

the White House. The capitol building, set high above the city, caught the brunt of the wind, rain, hail and lightning. The senate was in session at the time and when the hail swept down on the glass roof of the chamber with a roar that made the transaction of business impossible, a hurried recess was taken. The storm created a near panic all over the city during its short duration.

Physical valuation of the railroads of the United States by the interstate commerce commission, will take from five to seven years by a specially organized corps of men and will cost the government from ten to fifteen million dollars or more, according to plans of the commission submitted to the house appropriations commission. The commission has also asked for an immediate appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the original corps of engineers necessary to undertake the work. The plan contemplated the division of the country into five districts, containing approximately 50,000 miles of railroad each.

William Denman, of San Francisco, was appointed a special assistant to Attorney General McReynolds to prosecute pending and proposed suits to recover the government's title to millions of dollars worth of oil lands in California, Wyoming and other western states. The question involves the legality of ex-President Taft's sweeping oil lands withdrawals of 1909 to conserve the country's oil resources and especially to afford the government a supply of fuel oil for the United States navy.

The department of agriculture announces the selection of fifteen men prominent in the protection of game and other birds in various sections of the country to advise the secretary in framing regulations to make the new federal protection of migratory birds effective. The act of March 4 gives the federal government jurisdiction over the migratory birds of the United States.

Professor Charles F. Marvin has been selected for chief of the weather bureau to succeed Willis L. Moore, recently removed. Professor Marvin was chief of the instrument division, and was appointed to the old signal service in 1884 from Ohio. Under the new chief more attention will be paid to weather reports and forecasts as they affect or are likely to affect agriculture and general farming conditions throughout the country.

A monumental legend, written in great concrete letters on the face of Culebra cut and telling the history of the building of the Panama canal, is the central feature of the plan of the commission of fine arts for beautifying the canal. The commission's report was sent to the senate by the president. The recommendations by the committee were based on the advice of Daniel Chester French, sculptor, and Francis L. Olmstead, landscape artist, who visited the isthmus early this year as a committee on architectural plans for the beautification of the waterway.

Advices to the department of justice of attempts to perpetrate wholesale land frauds upon innocent people throughout the entire west, especially in Oregon, brought forth a vigorous warning to the public by Assistant Attorney General Ernest Knaebel and an announcement that the government would spare no effort to detect and punish the guilty parties. According to Mr. Knaebel, designing and unscrupulous persons are making false representations to the people for the settlement, which is impossible at this time, of more



THE SHOCKING CASE OF WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

—From the South Bend [Ind.] News-Times.

than two million acres of the so-called Oregon and California railroad lands which the United States district court of Oregon recently ordered forfeited to the government on the ground that the railroad had violated conditions of the grant. As the company will appeal the issue will not be settled until it reaches the supreme court, and even if the government is successful, no disposition can be made of the lands until congress passes special legislation for the purpose. The public was also being induced to make applications to purchase from the railroad company in order to acquire preference rights of purchase. The Southern Pacific railroad has issued a warning that no money will be accepted by the company and no preference granted pending the end of the litigation.

The senate confirmed the appointment of George Harold Todd of New York to be assistant to the attorney general of the United States.

The postmaster general has announced that the "banking by mail" feature would be introduced into the postal savings system. This reform, which has been under consideration for some time, will enable people living in remote districts to avail themselves of the benefits of the system.

A constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale of all alcoholic beverages was proposed in a resolution introduced in the house August 5 by Representative Hobson of Alabama.

Secretary McAdoo announced that wood pulp and paper would not be admitted free of duty from Russia under the "favored nation" agreement, the commerce treaty between the United States and Russia having been abrogated. He said countries with favored nation treaties with the United States only were entitled to free pulp and paper because that provision was granted to Canada. The treasury department has accepted the principle, but for the time being it applies only to Norway, Austria, Hungary and Russia.

The annual "dead letter" sales, which have been an annual feature of Washington for years, have been

abolished by Postmaster General Burleson. Hereafter all undelivered third and fourth-class matter which has been heretofore sent to the division of dead letters will go to the postoffice at the headquarters of the railway mail service of the division in which the matter is destined. There the matter of manifest value will be held for one year, subject to reclamation and then sold at auction. The postoffices which will handle the dead letter mail are Boston, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Cleveland, St. Paul, Ft. Worth, New Orleans, Seattle, Omaha and Pittsburgh.

William J. Price of Danville, Ky., has been selected by President Wilson for minister to Panama.

In order that the farmers of the United States may profit by the experience of the farmers of Europe, Secretary of Agriculture Houston has decided to send abroad Dr. Thomas N. Carver, head of the rural organization service and Bradford Knapp, who is in charge of the farmers' co-operative demonstration work in the south. One of the principal objects of the trip will be the study of successful co-operative schemes. They will visit Ireland first, then Denmark and Saxony.

Colonel Mulhall continued his testimony during the past few weeks before the senate lobby investigation committee regarding the alleged political work of the National Association of Manufacturers. Some of his charges, implicating many prominent public men in the past and present political life of the nation, are sensational in the extreme, but as yet sufficient evidence has not been introduced to prove the truth of his charges. On one occasion Colonel Mulhall collapsed under pressure of the constant fire of questions aimed at him by members of the committee and pleaded for a short respite from the gruelling examination.

The house lobby investigating committee got under way August 5 with Louis Seibold, who prepared the exposures of Martin M. Mulhall for the New York World, as the first witness testifying as to the public state-

ments and otherwise laying foundations for the cross examination of Mulhall. Mr. Seibold said the investigation made by the New York World as to the truth of the Mulhall charges had been confined to establishing the authenticity of the documents and did not go to the truth of the charges they contained. Seibold's testimony was interrupted to allow James E. Emery, of counsel for the manufacturers, to identify letters and legal documents. Discussing the list of public men classified as those whom the national association of manufacturers had no difficulty in "reaching and influencing for business, political or sympathetic reasons," Mr. Seibold testified he had no purpose of implying any "moral obliquity" or "legislative impropriety" to the men mentioned. "The basis for this list," said Mr. Seibold, "was the Mulhall letters, his personal narrative and statements he made to me." He told the committee that 400 or 500 new letters had been discovered.

Examination of Martin M. Mulhall, self-styled lobbyist for the national association of manufacturers, was postponed August 7 until Monday, August 11, at the request of Mulhall, who announced that in a few days previous he had discovered in his files in Baltimore some 200 additional letters bearing on national politics, and believed that if given a few days he would be able to find more. He pronounced the letters found important.

Complaints from many railroads against alleged inadequate compensation for increased weight of mail matter under the parcel post system has culminated in a notice to the postoffice department from the Toledo, St. Louis & Western railway company that at the end of sixty days it will discontinue transportation of mail, although its present contract does not expire for two years. The department has informed the management that discontinuance will not be permitted.

JOHN LIND

John Lind, who goes to Mexico, not as an ambassador but with even a higher mission as a minister of peace on behalf of the president of the United States, has a name that a Viking might have borne. A native of Sweden and just yet sixty years of age, he has been governor of his state, a representative in three congresses and an officer of volunteers in the war with Spain. He is typical of that large and splendid element of our citizenship which produced the lamented John A. Johnson of Minnesota.

Such a man may not be familiar with the character and habits of Latin Americans; he may not be gifted in diplomacy and finesse; he may even be ignorant of or inattentive to the fire points of violence which distinguish political controversies south of the Rio Grande; but of his ability to present to the warring chieftains in Mexico facts, principles and conditions which should persuade them to accept American mediation there can be no question.

In him the far north appeals to the far south. It will be said of him that he does not understand the temperament of the people whom he is to address; yet through the agency of such men far north has instructed far south more than once in statecraft, in respect for law and order, in true pride and honor and in courage, and it may do so again.

John Lind carries to Mexico a message of peace, good will and common sense which has back of it the determination, the patience and the power of many millions of John Linds.—New York World.