

THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN.

The Baker's Dozen of Star Route Swindlers.

Report of the Special Agent Sent Out to Investigate.

The Wholesale Manner in Which Brady & Co. Ran the Concern.

Squeezing Her for All She Was Worth and Getting Millions.

The Crazy Escapade of Mrs. Christy in Washington Tuesday Night.

Other Matters of Interest From the National Capital.

STAR ROUTE SWINDLERS.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

A SYSTEMATIC EXPOSURE.

WASHINGTON, November 23.—The report of A. M. Gibson, special agent detailed to examine into the star route frauds for the department of justice, is made public today. The report is made to the attorney general and is very lengthy, consisting of nearly 20,000 words, exclusive of a number of tables marked "exhibits." Its general statements are as follows:

First—That in advertising for proposals to transport mail on star routes in the Pacific contract section, it was the rule to ask for a number of trips less than it was pretended the needs of the country required immediately after the service began.

Second—That schedule time on star routes was systematically made longer in the advertisements than it was provided, immediately after service began, the needs of the country demanded.

Third—That star routes were advertised to be longer than they really were.

Fourth—That star routes have been advertised to be shorter than they really were.

Fifth—That the system in the manner described in propositions first, second, third and fourth, were steps taken whereby a few contractors obtained control of more than four hundred routes at very low pay and then, by means of extra allowances made in violation of law, got the pay of the same increased by the addition of trips, expeditions of schedule and increased distance, until three, four, five, six and seven times the original contract price was paid.

Sixth—That by advertising routes longer than they were an expedition of schedule thereon required less expenditure by the contractors to perform the increased service.

Seventh—That routes being advertised shorter than they actually were, enabled the contractors after getting the pay for those routes enormously increased by the trips added and schedules expedited, to obtain on one pretext or another pro rata pay for increased distance.

Eighth—This system required contractors who obtained routes at small pay to give proportionally less bonds which are not required to be increased by extra allowances for additional trips, expedited schedules and increased distance; that this opened the door to straw bidding and men who were notorious liars habitually appeared as bidders and as circumstances required became falling bidders and falling contractors, or remained and sublet to their principals, just as they failed or succeeded in getting the pay of the routes increased; that the bondsmen of these dummies were always worthless and that no effort was ever made to furnish men behind them.

Ninth—That in giving out temporary service a few contractors received all the rich plums at high rates of pay and in some instances these temporary contracts have been extended from time to time.

Tenth—In several instances the contractors have been snuffed on portions of the routes to perform service and to omit service in violation of contracts, whereby they profited largely.

Eleventh—That contracts have been awarded on proposals manifestly and confessedly irregular and illegal, on the plea that great saving was thereby to be made, and within a few days or a month after service began the pay on the routes thus let was increased many fold.

Twelfth—Contracts have been awarded to certain contractors on illegal proposals, and at the same time proposals having previously the same defects.

Thirteenth—Hundreds of contracts have been awarded on proposals with guarantees notoriously worthless, and contracts executed with sureties known to be frauds.

Fourteenth—That in making extra allowances second Assistant Postmaster General Brady reversed the practice of the department, which rarely, if ever, been departed from during more than fifty years, and violated the letter and spirit of the law by accepting as sufficient the statements of contractors as to the cost of performing the extra service.

Fifteenth—There has been inefficiency and dereliction of duty and still graver official shortcomings in the administration of the sixth auditor's office; that the gross abuse and manifest corruption in the conduct of the contract office of the post-office department in the past would have been impossible had the auditor of the treasury for the postoffice department vigorously upheld the law with an honest purpose to correct wrongs and bring the wrong-doers to justice.

Following are some extracts from the reports, showing the whole sale way in which operations have been carried out: On June 10th, 1879, star service in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Arizona, Dakota, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Indian Territory, which in the year previous cost only \$2,000,280, was swollen to \$3,700,987, an increase in one year of \$1,697,777. How was this enormous increase accomplished? Extra allowances on routes controlled by thirteen men added \$1,399,876.93; temporary contracts, given without competition to the same thirteen men or their representatives added \$168,195.68; re-letting of extended and new services to begin October 1, 1878, added \$47,248.90; extra allowances made during the first half of the fiscal year of 1879-80 aggregated \$731,530.50. This amount was added to the annual pay of routes let during 1878, in most part to thirteen contractors or their representatives, who obtained the enormous allowances allowed during the fiscal year of 1879, and during the same period from July 1, 1879, to December 31, 1879, there were awarded without competition to the same men, 217 contracts for temporary services, the pay of which aggregated \$334,770.20. By these allowances, and ignoring the awards of temporary service, the cost of the service in eighteen states and territories increased until the rate per annum January 1, 1880, was \$4,468,632.30. The tabular statement marked "Exhibit G," established the fact that 417 routes, the annual contracts of which pay \$404,411.22, were manipulated by Brady and the contractors until their annual pay was increased in thirty months to \$2,306,618.27.

Tabular statement marked "Exhibit H," shows that during the same period 200 contracts for temporary service on routes aggregating 13,994 miles in length, were without competition awarded to the same favored contractors, and that this service was paid for at the rate of \$114,223.81 per annum, or on an average cost per mile of \$77,260.

In eighteen months ninety-three of the routes embraced in "Exhibit G" were manipulated by adding trips, increasing the distance and expediting the schedules until from an annual cost of \$762,858.60, when the original contracts called for, the pay was increased to \$2,723,461.50 per annum, an increase of \$1,960,602.90.

Brady in almost every instance violated the letter and spirit of the law in making orders for additional allowances by which a few contractors have been receiving more than \$2,500,000 a year. Cases of expedition were, prior to Brady's term, of rare occurrence. After careful examination of every case of expedition routes by the sworn statements of witnesses, Mr. Gibson cannot resist the conviction that in almost every case the allowance for expedition was fraudulently and corruptly obtained. The sworn statements of the contractors upon which the allowances were made are frequently false. The number of horses and men alleged to be necessary to perform the expedited service have in almost every instance been placed very much higher than needed. Faithless postmasters at the termini of the routes falsely certified that arrivals and departures had been in accordance with the schedule fixed by the department. I mention some of the most flagrant cases where service was put up with weekly to daily and speed increased from a mile and a half per hour to five miles per hour at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, when the fact was notorious that nobody but the contractors asked for it. In the case of one route, from Canon City to Camp McDermott, tri-weekly mails were carried over two hundred miles through an uninhabited country with only an abandoned military camp between the terminal offices. Near the eastern terminus lived one family, and here was established a postoffice. As the family got but one or two letters a year the head of the family often asked the government to abandon the office, as he did not want to be bothered with making out reports. Conclusive evidence in favor of the show that the contractor wrote to his sub-contractor to see the pioneer and satisfy him, saying he had already sent him \$30 to keep quiet, and that he knew the fellow was only kicking in order to get more money.

There was another route in the northwest over which not one letter was carried. The pouch went to and fro with only a solitary circular in it, until both were nearly worn out. In several instances the sub-contractors remonstrated with the department for supplying mails which no one along the routes wanted. The old form of straw-bidding had become obsolete. The new scheme was to obtain routes, and then have the service increased and expedited, and the pay thereby enormously increased. This scheme was concocted by an old and experienced contractor. He selected eight men to act as bidders and an equal number to figure as bondsmen. Not one of these owned any real estate to enable them to qualify as holders, guarantors, contractors and bondsmen. He temporarily transferred to them some lots in Philadelphia and land in New Jersey and Virginia. As soon as the men went through the form of qualifying as bidders, guarantors, contractors and bondsmen they transferred the property to another set, and when all were qualified the property was re-conveyed to its rightful owners. Forty-eight bids were submitted by these straw bidders and contracts awarded on twenty-three, the face of the bonds acquired thereby being \$205,091, to be secured by real estate valued at \$1,062,000. The aggregate contract of the twenty-three routes was \$127,435. Six of the routes were expedited and increased and \$82,339.59 added to the annual pay. Five which did not promise well were given rid of before the service commenced, and six within a very short time were raised from \$45,771 to \$128,110.59 a year.

But when this progress had been made the investigation of 1880 happened, and the fight in congress over the deficiency bill occurred. Unfortunately for the formation of the venture, the administration which came in on March 4th last did not believe in winking at fraud and covering up crime. One of the first subjects to engage attention was the failure of the Philadelphia dummies. An investigation followed, and in a very short time the whole truth was known.

THE CHRISTIANCY CASE.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

CRAZY ACTION OF THE WOMAN.

WASHINGTON, November 23.—At a very late hour last night the janitor at the police court building was surprised by the apparition of a woman bareheaded and in her night dress rushing madly up Louisiana avenue toward Sixth street. He overtook her just as she was entering the law office of Messrs. Cook & Cole, and to his amazement discovered that it was Mrs. Millie Christiancy, defendant in the celebrated divorce suit. Her hair was streaming over her shoulders, her feet were devoid of any covering whatever, and she was scratching wildly and viciously at her face. The janitor endeavored to persuade her to return to her residence, but she broke away from him and exclaimed that she would never return home again, and that she wanted to see her lawyer on very important business. Her shrieks attracted a crowd. A carriage was quickly summoned and the unfortunate lady was placed in it and driven to her residence, about four squares from the spot where she was first discovered. An old, white-haired man, very much out of breath, rushed up just after the carriage left, anxiously inquiring, "Where is my daughter?" It was Mr. Longbeed, the father of Mrs. Christiancy, and upon learning that his daughter had been taken home, the old gentleman hastily retraced his steps, without any explanation of the singular occurrence. The affair has created considerable excitement in this city, owing to the fact that the parties are so well known. The most charitable construction that is put upon Mrs. Christiancy's act is that her troubles have driven her mad, and the next step in the case may be to send her to an asylum.

NATIONAL NOTES.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

NEW FINANCIAL SCHEME.

WASHINGTON, November 23.—It is rumored in treasury and financial circles here that Secretary Folger has directed that competition be made to ascertain at what premium the government may afford to purchase 4 and 4 1/2 per cent bonds, instead of calling 3 1/2 per cents, and at the same time protect the government from loss. This has been done in view of the fact that 4 and 4 1/2 per cents are not redeemable until 1896 and 1897, respectively. If the surplus revenues should enable the government to call in all the 4 1/2s outstanding there might be a space of time in which there would be no bonds at the command of the government for use of the surplus of revenue.

The Billiard Tournament.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

New York, November 23.—Carter and Heiser opened play in the billiard tournament this afternoon. Carter, in the forty-fifth inning, won by a score of 200 to 92.

In the second game between Slosson and Gallagher, Slosson won. Score: Slosson 200, Gallagher 157.

Wallace and Morris played the first game this evening; in the sixty-fifth inning Wallace won the game by 200 to 174.

In the second game between Slosson and Doly, Slosson won by a score of 200 to 126.

Movements of Steamships.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

LIVERPOOL, November 23.—Arrived.—The Indiana, from Philadelphia and Egg.

NEW YORK, November 23.—Sailed.—The Erin and City of New York.

ANTWERP, November 23.—Arrived.—The Belgeland and Wichland, from New York.

LONDON, November 23.—Arrived.—The Denmark, from New York.

NEW YORK, November 23.—Sailed.—The Bohemia for Liverpool, the Greece for Lorne, the Edwin for Rotterdam and the Canada for Havre.

ALLEGED MINING FRAUDS.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

COMPANIES STRUCK FROM THE LIST.

PHILADELPHIA, November 23.—The governing committee of the stock exchange, which has been pursuing an investigation into the standing of companies posted in the mining exchange, officially announced today that the Atlas, Atlanta, Ema, Abonzo and West Ontario companies would be stricken off the list on Monday, on the ground that they are merely wild-cat concerns. The last four, which claim the ownership of the Globe company, have issued 400,000 shares of a total face value of \$40,000,000, which are widely distributed, and sales at 87 per share have been made at San Francisco, where the principal office is located. After the announcement large transfers were made at one cut. The West Ontario claims to own mines in Summit county, Utah, and was chartered in New York, with an issue of 200,000 shares at \$1 per share. There was considerable excitement when the decision was made it being understood that several other concerns are to be outlawed.

Death of a Wealthy Man.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

KANSAS CITY, November 23.—General J. W. Reed, of this city, visited his farm to-day at Lee Summit. As he was returning on a freight train he died from apoplexy and fell from the platform on which he was standing. His remains were brought to this city to-night. Mr. Reed was an ex-member of congress and one of the wealthiest men of the city.

INHERITS INCOHERENCY.

So a Witness for Guiteau's Defense Testified Yesterday.

His Father Was a Peculiar, Petulant and Fault Finding Patient.

And He Noticed the Same Traits in the Prisoner, Only More So.

Guiteau's Attempt to Lecture in Boston on the Doom of Mankind.

He Gives to the Court a Recommendation of a Boarding House.

And Continues Manifestations of Madness as on Other Days.

General Testimony to Show That Guiteau Used to be insane.

THE PRISONER'S PAPERS.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

WASHINGTON, November 23.—Notwithstanding the storm the criminal court was again crowded to-day. The prisoner came into court quietly and after the usual morning greeting settled down to reading. Mr. Scoville began the proceedings by calling upon Col. Corkhill for the papers taken from the prisoner at the time of arrest. Col. Corkhill offered to furnish copies of the same.

"I don't want copies," said Mr. Scoville. "Consider those documents to be necessary and I want them."

"Yes," put in Guiteau. "I had fifty or sixty clippings—editorial clippings—showing the political feeling last spring, when the papers were denouncing Garfield as having betrayed the republican party. It was by reading such things that my inspiration was fed and I was impelled upon the president."

Mr. Scoville tried to keep him still, but the prisoner said, "you keep still. I am doing this."

Mr. Davidge finally said the defense could have the papers but they were not to take anything they pleased from the government and keep it. After Guiteau approved of this plan it was agreed to.

Colonel Corkhill objected to the wholesale blank subpoena; did not know but what it might bring in state's prison binders.

Scoville answered he could see the whole list of prospective witnesses.

Guiteau made a speech at yesterday's remarks concerning the name "John" meant nothing disparaging to the negro race.

Scoville then continued his address to the jury, making irrelevant references to Guiteau's letters, which Guiteau seemed to enjoy. One letter referred to Guiteau in jail at Chicago; during the reading Guiteau interrupted—"Was locked up by a miserable little whelp for \$22 difference between us but was let out. Another letter states he was put into the Oneida community by his father. Guiteau said, 'It makes me sick to think of the miserable, stinking community business.'"

Scoville continued about Guiteau's failure as a public speaker.

Guiteau broke in with: "I had brains enough, but I had no reputation. They wanted a man like Grant, or Conkling, or someone who would draw a good speech. I'd draw now well enough." Laughter.

Guiteau continued: "Don't try to make me a fool and put the case on the plea that I was acting for the Deity."

Guiteau continued, saying that if Scoville would tell the truth he would not interrupt.

Scoville answered: "Only follow Corkhill's example."

Guiteau retorted, and Corkhill made a good speech. Scoville attempted to continue his address. Guiteau resumed his interruptions, and finally Judge Cox told him that he must stop or he would be removed.

Guiteau said he would only ask permission to say that he based the request for the Paris consularship on his constant assistance and suggestions to Gen. Arthur and Gov. Jewell during the campaign.

Scoville retorted that he expected to show that Guiteau believed the country would be lost if Garfield was not removed and the Lord selected him as agent. He would bring a witness to show that Guiteau acted like a crazy man at the time of the shooting. The verdict he wanted was not responsible because insane; the responsibility then rested upon the political system of spoils and on both parties alike, and the verdict would be a rebuke to this great evil. He was well satisfied to have got this far. He spoke of Colonel Corkhill calling attention to the sufferings of the president; that had nothing to do with this case, unless the jury was to try the case by emotion. The prisoner's former life, however, and the effect of the trial on him must be taken into consideration.

Scoville next referred to the fact that none who had attempted the life of the prisoner since his arrest had been different, even in Russia. The jury would not take into consideration the president's sufferings were not to try the case on emotions. The prisoner was unfortunate and the jury must say whether he must be sent to the gallows because he was unfortunate. This closed the opening address for the defense. Scoville was warmly congratulated by friends and members of the bar.

Corkhill asked for the enforcement

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Yesterdays Happenings in This and Other Lands.

Report that Emperor William of Germany is Slowly Dying.

Another Irish Farmer Beaten to Death for Paying His Rent.

Gambetta to Give the American Pork Embargo Immediate Attention.

Startling Discovery of Official Crookedness in Philadelphia.

Crimes and Casualties That Occurred Throughout the Country.

General Miscellaneous Intelligence From All Parts.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

GERMAN MATTERS.

BERLIN, November 23.—Emperor William is so much enfeebled by the effects of a cold from which he has been suffering for some time that he has been compelled to postpone the interview which he has promised to grant Bismarck.

There are fresh rumors of active negotiations between Berlin and the Vatican.

Count Munster, German minister to England, denies that Herbert Bismarck has been sent to London to offer to England the support of Germany in a scheme for the cessation of Egypt to England.

THE TURK.

MANCHESTER, November 23.—In the Welter handicap race to-day, Red King came in first, Montrose second, and Edinor third.

THE POPE'S INDEPENDENCE.

MADRID, November 23.—The Spanish ministry refused the request of the Spanish bishops to urge the government to insure the pope's independence. The ministers say the Italian government will strongly endeavor to suppress anti-papal demonstrations.

KATISER WILHELM'S HEALTH.

BERLIN, November 23.—It is officially announced that the health of Emperor William is so enfeebled he must restrict himself to the most necessary matters only. It is reported the emperor is dying, and that his digestive powers are failing, but he has had several weeks. He sleeps badly but his mind is quite clear.

A CONFERENCE.

The papers assert Gambetta and General Ignatieff held a conference on the Russian frontier at Dantzig.

AUSTRIA TO ITALY.

VIENNA, November 23.—The emperor and empress of Austria will return the visit of the king of Italy during the first week in January.

AN INDEPENDENT COUNCIL.

LONDON, November 23.—A dispatch from Capetown says the legislative council of Natal have refused Gladstone's nominee, Mosenthal, as governor. They have also voted supplies for six months only, instead of twelve, and have asked the home government to revise the constitution.

WILL TAKE THE DIET.

DUBLIN, November 23.—All subjects now confined in the different jails have resolved to accept the prisoners' diet, in order to relieve the land league fund.

The lord-lieutenant of Ireland, in speaking at Belfast to-day, said he hoped the improved state of feeling would soon make it possible to dispense with repressive measures.

BEATEN TO DEATH.

Mr. Sullivan, a farmer of West Cork, while returning from Kibberan fair to-day, was attacked by a mob and beaten to death for paying rent. Five men have been arrested.

CHOLERA DECREASING.

LONDON, November 23.—The cholera is decreasing at Mecca and along the Red sea ports. The plague is destroying people at Bagdad and along the valley of the Euphrates.

GAMBETTA AND FORK.

PARIS, November 23.—Gambetta held his first diplomatic reception this evening, and it was a grand success. The American minister, Hon. Levi P. Morton, spoke with him in relation to the embargo on American pork. Gambetta replied that it was the first he had heard of it and promised to give the matter favorable consideration.

DEAD.

Amedee Lefavre, member of the chamber of deputies, and a distinguished military journalist, is dead.

St. Petersburg, November 23.—General Neportski is dead.

STARTLING DISCLOSURES.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS.

WHICH AGITATED PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, November 23.—An extraordinary special meeting of the citizens' reform committee of one hundred was called this afternoon on two hours' notice. When the committee had assembled the chairman said startling disclosures had been made to him concerning wholesale robbery of the state and city treasury through a tax officer, and it had been desired that certain prominent institutions—mostly from north to south, slight change in temperature, followed by higher but falling barometer. The lower Mississippi river will continue to rise.

THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN.

But when this progress had been made the investigation of 1880 happened, and the fight in congress over the deficiency bill occurred. Unfortunately for the formation of the venture, the administration which came in on March 4th last did not believe in winking at fraud and covering up crime. One of the first subjects to engage attention was the failure of the Philadelphia dummies. An investigation followed, and in a very short time the whole truth was known.

Tabular statement marked "Exhibit H," shows that during the same period 200 contracts for temporary service on routes aggregating 13,994 miles in length, were without competition awarded to the same favored contractors, and that this service was paid for at the rate of \$114,223.81 per annum, or on an average cost per mile of \$77,260.

In eighteen months ninety-three of the routes embraced in "Exhibit G" were manipulated by adding trips, increasing the distance and expediting the schedules until from an annual cost of \$762,858.60, when the original contracts called for, the pay was increased to \$2,723,461.50 per annum, an increase of \$1,960,602.90.

Brady in almost every instance violated the letter and spirit of the law in making orders for additional allowances by which a few contractors have been receiving more than \$2,500,000 a year. Cases of expedition were, prior to Brady's term, of rare occurrence. After careful examination of every case of expedition routes by the sworn statements of witnesses, Mr. Gibson cannot resist the conviction that in almost every case the allowance for expedition was fraudulently and corruptly obtained. The sworn statements of the contractors upon which the allowances were made are frequently false. The number of horses and men alleged to be necessary to perform the expedited service have in almost every instance been placed very much higher than needed. Faithless postmasters at the termini of the routes falsely certified that arrivals and departures had been in accordance with the schedule fixed by the department. I mention some of the most flagrant cases where service was put up with weekly to daily and speed increased from a mile and a half per hour to five miles per hour at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, when the fact was notorious that nobody but the contractors asked for it. In the case of one route, from Canon City to Camp McDermott, tri-weekly mails were carried over two hundred miles through an uninhabited country with only an abandoned military camp between the terminal offices. Near the eastern terminus lived one family, and here was established a postoffice. As the family got but one or two letters a year the head of the family often asked the government to abandon the office, as he did not want to be bothered with making out reports. Conclusive evidence in favor of the show that the contractor wrote to his sub-contractor to see the pioneer and satisfy him, saying he had already sent him \$30 to keep quiet, and that he knew the fellow was only kicking in order to get more money.

There was another route in the northwest over which not one letter was carried. The pouch went to and fro with only a solitary circular in it, until both were nearly worn out. In several instances the sub-contractors remonstrated with the department for supplying mails which no one along the routes wanted. The old form of straw-bidding had become obsolete. The new scheme was to obtain routes, and then have the service increased and expedited, and the pay thereby enormously increased. This scheme was concocted by an old and experienced contractor. He selected eight men to act as bidders and an equal number to figure as bondsmen. Not one of these owned any real estate to enable them to qualify as holders, guarantors, contractors and bondsmen. He temporarily transferred to them some lots in Philadelphia and land in New Jersey and Virginia. As soon as the men went through the form of qualifying as bidders, guarantors, contractors and bondsmen they transferred the property to another set, and when all were qualified the property was re-conveyed to its rightful owners. Forty-eight bids were submitted by these straw bidders and contracts awarded on twenty-three, the face of the bonds acquired thereby being \$205,091, to be secured by real estate valued at \$1,062,000. The aggregate contract of the twenty-three routes was \$127,435. Six of the routes were expedited and increased and \$82,339.59 added to the annual pay. Five which did not promise well were given rid of before the service commenced, and six within a very short time were raised from \$45,771 to \$128,110.59 a year.

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