



PENSION DECISION

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR REVERSES RAUM.

Expects to Cut Down Pensions More Than Twenty Millions.—Law Must be Conformed To.

Probably the most important pension decision ever sent from the office of the secretary of the interior to the commissioner of pensions was filed, on May 28. It is believed by those high in authority in the pension bureau that it will reduce the payment of pensions under the act of June 27, 1890, between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000. It involves the repeal of an order passed by General Raum and approved by Assistant Secretary Bassey, and a return to the language of the statute requiring the disability, not of service origin, to be such as to prevent the applicant from earning a support by manual labor.

Secretary Hoke Smith has been considering the principles involved in this decision for several weeks, and so important did he deem it that when it was called to his attention from the pension board of appeals, he submitted the questions involved to Attorney General Olney and to Judge Lochren, the commissioner of pensions, both of whom concurred in the correctness of the decision.

The decision is in the case of one Bennett, who sought a pension under the old law, alleging that while in the service at Raleigh, N. C., he was prostrated by sunstroke, which resulted in partial deafness in both ears. This application was denied on the ground that while the applicant has slight deafness, as alleged, it was not of sufficient severity to warrant any rating. The testimony showed that Bennett could hear a watch tick at the distance of half an inch from either ear.

Bennett subsequently applied for and received a pension of \$12 a month under the act of June 27, 1890. This act allows a pension ranging from \$6 to \$12 a month to ex-soldiers or sailors suffering from any disability of a permanent character not the result of their own vicious habits, which incapacitates them from the performance of manual labor in such a degree as to render them unable to earn a support.

The inability to earn a support is therefore made by the basis of the law. During Commissioner Raum's administration an order was issued known as order No. 164, which directed that all claims for a pension under the act of June 27, 1890, should be rated the same as like disabilities of service origin, and that all cases showing a pensionable disability which, if of service origin, would be rated at or above \$12 a month should be rated at \$12 a month.

The only requirement to obtain a pension under the law applicable to pensions of service origin is disability by reasons of wounds received, or disease contracted while in the service and in line of duty. The secretary says:

"Incapacity to perform manual labor, which is the foundation to the right to pension under the act of June 27, 1890, fixes an entirely different standard of disability from that just mentioned, containing in the revised statutes, covering injuries of service origin. Disabilities incurred while in actual service and incapacity coming upon an applicant long after service ceased are made by the law to stand upon an entirely different footing. Those incurred during service and in line of duty are pensionable without regard to capacity to earn a support, and are graded without reference to this condition. Disabilities resulting from other causes other than of service origin are only pensionable when incapacity to labor joins with incapacity to earn a support, and the grades of rating are dependent upon these two conditions. When, by order No. 164, it was declared that disabilities under the act of June 27, 1890, should be rated as if of service origin, the very principle which governed the rating under the act of June 27, 1890, was displaced, and a rule applicable to a different act was substituted."

This case illustrates the effect of the departure by our bureau from the terms of the act of 1890:

First—The applicant was awarded for "slight deafness," not of service origin, \$12. The award was made under the act of 1890, which required the rate for deafness of both ears to be graded from \$6 to \$12. The highest amount, \$12, was only to be allowed in the severest cases of deafness. It was given by your bureau, "slight deafness," because under an entirely different act applicable to disabilities of service alone, \$15 was awarded the lowest rating for "slight deafness."

Second—"The inability of the applicant to perform manual labor was not taken into consideration." Yet the act of 1890, under which the applicant sought and was allowed a pension, made inability of the applicant to per-

form manual labor in such a degree as to prevent him from earning a support to the claim. It is therefore clear that rating under the revised statutes for disabilities of service origin was substituted by order No. 164 for the rating provided under the act of 1890. The order having resulted in an error, a second error naturally followed, and the inability of the applicants to perform manual labor was not taken into consideration. In a word, the act of June 27, 1890, was changed and superseded by order No. 164 as construed by your office, and by a practice that neglected to take into consideration the ability of the applicant to perform manual labor.

Secretary Smith, in communication to the commissioner of pensions, directs that hereafter the practice of the office conform to the law.

When Congress Will Meet and Its First Work.

The greatest interest must attach to the statement of the President that he will call an extra session of Congress between the 1st and the 15th of September, unless some unexpected contingency shall cause him to call it sooner. The President invites attention to the financial and monetary situation created by the Sherman act and to the necessity of its early repeal. Its working he depicts with luminous brevity. It "obliges us," he says, "to purchase idle silver bullion with gold taken from our reserve." This gold goes abroad. "Other nations," he shows, "are strengthening their credit at our expense." Mr. Cleveland calls upon business men and financiers to retain faith and confidence that all will be well. Between now and the reassembling of Congress they can contribute a share to the general stock of hope and steadiness, and should do so instead of gloomily anticipating immediate disaster. Above all, he wishes the people to study the relation of the Sherman act to the present stringency and be ready to guide Congress to its repeal.

Want Lower Fares.

A committee appointed at the meeting of the executive officers and Commissioners of the several States and Territories, held on Wednesday last at the Massachusetts Building, has drafted an appeal to the railroad and steamboat corporations asking that the fares on the different lines to and from Chicago be reduced immediately. The appeal is made especially in the interest of the farmers, laborers, mechanics, employes, pupils, etc., and it is asked that round trip tickets good on all roads be sold for one fare, to enable the citizens of the several States and Territories to avail themselves of the educational and other advantages presented by the Fair, receive practical benefit from the same, and be inspired by evidences of the great progress made in four centuries in the arts, sciences, manufactures, and agriculture.

Returns and Surrenders.

John J. McFarlane, the ex-State senator and president of the American Life Insurance Company, who was heavily involved in the failure of the Bank of America, came back to Philadelphia on the 31st and surrendered himself to District Attorney Graham. He has been absent about three years, and says remorse and his inability to sleep forced him to return. McFarlane was taken into court and pleaded guilty to the indictment against him. Judge Hare sentenced him to four years in the Eastern penitentiary.

McFarlane with his wife were in Brazil, and the idea of being discovered, made him miserable, and he sought relief by returning and surrendering himself. If all dishonest men did the same what a big party it would be.

The New York Central Did It.

For some time the New York Central railroad has been considering the plan of running a train from New York to Chicago in 20 hours, in order to beat the Pennsylvania Limited, which makes the distance in 21 hours. The trial trip was made on Sunday and the train reached the Windy City in 19 hours and 57 minutes from New York. The train will be called the "Exposition Flyer." It remains now for the Pennsylvania to go them one better. They can do it if they want to.

A Freak of the Lightning.

We are informed that on Wednesday evening, during the severe rain storm, Mr. Charles Musser of near this place was paralyzed by lightning, so affected as that he can neither see, talk nor hear. He is a brother of Mr. John Musser who recently was badly injured while quarrying stone.—*Mifflinburg Telegraph.*

—C. P. Long & Co. have just received a large stock of chain and lever pumps. Come and see them.

JUNE WEATHER.

Ira Hicks Says That it is Going to be Warm and Stormy.

The following is Ira Hicks' forecast of the weather for the month of June: By June 1 storms developing in the western regions the last of May will be advanced toward the central part of the country. It will be quite warm with easterly and southerly winds in all the eastern parts, the areas of precipitation and storms will be approaching the central parts, while the far west and northwest will have winds shifting to westerly, with rising barometer and cooler. Storms will reach the extreme east by the 3d, and the change to cooler, fair weather will have crossed the continent. Warmer weather will centre, in a progressive way, about the 6th and 7th, reaching a high temperature and resulting in reactionary storms on and touching those dates. Westerly winds, rising barometer, with a cool spurt will follow about the 7th to 9th, first to the west, later east.

About the 10th strong indications of the solstice storms will appear. Easterly to southerly winds will prevail—barometer will begin to fall, and it will grow warmer, resulting in many active storms from the 11th to 14th. The temperature and storms are apt to reach a crisis about new moon. Renewed activity of volcanoes and earthquake disturbances may naturally be expected, though not necessarily dangerous. They are the adjustments of a natural force, and should be looked upon as beneficial, rather than calamitous. There will be great electrical activity during solstice storms, especially during the night, but no one should be alarmed as it will prove grander than disastrous. Our friends will remember the tendency of storms to whirl suddenly back from the east, from about the 10th to the 25th of June. Showery conditions are liable during all that period, and local whirls will repeatedly fly back after passing east, unexpectedly taking the starch from the collars of the unsheltered people. Heavier reactionary storms will pass eastward about 17th to 20th, and should the barometer not rise and the wind remain easterly to southerly, a series of daily storms will fill the intervening days up to the next period.

From the 21st to 25th, inclusive, we will pass the turning point in our trip around the sun, and start for shorter days and longer nights. It will be natural to expect some heavy storms, with rain and much lightning and thunder, say about 23rd, 24th, and 25. Cooler weather will succeed these storms, and regions that are short of moisture at the end of this period will have to contend with serious drought. Reactionary disturbances are central on the 29th, with the full moon and the equinox of mercury on the same day.

See the World's Fair for Fifteen Cents.

Upon receipt of your address and fifteen cents in postage stamps, we will mail you prepaid our souvenir portfolio of the World's Columbian Exposition, the regular price is fifty cents, but as we want you to have one, we make the price nominal. You will find it a work of art and a thing to be prized. It contains full page views of the great buildings, with descriptions of same, and is executed in highest style of art. If not satisfied with it, after you get it, we will refund the stamps and let you keep the book. Address H. E. BUCKLEN, Chicago, Ill.

Want Them to See the Fair.

It is said the officials of the Pennsylvania railroad desire their employes to visit the World's Fair, and it is said every employe of the Pennsylvania system, irrespective of his or her department, will be granted two weeks' vacation in which to see the Columbian exposition. The officers of the company have guaranteed to the employes transportation to and from Chicago with their entire families. The road will not attempt to pay full salaries to each employe while on the vacation, but will send them to Chicago, give them time to see the fair, and take them home again.

Union County Deaths.

In Limestone township, on the 27th of May, Col. Robert B. Barber, aged 81 years, 2 months and 21 days.

At Winfield, on the 23rd of May, Jacob Snyder, aged 47 years, 5 months and 7 days.

In Lewisburg, on the 24th of May, Maria Spyker, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth Spyker, dec'd., aged 74 years.

In Lewisburg, on the 25th of May, Elizabeth, relict of John Yoder, dec'd., aged 66 years, 1 month and 21 days.

—C. P. Long has just returned from eastern cities with the finest and best selected stock of general merchandise ever brought to Spring Mills, which will be sold at lower figures than elsewhere. Stock going fast.

CAPITOL GOSSIP

THE TREASURY AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE LEGAL TENDER NOTES.

The President Returns From his Fishing Trip and Presides Over a Special Session of the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 5.—President Cleveland enjoyed his fishing trip immensely and returned to the hard work which still lies before him in tip top condition. He presided over a special cabinet meeting to day, which was called to consider ways and means for replenishing the gold reserve fund, which has been encroached on to a greater extent than ever before, in order to meet the demand for gold for export. No danger is apprehended for the present, and it was to discuss plans for the future that the cabinet meeting was called.

It is claimed by some, but not by Treasury officials, that under the act of March 17, 1862, which good lawyers who have made a careful examination say has never been repealed, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue legal tender notes for the purchase of gold "at such rates and upon such terms as he may deem most advantageous to the public interests." Secretary Carlisle thinks he would have no difficulty in getting all the gold needed in exchange for legal tender notes if it were legal to issue them; but no final decision in the matter is likely to be made until the gold reserve in the treasury shall have been reduced to what Secretary Carlisle considers a dangerously low amount, and that may never occur.

Having sent a trustworthy agent to Hawaii to learn the sentiment of the Hawaiians, President Cleveland now proposes to ascertain the sentiment of our own people towards Hawaii, before fully making up his mind, by making public all of the reports made by Commissioner and Minister Blount. These reports will be published as soon as they are completed, which will probably be in a few weeks.

The one question that is everywhere discussed is that of pensions, which seems to grow in importance. As might be expected there is any quantity of fool talk on the subject, and it is the exception to find a republican who will calmly discuss the matter; they seem to think that the argument is entirely closed when they charge the administration with being antagonistic to the Union veterans. A striking exception is General H. V. Boynton, whose radical republicanism is widely known, and who earned his title by bravery on the field of battle. He handles the pension question without gloves, and among other striking truths says: "While in its essence, the pension question is non-partisan, it is such an easy one to conjure with against the democrats that the moment any one of this party undertakes to correct the abuses which every fair man sees and admits, a general hue and cry is raised at once that the democrats are at last wreaking their spite and their vengeance on the old soldiers. No one stops to think that a very large proportion of these old soldiers who went to the war in 1861, when the question of pensions was not in the remotest thought of any of them were democrats. Even democrats themselves forget to make answer that a great company of the leading captains of the Union hosts—Grant, Sherman, Buell, Rosecrans, Thomas, McClellan, Logan, Butler, Franklin, Sickles, Slocum—an unending column of such men and their followers—were democrats. The reputation and honor of the G. A. R. are now at stake in this matter. By the action of its highest officers it has been committed to the remarkable proposition that grand army posts shall not openly discuss and uphold pension reform. It is idle to make answer to this charge by pleading technicalities. The G. A. R. now owes it to itself to support a searching examination of the pension rolls. And when the country is satisfied that the roll is a worthy one, and not until then, will the feeling pass away that pension expenditure is in considerable part an unjust burden."

Comptroller of currency Eckels is determined that no national bank director shall plead ignorance of the law as an excuse for having neglected his duty. He has had a circular prepared a copy of which will be forwarded to each director of every new national bank, containing the laws defining the duties and obligations of bank directors, and the penalties prescribed for neglect of duty. He says he wishes to impress upon the minds of bank directors that they are liable under the law for the fulfillment of their duty to stock holders and depositors.

According to reports received at the Treasury the Chinese are making use of the "underground railroad" to come from Canada to the United States, in considerable numbers. Several Vermonters have been arrested for running one of these lines.

Those near to President Cleveland and his cabinet say that they are now confident that Congress will repeal the Sherman Silver law very soon after it meets. The doubt has been as to the Senate, but it is now claimed that it has been removed by assurances from Senators.

THE BOOK SHARPER.

Now Making His Rounds in the Country Districts.

The state having adopted the free text book system, the country as well as the town and city schools will soon be overrun by book agents soliciting directors to purchase their books. Among these book agents there will be many sharpeners for whom the director must be on his guard. Already a number of these oily tongued individuals have been circulating through the various townships seeking to secure orders by misrepresenting facts. A few weeks ago a director in one of the townships of this county was told by an agent that the appropriation as passed by the legislature was sufficient for all purposes and that the directors could purchase all the books they desired as the amount accorded to each district must be used up. In adjoining counties reports come that a sharper gets the trustee to sign, what he purports to be, a contract for a chart. The contract turns up in a few days in the shape of a note. Another argument presented is that the new law will permit a larger number of books to be used which fact will make the demand greater than the supply, and that to avoid the possibility of delay, orders should be given at once.

In view of these facts school directors cannot be too careful. To be on the safe side, all improbable stories should be ignored, and a determined effort should be made to adopt none but the best books as published by reliable firms. This will require a careful consideration and a little delay, but in view of the object to be attained, that of adopting a line of books that will best instruct the pupils, the study and time will be well spent. The agent who attempts to bribe a director's vote and influence by the promise of a "beautiful family Bible" or a "nice set of books" from one of the standard authors, should be turned down and regarded as a sharper. The agent who solicits favorable consideration by fair and honest statements will in the end be found to give the most satisfaction. A careful perusal of the free text book law is also necessary, which will enable all directors to contradict any false statements.—*Lock Haven Democrat.*

Prof. Briggs' Suspension.

The Briggs case is still a subject of earnest discussion in Washington not alone in church circles, but in the absence of President Cleveland and the lack of appointments, it is not overlooked by political and professional people. Among churchmen opinion is divided. The liberals believe that from this time forth broader liberty of personal views upon what they call the non-essentials will be permitted. This case has set the Church to thinking, they say, and the result will be a broader knowledge. This was the view taken by Prof. Francis Brown, the faithful lieutenant of Dr. Briggs:

"I think the verdict will arouse a reaction on account of its severity," said Prof. Brown, "and will tend to spread the doctrines it is designed to suppress."

One of the prominent liberals, Dr. George Alexander of the University Place Church of New York, was hardly so sanguine.

"There will be no disruption," he said. I hope there may be no large secessions." He laid stress upon the word hope, which seemed to indicate incredulity. Then he added: "The Prosecuting Committee has done more to disseminate the views of Dr. Briggs in two years than he could have done in a lifetime."

"There will be no schism," said Dr. Herick Johnson of Chicago, "although there may be a few withdrawals. But there will be continued discussion, with disquiet and unrest, and perhaps in time the verdict may be modified. By a large section of the Church it will be disapproved. I do not think it will discourage scholarly investigation, although the world may think so. On the contrary, the discussion is likely to stimulate study. As for the declaration on the inspiration of the Scriptures, that will be repudiated by the Church. It is formulating a new doctrine, which the Assembly has no right to do."

Latest Novelties.

Latest novelties in spring clothing for men, boys, and children.

The best suit in the market for men at \$10.00. Tailoring a specialty.

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TWENTY BANKS HAVE FAILED.

Since January With a Capital of Over Six Million Dollars.

A statement prepared by Comptroller Eckels shows that January 1 up to June 1, twenty national banks with a capital of \$6,180,000 have failed, against seven national banks with a capital of \$655,000 for the corresponding period of 1892.

The banks and their capital that have failed this year are as follows: Capital national bank, Lincoln, Neb., \$300,000; Bankers' and Merchants' national bank, Dallas, Texas, \$500,000; First national bank, Little Rock, Ark., \$500,000; Commercial national bank, Nashville, Tenn., \$500,000; Alabama national bank, Mobile, Ala., \$500,000; First national bank, Ponca, Neb., \$50,000; Second national bank, Columbus, Tenn., \$100,000; Columbia national bank, Chicago, \$1,000,000; Elmira national bank, Elmira, N. Y., \$200,000; Chemical national bank, Chicago, \$1,000,000; Capital national bank, Indianapolis, \$300,000; First national bank, Cedar Falls, Iowa, \$500,000; First national bank, Brunswick, Ga., \$200,000; Oglethorpe national bank, Brunswick, Ga., \$150,000; Evanston national bank, Evanston, Ill., \$100,000; National bank of deposit, New York, \$300,000; National bank of North Dakota, Fargo, N. D., \$250,000; First national bank, Lakota, N. D., \$50,000; Gulf national bank, Tampa, Fla., \$50,000; First national bank, Brady, Texas, \$50,000.

At this writing banks are still going under.

Another Killed at the Circus Wreck.

Another fatality has occurred at the scene of Tuesday's disastrous circus wreck. While working with a wrecking crew to remove debris, a rope broke which was attached to a tank for the purpose of pulling it up the bank and struck Robert M. Gates on the chest. His injuries proved fatal within an hour after the accident. The unfortunate victim was single, aged twenty-eight, and lived at Tyrone.

The escaped lioness was captured by attendants with two lassoes. She hung back while they tried to lead her along, and the strain was great enough to choke her to death.

Everything has been cleared up in and around the scene of the circus wreck. All the dead horses, forty-four in number, one dead lion and one dead tiger with two sacred oxen, have all been buried; while the debris has been pretty well cleared up.

In speaking of the great circus train wreck which occurred on the Tyrone and Clearfield road Tuesday the *Tyrone Herald* says: "Not to mention the small animals, reptiles and birds which have escaped to the mountains and will probably not be recaptured, there remain only three of the larger beasts at large. These are an Australian anteater, Australian agoutis and a black tiger (only three of the species in America.) Local hunters are assisting in the search for these animals."

The show has been pulling itself together and it is expected they will give a show at Tyrone on Thursday of this week. The circus has been quartered there and the injured animals and men have been receiving the proper attention.

All Free.

Those who have used Dr. King's New Discovery know its value, and those who have not, have now the opportunity to try it free. Call on the advertised Druggist and get a Trial Bottle Free. Send your name and address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills Free, as well as a copy of Guide to Health and Household Instructor, Free. All of which is guaranteed to do you good and cost you nothing. J. D. Murray's Druggist.

Work for the Governor.

In 1891 the Legislature adjourned on May 28th, having sent to the Governor 414 bills, 122 of which were approved, 17 vetoed and 12 recalled, leaving in his hands at adjournment 263. This year the Legislature has sent 452 bills to the Governor, 133 of which were approved, 25 vetoed and 10 recalled. He now has 279 bills to approve or veto between now and July 1st.

Legal Advertising.

Governor Pattison has signed the bill repealing the act governing the publication of sheriff's sales in the county seat newspapers, and providing that the attorneys may direct their publication in any two newspapers published in the county.

Fifty cents is a small doctor bill, but that is all it will cost you to cure any ordinary case of rheumatism if you use Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Try it and you will be surprised at the prompt relief it affords. The first application will quiet the pain. 50 cent bottles for sale by J. D. Murray, Druggist.

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