



WASHINGTON LETTER.

HEAVY APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY CONGRESS.

Over a Billion and a Half Dollars Necessary to Run the Government—Schley Has Justice at Last.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The extravagant appropriations,—more than a billion and a half—made by the Fifty-fifth Congress, now happily dead, would a few years ago have been sufficient to drive any political party from power. Only ten years ago a billion dollar Congress drove the Republicans out and put the Democrats in. But it is easy to educate men into not only condoning public extravagance, but into commending it, especially if some of the money be spent in a way to give them some personal profit. The war is the excuse for the large total of the appropriation, but it is not a valid one, and it should be the duty of every man opposed to public extravagance to appoint himself a committee of one, to see that no man with whom he comes in contact shall except that excuse for lack of the actual facts. With every appropriation connected with the war deducted, the appropriations made by the fifty-fifth Congress would still be largely in excess of those made by any Congress in our history. Keep this fact in your own mind and in the minds of others, and a Congress and a President may be elected next year to check the era of extravagance into which we have drifted.

There has been more or less talk in certain quarters about the anxiety of Secretary Long to get rid of the cares of office, but it should cease now. His acceptance of the humiliation Mr. McKinley placed upon him when he compelled him to do justice to Schley by preparing an entirely new list of Naval promotions, which made Schley a Rear Admiral, two numbers ahead of Sampson, instead of two numbers behind him, as the original nominations had been was proof enough that he will not willingly relinquish the Naval portfolio. Mr. McKinley acted because he saw the administration was catching it in all directions for its attempt to jump Sampson over Schley's head, and that the Senate had balked on the nominations. The new nominations were confirmed by the Senate, as soon as received, just as was that of Dewey to be Admiral.

In refusing to take up the resolution unanimously reported from the Judiciary Committee, declaring that the four members of the House who accepted army commissions, thereby forfeited their seats in Congress, the House merely accepted an opportunity to pay Gen. Joseph Wheeler a high compliment, by dodging a vote that must have been in favor of the resolution had it been taken. Representative Bailey, however, declined to see it in that light and formally announced that as the Democrats had declined to follow his leadership in enforcing a plain clause of the Constitution, he would not be a candidate for the leadership in the next Congress.

Senator Platt, of Conn., struck the bulls-eye of truth when he told the Senate a few hours before final adjournment, that the session of Congress just then closing would go on record as the most extravagant ever held, but he started too late, if he really expected to stop any of the extravagance. A careful consideration of a number of the appropriation bills will show that a concerted grab game was played from start to finish. In the wind-up, when the bills were in conference, and some things had to be thrown overboard to reach an agreement, the appropriations of those having the weakest "pull" had to go. Senators Warren, of Wyo.; Wilson, of Washington; Carter, of Mont., and several others, who had been admitted to the game in its early stages, publicly protested when they found themselves banished by the Conference report, but that did not do them any good, in the Senate, and will probably not do them any good at home.

Senator Morgan's attack upon Czar Reed from the floor of the Senate was unprecedented, but many think it was deserved. He started by saying that the action of the ruler of the House in working through what has several times been referred to on the floor of the House as the "Hog Combine" for public building legislation was "a fraud and an outrage" and concluded by saying: "I want to protest against that sort of legislation. I know where the incentive of this performance comes from. I know the origin of that wrong. I know the man who inspired it. His will and pleasure was to make fair weather for a particular set of men who are favorites of the particular rules of the House."

Alger and Algerism received a slap in the face when Senator Foraker's amendment was added to the Army bill, declaring that no property fran-

chises should be granted during our military occupancy of Cuba. Alger recently created a Board, which it was officially announced, was created for the express purpose of passing upon applications for such franchises, and which it was publicly charged was really created to see that everything of value was given to Alger's friends. The large number of Republicans who voted for this amendment was another hint to Mr. McKinley that prominent members of his party would like him to get rid of Alger, but there are no signs that the hint will be taken. Hanna didn't vote for it, and Hanna is still King, and is preparing to take Mr. McKinley to Thomasville, Ga., where he owns a house, for a rest.

The Military Court of Inquiry is going west to take testimony at the big meat-packing establishments, although it would be difficult to say why.

New Pension Law.—Refer to End the "Widow Farce."

An important bill in connection with pension payment got through in the last hours of congress on Saturday, which will stop the practice so common of young women marrying old veterans for the purpose of getting pensions. This new act provides that hereafter no pension "under any law" shall be paid to the widow of any person entitled to a pension, "unless it shall be proved and established that the marriage of such widow to the person on account of whose service the pension is asked took place prior to the passage of this act."

The bill also provides that in future the widow in order to get a pension must have lived from the time of the marriage with the veteran until the time of his death, which will shut off divorced women from claiming pensions as they now do.

In the future a widow cannot receive a pension unless she marries the man "prior to or during the military or naval service of the veteran on account of whose service the pension is asked or claimed." Under this law a woman who marries a veteran after he has performed the service for which he may claim a pension cannot herself obtain a pension on his death. This will stop such injustice as that shown now in the pension rolls where there are 2407 widows drawing pensions on account of the war of 1812, although there are only three survivors of that war now living.

Congress acted wisely in wiping out one pension abuse, but there are still others needing looking after.

Will Fight the Cigarette.

A prominent railroad man, says the Michigan School Moderator, is the latest to throw down the gage of battle to the cigarette. He is a general freight agent on a large railroad, and employs many young men as clerks. He has announced that, in the future, he will not employ any young men who are addicted to the cigarette habit, and further than this, he expresses his intention of getting rid of all cigarette fiends now working in his department. He gives the following as his reason for this decision: "Among the 200 in my service, thirty-two are cigarette fiends. Eighty-five per cent. of the mistakes occurring in the office are traceable to the thirty-two smokers. They fall behind with their work, and when transferred to other desks, which men who do not smoke handle easily, they immediately get along just as badly, showing that it is not the amount of work, but the inability, or indolence of the performer. The smokers average two days off from work per month, while the non-smokers average only one-half of a day in the same time. The actual conclusion is that thirty-two young men are holding positions deserved by better men."

Plans for Highway Mail Clerks.

Plans are being made by the United States government by which the clerks in the mail railroad service will abandon the caps and substitute an aluminum badge as an insignia of office. The rule will go into effect July 1, 1899. The cap has been the only sign that has distinguished the mail clerk from others in Uncle Sam's employ. The cap is heavy, bulky and warm, but according to the regulations the clerks have had to wear it at all times. The badge was designed by Tiffany and bears the inscription, "R. M. S."

Up in Stroudsburg a young daughter of George Smith found a purse containing \$300, and on delivering it to the owner, and receiving one cent as a reward, whose parting words to the little girl were: "Now you run right away home before you lose it like I did my pocketbook." This fellow, doubtless, is a blowpipe, like many others, for improvements and charity, but when it comes to contributing, he will not even give a cent.

Try the Reporter for all job printing.

GEN. KOONTZ

Scores the Jury Whitewashing Committee.

The committee to investigate the attempt to bribe members to vote for the Quay jury bill, and, as was expected, it proved the committee was appointed to put on the white-wash thick as Schmierkase, whereupon Gen. Koontz of Somerset, independent Republican, scored the committee unmercifully, of which the following is an extract:

"No, I can readily understand why I was unable to find the secretary (Voorhees) this afternoon, though I hunted him faithfully in every known place. I can understand why the subpoenas he promised to hand me were missing. Being unable to locate him I prepared a subpoena of my own, and my witnesses, five of them, are here ready to testify. I object to the resolutions. They were brought here for delay solely for delay. I have exerted every effort to bring my testimony before this committee and to dispose of the cases. The members themselves are here ready to testify how much they were offered and who offered it. They have been regularly summoned before this body. I offered the resolution providing for this investigation, and I want to have something to substantiate my statements. It is due to me, if nothing else, that you should hear these witnesses. I am here to prove out of the mouths of members of the House of Representatives the charges I made, and I defy you to attempt to withhold the truth."

In this ringing manner Gen. Koontz continued to the end. Time after time he brought the blush of shame to the cheeks of his fellows. So humiliating was the spectacle that some of Quay's firmest supporters could not stand the scene, and with flushed faces left the committee room. For instance once the general said: "The gentleman to my right (Voorhees) is following out the whitewash line he suggested when I offered this resolution last Friday. And I regret to say that the chairman is ably seconding his efforts. I am here to learn the truth, not to whitewash anybody."

"I am ready and willing to investigate," meekly interposed Voorhees. "Then let us start," said General Koontz, "I am here to sustain the resolutions. I have the witnesses and there is no better time than this. If you are sincere, let us go right ahead. Your purpose seems to be to hide the truth."

A Teacher's Authority.

The question as to what extent the authority of the teacher extends over his pupils is one that is continually cropping out somewhere, and, although the courts have been pretty uniform in their decisions, there is always some one with a grievance to call forth a fresh declaration on this point. The latest case comes from the St. Louis, Missouri, court of appeals. A school teacher requested one pupil to accompany another to his home. The boy refused, and the teacher expelled him. The school board sustained the teacher and the case was carried into court, where the action of the schoolmaster was also upheld. Now the court of appeals has sustained the ruling of the lower court, that teachers are empowered to preserve discipline among their pupils, not only while in the school room and on the school premises, but also on their way to and from school.

A Quay Strike at Bellefonte.

While the Quay people are getting left in all their efforts for the Florida fisherman, his Bellefonte forces made a successful flank move upon the "insurgents" of that bore that didn't come out 13 short.

Just now the Bellefonte borough politicians are amazed by the action of the new Borough Council, which was organized Tuesday night. The Council is composed of six Republicans and three Democrats. C. T. Gerberich, Quay, was elected president, and then the first surprise came when, in a secret ballot, H. B. Pontius, Quay, was elected clerk over Isaac Mitchell, anti-Quay, who has been clerk of Councils for 22 years. Clement Dale, anti-Quay, who has been Borough Solicitor for years past, was also turned down, and E. R. Chambers, assistant Quay high-cocolorum, elected in his stead.

Jack Dale knew a thing or two previously, and now smiles. Let the Quay leaders at Harrisburg take lessons from their Bellefonte cousins.

I have been afflicted with Rheumatism for fourteen years and nothing seemed to give any relief. I was able to be around all the time, but constantly suffering. I had tried everything I could hear of and at last was told to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which I did, and was immediately relieved and in a short time cured.—Josh. Edgar, Germantown, Cal. For sale by J. H. Ross, Linden Hall; S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills; H. F. Rossman, Spring Mills.

LIVELY ROW IN THE HOUSE.

THE QUAYITES ARE HAULED UP WITH SUDDEN TURN.

Speaker Farr Arbitrarily Adjourns the House to Prevent a Move in the Bribery Investigation, and Threatened With Removal.

Last Friday morning there was a row in the House at Harrisburg, which reminded one of the days of the Buckshot war when Thad Stevens found it best for his safety to get away by leaping from a back window.

An investigating committee to look into the charges of bribery to make votes for the Quay jury bill was appointed by speaker Farr of four white-washers and a fifth one Gen. Koontz, the latter an independent Republican and the author of the charge of bribery and his witnesses ready to prove it and three members of the House ready to swear they were offered money for their votes.

The anti-Quay people naturally became indignant over the bold insult of speaker Farr in appointing a committee to defeat an investigation, and this Gen. Koontz and the other independent Republican and Democratic leaders determined to resist to the bitter end and insist upon having a fair committee appointed.

The anti-Quay being in the majority had it in their power to add four members to Farr's committee of five and constitute a committee that would do its duty, in spite of the speaker and his Spaniards on the committee.

Friday morning Gen. Koontz offered his resolution to add four members to the committee, naming two Democrats, Fow and Dixon, and two anti-Quay Republicans, Kendall and Young.

The speaker, to defeat this, arbitrarily declared the House adjourned, left the chair, the clerk and his assistants as quickly followed suite, and a tremendous row started. The anti-Quay leaders called upon their followers to remain upon the floor and organize by electing a speaker and clerk pro tem.

On Monday the opening session showed that Farr and the entire Quay sheep-fold had become frightened over their stupid Friday's blunder and were as meek as lambs, for the anti-Quay in the majority, Gen. Koontz's program was adopted and the proceedings of the House will henceforth not be run by the Quayites, and speaker Farr will be deposed if he fails to behave himself.

Quay lost the votes of three members by the arbitrary doings of his friends on Friday and others are to follow.

ATTEMPTED BRIBERY INVESTIGATED

The jury-bill bribery investigating Committee of nine began work and didn't need go Farr until discovered and uncovered the fact that two members, Christie of Northumberland and Engel of Lycoming, were offered \$500 to \$1000 if they would vote for the jury bill. This they swore to and gave the names of the men who made the offer as ex-senator Coyle, former representative Moyles and Michael J. Costello. Prosecutions will now follow.

HE WAS GREEN.

Some Pointers for People Who Don't Take the Paper.

A jealous editor down south tells of a man in his neighborhood who does not take a paper. The story may not be a true one. This money-saving fellow got a Maine story paper and found that by sending one dollar to a Yankee he could get a cure for drunkenness. Sure enough he did. It was to "take the pledge and keep it." Later on he sent fifty two-cent stamps to find out how to raise turnips successfully. He found out—"Just take hold of the tops and pull." Belog young he wished to marry, and sent thirty-four one-cent stamps to a Chicago firm how to make an impression. When the answer came it read, "Sit down on a pan of dough." That was a little rough, but he was a patient man, and thought he would yet succeed. The next advertisement he answered read, "How to double your money in six months." He was told to convert his money into bills, fold them, and he would see his money doubled. The next time he sent for twelve useful household articles, and got a package of needles. He was slow to learn, so he sent a dollar to find out "how to get rich." "Work like the devil and never spend a cent." That stopped him, but his brother wrote to find out how to write a letter without pen or ink. He was told to use a lead pencil. He paid five dollars to live without work, and was told on a postal card "to fish for suckers, as we do." He takes his home paper now, and is happy.

Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage license were issued during the past week: Lloyd Eckenroth and Myrtle Hille, Pleasant Gap.

Chas. Daywalt, Pitsairo, Allegheny county, and Laura E. Pennington, of Patton twp., Centre Co.

W. C. Frank, Rook Springs, and Ida May Ernigh, Pennsylvania Furnace.

Solomon Henry Lohr, and Mary Catharine H. Erlich, Snow Shoe.

Jerit Dale Sowers, State College, and Margaret May Harpster, Charter Oak, Huntingdon Co.

David G. Reed and Bertha B. Henry, Pine Grove Mills.

Perry A. Frank, Rush twp., Centre county, and Louisa J. Bowersox, DuBois, Clearfield Co.

Held at Bellefonte.

A Sunday School Convention will be held in Bellefonte for the schools of Centre County under the auspices of the Pennsylvania State Sunday School Association March 23 and 24.

WASHINGTON.

Four-Day Personally-Conducted Tour via P. R. R.

The almost unparalleled success of the tour last year has induced the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to offer the residents of Williamsport, Wilkesbarre, Saubury, Harrisburg and neighboring cities in Central Pennsylvania another opportunity to avail themselves of the peculiar advantages of a personally-conducted tour to Washington, and has therefore arranged for a four-day tour to the National Capital on Monday, March 27.

Train will leave Renova at 6.40 a. m., Williamsport 8.30 a. m., Scranton 7.48 a. m., Wilkesbarre 8.45 a. m., Saubury 10.50 a. m., Mt. Carmel 7.30 a. m., Altoona 7.15 a. m., Lancaster 10.35 a. m., Harrisburg 12.35 p. m., stopping at the principal intermediate stations and at York. Returning special train will leave Washington at 3.30 p. m., Thursday, March 30. Passengers from points west of Williamsport, and from Dewart, Sellingsgrove, Lykens; Dillsburg, Lebanon, and points on the Shamokin Division will use regular trains from Washington returning. All tickets will be good to return also on regular trains until Saturday, April 1, inclusive.

Round-trip rate, covering transportation, hotel accommodations from supper on date of tour until after luncheon March 30, \$12.90 from Williamsport, \$13.60 from Wilkesbarre, \$11.70 from Saubury, \$14.00 from Altoona, \$10.10 from Lancaster, \$10.10 from Harrisburg, and proportionate rates from other stations, including stations on the Cumberland Valley Railroad north of Chambersburg. Guides to Washington will be distributed free on the train.

For itineraries, rates, tickets, and full information apply to ticket agents; E. S. Harrar, Division Ticket Agent, Williamsport, Pa.; Tourist Agent, Wilkesbarre, Pa.; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. mar-22

Bicyclers Interested.

Bicycle riders are becoming intensely interested in house bill No. 28, which will soon be brought up for second reading at Harrisburg, and the members of the legislature are being strongly urged to support the measure. The final passage of the measure will make it possible to construct and maintain side paths along the highways in the townships of the commonwealth for the use of wheelmen and pedestrians; bicycle riders, however, have the right of way thereon.

As the entire expense of the new idea will be borne by bicycle owners the new law imposing a tax on wheelmen for the purpose named, and the act will be operative only in counties that petition the courts to appoint side path-commissioners thus relieving the wheelmen of any county where side paths are deemed undesirable.

The fact that a cycle path is the only solution to country riding, during the lives of the present generation, in this section of the state, at least, is beyond question, and with the passage of this act we will be enabled in a few years to have side paths on all main roads, making it possible to take country rides during nine months of the year, instead of three or four, as under existing circumstances.

HE WAS GREEN.

The war about Manila was said, four weeks ago, was ended and the insurgents reported ready to surrender. Yet all the time reinforcements have been sent out, and only a week ago Dewey requested that the Oregon be sent to Manila without delay. Again six regiments have been ordered to Manila, and good fighters, men who have seen service among the Indians, and know how to meet guerrilla warfare.

Public sales of farm stock in the east end of our valley, in March: On 14, H. T. Zerby, in Haines twp. On 15, A. C. Conner, in south Gregg. On 15, C. A. Rachau, west of Malib'g On 17, Sam'l Burrell, near Pannhall. On 21, H. N. Fiedler, near Madison. On 21, J. S. Meyer, west of Millheim. On 23, Christ. Alexander, Penn twp. On 24, J. J. Orndorf, near Woodward. On 27, Geo. I. Yearick, Madisonburg. On 28, A. R. Alexander, Penn twp. On 30, Mrs. Hines, east of Woodward.

The following sales of farm stock, on west side of mountains, in March: On 4, J. A. Dietz, near Howard. On 8, Mrs. Peters, west of Unionville. On 13, G. H. Waite, south of Bellef. On 14, J. A. Minnich, near Nittany. On 14, Mrs. Fishburn, Benner twp. On 15, A. C. Kelly, near Millmore. On 18, J. I. Markle, north of Pinegr. On 20, J. L. Shafer, west of Jackson. On 21, Mrs. Ishler, west of Boals'g. On 22, Mrs. Koch, east of Axeman. On 22, E. J. Neff, near Buffalo Run. On 23, F. Poorman, Boggs twp. On 24, G. W. Miller, south of Bellef. On 28, Clef. Bassman, west of Plangr. On 31, John Cummings, Harris twp.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Cullings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

What Is Good.

"What is real good?" Is asked in musing mood. "Order," said the law court; "Knowledge," said the school; "Truth," said the wise man; "Pleasure," said the fool; "Love," said the maiden; "Beauty," said the page; "Freedom," said the dreamer; "Home," said the sage; "Fame," said the soldier; "Equality," the seer; "Spake my heart full sadly. The answer is not here. Then within my bosom, Softly this I heard: 'Each heart holds the secret; Kindness is the word.'"

—John Boyle O'Reilly.

Wednesday morning opened raw and bawtery with clouds and sunshine.

John Stoner, of Millheim, has entered his 70th year, and still hustling in business.

The sick of whom we made mention in the past two issues are more or less on the mend.

The weather the past eight weeks has not been of much good for the grain fields.

We thank those of our patrons who kindly favored us with remittances since beginning of '99. Next.

Rev. Rearick's appointments, Sunday March 12: Centre Hall, 10 a. m.; St. Johns, 7 p. m.; Georges valley 2 p. m.

Mifflin county has seven candidates for county superintendent. Centre county with double the population, has only three.

Recent Union county deaths: At Lewisburg, George E. Long, aged 60 years. Mrs. Mary Jane Phillips, of Lewisburg, aged 85 years.

The grain fields have suffered considerably from an unfavorable winter, thus far, and the months ahead may have nothing better in store.

Potatoes have dropped to 40 cents in this section. In an adjoining county a farmer had a large crop and refused to sell when offered 75c per bushel.

For disagreeableness from 3 to evening of 5, more than filled any one's wishes. Monday started in bright but cold, followed by milder afternoon.

"77" for Grip and Colds.—"77" will "break up" a cold that "hangs on". Will "knock out" the Grip and check a lingering cough—all druggists.—25c.

The Buffalo, St. Mary's and south-western railroad, together with the Shawmut Coal Mining Plants, were sold on Friday to a syndicate of New York capitalists, for \$4,000,000.

The commencement exercises of the Alexandria high school will be held on Thursday evening, April 13, in the Reformed church of Alexandria. Prof. John D. Meyer, is principal of the schools. Col. A. K. McClure, editor of the Philadelphia Times, will deliver the commencement oration.

The new mining town of Florence, near Punxsutawney, which will be built next summer, will be the largest mining town in that part of the state, and the mine will employ more men than any other single bituminous mine in the United States. A vast coal territory will be tapped by this opening, and when the headings are driven it is expected to give employment to over 2,000 men.

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