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GENERAL NEWS.

POINTS FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

Blaine has a Word For Himself.

Sporting Notes—More of The Mexican Filibustering Scheme, Etc.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE NEWS.

Headquarters Gossip.

WASHINGTON, 16.—In his annual report of the operations of his office during the past year, Adjutant-General Drum devotes some space to recommendations touching the use of the militia. Referring to the reports of the inspecting officers, made public yesterday, he says:

"While just but kind criticism points out many defects, there are none that cannot be remedied by men exhibiting the military zeal and pride that should animate them. The State military reports show unmistakable evidence of a slowly maturing temper and character destined to still more closely unite the regular army and the militia—the twin parts of the defensive power of the Government."

The Adjutant General then makes the following

RECOMMENDATIONS:

"State encampments to be of absolute benefit should at least be of ten days' duration, and while established at convenient points looking to economy in the concentration of troops, should be at a sufficient distance from the homes of the members of the command, in order to overcome business and social influences which would affect the efforts at imparting instructions and holding the men in hand for drills, target practice, guard duty, etc. The camps should be divested of every appearance of a holiday character. The programme of military exercises should exclude elementary company drills and the time of the encampment be devoted to instruction and practice in skirmish and battalion drills and guard duty. As long as fighting in the future must be done in open order, a thorough acquaintance with the skirmish drill is of the highest importance. The officers should be required to insist upon the duties of the guards and sentinels being performed and instruction in

GUARD DUTY

should be given to the men in the armories. So far as the fatigue, uniform or dress for the field service is concerned it would be of advantage for the authorities of each State to prescribe a simple, plain, but serviceable fatigue uniform, for all troops, to which the companies might gradually conform within a limited time, say one year. This is not intended to interfere with the right of each command to wear such full dress uniform as it may have selected for wear in reviews, parades and other occasions of pure ceremony. Obsolete arms and ammunition in the hands of the State troops should be replaced by improved guns of the same pattern as in the hands of the regular army, and suitable ammunition provided. The exhibition drills, while interesting as showing to what degree of mechanical precision a body of men can be trained to attain in movements and motions, are an unenviable feature of military camps. In many instances the development of extreme smartness of drill involves the neglect of some of the most important and solid parts of a soldier's training."

THE ESTIMATES

already submitted to the appropriation committee by the Treasury Department include those for public works (rivers and harbors), for public printing, for the bureau of engraving and printing, for the revenue marine service, for the signal service, for coast surveys, and for the public land service. These estimates are all in the form of printed proof slips. The regular book on estimates was to be ready for distribution about the first of December. It is understood that the naval estimates are $10,000,000 less in amount than the estimates for last year.

The question of lighting the Bartholdi Statue of Liberty was officially brought to the attention of the President-to-day, for the first time, by the Secretary of the Treasury. The President and the Secretary examined the laws bearing on the case, and as a result, the President directed that the matter be placed in the hands of the

LIGHTHOUSE BOARD,

with a view of determining the utility of the statue as a beacon. Mr. Goff, president of the American System of Electric Lighting, subsequently waited on the secretary of the Lighthouse Board and made a proposition to light the statue at the government's expense. He was told to put his offer in writing and it would be considered. A member of the board, in speaking on the subject this afternoon, said the main question to be determined was whether the electric light was an aid or a detriment to navigation. There were many persons who held the latter view, and it is a fact, he said, that the electric light at Hell Gate was to be discontinued after the 1st prox., because it was regarded as dangerous to navigation.

A general order has been issued from the War Department, to go into effect Jan. 1st next, providing that when an officer is granted leave of absence it shall be charged to the year or years in which it first accrued, in the order of priority of date, and any balance of accrued leave remaining shall stand to his credit for future leave. No

CREDIT OF LEAVE,

however, shall stand for more than four years. This order, it is stated, is intended to give army officers the full benefit of the cumulative leave privilege, in which they have been restricted for ten years past.

The President's message and the annual reports of the heads of departments were the principal topics under consideration at to-day's cabinet meeting. There was a full attendance, and the session was somewhat longer than usual.

Delegates representing 17 fraternal societies with a membership of 530,000, met at the Riggs House in this city today and orgadized a National Congress of Fraternal

BENEFICIARY SOCIETIES.

A permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Leroy Andrus of New York, president; W. R. Barnes, president of the California Press Association, first vice-president; J. H. Butler, of Massachusetts, second vice-president; R. C. Hill, editor of the Buffalo Sunday *Truth*, recording secretary; O. M. Shedd, of New York, corresponding secretary; and Bolivar Nelson, of Washington, treasurer. A constitution was adopted of which the principal provision is, that none but legitimate fraternal beneficiary societies, working under a ritual and lodge system, shall be eligible to membership in the National Congress. The main object of the congress is to organize among the various beneficiary orders a system of information, benefit and prosecution. It is said that a number of business and speculative companies are organized under titles which would lead many persons to believe them fraternal beneficiary societies. Protection is desired against these companies.

CLAIMS ALLOWED.

Second Comptroller Maynard has decided to allow the claim of Allen McDonald and Frederick J. Hurstell, civilian members of the *Proteus* Arctic expedition under Lieutenant Garlington, U. S. N., for reimbursement for clothing lost in Smith Sound in July, 1886. This decision overrules the action of the Third Auditor, who disallowed the claims for want of jurisdiction, on the ground that the claimants were not officers or enlisted in the army. The Second Comptroller holds that the claimants are entitled to payment, as the clothing was lost through no fault of theirs.

The First Comptroller of the Treasury rendered a decision to-day, which will be of interest to the holders of Government bonds. There has just been presented for redemption at $50 five per cent. bonds, issued under the act of March 3d, 1864, which provides that the

BONDS OF THAT ISSUE

shall be payable 40 years after date, with an option to the government of redemption at any time after the expiration of two years. The bond in question was embraced in a call made in 1879 and has just been presented with all the coupons detached. The Comptroller decides that as the nominal value of the unmatured detached coupons is greater than the face value of the bond itself, the bond cannot be redeemed until such coupons shall have been presented.

The press item from Scranton, Pa., stating that it was publicly announced in that city to-day that the office of Attorney General had been tendered to Hon. Chas. Buckalew, was shown to Col. Lamont, the President's private secretary, by an Associated Press reporter to-night. In response to it Col. Lamont said: "There is nothing at all in that. There is no vacancy in that office," and he added with a smile, "I don't think there is likely to be one. There is no basis for any such story whatever."

A Peculiar Case.

BOSTON, 16.—The closing arguments in the celebrated case of Levi Wilson against the Worcester millionaire, Philip L. Moen, were made to-day, speaking for the defense, Attorney Morse said there was not a scrap of written testimony to uphold the plaintiff's evidence, which is full of contradictions and equivocations. He had received nearly $300,000 from Moen, but he does not say why or what was the consideration. Counsel then took up Moen's testimony. Wilson said he had gone to Moen and told him if he did not (Wilson) have $100, he would tell in the police court of the filthy act performed by another person. Moen would have told the details of that story had he been asked. Perhaps in not going into this matter Wilson had in his mind the blackmail laws. When a man once pays money to a blackmailer, the rule is that he will continue these payments. When Moen paid he first $100 in 1875, he thought he had done with Wilson forever. Counsel then explained Wilson's extortion methods and said that Moen was under the strange power of a blackmailer, and when he had paid so much, he paid more to keep from the public the fact that he had paid anything. Wilson's contradictory testimony was then reviewed to show that his statements were worthless, especially in the matter of his handwriting and the letter he alleges he had received from Moen.

Rearrested.

SAN FRANCISCO, 16.—James Hope, a noted cracksman, was released from the State's Prison at San Quentin today. He was immediately taken in charge by New York officers to be taken to Auburn, New York, where he is wanted for jail breaking and also for alleged complicity in the Manhattan Bank robbery of a million dollars. Hope's attorneys attempted to prevent the New York officers from obtaining custody of him by a writ of *habeas corpus*, but when they arrived at the prison their client was already in the hands of the Eastern officers, and on the way to catch the train for the East. Telegraphic messages have been sent along the railroad with this State to stay the Eastern officers.

Sacramento, 16.—The officers who were taking James Hope, the notorious cracksman, to New York after his release from San Quentin, were overtaken at Suisun by the Sheriff, who served a writ of *habeas corpus* and then proceeded with the prisoner for this city, whence they will leave for San Francisco to-morrow to have the case heard.

Severe Snow Storm.

CHEYENNE, Wyoming, 16.—The snow storm prevailing throughout Wyoming and Southern Dakota the last forty-eight hours was the first storm of any magnitude this season. The snow is light and dry, and a high wind to-day has blown it off the prairie bluffs and foot-hills into the low places, leaving large portions of the grazing fields bare. Stock will therefore not suffer for the want of feed. The temperature has not been down to zero during the storm.

Blaine Speaks for Himself.

AUGUSTA, Me., 16.—The following letter will be published here to-morrow;

AUGUSTA, Me.—*To the Editor of the Kennebec Journal*: I thank you for calling my attention to a circular issued by the so called Independent Committee during the recent canvass in Massachusetts, touching my position on the question of civil service reform. Absence from home for several weeks has prevented my seeing it sooner. The circular embodies a singular perversion of what I said, and a still more singular perversion of what I quoted in my speech on the 19th of October, at Huntingdon, Pa. How the error of misrepresentation originated is not for me to say. My speeches in Pennsylvania were accurately reported for the Philadelphia *Press* by a skillful stenographer, and I personally saw the report in no other paper. I send you herewith the speech of October 19th, as it appeared in the *Press*, and respectfully ask you to re-publish it in your columns, side by side with the circular issued by the Massachusetts Independent Committee. I thank you further for submitting to me the public letter of October 26th from Mr. Martin Brimmer, of Boston, in which

I AM ACCUSED

of "repudiating the reform of the civil service with a sneer." Perhaps Mr. Brimmer inconsiderately based his remarks upon the circular of the Independent Committee, and has been led into publishing a statement which does me a great injustice. If my supposition be correct, Mr. Brimmer will as a gentleman withdraw his language. It is scarcely necessary to say that I have never repudiated reform in civil service nor abated my interest therein, nor have I ever regarded the sneer as a formidable mode of argument. Were I tempted to resort to it, I should direct it, not against the reform of the civil service, but against the hypocrisy of those who wish the conditions of that service to be enforced against their political opponents, but not against their political friends. The point which I sought to establish in my speech at Huntingdon was entirely confused and obscured in the Independent circular. In effect, I said that the English civil service, which was

HELD UP AS A MODEL

for our own government by those who left the Republican party two years ago, is now under investigation and apparent condemnation by the English themselves; that the British Ministry have instituted a commission to examine into the alleged abuses, and that Mr. George W. Smalley, apparently agreeing hitherto with the American admirers of the English service, now declares the belief of England to be that the civil service is worse in all the departments of the government than it was 40 years ago.

Mr. Smalley gives a somewhat detailed recital of the defects and abuses alleged to exist in the English service, defects and abuses which were never attributed to our own civil service even by its most merciless censors. My argument implied and was intended to imply that the Republican party had been wise in not adopting the English system with its life tenure and its large pension list and all the attendant evils, which have at last demanded an investigation by a Ministerial Commission. Nor would

JUSTICE AND FAIR COURTESY

have been done to my speech even if any remarks on the civil service, torn from the logical connection, had been quoted by the Independent Committee. Those remarks were but part of an argument in which I endeavored to illustrate how truly American in its sense were the whole policy and history of the Republican party, and how under the lead of the so-called Independents the Democratic party, both in its revenue system and its civil service rules, was to be conformed to British policies, just at the time when the British themselves are finding a fatal weakness in those policies. In short, though I did not say so in word, I meant to convey my belief that the very first leaders and guides for the continental republic are those who persist in seeing the perfection of human government in an insular monarchy whose conditions are in all respects radically different from those of our own land. The mass of independents should learn that American inspiration ends where the imitation of England begins.

Very respectfully,
JAMES G. BLAINE.

More of the Mexican Scheme.

ST. LOUIS, 16.—A party of gentlemen consisting of Col. Watts Sanford, of Tom Green county, Texas, Major William Davis, of Maria, Texas, Rood Hume, of Demery, and Chris O'Connor, of San Pimen, Arizona, accompanied by two other gentlemen who are somewhat noted in Texas politics, but who do not wish their names mentioned, arrived here to-day, and are heavily laden with a scheme to organize a new republic. They are commissioners from the Socialistic Republic of Rio Grande, about which there has been much comment in the newspapers of late. They state their object to be to take advantage of the excitement produced on the Mexican border by the Cutting incident and to invade the three northwestern States of Mexico and Lower California, conquer them, and establish what they call

"THE SOCIALISTIC REPUBLIC."

They will leave for Chicago to-morrow to submit their scheme to prominent and leading cattlemen in attendance on the convention there. It does not seem that the subject will be brought directly before the convention, but one of the commissioners said some strong lobbying would be done.

Colonel Sanford is a wealthy cattle man, Major Davis is a sheep raiser, Mr. Hume is a freighter and stage owner, Mr. O'Connor has been prominent in mining enterprises in Arizona and the two Texas men are respectively on ex-State Senator and an ex-District Judge. All of them declare that they are dead in earnest and seem to have great faith in their project.

Close Figuring.

BRIDGETOWN, 16.—A recount of the votes of the Second Assembly District in this country, in which Madden (Dem.) contests the plurality of Hawkins (Rep.) was concluded this evening and resulted in the election of Hawkins by seven majority.

Trenton, 16.—A recount in the Second Assembly District, Mercer county, finished this evening, shows that Walker and Jones each received 2284 votes. The Democrats will contest any attempt to have a new election.

Another Strike Probable.

CHICAGO, 16.—The contract which the packers are requiring the ex-strikers to sign, is leading already to complications and possibly to another general strike. Many men yet unemployed say they will never sign such an agreement, and at the meeting of the Cattle Butchers' Assembly to-night, resolutions were adopted denouncing the action of the packers and pledging the members of the assembly not to sign the obnoxious contract. The vote was unanimous. Delegate Berry was present. After the meeting he said: "The packers think they have the men by the throat and propose to tighten their grip." He claimed the men would act as a unit regarding the contracts exacting a money forfeit from them, and if a new strike occurred, it would mean disobedience to Powderly's orders. "The contract," said Barry, "is an infamous piece of business. The men are virtually asked to contribute $2,500,000 to the packers, to be used in their business. They could start a first-class co-operative packing house with that sum. If the packers do not recede from their present position, I am inclined to believe that District 57 will order a new strike, as it has a perfect right to do. In case of such a strike, the District would get no support from the General Order, but would receive aid from local assemblies all over the country."

Fatal Coach Accident.

DENVER, 16.—Late last evening the stage containing nine passengers that left Leadville this morning for Aspen was caught in a snowslide on the top of a mountain fifteen miles east of Aspen. The entire outfit was carried over a precipice 200 feet in hight. A relief party from the home stage station succeeded in digging the passengers and driver out of the avalanche. Four were unhurt, but Robert Dwyer, Chris. Conn, Duncan C. Robertson, F. A. Bardwell and Lillie McPherson are expected to die. As the telegraph wires at Aspen are down on account of the storm last night, further particulars cannot be had.

Under Advisement.

CHICAGO, 16.—The arbitrators appointed by the tripartite roads to consider the demand for the re-arbitration of the percentages, met to-day and listened to arguments of the interested roads. At present the Wabash, Rock Island and St. Paul each receive 33⅓ per cent of a certain amount of freight delivered to them by the Union Pacific, and the effort is to reduce the percentage of the Wabash. In the argument to-day that line claimed to have carried 36 per cent. and resisted any attempt to lower its share. The matter was taken under advisement by the arbitrator.

The Cattle Men.

CHICAGO, 16.—The report of the committee at the Veterinary Convention this morning, appointed to investigate the cattle disease of this city, was listened to and discussed. The report was that the disease now prevalent is the distillery stables and elsewhere in Chicago and vicinity, is contagious pleuro-pneumonia.

The committee, composed of V. T. Acheson, D. E. Salmen, Jas. D. Hopkins, J. W. Gadsden and P. Haquan, recommended that all the deceased cattle be slaughtered.

Dr. Hopkins offered the following which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTIONS:

WHEREAS, Contagious pleuro-pneumonia exists in certain restricted localities of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Inoculation is being practiced in certain States as a preventive measure and is being advocated for general adoption; and,

WHEREAS, The experience of other nations has shown that this contagion is prevalent in localities where inoculation is practiced, and that inoculated cattle are dangerous to other cattle with which they afterward cohabit, and

WHEREAS, The veterinary profession of Europe condemns inoculation, except in localities that are thoroughly infected and where no effort is being made to extirpate the plague; therefore, be it

Resolved, By this convention of Veterinarians and State Sanitary Board, that considering the limited territory infected in this country, every effort should be directed to the thorough eradication of this disease from America; and it is further

Resolved, That we consider inoculation to be an extremely dangerous and objectionable practice in the present condition of affairs in this country, and one which should be discouraged by the veterinary profession, and be prohibited by the law as long as there is a possibility of stamping out the disease.

An effort was made to suppress this resolution, and it will meet with much opposition when brought to passage.

SHEEP.

At a meeting of the Shropshire Sheep Registry Association here to-day, the officers elected last year, including the president, S. H. Todd, of Wakeman, O., were re-elected.

It was resolved to ask all Fair Associations to give Shropshire sheep a separate class in exhibits.

The Races Burke and Dempsey.

SAN FRANCISCO, 16.—The second day of the Blood Horse Association meeting brought out a large attendance. The track and weather were fine. The betting was very heavy on all the events.

First race, purse, one mile, all ages, brought out six starters, Estrella being the big favorite. To a straggling start they were sent off, Estrella and Echo in the lead till the head of the stretch was reached, where they were all nearly even. After an exciting finish Adeline won by a length, Estrella second, Argo third. Time, 1:42¾.

Second race, Equity stakes; two-year-olds, three-quarters of a mile. They all got a good start except Adeline Catton, who was three lengths behind. At the last quarter they were nearly on even terms. There was a desperate finish down the stretch resulting in Miss Ford (the favorite) winning by a head, Catton second, Safeban third. Time, 1:15¾.

The third race, Park stakes, all ages, mile and a quarter, was the

EVENT OF THE DAY,

which resulted in the defeat of the great Volante. After a tedious delay at the post they got off to a fair start. Mollie McCarthy's Last led past the stand, Todd second, who went to the front at the turn. He kept the lead till the eighth pole was reached, when he fell back beaten. Lizzie Dunbar, who had been waiting, came through and won the race by two lengths, in the last time of 2:08¾, Volante, second, Mollie's Last third. The odds against Dunbar were 50 to 1.

The fourth race, purse, three-year-olds, mile and an eighth; Valedo led all the way till the stretch was reached, when Monte Cristo went to the front and won by a length, Guenn (the favorite) second, Cleveland third. Time 1:58.

Extra race, three-quarters, all ages; Jou Jou and Fred Collier got the best of the start and led most of the distance. Coming down the stretch Jou Jou was several lengths in the van, when Dynamite, coming with a fearful burst of speed, succeeded in winning by a nose, Jou Jou second, Collier third. The rest beaten off. Time, 1:04¾.

The Pugilists.

Mayor Bartlett to-day granted a license to "Parson" Davies, of Chicago, at present in this city, for a glove contest to take place between Jack Burke of Chicago, and Jack Dempsey of San Francisco. The match will take place at the Pavilion on Monday, the 22nd inst. They will fight ten rounds with small gloves, Marquis of Queensbury rules, the winner taking 70 and the loser 30 per cent. of the gate money. Burke will fight at 163 pounds, Dempsey at 157. The opinions are divided as to the merits of the two men. The betting is heavy, both here and at Los Angeles, and is about even.

The Baseball Rules.

CHICAGO, 16.—At the base ball rules committee meeting, the following changes were made to-day:

The high and low balls system of delivery has been abolished, any ball now being considered fair that passes between his shoulder and the knees, and that passes over the plate. Bunting in the future will not be allowed. Any obvious attempt to make a foul will be scored as a strike. The clubs will not toss for choice of position in the future, the right of choice resting invariably with the home club. Five balls and four strikes will be allowed, instead of six balls and three strikes, as heretofore. When a batsman takes a base on a ball, he shall be credited with a base hit. The batsman shall take a base when struck by a pitched ball. Any motions on the part of the pitcher made to deceive the batsman shall be considered a balk. If in running to a base the runner touches and detaches the base bag without being touched by the base man

HE WILL BE SAFE.

The captain of the clubs only can question the umpire's decision. The old rule requiring a runner to return to his base on a run when a foul hit is made, is rescinded. Hereafter a runner can have a substitute run for him in case of injury, but must retire from the game. A batter is out on the fourth strike under the new rules, whether the ball is dropped or passed by the catcher. The question of having two umpires and a referee was dropped. The pitcher's box was shortened to nine and a half feet and the pitcher will be required to keep his forward foot firmly on the ground when about to deliver a ball. His rear foot must be on the back line of the box, and he will be allowed to take but one step when delivering the ball. The ball must be held in plain view of the umpire. The pitcher cannot deliver the ball to the latter after making a feint to throw to first base, but must resume his

POSITION IN HIS BOX.

Only two coachers will be permitted, and they shall have the right to talk to the base runner only. In scoring, when the batter is given a base on called balls, a hit is credited to the batter and an error given to the pitcher, in the summary only. All batting errors are charged in the summary as are the earned runs, home runs, two and three-base hits, double plays, base on balls, a hit by the pitcher, the time of the game and the umpire. The pitcher will be given no credit for a strike out. In place of total bases, a record of stolen bases will be kept. Any attempt made by the player to steal a base must be credited, whether an error is made or not, if the runner is successful in reaching a base. The committee also passed a rule requiring each association to appoint a joint rule committee at each annual meeting, they to act for one year.

Mansion House clerk, Mr. C. H. Ramsey, Buffalo-Red Star Cough Cure cured my cold.

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