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Mr. Hamilton not only came back but brought a roorback.

The way to reform congress is to begin at your own hearthstone.

The battle for the people in 1908 must be won by preparations in 1906 and 1907.

Between the Hamilton comeback and the New York Life putback, the people are enjoying themselves quite nicely, thank you.

The coal mine operators declare for the "open shop" for their employes but steadfastly adhere to the "closed shop" for themselves.

Mr. Cleveland is down in Florida keeping a stern eye on the insurance directors who meet within call of 26 Broadway, New York City.

It is said that John D. Rockefeller is suffering from nervous prostration. If he is he is now well aware of what he has caused a lot of would-be competitors to suffer.

Speaking of freak measures introduced into state legislatures, have you ever noticed the results upon the United States senate of freak voting in the aforesaid legislatures?

Now that monkey talk is to be added to the linguistic curriculum of Chicago university the Washington Post is interested in knowing the monkey who will be tendered the professorship.

It is not to be expected that Mr. Dalrymple of Glasgow will be able to appreciate the subtle humor connected with the simultaneous publication of his report and the decision of the supreme court.

Six hundred Moros have been benevolently assimilated, but the benevolent gentlemen responsible for the work have not devised any method of conveying information of the fact to the assimilated.

Great Britain has taken out insurance on her warships to the amount of \$50,000,000. The insurance companies consented to taking the risk after learning that there was no probability of war with Uncle Sam.

The report that a poulterer in New Jersey officiated a breed of hens that lays eggs with if the, thereon, reminds us that what most of that is an egg product that is not so easy to the into. They are held too long now.

Washington, D. C., March 26.—In spite of the recommendations of high officials of the department in their last annual reports that the appropriations for the rural free delivery service could be curtailed without injury to the same the disposition in congress is to increase the amount as shown by the house bill reported the other day. In round numbers it is proposed to spend for this service during the coming fiscal year \$28,000,000.

Some of the congressmen have thought that the railroads have been getting more than their just share for carrying the mails, and efforts were made this session in the committee to cut down the allowance, but they failed.

Men and women of advanced years employed in the Washington departments are much excited over the efforts being made in congress to not only reduce their pay, but to put them out of the service after they reach the age of seventy. It is very doubtful if there will be any legislation on the subject this session, however. In nearly all the departments the work is so behind that there is constant complaint on the part of the lawmakers of the nation. The fault does not lie with the older employes in reality any more than with the younger set. Each session the high officials go before the committees of congress with requests for extra clerks. The expense keeps piling up in the face of a well known fact that the average government clerk in this city does not perform half the labor in a year that ought reasonably to be exacted. The salaries paid are better than the compensation in private occupations. Each clerk besides has an annual leave of thirty days. In reality under a system of counting the Sundays the leave is nearer two months. There are also a great many holidays, and for almost three months in the summer season the departments close at 1 o'clock on Saturdays. The sick leave is energetically worked in all of the departments, and the clerks seem to have little difficulty in remaining away from office day after day. And yet the average employe here thinks that the lot of the "government hireling," as they like to style themselves, is a hard one. They constantly complain that they are not paid enough, and a systematic movement has been on foot for several years to ultimately bring about a retirement plan that if put into operation would virtually mean a civil pension list.

About a year ago President Roosevelt appointed what is known as the Keep commission, the object being to make an examination of the departments with a view of finding out the best means of improving the efficiency among the employes. From his own investigations the president does not believe that much corruption exists, but he has made it plain in some recent talks to officials that he is strongly of the opinion that in nearly every big bureau there is a slack state of affairs. The government printing office is a notable instance. While it is true that the printing office is the largest of its kind in the world it has been apparent to nearly every one of sense and judgment for some years that it has been too extravagantly operated. This is partly the fault of congress which has not adopted the suggestion repeatedly advanced by some members that there should be a rigid investigation of the big shop. If this were brought about it is the belief of many that fully \$1,000,000 a year could be saved. Representative Charles Landis, of Indiana, chairman of the house printing committee, has contended that this would be the case; but the trouble is that the average republican knows that if a saving is effected at the printing office it means a heavy reduction in the force, and they have the establishment filled with their partisans whom they are cautious about offending.

The passage of the bill to reorganize the consular service is bad news for a number of the office-holders who are filling the more important positions like London, Paris, Berlin, and Liverpool, as the enormous fees will be cut off. In future the government will get all the fees that have been going into the pockets of the consuls-general. London and Paris will have a straight salary of \$12,000 attached. In years gone by the London consulate has been worth anywhere from \$25,000 to \$60,000, depending upon the condition of trade. In March of last year the president appointed Robert J. Wynne to this position and at the time it was easily considered the best office from a money view the executive had at his disposal. Mr. Wynne had just retired as postmaster general, and before going into the cabinet had been the first assistant postmaster

general. While in the latter office he was instrumental in unearthing the frauds in the department. A number of the officials were indicted, tried and sent to the penitentiary. It was on account of his activity in exposing this crookedness that President Roosevelt determined to reward Mr. Wynne by sending him to London. Since congress has passed the bill referred to there is talk here that Mr. Wynne will not remain long in London. The bill generally raises the pay of the consuls, and that was accomplished by lopping off the fees that were allowed at the big posts.

The Jamestown exposition will receive substantially all the recognition asked by the officials of the company, and it is expected that congress will vote about \$1,500,000 in addition to the sum of \$250,000 that was appropriated by the last congress for the entertainment of the officers and men in the foreign armies and navies expected to visit us next year. From an industrial standpoint the Jamestown exposition will not be a big affair like that held two years ago at St. Louis. It was never intended by its promoters that it should be. It will be different from anything of the sort ever undertaken in the United States, and it is expected that the naval features will be the most interesting of the exhibition. As is well known the exposition is to be held off Hampton Roads, unquestionably one of the finest harbors in the world.

Many months ago President Roosevelt officially invited the nations of the earth to participate in the celebration in honor of the planting of the first English speaking colony on the American continent. He has done all in his power this session to impress upon congress the necessity of extending the aid that was asked by the exposition company officials, and largely through his efforts and several members of the cabinet who appeared before the house committee a favorable report was ordered on the bill.

In 1913 the people of the Pacific slope propose to hold an exposition at San Francisco. That will be in honor of the discovery of the Pacific ocean by Balboa in 1513.

ALFRED J. STOFER.

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