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AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 20.—A Washington correspondent of the *Times* says the collection and classification of evidence upon which to base prosecutions of dishonest star route contractors is being continued quietly but slowly. The force employed is small, but is making excellent progress.

The correspondent tells this story of another Salisbury route, in which he says the records show that in this case as in many others, Salisbury was not troubled by the little formality of advertising each route once every four years and letting it under the condition of a route advertised, but these proceedings made but little difference to them. In 1873 Gilmer & Salisbury were carrying mails on the route from Franklin, Idaho, to Helena, Montana, and their annual pay was \$47,500, or more than \$15 per mile for one trip per week. The distance was 450 miles and service seven trips per week. In the list of bidders appears several persons who then represented the Salisbury combination, but who do not now appear in the same way. Sanderson of the Barlow combination, would do the work for \$135,000. Salisbury would take it for \$120,000 but Sanderson's man, Huntly, could do it for \$65,000 and Salisbury's man, White, and others, could do it all the way down from \$59,730 to \$15,000. This was certainly remarkable. The Mormons put in a bid of \$43,000. Jackson was given the contract for a term of four years from July 1st, 1874. His principles probably continued their work on the route for four months. Their pay was reduced by the result of advertising, from \$47,500 per annum to only \$15,000. At the end of four months, they availed themselves of the old plan, Jackson allowed to fail and was a failing contractor, because, as was said, he failed December 14th, 1874, but before that time, Gilmer & Salisbury had got in one and one-half months' service at \$37,500. The department went up the list of bidders, and could find no one who would stand by his bid until D. Parker was reached. His bid had been \$64,500, and it was handed over to him at that price, although it had originally been let for \$15,000. Parker was the highest of the bidders controlled by Salisbury, and his address was care of Gilmer & Salisbury. For the last few years the Parker's have run a combination of their own. Parker or Salisbury had the route at \$64,500. Until July 1st, '78, the end of the term, Jackson's pay had been \$50,000. Parker's must have been at least \$225,000. Then for some reason the route was not advertised for the term '78-'82, until three months after the proper time, so that a new contractor could not be given the work until October 1st, '78, instead of July 1st, '78. This left a gap of three months, which was filled by employing Gilmer & Salisbury for that time at a pay of \$64,000. We have now reached the beginning of the current contract term, 1878-'82. The result of advertisements is given in bids as follows: Route 42, 122, Franklin, Idaho, to Helena, Montana, distance 415 miles, service seven trips per week, time schedule, 75 hours in summer and 150 hours in winter, or five miles and a half and two and three quarters of a mile per hour, and 200 hours for third-class matter. Of bidders there were eleven, O. J. Salisbury, \$97,000; N. S. Huntley, \$47,400; C. W. Bennett, \$47,000; W. M. Griffith, \$43,800; H. M. Norton, \$30,880; F. W. Parker, \$38,780; W. M. Nilson, \$38,000; Joseph Ewans, \$37,000; K. H. Williams, \$33,000; E. J. Travis, \$31,000; J. W. Travis, \$29,000. Four years before the Barlow party had put in the highest bid. Now Salisbury outranked them all, while the two Travis's, his representatives were at the foot. The Barlow party was second, Kerns party, a new one, backed by active politicians, fourth. On July 3d, '78, Travis was given the contract. His principal continued the services until October 1st, 1878, then he became a contractor, on paper at least. Of course he "failed," as Jackson had failed before him. Travis' downfall, according to the books, occurred March 11th, 1879. Brady went up the list, and it is supposed circulars were sent to bidders, they declined or refused to reply at all, until Salisbury, the very highest highest man was reached. Arrangements, by means of which Huntly and Griffith and partner were induced to keep out is not described on the books. Griffith (Kerns) was the

only one who made any sort of offer. He wrote he would take the route at \$43,800 if Brady would give him time for necessary preparation, and he would begin the service as soon as possible. Owing to the probable opposition of several parties to the contract with the present service, he added, I may require more than ordinary length of time. It is unnecessary to say Griffith did not get the route. There was a great gap of \$47,000 between Barlow's and Salisbury's bids, and Brady apparently did not feel like jumping it, and accepted Salisbury's offer. Just then Levi L. Blake came forward with an offer to do the work for \$55,000, and it was accepted. Blake was another representative of Salisbury, who was one of his bondsmen. Blake's term began April 1st, '79, but it was very soon discovered he had once been used as Travis and Jackson had been used, and had once been declared a failing bidder or contractor. This disqualified him, and Brady gave the contract to his bondsmen, Monroe Salisbury and J. H. Warren, at the same price, \$55,000. Salisbury filed a sub-contract, and at last the route was secured in his hands again at a higher price for four years more. After Salisbury had got a firm hold of the route at \$55,000, there was some special service employed at the rate of \$95,000 per year. This line extended from Franklin, on the boundary between Utah and Idaho, and directly north of Salt Lake City, northward, through eastern Idaho, to Helena, Montana. Its course very nearly coincided with that of the Utah and Northern Railroad, which was then in process of construction northward. From January 1st, 1880, the route was shortened 194 miles, and the mails transferred to the railroad. It is probable, of course, they had been carried on the railroad for Salisbury for some months. Six months later 30 more miles were cut off, and on February 15th, 1881, 45 miles more, so that pay from that date was \$19,399, being the *pro rata*. There was doubt about Blake's offer to do the work for \$55,000. Patrick, of Oregon, had put in an offer to do it for \$35,000, and a claim is set up that Blake's proposal did not come in until after the expiration of the limit set by the department. Patrick made complaint through Senator Saunders, but no change was made.

The Indian Territory Star service routes, says the correspondent, are not many. The agents of the department have been inspecting this service, and action upon some of their reports has already been taken. Other changes will be made within a few days. The books for the current contract term in the Indian Territory contain the records of 39 routes let under competition, and six routes held until June 31st, 1881, by temporary contracts. The latter have been let for the ensuing year under competition.

The correspondent gathers into one table the routes which have not been dishonestly manipulated by Brady and contractors, and presents in another those which exhibit the methods of rings.

The *Sun* says: During 1880, sixty-eight cities of the United States have made weekly death reports to the national board of health. In its bulletin this week the board makes public the figures.

Vallejo, Cal., is the healthiest city reported, and Norfolk, Va., the most unhealthy. The average duration of life in some of these cities is as follows: Vallejo, 83.5; Yonkers, N.Y., 80; Omaha, 68; Utica, 67.5; Keokuk, Ia., 67.1; Jacksonville, Fla., 35; Vicksburg, Miss., 34.8; Charleston, S.C., 31.3; Savannah, Ga., 30.6; Norfolk, 27 years.

CHICAGO, 19.—The *Tribune's* special says: An intimate friend of Blaine says: He told me the other day he was going to Maine to spend a good share of the summer. He was getting a wagon fitted up for a four-in-hand team; he had four handsome bays, and was going to fill that drag with his own children and his neighbor's children and go a spinning round the Maine hills, camping out, fishing, loafing and having a good time out of doors. He thinks that what he needs is fresh air, relief from care, diversion for mind and body and banishment from office hunters. He is a good four-in-hand driver; learned how to drive in California, and has had a good deal of practice since.

The *Inter-Ocean's* Washington special says: Mr. D. Stevens, secretary of the American legation, Tokio, Japan, reached this city yesterday. In answer to a question of which nation stands in best repute with the Japanese, he said the commercial policy of the English is such

as to command many privileges, but the Japanese undoubtedly consider Americans very friendly. They realize the fact we are true friends, and have no inclination to force upon them our own wares at our prices. They are daily becoming more and more independent, and as their education advances, they more and more appreciate their importance and their rights under the laws of nations. They look upon America as their national trading point, and if untrammelled, would undoubtedly buy most of their necessities from us. They are fond of the French, in fact well disposed to all foreigners who treat them fairly and kindly. The time has passed when Japanese officers could be bullied into any measures they may deem detrimental.

How are Americans treated in Japan?

With the utmost courtesy and attention, and the greatest kindness. In the empire of Japan there are about 4,000 foreigners, of these 800 are Americans, and in Tokio, the capital, there are 200 Americans and in Yokohama about 400. Others are scattered in smaller cities. There are about 100 Americans in the employ of the Japanese government and private Japanese companies. Americans have almost entire control of educational affairs. Japanese prefer America when they go abroad for education. There are fully 360 American missionaries in Japan. They do good work and they live pleasantly and with comparative ease. In Yokohama some large business houses are American. All the largest tea houses have of late years sustained very heavy losses. America controls the kerosene trade, and this trade represents from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 gallons annually. The United States is rapidly regaining in its cotton trade with China, and in due time we are certain to secure the cotton trade in Japan. At present the English under trade the United States by selling a very inferior article, that in external appearance seems equal to the American article.

The republican state central committee of Virginia will to-morrow decide as to calling a state convention. Straight outs claim 19 of 27 members, and probably more. Coalition republicans have been trying to offset the result of Wickham's interview with the President by trying to get letters and sentiments from the Cabinet and prominent republicans endorsing the coalition, but have not had much success.

NEW YORK, 18.—The *World's* London special says: The light is breaking for the premier, and it is now certain that the land bill will reach the House of Lords early in July. Lord Salisbury has muttered threats against it, but the prevailing impression is that the upper house will not dare to reject it. Their rejection last year of the compensation for disturbance bill was followed by the present measure, and if they should throw the measure out, they may safely count on being confronted next session with a much more radical scheme. It is quite on the cards, however, for the bill to be amended in the House of Lords, although I have reason to know that no attempt will be made to tamper with its leading principles. The most important amendment probably will be one in the spirit of that movement in Commons by Mr. Henegh, the member for Great Grimsley, on Thursday, viz., to exempt landlords who have made their own improvements, according to the usual English system, from the operation of the clause providing for free sale of tenant right by the outgoing occupier. An amendment of this kind which would not materially affect the scope of the bill, is almost sure to be carried in the upper house, but just now the Lords are not in a humor for trifling with the behests of the Commons.

Mr. Joseph Arch, the leader of agricultural laborers, wrote to Mr. Gladstone the other day asking when government intended to bring down the bill for assimilating borough and county franchise. The premier, in a very courteous and complimentary note, replied, that the bill would be prepared during the recess, and made the *piece de resistance* for next session. The assimilating of borough and county franchise will, it is estimated, increase the radical strength in the counties at least 60 per cent.

The sceptre is departing from the parson and squire, Hodge, with a ballot in his hand, will be as uncompromising a foe to the state, church and landed interests, as any Nottingham or Northampton "Lamb,"

Arch, who is traveling through the country holding open air meetings in the evening, makes no secret of the future programme of the vast organization of laborers' unions which he controls. He demands that the law of entail and primogeniture be abolished; that the land be thrown open for purchase; that the church be disestablished, titles abolished and "the parson"—as the chartists used to say—"compelled to live on the affections of the people or starve." This is strong talk, and there is plenty of it just now. Under the present editorial law, there is "lodging suffrage" in the boroughs, i.e. the inhabitants who pay rent to the amount of £10 per year, is entitled to *voto* (?) whilst in the counties. The franchise is confined to £5 for lessees and £12 for occupiers. Agricultural laborers, who rarely get more than from 8 s. to 10 s. a week, only pay at most £8 a year rent. They are utterly disfranchised just now. It would be madness for the lords to attempt to force a fight with the government on the land bill with these new radical levies within a day of the field.

Those of your readers who only know English country life from the poems of Mrs. Hemans and others, about the "Cottage Homes," "The Stately Homes," etc., would be taken aback if they were to visit rural England just now. Hundreds of once magnificent estates are now tenantless. In some counties nearly 50 per cent. of the land is out of cultivation. Property is a drug and rent rolls are rapidly diminishing. In olden times every Englishman who had made money in business, invested in landed property with the object of founding a family dynasty. The East Indians, the nabobs as they were called, spent frivolous sums in the good old days of the rotten boroughs, in acquiring estates, which brought with them seats in Parliament, and in the latter times the cotton lords and other capitalists of industry sunk their fortunes in the manor assured of a perennial income and oppressed tenantry. All this belongs to a past age. The tenant, manacled by feudal customs and oppressed by titles and beg rents, is unable to face American competition and live, and abandons the farm to swell the angry mob in the boroughs. The laborer is no longer satisfied to live from hand to mouth and enjoy the "bliss of ignorance." He wants land of his own and threatens to take it if it is not given to him. He belongs to a union controlled by a clique of propagandists of socialism and insists on the franchise, not as a favor, but as a right of which the squire and the parson have defrauded him through all these years. The clergy do not fare much better than the squires. Tithes are paid grudgingly. Hodge has become a dissenter as well as a radical, and the elect of the drum ecclesiastic, which used to frighten him, has lost its terrors. The lords, the natural guardians of the church, are powerless to stay the tide that is washing out the foundations of the establishment, nor can they hope to save in England the rights of property which in Ireland have already gone by the board. Solicitors tell me that for every man who wants to purchase an estate there are a hundred ready to snap at half a bid. Where all this is going to end the wisest men here are at a loss to know. The harvest prospects have been somewhat improved by copious showers, but at the best it will fall below the average. The recent Fenian outrages and repeated rumors of dynamite plots have given rise to great dissatisfaction at the impunity with which such conspiracies are said to be hatched in New York. I have reason to know that the report that the foreign office will call the attention of your government to the matter, is well founded. Earl Granville will contend that to allow subscriptions to be publicly solicited for the avowed purpose of destroying life and property in this country, is an unfriendly act on the part of the American government. O'Donovan Rossa's boasts about the gunboat *Doterel*, which was at first ridiculed, is to some extent confirmed by news received to-day, that divers have discovered that the explosion did not originate either in the boilers or the magazine. Commander Evans, who was in charge of the ill-fated boat, was of the opinion that one of the boilers exploded, and that the concussion fired the gun cotton and powder in the magazine, but to-day's report knocks that thing on the head, and the government, according to trustworthy

reports which reached me, will point out to Blaine that an organization is openly at work day after day under the eyes of the United States authorities in arranging schemes for blowing up English public buildings, and destroying innocent homes, is an evil calling for redress. No doubt the representation will be made with perfect courtesy, and it is believed here that the American people will call for a fair and candid investigation of the foundation for it. No demand will be made as to any particular action. Cardinal Manning is greatly troubled over these outrages. They excite the people there against Irish residents here, and mill owners and other employers of labor in Liverpool have given notice that if further outrages are attempted, they will reluctantly compelled to discharge Irishmen in their employ. All will make themselves agents for such schemes, however, received a warning the other day from Justice Hawkins, who, in the course of a speech to the grand jury at Chester, referred to the attempted outrages there, that they will be punished to the limit of the law (the maximum), and that any loss of life from these explosions will be avenged by capital punishment. A friend of mine, who is well acquainted with the home-rule members, many of whom, as you know, are journalists, tells me that these frequent outrages are rendering them powerless, and they cannot complain of anything. Forster may do in Ireland, when it is charged that their allies are planning the wholesale massacre of innocent men, women and children in this country. Obstruction is one thing, dynamite another.

You will recollect that when Capt. Boycott gave his name to the process of the agrarian siege, the Fermanagh tenants of Lord Erne, whose Mayo agent Boycott was, organized a relief party and threatened to complicate matters by taking an active measure against the agitators. They were encouraged in this by the tory landlords, who were anxious to nonplus the government, and funds to carry on this raid poured in from the lodges in England and Scotland and even Canada. This went until the land bill was brought down, and nothing more has been heard of the Orangemen. The tory is, the Ulster farmers, almost to man, favored the bill and supported government's Irish policy through out, and this also accounts for the lukewarm action displayed by the most ferocious tory member. A tory member from that province following Sir Stafford Northcote opposing the bill this week. Aputation of half a dozen Ulster farmers waited on the premier and pressed their almost unqualified approval of the measure, and some time afterwards told their representatives in the House that the bill was mutilated or rejected by the Lords, Ulster would do her best to teach the upper chamber a lesson. This has greatly strengthened the ministry, or rather, greatly weakened the opponents, and whenever opposition member rises in committee with an amendment, he is down with the argument that English tory has no right to object to an Irish measure approved Irish tories.

WASHINGTON, 21.—The following circular in relation to the continuance of registered bonds of the 5 per cent. funded loan of 1881, has been issued by the Treasury department. In the provisions of circular No. 52, dated May 12, the continuance of United States registered bonds of five per cent. funded loan of 1881, the limit such bonds to be continued fixed at \$250,000,000, bonds accepted in the order of their receipt at this department. The limit reached on the 23d of May, bonds presented being somewhat in excess of the amount fixed, many persons who had notified the department on or before that date of their intention to present the bonds for continuance, and had proceeded in good faith to carry out their intention were unable for various reasons to surrender their bonds before the limit was reached. In the desire of the department to tend to all, so far as practicable, equal opportunity to continue the bonds, and to that end notice hereby given that registered bonds of the 5 per cent. funded loan of 1881, respecting which the department was notified on or before the 23d of May, and which, through no fault or negligence of the owners, failed to reach the department before the limit was reached, will be accepted