# THE LANCASTER DAILY INTELLIGENCER, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1885.



# CIVIL SERVICE REFORM. EXAMINATION OF APPLICANTS AND

OUESTIONS PUT TO ULERKS.

climen of the Process to Which Ableodied Democrats Are Subjected Before They Can Get a Chance at Some of the Offices They Seek.

It is pretty sure now that for a certain grade of clerkships and other positions under e government all applicants will have to undergo a competitive examination. Some of our young friends hereabouts, Republicans and Democrats, who contemplate subjecting themselves to such a process will be interested in reading the following account from the Baltimore Sun, of a recent competitive examination in that city for positions in the Baltimore postoffice. People who have heard a great deal about civil service reform without having a very clear idea of what it is, can also judge in a measure from this account whether or not such a system is calculated to select a good class of officials.

#### THE PRELIMINARIES.

Before the examination opened each applicant was furnished with a declaration to be filled out with full name, residence, whether examined for the civil service within a year ; whether the applicant had ever been in the civil service ; if the applicant was now or ever d been been in the army or navy of the United States; date of birth and present employment, and state of health. At the head of this blank a number is placed, which is the applicant's examination number, and corresponds to his number put at the head of each of his examination sheets. This declaration is placed in an envelope and not opened until after all the papers have been examined, so that the board does not know while marking a paper whose it is, except that it is number one or number two, &c. After the averages of the applicants are made up the declarations, upon being opened, disclose the average of the second being opened. disclose the name corresponding to the number.

#### EXERCISE IN DICTATION.

The first blank, which was on dictation, was handed around, and Major Bailey, the president of the board of examiners, took his stand, where he could be heard by all, and read aloud the following :

<sup>4</sup> No question in any examination or pro-ceding by, or under, the commission or ex-aminers shall call for the expression or dis-closure of any political or religious opinion or affiliation, and if such opinion or affiliation, be known, no discrimination shall be made by reason thereof by the examiners, the com-mission or the approximation should be made. mission or the appointing power. The com-mission and its examiners shall discounte-nance all disclosure, before either of them, of such opinion by or concerning any applicant for examination, or by or concerning any one whose name is on the register awaiting ap-pointment? pointment.

Major Bailey read it slowly and distinctly with frequent pauses to allow "catching up." He looked every inch the schoolmaster, and some could every men the schoolmuster, and some could ever picture the birch in his hand. "I read slowly," he afterwards ex-plained, "to give the fast writers time to write more carefully and not to crowd the slower ones." A short time was allowed for revision and punctuation, and in ten minutes from the starf all the reary wave handed in from the start all the papers were handed in. The dictation exercise, it afterwards trans-pired, was rule eight of the civil-service reg-

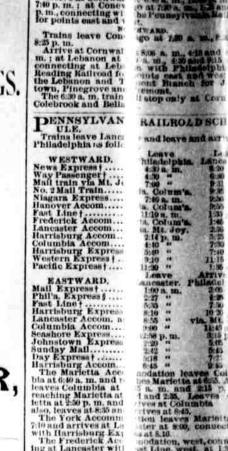
Then came the second part of the first subject, which was on copying and spelling. The copying exercise was very simple, con-sisting of about 200 words of an abstract from the postmaster-general's report of 1882. It related merely to the saving accomplished by the then recent contract for stamped enve-lopes. The spelling exercise consisted of twenty words in common use. The copying and spelling made up sheet two.

#### ARITHMETICAL NUTS TO CRACK.

Sheet three, or the second subject, was arithmetic, in which there were eight questions, with instructions to give the operations in full. Question one was one in addition, the object being to get the total of the large amounts of cotton exported from New Orans, Baltimore, New York, Yorktown and Galveston. Question two was to find the difference between the debt of the United States and the cash in the treasury. The answer to this, whether accurate or only pro-

MOTHERS! MOTHERS!! MOTHERS!!! Are you disturbed at hight and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the exeruciating pain of cutling teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOUTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately-depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle. may3l-lydM,W,S&w

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blematic, was something over \$1,450,000, Question three was on this order : 36 clerks are to distribute 48,000 letters on a particular day. Half are experienced and half are new men. If each of the experienced men do twice as much as each new man, how many will be distributed by each man, now many will be distributed by each man and by each class of men. Though apparently a stickler at first, it soon resolved itself into a question of proportions. The fourth question was to find the money value of a lot of stamps, where there were a number of sheets of each denomination, and each sheet contain. of each denomination, and each sheet contained 100 stamps. There were 109 sheets of one-cents stamps, 99 of twos, 73 of five and 27 of tens. Question five was, "Write in figures one million one thousand and one hundred dollars and soven cents." Question six was not very hard. It was a case like this: "There were handled by the railway postal clerks in one year 2,155,213,880 letters and postal cards and 1,278,756,765 pieces of other mail matter. One error was committed for mail matter. One error was committed for every 3,805 pieces handled. What was the number of errors committed. The next was humber of errors committed. The next was this: "How many mail bags, containing 2 1-12 yards of cloth each, can be made of a bolt of 50 yards, and what does each yard of cloth cost, the cost of a bag being 85 cents 7" The last question was: "The total revenues of the postoffice department for the fiscal year 1882 were \$41,876,410.15, and the expenditures for postmasters' salaries for the same time \$8,964,-676.72. What percentage of the revenues did the salaries amount to ?"

## AN EXERCISE IN COMPOSITION.

Then came the third subject, which was writing a letter to the postmaster general giving the applicant's views on the Ameri-can postoffice system and its importance on the business of the country. This was chiefly to try the skill of the applicants in simple English composition and punctuation. If many had jotted down their prevailing views to the head of the department the tenor of the letters would evidently have been on the order: "The system is a good one. Please give me the best you have in the shop." But no one dared, and the answers, as a rule. giving the applicant's views on the Ameri-

give me the best you have in the shop." But no one dared, and the answers, as a rule, were short and to the point. The next and last subject was geography, in which there were eight questions as fol-lows: "Name the original thirteen states;" "name the five great lakes in their order from east to west;" "name five mountain ranges of the United States;" "name the states bordering on the Gulf of Mexico;" " what states would you travel in going the most direct line from Boston to Washing-to it "mame three rivers directly tributary to the Mississippi;" "give five rivers, five lakes, five bays and five mountain peaks in the United States." The other was to give the states in which are the waters on which were ten large citics, such as Buffalo, New were ten large cities, such as Buffalo, New Orleans, Chicago, &c. Geography was of all the hardest subject, though seemingly

all the hardest subject, though exclusion simple. As each candidate finished one paper he put on it the time received and the time finished, and handed it over to Secretary Adams, who furnished the applicant with the next sheet. The first to finish was a young man, who handed in his last paper at ten minutes after 11. The last paper was handed in at 2 p. m. in at 2 p. m.

#### HOW SELECTIONS ARE MADE.

The local board will be some days examing the papers of the applicants, and those ing the papers of the applicants, and those who grade at 65 or over will be placed on the civil service list. When the postmaster has a vacancy to fill he notifies the board, who send him the names of the four grading highest, and from them the postmaster selects a name. The other three and the one standing next are sent in for the next, and so on. If a name has been sent in four times and the person not appointed, it is not sent in any more unless the postmaster specially asks for it. Those who pass the examination are kept on the civil service for one year, and if not ap-Those who pass the examination are kept on the civil service for one year, and if not ap-pointed to a place in that time are dropped, but can stand an examination later on. If an applicant who passes gets another place out-aide, and does not want a government posi-tion, he can keep his name on the list by de-clining to have his name "certified to for the present;" that is, not to have the board send it in for a vacancy at that particular time.

## A New Way To Steal a Chicken.

A New Way To Steal a Chicken. John Brown, a young man, was placed on trial in the criminal court of Baltimore on Friday on the charge of the larceny of a live chicken from John Meyer, on Gay street, near Belair market. The evidence for the state was to the effect that the prisoner laid a trail of corn along the alley in the rear of Mr. Meyer's yard and captured a large Leghorn rooster. Brown denied it. Judge Fisher, before whom the case was tried without a jury, had some doubt of Brown's sanity and reserved his decision in the case.

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AN EDITOR'S TRIBUTE. Theron P. Reator, editor Ft. Wayne, Ind., *Gazette*, writes: "For the past five years have always used Dr. King's New Discovery, for those of a milder type. It never fails to effect a speedy cure. My friendo to whom I have recom-mended it speak of it in some high terms. Hav-ing been cured by it of every cough I have had for five years, I consider itonity reliable and sure cure for Coughs, Colds, etc." Call at Cockran's Drug Store, Nos. 137 and 128 North Queen atreet, Lancaster, Pa., and get a Free Trial Bottle. Large Size \$1.00. (2)

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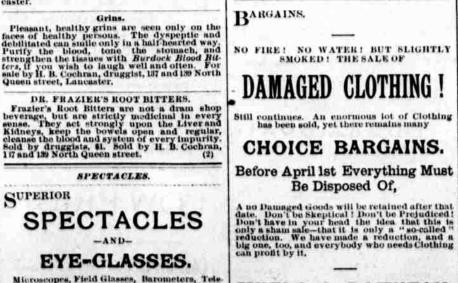
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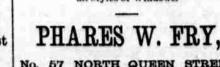
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