

## OUR POSTAL SERVICE

It Indicates the Growth of the Nation's Prosperity.

United States Now Has Upward of 77,000 Postmasters—How Their Accounts Are Checked and Audited.

[Special Washington Letter.]

VERY soon after his retirement from the senate, where he had been a conspicuous figure for almost 20 years, John J. Ingalls, of Kansas, delivered a lecture in this city in which he dwelt particularly on the various ways of getting on in the world. He compared himself with Jay Gould, the millionaire, saying: "We both began life with the same facilities, and about the same time. Gould was gifted with business instincts, and I had the gift of gab. We each developed our talents. Gould has become a millionaire, and I am a statesman out of a job."

Stories concerning the developments of the lives of successful men are always interesting, and usually instructive. Not long ago Senator McMillan, of Michigan, permitted the publication of the manner in which he began life in a rented house which he bought on the installment plan; how he bought other houses, and finally purchased the entire block of ground on which he began, and built thereon his palace.

Nations grow as men grow. Men and women gifted with the reflective faculties enjoy reading the histories of the development of successful nations, and from them learn valuable lessons for the betterment and development of individuals. Samson, the strong man of Scripture, gloried in his strength, went to excesses, and finally fell into the hands of his enemies who maimed and mutilated him. The history of some ancient nation might be taken, but everybody will better understand the history of the more modern nation which compares with Samson. Spain was a mighty nation, after centuries of development. But, like the Scriptural giant, Spain went into excesses, and gradually became a pauper nation. She fell again and again before her enemies, until at last her excesses compelled the masterful enemy of this republic, and she was driven from the continent which she had disgraced.

This nation of which we are all so proud has grown into magnificent proportions, and let us all hope that righteousness and integrity may always prevail, lest we also indulge in excesses and fall. Like the senator quoted, we have grown up on the installment plan. First we were comparatively small, but we expanded into Florida and the Gulf coast. Then we were expanded by the Louisiana purchase. Next by the Mexican war we expanded to the Pacific coast. Finally, by the war with Spain we expanded into both oceans, after making Hawaii a part of our individuality.

All the nations grow in wealth as they grow in population, and mercantile development is a corollary of every avenue of success. On the day of his assassination President McKinley talked to the whole world on this subject, while he advised his countrymen how to pursue business through the recent years.

All commercial transactions of the present require the facilities of national and international mails. Therefore the development of the country is indicated by the growth of the executive department in charge of that branch of the public service. Very significant of the national growth were the words of Postmaster

corresponding increase in the number of clerks. The rural free delivery occupies two floors of a large office building opposite the department proper; the division of post office supplies is half a mile from headquarters; the railway mail service is more than a quarter of a mile away; and the mailbag repair shop is also separated from the department proper. All of these divisions are connected by the departmental telephone, but of course business cannot always be transacted satisfactorily in that manner.

There are now upwards of 70,000 post offices, 4,470 of them being presidential, the remainder being fourth class; all of them, however, are doing a gradually increased business, which must be supervised in this capital.



PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON. (The First Man to Reform the Post Office Department.)

By the time the proposed annex can be completed it is estimated that there will be upwards of 80,000 post offices. By the way, while this development of the postal service indicates national prosperity, it must not be overlooked that the other executive departments are likewise showing increased business, although not to such a marked extent as in the postal service.

The auditor for the post office department, although an official of the treasury department, must have his offices in the same building with the post office department, for convenience in the transaction of public business. This official has under his direction in round numbers 600 employees, and they require a great deal of space.

In all ages of the world there has been a disposition to dishonesty on the part of government employees. Ananias and Sapphira were not the first, nor was Cassius the only Roman "reputed to have an itching palm." Previous to 1836 all postal accounts were received, recorded and settled in the post office department. Under this practice scandals arose and president Jackson requested the congress to investigate them. The congressional investigations resulted in a law establishing an auditor's bureau, as a separate institution, free from the influence of the postal service. In accordance with that law President Jackson appointed C. K. Gardner, of New Jersey, on July 2, 1836, and the postal accounts have ever since been audited by treasury officials, the present auditor being Henry A. Castle, of Minnesota, who has occupied the position since May 17, 1897. Previous to assuming the duties of this great office, Capt. Castle had been postmaster at St. Paul, Minn., where he made a careful study of postal laws and regulations.

In 1836 the total transactions of the office were less than \$6,000,000 annually. For the last fiscal year the aggregate transactions amounted to \$803,259,306. Isn't that a tremendous business? The sale of every stamp and postal card is watched by the auditor's office. Not a penny must be misdirected in all of the more than 26,000,000 domestic money orders which are issued every year. Every money order ultimately comes to the auditor's office as a voucher, where it is handled five times and checked twice, by different officials. Without counting them, the total weight of money orders received here has been upwards of 9,000 pounds in one month.

In his official report the auditor says: "Not only are we obliged to keep correct accounts of all branches of the postal service, for the purpose of our own settlements with postmasters, but we are almost daily called upon for information by the post office department which is used as a foundation for proceedings against postmasters and other employees, or for determining their status and efficiency. The official tenure and even the personal liberty of the postmaster may depend upon the statement of his accounts at a specified date, furnished by this office."

Previous to 1890 there were always thousands of delinquent accounts of postmasters every year. In 1892 a new system of auditing was inaugurated. In the third quarter of 1894 there were only 358 delinquents. For the quarter ended June 30, 1901, when there were 76,000 postmasters, there were only nine delinquent postmasters in the United States proper, two in Alaska and three in Hawaii. This is regarded as the best bookkeeping in the world.

The postmaster general is very much in earnest in the matter of securing an additional building for the transaction of the work of his department. It is believed by the auditor and the officials that the secretary of the treasury will also desire the erection of additional quarters. In that event, with two members of the cabinet recommending the same thing, as a necessary business proposition, it is fair to presume that within another year we shall see the beginning of another handsome departmental building in this city.

SMITH D. FRY.

## THE COAL STRIKE.

Militia Sent to Lansford, Pa., to Protect Non-Union Men.

A Special Policeman Stabbed? While Attempting to Rescue His Son From a Mob—A Carload of Flour for Strikers—Miners in an Ugly Mood.

Hazleton, Pa., Aug. 26.—Augusta Sheuch, a special policeman in the service of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co., was assaulted and stabbed on the outskirts of the city yesterday while attempting to rescue his son, William Sheuch, a non-union workman employed at the company's No. 40 colliery, from a mob of about 3,000 strikers who had gathered from all parts of the Hazleton region on the roads leading to the mine to frustrate the plans of the company for a partial resumption of operations with a non-union force of 250 hands.

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 28.—The Second troop, Philadelphia city cavalry, was last evening ordered by Gov. Stone to report to Gen. Gobin at Shenandoah for duty in the anthracite coal regions. The troop will take the place of the Governor's troop, of Harrisburg, sent by Gen. Gobin from Shenandoah to Lansford, where there have been serious disturbances. The request for the city troop was made by Gen. Gobin and the governor immediately directed that the troop start for Shenandoah and assist the militia now in the field to protect life and property.

Tamaqua, Pa., Aug. 28.—Maj. Gearhart, commanding the First battalion of the Twelfth regiment, stationed here, asked Gov. Stone to send the Governor's troop from Shenandoah to Lansford. The streets of Lansford and Summit Hill are crowded with strikers. They are in an ugly mood and an outbreak is feared at any time. Preparations are being made to move troops to Lansford.

Hinton, W. Va., Aug. 28.—Great excitement exists in the vicinity of Red Ash and Bury, caused by the constables removing the striking miners from the company's houses. About 40 families who were notified to leave the houses of the Red Ash Coal Co. refused to vacate and when the constables began to remove their household goods, a volley of shots was fired on the officers from the opposite side of the river. They returned the fire, using Winchester. The officers are removing the household goods and the houses will be occupied by other miners. The coal output is steadily increasing.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Aug. 29.—The officials at strike headquarters have settled down to the belief that there is no immediate prospect of an early settlement of the strike. While President Mitchell would not say anything himself, some of his subordinates have been of the opinion that the return of J. Pierpont Morgan to this country would bring about a change in the situation favorable to the miners. The developments of the last few days, however, have entirely dispelled this view and now all that is heard is: "It is a fight to the finish."

At the offices of the local coal companies the information is given out that the output of coal in the Wyoming region is increasing daily. This is stoutly denied at strike headquarters and the minutes of a meeting of the employees of Avondale mine held Wednesday, on file at President Mitchell's headquarters, show that not one of the hands formerly employed at the colliery has returned to work.

Tamaqua, Pa., Aug. 29.—The first clash between the striking miners and troops occurred Thursday and as a sequel five rioters were arrested, and Capt. Gearhart, of Company F, Twelfth regiment, is suffering from a wound on his shoulder, made by a stone thrown by a striker.

Bluefield, W. Va., Aug. 29.—There is considerable excitement on Crane creek and Simmons creek over recent shootings. Thursday morning John Ruble, a blacksmith, employed by the Sagamore Coal and Coke Co., was shot by striking miners and killed.

Our Locomotive Builders. Washington, Aug. 26.—A report issued by the census office shows a capital of \$40,813,793 invested in the manufacture of locomotives in the 28 locomotive works reporting for the United States in 1900. The value of the products is returned as \$35,209,048. In 1900 there were 28 establishments which were locomotive builders. At these works 2,774 locomotives of all classes were built, with an aggregate value of \$27,121,063, compared with 2,409 locomotives built in 19 establishments in 1899.

Strike Ended. New Castle, Pa., Aug. 27.—The strike of machinists of the Pennsylvania Engineering Works was settled yesterday. They struck 13 weeks ago, when a demand for a 10 per cent. increase in wages was refused, which would make their pay the same as in Pittsburgh. The settlement was made on an increase amounting to about 5 per cent.

Mont Pelee in Eruption. St. Thomas, D. W. I., Aug. 28.—A dispatch received here from the island of Dominica, says: "Since 2 p. m. Tuesday prolonged rumbling noises, in quick succession, have been heard from the southward. There is every indication that Mont Pelee is violently erupting."

Found Two Corpses in the Ruins. Bridgeton, N. J., Aug. 29.—Searchers in the ruins of the barn of John S. Holmes, which was burned Wednesday night, found the charred bodies of Holmes and his housekeeper, Miss Katherine Shute. Holmes was 82 years old and Miss Shute was 65. John Williams, a negro farm hand, who had been employed by Holmes, has been arrested on suspicion of having some knowledge of the tragedy. He protested his innocence, but was committed to jail. Williams told conflicting stories concerning his actions Wednesday night.

## RAILWAY STATISTICS.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission Issues a Summary of the Annual Report of Railways Covering Year Ended June 30, 1901.

Washington, Aug. 28.—The interstate commerce commission has issued a summary of the annual report on statistics of railways in the United States, covering the year ending June 30, 1901. The number of railways in the hands of receivers on that day was 45, a decrease of seven as compared with the corresponding date of the year previous.

The total single track railway mileage in the United States was 197,237 miles, this mileage having increased during the year 3,892 miles. Including tracks of all kinds, the aggregate length of railway mileage was 265,566 miles, an increase of 6,582 miles.

There were 39,584 locomotives in the service of the railways. The total number of cars of all classes was 1,550,833.

The number of persons in the employ of the railways was 1,071,169, or an average of 548 employees per 100 miles of line.

The amount of railway capital outstanding was \$11,638,177,991. This amount, on a mileage basis, represents a capitalization of \$61,528 per mile of line.

The number of passengers carried was 607,278,121, showing an increase for the year of 30,412,891.

The number of tons of freight carried during the year was 1,089,232,440, a decrease of 12,453,798 being shown. The gross earnings were \$1,588,526,037, being \$101,481,223 more than for the fiscal year 1900. The operating expenses were \$1,030,297,270.

The total number of casualties to passengers was 61,794, the number of persons killed having been 8,455 and the number injured 53,339. Of railway employees 2,675 were killed and 41,142 were injured. The number of passengers killed during the year was 282 and the number injured 4,988. The number of persons other than employees and passengers killed was 5,498, injured 7,209.

## THE EARTH TREMBLED.

A Series of Earthquakes on the Island of Mindanao—Twenty Moros Were Killed.

Washington, Aug. 28.—The war department on Wednesday received a cablegram from Gen. Chaffee at Manila reporting the occurrence of a series of earthquakes on the island of Mindanao. Twenty persons were killed by falling walls, the victims all being Moros. The Americans in the vicinity escaped and the dispatch says there were no reports that any of the soldiers occupying that portion of the island affected sustained any injuries.

The upheaval occurred in the country adjacent to Lake Lanao, in the Moro section of the island, near Camp Vickers, which is now the headquarters of the American forces stationed in Mindanao. Gen. Chaffee's cablegram says the mountains and rivers and other streams were considerably disturbed and much damage was done. The extent of the damage, however, was not reported. It is presumed here that the seismic shocks occurred about five days ago, though the date is not mentioned in the dispatch. This is the first serious earthquake reported from that country during the American occupation of the Philippines.

## DEFAULTER GOES TO JAIL.

Former Teller of a Pittsburgh Bank Is Charged with the Embezzlement of \$20,000.

Pittsburgh, Aug. 28.—H. H. Brinker, formerly receiving teller of the German national bank, is in jail, charged with embezzlement. The amount of the shortage charged to him is \$20,000, which it is claimed the bank was defrauded of by Brinker manipulating the deposit slips. After crediting a depositor in his book, the teller would destroy the slip and fail to enter it in his own books.

Cahsier Ramsey says the incident is closed so far as the bank is concerned, as the Mercantile Trust Co., which was on Brinker's bond for \$15,000, settled in full in July last, since which time Brinker has been trying to pay the trust company. As the payments on the bond since then have been comparatively small, the company yesterday decided to place Brinker in prison as a defaulter.

Speculation in stocks is credited with the teller's downfall.

## Lee Explains the Mystery.

Chicago, Aug. 28.—The mystery surrounding the supposed death of "Philetus Jones, millionaire," of Boston, whose death notice recently appeared in Chicago newspapers, was cleared up Wednesday by the confession of John Lee, a real estate broker who had invented "Mr. Jones" in order to secure real estate commissions. A ruse was planned by Lee whereby "Mr. Jones" was to buy extensively of Chicago property. An agreement was drawn up between the supposed Jones and a real estate owner and a commission was promised. These promised commissions were offered as security for a loan.

## September 27 Is the Date.

Columbus, O., Aug. 28.—Chairman Dick, of the republican state executive committee, announced last night that the formal opening of the campaign will take place on September 27. The place has not yet been selected. The campaign will be conducted on national issues, except insofar as the state issues, except the legislature will be defended.

## Knox Sails for Europe.

New York, Aug. 28.—Attorney General Knox sailed for Europe yesterday. "I am going abroad for the purpose of obtaining a clear title to the property of the Panama Canal Co.," said Mr. Knox. "I shall also investigate the treaty between the Panama Canal Co. and the Colombian government. As regards the president's recent speeches on the trust question, I can only say that I am heartily in accord with everything he has said. I think that something in regard to the trusts will be forthcoming at the next meeting of congress."

## FRATERNAL CONGRESS.

It Meets at Denver—Mortality Tables and Death Rates Do Not Agree.

Denver, Col., Aug. 27.—The national fraternal congress, the central organization of the fraternal and insurance orders of this country and Canada, met in annual convention here Tuesday. There are over 300 delegates present. Fifty-seven fraternal societies hold memberships in the congress.

The annual report of President Young, of the National Fraternal Press association, was largely devoted to the action of Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden, in excluding fraternal publications containing advertisements, from the mails as second-class matter. Many speeches were made denouncing this construction of the law.

Among the papers read was one by D. O. Millard, of the Knights of the Loyal Guard, of Flint, Mich., on "Mortality and Its Costs." He reported the national fraternal congress experience table to show a death rate at 40 years of 13.9 per cent., starting with 100,000 lives at 20 years. As to this table, Dr. Millard said:

"I am constrained to call the attention of this body to the fact that our table shows at the age of 40 years that the mortality has increased about 3 per cent. over that of tables that have been standard in the United States or Canada, except in tropical experiences, for a long time."

Denver, Col., Aug. 28.—The national fraternal congress on Wednesday listened to reports of officers and committees. The president, Dr. H. A. Warner, announced that assurances had been received from individual fraternities which practically guarantee \$100,000 for a fraternal building at the world's fair in St. Louis and that from present prospects there is no doubt the full amount of \$200,000 estimated to be necessary to erect, equip and maintain this building will be raised.

## POWERFUL GUNS.

American Battleships to be Provided With the Longest Naval Cannon in the World.

Washington, Aug. 27.—The Connecticut and Louisiana, the two new battleships authorized by the last naval appropriation bill, will carry the most powerful guns, measured by caliber, in the world. With the building of each new set of battleships Admiral O'Neil, chief of the bureau of ordnance, has tried to increase the power of the main batteries, and for the Connecticut and Louisiana he intends to increase the length of the big turret guns to 45 calibers. Heretofore the longest naval guns built have been only 40 times their caliber. Not only will this lengthening of the guns increase their efficiency as to range and velocity (and therefore penetrating power) but it will constitute a distinct addition to the ships.

The muzzles of guns of 40 calibers when swung broadside just reach the rail and the side blast when fired prevents the use of secondary guns immediately below. By increasing the length to 45 calibers the muzzles of the guns are carried well out. Some improvements also will be made to secure higher initial velocity.

The army ordnance bureau is experimenting at several army posts with a new type of rifle telescopic sight. The new sight is known as the "long field sight" and is attached to the rifle, running parallel with the barrel.

The bureau also has sent out to the Philippines a consignment of bolo bayonets, which are in demand among the troops there, who believe the curved bolo weapon to be much superior to the straight bayonet in hand-to-hand fights. The troops have found difficulty in withdrawing the straight bayonet, once it has become imbedded. The cavalrymen want to try detached bolo bayonets for cutting through underbrush.

## ON THE WANE.

Golden Star of the Klondike Is Not so Bright as Formerly.

Washington, Aug. 27.—The golden star of the Klondike is on the wane, according to the official report of George R. Hees, who recently was sent to Dawson by the Canadian Manufacturers' association to make a thorough examination into the business prospects of the Yukon territory. The state department has made public a communication from United States Consul Brush, at Niagara Falls, giving some of the principal features of Mr. Hees' report.

Mr. Hees points to the fact that the total yield of the Klondike last year was \$24,000,000 and that the production of the coming year will not, according to government estimates, exceed \$14,000,000, a falling off of nearly half. Moreover, no new discoveries have been made for over a year, although since 1897 thousands of prospectors have been exploring every creek and mountain in the country. At Dawson, Mr. Hees reports ten applicants for every job, yet boat load after boat load of men continues to arrive.

## A Big Fight in Hayti.

Cape Haytien, Aug. 27.—The village of Limbe, 82 miles north of Port au Prince, has been attacked and recaptured by troops of the provisional government. Limbe was in the possession of Firminite soldiers. The fighting was severe and lasted from midnight Monday until noon Tuesday. Many men on both sides were killed. The town was completely destroyed by fire.

## Sustains the Will.

New York, Aug. 27.—A decision was handed down yesterday by Judge Lacombe in the United States circuit court deciding, so far as that tribunal is concerned, the noted Fayerweather will case. Judge Lacombe's decision confirms the decision of the state court of appeals of July, 1897, which admitted the will of the late Daniel B. Fayerweather, the millionaire leather merchant, to probate. Under the terms of the will the greater portion of the estate, estimated at \$6,200,000, was divided between various colleges and universities.

## WONDERFUL WORK.

Lieut. Chandler Tells of the Splendid Firing of the American Torpedo Boats—Every Shot Did Good Work.

Washington, Aug. 29.—The navy department has made public an extract from the report of Lieut. Chandler, U. S. N., commanding the torpedo flotilla, of the firing of his vessels during the time they were inspected by the secretary of the navy. The report is as follows:

"Forming in exact column the flotilla steamed north until abreast of the firing ground in Coddington Cove, when the Decatur turned and headed for the target in the cove. This target consists of three platforms or casks, about 75 feet long in all, outside of which, at each end, are two yellow flags, representing the two turrets of the 500-foot battleship. Outside of these again are two red flags representing the ends of the same ships.

"Steaming bows on for the float, when 1,000 yards away, the secretary pressed the firing key on the bridge, and simultaneously discharged the two torpedoes, one on each side. They curved as set, and one went immediately under the center of the float, while the other passed inside the right hand yellow flag.

"While the Decatur was firing the rest of the flotilla continued to the northward, counter-marched and returned close to the Decatur, about 500 yards from the target. The boats passed the target at from 17 to 20 knots, and each one fired two torpedoes simultaneously from her port broadside.

"Of the 12 torpedoes fired by them, one from the Stockton hung by the tail from the tube, with the head in the water, and finally wrenched the tail off, but not before it had been secured. Of the other 11, all but one passed inside the yellow flags, and that one passed just outside of the yellow flag.

"I believe that the results reported above have never been exceeded before and I know of no record equal to them. It is seen that out of 14 torpedoes prepared, but one failed to run. Out of the 13 that did run, 12 hit between the turrets of the battleship target, and the other one under one of the turrets. Fully three-quarters of the shot would have struck directly under the engine rooms. All boats except the Decatur were at high speed when they fired, and she was only slowed so as not to overrun the target."

## MORE MONEY WANTED.

The Secretary of the Treasury Asks National Banks to Increase Their Circulation.

Washington, Aug. 29.—In view of rumors as to Secretary Shaw's plans for relieving the money market in the event of a possible stringency, the secretary has authorized the following statement:

"The secretary recently invited some of the larger national banks in the principal cities to order additional amounts of circulating notes to be printed. National banks are entitled to issue circulation to the full amount of their capital. The aggregate capital of national banks is \$700,000,000, but the banks have outstanding only \$358,000,000 of circulation. The secretary has hoped to introduce an element of elasticity into the present system. His suggestions to the various banks in the larger cities that they make preparation for additional circulation have met with very favorable responses. It is not his intention that they should issue this additional circulation at all events, but only in case of actual necessity and emergency."

## BOXER CLAIMS.

Distribution of a Part of the Chinese Indemnity Will Begin at Once.

Washington, Aug. 29.—The state department has decided to begin at once the distribution of the first installment of the Chinese indemnity funds, amounting to about \$180,000, among the missionary societies and individuals who suffered from the Boxer uprising. The claims commission has adopted the plan of reporting on the merits of the claims in instalments, instead of making one report at the end of the investigation.

Their first report, which has been received, passes upon 60 claims out of a total of about 250. These 60 claims amount to about \$800,000, so the first installment of the Chinese indemnity will not be large enough to defray that total. Instead of waiting until sufficient money is at hand for this purpose, the department will pay 25 per cent. to each of these claimants immediately.

## A Battle Is Imminent.

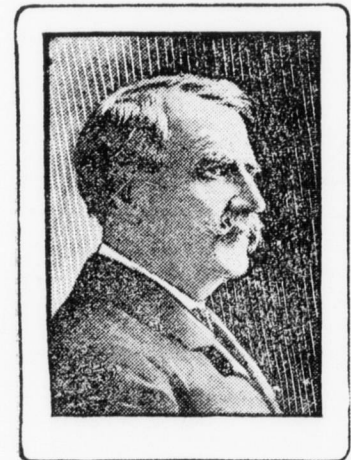
Willenstad, Island of Curacao, Aug. 29.—A battle between the army commanded by President Castro, of Venezuela, and the revolutionists of that republic is imminent. The president is marching on Ocumare, where the advance guard of the government army is stationed. The revolutionists occupy La Democracia, only a few leagues distant from Ocumare. All the telegraph and telephone lines are cut.

## Gen. Miles' Trip to the Orient.

Washington, Aug. 29.—Gen. Nelson A. Miles, accompanied by Mrs. Miles, and his aides, Col. Whitney and Maus, will leave Washington for the Philippine Islands next Wednesday. Two short stops will be made in the journey to San Francisco, where the party will arrive in time to sail on the Thomas, which leaves on September 16.

## The Passing of the Messenger Boy.

Chicago, Aug. 29.—The Western Union Telegraph Co. has definitely decided that it will, in this city, employ no more boys as messengers. The boys have struck, three times within the last month and the company has decided that it will employ them no longer. Girls will be used to carry messages in the business and residence districts. For the night work men will be used, and men will also be kept in the day time for the purpose of carrying messages into the undesirable parts of this city. The change will be made at once.



POSTMASTER GENERAL PAYNE.

General Payne before leaving this city recently: "This department is seriously embarrassed for want of office room. We have rented buildings, but cannot go on renting year after year. The only businesslike thing to do is to provide further regular accommodations for the post office department. It seems to me that the government ought to condemn the entire square south of the department building and erect thereon a substantial annex."

With the purpose of making ample and permanent provision for the post office department, the congress caused to be erected on Pennsylvania avenue a nine-story granite building covering an entire block of ground, and the department was moved into that building in September, 1899, less than three years ago. Just think of it! In that brief space of time the department has grown so that now five divisions of the department are in rented quarters at an annual rental of more than \$28,000. There is a constant growth of the work of the department and a