

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1893.—The most important event of the week was the arguments made before the United States supreme court in a case involving the constitutionality of the new Chinese exclusion law, although to have listened to the hubbub raised early in the week over President Cleveland's notice that no more personal interviews would be granted candidates for appointment to office a person not acquainted with the blustering methods of small-fry politicians might have considered that the most important happening of the age. In the opinion of a number of the able lawyers with whom your correspondent has talked, the lawyers representing the Chinese in this country and the emperor of China had the best of the argument from a legal standpoint, and that, of course, is the standpoint from which the court will make its decision, which is expected to be handed down some time next week. If the court should uphold the constitutionality of the law it is not believed here that any steps will be taken to send the unregistered Chinese home, until Congress appropriates the money to pay the expenses.

Mr. Cleveland's decision to hear no more personal appeals from place seekers is not of the slightest public importance, nor is it the first time that he has taken the same steps. He issued a similar notice in 1885. In this case, to use a little slang, it is believed to be a "put-up job" between the President and senators and representatives of his party to "freeze out" the large number of office-seekers who have come to Washington on their own hook, and were acting entirely independent of the aforesaid senators and representatives. It acted all right so far as the White House is concerned, but the crowd has swooped down upon the members of the cabinet to such an extent that they are considering the advisability of also refusing personal interview to office-seekers.

Administrations may change, but the department money-leaders, or "shylocks," as they are best known, are always with us. The case of a colored man employed as a laborer in the interior department is just now making a small scandal. The average department "shylock" has been content to loan the employes money at five per cent a month, but this fellow has been getting twenty per cent a month for his money and has been making, it is said, something like \$250 a month, in addition to his modest salary of \$40. Secretary Smith has been asked to investigate this Napoleon of finance.

President Cleveland is understood to be half persuaded to call the proposed extra session of Congress to meet in June, instead of in September. If this program is carried out it is expected that Congress will remain in session until late in July and then take a recess until October, escaping the months of August and September, which are usually the most disagreeable and unhealthy months in Washington.

The long drawn out investigation of the weather bureau has come to an end, but owing to the mass of testimony taken no report will be made for some days.

Secretary Herbert has in a single

week received the praise and the censure of many disinterested people, something that rarely happens in so short a time to an executive officer of the government. The official act that brought out the praise was his decision that no more naval officers would be allowed while on leave of absence and drawing two-thirds pay to enter the employ of private persons or firms. This is a real reform, for the practice was a bad one from every point of view, and has been growing at an alarming rate. The act for which he was censured was the appointment of Medical Inspector J. Rufus Tryon to be surgeon general of the navy, vice Browne, this week retired, over the heads of 28 inspectors who are his seniors in service. Dr. Tryon has a splendid reputation as a surgeon and will doubtless make a good record as surgeon general, but the same is true of a number of those over whose heads he was promoted. It was simply a case of "pull," and Tryon had a stronger one than the other fellows.

That the investigation of the New York Custom house is considered of great importance was shown by the selection of a man as prominent as ex-Secretary Fairchild, who was secretary of the treasury during the greater part of President Cleveland's first administration, as a chairman of the committee charged with making it. Mr. Fairchild's assistants are Hon. Daniel Magone, of Ogdensburg, N. Y., and ex-Congressman Polindexter Dunn, of Arkansas.

MONTHLY REVIEW.

REVIEW AND COMPARISON.

Observer Salisbury says: April of 1893 in Utah will long be remembered as an unusually cold, windy and stormy month. It was more like a winter month than a spring month. There has not been such a cold April since 1883, which is the only time in nineteen years when the mean temperature of this month was so low.

Night frosts continued throughout nearly the entire month; it was so cold and stormy, and the soil was so wet and cold, that farming operations were at a stand-still, except in a few favored localities.

The snow was unusual in amount, and culminated in a remarkable storm in the southern counties at the end of the month.

The barometric pressure was low throughout the greater part of the month, falling below the average.

An examination of the mean temperature chart will show that it was no warmer in the southern than in the northern part of the Territory, with the exception of Washington county and the Colorado basin.

SUMMARY OF TEMPERATURE.

Mean temperature of the Territory (23 stations) 44.4 degrees, which is about 5 degrees below the normal. Highest mean of any station, 56.8 at St. George; lowest mean, 36 at Scofield (altitude nearly 8000 feet.) Highest temperature during the month, 88 at St. George on the 22nd; next highest, 85 at Moab. Lowest temperature, 1 above zero at Scofield on the 8th, which was a cold day at nearly all stations.

With a few exceptions the 22nd was the warmest day of the month. The greatest monthly range was 66 at Scofield; the least monthly range was 42 at Lake Park.

SUMMARY OF PRECIPITATION.

The total amount from rain and melted snow averaged 1.15 inches. It was unevenly distributed over the Territory. Provo recorded the greatest amount, 3.09 inches. The least precipitation was at Losee, where none occurred.

The snow was unusual in amount for April. A storm area sweeping over the southern part of the Territory on the last two days of the month caused a very heavy snowstorm in Millard, Beaver and Iron counties. Snow fell in varying depths from 6 to 18 inches. The latter amount fell at Kanosh, Millard county, where the storm appears to have been heaviest, and it did considerable damage to crops. The storm also caused much suffering and death among sheep, which had only just been sheared.

WIND AND WEATHER.

The total movement of wind was the greatest for any April in the past 19 years. Only in May '77 and '79 has it been exceeded. On the 6th an unprecedentedly violent wind-storm was general over the Territory; it being part of an enormous cyclonic movement which travelled inland from the Pacific ocean. The velocity recorded at Salt Lake City was 50 miles per hour, for ten minutes the rate reached 60 miles. The weather was quite cloudy and stormy. Clear days averaged 10. At Richfield there were 6 clear, 20 partly cloudy, and 4 cloudy days.

SCHOOL MATTERS.

The trustees and teachers of Salt Lake county met Saturday, May 13, at 1 p. m. in the University building to consider the better gradation and establishment of high schools in the county and a uniform school calendar.

Supt. D. R. Allen presided. The superintendent stated briefly the object of calling the meeting; said the questions under consideration are important to both trustees and teachers; would like to hear the subject of the establishment of high schools thoroughly discussed and the advantages and disadvantages considered. Would like to get the subject in such a shape that the Legislature might consider it at the next session.

Trustee J. M. Whitaker opened the discussion and gave a powerful argument in favor of high schools in the county; said although not a teacher he was much interested in education; said the unity of the trustees and teachers was necessary to advancement. The present system of mixed schools cannot do effective work. Gave a plan for working up a graded system. Thought the teacher had a great responsibility. At the close the gentleman was greeted with hearty applause.

One of the deaf mute students under the direction of Prof. Metcalf gave a recitation by signs, the professor interpreting. The rendition was unique and interesting.

The discussion was continued