

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

Late News at the Seat of Government.

Rumors of Cabinet Changes.
Washington is rife with rumors of Cabinet and other official changes. It is announced that Patent Commissioner Mitchell will soon resign to resume charge of his patent business at New Britain, Conn. Another rumor is that Secretary Noble will resign to succeed Minister Lincoln at the Court of St. James, while the latter will succeed Secretary Proctor in the War Office. The activity of these reports, proceeding from confidential sources, indicate that certain changes are undoubtedly determined upon for the near future.

The Weather Signal Service.
General A. W. Greeley, chief signal officer of the army, has returned from an extended tour of inspection among the signal stations of the South and West, and has reported to Secretary Proctor that he found everything in excellent shape. There was a screw loose here and there, he says, but the great machine was generally working smoothly. He is actively making preparations for the transfer of the Weather Bureau to the Agricultural Department, and has detailed Captain Craig to hunt for new quarters for the Signal Service, which will consist of a small office force of about ten people. There has as yet been no selection made of a chief of the weather service, and a good deal of competition is going on for the place. It will be a Presidential appointment and will not take effect until the first of July, when the transfer takes place by the operation of law. General Greeley is being urged as the proper head of the bureau, and it may be that he will be detailed for this duty, to continue for a time as the act permits.

Whereabouts of the Itata.
A dispatch from Acapulco, Mexico, quotes the officers of the Esmeralda, the Chilean cruiser, as saying that the fugitive Chilean transport Itata has gone direct to Melbourne, Australia, after having transferred to the Esmeralda the arms and ammunition bought in the United States. The Esmeralda coaled at Acapulco, but the officers said the greater part of the coal came from the United States.

Notes.
Assistant Secretary Nettleton has signed a draft for \$7,500,000 in payment of pensions due June 4.

The transfer of the Weather Bureau to the Agricultural Department on July 1 will leave ten men in the Signal Office force at Washington.

A competitive examination of forty candidates from civil life to fill twenty vacancies in the army will be held at Washington next month.

Surgeon General John B. Hamilton, of the Marine Hospital, has resigned to accept a professorship in Rush Medical College, Chicago, and will be succeeded as surgeon general by Dr. Walter Wyman.

The debt statement issued on Monday of this week shows an apparent increase of \$950,000 in the debt during May. Pension payments amounted to \$8,500,000, leaving \$17,500,000 of such payments to be made during June.

In the absence of Commissioner of Pensions Raum and Assistant Commissioner Davidson, Deputy Commissioner Lincoln is acting commissioner. Commissioner Raum has gone to Chicago, and Assistant Commissioner Davidson is on 10 days' leave.

The Department of State has prepared a circular letter, which is to be presented by our ministers abroad to the foreign governments relative to the international copyright act passed by the last Congress. The circular is simply a statement of the provisions of the act.

Mr. W. A. Croft, of the Geological Survey, and president of the Century Press Company, is arranging to go to the Mediterranean countries this summer with ten or a dozen of his friends. The party will be absent three months, visiting Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Greece, Palestine, and Egypt. Mr. Croft will gather much material for scientific and literary work.

The revenue cutter Bear has sailed from Seattle for Alaskan waters under orders from the Treasury Department. She will go to Ice Bay, a port 200 miles to the north of Sitka, for the purpose of landing an exploring party under Captain Russell, of the National Geographic Society, who will endeavor to ascend Mt. St. Elias for scientific purposes. The vessel will then proceed to Bering Sea to assist the revenue cutter Rush in policing that territory.

The news that the British ministry, on Monday, had introduced in the house of commons a bill prohibiting British subjects from catching seal in the Bering Sea for a certain period, was received with much interest in Washington. The President held immediate consultation with his cabinet, and rumors were rife of an early settlement of the whole question by arbitration. The agreement, if any, entered into between the United States and Great Britain remains a mystery as yet, however. It is believed that the present understanding goes no further than an agreement to secure a close season in Bering Sea, and that any further progress in the settlement of the question will be by arbitration. Acting Secretary of State Wharton expressed the opinion that Great Britain seemed to be disposed to adopt a policy in accord with the position of this Government in favor of preventing the extermination of the seals in Bering Sea.

A Paying Enterprise.
In 15 years the Trion cotton mill at Rome, Ga., has returned in dividends to the stockholders an amount equal to the par value of the shares and \$5 per share over, and from the undivided profits has erected another mill much larger than the original one, all of which is aid. It is questionable whether any cotton mill in New England can present results to surpass those.

SATAN TRIED IN COURT.

The Salvation Army Convicts Him on Many Charges.

At Cincinnati Satan was put on trial and convicted of fraud, embezzlement, deceit, and general immorality by the Salvation Army on Sunday last, in the barracks. Dr. Davidson, a prominent Methodist, acted as judge. Lawyers appeared for the defense as well as the prosecution, and witnesses testified on both sides.

The counsel for the defense dwelt mainly upon his client's former good conduct, and asked the court to show mercy because the creator has promised redemption for the wickedest sinner. The jury of 12 men returned a verdict of guilty on all the charges after two minutes' deliberation.

Pensions for Workmen.
At the meeting of the Brotherhood of Trainmen, at Scranton, Pa., this week, Mr. Powderly made an eloquent speech. What he wanted to convey was the principle that underlies relief associations among workmen. Mr. Powderly also criticized the force idea. The men earned the money that was paid into the relief association, yet it was held by the railway companies and doled out to the employees. "In our organization," said Mr. Powderly, "we believe in a man saving his own money and doing with it as he pleases. Until the workmen of the country learn that, organization will be in vain." He referred to granting of pensions by the Government to men who were disabled while doing their duty in war, and felt that the railroad companies should grant pensions to the men who are going about with empty sleeves as the result of brake twisting.

A Scare in Texas.
The El Paso Tribune reports a scare at Eddy, Tex.: A solitary horseman, who rode a faster nag than used to be ridden by those of the novelist James, went clattering through the town at midnight, shouting to her sleeping denizens to fly to the hills for life, as the dam above town had given way and the waters were coming down like an avalanche. They arose as one man, omitted to make their toilets, and lit out for the hills like covies of flushed partridges. Hundreds of them dash for the hills with only their night shirts on, leaving wives and babies to follow. After getting to the hills not a man could be prevailed on to go back and get his pants, but climbed higher up to hide his shame. The moon soon came out from behind the clouds, and the reflections on the waters made it a panoramic scene in the hills that will not soon be forgotten. All the shirt tail fellows are spotted, and have formed a brigade, swearing vengeance on the horseman should he be found.

It Will Be Open On Sunday.
A Chicago dispatch states that President Palmer, of the Columbia Exposition, was interviewed on the subject of Sunday opening of the great fair.

"Will the fair be opened to visitors on Sunday?" was asked.
"I think there will be no question about that," said the president of the exposition. "If I know the mind of the director, it is to open the doors of the great show on Sunday. Possibly it will be decided to close them half the day, during the morning, and keep them open from 12 o'clock. The machinery will not be running, as it is best to have one day of rest for the exhibitors; but the show will all be there, and the people can see it on that day as well as on any day of the week. We consider the best interests of Chicago in making that decision, for otherwise the grog shops of the city will be crowded with the visitors."

The Restless Emperor.
The activity of the young Emperor of Germany is again attracting attention. He interferes with every department of government, in fact, the emperor's seeming ubiquity is increasing. Nothing escapes his attention, and his restiveness now almost passes belief. His officials are at a constant fever heat. No one is safe from him at any hour or place. Late reports state that, in spite of his constant work and worry, the emperor is a picture of health and vigor.

Ex-Senator Wallace's Luck.
Ex-Senator William A. Wallace, of Harrisburg, Pa., has a lease to the Berwind-White Company, of Philadelphia, of a large body of coal lands, the royalty from which will go very far toward a liquidation of his debts. He has also been successful in getting the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to construct branch lines to his coal lands, which will enable him to utilize the properties for the benefit of his creditors.

Turned State's Evidence.
A dispatch from Walla Walla, Wash., states that one of the soldiers confined in the county jail, charged with the lynching of A. J. Hunt recently by members of the Fifth Regiment United States Infantry, has turned State's evidence. Rumors of attack on the jail are in circulation, and as a precautionary step the sheriff has doubled the guards.

A Lynching in Prospect.
A dispatch from Brewster, Nev., coolly states that Eli Creighton, the negro who was at the head of the band of cattle thieves, and who caused the shooting of Judge C. W. Aikens and J. S. McAlvey, has been captured in Custer county and is on his way to Brewster, where a lynching picnic is in prospect.

Masons May Confess to Clergymen.
The International Templars Conference, at Edinburgh, Scotland, discussed the status of Catholic members, and resolved that it is not a violation of templar obligations for a member to communicate the work of the order to a clergyman under the seal of the confession.

Russian Crop Reports Bad.
The crop reports from the southern provinces of Russia, extending to the Volga, are bad. It is estimated that the general yield will be 40 per cent below the average.



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