

BITTER WORDS BY LOCHREN

THE PENSION COMMISSIONER ON PENSION FRAUDS.

JUDGE LONG'S CASE REVIEWED.

Declares He Has Obtained \$7,000 to Which He Was Never Entitled—Dismisses Pension Attorneys and Claim Agents Severely Denounced—The Suspending of Suspicious Pensioners.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—Commissioner Lochren of the pension bureau, in his annual report, reviews the case of Judge Long of the Michigan supreme court at some length, saying: "This case has attracted wide attention because of the fact that the pensioner is one of the judges of the supreme court of Michigan and has upon the rostrum and through the press unstintingly denounced the bureau and myself for alleged arbitrary and illegal proceedings in the reduction of his pension, and because of the suit instigated by him in this district against myself to prevent such reductions."

"It is quite clear that under an honest but mistaken interpretation of the pension laws by prior commissioners this pensioner has obtained from the treasury more than \$7,000 to which he was never lawfully entitled. Should he make good his assertions that he will take this case for decision to the supreme court of the United States he may, when it shall be finally decided, consider the propriety of returning this money to the treasury."

The commissioner discusses the work of special examiners which have been criticised in congress and elsewhere, saying: "The report of the chief of division exhibits the character of its work. Cases which have merit but in which the claimant has not been able to obtain essential evidence, with such information in respect to witnesses as the bureau can obtain, have been placed in the hands of special examiners, who are often able to discover and obtain the evidence necessary to prove the claims. The larger part of the force is always kept employed in this class of work. But the special examination division, aided, as it is, by the law division, constitutes the main protection which the government has against fraud and imposition. Most of the pension attorneys and claim agents are capable and honorable, but some among them are the most dishonest and unscrupulous of men, dealing habitually in perjury, forgery and every species of fraud. Without special examiners the villainy of such men would operate without check or fear of detection and it is too often in spite of all safeguards. Such men attract the unworthy as clients—the bounty jumpers, cowards and deserters, and the fraudulent malingerers."

"As many of their crimes are discovered by their fraudulent cases overthrown and themselves and their guilty confederates brought to punishment by the work of special examiners (there were 194 convictions for pension frauds last year), it is but natural that such men and their clients should be loud and unceasing in decrying special examiners as spies, and seeking with the aid of unscrupulous partisan newspapers and politicians to create a prejudice against special examiners in the minds of deserving pensioners and others. The worthy and deserving soldiers who are still modest in the race for pensions are elbowed to the rear by the unworthy in their continued struggle for pensions and increases as when operating for bounties. They crowd themselves to the front at all public gatherings with resolutions for more pensions, and denunciations of every regulation tending to unmask dishonesty and fraud as "unfriendly to the soldier." Their insatiable greed and detestation of all resolutions made to insure honesty and restraint or discover fraud, shamelessly proclaimed, has done much to lower the regard which would otherwise be universally manifested for the deserving soldier. It has been reported that the attempt to discover frauds is a new movement and credit being given me in that direction to which I am not fairly entitled."

The provision placed on the pension appropriation bill December 21, 1893, preventing the commissioner from suspending pensioners until fraud had actually been established, the commissioner says, has been carried out, but with no advantage to the bureau. He continues: "The effect of this provision is to take from the officers of this bureau the power to interfere where they plainly see the treasury being plundered by the fraudulent and unworthy. I could cite numberless instances of pensioners having no title, pensioners drawing more than one pension, widows, who have remarried, continued to draw pensions, and all manner of fraudulent and illegal pensions, where the treasury would continue to be plundered for a time with the knowledge of the officers of this bureau, who, because of this provision, were rendered powerless to prevent it."

Drought in West Virginia. PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Oct. 30.—The long drought has caused great distress among farmers and lumbermen along the Little Kanawha. Wells and springs that never failed before are dry as are many streams. A large portion of the late crops has failed. There has not been a timber rise for some months.

Five Merymakers Mangled. LERANON, Ind., Oct. 30.—A wagon containing a party returning from a dance was struck by a Big Four train yesterday morning and five of the merymakers were killed. The dead are: Gertrude and Grace Davis, Tena George, Carl Gowans and May McDaniel.

Killed by a Blow From a Flat. BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 30.—Adam Eberle was instantly killed to-day by a flat blow struck by John Lisike, a plasterer, over the heart.

Her Most's Play Not Allowed. NEW YORK, Oct. 30.—Herr Most and his company were to have presented the play, "Die Weber," in Oertel's Phoenix Park hall, Newark, last night, but they were refused permission by the police, Prosecutor Crane fearing that owing to the bitter feeling arising out of the haters' strike at Newark, the strikers might be incited to violence by the play.

Express Robbers Caught. The Mystery of the Looting of the Dalles, Ore., Office Cleared Up. THE DALLES, Ore., Oct. 30.—The men who robbed the Pacific Express company in this city of \$10,000 on October 1 have been apprehended and all but \$200 recovered. The thieves were Frank Klein and Otis Savage, young men of respectable parentage, living here. They had once belonged to what is known locally as the Hawthorne gang of desperadoes, but had separated from the gang on account of a disagreement as to the plan for robbing a Union Pacific train. Klein broke down and confessed everything, telling where the money was hidden. A bag containing \$75,550 in gold was found under a Chinese wash house which once belonged to the Savage estate, two bags with \$1,000 in silver were found under an old building near the Cosmopolitan hotel, and one bag which had contained \$5,000 in gold, and from which \$200 had been extracted, was found buried in Klein's back yard. Klein also confessed that they had robbed the postoffice here on the night of September 6.

Bismarck Foresaw It. The Coup in Germany Regarded as Inevitable—The Princess's Health. BERLIN, Oct. 30.—Upon receipt of the news of the ministerial crisis Prince Bismarck said: "I knew this would be the inevitable result. Count Zu Eulenberg was right in regard to the anti-Socialist measures, but General Von Caprivi disagreed with them, and either one or both had to resign. Prince Hohenlohe is a safe man, but he lacks initiative." Prince Bismarck will return to Frederichsruhe November 3. On account of the state of his health he will be unable to see any more delegations before leaving Varzin. The health of Princess Bismarck causes anxiety. Prince Von Hohenlohe visited Emperor William to-day in his new capacity of chancellor of the German empire and premier of Prussia and then went to Berlin, to which city Herr Von Koeller, the newly appointed minister of the interior, had preceded him.

Captain Johnson Disgraced. The Retired Springfield Officer Dismissed for Not Paying Bills. WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—The president has approved the sentence of dismissal from the service, imposed by the court martial which met at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., recently and tried Captain William S. Johnson, retired, of Springfield, Mo. He was found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman in not paying his bills. The particular bill was one of \$100 and interest for a tombstone in memory of one of his children. The captain was once before sentenced to dismissal on account of financial irregularities but his sentence was mitigated in view of his gallant war record. He entered the service as a private in company A, District of Columbia infantry in 1861 and was retired in 1871 on account of wounds received in service.

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Little Wolf. "Keep close to the house, Frank." The little pioneer mother smiled fondly at the pretty boy, who was already brown with tan and glowing with health, though only a month had passed since they ventured into the wilderness. "I never go far, mamma—just down by the spring." She watched the sturdy little fellow with pardonable pride as he bounded away down the slope towards the spring. A cluster of laurel-bushes almost hid him from sight, when he was there, but every day his mother looked down that way whenever she passed the door, and could always catch the glint of the sunshine on his tumbled curls. But here, in this great wilderness, what reason there might be for fear! They said that all the wild animals had been cleared out of the country long ago, but she was not so sure of that. And as for the Indians, who knew when they might swoop down upon the settlement, as they had done upon others? They were barely twenty miles to the north, and though they were friendly and in a reservation, why—Indians were Indians in Mrs. Grey's eyes. Horses feet sunk noiselessly into the soft earth and Mrs. Grey did not know that any one was near until a long shadow fell across the floor. She was not given to screaming, but she came very near it when she saw the four mounted Indians sitting serenely on their horses and gazing in at her. But the brave little woman did not utter a sound. Her first thought was of her boy, and so she controlled herself. If only she could keep them from seeing the child. "White woman cook, we eat," said one of them gruffly, and they swung themselves down from their horses. Pale as her face was, she managed to smile on them; and hastily adding more wood to the dying fire in the stove, she set about cooking such simple fare as she had at hand. The Indians watched her silently, and when everything was ready they ate, with scant ceremony. The meal over, they gave a grunt that might have been construed into thanks, and mounting their horses again went on their way. But alas, their way led them past the spring. In an instant Mrs. Grey was speeding after them, stealing through the bushes and trying to keep from being seen, but intent on reaching the boy first. There he was—she could just see him jumping back and forth over the little stream that flowed from the spring. Perhaps they would pass without seeing him, after all! No, she heard the grunt of surprise that came from one of them when he caught the glint of sunshine on the boy's curls, and instantly one of the horses was turned in that direction. The mother darted forward, but it was too late. The Indian had stooped from his saddle and snatched the boy up. Mrs. Grey rushed forward with a scream of fear, but the savage turned his horse to one side and deftly eluded her. "Little Wolf teach Yellow Head to swim," he said, and at once set out in a sharp trot down the slope, followed by the others. Wildly Mrs. Grey ran after them. Her home and everything in it was forgotten. She was crazed with fear. The river was not more than half a mile away and they were going straight towards it. What did they intend to do with the child? She ran until her knees seemed to give way under her. The brambles caught at her dress and tore it when she pulled away from them, and still she ran and stumbled on. The Indians were out of sight and she was following their tracks—on and on—and now the river was near and there on the bank were the horses. And such a scene as met the mother's eyes. There was Little Wolf standing on the bank with Frank in his arms, and he swung the child as easily as though he had been a rabbit, and flung him far out into the stream. Then Little Wolf and his companions leaped in and dived, and as Frank came to the surface, struggling and spluttering, the four Indians rose around him. Merrily as Tritons they sported about him, sometimes holding a hand to him and keeping just out of his way when he reached for it; but always taking care that he kept his head above the water. After a little while they scrambled out with him, only to toss him in again. Surely more fantastic sport was never seen. The mother watched as though turned to stone, yet she could not help seeing that the child was not frightened, and she heard his laugh ring out merrily when he had really learned to strike out boldly for himself. "Did you see that mamma?" he cried when they brought him out. "I swam! I sure enough swam! Little Wolf taught me!" With a prayer of thankfulness in her heart she took the child in her arms, while the Indians mounted their horses again and rode away. She carried the boy home, crying over him all the way. But as for him he was wild with enthusiasm. Once again Little Wolf visited the log cabin where the Greys had planted a home in the wilderness. One night

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