly urges the support of the people of the United States. The letter is addressed to the American public. It reads:

In justice to all, in behalf of the borough government and the entire people of Butler, I beg leave to state so far we have been able to help our people without a general call for outside aid. We contributed \$8,000 to the relief fund and outside cities raised this amount to \$16,000. We have been carefully using this since November 10. Now we are forced to admit our funds are getting low. We feel as a committee for the relief of our suffering people that necessity compels us to issue a general appeal for outside assistance. We have been criticised in various ways. We wish to assure the public that we have been doing our very best to relieve suffering, sorrow and want. We were inexperienced in an epidemic scourge such as this is. It came upon us so suddenly that it took a little time for us to realize the awful truth that has been forced on us and to prepare ourselves to best fight the epidemic. We are now thoroughly organized and working together as a committee and as a people perfectly in harmony, sympathy and kindness, as a single individual, doing all in our power to relieve the suffering and needy ones in our community. We will be able to give to the public an accurate account of all money received and expended.

It is stated that it will take \$100,000 to carry us through this siege of disease. We can not raise it. Necessity compels us to issue a general appeal for outside aid and assistance. We want the public to realize that we all have been and are doing our very best, giving time and money where needed. But we feel we have exhausted our supplies in every way and many precious lives may still be sacrificed if outside aid is not furnished us.

We, as a people, are thankful for the aid already received and for the great sympathy shown us. If need be we will accept the criticism also. And we appeal as a stricken people unable longer to help themselves, for aid in our distress. William Kennedy, Burgess.

Pittsburg, Dec. 10.—Word received Wednesday by Mayor Hays from C. M. Holman, chairman of the relief committee of Butler, tells of the critical situation and the great need for financial aid. More than 1,200 persons are ill, in many instances whole families are prostrated; the poor are great sufferers for food and care; money is needed to employ physicians, nurses and domestics. In view of these facts the mayor has issued a special appeal to the citizens of Pittsburg for aid and Thursday systematic effort will be made to secure a general response.

The Report Not Confirmed.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Count Cassini, Russian ambassador, has heard nothing from St. Petersburg regarding the report that a Russian fleet had arrived off Yonagapcho. The Japanese minister is also without information.

Naval Aid to the President.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Commander Cameron McR. Winslow was designated Wednesday as naval aid to the president to succeed Capt. W. S. Cowles, who has been assigned to command the new battleship Missouri.

Made Favorable Report.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The senate in executive session Wednesday received the favorable report of the foreign relations committee on the extension of the naturalization treaty between the United States and Hayti.

Denmark Recognizes Panama.

Washington, Dec. 10.—M. Bunau-Villars, the minister from Panama, has received information that the government of Denmark has recognized the new republic.

May Be Ordered to Colon.

Washington, Dec. 10.—It is probable that the training ship *Prairie* with a battalion of marines will be ordered to Colon. The vessel is now at Guantanamo.