

RED CLOUD CHIEF

A. G. MOSMER, Proprietor.

RED CLOUD, - - - NEBRASKA.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Commissioner of Patents has decided that abandoned applications for patents are not public property and can not be examined by patent attorneys.

A decree winding up the Wabash receivership of General John McNulta was entered by consent of all creditors and other interested parties by Judge Gresham at Chicago on the 18th.

The French Minister of War proposes to double the army corps at Nancy and to double the railway facilities from Lille, Lyons and Besancon to the German frontier, so that 30,000 troops can reach there in three days.

The Cabinet meeting of the 15th was devoted almost exclusively to the discussion of trade relations with Mexico and the retaliatory policy as reported by Minister Ryan. It was said the Cabinet approved of Secretary Windom's proposed decision on lead ore.

A RECENT statement issued by the Treasury Department gives the value of articles of breadstuffs exported during September at \$9,874,788, a decrease of nearly \$3,000,000 as compared with September 1888. For nine months, however, the increase is nearly \$7,000,000.

THE Austro-Hungarian Cabinet crisis is ended and Von Tisza's Cabinet will continue in office. Harmony has been restored through the concessions of Emperor Francis Joseph, who has agreed to the designations "Imperial Austrian Army" and "Royal Hungarian Army."

JOHN DOUGHERTY was married to the daughter of a well-to-do mechanic of Harlem, N. Y., the other day, having been taken, from prison to the bride's home for the performance of the ceremony. Five minutes later he was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years for burglary.

CONSUL GADE, of Christiania, Norway, reports to the State Department that there is likely to be an increased emigration of Mormons from Norway to the United States during the coming year. The Mormons have nine stations and a large number of workers in Norway, and since 1852 have sent 5,000 Norwegians to Utah.

THE Attorney-General has decided that the appointment of J. M. Taylor, of Illinois, in the railway mail service on April 29 was legal, even though Taylor did not take the oath until some time after the civil-service rules went over that service. The Attorney-General holds that the appointments are legal from dates when made, and not when the appointee is sworn in.

GOVERNMENT officers have seized the distillery of Freiburg & Werkum, at Lynchburg, O., on a charge of defrauding the United States by equalizing shortages in packages before the gauger measured the contents. This, it is claimed, saved to them the payment of much Government tax and being a violation of revenue laws subjected the entire property to seizure. The whisky seized amounted to more than a million gallons.

THERE are a great many fires in the marshes and prairies in the vicinity of Faribault, Minn. Fox lake, which is now a grass-grown marsh, is on fire and the peaty bottom is burning down to the clay. The burning tract comprises about one hundred acres. Fires also have been burning near Mud lake, and have burned holes in the peat five feet deep. Other fires are also burning near Faribault in marshes, woods, etc., causing great loss.

THE will of Mary J. Havemeyer, the widow of William Havemeyer, the millionaire sugar refiner, was filed for probate at New York recently. The entire estate is divided among five children. The sixth, Mrs. Agnes Josephine Burnham, is exempt from division because "she is happily married and her position guarantees her all needed comfort and support." She is, however, permitted to select two pieces of her mother's jewelry as a token of affection.

WITH a view to checking the frequent desertions from the army, paragraph 908 of the regulations governing enlistment, has been amended so that recruits shall be detained six days after signing the declaration of intention to enlist. They will during that time be instructed in their new duties, and if at the end of that period they desire to enlist they will be sworn in, but if they should change their minds or any good objection be raised then they will be permitted to depart.

At the recent session of the National Board of Trade at Louisville, Ky., resolutions were passed opposing any modification of the Inter-State Commerce law, especially of the clause prohibiting pooling, and favoring National supervision of insurance and uniformity of insurance legislation, a reduction of Federal revenues in the way which will least embarrass industries and trade, Congress to consider plans for irrigation and reciprocity trade relations with Canada. There was energetic discussion, but on final vote very little opposition to these resolutions.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Gleaned by Telegraph and Mail.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

ITALY desires a protectorate over Abyssinia. AT the Interior Department it is thought that 20,000 Indians will be entitled to vote at the next Presidential election as a result of recent legislation. Politicians consider them a very uncertain factor. GILBERT L. LAWS has been nominated by the Republicans to succeed the late Mr. Laird, Congressman from the Second Nebraska district.

THE new British Minister, accompanied by Lady Pauncefoot, arrived at Washington on the 15th. THE President has signified his intention to be present at the laying of the corner stone of the new Catholic University at Brook Station, Md.

SIR DANIEL GOOCH, the noted British civil engineer, died in London recently aged seventy-four. THE Republican caucus at Pierre, S. D., selected Frank Pettigrew, of Sioux Falls, and Judge G. C. Moody, of Deadwood, for United States Senators.

CONGRESSMAN NEWTON A. CUTTING died at his home in Oswego, N. Y., on the 15th. EX-GOVERNOR E. A. PERRY, of Florida, died recently in Texas. THE Loyal Legion met at Philadelphia on the 16th, when ex-President Hayes was re-elected Commander-in-Chief.

IT is believed that the African explorer Monk has been killed by his men on the Zambesi river. ELBERT K. KIMBALL, United States District Attorney, died at Kansas City, Mo., on the 16th of congestive chills. THE death of General John F. Hartranft makes a vacancy in the Cherokee Commission, and nothing more can be done now toward securing the Cherokee Strip in the Indian Territory for settlement until the vacancy is filled.

GERMANY has publicly announced her refusal to recognize Mataba as King of Samoa. OLIVER C. BOSBYSHILL has been appointed superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia.

SENATORS Moody and Pettigrew have been formally declared elected by the South Dakota Legislature. AMOS J. CUMMING, the well-known correspondent and member of the editorial staff of the New York Sun, has been nominated by Tammany to fill the vacancy in the Ninth district caused by the death of "Sunset" Cox.

THE President has appointed Richard E. Sloan, of Arizona, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona. IT is announced that Mr. Gladstone will deliver an address at Manchester on December 3. It is expected that he will issue a manifesto on the political situation in the United Kingdom.

GENERAL HARTMAN, ex-Governor of Pennsylvania, died at Norristown on the 17th from a combination of kidney troubles. REAR ADMIRAL WALKER expects to sail with his squadron some time in November. He will proceed first to Lisbon and thence to Fayal.

PRINCE FERDINAND, of Bulgaria, it was reported, traveled strictly incognito during his recent visit to the Paris Exposition, fearing that attempts would be made on his life. MAGGIE MITCHELL, the actress, has married her manager, Charles Abbott.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CAMDEN, O., was badly damaged by fire on the 16th. THE Mission creek country in Minnesota was ravaged by fires. Much lumber was burned. G. B. SQUIRES, of Brooklyn, N. Y., special agent of the General Land-office, has been dismissed. Squires was formerly private secretary to Pension Commissioner Tanner.

THE International Maritime conference met at Washington on the 16th. The delegates were cordially welcomed by Secretary Blaine. AN explosion occurred in a Staffordshire (England) colliery on the 15th. Twenty-five miners were entombed. The first searching parties found sixty dead bodies.

THE State of Kansas has been awarded a gold medal for the best agricultural report, also a silver medal for its labor report. "Honorable mention" was awarded to the Conway Springs and Douglas Sugar Companies. WILLIAM DRAPER and John Olsen were hanged at Placerville, Cal., on the 16th for the murder of John Lowell on his ranch March, 1888. John Myers was hanged last November for the same crime, his two accomplices escaping for a time by taking an appeal.

THE accident on the Mount Auburn inclined plane at Cincinnati was caused by a little piece of iron which got wedged in the cut-off valve. FEARS are expressed that the tour of the Pan-American delegates has been overdone, many of them being positively weary of the rushing from town to town and the endless sight-seeing.

A BOSTON dispatch says the entire plant of the Brush Electric Company has been sold to the Thomson-Houston Electric Company for a cash consideration of \$3,250,000. THE reported railroad collision in Colorado between Burlington and Union Pacific passenger trains was found to be false.

THE Long Hol or Red river of China has been opened to commerce. At the railway station at Brussels, Belgium, the other day, a passenger train dashed into buffers at full speed, wrecking several carriages and injuring thirty persons.

THE Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers met at Denver, Col., on the 16th. BY a collision between a car left on the track at Heath, Ind., and a freight train the other morning many cars were wrecked, one man was killed and several others were injured.

THREE cases of small-pox were reported in Boston recently, the first in over a year. THE Missouri Pacific road announces that it will quote established rates between Chicago and Kansas City in connection with the Illinois Central and Vandalia. This opens another line between Chicago and Kansas City, making eight in all.

THE Atlas line steamship Athos, which broke New York after a terrible voyage, reports that Hippolyte, of Hayti, was busy preparing for his election. THE people of Indianapolis are refusing to pay for rides on the street cars which have dropped the conductors and put back the old box system.

THE North Alabama Lumber Company at Bridgeport, Ala., has an assignment. Liabilities, \$120,000; assets scheduled, \$140,000. NEWS has reached Constantinople that Turkish soldiers have mutinied at Canes, Lady beating many of their officers, who endeavored to discipline them.

SOCIALISTS decorated the graves of the Anarchists in Waldheim cemetery, Chicago on the 17th.

TWO ladies of Frankfurt, Ind., were struck by a train at a crossing the other day and fatally injured. THE five Apache Indians who were tried and convicted at Florence, Ariz., for murder have been sentenced to be hanged. Three were charged with the murder of Diehl two years ago and two with the murder of Jones.

ONE man was killed and three fatally injured by the fall of a scaffolding at the new water works at Bethlehem, Pa., recently. EX-MAYOR LEWIS of New Haven, Conn., proposes a World's Fair feature to recognize the 40th anniversary of the discovery of America by lighting great bonfires simultaneously on the hilltops all over the country.

HENRY WIGFALL, a barber of Atlanta, Ga., swallowed a fish bone recently and died soon after in great agony from strangulation. THE factory and stock of the Pine Door & Lumber Company of Grant's Pass, Ore., was destroyed by fire the other night. The loss was \$51,000.

THE marine conference at Washington is devoted to the discussion of technical matters. WASHINGTON is beginning to boom its World's Fair project.

THE American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in session in New York elected officers as follows: President, R. S. Storrs, D. D.; vice-president, E. W. Litchford; recording secretary, Henry A. Stimson; assistant recording secretary, E. N. Packard; treasurer, Langdon S. Ward.

At the meeting of the railway brakemen in Minneapolis Hon. L. S. Coffin, of Iowa, advised them to urge Congress to take action in the matter of safety appliances. JOSEPH PAUL, a Chicago boy, met an awful death recently. He was caught between an immense flywheel and the belt.

IT is estimated that 26,000,000 persons will have visited the Paris Exposition when it closes. JOHN LEWIS, Jerome Race and Thomas Conroy, three youths of eighteen, were instantly killed on the Hudson River track near Hudson, N. Y., recently. They stepped from one track to another to avoid a train when a locomotive struck them.

THE Emperor of China has authorized the building of a railroad between Peking and Hankow. THE cotton oil trust has filed application to increase its capital stock to \$27,000,000 and form a corporation, thus avoiding the legal penalties to which it was liable in New York.

CHILL has abolished many import duties on tools and material used in agriculture and the building of railroads, etc. ONE of the scrub women at the Hamburg (Germany) zoological gardens was killed recently by a jaguar which managed to seize her through the bars of his cage.

SECRETARY WINDOM has announced that he will retain the old rules governing the importation of Mexican lead ores. BUSINESS failures (Dun's report) for the seven days ended October 17 numbered 223, compared with 224 the corresponding week of last year. The figures include Canada.

MUCH destitution is reported among the foreign laborers at Lynch's canning works, Kent County, Md. The manager had departed leaving the men with checks which the stores refused to honor. An immense prairie fire was reported raging a few miles from Bismarck, N. D., on the 18th. The village of Monokin was entirely swept away.

THE inquiry at the Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, has ended. The depositions make 300 pages. At Millsport, Lamar County, Ala., a few days ago, William Abercrombie, white, of Birmingham, Ala., held up the express agent and secured \$8,000, received by him that night.

THE Western whisky trust is said to be scheming to break up the outside distillers. Half a million dollars will be spent if necessary. ADDITIONAL DISPATCHES.

GREEN H. RAUM has been appointed Commissioner of Pensions. THE King of Portugal who had previously been reported dead on a false telegram, died at Lisbon on the 19th. His eldest son, the Duke of Braganza, succeeds him as Carlos I.

By the burning of a stove at Lemons, Belgium, recently the proprietor and three assistants were burned to death. THE Serbian Skutschina opened on the 20th.

GOVERNOR FORAKER, of Ohio, who had been extremely sick, was reported on the 20th to be recovering on the 20th. WILLIE PRINCE William, of Wurtsburg, Central railroad, north of Marshfield, Wis., was destroyed by fire recently. Loss, \$100,000.

THE London Stock Exchange was depressed during the week ended October 19. The Continental bourses were reported quiet with an upward tendency at Berlin.

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NEBRASKA STATE NEWS.

A COWARDLY murder was committed at Albright, near the Sarpy County line, the other night by Samuel Peterson, the hired man of Rasmus Hanson. Hanson had accused a family named Williams of stealing vegetables from his place and made threats against them. In the evening Williams' daughter Lizzie, sixteen years old, and her brother were attracted by the barking of their dog and followed it across a field when they were fired on by Peterson and the girl fatally wounded. The assassin then fired a pistol at the boy. Peterson was jailed at Papillion.

THE court martial at Fort Omaha in the case of Captain Dempsey, charged with assaulting Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher, bestowed a mild reprimand on the Captain and restored him to duty. "The court is thus lenient," says the finding, "because of the indecisive and unofficial manner in which commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher conducted himself throughout the entire case."

JURORS were rendered in the district court at Fremont the other day for \$2,000 in favor of Dodge County against the bondsmen of Louis Spear. Spear held the office of clerk of the district court for the county one term. When the court house burned on the 21st of December, 1887, a large number of the records of his office were left in the court room and were destroyed. In the suit it was shown that inasmuch as he had a vault in which to keep his books and did not do so he should be held for their value. Soon after the fire Spear disappeared and his bondsmen will have to make good the loss to the county.

THE final order was made by the State Board of Transportation the other day in the coal rate question which reduces the rates from 40 to 60 per cent; gives 20 cents per ton for initial and terminal charges and adds one cent per mile for the first fifty miles; eight mills per ton per mile for the second fifty miles; six mills per ton per mile for the second hundred miles; five mills per ton per mile for a distance over 300 miles. The several roads are required to adopt this schedule within thirty days of the receipt of the order.

THE thirty-second annual session of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Nebraska convened at Grand Island on the 15th. There have been nine new subordinate lodges and six new Rebekah degree lodges organized during the year, making a total of 159 subordinate lodges and forty-five Rebekah degree lodges in the State and a total membership of 7,732; Subordinates, 7,032; Rebekahs, 702. The total amount of relief paid by subordinate lodges during the year has been \$8,734.48. The total receipts of subordinate lodges have been \$63,125.92; expenses, \$38,875.59, making an excess of receipts over expenses of \$24,250.33. The total assets of subordinate lodges amount to \$284,941.52.

MRS. JOHN PETERS, residing near Fontenelle and one of the oldest residents of the county, dropped dead the other day. A SKEL recently exploded in the hands of Joseph Jackson, of Blair, a son of the county treasurer, tearing his left hand to pieces and crippling him for life.

THE Democratic State Convention, which recently met at Omaha to select candidates for Judge of the Supreme Court and Regents of the State University, adopted resolutions protesting against the protective policy of the Republican party; protesting against appropriations to irrigate arid lands because farmers should not be further taxed to create competition; denouncing the Sugar Bounty law passed by the last Legislature; protesting against subsidies of any kind to steamship lines or railroad corporations, and demanding that the Government enforce payment from defaulting corporations; favoring a judicious license law; commending the utterances of Corporal Tanner, late Commissioner of Pensions, that "the affidavit of a private soldier shall be worth as much as that of a commissioned officer," but protesting against the prevailing abuses of the pension bureau, and demanding the elimination of all fraudulent pensioners from the rolls, so that deserving soldiers may thus enhance their security for the just debt which the Government rightfully owes to them.

THE Republican Judicial convention assembled at Omaha and refused to endorse the nomination of Joseph R. Clarkson, who had been recommended by the members of the bar to succeed Judge Groff for district judge, and nominated H. J. Davis. The Democratic convention met a few days later and endorsed the nomination of Clarkson.

THE other night burglars entered Ed. Pratt's jewelry store, at Fremont, while he was absent at supper, and stole about \$500 worth of goods, consisting of gold and silver watches, gold rings, etc. The same night J. Cox, an Oregon shipman, was attacked and robbed at the Union Pacific depot, held up and robbed of \$150 in money and a gold watch valued at \$20. It was thought the same parties committed both robberies.

THERE are 310 students enrolled in the schools of Broken Bow. LOGAN COUNTY voters will decide at the general election a proposition to bond the county to fund the outstanding indebtedness.

NEAR Grand Island the other day Charles Echternacht, a young man of twenty years, left home to husk corn, taking a shotgun along in the wagon for the purpose of scaring wild geese. About half an hour after leaving the team came rushing back home and the young man was found in the bottom of the wagon completely dismembered, both barrels of the gun having been discharged, he receiving the full charge in the stomach. No one knew how the accident happened.

THE other night as Oscar Kayser, a dealer in furnishing goods at Bellevue, was about to retire for the night, he heard some one rattle at his front door. He opened the door in a few minutes, when he was confronted with the command, "throw up your hands," reinforced by a couple of revolvers. He did as ordered and was relieved of \$16 in cash, a check for \$33 and several notes. After the robbery was ordered to conduct the robbery to Wright's store and in short order they relieved Wright of a gold watch and a small sum of money. There was no clew to their identity.

THE Prohibitionists of the Second Congressional district have nominated Rev. C. E. Bentley, of Butler County, for Congress. DIPHTHERIA has made its appearance at Crete.

AN effort is being made to establish a State base-ball league for next season to be composed of clubs at Kearney, Lincoln, Hastings, Grand Island, Fremont, Beatrice and Plattsmouth.

THE Democratic State convention recently met at Omaha and nominated Hon. John N. Ames, of Lincoln, for Supreme Court Judge and W. S. McKennan, of Andrews County, and P. W. Hess, of Platte County, for Regents of the State University.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

The Tariff, Civil-Service, Trusts and Race Questions Will Occupy the Approaching Session.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—As members elect to the Fifty-first Congress reach the city gossip respecting the organization of the next House of Representatives naturally increases. The consensus of opinion among members-elect now here indicates that the Speakership will go either to Maine, Mr. Reed, or Ohio, Mr. McKinley. Messrs. Burrows, of Michigan, and Cannon, of Illinois, are both on the ground, however, and it is said will at least make the contest interesting before balloting begins. At this time it would be a very difficult undertaking to pick out the stronger candidate.

Major John Carson, of the Philadelphia Ledger, appears to have already practically captured the clerkship of the next House. In his modest way he has been working all summer, and it is claimed by his friends that he has pledged sufficient to elect on the first ballot.

Colonel Swords appears to have no rival for the position of sergeant-at-arms, while there are several candidates for the offices of door-keeper and post-master.

There are not many Senators and Representatives in Washington now, but most of those here expect a very interesting and busy session of Congress during the coming winter. The tariff, trusts, the Civil-Service law, the Inter-State Commerce law, the educational question, a National election law and subsidies will be among the subjects that will engage the attention of Congress. What are recognized as the great questions of the day will for the most part be presented as party measures and are likely to render the coming session a very important one.

Senator Dolph thinks Congress will take no step backward in the matter of legislation of Inter-State Commerce or Civil-Service reform. Both the Inter-State Commerce law and the Civil-Service law, he thinks, will probably be amended, but not so to destroy their efficiency. Whenever amendments are made to either will defer the purpose of eradicating defects disclosed by experience and to make them more effective. The race question, he says, will undoubtedly be discussed in connection with the contested election cases and independently of them. It is a live question and will not down at any bidding. He feels confident that the tariff will be revised and the source of the revenue diminished. Some measures not very dissimilar to the Senate bill will be passed. It is possible, he thinks, that some bill upon the subject of trusts will be passed, but the subject must be dealt with in the main by the States. The power of Congress over this subject is so limited as to render of little value any law which it may pass to prevent or control trusts in the State.

Congressman Brown, of Indiana, thinks a revision of the revenue system the most important question awaiting the action of Congress and favors the repeal of the tax on tobacco and on alcohol used in the arts and a reduction of the tax on sugar. Something will probably be done regarding the seal fisheries and also the Canadian fishery dispute. These questions, however, will not divide the parties. He has no doubt there will be some amendment to the Inter-State Commerce law and Congress will undoubtedly legislate on the subject of trusts, if it is possible to define a trust in such a way as not to interfere with legitimate business.

Congressman Hitt, of Illinois, thinks it rather too early to make any predictions about what Congress will do at the coming session. No conference of even the most informal kind has yet been held, so that no means of judging what other members are considering is to be had. Then, shifting of opinion on many important points is so likely that a judgment now is not very apt to hold when actual voting on questions begins in February and March. Something in the way of amendatory legislation to the Inter-State Commerce law may be expected. As to the Civil-Service law, too many Congressmen of both parties are pledged to its support to allow its repeal. The subject of trusts will probably be involved in the discussion of the tariff, which will of course come up next session.

BRIDGES AND STREAMS. THE Way Proceedings May Be Taken Against Bridges That Obstruct Navigation.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Secretary Proctor has prepared a circular of instructions respecting the practice to be followed in cases where bridges over navigable streams are said to be obstructions to commerce. When such complaint or charge is made, the chief of engineers shall refer it to the engineer officer in charge of the district in which the alleged obstruction is located. He shall make an examination to determine whether or not the bridge is an obstruction, and whether or not it can be removed. In determining this the person or corporation controlling the bridge shall be given an opportunity to appear before the officer. The latter shall report to the chief of engineers, who shall lay the report before the Secretary of War. The Secretary upon this report may order a board of officers to examine the bridge, the same routine to be followed by it as by the single officer. When this report reaches the Secretary he may hear interested parties upon the matter, granting continuances from time to time as may be proper, so that the question shall be thoroughly discussed and presented before a decision is reached.

Hopeful Harbour. WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Senator Barbour, of Virginia, under whose auspices the Democratic canvass in the old commonwealth is being conducted, stated that the Democrats were well satisfied with the condition of affairs. He said that the hostilities of Mr. Langston toward General Mahone's disadvantage; that Mahone was counting on the negro vote of the Republican ticket regardless of their feeling toward him personally and of the manner in which he might treat them. Mahone might make a miscalculation in this regard and the negroes simply bleed him and Mr. Quay.

May Stay In. WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—The Attorney-General has decided that the appointment of J. M. Taylor, of Illinois, in the railway mail service on April 29 was legal, even though Taylor did not take oath until some time after the Civil-Service rules went over that service. The Attorney-General holds that the appointments are legal from dates when made, and not when the appointee is sworn in.

King of Portugal Dead. LISBON, Oct. 20.—The King of Portugal, who was ill for some time, died yesterday. The Duke of Braganza, eldest son of the King, who succeeds to the throne, will assume the title of Carlos I.

ALL ABOUT PENSIONS.

An Authoritative Statement From the Interior Department in Regard to the Pending Question of Increasing the Pension Rate.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—The following authoritative statement prepared at the Interior Department in support of the action of Secretary Noble in declining Commissioner Tanner's order advancing pensions from \$2 to \$4 per month in certain cases has been given to the press: In view of the recent decision by the Department of the Interior relating to the authority of the Commissioner of Pensions to arbitrarily of his own will re-rate some 30,000 men by advancing their pensions on his order from \$2 to \$4 per month, it is worthy of attention that section 4294 of the revised statutes of the United States provides that: "Except in case of permanent specific disabilities no increase of pension shall be allowed to commence prior to the date of the examining surgeon's certificate establishing the same made under the pending claim for increase and also that a rating made by the Commissioner of Pensions except in certain cases where by law a specified amount is attached by statute to the disability named is determined by the degree of disability found by a medical examination. The amount of disability is less than total for lesser degrees of disability. If one man is found to be fully disabled by the medical board he is given one-eighth of \$1 or if he is still more disabled two-eighths of \$1 and if still more disabled three-eighths of \$1 and so on.

A man, for instance, has lost a portion of his finger and is thus to an appreciable degree disabled, he may have been rated by some examining board at \$4 for that; and so in some other case for some other slight disability. If, however, he has suffered from chills or malaria or some other disease contracted by him in the swamps during his service as a soldier and which may not prove permanent or may increase, he may have been thought slightly disabled, if at all, and entitled at the beginning and almost to a small fraction of the total, say \$1, which is the amount fixed in many of the disabilities allowed in that law. It might have possibly been a question with the board whether he was to get any thing or was disabled at all, but from lenient construction of his case they have given him \$2. If now, by an order of the Commissioner, without regard to his medical examination, the man who has thus been receiving \$2 is re-rated \$4, that man who was more disabled and who has been rated at \$4 being himself advanced, it is obvious that injustice is done the higher graded man, because he is put upon a par with a man, even less disabled. And so between soldier and soldier there is great inequality of the less injured. If these cases, however, are all referred to the examining surgeons and they find the disability to be equal to \$4 and it is then allowed, every thing has been done in due order and according to law.

On the contrary, if arbitrary orders of the Commissioner are the basis, it must result that a few are made favorites and given a particular amount and great masses of men who have to depend upon medical examinations are put at a great disadvantage. Therefore it was decided that there was no authority in law for an arbitrary increasing of great masses of men's pensions in the face of the statute already cited and which order is not extended to all the pensioners' cases. The Commissioner, whose order has given rise to this decision, in his recent letter to Mr. Dalzell did not claim that his order was to be construed according to its terms, for he said "I thought it better to issue two orders which I thought and still think were mighty good ones: First, that the 30,000 men on the pension roll at less than \$4 a month should all, unless they had a medical examination within a year, be ordered for examination before their heads were cut off, with a view to putting them upon the roll at least \$4 per month or drop them off the rolls, for it was and is my opinion that for a man who is worthy of any pension at all a dollar a week is small enough to consider a pension." The order itself reads: April 25, 1889. In all cases where a pensionable disability is found by the examining surgeons at less than \$4 per month, to date from and including March 25, 1889."

The decision that was made by the Assistant Secretary is in accordance with the two propositions. The Commissioner announced one before he resigned and the other after he left to Mr. Dalzell. The Assistant Secretary states them together and not separately. The order as made was arbitrary and unequal and required an advance without examination to the amount specified at \$4 per month. It did not propose to drop any one, and it proposed to advance, and it did not order any one for examination before the home board, as the letter pretended it did. It was an unauthorized, unqualified and illegal order for every pensioner to be advanced to \$4 who was receiving less. It was made April 25 and it was proposed to have it take effect March 25.

A slight consideration of this matter will show that to give away \$66,000 a month of the public money on such an order as this would be but the beginning of a system by which millions could be expended in the same way. There is no unauthorized distribution of the public moneys and the door of the treasury might as well be open to actual invasion as to have warrants drawn upon it to be cashed without questioning. It is also obvious that such a course as this would not be of benefit to the soldiers ultimately, as it is intended only to benefit those who are the most disabled. In other words, those who have the least disability. If any one judge that these men are to be advanced upon a mere opinion as to what should be the least amount of pension, the others might justly claim that their more severe wounds and disabilities were quite as uncompensated as those of the man who is in other words, whenever the opinion of a Commissioner without investigation is substituted for actual examination as to disability every man's pension is put at risk, either to be so exaggerated as that the Government or people would not allow it or to be so disparaged as that nothing could be obtained.

If you can drop a man who is receiving \$2 per month from the pension rolls on a mere opinion of a Commissioner you can drop off a great many others receiving more on the same principle. It is a mere question of white wash money. It is upon this that it has been insisted that the law should be adhered to and the precedents established should have weight. It must also be obvious in all this that there is no expression as there is no disposition to prevent any deserving soldier from acquiring all the pension his disability entitles him to, either by original application or application for increase. All that is being done is to maintain the law, to be liberally construed, but by no means disregarded, and to allow each in his turn, without partiality, all he is entitled to. If the law is abandoned by the weak, the distant and those without powerful friends will suffer, while favorites will flourish.

Another Brown's Misdeed. CHICAGO, Oct. 18.—The News says W. H. Brown, a real estate dealer, is at present out of the city and is said to be a defaulter to the extent of \$5,000. Many of his patrons, as well as the police, are anxious to learn of his whereabouts.

General Hartranft Dead. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 18.—General John F. Hartranft, ex-Governor of Pennsylvania, died at his residence at Norristown at noon yesterday. His illness, when the physicians agreed was a culmination of the result of a diseased condition of the kidneys, from which he suffered for several months, first took an alarming turn last Friday, when he was seized with a chill. Wednesday night there was observed a marked change for the worse and Dr. Reed informed the family for the first time that recovery was impossible. General Hartranft died at fifty-nine years of age. He served through the Civil War and during term as Governor of Pennsylvania, besides holding many other important positions.