

number 30,000, embracing a force larger than the United States standing army prior to the war with Spain. Referring again to the pay roll, this congressman says: "The rural carriers have been doing pretty well in the matter of salary, anyhow. Up to two years ago they got \$300 apiece per year, and thought themselves lucky. In 1902 the cry for more pay went up from all the carriers, and it had such an effect on congress that their pay was doubled in every instance. The salary of \$600 satisfied them for about a year, when 'more pay' again became the cry. Now congress is heeding the demand, the new postoffice bill providing for an increase to \$720 a year. This puts them on a footing practically equal with the carriers in the small cities. The carriers in towns with less than 75,000 inhabitants start in at \$600 a year and are promoted to \$850 at the end of the second year, and stick there. The pay of carriers in the larger cities is better, \$1,000 being the limit. Ninety-seven per cent of this appropriation of \$21,000,000 for rural delivery goes out in salaries."

MATTHEW W. PINKERTON, CHIEF OF the famous detective agency, recently delivered an address before a Chicago society, and declared that political corruption and dishonesty in public places are responsible for a large proportion of the crime and criminals. In this address, Mr. Pinkerton said: "As long as the majority of our public servants are thieves and blackguards efforts to suppress crime will prove a dismal failure. One thieving alderman or official can corrupt hundreds. The downfall and punishment of one man known to thousands will have a more salutary effect than the conviction of a hundred petty thieves. He who resorts to knavery to secure a public office and uses it for fraud and theft is far more culpable than the unlettered, half-civilized gamin who picks a pocket or snatches a loaf of bread to satisfy the cravings of hunger. Aldermen of large cities generally purchase, and at a considerable cost, their political positions. They corrupt many of their constituents and start thousands upon a course of crime. The transition from stuffing a ballot box or falsifying an election return to picking a pocket and sandbagging a pedestrian is not difficult. Our modern politician employs those already corrupted, but many join the criminal classes by way of the political route. In large cities, like New York and Chicago, thousands of criminals owe their existence to political corruption."

ONE OF THE ODDEST COINCIDENCES IN the history of court affairs in West Virginia is reported by the Huntington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer. This incident occurred February 27 at Winfield, Putnam county, West Virginia, during the trial of Charles Hughes for the murder of John Mason. The trial lasted for ten days, and on February 27, just before the close of the arguments of the attorneys, two of the jurors fell in a faint within a few minutes of each other. Court adjourned for an hour, and as the jurors were again resuming their seats in the jury box a third juror fell in a faint. Physicians cannot explain the odd occurrence. At another time earlier in the trial of the case one of the lawyers asked for a recess of an hour, as he was deadly sick and had to be led from the courtroom. Hughes was convicted of second degree murder.

GOVERNOR VARDAMANN OF MISSISSIPPI recently prevented the lynching of a negro by personally interfering in the plans of a mob. Word reached the governor that this negro was to be burned at the stake. The governor summoned the adjutant general and a militia company and boarding a special car, went to the jail at Tutweiler, where the negro was confined, and escorted him safely to a prison at Jackson, Miss. Governor Vardamann is being highly complimented by the press of the country because of his prompt and vigorous action.

THE VIGOR DISPLAYED BY GOVERNOR Vardamann in putting down mob violence appears to surprise many people who imagine that, because of the governor's well-known position on the negro question, he might not be disposed to provide protection to a black man. The Jackson, Miss., correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says: "The governor's action has caused a tremendous sensation. It came as a total surprise and was in direct opposition to his campaign policy. During the campaign his anti-negro policy was the talk of the country." This correspondent adds that the governor was elected

on the most rabid anti-negro platform ever launched in a southern state and that his campaign drove thousands of ignorant negroes from the state because they feared a return to slavery. It seems, however, that, while the governor entertains strong opinions on the race question, he thoroughly understands that it is his duty to provide protection to every man within his jurisdiction.

WHAT ARE REFERRED TO BY CORRE-spondents as "annoying complications" have arisen in Paris in connection with the Panama canal. Two suits have been filed in the courts of Paris by the government of Colombia against the Panama Canal company. In one of these proceedings, the court is asked to prohibit the sale of the canal property to the United States government. In the other the court is asked to pass upon the title to a certain number of shares in the company, which stock Colombia claims to own. It is announced that until these cases are disposed of by the French courts, the United States government cannot complete its canal arrangements.

REFERRING TO THE PENDING change in the government of Great Britain a writer in the Kansas City Journal says: "The Balfour cabinet, despite its evident determination not to get out until it is kicked out, probably cannot much longer maintain its position. When parliament met it had a nominal majority of 120 in the house of commons. It succeeded the other day in defeating a motion by John Morley, the adoption of which would have been equivalent to a direct declaration by the house of a want of confidence in the government, but its strength has gradually dwindled until on last Friday night it came within fourteen votes of being defeated on an amendment to a naval bill proposed by the opposition. It is possible that the situation in the commons will cause parliament to be dissolved within six weeks and a general election to be called. In that event, if the liberals win, the unionist ministry must resign."

THE DECLINE OF THE PRESENT CONSER-vative unionist government began long ago and the Journal writer says that for several months it has remained in power, not so much because of its virtue, unity and popularity as because of the divisions of its opponents. This writer adds: "The circumstances under which it began the Boer war alienated no small part of the English nation from it. Its management—or rather its mismanagement—of that war, the enormous expense the conflict entailed, and the scandals that were stirred up in the war department, hurt it further. Its education bill, while finally passed, did it the opposite of good. The resignation of Lord Salisbury from the premiership and the succession of the acute and casuistical, but weak and vacillating, Balfour, gave it another blow. Finally, Mr. Chamberlain came forward with his scheme for reversing the nation's free trade policy and split the hitherto united conservative-unionist party. He at the same time afforded the hitherto divided and inharmonious liberals an issue on which they could unite, and sent many people with whom free trade is a sort of sacred joss, skurrying from the ranks of the unionists into the ranks of the liberals."

WHILE THE SUCCESS OF THE LIBERALS, if they win, would be due to a variety of causes, in the opinion of the Journal writer, it would be construed both in England and other countries as partly a victory for free trade. This writer explains that it is very doubtful if the liberals could so soon have got together if Mr. Chamberlain had not provided them with an issue; but in the opinion of the Journal writer, a liberal victory at this time would mean the final defeat of either protectionism or Chamberlain. He adds: "Joseph Chamberlain is a resourceful politician. He has often been defeated, but has never been enough cast down to quit fighting, and it is not improbable that the liberal ministry, if chosen, will be but short-lived, and that Chamberlain will return to office to give effect to his policy of binding the British empire more closely together by means of preferential tariffs."

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IS IN USE ON the London stock exchange. A London cablegram to the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, under date of February 27, says: "For the past three days two or three firms on the stock exchange have received daily quotations from the

Amsterdam bourse by the Marconi wireless telegraph system. So far it is not a through route, for the postoffice system has to be made use of as far as Chelmsford. From the Broomfield receiving station, two miles from that town, messages are dispatched to a receiving station on the Dutch coast near the Hook of Holland, and thence to the Amsterdam bourse, the time elapsing between Chelmsford and the bourse of the latter city being four minutes. An Amsterdam journal, the Handelsblad, is also publishing daily two columns of matter transmitted by Marconigrams from Broomfield to receiving stations on the outskirts of Amsterdam, the London messages being forwarded to Broomfield by train. There is even some talk of the establishment of a receiving station in London in the very near future. An even more ambitious project is mooted. Our Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs that the Amsterdam receiving stations constitute one end of a proposed system to join the Dutch Indies to the mother country, employing Pisa and Erythrea as transmitting stations. The Amsterdam station will soon receive messages from vessels to and from America, according to the boast of the company's officials. Mr. Weiss, a director of the General Trading company of Batavia, is the prime mover in these experiments, and if they are satisfactory, which, of course, still remains to be seen, all the Dutch islands will be coupled up by Marconigraphy."

THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT TO THE SEN-ate nominations as follows: Chairman of the isthmian canal commission, Rear Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N., retired, District of Columbia; members of the isthmian commission, Major General George W. Davis, U. S. A., retired, District of Columbia; William H. Burr, New York; Benjamin M. Harrod, Louisiana; Carl Ewald Grunsky, California; Frank J. Hecker, Michigan, and William Barclay Parsons, New York. The nominations were referred to the committee on inter-oceanic canals. Referring to the personnel of the canal commission, the Associated press says: "The commission as constituted by the president is essentially a body of engineers, six of the seven members having distinguished themselves in engineering works. The law under which the commission was created provided that four of the members should be skilled in the science of engineering. Colonel Hecker is the only man on the commission who may be classed as distinctively a business man. He is a man of large affairs, and during the Spanish-American war served the government as director of transportation. Rear Admiral Walker has been identified with this government's investigation of isthmian canal routes for many years, and is regarded as the best informed man in the country on that subject. Of the other members of the commission, William Barclay Parsons is perhaps the best known in the engineering world. After many great undertakings he reached the climax by his successful work in planning the great subway of New York. Another great achievement was the construction of the railway between Hankow and Canton, China, of which road he was made president."

A KENTUCKY JUDGE RECENTLY DECIDED that men who transact business on Sunday, cannot secure damages against a telegraph company if the latter fails to deliver correctly a telegram on that date. The Louisville, Ky., correspondent for the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune says: "Frank A. Menne, manager of the National Candy company, sent a telegram to the company's agent at Paducah, quoting prices. Charging that the Western Union made a mistake in the quotations which cost \$135 in profits, the company brought suit for that amount. The Western Union set up the Sunday statute, claiming that the contract for the delivery of the message was void. Judge Gordon says the plaintiff cannot recover damages unless he shows that the dispatch was a necessity or for a charitable purpose."

The so-called democratic newspapers that do not support the ticket are still engaged in the work of selecting a democratic ticket, but they are meeting with many embarrassments. They started to boom one man and found next day that he was a director in the steel trust. It was a sad blow, but they soon got busy again.

President Roosevelt's congratulations to Mr. Payne on the outcome of the postal cases sound very much like what Mr. Payne said was the sum and substance of the charges of fraud in the department.