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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1910

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 3, 1910.

There are indications that the situation in Washington will be sufficiently interesting soon after the holidays. The Pinchot-Ballinger controversy will be considered by a joint Senate and House committee and it is given out that the President will aid Congress in the most rigid inquiry. If this is so the joint committee will have behind it all the weight and power of the legal machinery of the United States and witnesses can be summoned and compelled to testify. Usually in such investigations the testimony of witnesses is voluntary and they have frequently been recalcitrant and have withheld important evidence. Democrats in both houses are anxious to have the most searching investigation of the General Land Office records believing that good political capital will be the result. Independent onlookers are of the opinion that where there is so much smoke there must be fire but on the other hand Mr. Ballinger's pose is one of serene assurance and his friends expect his complete vindication. The hearings of the committee will be public and your readers will be fully advised of the progress of the investigation. Apropos of this question the public will recall that the Reclamation Service as it is called has been under the inspection of several Senators who investigated the projects in the West last summer. Some at least of the Senators think that the Reclamation Service has undertaken a bigger task than it can accomplish and it is intimated that the Ballinger investigation and an investigation into the Reclamation enterprise are so closely related that they should be carried along together to avoid the expense of a separate inquiry. It is probable, however, that this plan will be objected to on the ground that it will confuse the issue and mix problems.

At present there are only skirmishes between the insurgents of the Republican party and the old stand-bys such as Aldrich, Hale, Lodge and the so-called "Me-too" Republican Senators who vote as Aldrich indicates or dictates. There have been indications that the President is disposed to flock with the Me-toos but there is also a pretty well authenticated rumor that he has decided to oppose Speaker Cannon which must finally mean his opposition to Aldrich for in a political sense Cannon and Aldrich are

brothers. The President it is understood is at work on special messages to be sent to Congress and it is said that if Speaker Cannon shall show his opposition to the Ship Subsidy Bill and to the amendment of the Interstate Commerce Laws and to Postal Saving Banks as is expected, the breach which has long been anticipated by some will be known to all.

The Secretary of Agriculture assisted by a force of experts attached to the Agricultural Department and scattered throughout the country is carefully investigating the costs of food stuffs and seeking to probe the reasons for the greatly increased cost of the necessities of life. It is indeed time that something distinct and definite shall be known in relation to this subject. Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture has hundreds of field employees at his disposal and through them he is seeking to learn what is the difference between wholesale and retail prices of food stuffs. The inquiry is directed toward the increased prices of eggs, milk, butter, potatoes, apples and other articles of diet. The Secretary is of course favorable to the farmer so-called "honest" and does not believe that he is getting any too much for either primary or secondary products of the farm. He suspects the middle men and has intimated that there were too many of them. When one sees the number of groceries scattered throughout a city there appears to be ground for the contention that there must be great profit in the business. If there was only a way for the consumer to trade more directly with the farmer without the transmission profits derived by these officious intermediate helpers, doubtless our tables would be more bountifully and perhaps more economically supplied.

Senator Clapp of Minnesota, in an interview, gave it as his opinion that the Aldrich-Payne Tariff Bill was at the bottom of the increased cost of everything that the American people use internally, externally and eternally. This tariff bill, in spite of the frantic assurances of its apologists and among them the President of the United States, it is now known, is the excuse for the higher price that the user or consumer has to pay. Senator Clapp aptly puts it that one cannot raise the cost of living to a man who is producing something to sell, without giving that man an excuse to correspondingly raise the price of his product. According to a recent computation, taking sweet potatoes as an example, the grower gets \$1.50 a barrel; the freight and commission is 25 cents; the retailer pays \$1.75 a barrel; the consumer pays, buying usually by the peck, \$3.85. This makes the retailers' profit, \$2.10 on the barrel, which is a profit of 120 per cent. It cannot be denied that the grocer is securing a place in public estimation closely analogous to that long held by the plumber.

Precisely at midnight on Saturday an employee of the Navy Department pressed a button in the naval observatory at Washington. Instantly there leaped from it a spark that encircled the globe. New York got the word a few seconds later after it had encircled the globe.

A STATE HANGMAN.

There is no accounting for tastes, though of course almost anything may be expected of Pittsburg, where Edward Swartwood, a deputy sheriff and one time a well known ball player, has made it known that he would take the job of state hangman if he could get it. Swartwood is not what one might call inexperienced. He has shuffled 21 men out of the world by the gallows route and thinks but little more of it than he would of executing a gobble the day before Thanksgiving. In one way, the appointment of a state hangman would be productive of good, for Swartwood says he would have all executions at night and restrict witnesses to the very few authorized by law. Less publicity, he claims, would decrease crime; and in this he is probably right.

Not so very long ago, tests of newspaper circulation were made in New York and it was found that with every paper the greatest stimulant was a hanging. There is no reason to believe that the same condition would not be met everywhere else, deplorable as it may seem. If the details of executions are so eagerly sought by the reading public it stands to reason that they must have some effect. "As a man thinketh, so is he." If he thinks crime, he stands in danger himself, or at least will find it easier to get in the way of it.

It is a terrible thing to think of a human being being killed, even by the law, and it is worse to think that making an execution public stimulates a train of criminal thought or action in any person previously law abiding.—E.v.

LEE'S STATUE TO REMAIN.

But Congress Will Not Be Asked to Formally Accept it.

The marble statue of General Robert E. Lee, clad in the uniform of a Confederate soldier, now stands in Statuary Hall at the National Capitol and probably will remain there until the end of all things, despite the protests of those who dislike such honor being conferred on the great leader of the anti-union forces.

It has been definitely determined that no effort will be made to have the statue formally accepted by Congress, and no ceremonies will be held in connection with its unveiling, that having been done long ago without services of any kind. This has met with the approval of General Lee's relatives, who realized that in the House there would be a resurrection of wartime bitterness, and they preferred to have the slight go unnoticed rather than to revive all the prejudices of the civil war.

State of Uncle Sam's Purse.

December's fiscal operations of the Government showed a balance on the credit side—the first time during the fiscal year 1909-1910, and the first time since the Payne-Aldrich tariff law went into effect. The receipts aggregated \$59,827,536 and the disbursements \$57,713,795, leaving a balance of \$2,113,741.

Exclusive of the deficit for the past six months on account of Panama Canal operations, amounting to \$16,311,978, and that on account of the public debt transactions, the loss to the Treasury thus far this fiscal year is \$23,919,310, as against \$51,755,572 for the same time last year. The largest increase has been in customs receipts, about \$30,000,000.

Now that the Christmas season is over, the working balance in the Treasury is again increasing, being \$30,109,583-33 per cent. more than it was 10 days ago. The total balance in the general fund is \$84,048,865.

Big Customs Increase at New York.

An increase of \$41,800,502 in customs receipts in 1909 over 1908 for the port of New York is shown in Collector Loeb's annual report. The total duties collected for 1909 amount to \$127,620,897.

Gold imports for the year show a decrease of approximately \$8,000,000. They were \$19,291,152, compared with \$27,367,241 in 1908. Exports of domestic gold on the other hand were \$138,030,554 in 1908, and \$96,985,301 in 1908. Exports of foreign gold for 1909 were \$3,851,741 and \$1,680,370 during the previous year.

Total imports of merchandise in 1908 were \$885,002,775 compared with \$650,201,792 in 1908. Domestic merchandise exported amounted \$612,898,647, a decrease of about \$12,000,000 from the figures in 1908.

TESLA PLANS TO LIGHT ALL WORLD BY WIRELESS.

Inventor Perfecting Apparatus He Declares as Effective at 12,000 Miles as at 12 Feet.

Nicola Tesla, who has been at work on a "wireless electric light" for 20 years, announces that he has practically brought it to a state of perfection, and a plant for its production is now nearing completion at his laboratory.

"It would be possible by my powerful wireless transmitter," said Mr. Tesla, "to light the entire United States. The current would pass into the air and, spreading in all directions, produce the effect of a strong aurora borealis. It would be a soft light, but sufficient to distinguish objects."

"My present plan is to distribute this light from a central station, which is the most economical and also the best method of obtaining light of highest quality. My lamps will last forever, there being nothing in them to burn out. They are simply tubes or bulbs of glass hermetically sealed and containing nothing but rarefied gas."

"One advantage is the economy of production which is greater than in any other light so far obtained. A great saving will be effected by wireless distribution. I am intending chiefly to supply isolated dwellings which cannot be conveniently reached by wires, and in this system of distribution there is absolutely no difference where the dwelling is located. The force of the current is the same whether the house is 12,000 miles from the plant or 12 feet."

NEW CHILD LABOR LAW

Went Into Effect Last Saturday. New Certificates Required for all Workers Under 16 Years Old.

Pennsylvania's new child labor law, passed by the Legislature of 1909, went into effect on January 1st throughout the state. The laws prohibit the employment of any child under fourteen years old about the industrial establishment or coal mine in the state and provide that persons between fourteen and sixteen may be employed only when they are provided with certificates setting forth their age and the fact that they can read and write English intelligently. No one under eighteen may be employed in certain occupations deemed hazardous. The new laws will be vigorously enforced by the state factory inspection and mine inspection departments, the chiefs of those divisions having issued instructions to their inspectors to dismiss all children under fourteen found at work and to require that certificates be displayed by those between fourteen and sixteen. The issuance of the certificates has been in the hands of the department of Public Instruction which has sent out fully 150,000 blank certificates in the last few weeks. These certificates have been sent to school officers for distribution to those qualified to receive them upon application made in person.

THIRD TRIAL FOR FISHER.

Twice Convicted of First Degree Murder. Supreme Court Again Intervenes.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania sitting in Philadelphia, has granted the appeal of the counsel for Henry Fisher a new trial for their client, who was twice convicted at Sunbury of the murder of Mrs. Sarah Klingler, at Shamokin, over two years ago.

The decision of the court was based on the contention of the lawyers that the jurors in the case were separated at times during the trial and that they had communicated with other persons contrary to law, and that the prisoner was therefore entitled to a new trial.

The first time a new trial was granted the court based their decision on the fact that letters from Fisher to his wife, which were admitted as evidence, should have been excluded.

The crime of which Fisher is without doubt guilty, was the most atrocious that was ever committed in Northumberland county. He crushed the head of the aged woman with a stove raker.

The official term of Tom L. Johnson, for eight years Mayor of Cleveland, closed last Friday night. As Mayor of Cleveland, he gained a national reputation. This is based first upon his single tax theories, being an adherent of the ideas of the late Henry George.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

CHRISTMAS Shopping is Under Way!

Foresighted people are doing their Christmas shopping NOW--before the rush begins and when the best selections are to be had. You will benefit by following their example. Make out your list TODAY--bring it here, and later on you'll be thankful that you acted on this suggestion.

We are ready to solve each of your gift-problems with rare satisfaction and economy. This store has become a veritable wonderland of toys, dolls and beautiful gift things for folk of all ages. Our Christmas displays this year surpass anything ever attempted in this city before.

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McCall Patterns The Columbian

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