

## WASHINGTON NEWS

In connection with an announcement of examinations for the positions of fourth-class postmasters in the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Florida, New Mexico, Virginia and North Carolina, issued by the civil service commission on November 16, a statement issued by the post-office department said: "President Wilson's order of May 7 removed the cloak of civil service protection from a large body of fourth-class postmasters who had been blanketed into the classified service by President Taft and directed that these positions be thrown open to civil service competition. The examinations will be open to the present postmasters of these offices as well as to any other persons who desire to compete." Postmaster General Burleson stated that he desired it distinctly understood that it is his purpose to carry out the intent of President Wilson's order, and that selections would not be made simply upon or because of a recommendation of a member of congress.

A new arrangement of stars in the American flag has been accepted by the war department. The design is somewhat on the order of the Union

Jack, and is so placed as to give more room on the blue field for the additional states which come into the union. In the centre is a huge five-pointed star composed of 13 stars, representing the 13 original states. About this design is a circle of stars representing the other 25 states.

Immigration to the United States during the month of September, according to a statement issued by the department of labor, aggregated 209,076 persons, of whom 2,337 were deported.

An official count of all the silver dollars in the San Francisco mint, has revealed that \$22 were stolen, probably in 1880, according to a report made to Director of the Mint George Roberts. Several months ago one of the bags of silver in the mint was found to contain iron washers. Every bag was opened and all the money counted.

Washington society was interested in the announcement that there would be no New Year's reception at the White House, as President Wilson would be away from Washington and felt the need of a vacation before

congress reassembled after the holiday recess.

John Hobart Marble, the only member of the Interstate Commerce commission appointed by President Wilson, died suddenly in Washington, November 21, after an illness of two days, which proved to be an attack of uraemic poisoning. Mr. Marble was born in Ashland, Neb., February 26, 1869. He was educated at the public schools and the University of Nebraska. He learned the printer's trade and became an active member of the Typographical union. In 1893 he married Mattie Louise O'Bryan. Ten years later he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in San Francisco until 1906. After his arrival in San Francisco he worked for nine years as a linotype operator in the office of The Star and edited the paper whenever its editor, James H. Barry, was absent from his desk. While a member of The Star force, he studied law by day in the office of Franklin K. Lane, now secretary of the interior, and worked at The Star on the "second shift" at night to support his family. After admission to the bar he had offices with Secretary Lane, who, after his appointment to the Interstate Commerce commission, appointed him as his secretary. In 1906 Mr. Marble became attached to the commission as attorney in charge of the division of inquiry. In 1912 he became secretary of the commission, and in the same year added materially to his reputation by his examination of witnesses in the Lorimer investigation, as one of the counsel for the senate committee on privileges and elections. He was appointed to the Interstate Commerce commission to succeed Secretary Lane, who resigned to become a member of President Wilson's cabinet. Mr. Marble is survived by his wife, his father and his daughter, Miss Hazel Marble.

Beats of the Paris observatory clock, transmitted by wireless, were heard at the United States naval observatory in Washington, after three weeks of experiments. The beats were compared with the Washington clock for some minutes.

Agents of the department of justice began an investigation on November 24 of the alleged combination of cold storage concerns, which Attorney General McReynolds says may be responsible for the high price of eggs and other products. If a combination is discovered criminal prosecution may result.

President Wilson made the following nominations for American members of the Philippine commission: Secretary of public instruction and vice-governor of the Philippine islands, Henderson S. Martin of Kansas; secretary of commerce and police, Clinton L. Riggs of Maryland; secretary of the interior, Winfred T. Denison of New York.

The statement of the country's foreign trade, issued November 24, shows the largest excess of merchandise exports over imports attained in any month of the country's history. Exports for October ran \$138,000,000 above imports. The highest previous excess was \$124,700,000, in November, 1912. October exports were \$16,900,000 above the best previous October record, and its excess of exports was \$62,000,000 above October, 1912. Exports for the ten completed months exceeded \$2,000,000,000; they surpassed all precedent records for the period. The ten months' excess of exports, \$544,800,000, also broke all records.

There was a decrease of more than \$38,000,000 in the importation of

merchandise into the port of New York during the month of October, compared with the same period last year, according to a statement of the foreign commerce at that port, issued by the custom house. The figures are for the first four weeks of the operation of the new tariff law. The total duties collected were \$20,270,000, which is \$286,000 in excess of October, 1912, but the increase is due to the payment of duties on heavy withdrawals from bonded warehouses, which followed immediately after the passage of the new tariff act. The withdrawals amounted to \$20,620,000 compared with \$8,933,000 in October, 1912. The total imports during October amounted to \$71,691,438, about half of which consisted of duty free goods. The October imports of a year ago were valued at \$109,821,079, 57 per cent of which consisted of duty free goods. The exports of merchandise last month amounted to a little more than \$84,000,000, an increase of \$7,000,000, compared with the figures for the corresponding month last year.

Arguments to support the petition of railroad lines east of the Mississippi river and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers to increase their freight tariffs 5 per cent were presented to the Interstate Commerce commission November 24.

M. B. Mintzman, entomologist of the Philippine department of agriculture, announced the discovery that anthrax is transmitted by the stable fly.

Representative McDonald, of Michigan, introduced a resolution for an investigation of private ownership of natural resources. The copper strike situation in Michigan is said to have inspired the resolution.

Secretary Garrison transmitted to the house his estimates for the military establishment during the next fiscal year, aggregating \$106,000,000, which is about \$10,000,000 greater than the figures submitted a year ago for the army bill.

Estimates for appropriations for the agricultural work of the government for the next fiscal year aggregate \$25,000,000.

Secretary Daniels' estimates sent to the house asked an appropriation of \$145,000,000 for the navy. The total was \$5,000,000 less than last year, but provision was made for two battleships, eight destroyers and three submarines.

The principal producing countries of wheat, oats and barley in the northern hemisphere showed an increased production of these cereals this year over last, according to a cablegram from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, Italy.

The house territories committee submitted a bill providing for a \$35,000,000 government-built railway system for Alaska. The bill which is a substitute for pending measures, has the avowed approval of Secretary of the Interior Lane.

Peace among the nations of the western hemisphere was the keynote of the annual Pan-American Thanksgiving mass celebrated at St. Patrick's church, November 27, and at the luncheon that followed at the rectory. President Wilson and his cabinet attended. In addition to a distinguished company of citizens of the United States there were present nearly all the members of the diplomatic body from Central America, South America and West Indian re-

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