

FOR POSTAL REFORM

Commission Advises Congress to Make Many Changes.

LONG TERM OFFICIAL IN CHARGE

Principal Assistants Also to Be Permanent Appointments.

SUPERVISION TO BE BY DIVISIONS

Report Favors Branch Departments to Handle Routine.

ACCOUNTS ARE TO BE SIMPLIFIED

Detailed Reports From Small Offices Are to Be Discontinued and Useless Machinery Eliminated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Congress today received a preliminary report from the joint commission appointed during the last congress to investigate the business methods of the Postoffice department and postal service and submit recommendations for legislation to effect changes in its administration.

The commission, consisting of Senators Penrose, Carter and Clay and Representatives Overstreet, Gardner (New Jersey), and Moon, points out many objectionable features to the business methods of both departments.

Chief among the recommendations is a plan to place the actual direction of the business of the Postoffice department and service in the hands of an officer, with necessary assistants, to be appointed by the president, "by and with the advice and consent of the senate, for long terms, so as to insure the continuity of efficient service.

Under this plan the postmaster general, as a member of the cabinet, is chargeable with general supervisory control and the determination of questions of policy.

Simpler Business Methods. The commission also recommends that the business of the department be decentralized so as to avoid the congestion at the national capital, which impairs the efficiency and increases the cost of the service.

The moderate application of the non-accounting system to small offices will eliminate about 30,000, or nearly one-half, of all the postoffice accounts from the present complex report and bookkeeping system, or would at least greatly simplify the same.

The commission appears to require argument that the most efficient service can never be expected as long as the direction of the business is in the hands of a postmaster general and certain assistants selected without special reference to experience and ability.

Under such conditions a large commercial or industrial business would be unable to obtain the service of the Postoffice department but averted that this only because of the "bureaucratic" system has been available to meet deficiencies.

Systems of Administration. Submitted with the report of considerable value from two New York accounting firms who were assigned to the investigation of the department by the commission last May.

This report goes at length into the abolition of bureaus, the organization of administrative divisions, the consolidation of money-order and postal accounts, use of labor-saving devices, classification, auditing and accounting, and all of the many branches of the subject.

It contains an elaborate synopsis of a plan for reorganization of the department, it is pointed out that these criticisms are directed at methods and not at individuals.

The following is a summary of the more important suggestions made in the commission's report:

That the offices of the first, second, third and fourth assistant postmasters be abolished and that a director of posts be appointed at a salary sufficient to attract the best administrative talent in the country and that he be given sole charge of the operations of the department and service, subject to the control of the senate.

That the duties of the auditor be limited to the auditing of all the accounts in the proper sense of the word; that all postoffices not doing a money order business be treated as non-accounting offices, and a fixed supply of stamps, etc., be supplied to them to be replenished from neighboring accounting offices in exchange for cash or its equivalent.

District Offices. That district offices be created at consolidated in the same manner as the offices in miniature, on the same lines as the department offices, which would supervise the whole of the work in their districts, under the direction of responsible officials, and that the post and the assistant directors form an advisory board to meet several times a week and discuss important matters which may arise, and that a similar advisory board be created at each district office.

That the accounts of the Postoffice department and money order transactions, shall be kept separately and the merged accounts that promotions be based on merit and that schemes be made for retiring many of the oldest employees, that the liability for exceeding appropriations be strictly defined, and limited; that a proper accounting system be installed, that the cost of the several services rendered by the Postoffice department and postal service should be ascertained in accordance with methods herein suggested, either by periodical leases to the contractor, or use of labor saving machines and devices.

That the adoption of the postal notes not to exceed \$10 and the limitation of all money orders to not exceeding 500 money orders per annum.

This report classifies the cost, accounting and auditing systems of the Postoffice department and service as extremely crude and absolutely lacking in uniformity.

"The appointments of postmasters, clerks in postoffices and many other grades of the service," says the report, are still largely affected by political influence.

EX-NEBRASKAN CABLES COIN

John W. Bookwalter Sends Money for Poor People of Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, O., Feb. 10.—John W. Bookwalter, the millionaire and former democratic candidate for governor of Ohio, today called \$2,000 to Mayor Burnett from Nice, Italy. The money is to be used for the poor people of this city who are out of work. He owns 60,000 acres of land in Nebraska.

SUMMARY OF THE BEE

Tuesday, February 11, 1908.

1908 FEBRUARY 1908

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23 24 25 26 27 28 29

THE WEATHER.

FOR THE COUNCIL BLUFFS AND VICINITY. Rain or snow Tuesday; no important change in temperature.

FOR NEBRASKA.—Rain or snow Tuesday; colder in west portion Tuesday; heavy rain or snow Tuesday.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday.

Hour. Deg.

5 a. m. 32

6 a. m. 32

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FORAKER REPLIES IN SENATE

Ohio Senator Replies to President's Public Statement.

ATHENS' POSTMASTER IS CITED

Opposition to Taft is Declared to Have Been Cause of Holding Up His Appointment.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Senator Foraker today made reply to the president's statement published this morning concerning charges that public patronage has been used by him (the president) for political purposes. He took the floor in the senate on a question of personal privilege and reading at length from the president's correspondence with William Dudley Foulke, proceeded to explain his own attitude toward the federal patronage in Ohio.

Mr. Foraker opened his remarks by saying that on January 14, 1908, the senate in executive session at the instance of the two senators from Ohio refused to confirm certain postoffice appointments which had been made by the president.

"I am glad to see that the president has taken the time to make this statement," said Mr. Foraker, "I made a statement in about these words: 'That the action taken meant that there would not be in Ohio any further prostitution of patronage for political purposes without being resented.'"

"That, the senator said, seemed to be enough, and it was announced that the president would make a full and detailed answer to all the charges of the kind. Mr. Foraker referred to the president's statement, published in this morning's papers, and said he did not propose to go into details in his reply to that statement, because the appointment of a postmaster outside the community of that in which he lived is not of interest to the public. He read a part of the president's statement in which the latter declared that no presidential candidate had been favored in any appointments.

"These general propositions are important," said Mr. Foraker, referring to the president's words. "While the people of the country are not interested in specific details of appointments, they are interested in the general proposition enunciated by the president; they are interested in knowing that the appointments are made with an eye single to the good of the public service. The president by his statement recognizes the importance of observing these.

"It is difficult to prove cases of this character," said Mr. Foraker, "because ordinarily there is no evidence reduced to writing bearing on them.

Bryson's Case at Athens. "But, fortunately," he added, "we have one case in Ohio where there is written testimony. I do not charge anybody with bad faith. I supposed all the while that the president was acting upon recommendations made to him without knowledge of the basis of fact upon which these recommendations rested." He referred to the recent appointment of Charles H. Bryson as postmaster at Athens, O., who, he said, was appointed without his solicitation upon recommendation of Representative Alfred Douglas. He then read from a local paper an interview with Mr. Bryson in which he stated Taft had lost his following in Ohio and Foraker had greatly grown in strength.

At the conclusion of the reading of the interview, Mr. Foraker observed that there was nothing in it hostile to Secretary Taft, but that it expressed an honest difference of opinion on a subject entirely within his rights of individual opinion.

Mr. Bryson returned to Athens, said Mr. Foraker, and he understood that he had made a trouble until a few days later, when he received a letter from Representative Douglas telling of a talk he had had with Postmaster General Meyer on the subject of the appointment. According to this letter, Douglas had referred to the Bazar and the president had decided not to appoint Mr. Bryson after all. Representative Douglas said that the postmaster general was also about it, but determined, and evidently was carrying out the president's orders.

From the Postoffice department, Mr. Douglas went to the White House, where he took up the matter with Mr. Loeb, the president's secretary, who said the president could see no reason for appointing men to office who were not in general harmony with his policies.

Mr. Loeb, according to Mr. Douglas's letter, said the president was determined that Mr. Douglas should recommend another appointment.

Mr. Bryson said that it would be advisable for him to come to Washington and take the matter up himself. After receiving a reply, dated December 3, in which Mr. Bryson said he would be in Washington within a day or so, Mr. Douglas saw the president. The story of the conference at which Mr. Douglas immediately sent to the White House was told in a letter Mr. Bryson says:

"The president kindly told me that I would have to recommend another man."

Mr. Douglas said that he urged the president to reconsider, but that he was insistent.

Mr. Foraker said he did not want to comment upon the correspondence beyond showing the pressure that had been brought to bear on one man who had expressed his personal view on a matter of which he had a right to express them, "to course" as the president has said in his letter.

Mr. Bryson then sent a letter to Mr. Douglas, said Mr. Foraker, in which he gave him view of the situation. He said that in his interview he had said that Taft was losing and Foraker gaining in Ohio, and that Taft, if nominated, could not carry the state. Mr. Bryson referred to this and declared that it was true. He said that he had always been in favor of the president's policies and that nothing had ever appeared in his paper in opposition to the administration. He reviewed some of the things he had said, however, including the statement that the president would be compelled to take another nomination, because with Taft as a candidate the labor, capital and the negro vote will be eliminated from the party. He asserted that the president's statement in his (Bryson's) activities, as reported to Mr. Douglas, was entirely wrong, and in conclusion Mr. Bryson said: "I favor the president, but not his candidate, and I shall not so long as I think Bryan can beat him at the polls."

President Changed Mind. The letter contained a declaration of political independence so far as expressing preference for candidates is concerned, and Mr. Bryson announced that while he would like to continue in office he would not do so by the sacrifice of his independence and so the president could have the office for himself.

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ROYAL CASKETS ARE CLOSED

Bodies of King Carlos and Prince Luis Soon to Be Placed in Tombs.

LISBON, Feb. 10.—The bodies of King Carlos and the crown prince were still lying in state this morning at the Cathedral of St. Vincent, long before the portals were opened a great crowd had congregated on the streets before the building, and as soon as they were permitted the people filed through for the last glimpse of the bodies of King Carlos and Prince Luis.

Several newspapers today, notably the Seculo, independent, pleaded for the pardon of each any every man in prison for political offenses. This paper points out that the president of the republic has not disarmed the democracy and says: "To conquer the democracy the king must win the love and confidence of the people."

TURIN, Italy, Feb. 10.—Maria Pia, the dowager queen of Portugal, has telegraphed her sister, Princess Clotilde, but that she will soon come here to stay some time.

There was almost a riot this afternoon on the part of the populace to get into the cathedral where the bodies of King Carlos and Crown Prince Luis are lying in state. It is estimated that no less than 30,000 people were striving at one time to make their way into the cathedral.

Cavalry was summoned to disperse the crowd and found it necessary to charge before the people would move.

FRANCO DEPARTS SUDDENLY

Tickets Purchased for Marseilles, but Ultimate Destination of Ex-Premier Not Known.

BORDEAUX, France, Feb. 10.—Senator Franco, the ex-premier of Portugal, with his son, left this city by train this morning in the direction of Cetto or Marseilles. The departure was made suddenly, the hotel authorities being notified of the step at the last moment. It became known later that Senator Franco had purchased tickets for the train to Marseilles, and had his baggage registered for Marseilles.

The train upon which Senator Franco is traveling is due at Marseilles at a few minutes before midnight. It was twenty minutes before train time when Senator Franco unexpectedly received his bill from the hotel manager. The time was short that the hotel porters had to work with the greatest rapidity in order to get the many pieces of baggage of the Franco party over to the station in time.

Senator Franco appeared restless from his stay here. He is now depressed and he walked over to the train at a quick step. He was accompanied by French detectives. There were no people at the railroad station to see him off.

Burkett to Talk for Taft.

Senator Burkett today accepted an invitation of the state Republican club of Massachusetts to divide time with Secretary Taft at a meeting of the club to be held in Boston, Mass., on Wednesday.

Secretary Taft is to be made all along the line for delegates from the New England states.

Birdall in Fight for Allison.

Congressman Birdall, of the old Dubuque district, which for many years was represented by the late David B. Henderson, has announced that he will go into the campaign in Iowa against Governor Cummins, and he retires from congress for that purpose.

Judge Birdall has not been greatly enamored of congressional life. He largely through the solicitation of Governor Cummins. Now, the rumor goes, Governor Cummins has wholly abandoned his friendship for the successor of ex-Speaker Henderson and has gone to the aid of a suggestion of another man for Birdall's place.

Smarting under this seeming betrayal of friendship, Judge Birdall has announced his withdrawal from the congressional race for the sixty-first congress and will shortly leave for Iowa to get into the senatorial campaign now on between Senator Allison and Governor Cummins.

Big Bond for Postmaster.

It was said at the Postoffice department today that they did not expect to receive the bond from B. E. Thomas, Omaha's new postmaster, for some days. After its receipt it will go through the customary examination before approval. Mr. Thomas will be obliged to give a bond of \$25,000 before he can take charge of the Omaha postoffice.

Minor Matters at Capital.

Senator Brown today introduced a bill granting a pension of \$36 per month to Mary Chering of Kearney, Neb., which amount to include pensions for four minor children.

Senator Garble today introduced a bill to extend the time for the completion by the Winnipeg, Yankton & Gulf railroad of a bridge across the Missouri river at Yankton for four years.

Congressman Kinkaid has recommended the appointment of Anna Fenrich as postmaster at Dunlap, Daws county. Also the establishment of the following postoffices, with recommendations for postmasters: Ashby, Grant county, with John McCabe postmaster; Linn, Lincoln county, with Sarah D. McIntire postmaster; Fairview, Lincoln county, Christina Danielson postmaster.

Senator Gamble today called on the president and recommended the appointment of L. E. Michael of Gettysburg, S. D., to be Indian agent in charge of the Lower Brule reservation.

Rural route No. 1 has been ordered established April 1 at Culbertson, Hitchcock county, Neb., serving 200 people and eighty families.

Special carriers appointed for Iowa routes: Route 2, James A. Foster, carrier; route 3, Lewis M. Owen, substitute; Grinnell, route 4, William P. Pilgrim, carrier; Martin Grogson, substitute; Panama, route 7, Jesse M. McGrath, carrier; Adolphus McMath, substitute.

BALLOONING TO WAIT AWHILE

Congress Will Let This Department Experiment With Funds on Hand.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The desire of the signal corps for an increased appropriation to be used in ballooning is not to be fulfilled this year according to Chairman Hull of the house committee on military affairs. President Roosevelt took this matter up with Mr. Hull today, his suggestion being that the committee make an investigation into the subject of army ballooning with the view to an increased appropriation. On leaving the White House Mr. Hull stated that the conclusion had been reached that the proper investigation could not be well made at this session.

TWO WARSHIPS RECOMMENDED

House Committee on Naval Affairs Cuts Request of Department in Half.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The house committee on naval affairs voted to recommend an appropriation for two battleships of the Delaware class instead of the four battleships recommended by the Navy department and urged by the president.

FITZGERALD BALKS OMAHA

New Yorker Knocks Out Important Word in the Indian Bill.

BOYD GETS BRIDGE AT NIobrARA

Congressman Birdall of Iowa is Returning Home to Work for Allison's Re-Election to the United States Senate.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—(Special Telegram.)—On a point of order, the word "hereafter" reported in the Indian bill in conjunction with certain Indian warehouses, including Omaha, St. Louis and Chicago, went out. Representative Fitzgerald of New York made the point that the word "hereafter," if permitted to remain in the section of the bill, would fix the law as to these several warehouses and he did not believe that that was contemplated by the committee nor would it be in harmony with existing law.

For years the representatives from the Omaha, Chicago and St. Louis districts have fought for an appropriation for Indian supply depots, and had the word "hereafter" been permitted to remain in the bill as it came from the committee, the yearly row over continuing the appropriation for the Omaha warehouse and others named would have ceased, for that little word "hereafter" would have made the warehouses at Omaha, St. Louis, San Francisco and Chicago permanent, and it would have taken the point of order that Judge Boyd might explain the conditions which prompted the amendment. And this the representative of the Third district did in a manner that won him friends. While his speech was short, it was entirely comprehensive to the extent that it satisfied the chairman of the committee and he withdrew the objection which he had made against the amendment, even though it was new legislation. It was Judge Boyd's maiden effort, and it is more to the point he won his contention.

St. Louis Warehouse Opposed

Congressman Fitzgerald Says There is No Need of Maintaining It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—After Mr. Leake's speech in the house today the nonsectarian school provision of the Indian appropriation bill was taken up. There was brief debate after which the provision was modified so that instead of authorizing the commissioner of Indian affairs to negotiate with the various states in which they were located for the disposal of these schools, he is "to ascertain whether and upon what terms it may be possible to dispose of any of the nonsectarian schools which may be deemed no longer of value to the Indian service."

The commissioner is directed also to report to the next session of congress the results of his investigations.

Mr. Fitzgerald (N. Y.) made violent opposition to the permanent continuance of the Indian warehouse at St. Louis. He charged that it was put there simply for the convenience of former Secretary Hitchcock because that was his home city. The amount of business done by that warehouse, he insisted, did not justify its maintenance.

Men Going Back to Work

Six Thousand Workmen Put Back at Lorain Plant of National Tube Company.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 10.—Between 5,000 and 6,000 men returned to work at the Lorain plant of the National Tube company today. The plant had been closed down for several months. Under normal conditions about 8,000 men are employed. It is understood to be the present intention of the company to re-employ a full quota of men within a very short time.

Interviews with the leading manufacturers of Cleveland and northern Ohio show an optimistic feeling as to business conditions on all sides. The plant of the American Steel and Wire company at Salem, O., has resumed double turn operations this morning.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—The plate, slab and structural mills of the Illinois Steel company in South Chicago, which have been practically shut down for several weeks, opened today, giving employment to 2,000 men.

BEECH HARGIS BEFORE COURT

Son Who Killed Father Shows No Signs of Breakdown in Presence of Judge.

JACKSON, Ky., Feb. 10.—Notwithstanding a constant downpour of rain, the circuit court room was crowded today when Beech Hargis, charged with the murder of his father, Judge James Hargis, was brought before the court for a preliminary hearing. Judge Redwine for the defendant said he desired to waive examination since the circuit court session is to begin next Monday. He asked leave to give bail, but this was not allowed. It is believed that the defense will be insanity.

Schooner Abandoned at Sea