

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN SCANDAL

Alleged Irregularities in the Postoffice Department to be Made Subject of a Searching Investigation—Ugly Rumors of Misconduct Are Current—High Officials Accused.

Official circles in Washington have not been stirred before in a long time as they are at present over the news that there is to be a general investigation of all the divisions under the first assistant postmaster general. The investigation of Gen. James N. Tynes, assistant attorney general for the postoffice department, is nothing compared with what is to come. President Roosevelt has given strict orders that everything crooked shall be uncovered and this means that the probe is to be inserted deep. Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristol has been designated as the administration's inquisitor to conduct the examination into all of the bureaus.

It is claimed that the investigation of the division of salaries and allowances will show that the public funds have been disbursed with the utmost extravagance and recklessness. Congressmen with pulls have been able to get nearly all they asked for in the line of salaries and allowances for the postoffices in their districts. This kind of free-handed giving made Geo. W. Beavers, the division chief, very popular among the members of congress, and they have gone ahead voting him larger and larger appropriations whenever he asked for them. It is believed by the postoffice department officials higher than Mr. Beavers that this way of passing out sops to favorites has been little less than scandalous.

It is said that the investigation of the division of supplies will be productive of sensations. For years there have been rumors of very questionable proceedings in the letting of contracts for postoffice supplies, such as twine, paper, etc. August W. Machen, general superintendent of the free delivery division, does not intend to emulate the example of Mr. Beavers, who got out of the department when he saw the storm brewing. On the other hand, Mr. Machen is preparing to make a bitter fight. Mr. Machen hails from Ohio. He is the father of the rural free delivery system and his name is almost a household word in all sections of the country. The old talk of a rake-

SURPLUS NOT LARGE

TRUTH ABOUT FUNDS IN UNITED STATES TREASURY.

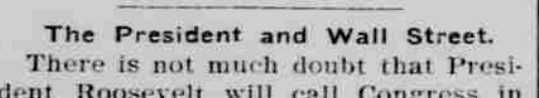
Republican Claims That Enormous Amounts are Stored in the Vaults Are Absurd—Money Loaned to Banks That Can Not be Called In. One of the late announcements is that "the vaults of the United States treasury are crammed with hundreds of millions of dollars." This extravagant statement was made to deceive those who read it into believing that Uncle Sam has an overflowing treasury, and that enormous appropriations are therefore excusable. The actual balance of the treasury on March 19, was only \$221,903,261. Of this there is deposited in the National banks \$159,373,210, which leaves an apparent available balance of \$71,530,051. Of this balance, however, it is considered necessary by the secretary of the treasury to keep on hand fifty millions to draw on for current expenditures, and to be prepared for emergencies. The balance is further depleted by about twenty millions being composed of fractional silver and other money of small denominations, that could not be used for the payment of drafts on the treasury. It will thus be seen that all the surplus available consists of the fifty million which is held to draw on for current expenditures. As the receipts of the government exceed the expenditures about three million dollars a month, the above named balance will be somewhat added to by June 30, the last day of the fiscal year. After that date the increased appropriations made by Congress may extinguish any excess and the receipts and expenditures will be about equal.

IS ALL FOR DELAY

SENATOR CULLOM ON REPUBLICAN TARIFF POLICY.

He, Like His Party, is in No Hurry to Find a Solution of the Question—The Real Object of Appointing a Commission. Senator Cullom is at last constrained to admit that it is not practicable to reform the tariff by treaty if by reform we mean reduction. He has only just discovered what has been obvious to some people all along, that if you cannot induce a bare majority of a Republican Senate to concur in the passage of a bill reducing duties you can hardly expect a two-thirds majority to support a treaty reducing duties.

His remarks contain internal evidence that he is in no hurry to find any solution—evidence, indeed, that in his opinion there is no question to solve, or that if there is the people are quite content to let it go unsolved. "There is no general demand for tariff revision," he says, "although every now and then some complaint is heard because the rate on some particular article is too high."



The Workingman Knows How It Is.

The President and Wall Street. There is not much doubt that President Roosevelt will call Congress in extraordinary session early in the fall, if not before that time. The visit of Mr. Morgan, the trust magnate, to the White House, and his talk to Secretary Shaw and several Senators has given rise to the report that Mr. Morgan and the President have come to an understanding about calling a special session. Wall street is very anxious that the bill passed by Senator Aldrich at the late session of Congress or some similar bill for the relief of the money market should be passed to aid in tiding over the financial trouble that is expected later in the year. President Roosevelt being determined to force the Cuban reciprocity bill through in spite of the strong opposition in his own party, it was doubtless not difficult for the Wall street king of finance to convince him that the banks were in great danger if a law was not passed to tide over the money stringency. As Mr. Morgan and his brother Wall Street magnates are looked to for the main contributions to the Republican campaign fund, they are in a position to ask for favors at the hands of the President and a Republican Congress that cannot well be denied. The money power and the Republicans have never failed to act in unison when their interests are identical or to pool their resources when the political situation demanded it.

An Extinct Species of Liar.

There yet remain a few men with consciences sufficiently tough and elastic who continue to tell us of the "economies of trust production," the "cheapening of goods," and the "blessings to mankind" coming from trusts and combinations but their number is rapidly growing smaller and soon this species of liar will be extinct. Not that there will not always be an ample supply of smart lawyers and pseudo professors willing, for a fair consideration, to serve the trusts, but simply that the facts are so directly and strikingly against their claims that it will no longer pay the trusts to employ economic slysters to tell the people that white is black. With prices higher than ever before the handicap on the pro-trust liar is too great to be overcome.

Control of Delaware Patronage.

Although Gas-Man Addicks did not succeed in being elected United States senator he has the satisfaction of being represented by his principal adherent in that body and expects to control the federal patronage. It will be interesting to watch the appointments made by President Roosevelt for Delaware and see if boodles is as influential as it is said to be in Republican politics. As far as Senator Hanna is concerned, he lines up with the boodle crowd and does not seem to care who knows it, for he sent Congressman Dick to Delaware at the critical moment, to advise just the action that Addicks desired.

The Foreigner Does Not Pay.

Referring to the Venezuelan situation the Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin says: "As usual, it is the people who pay the costs of war. President Castro has clipped an extra duty of 30 per cent on all imports to satisfy the demands of the allies." And yet the Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin is a Republican organ that still insists "the foreigner pays the tax."

Easily Paid.

It is reported from St. Paul that the Standard Oil trust, on losing a local suit for damages to the amount of \$100,000 on account of injuries caused by gasoline, at once advanced the price, and in nine days collected from the local public enough extra to pay all the costs. Here we have publicity, but not necessarily the preventive. Springfield Republican.

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Improving Consular Service.

It is impressively announced that President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay have determined to improve the consular service by dropping consuls who are incompetent or worse. Heretofore the mode of finding out about consuls has been to commission some man with a pull who wants to travel at the public expense as inspector of consulates. It is perfectly understood that the inspector is not to inspect at all, but only to call on the consuls, have a good time and report everything serene. It is intimated that this practice is to be abandoned, and that "a more certain method of getting at the truth of allegations involving the consuls will be pursued in the future." There will be no more reports of "consuls without regard to expense." There has been some talk in regard to a more certain method of improving the service will be pursued.

Getting Used to Extravagance.

When footings were made at the expiration of the fifty-fifth Congress the conservatism of the country was shocked and alarmed because the expenditures made reached the enormous sum of \$1,999,999,999. The total gave the name by which that Congress is still known and it was predicted at the time that public sentiment would serve as an injunction against a repetition of the extravagance. Yet the fifty-seventh Congress made the fifty-fifth look cheap and close-fisted. The lowest estimate of what the former expended in appropriations is \$1,599,999,999. Despite this incomprehensible disbursement of public money, the people are not making a tinge of the fuss they did when half the amount was treated as a gross abuse of the power of taxation.

Free Coal and Miners' Wages.

The party of protection has always claimed that if the duty was taken off coal the wages of the miners would be reduced to the paper scale of Europe. But late events prove the fallacy of this argument, for since the duty has been removed an enormous tonnage is being imported—50,000 tons being on hand and ships lying in Boston harbor one day a week or two ago—yet the coal operators have agreed to pay higher wages to the miners. The Republicans will have to invent some other fallacy of that people will be demanding that beef and clothes and other necessities of life be also put on the free list.

The Industry it Will Stimulate.

Immediately after the acquisition by the steel trust of two important independent plants the price of steel wire products is advanced \$2 a ton. This may be a mere coincidence, but it may be the working out of a plan for the accumulation of a big war fund to fight future competition. No matter what may be the cause for the raise, this extra \$2 a ton will be an invitation to capital to erect new mills. Competing plants will be built just as long as there is a tempting profit in the business and as long as the trust continues its present policy of buying out independent plants at a high price.

A Transparent Sham.

Congress has put up the bag in the shape of a customs tariff against the importation of the productions of foreign cheap labor itself. The contention that the tariff protects American labor from the degrading competition of alien cheap labor is a transparent sham and pretense. It protects the employer of labor, not the employed, and all our defective immigration laws have been framed not for the protection of our own workmen from foreign labor, but to enable the employers of labor to get it from abroad.

Roosevelt as a Humorist.

Some people say that President Roosevelt has no more sense of humor than had his illustrious Dutch ancestor, Wouter Van Twiller, whose virtues are extolled in Knickerbocker's veritable history of New York. But what can these people say in presence of the President's keen stroke of humor in congratulating the fifty-seventh Congress on its remarkable achievements?

Wants His Tariff Taxes Rebated.

J. Pierpont Morgan has bought in Europe works of art which cost him \$7,000,000. He has stored this immensely valuable property where he bought it because he objects to paying the tariff on the goods if they were brought to this country.

The tariff on paintings and marble statuary is 20 per cent. On books the tariff is 25 per cent. On furniture, art works, curios, antiques, relics, bronzes and many things included in Mr. Morgan's valubles the tariff is as high as from 35 to 60 per cent. The total amount of duties on this \$7,000,000 in value is about \$3,000,000, an average of 43 per cent.

There any reason why the sum of \$3,000,000 in duties owed by a man worth \$100,000,000 should be rebated while the people are compelled to pay a much greater sum in duties on the same value of the necessities of life imported in the same ships under the same tariff laws?

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GEORGE W. BEAVERS



JOSEPH L. BRISTOW, WHO IS DIRECTING INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED POSTOFFICE FRAUDS.



A. W. MACHEN.

deathed. He was stricken with paralysis July 27 of last year. There are six divisions under the first assistant postmaster general, and each of them is booked for an investigation. They are the division of salaries and allowances, the division of postoffice supplies, the division of free delivery, the division of correspondence, the money order division and the division of dead letters. The order for an investigation refers particularly, however, to the division of salaries and allowances, the division of supplies and the division of free delivery. It is not believed that there has been any flagrant wrong-doing in the division of correspondence, the money order division or the division of dead letters, but it was thought best to make the investigation include all of the divisions so that the cry could not afterwards be raised that it had been partial and incomplete.

off on rural letter boxes is being revived and several other allegations will be considered in the investigation of the free delivery division. The story about the mail boxes is that during the earlier development of the rural mail service proprietors of a certain box were given the tip in advance whenever a new route was to be established, thus enabling them to get on the ground ahead of any other concern, practically destroying competition.

For a long time, it is alleged, there has been a ring in the postoffice department, and Beavers and Machen are its star leaders. The favors which they have shown to senators and representatives are said to have enabled them to become powers in political circles, and congressmen whenever they wanted a favor did not think of consulting with the postmaster general or first assistant, but went directly

Had Statesmen at His Mercy. When the government ship Dolphin was coming home from Cuba carrying Secretary of War Moody, Senator Hale of the naval committee and Speaker Elect Cannon some rough weather was encountered. Just previous to the coming of the storm the statesmen named had been discussing the proposed building of six battleships. Messrs. Hale and Cannon succumbed to seasickness. When his sufferings had become too intense to be borne longer in silence "Uncle Joe" called out to Secretary Moody: "Say, Moody, if you will get us to shore quickly I'll give you six battleships the next winter." "I will make a better bid than that," exclaimed Senator Hale. "I'll favor twenty battleships if the secretary will only keep this ship still for half an hour."

Senator Bates a Brave Soldier. Senator W. B. Bates of Tennessee has often been urged to write a book of reminiscences but now declares that he is too old to undertake such a task. The old gentleman served as a youth in the Mexican war and in the confederate army he was reckoned one of the most intrepid men who ever wore the gray. From start to finish he was on the firing line and as colonel of his regiment he won deathless fame on the bloody field of Shiloh. In that fight he had three horses killed under him, while he himself and four members of his family were simultaneously bleeding. His heroism won for him the rank of a major general and since those stormy days there has been no office that was too good for him in the opinion of the people of Tennessee.

Pastor's Mistake Causes Trouble. Rev. Donald C. MacLeod, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Washington, who has gotten himself in the public eye by marrying a colored man and a white woman in violation of the unwritten law of his church, is a chubby-faced man, 34 years of age. He succeeded Dr. Talmage nearly four years ago and his congregation includes many of the fashionable set of Washington. Dr. MacLeod is a Canadian, having been born in Nova Scotia. He is a graduate of the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pa. Dr. MacLeod regrets marrying the couple and attributes it to the fact that he was in a hurry to keep another engagement and was too delicate about pursuing the suspicion he had that the prospective groom was colored.

Skyscrapers Foster Consumption. In a public address recently delivered H. Peckham of New York took ground against skyscraper office buildings, which he condemned as dangerous to health. "How considerate we are," he exclaimed. "We build hospitals for the poor consumptive and then we turn around and build skyscraping structures where consumption may breed so that we shall not lack for patients." This matter is beginning to attract serious attention in New York city, especially in the lower part of Manhattan island, where the streets are as narrow and crooked as when the Dutch burghers laid them out or their cows traced them across the fields.

Fellow-Worker With Noted Scribes. James A. Tidford of New York, but formerly of Denver, Colo., is a guest at the new Willard. When he lived in Denver he was employed on the Denver Tribune. At that time Eugene Field was city editor, O. J. Tinkler chief editor, and himself and Bill Nye was the Laramie correspondent. To a reporter for the Times Mr. Tidford said: "When I was on that paper Nye was getting \$6 a column for his work from Laramie. He rarely came to town, and when he did he drew 'all the money due him since the last visit.' It usually came to a large sum. Before he could get back home the other boys on the paper would escort him off to some near-by saloon and slake their thirst. Laramie never saw Nye again until he was broke and ready to resume his correspondence."—Washington Times.

Miss Alice Roosevelt at Home. This is what an English writer has to say of Alice Roosevelt, whom he met at a small party in Washington: "She is an attractive girl rather than pretty, with tremendously high spirits and at times, I should say, a little excitable. It was a homely affair at which a lot of youngsters were present and we all knew one another pretty well, which may account for the little ebullition we were treated to. There was a good deal of jollity and romping and Miss Roosevelt danced around the room in the gayest abandon, occasionally firing blank cartridges from a little gold trinket pistol which her father had given her. These have been quite the fashion lately."

Twenty Years Asleep. There is alive in France to-day a woman who has been asleep for the last twenty years. Recently an absence appeared on one arm when performed the operation. The sleeper assumed to feel the incision, and for the first time in twenty years was observed to move, making a slight twitch of the arm.

Marconi Has Another Invention. Signor Marconi, the inventor of wireless telegraphy, is said to have discovered a method by which oxygen may be extracted from air at a very slight expense.

Venomous Water Moccasin. The water moccasin, which seldom exceeds four feet in length, is a very venomous snake, and is more to be dreaded than the rattlesnake, as it will attack anything and everything on sight and without apparent provocation. With its mouth wide open it erects itself boldly and darts forward with a rapid spring.