AN ALLEGED BIG STEAL

Government Clerk Said to Have Issued Bogus Time Checks.

STEALINGS ESTIMATEDAT \$300,000

The Genuine Checks Were Given in Return For Government Work on the Upper Mississippi River, and These, With the Bogus Ones, Were Cashed.

Washington, March 23.-Information has reached the government, through a number of banks at St. Paul, Minn., that during the past year and more these and other nearby banks have been made the victims of colossal frauds through the suspected collusion of government clerks connected with the commission having in charge the Improvements on the Upper Mississippi river. The statements submitted by the banks indicate that \$300,000 or more has been procured from them through fraudulent time checks for services never performed. Copies of some of these time checks are said to be signed by J. H. Southall, chief clerk of the United States engineer's office at St. Paul, and are dated at different times during the year 1897. Others, it is understood, are dated in 1896. The government will begin a searching in-

St. Paul, March 23 .- Just how great the loss through the government time check fraud may prove to be cannot be known until an examination of the books of the engineering department has shown which checks are good and which false. About three weeks ago the local banks, which first became interested through some Hartford, Conn., holders of the paper, began an investigation and became satisfied that the amount of checks out was far in excess of the money appropriated by the government to carry on the work of the Upper Mississippi river.

vestigation at once.

After several interviews with Southall, in which it is claimed that he tried to prove that there was nothing in the claims, it is said that he finally admitted that fully 25 per cent of the checks that are now outstanding are worthless.

To protect themselves the banks at once took the stand that the government, having adopted a scheme for the payment of the workmen by it that enabled an employe to defraud the banks and other innocent purchasers of the papers, should be compelled to stand the loss. The filing of the claims of the banks for the payment of the entire amount of the checks was made in Washington, with the result that the matter became public.

J. H. Southall has been employed by the government for a period of more than 15 years up to six months ago. At that time he resigned the position of chief clerk of the engineering department in this city, being succeeded by J. D. Dushane. It was announced at the time that Southall retired from the position of clerk that he had made considerable money in a speculation in corn, and that he intended in the future to devote his entire time to the stock market.

His duties while he was acting as clerk were to keep the time as turned in by the foreman of the pay that was due the workmen, and to pay them off in these time checks. The checks were often bought up in large numbers by speculators, were cashed by banks and were held until the government was prepared to meet the bills, when Southall would receive a remittance direct from Washington and would then deposit the money in his own name and take up the checks with his individual checks.

By doing this for a period of 15 years his signature became perfectly well known to all banks in this vicinity. and his credit, with the government back of the paper that he issued, was considered as good as a government

Of the \$300,000 or \$400,000 worth of time checks known to be outstanding probably less than one-fourth was held by banks, and some of these were held by them for individuals. Two local banks which failed 15 months ago held over \$20,000, and nearly as much more was held by a Hartford, Conn., bank. One man in Wisconsin, whose name could not be learned, had bought \$64,000 worth of the checks, and \$40,000 more had been taken as a good personal investment by a St. Paul capitalist. In smaller amounts the time checks are understood to be held all over the country, and it will be some time before the full amount can be learned.

Southall is at his home in St. An thony Park under charge of a detective, although it is stated that he has not been formally arrested.

A Philadelphia Street Murder. Philadelphia, March 23. - Charles Guenzer, age 43 years, proprietor of a furnished room house at 410 North Sixth street, shot and fatally wounded Peter McDevitt, aged about 38 years. McDevitt came to the house with a woman acquaintance shortly before midnight. He and Guenzer had some words, and McDevitt started to walk Guenzer pulled out a revolver and shot McDevitt in the back. Mc-Devitt was taken to the Hahneman hospital, and died shortly afterwards without regaining consciousness. Guenzer was arrested.

Over Two Score Lost in a Hotel Fire. Butte, Mont., March 22 .- The Hale House, a large three story brick building on East Broadway, used as a lodging and boarding house by miners in the employ of the Anaconda company, was entirely destroyed by fire which broke out shortly after 3 o'clock in the morning. So far as known two men are dead from injuries received by jumping from the windows, another is dying and 20 are missing, while a search of the ruins may disclose the fact that many transient lodgers also lost their lives.

Our New Cruisers Renamed. Washington, March 22.-Secretary Long issued an order yesterday that the Amazonas, the cruiser recently purchased at the New Castle-on-Tyne from the Brazilian government, here-after would bear the name of New Orleans, in honor of the principal city of Louisiana. Secretary Long has also rechristened the cruiser Abreuall, and hereafter she will be known as the Albany, in honor of the capital of the

ITEMS OF STATE NEWS.

Shenandoah, Pa., March 21.-Charles Sanduskey, aged 21, and Charles Ringhelser, aged 24, quarreled over an old clay pipe. They met again later, when the quarrel was renewed. Sanduskey pulled a revolver and shot Ringheiser in the head, the bullet penetrating the brain, which caused the victim's death 20 minutes later. Sanduskey escaped to the mountains.

Lebanon, Pa., March 21 .- William J. Hemperly, driver of the Lebanon chemical engine, died Saturday from injuries received Friday night while responding to an alarm of fire. He was employed only a week ago and drove the engine three times, having an accident each time. Friday night he was pitched from the engine, the wheels of which passed over his abdomen.

Hollidaysburg, Pa., March 21.-At the Republican primaries held in Blair county Saturday Matthew S. Quay was unanimously endorsed for United States senator, William C. Arnold of Clearfield county for congressman-atlarge and John P. Elkin of Indiana county for state chairman. Five delegates pledged to support John Wanamaker for governor in the state convention were elected.

Warren, Pa., March 22 .- The Republican county convention here yesterday afternoon adopted resolutions referring to Hon. C. W. Stone, who because of his long and faithful public service is eminently qualified for the office of governor, and instructed delegates to the state convention to use all honor abe means to promote his nomination. Venango county's Republican convention took similar action.

Shamokin, Pa., March 22.-The body of Francis Tarento, of this city, was found yesterday morning across the tracks of the Northern Central railroad, underneath the trolley bridge. There were two deep wounds in his face, and it is thought he was murdered and thrown from the trolley bridge. He was employed at the Pennsylvania colliery, and drew his wages Saturday night. There was no money found on

Honesdale, Pa., March 19.-Mrs. John McKee, of White Mills, was arrested yesterday by the United States marshal and taken to Easton for a hearing on the charge of having received a pension fraudulently. She was the widow of a veteran named Boyle, and on Oct. 29, 1887, was married to John McKee, but continued to draw her pension to date. Two other women were taken with her, being implicated in the transaction.

Philadelphia, March 21 .- Theodore H. tally stabbed last night by his brother The latter twice plunged a knife into Theodore's back and slashed him several times across the face. Theodore is not expected to live. The brothers had gone to the home of their brother-in-law, William Dougherty, with the intention of assaulting him. Theodore, however, relented, and

ing 250, held a meeting Saturday even- udder of the cow carefully washed bemanufacturers an advance in their the answer could be truthfully given, wages of 10 and 20 cents. If their re- "Very rarely indeed." quest is not granted a strike will be cleansing processes should be rigidly declared. Another consignment of foreigners from Pittsburg arrived here Saturday and were put to work in the liquid by running it through a sieve, strikers' places at Buhl Steel mill, no matter how fine its meshes may be. which is a part of the Sharon Iron com- Indeed, the question should not be how pany's works.

Philadelphia, March 22.-Peter E. Smith, the Twenty-ninth ward Republican politician who was charged by Councilman Stevenson with having attempted to bribe him to vote for the Schuylkill Water company's bill, then pending in common council, yesterday surrendered himself to District Attorney Graham and entered \$10,000 bail for a hearing tomorrow. Smith's appearance yesterday is said to have been the result of an agrement between his counsel and the district attorney.

Lancaster, Pa., March 21 .-- The Quay sweep at Saturday's Republican primary election has developed in magnitude with the belated returns that came in during yesterday. Every candidate on the county ticket favored by the friends of the senior United States senator has been chosen, as have also the Quay candidates for assembly, six in number, and for the state convention, of whom there are a round dozen. The victory of J. Al Stober over Senator C. C. Kauffman, who was a candidate for renomination, is a most decisive one and a subject of general surprise. His majority will reach 1,350 at a conservative estimate.

Hazleton, Pa., March 23.-The 300 men employed at the Yorktown colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal company failed to report for duty yesterday, and a strike is now on. This decision was reached at a meeting of the United Mine Workers in Yorktown on Monday night. Everything is quiet about the works, and no violence is feared by the officials. The cause of the strike is dissatisfaction over the treatment of a fireman, John Boyle, who was reprimanded for not keeping up a good fire with the birdeye coal used at the colliery. The fireman claimed that the coal was of such qualit, that it could not be used for generating steam, and he quit work. The United Mine Workers notified Foreman Hayes that if the fireman was not reinstated they would order a strike. The company threatens to shut down the cc!liery altogether.

Norristown, Pa., March 22.-The trial of James A. Clemmer, charged with the murder of Mrs. Emma Kaiser, on Oct. 28, 1896, which began yesterday, came to a sudden stop before any of the jury had been seletced and was postponed until the June term of court. This unexpected turn of affairs was the result of a petition by the defense that the panel of jurors be quashed on the charge that Jury Commissioners Troy and McDowell had irregularly drawn the panel and for various other technical reasons. It was alleged that the commissioners had drawn the entire panel for personal and political reasons. Jury Commissioner Troy admitted sending out a circular letter to the Democratic county committee asking for the names of men who could act as jurors. Commissioner Troy said that as he was elected on the Democratic ticket he thought he had to get Demotrats for the jury.

ABOUT THE HOUSE.

THE EMERGENCY SHELF.

Itis Now a Fixture in Almost Every Well-

Regulated Household. The "emergency shelf" is now a fixture in almost every well-regulated household. Guests are nearly always expected and provided for; so ' might be better to speak of them as unheralded, rather than unexpected.

With the clean and palatable preparations of every kind now on the market, company need have no terrors for any woman who is not unduly disturbed or abnormally nervous. At the same time, the occasions are rare when a visitor is unable to notify the hostess beforehand. That he or she so often neglects to do so, is matter for regret, in the opinion of the one who writes this article. Nobleness should constrain in this respect as in many oth-

Nevertheless, as people will come unannounced, and as husbands will bring home chums without telegraphing, the remedy for flurry and worry is simple: Have on your emergency shelf a few cans of peas and tomates best brand-beef extract for bouillon. sweet corn, some jars of tomatoes canned whole for salads, a few bottles of salad dressing, a package of self-rais-ing flour, cans of salmon, corned beef, codfish, the best brands of canned soup, preserves, jellies, dried fruits and nuts, olives, pickles, and, in quite cold weather, the delicious little cream cheeses in tin-foil coverings. Of course, the housewife will understand that it is wise not to have more than two or three of the latter on hand at

Then there are such toothsome preparations of plum pudding, minced ham and tongue, boned turkey and chicken, etc., that one scarcely knows where to draw the line. Condensed milk, of course, should have a place. Crystallized figs and sweet chocolate are always acceptable to fill a pretty little bonbon dish.

Meat and cheese wafers are convenient, and also all kinds of fancy crackers.

Fresh meat, of course, cannot be kept in any great quantity, but one or two extra chops or cutlets will never come amiss.

The main thing to remember is, to keep the stock fully replenished, replacing each article promptly the very day after it is used.

Clean Cow's Milk.

It is a terrible thought, nevertheless a true one, that if the cow's milk fed to babies were only clean, thousands Davis, aged 27 years, was probably fa- and thousands of little lives would be spared each year. But the milk, in the majority of cases, is not clean. To this fact is largely due the enormous death rate among children thus artificially fed. The uncleanness begins with the process of milking and continues until the milk is swallowed as food. Is it not strange that such a simple lesson of cleanliness cannot be Simeon became enraged and turned learned? How many of those who do the milking take the trouble to thor-Sharon, Pa., March 21.-The day men oughly cleanse the hands before engagof the Sharon Iron company, number- ing in that process? How often is the ing, when it was decided to ask the fore milking? To both these questions Yet these

Germs cannot be removed from a to get the germs out, but rather how to keep them from getting in.

Cement for Crockery.

By mixing litharge-dry white lead with givcerine to the consistency of putty you can make a cement that will mend a great many things. Crockery, earthern ware and glass is readily united. It will stop leaks in the washboiler, in tinware, tighten loose joints in wood and iron, fasten on lamptops, secure bolts where the nut is lost and tighten loose ones. Never use the article mended under five or six days, and you will find it will resist heat and water, either hot or cold, also acids of the ordinary kind.

Utility of Cheap China.

"If you are troubled as we are you will never buy dishes that are anything but cheap for common use," said a housekeeper. "We select crockery that is pretty and in good taste, but it is never expensive. We have too many things broken for that. Our cups and saucers seem to go by the half dozen. We limited ourselves, at one time, to ten cents apiece for cups and saucers, and never went above that price."

Nests of Bowls.

"Whenever you come across a pretty nest of bowls that is cheap," said the housekeeper, "never fail to buy them. There is nothing that you will find more convenient in the family.'

Taking Grease Off Sewing. If grease from the machine gets on the sewing remove it from cotten with cold water, and from silk or woolen goods with naphtha or magnesia.

HOUSE DECORATING IDEAS.

Don't put borders on carpets for small rooms.

Don't hang chandeliers or lamps in low-celled rooms.

Don't be chary of rich, warm tints in

northern rooms.

Don't buy what suits the fancy, regardless of their combined effects.

Don't select anything because it is fashionable, but because it is good.

Don't have any apparent, much less any regular, arrangement to furniture.

Don't believe for a minute that expensiveness is essential to beautiful ef-

Don't make a table a pivotal point from which the rest of the furniture

Don't make a narrow door narrower with a heavy drapery. We drape too

NOT FOR EVERYTHING.

But if you have kidney, liver or blad-der trouble you will find Swamp-Root just the remedy you need. People are not apt to get anxious about their health soon enough. If you are "not quite well" or "half sick" have you ever thought that your kidneys may be the cause of your sickness?

It is easy to tell by setting aside your urine for twenty-four hours; a sediment demands of Nature. Every spring or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate, scanty supply, pain or dull ache in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder need doctoring.

There is satisfaction in knowing that the great remedy Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, fulfills every wish in relieving weak or diseased kidneys and all forms of bladder and urinary troubles. Not only does Swamp-Root give new life and activity to the kidneys—the cause of trouble, but by treating the kidneys it acts as a tonic for the entire constitution. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar. You may have a overcome by an enervating, desample bottle and pamphlet both sent free by mail, upon receipt of three twocent stamps to cover cost of postage on the bottle. Mention THE CENTRE DEMO-CRAT and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietor of this paper guarantees the genuineness of this offer.

WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE.

To afford an opportunity to visit the city while Congress is in session, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for a series of low-rate-ten-day excursions to the National Capitol, to leave Pittsburg April 14 and May 12.

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H. WETZEL. Attorney-at-law.—Office in Crider's Exchange. Special attention giv-en to surveying and engineering.

B. SPANGLER, Attorney at law .- Office in Pruner building. Consultation in German and English. Collections a specialty.

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WILLIAM G. RUNKLE. Attorney-at iaw.—in Crider's Exchange. English and German. Legal business promptly attended to.

WHAJAM J. SINGER, Attorney-at-law.-in court house. District attorney.

SPANGLER & HEWES. (J. L. Spangier and Chas. P. Hewes) Attorneys-af-iaw,—Office in Furst building, opposite court house. All legal business promptly attended to.

C. HEINLE, Attorney at-law.—in Woodring building, opposite court house. Consulta-tion in German and English.

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