

guarding the government arsenal at Lanchau has revolted, the feeling prevails at Pekin that the government has taken a new lease of life, the empress dowager having contributed \$2,000,000 to the war fund.

The loom fixers at Lowell, Mass., have demanded an advance of 10 per cent in wages. This action may involve 20,000 cotton operatives.

The provisional government proclaimed at Guayaquil by Gen. Pedro Montero has been recognized by the coast provinces of Ecuador.

Laundries ministering to 400,000 New York persons are affected by a secret strike order promulgated by laundry workers.

Dr. Arthur Vincent Meigs, noted physician, died in Philadelphia.

Daniel Howard was inaugurated as president of Liberia.

Letters, the authenticity of which was not denied, were introduced at the packers' trial, indicating that the price of meat was fixed and the business apportioned at weekly meetings of the packers' representatives.

Governor Osborn, of Michigan, spoke at Lansing to an audience gathered to hear Senator La Follette, advising Senator La Follette and President Taft both to retire from the race for president.

District Attorney John D. Fredericks and Special Prosecutor Oscar Lawler arrived in Indianapolis to assist in the grand jury investigation of the alleged McNamara dynamite conspiracy.

The protective committee for the 4 per cent refunding bonds of the Wabash Railroad company is planning to oust George Gould and his financial associates from control.

The population of Belgium is 7,423,784, according to the census of 1910, an increase of 730,236 since 1900.

Eight Persians were hanged at Tabriz by order of the Russian court-martial.

An Indianapolis dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, says: Entire control of the Indiana democratic organization passed into the hands of the faction headed by Thomas Taggart, national committeeman, when the state committee met and elected Mr. Taggart's candidate for chairman, Benard Korbly, brother of Congressman Charles A. Korbly. Governor Thomas R. Marshall, candidate for the democratic nomination for president, who opposed the selection of Korbly, said: "In the words of Lincoln to his cabinet, 'I guess I have not much influence with this administration.'" Leaders of the Taggart division announced the Indiana delegation in the democratic national convention "would be solid for the governor on the early ballots and to whatever candidate it might be swung if it was found he could not win."

Concluding his tour in Ohio Senator La Follette made a tour in Illinois.

Alfred Tennyson Dickens, eldest surviving son of Charles Dickens, the novelist, died suddenly of acute indigestion at the Hotel Astor, in New York.

# WASHINGTON NEWS

Mr. Norris, a republican, of Nebraska, introduced a bill in the house to place every employe of the post-office department, except the postmaster general, under the competitive classified service rules. Mr. Norris declares that the postoffice department is now a big political machine and that the roll call of the average republican convention was simply a list of postmasters.

An investigation by the secretary of commerce and labor to determine the feasibility of establishing labor exchanges in conjunction with state governments was asked for in a resolution introduced by Representative Littleton of New York.

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans died of acute indigestion at Washington City.

Associated Press correspondents announced that Oscar W. Underwood would not attend the Jackson Day banquet at the national capital. A press dispatch says: Mr. Underwood's letter to the managing committee announcing he would not attend was sent after it became known that Bryan was to speak. The arrangement did not meet the approval of many leaders, but it will stand. Some of Mr. Underwood's friends pointed out that Mr. Bryan, speaking last on the program, would be in a position of decided advantage to make declarations which would of necessity remain unanswered and that such a contingency was to be avoided. Others said Mr. Underwood did not wish to enter an oratorical contest with Mr. Bryan.

Senator Hitchcock, democrat, of Nebraska, made a speech in the senate against the peace treaties.

The United States government has been asked to send troops to China to help police the country.

Champ Clark, in returning from his western trip, decided to take to his bed on account of a severe cold.

Representative Bartholdt of Missouri introduced a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for erecting a monument overlooking the Panama canal, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the Isthmus of Panama by Balboa, the Spanish explorer.

The house committee on foreign affairs concluded hearings on the Sulzer bill intended to carry into effect the recently promulgated treaty between the United States, Great Britain, Russia and Japan for the protection of fur seals and sea otter in the north Pacific ocean.

The interstate commerce commission of the senate resumed its hearings on the trust problem after a recess during the holidays.

A Berlin cablegram, carried by the Associated Press, says: Official circles here and the newspapers generally display deep interest in the speech delivered by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska in the senate on the arbitration treaties. Abstracts of his address have reached Berlin and these contain what are considered such rash statements that government officials have decided to wait for a full report of his speech before expressing any opinion. It is emphasized, however, in these circles that if Senator Hitchcock represented Germany as opposing ratification of the arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States he is absolutely incorrect. The only reason a similar treaty has not been negotiated with Germany, it is stated is that Germany is waiting to see the fate of the British and French treaties. If these are accepted by the United States senate, Germany will be willing and even anxious to negotiate a similar treaty.

The gross revenues of the post-office department for the year amounted to \$237,879,824, while the expenditures were \$237,648,927, leaving a net surplus of \$219,118.

President Taft has signed an executive order forbidding rural letter carriers from "pernicious" activity in politics.

Representative Oscar Underwood was taken ill, being threatened with appendicitis. He recovered promptly, however, and resumed his duties.

The atmosphere at Washington is full of rumors. Many believe that Mr. Roosevelt is a candidate for the presidential nomination and others that he is ready for war with Mr. Taft. Mr. Taft does not appear to be in hiding for Washington dispatches quote him as saying to the White house visitors "nothing but death can keep me out of the fight now."

There were 7,340 national banks in the United States at the close of the year 1911. The capitalization was \$1,033,302,135.

Norman E. Mack, of Buffalo, has announced that he will retire as chairman of the New York state committee on account of ill health.

Four thousand heirs of John Sevier are seeking to collect \$6,000,000 from the federal treasury for Tennessee lands they claim the government took from the revolutionary general.

Secretary Nagel, of the department of commerce and labor, in his annual report to President Taft, commends the effectiveness of the Sherman anti-trust law and recommends a permanent federal agency to control industrial corporations.

Senator William O. Bradley issued a statement indorsing President Taft for the republican nomination for president.

## A DAMAGING CONFESSION

Washington (D. C.) Star: If the Harmonites are to open headquarters in Washington they have decided wisely. This is the town for observation. Politicians from every section of the country run in and out here, and leave much interesting information. It requires sifting, of course, but that may be done by experienced men without difficulty. Speaker Clark and Mr. Underwood are on hand, Governor Wilson's friends are looking out for him, and there are residents of Washington so devoted to Mr. Bryan's interests that never a word spoken about presidential candidacies escapes prompt transmission to him. Now when Governor Harmon is cared for, everybody will be on equality so far as Washington is concerned.

The anti-Harmonites have opened a new line of attack. There was little done against the trusts by the second Cleveland administration,

and during a portion of that time Judson Harmon was attorney general. Would such a record aid a democratic nominee for the presidency next year with the trust question prominent?

Well, let us all be reasonable about the matter. What chance was there for Attorney General Harmon to distinguish himself? A stream can not rise higher than its source. Mr. Cleveland was no trust buster, and Mr. Olney, who preceded Mr. Harmon in the department of justice, did not regard the Sherman law as a workable proposition.

The trusts were in clover. With the cats asleep, the mice, and the long-tailed rats, did play. At that time the sugar trust was at the head of the trust procession, and the open charge was made that it had power enough in this town to write the sugar schedule incorporated into the Gorman-Wilson tariff bill. At any rate, it was mightily tickled with that schedule and thrived under it.

Should Judson Harmon, picked by Mr. Cleveland and succeeding Richard Olney, have signaled his appearance in office by taking the Sherman law in hand and laying about him right and left? Such a course would have been a rebuke both to his chief and to his predecessor. Could he have remained in the cabinet after such a demonstration? Would not the combined power of the trusts have been exerted to call him off and send him back to Cincinnati?

The trust question of that day was

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