

THE PITH OF THE NEWS.

Washington News.

Postoffices Established—Dakota, Rugh, Nelson county. Postmasters Commissioned—C. H. Rugh, Rugh, Dak.

Internal revenue collections for the first five months of the fiscal year amount to \$47,822,190, as against \$51,317,933 for the same period last year.

Arrangements are being completed at the naval observatory to extend the system of dropping time-balls to Boston, Baltimore and Hampton Roads, and ultimately to New Orleans. This will be done automatically by telegraphic connections with the observatory.

Nothing will be done with reference to the selection of the ladies who are to assist the president New Year's day, until Mrs. McElroy's wishes are consulted. She will probably finish her list soon, and the indications are that last New Year's day, when her assistants were forty in all, will be eclipsed.

The inauguration committee decided to send an invitation to Gen. Hancock to act as grand marshal of the inauguration parade. Col. Berrett, chairman of the committee, informed the committee that he had an interview with Gen. Sheridan in which the latter stated that if Gen. Hancock should accept the invitation, he would be given every opportunity to attend the duties of the office.

The arrangements for the dedication of the Washington monument are progressing rapidly. The commission appointed by congress to arrange suitable ceremonies has extended a general invitation to military, masonic and civil organizations (the latter not to carry emblems of a political character) to participate. Gen. Sheridan requests that all organizations intending to take part in the procession notify him at the earliest moment, in order that proper places in the column may be assigned them.

Senator Sherman does not seem to entertain a very high opinion of the business capacity of our successful military chieftain. In speaking of Gen. Grant's financial misfortune he said: "I regret his misfortune and am sorry for his unfortunate venture in business, where he was so unmercifully swindled; but observation has shown me that many men who have been successful generals are not qualified to control a large business. Take, for instance, the three generals of the late war. We have seen how disastrous Gen. Grant's venture has been. Gen. Sherman is unfitted to handle large business interests. He has a dread of debt, and if he met any obstacle in his business he would merely crush it or trample over it. Gen. Sheridan could not run a cattle ranch. However, there are exceptions to the contrary, for I could name a score of men in Ohio who were distinguished soldiers, and who have made fortunes since leaving the service."

Railroad and River News.

The Illinois railroads are flocking to Springfield, to protest against a reduction of rates by the state board.

The Oregon snow blockade continues, but the Northern Pacific people are at work on it, and hope to break it in a day or two.

Record of Casualties.

Pulman's warehouse in Tulare, Dak., with 4,000 bushels of wheat, was burned.

A man named Wood, living west of Greene, Iowa, while driving home from Rockford recently, was frozen to death.

James Balfour dropped dead while attending service in the Methodist church at Meadow Lea, Man., on Christmas day. It is supposed that the cause was heart disease.

Joseph Noulton, aged twenty-three years, was killed by falling 175 feet down the shaft of the Rock Island mine at Lexington, Mont. He leaves a wife and child in Cornwall.

The large furniture manufactory of Anthony Waterman, in Medford street, Charlestown district, Boston, was burned. The loss is probably not less than \$60,000. This is the third large furniture factory in Boston burned within a week.

At Kansas City, the North, Orrison & Co.'s furniture store was destroyed by fire and an adjoining building, occupied by Wolf Brothers dealers in General furnishing goods, was badly scorched and damaged by water. The total loss will exceed \$100,000.

At West Bend, Wis., fire destroyed Wittig & Kern's livery stable and the large hotel barn of Charles Wolf, adjoining, involving a loss of about \$8,000, including about half. All the horses were saved, but the carriages, cutters, harnesses, etc., were nearly all lost.

The house of Hon. W. H. Norris of Ozark county, Mo., was burned, and Norris perished in the flames. His family had all escaped from the house, when Norris re-entered to save an old family relic but was cut off by the flames and fell, suffocated by smoke, and was burned before his wife and children.

The Criminal Calendar.

A trio of firebugs, who have been infesting Trempealeau county, Wis., have been bagged.

Henry Austin, aged thirty-two years, son of George F. Austin, a well known and highly respected citizen of Milwaukee, suicided by shooting.

James M. Baillie, formerly book-keeper of the American National bank, Chicago, who absconded with \$18,000 of the bank's money, was arrested in New Orleans.

Con. Connors, the deputy-sheriff-horse-thief from Helena, who has been confined with Charles White in the Dillon, Montana, jail, made his escape (on foot) recently.

At a Christmas eve jollity at Summerville, S. C., Mrs. Frances David, a prominent church woman and wife of the wealthiest man in the region, killed Mrs. Lizzie Way, the belle of the town, by stabbing her with a pair of scissors. Jealousy.

A special telegram from Purvis (Miss.) about the lynching of a merchant at that point who wrecked a train, says his name is Jordan Parrot, and he stood well in the community. The statement that three tramps were hanged here is without truth.

Mrs. Williams, living near Dahlgren, Hamilton county, Illinois, while in a fit of mental despondency, threw one of her children, a little girl, into a well and attaching another, still younger, to her dress jumped in herself, and all three were drowned.

Personal Points.

Civil Justice Alfred Steckler of New York distributed Christmas dinners to 1,000 families of that city.

Capt. David Nye, general superintendent of the Northern Pacific Coast railroad, dropped dead in San Francisco of heart disease.

Miss Constance A., daughter of Col. Jerome

N. Bonaparte, has decided upon the life of a recluse and will shortly enter a convent.

Capt. Walter Pease, whose death occurred recently at Enfield, Conn., was one of the oldest men in the state, having passed his 100th birthday.

Dr. Mary Walker, high hat, breeches and all, swept down the executive chamber at Albany recently. Every body fled, Gov. Cleveland heading the stampede.

Cornelius Aultman of Canton, Ohio, a well-known manufacturer of agricultural implements, died on Christmas evening, after entertaining a large party of friends.

Ellen Terry burst into tears when presented with a silver tea-set by the Irving company at Pittsburg recently. For some Miss-Terry-our reason this lady weeps with fluency and frequency.

Dr. George H. Atkinson, one of the leading physicians of Brooklyn, is lying at the point of death. The disease from which he is suffering, with not the slightest hope of recovery, is blood poisoning, contracted while attending a private patient in August last.

John Baldwin, founder of Baldwin university at Berea, Ohio, died Sunday aged ninety-five years. When ninety years of age Mr. Baldwin went to Louisiana, purchased a plantation, established a college for colored people and built up the town of Baldwin, where he died.

Austin, (Tex.) Special.—Judge Brewster, who died recently, according to a promise he exacted from his daughter, will be buried at Galveston, at the disposal of the friends of the deceased, many of whom accompanied the funeral party.

Last Sunday, Henry Ward Beecher gave his congregation a plain talk regarding his course in the campaign. He may have made some mistakes, but does not regret his general course. He desires no misunderstanding with his people, and cares not for diminished pew rents.

Miscellaneous News Notes.

P. & M. Newburger of Chicago have failed. Liabilities \$20,000.

Beatrice, Nev., a negro woman who is turning white in spots.

Chicago claims to have spent \$19,000,000 on buildings in 1884. St. Paul and Minneapolis spent \$15,000,000.

Jose Gomez, an attaché of the Brazilian legation at Washington, has married Miss Louise Hatcher of Lafayette, Ind.

A Cambridge (Mass.) jury decides that Mrs. Valeria Stone was of sound mind, but disagrees as to whether she was unduly influenced by Rev. Willcox.

It is stated that Sandager Bros. of Grafton, Dak., have effected arrangements with their Chicago creditors, securing an extension of their accounts.

The New York Star was sold to a syndicate, headed by George W. England, son of I. W. England, publisher of the Sun. The price paid is said to be \$170,000.

John Hoberg of Ledyard, Wis., has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors to D. J. Brothers of Kaukauna. His liabilities are \$13,000, and nominal liabilities \$15,000.

Inspector Godrich and others closely inspected G. T. Plankett's wollen mills office at Hinsdale, Mass., and are convinced that dynamite was employed in an attempt to blow it up.

Judge Couch sentenced the eight saloonkeepers in Waterloo, Iowa, who are indicted for keeping a nuisance, \$75 each and costs. The sentences on the five in Cedar Falls, indicted at the same time, were suspended till the April term.

T. C. Lauder, W. W. Bradley and R. Jeanson were arrested for alleged ballot-box stuffing on election day at Wilmor, Dak. They waived examination and were each held in \$1,000 bonds to appear for trial at the next term of the district court.

The New York World proposes to ask Richeu Robinson to frame a bid imposing an ad valorem tariff on titles according to the following schedule: Princes \$5,000; earls, \$3,000; dukes, \$2,500; counts, \$500; barons, \$250; marquises, \$100.

Gov. Sherman of Iowa seems to be halting between two opinions concerning the proposed extra session of the legislature. There are those who are urging the call, in the pretended interest of the farmer, to reduce railway freight, and there are those who oppose it, fearing the movement is not one to reduce freight but to effect a repeal of the prohibitory law.

The recent death of Capt. L. H. Sanger, of the Seventh infantry at Amboy, Ill., will cause the promotion of Lieut. William P. Rogers, the regimental adjutant, to be captain of Company G, and Second Lieut. E. Howe to a first lieutenancy. A vacancy is thus created in the regimental staff, which will be filled by selection of some one of the lieutenants of the regiment.

During last week the following failures and assignments were reported at Bradstreet's St. Paul office: Dare & Kennedy, Dawson, Dak.; Sandager Bros., Grafton, Dak.; J. M. Knepper & Son, Huron, Dak.; R. Zimmerman, Alexandria, Minn., general merchandise; J. H. McCallin, hotel, Minto, Dak.; Ames & Melones, J. E. O'Garland, Sacred Heart, Minn.; D. E. Patvold, Clear Lake, Wis., grocers; Walker, Judd & Veazie, lumber and logs, Marine Mills, Minn.; T. Morris & Bro., jewelers, Crookston, Minn.; C. J. Weaverston, tailor, St. Paul.

Suggests of Foreign News.

There is reported to be great grief in France over the reported resignation of Minister Morton.

Reports of ship-building in Great Britain for 1884 show the enormous falling of nearly 500,000 tons.

The French senate has adopted a clause of the budget establishing the principle of taxation of religious bodies.

The stage name of Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, one of the most distinguished amateur actors in London, is "Mr. S. Whitehead."

The British annexation of St. Lucia Bay will probably increase colonial differences. The German explorer Finwald, now in Zu Zeland writes that he acquired a treaty right in Lucia Bay with 10,000 acres from the king of Zu Zeland.

Victor Schoelcher, of the French senate, corrected to wasp-like tenacity and wearing the pop-top trousers and high collar of the period of 1850—a representative dude of the last generation—is described as resembling a living and moving model of Euclid.

At the last council of ministers Bismarck raised the question of the dissolution of the Reichstag. The council considered the present moment inopportune and decided to wait further hostile manifestations before throwing the country into a fresh election fever.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Correspondence Between George William Curtis and Others and President Eliot Grover Cleveland.

The following correspondence explains itself: National Civil Service Reform League, office 4 Pine street, New York, Dec. 20, 1884.—Hon. Grover Cleveland. Sir: We have the honor to address you on behalf of the national civil service reform league, an association composed of citizens of all parties, whose sole purpose is indicated by its name and which takes no part whatever in party controversy. The vast increase in the number of persons engaged in civil service and the grave mischiefs and dangers arising from general proscriptive in the service which for half a century has followed changes of party control of the national administration, have produced so profound an impression upon the public mind that the first effective steps toward reform were taken with the co-operation of both parties in the passage of the reform act of Jan. 16, 1883. The abuses which that act seeks to correct, however, are so strongly entrenched in the traditions and usages of both parties that there is, naturally, wide-spread anxiety lest the party change in the national executive effected by the late election should show them to be inseparable. But, believing, as we do, that the reformed system cannot be held to be securely established until it has safely passed the ordeal of such a party change, and recalling with satisfaction and confidence your public expressions favorable to reform, and your official acts as chief executive of the state of New York, we confidently commend this course to your patriotic care in the exercise of the great power with which the American people have entrusted you. Respectfully yours, Geo. W. Curtis, Pres't, Wm. Potts, Secretary, John Jay, Moorefield Storey, J. Hall Pleasants, W. W. Montgomery, Everett P. Wheeler, Fred K. Crouwell, Morrill Wyman, Jr., Carl Schurz, Sias W. Curt, A. R. McDonough, William Carey Sanger, William W. Aiken, Executive Committee.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CLEVELAND'S REPLY. Albany, N. Y., Dec. 25, 1884.—Hon. George William Curtis, President, etc.—Dear Sir: Your communication dated Dec. 20, addressed to me on behalf of the civil service reform league, has been received. That practical reform in the civil service is demanded is abundantly established by the facts of the statute referred to in your communication to secure such result has been passed in congress with the assent of both political parties, and by the further fact that a sentiment generally prevails among patriotic people calling for the fair and honest enforcement of the law which has been enacted. I regard myself pledged to the maintenance of every democratic principle of the fact which you refer, that many of our citizens fear that the recent party change in the national executive may demonstrate that the abuses which have grown up in the civil service are ineradicable. I know they are deeply rooted, and that the spoils system has been supposed to be intimately related to success in the maintenance of party organization, and I am not sure that all those who profess to be friends of this reform will stand firmly among its advocates when they find it obstructing their way to patronage and place. But fully appreciating the trust committed to my charge, no such consideration shall cause a relaxation of my part of earnest effort to enforce this law. There is a class of government positions which are not within the letter of the civil service statute, but which are so disconnected with the policy of an administration that the removal therefrom of the present incumbents, in my opinion, should not be made during the terms for which they were appointed, solely on partisan grounds and for the purpose of placing in their place those who are in political accord with the appointing power. But many now holding such positions have forfeited all just claim to retention, because they have used their places for party purposes in disregard of their duty to the people, and because, instead of being decent public servants, they have proved themselves offensive partisans and unscrupulous manipulators in party management. The lessons of the past should be unlearned, and such officials, as well as their successors, should be taught that efficiency, fitness and devotion to public duty are the conditions of their continuance in public place, and that the maintenance of a reasonable measure of equal political rights is a reasonable measure of their party service. If I was addressing none but party friends I should deem it entirely proper to remind them that, though the coming administration is to be Democratic, a due regard for the people's interest does not permit faithful party work to be always rewarded by appointment to office, and to say to them that while Democrats may expect all proper consideration, selections for office not embraced within the civil service rules will be based upon sufficient inquiry to fitness, instituted by those charged with that duty, rather than upon persistent or self-solicited recommendation on behalf of candidates for appointment. Your obedient servant, GROVER CLEVELAND.

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