

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The government has placed an order for 6,000,000 envelopes. The successful bidder made a price amounting to \$160,000 less than the firm that has been doing the work. It will take four years to complete the contract.

A story has been circulating in Washington that Secretary Root intended resigning from the cabinet owing to differences with the President. Mr. Root says there is not a word of truth about it. The origin of the story is a mystery.

The czar of Russia has given away under the strain of responsibilities that have pressed in upon him and the London Daily Mirror announces on "good authority" that he will abdicate. The Grand Duke Michael will be appointed regent during the infancy of the czarwiteh.

There are too many fat persons and too many thin persons in the country; and the government, through the Agricultural department, is conducting novel experiments to show them how to strike an average. Investigations include dietary studies, digestive experiments and various other things in connection with food. To fat ones the government says: "Eat little, sleep little and drink less." To the thin man, it says: "Drink all you can and sleep as much as you can." The thin man who wants to get fat must eat and drink everything that he can stomach. Above all, a thin person who wants to spread out must sleep ten or eleven hours a day. A nap after each meal is offered as an inducement for fat to come and stay.

Several hundred persons interested in industrial affairs met at Andrew Carnegie's home in New York for what Mr. Carnegie termed a "peace evening." Officers of the National Civic federation arranged the programme. The guests included representatives of labor organizations and men and women of wealth. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, said: "The National Civic federation could in my judgment do no greater service to mankind at this moment than to urge upon the government of the United States the making of a formal proposal to other nations of the world to assemble at no distant date in international conference on industrial conditions and industrial peace."

Senator Scott of West Virginia, who has been classed with the public men who attended the reactionary dinner to overthrow the President's policies, recently called at the White House. He said that everybody in his state was writing to him asking whether the story were true and if it were true what he meant by it. As he was leaving the executive offices he said that he and the President had been talking politics. "The President told me," said Scott, "there were a number of men whose names were being discussed who would make admirable Presidents." "Didn't he indicate his choice?" Senator Scott was asked. "He did not," was the reply. The West Virginia senator started to leave, but turned back. "I want all of you to say that I am with the President. I have always stood by him and I want it to go out all over the country that I am standing by Roosevelt."

Representative John Sharp Williams of Mississippi has written to the executive committee an explanation of his inability to attend the peace congress. The senatorial campaign in his state keeps him away. In his letter Mr. Williams makes the suggestion, which he says he has talked over with President Roosevelt, that each country pay "a good, substantial salary" to the members of The Hague court appointed by it, give them a long tenure of office, either for life or for ten or fifteen years and forbid them to act as counsel for any nation while so serving. This, he says, would enable each country to select lawyers of international reputation, who can make a long work, if not a life work, of the objects set before the court. "My idea," he concludes, "is to make the court of The Hague an amphictyonic council of the civilized world. I used this phrase in a letter to the President and it seemed to please him very much. The details can be worked out easily by a committee, keeping the general object in view."



Only a short time ago we could not get a word out of Harriman—and now how garrulous he has grown.

In commutating the sentences of Aggie Myers from death to life imprisonment, Governor Folk of Missouri, says: "Believing that the benefit to the public morals of the commonwealth will be greater in confining this woman to the penitentiary for life in place of hanging her by the neck until she is dead, I therefore commute the sentence of the said Maggie Myers, alias Aggie Myers, from death to imprisonment in the state penitentiary as long as her life shall last." In granting Hottman's commutation the Governor says: "Inasmuch as the state of facts involved in this case is the same as that which resulted in the conviction of Maggie Myers, whose sentence has been commuted to life imprisonment, I hereby commute the sentence of said Frank Hottman from death to imprisonment in the state penitentiary as long as his life shall last."

John R. Walsh has been indicted again at Chicago, this time on the charge of misapplication of funds amounting to about 3 1-2 million dollars and making "false entries" in reports submitted to the comptroller of the currency of the United States. There are 175 counts in the indictment. The bond on the former indictment was \$50,000. The indictment charges violation of the national banking act between March 5, 1905, and December 18, 1905, when the bank closed. The charges of false entries cover four reports, which, it is declared, were made by the comptroller of the currency of the United States. Walsh is accused of having made one report in which the total of loans and discounts on which officers and directors were liable, amounted to \$245,000, whereas, the government's bank examiners hold, the amount at that time was \$2,913,500, or \$2,668,500 in excess of the amount reported.

That the Isle of Pines is not American territory has been officially and judicially declared by the Supreme court of the United States. The decision was rendered in the noted case of Edward J. Peary vs. Nevada N. Stranahan, collector of the port at New York, and the opinion of the court was announced by Chief Justice Fuller, who said that up to the Paris treaty the Isle of Pines had been considered as an integral part of Cuba and that it could not be held to be covered by article two of that treaty, which included only islands in the vicinity of Porto Rico. The case originated in connection with the importation of a few boxes of cigars by Peary in September, 1903, but its hearing by the court was from time to time postponed in the hope that the status of the island might be definitely fixed by legislation or diplomacy. The cigars were made in the Isle of Pines of tobacco grown there, and when they arrived Peary refused to pay duty on the ground that they were of domestic origin. The collector thereupon seized them, and Peary appealed to the United States circuit court, where he secured no relief, as that court sustained a demurrer filed by the government and dismissed the appeal.

Fifteen years in newspaper work hasn't taught us much, but we have learned one thing; the only man whom it is absolutely safe to abuse is the czar.—Topeka Capital.

President Roosevelt is the sole beneficiary under the will of Lulu B. Grover of New York. The will reads: "I give to Theodore Roosevelt at my death everything that is mine, household furniture, personal property, jewelry, diamonds, estate, all money in bank to my credit and my cat Snow-drop Low. I owe to Theodore Roosevelt a debt greater than I can ever pay in this world, and in this way I wish to show that I am not ungrateful. He has been my good angel, who spread his wing of shelter over my peace through life and was my only true friend in trouble. I gladly give my little to him and only wish it were millions instead of so small an amount. I hope he will accept it in the spirit I give it and with God's blessing." It has been announced that President Roosevelt will accept the estate and turn it over to some New York charity. The cat is being cared for how under directions issued by the President. Lulu B. Grover was a magazine writer who insisted that she was related to the President. She attempted suicide in New York last December. At that time she said she had willed her property to the President. She is believed to have been the woman who tried to force her way into the White House at the time of the Roosevelt-Longworth wedding.

Illinois cannot proceed against Harriman in the matter of his manipulation of the Chicago & Alton road, according to the state's attorney general, Mr. Stead, who has given an opinion to the Governor. If the state should revoke the company's charter the loss would fall on the stockholders, as Harriman already has disposed of a large part of his holdings. The attorney general concludes, therefore, that the best plan would be for the company itself to seek a remedy for the situation, or even for one or more stockholders to act. Mr. Stead insists there is not the least doubt that a civil remedy exists against the "speculators who have wrecked this prosperous railroad company, and, at the expense of innocent stockholders and bondholders, have gathered to themselves a harvest of millions of dollars." The profits made out of the Alton deals by Mr. Harriman and his associates are placed by Mr. Stead at \$25,648,600. "As a result of this enormous profit to themselves," he said, "the railroad companies are thrown into hopeless bankruptcy." The indebtedness of the companies, as shown by the figures in the opinion, has been increased a total of \$50,646,218 since they fell into Mr. Harriman's hands. Of this amount only 22 1-2 million dollars, according to Harriman's own testimony, says Mr. Stead, was incurred for improvements, betterments or extension of the roads. "More than 57 million dollars of this indebtedness," concludes the opinion, "or more than 70 per cent. of the entire indebtedness, created by this syndicate upon the properties of these companies, were not created in furtherance of any legitimate purpose."

Congressman Walter Brownlow, of Tennessee, has made but one speech during the ten years that he has been a member of the House of Representatives.

And others pose as earthly saints because they are too stingy to pay the price of an occasional good time.

William Sell, who has been in the Kansas state penitentiary at Lansing twenty-one years under sentence of death for the murder of his father, mother, sister and brother, has been pardoned by Governor Hoeh. In his letter to the prisoner the Governor says: "I have today issued a full pardon in your case, which will be delivered to you this evening by my personal representative, Mr. S. C. Crummer, my private secretary. I have taken this action after a long and a most careful consideration of your case. I need not say to you that this action is of very great importance to you and to the state. From boyhood you have been deprived of your liberty and it is not my purpose in this communication to enter into a discussion of the merits of the matter, but I want to follow you into the outer world with some frank expressions of my wishes concerning your future. You have been a good prisoner. Every officer of the institution, so far as I have been able to learn, who has come into contact with you since your imprisonment has been your friend. A great army of friends on the outside have pleaded for your release; one board of pardons has recommended it and now I take the responsibility of granting you one of the greatest boons one can covet in this world—liberty. But when you go out, though now a man, you will go out as a boy would without practical experience in contact with men in the practical affairs of the world. You will be subjected to all kinds of temptation which your experience of twenty years past has not particularly fitted you to combat. I am intensely anxious for your success, not only for your sake, but for the sake of society, of which you will now become a responsible member. It is my desire that you find honorable employment at once (and I have taken the precaution to secure several available positions for you) and that you devote your time and energies to some useful work. It is my desire that you refrain from making any exhibition of yourself upon the lecture platform or upon the stage or in any spectacular way. You will have tempting offers along these lines, but I hope you will refuse them all. It is my desire that you keep away from all places of questionable resort and out of evil company. Accept no employment that will compel you to do unnecessary work on the Sabbath. Make a practice of attending church and of keeping good company. Of course it is my desire that you shall absolutely 'touch not, taste not and handle not' intoxicating liquors. You should avoid all forms of gambling—all games of chance. In making these requests I am, as your benefactor and friend, simply doing that which is essential for your best good. Along these lines and these alone lies your safety and hope of future success. It will give me great pleasure always to hear of your success in life and to contribute in any way in my power to this end."

Origin of Slang Phrases.

Philologists like to study slang. They can account for many slang phrases that seem idiotic. Thus:

"To give the cold shoulder"—It was the custom in medieval France, when a guest had overstayed his welcome to serve him a cold shoulder of mutton instead of the usual hot meal. Flushing, the man always took this hint.

"Deadheads"—In Pompeii a complimentary ticket to an entertainment took the form of a small ivory skull.

"He's a brick"—A visitor to Sparta found the capital without walls, and asked the king what he would do, in case of invasion, in his wall-less town. "Sparta has 550,000 soldiers," the king answered, "and each man is a brick."

"Catching a Tartar"—During the war between Russia and Tartary a private soldier shouted: "Captain, I have caught a Tartar." "Well, bring him in," the captain rejoined. "He won't let me," the soldier called despairingly, as his prisoner dragged him into the Tartar lines.

"To eat humble pie"—In the middle ages, after a deer had been slaughtered, the master of the house and his family ate the choice cuts, while the feet, neck and head were made into a pie. This humble pie was served to the servants and retainers.

Just Like the Rest of Us. "The Rockefeller family have been better investors in oil than in salt. One of them recently bought a salted mine and was taken in just like any ordinary citizen."—Baltimore American.

CHICAGO'S NEW MAYOR.

Fred A. Busse, who has been elected mayor of Chicago, an office which pays \$18,000 a year, for a term of four years, lives in a very modest flat over his coal office at 391 Sedgwick street. He is a bachelor, 41 years old, fat and bald headed, and he lives with his father and mother.

Mr. Busse is the second native son of Chicago to succeed to the mayoralty. The precedent was established by the second Carter H. Harrison some ten years since. He is the first of German descent and quite the most competent, while in ability successfully to engage in the somewhat uncertain game of practical politics he is popularly accredited with more than a modicum of intelligence.

His business sagacity is of no mean quality, as his building of a small coal business into an extensive corporation will amply testify, and he possesses sufficient magnetism to hold his ward workers firmly in line, compel recognition from those who dominate in state and national politics, give the glad hand in such a manner as to make friends, or ignore a too persistent job hunter in a way that will not invite his everlasting enmity. He is a sagacious politician.

Mr. Busse was born in Chicago in 1866. He dabbled in politics about the time he was old enough to vote. He had a following and was strong enough with the voters to be elected clerk of North Chicago in 1891. In 1894 he was elected as a representative to the general assembly of Illinois, and was re-elected two years later. In 1898 he was sent to the state senate and became a big cog in the Republican machine.

In 1902 Mr. Busse was elected treasurer of Illinois and in December, 1905, he was commissioned as postmaster of Chicago by President Roosevelt. His administration of the great mail service of the second city of the nation has been satisfactory, and he has been instrumental in changing conditions in the federal building to the advantage of the employes, besides securing a large addition to the working force.

PENROSE DENIES IT.

United States Senator Penrose had this to say about the published report that he told at a dinner the story of a "rich men's conspiracy" to prevent the selection of President Roosevelt's choice of a successor to himself.

"It is absolutely an untruth. I have never said any such thing. It is all untrue. I have always been a supporter of and believer in President Roosevelt's administration and all its policies."

The senator was asked: "Have you ever heard of a \$5,000,000 fund to prevent Roosevelt naming his successor?"

"No, absolutely not."

"Have you ever heard of the combination termed the 'rich men's conspiracy' to thwart the President in the development of his policies?"

"No, I have never heard of any such combination and have no knowledge of it."

"Did you attend a dinner of such a character as was mentioned today in the Washington dispatches?"

"No, I never attended a dinner where such a subject was discussed. I could not have done so anyhow, for I just came back from the West Indian cruise with Secretary Metcalf and Senator Flint of California. I arrived in Philadelphia Tuesday night after a month's trip. During that time I did not follow the newspapers or keep in touch with affairs in the United States."

Despite his announcement that he stood for the administration, says a Washington dispatch, President Roosevelt believes that Senator Penrose is one of the leaders in the movement to control the next national convention. The interest of the corporation is it probable that anything Senator Penrose may say now or hereafter will change the President's convictions.

So positive is the President with regard to Penrose's activity against his policies that he has already taken steps to fight through the possibility of a Penrose in the state position in the next rose controlled delegation into the convention. He is looking view to state capitol scandal with a continuance of that against Penrose's organization at the head of the state organ.

Excavations at Thebes have brought to light the ruins of what is believed to have been the palace of King Cnemus, the legendary founder of Thebes.

Some men who never studied pharmacy are skillful druggists when it comes to drugging consciences.