

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Three companies of grizzled "Johnnie Rebs," armed with muskets and sabers which they one day used against the national government, marched on Pennsylvania avenue under a special permit from the district commissioners, stacked their antiquated arms outside the President's office in the White house grounds, deposited their furled battle flags, planted the Stars and Stripes, which had headed their picturesque column, and marched in to be received by the President of the United States with a handshake and a smile as hearty as any he ever has given to veterans who wore the blue. The mission of these Southern veterans was to invite the President to Nashville.

It was said to be the first time that Confederate veterans in their old gray uniforms, bearing arms and carrying the furled flags of the Confederacy, ever marched on Pennsylvania avenue. Be that as it may, the sight was a picturesque one, and it could hardly have been witnessed in the capital of any other country on earth. Nothing could better have illustrated the obliteration of the passions of the war time than this advent of white haired Confederate soldiers in the capital of the nation received by the President, although they were in the uniforms which stamped them as having resisted the authority of the national government with arms. They were enthusiastically welcomed by the Southerners in Washington, and particularly the ladies, but even these friendly greetings were as nothing to that of scores of Union soldiers who are still to be found everywhere about the capital, and who welcomed their old antagonists with the perfect fusillade of Yankee cheers, the shouts being answered with somewhat husky reminiscences of the famous "rebel yell."

The first co-operative experiment ever tried in the nation's capital is an attempt by the 35,000 government employes of Washington to reduce the excessive cost of living by organizing a co-operative department store. A preliminary organization has been formed and plans are now being perfected. The co-operative societies of England and Australia are to be models. The army and navy and the civil service co-operative societies of London have attained world-wide reputation for their success, and a special committee is now in communication with their managers to get details. During the past ten years the cost of living in Washington has increased from 17 to 25 per cent, while the salaries of government employes have remained stationary. The consequence is that government employes are praying for panic times. They say if this terrible prosperity continues they will be ground into the earth. The plan for the new store is to sell the goods at current market rates, and then to return the profit to members. Ten per cent will be set aside as a sinking fund to improve the store. An experienced man will be chosen for manager and will be paid

increase in the price of meat, alleged to be due to the action of the big packing establishments in refusing to pay commission men and stock raisers for animals which fall to pass the government inspection required by the new meat inspection law, will, in all probability, cause debate and may bring about legislation in the next Congress. The action of the packers is expected to arouse particularly those members of Congress who have insisted that the packers should pay the cost of the meat inspection, for which Congress now appropriates \$3,000,000 annually. One of the arguments used against this proposal has been the allegation that the packers would at once shift the cost of the inspection to the cattle raisers. Now that the packers propose to shift the loss from condemned carcasses while at the same time they profit by the advertisement of the government guaranty of the wholesomeness of their products the proponents of the plan to make them pay for the government inspection insist they have an argument. Senators Beveridge of Indiana and Gallinger of New Hampshire have already promised to renew the fight in the next Congress.

The government's definition of whiskey was settled finally by President Roosevelt, when he approved a decision of the Attorney General upholding the opinion of Dr. H. W. Wiley, chemist of the Agricultural Department. That is, that all so-called whiskeys shall be labeled just what they are, while the straight or unmodified product is the only one to be labeled whiskey. The decision is made under the pure food law and will affect 90 per cent of commercial whiskey.

After the first of July no special delivery stamp will be required to expedite a letter through the postoffice. Ten cents' worth of postage stamps of any denomination will make the letter "special." It is to be hoped that when the ruling goes into effect the department will take some pains to redeem its implied promise. As managed at present, the payment of ten cents scarcely secures as rapid delivery as the ordinary letter enjoys in many foreign countries.

Secretary of War Taft has made public a letter from the President ordering him to cause physical tests of field officers of the line to determine their ability in horsemanship. The President says he has personally observed some of these officers who were unable to ride even a few miles at an increased gait. He suggests that the tests should be thorough and should consist of a ride of not less than fifteen miles, at least ten miles of which should be at the trot and gallop.

RATS A COSTLY PEST.

CAUSE LOSS OF MILLIONS TO FARMERS.

Fast Spread of Rodents Had Feature of Situation, According to Statement of Department of Agriculture—Four Barns to Death.

The great destruction wrought by rodents is pointed out in a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture on "Methods of Destroying Rats." It declares that "an infallible method of extermination of these rodents would be worth more to the people of the United States in a single year than the Department of Agriculture has cost since its establishment." It is asserted that the brown rat is the worst mammalian pest in existence, and adds: "If for each cow, horse, sheep and hog on the farms of the United States the farmers support one rat on grain, the toll levied on the cereals by these rodents reaches the enormous total of \$100,000,000 a year. Their profligacy is the chief obstacle to their extermination. Three litters of ten each are produced every year, and one pair, breeding without check and without losses by death, in three years will be represented by ten generations, numbering 20,153,392 individuals. The eleventh generation, due at the beginning of the fourth year, would number over 100,000,000."

DEAD SON IN DISSECTING-ROOM.

Search of Kansas Farmer Ends in Morgue of University.

The search of John G. Farr, a farmer of Milan, Kan., for his son, Jay G., who wandered away from his home three months ago, ended in the morgue of the University of Kansas the other night, where he found the body embalmed and in cold storage in the dissecting classroom. The young man was killed by a Rock Island train at Perth, Sumner county, March 8. The body was unidentified, and after the usual formalities, it was sent, under the State law, to the University Medical College, where it was embalmed and put in cold storage to await the needs of the classroom. Young Farr's parents, not hearing from him, began a search. Finding a man had been killed at Perth, twelve miles away, early in March, they came to Wellington, Kan., where they were shown their son's watch, which they identified. They were told where the body had been sent and the father recovered the corpse.

FOUR DIE IN LONG BRANCH FIRE.

Children and Servants of Cigar Manufacturer Perish.

The bodies of four persons were found in the ruins of the house occupied by Walter Schiffer, secretary of the United Cigar Manufacturers' Company, which was burned in Long Branch, N. J. They were Ruth Schiffer, aged 14, and Marion Schiffer, aged 10, daughters of Mr. Schiffer, and Tilly Monahan and Mary Diller, domestics. In attempting to rescue her children Mrs. Schiffer was so severely burned as to be in a critical condition and Mr. Schiffer suffered severe burns in fighting the fire. Two guests of Mr. and Mrs. Schiffer, B. Citroen and M. Breicer, were also seriously burned.

Two Forts Are Abandoned.

An order received from the War Department announcing the abandonment of two of the most important forts in the department of Dakota. They are Fort Assiniboine and Keogh, Montana. Assiniboine is by far the largest fort in the United States in point of area, comprising 220,000 acres. Fort Keogh is next to Fort Assiniboine in size, comprising 57,600 acres.

Thread Price Goes Up.

Interests controlling the thread industry have advanced the price of thread 11 cents a dozen spools and dealers throughout the country have received formal notice of the increase. The Clark O. N. T. of Newark and the Coats and Brooks companies of New York, the largest makers, are in the combination. Retailers say the price will be put up 1 cent a spool.

Young Boy Kills Mother.

Ernest Doll, 5 years old, shot and killed his mother, Mrs. Frank Doll, at her home in Allentown, Pa. A shotgun was left standing in the room and the boy, who had seen his father load the weapon, did the same during his mother's absence. As his mother returned the boy turned the weapon upon her and pulled the trigger, killing her instantly.

Chicago Chronicle Suspended.

The Chicago Chronicle, property of John R. Walsh, went out of existence with Friday morning's issue. A brief editorial announcement explained that the paper "with this issue" would suspend publication. The reason given for suspension was that the publication of the paper "has not been profitable of late."

Bandit Kills Conductor.

While a street car, outward bound on the new Rise City Park line, was crossing the Oregon Railway and Navigation tracks in Portland, Ore., a masked robber shot conductor C. L. Nevins in the stomach, killing him. The murderer, jumping from the car, disappeared in the darkness.

Musches Vetoes Bill.

Gov. Hughes of New York vetoed the bill to compel the payment of the same salaries to women school teachers of New York City as are paid men, on the ground that it involves a great principle of the economic policy of the State, which has not received sufficient consideration.

Roosevelt on Railroads.

President Roosevelt, in his Indianapolis speech Monday day, clinched his policy toward railroads, saying stock jobbers must be punished, overcapitalization checked and publicly enforced, while at the same time honest operators must be encouraged.

Flood Destroys 260 Homes.

The bursting of the dams on the Danube have caused disastrous floods in the neighborhood of Rudolfsnad, Hungary. In Torontal county 260 houses have collapsed. Troops are succoring the distressed inhabitants.

Bill Against Home Rule.

Mayor McClellan of New York vetoed the public utilities bill on the ground that it is against home rule, and that it would give the party in power a handle by means of which to levy tribute contributions on the corporations.

Aged Woman Fights Robbers.

In a feeble effort to save her home and aged and paralytic husband from two masked burglars, Mrs. Thomas Hull, aged 75, gave battle to the men and was fatally stabbed in Alliance, Ohio.

NO HAGUE PLANS FIXED.

Peace Delegates Will Arrange Their Own Program.

The general plan of the proceedings at the second Hague peace conference probably will follow closely the procedure of the first Congress held in 1893. The Dutch government, realizing that the representatives of the forty-six powers must be complete masters of the situation, has refrained from in any way attempting to control or arrange a program of procedure. It simply offers its hospitality. The same is true of Russia.

The first thing in order will be the appointment of committees to consider the various subjects inscribed upon the Russian program. These will hardly number more than five. Unless the question of the reduction or limitation of armaments is injected into the proceedings at the outset, in which event the main struggle may be at once precipitated, the plenary body probably will not meet again for ten days or a fortnight in order that the committees have an opportunity to prepare reports. In general it is not expected that the full conference will meet more than once a week until the work of the committees justifies more frequent sessions.

Sessions of the conference and of the committees will be secret, but it is probable that a public statement of the progress will be issued daily if possible. The French language, as in 1890, will be the official language of the conference, although the advent of the South Americans and the growing influence of English may result in a compromise whereby the protocols or minutes will be inscribed in both French and English.

The government's official entertainment of the delegates will not be lavish, but rather will be in the same good taste as is its attitude with reference to the program. Nothing will be arranged which will in any way interfere with the work of the conference. The parliament has appropriated \$40,000, but this covers the expenses in connection with the sittings of the "hall of the knights," where the conference meets. In addition the government will give an entertainment, which probably will take the form of a day trip or excursion to some interesting historical spot. The municipality will give a formal reception. Queen

CHINESE DIE BY EARTHQUAKE.

Trembler in the Flowery Kingdom Spreads Ruin.

The steamer Shawmut, on arriving at Victoria, B. C., brought news of a disastrous loss of life following an earthquake at Hsin Kiang. A telegram received from Peking by the Nishi Shimban at Tokyo shortly before the Shawmut sailed reported that 4,000 persons were crushed to death, a vast number of houses destroyed and many persons left starving. The empress dowager has telegraphed urgent instructions to the local governors to take measures to relieve the distress.

Hsin Kiang or Siankiang is a province in western China, including eastern or Chinese Turkestan. It is bordered on the north by Sinciang, on the east by Mongolia, on the south by Tibet and on the west by Russian Turkestan. It is an isolated and rather sparsely settled country, the most numerous of the inhabitants being Kirghizes, Sarts, Kalmecks, Uzbeks and Tajiks. The seat of administration is at Urumchi.

The country is mountainous to a large extent and, like western Turkestan, is subject to earthquakes. Andjan, which is in the Russian portion of Turkestan, was ruined by an earthquake in 1902. The climate is severe and extremely dry. The people are engaged principally in agriculture and stock-raising and in the manufacture of silk and cotton.



RAILROADS

Wall street was surprised Thursday to learn that the directors of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific roads had authorized new issues of \$75,000,000 bonds for the former and \$35,000,000 of preferred stock for the latter.

The Burlington Railroad Company has issued from the general headquarters an order requiring all conductors employed on its 9,000 miles of road to remove their whiskers by a certain day or explain their failure to do so. It has also ordered that white vests and ties shall be worn. The



HALL OF KNIGHTS, WHERE THE PEACE CONFERENCE MEETS.

Wilhelmina, out of her private purse, will also entertain the delegates as a body. Beyond these official functions there will be much private entertaining by the Dutch aristocracy and among the diplomats themselves.

Minister Hill is extremely anxious that the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone of the palace of peace, to which Andrew Carnegie has subscribed \$1,500,000, shall take place before the conference adjourns.

Submarine Safety Device.

One of the features of the recent submarine tests at Newport was an apparatus for the escape of occupants of a disabled craft under water. It is like a diving dress in appearance, with head-piece and jacket. In the jacket is a copper flask filled with oxylyte, which generates oxygen. Before closing the glass face visor, the wearer places a tube in his mouth connected with the flask and the moisture from his breathing acts on the oxylyte so as to produce fresh air to sustain life. Oxylyte was discovered by a Frenchman, but its application to this purpose was made by the makers of the Otopus. The test was made in a hoghead of water, but was not entirely successful. The Otopus and Lake made new records recently, when their crews stayed under the waves for twenty-four hours.

Constitution Defines the Courts.

In an opinion rendered by Associate Justice Brewer of the Supreme Court in the case of Kansas vs. Colorado, the contention is made that Congress has no power, after creating a court, to limit its jurisdiction. This is the position taken by former Senator Spooner in his debate on the rate bill in the Senate. Justice Brewer says that the judicial power of a nation extends to all controversies justiciable in their nature, and when this power was vested in the courts of this nation it must be held to embrace all controversies arising within the territorial limits of the nation, no matter who may be the parties thereto.

Horses Scarce in the West.

The scarcity of horses and men in the West is one of the most noticeable features in the progress of industry, says a St. Paul dispatch to the Boston Transcript. Good draft horses, which eight years ago were worth \$40, are now selling at \$200 to \$300 each; a good team is worth \$500. These horses are needed in the lumber woods and on railway construction, but not enough can be had. Men to work in the woods are being paid \$70 a month and board. A man with a good team commands wages of \$9 a day hauling lumber and logs. Never before have the wages been so high or the prices of horses so great as now.

Going After Fertilizer Trust.

The Department of Justice has decided to begin action against all the fertilizer companies in the various States on the charge of belonging to a combination in restraint of trade, and the suits will be brought in the several States where the different companies are doing business. This is to overcome the contention of the Virginia concern which demanded a preliminary hearing before being ordered out of the State.

HAYWOOD TRIAL ON.

OPENING OF FAMOUS IDAHO MURDER CASE.

Harry Orchard, Self-Confessed Slayer of Ex-Governor Steunenberg, Tells His Story on the Stand—Prosecution's Stalling Charges.

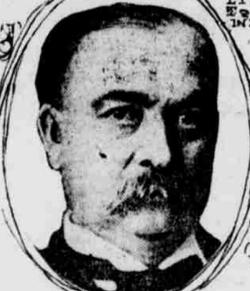
Boise, Idaho, correspondence:

Harry Orchard, the witness who was to lay the foundation for the case of the State of Idaho against William D. Haywood, charged with the murder of former Governor Frank Steunenberg, went on the stand at Boise Wednesday. The appearance of Orchard marked the real opening of the case. Orchard by his own confession is the actual murderer of Steunenberg. Haywood is the first person to be tried on the charge of that murder and the self-confessed murderer is expected, according to the statement of the prosecuting attorney, to convict Haywood.

The specific charge against Haywood is that he was accessory before the fact to the murder of Frank Steunenberg, former Governor of Idaho. Steunenberg was blown up with a dynamite bomb as he entered his front gate on the night of Dec. 30, 1905. In everyday speech, the charge is that Haywood



GOVERNOR FRANK STEUNENBERG



JAMES HAWLEY CHIEF COUNSEL FOR PROSECUTION

knew that Steunenberg was to be killed and helped plan the murder. Under the law of Idaho, as of most other states, an accessory before the fact is deemed equally guilty with the actual murderer.

Chief Prosecutor Hawley presented the introduction to the alleged trail of blood that runs through half a dozen states and leads finally to the doorstep of Frank Steunenberg, who was blown to eternity, according to the prosecution, as a part of a conspiracy within the Western Federation of Miners—a conspiracy directed by Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone and executed by Harry Orchard, Steve Adams and Jack Simpkins.

In the remarkable statement to the jury by J. H. Hawley for the State, a number of overt acts were charged against the "inner circle" of the Western Federation of Miners. Mr. Hawley, however, stated that he was holding other cases in reserve. These he agreed to submit in writing to counsel for the defense, but he said that it would be preferable for the development of his case if for the present the announcement were withheld from the public.

It is understood that the list of murders and other crimes charged against the Western Federation numbers at least twenty-six, but the specific cases mentioned by counsel for the State in his opening address were some six or seven. These murders are not confined to the State of Idaho, but extend to nearly every mining point in Colorado, and to other states.

William D. Haywood, it is declared, is not on trial for being an official of a labor union. He is not on trial in any representative character whatever. He is on trial, simply as a citizen, for helping to murder another citizen.

The lawyers for both the prosecution and the defense have publicly expressed themselves as entirely satisfied that the jurors chosen will render a fair and impartial verdict. Consequently there should be excuse for recriminations whatever the verdict may be.

Price of Whisky Goes Up.

When it became known that Attorney General Beaupre would adhere to his recent ruling about what constitutes real or "straight" whisky, wholesalers received notice that all straight whisky bottled in bond would hereafter be retailed at an increase of from 20 to 25 per cent.

GOLD MINE IN WHEAT.

Government Expert Tells How Riches May Be Won.

"A handful of wheat is worth less than a cent; and yet a single kernel in that handful may easily be worth half a million dollars. Is it not worth a little effort to discover which is the half million dollar kernel?"

The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in Washington was explaining one of the wonderful things of modern plant-breeding science. Mr. W. M. Hays was brought up in the Minnesota experiment station and is one of the authorities on this subject.

"In fairy stories there were magic pens and magic beans, which had wonderful power, concealed within them," Prof. Hays continued. "But nothing in those fairy stories is really more wonderful than the simple facts. The magic of heredity makes a single kernel of wheat equal to a gold mine, a single kernel of corn worth a king's ransom, a small and despised apple seed equal in value to the revenues of one of our richest commonwealths."

"It is the power to transmit certain qualities that gives the value. One seed has it and another has not. That is the whole proposition."

"Old Peter Gideon bought 10,000 apple seeds, and grew 10,000 apple trees. There was one in the 10,000 that had the power to ripen good fruit in the Minnesota winter. That was the magic seed. That seed has been the parent of all the fruit in the great Northwest. Its latent power was literally worth a king's ransom."



HARRY ORCHARD—SELF-CONFESSED SLAYER OF GOVERNOR STEUNENBERG



JUDGE FREMONT WOOD

"So the best grain in our Northwest States is all the offspring of a single stalk of wheat numbered 471 of the 1892 plot. This was the most promising plant grown from 400 seeds selected from the best then in existence. But, by setting this plant aside, and raising from it several crops of seed, a new strain was developed, 'Minnesota 169,' which grows from one to two more bushels to the acre."

"Do you realize what it means to add a single bushel to the yield per acre? In ten years it would add \$200,000,000 to the wealth of the country. But at the Minnesota experiment station selection and hybridizing has already produced a gain of 25 per cent in yield. This per cent, if generally applied, would add to the world's supply of wheat 625,000,000 bushels. At 80 cents a bushel this would be worth \$500,000,000 a year."

"The cost of breeding this wheat is about one-tenth of 1 per cent. And yet some business men say that the man of science does not realize about business values?"

"The beauty of plant-breeding is that any farmer can do it for himself. Patience, rather than learning, is what is required. A farmer, or small gardener, has only to select his subject and go to work at it. He may originate—or discover—a new sort which will be a gold mine to himself and to his section of the country."

Told in a Few Lines.

Fire at Carnegie, Okla., wiped out the entire business section of the town, entailing a loss of \$45,000.

Nathan Hawk, a veteran of the Mexican war and the man who in 1848 first brought east news of the California gold discoveries, is a hale and hearty citizen of Folsom, Cal.

One man was fatally hurt, another badly injured and six less seriously hurt by the explosion of a boiler in a plating mill at Sycamore, Ohio.

The ninth biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs will be held in Boston during the week beginning June 22, 1908.

Irving Talley, colored, an expert bank note raiser, was sentenced in the United States Court at Baltimore to twenty years in the federal prison at Atlanta.

Fire in New Orleans destroyed six frame residences and damaged several others at Peniston and Chestnut streets. A negro servant girl was burned to death.

FILIPINOS ARE IMPROVIDENT.

Cornell Professor Says They Lack Thrift and Self-Control.

The educational and social problems of the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico claimed the attention of the members of the American academy of political and social science at the recent annual meeting of that body in Philadelphia. Prof. E. M. Kennenyer of Cornell university, in speaking of the Philippine savings bank, said that the first postal savings bank was opened for business at Manila on Oct. 1 of last year, and by Jan. 31 of this year there were sixty-two banks in operation in various parts of the islands. At the end of December, three months after the first bank was established, there were 621 depositors, having on deposit \$92,500. "The principal classes of depositors in the order of their numerical importance were clerks, artisans, professional men, laborers, soldiers and sailors and policemen. He said: 'A striking fact in the figures is that of the 621 depositors up to Dec. 31 900 were Americans and ninety were Filipinos. The evidence is sufficient to prove a strong witness to the truth of the Philippine population for improvidence, and in so doing to show the imperative need of an educational institution like the postal savings bank and of carrying on a vigorous educational campaign through the schools and through the officers of the bank in the interest of teaching the saving habit to the rising generation of Filipinos. For until the Filipino has learned the lessons of providence, thrift and self-control which the saving habit exemplifies and inculcates he cannot expect any high degree of either economic or political independence.'"

CALLED WASHINGTON TRAITOR.

English Girl Starts a Riot in an Omaha High School.

In Omaha the other day a school girl started a riot by describing George Washington as a traitor. The girl is a pupil at the high school. She was born in England, and still sees history through British eyes. In the course of the history class recitation the teacher unsuspectingly made laudatory remarks regarding the "Father of his Country," which were more than this English-bred miss could brook, and she broke forth vehemently with "George Washington was a



HARRY ORCHARD—SELF-CONFESSED SLAYER OF GOVERNOR STEUNENBERG



DETECTIVE JAMES MCFARLAND

base traitor. He abandoned the mother country and raised arms against her. He was the real Benedict Arnold of the revolution." Instantly the class was in an uproar, but the English girl held her ground and it was several minutes before quiet was restored.

KILL HOPELESS CONSUMPTIVES.

Noted Specialist So Advises National Tuberculosis Convention.

Dr. S. A. Knopf, the famous New York tuberculosis specialist, who was decorated by Emperor William of Germany for his work in fighting the white plague, and who received a prize of \$5,000 for the best treatise upon that disease, started the national tuberculosis congress at Washington by advising that hopeless sufferers from tuberculosis be killed quickly and painlessly by heavy doses of morphine. He said it was his practice to do that, and he regarded it as a sacred duty that the end might come quickly and painlessly.

The committee on medication had made a report condemning the use of morphine and its compounds in these cases, and a bitter debate was in progress when Dr. Knopf spoke. Doctors Flick and Landis had approved the report, but favored using cressote in advanced cases. Knopf was opposed to the use of cressote, but said he did use heroin and codein, both of which contain morphine or cocaine.

One of the plans endorsed by the congress is to organize classes of consumptives among workmen and school children for home treatment instead of in hospitals and sanitariums. Dr. Fulton said the secret of the success of the home treatment was that not only the patient, but the entire family, learned the road to health. While the man who returns from a sanitarium usually cannot change his family's mode of life, Dr. Loveman urged the inclusion of consumptive school children in special classes, which, so far as possible, may be taught in the open air.

San Franciscans Fear to Ride.

While the United Railroads, which control the San Francisco trolley system, have succeeded in running more than half their usual number of cars, despite the strike of union men, these cars are receiving but scant patronage, through the fear of the public to incur the possibility of the unions by riding. The big department and dry goods stores provide omnibuses to carry their employes home, and notices have been posted in many of these stores warning clerks and other employes not to patronize the cars, on penalty of dismissal.