

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT

Mulock Reduces the Deficit by \$627,000 and Improves the Service.

Postoffice Is Now Practically Self-Supporting—Interesting Figures From the Record.

Tawa, Aug. 8.—One of the things Postmaster-General Mulock set out to do assuming office in 1896 was to reduce the deficit, which year by year had been growing larger, and finally to bring to a state of equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure of his department. It was scarcely reasonable then to suppose that this herculean task could be accomplished in two years, but the accounts of the department of 1897 show that the deficit has not only been entirely wiped out, it has been reduced to such insignificant proportions compared with its original magnitude that it has practically ceased to exist. When Mr. Mulock took charge of the department there was a deficit of \$9,997, that was reduced during the year 1897 to \$74,043, which is a remarkably good showing in view of the fact that many of the reforms introduced by the new departmental head had not had sufficient time to take effect. The actual deficit for 1897-8 cannot yet be stated, but a careful and conservative estimate puts it at \$74,043. The accounts are available for all parts of the year excepting the last quarter, so that the estimate is fairly accurate. The reduction of the deficit by \$2,000,000 in an even time with the postmaster-general has reason to be satisfied, and it is a credit to his public capacity as an administrator. Revenue and Expenditure Accounts.

Table showing revenue and expenditure accounts for 1896-97 and 1897-98, including items like 'Revenue from postage stamps' and 'Expenditure for salaries'.

The following statement will show in detail the condition of the revenue and expenditure accounts during the last fiscal year.

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The Service Improved. It might have been possible to present a more favorable financial showing by starting the service for the sake of cutting expenses, but a policy the very opposite to this has been pursued. The reductions of the service have been extended to the most important departments, and more frequent service has been given, and a reorganization of the railway mail service has been effected under the direction of the controller-in-chief, an improvement of the advantages of which is admitted by all who have any knowledge of postal matters.

The adoption of business methods in the awarding of mail contracts and the introduction of a system of tendering for supplies has been an important factor in reducing the deficit to a point at which it now happily is, being the year ending June 30, 1897, the deficit was \$74,043, and in 1898, being an annual saving of \$1,033,936, a total saving of \$1,107,979 for the full year. Inasmuch as the deficit in the last months were covered by these contracts, which only went into effect from time to time during the fiscal year, so that the deficit of the year was only partially met upon the basis of the department for that year. Their influence has not been fully felt during the year, and the deficit has been contributed largely to the satisfactory result which the figures quoted above disclose. As an example of the results of the new system, the cost of the service for a number of months \$1,237 were put up to tender, and new contracts were obtained for the performance of the same service for a period of four years at a total cost of \$277,000, being an annual saving of \$103,936, a total saving of \$415,747 for the full year.

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DEFICIT. His Wife—How in the world you ever got that first mail, my dear? Her Husband—Why, I'll get up the morning I was married.

REGRET. The Editor—We could get big prices for your advertisements if we could publish them in the Commercial. His Wife—We wouldn't think of such a thing!

A scientist once put an automatic musical box on the lawn, and spent many hours watching the birds. A looking glass was put up where the birds can see their reflection. The birds were attracted to the box, and their movements were recorded.

HON. MR. BEAVEN EXPLAINS

Throws Some Light on the Dismissal of the Late Administration.

WHY MR. TURNER HAD TO GO

The Interesting Letter Sent by the Lieut.-Governor to Hon. Mr. Beaven.

Mr. Semlin Succeeds at the Work of Cabinet Making.

Messrs. Semlin, Martin and Cotton Sworn in This Afternoon as Members of the Executive.

Asked this morning if he could tell the public the circumstances leading up to the undertaking of the task of forming an administration, the Hon. Robert Beaven replied as follows:

The Government of the Province of the British Columbia. At Government House, Victoria, B.C. To the Hon. Robert Beaven, Victoria, B.C.

Sir—I have the honor to inform you by this letter of even date herewith, I have relieved the Hon. J. H. Turner and his colleagues from their functions as my advisers, and members of my executive council. This action I have taken in view of the result of the general elections held on the 9th of last month. This is probably the most important period yet known in the development of the resources of the province, and during the month that has elapsed since the said general elections I have deeply felt the need of advisers in whom I could place full confidence, and whose recommendations I could unhesitatingly approve. And knowing your thorough knowledge of the special needs and requirements of the province, and having in view your long and honorable experience throughout a quarter of a century in the administration of its affairs, and regarding you, moreover, as peculiarly fitted to reconcile its contending political factions, I hereby call upon you to assume the task of forming a ministry, and to once more act as chief adviser to the representative of the crown.

(Signed) THOS. R. McINNIS, Lieutenant-Governor.

"I at once made an appointment to meet His Honor," continued Mr. Beaven, "and did so. You will observe that His Honor states that he had relieved Mr. Turner from his functions. This was the absolute condition of affairs then. At first I took the view that while it appeared as a result of the general election that Hon. Mr. Turner could only hope for the support of a minority in the assembly and that Mr. Semlin and Hon. Mr. Martin were without a constituency or following in the assembly, I considered the best way to have determined the point beyond dispute as to who possessed the confidence of the country was to convene the legislature as soon as the writ from Cassiar was returned.

"I understood that the action which resulted in the dismissal of the Turner government was of a cumulative character and that other circumstances than those referred to in His Honor's letter, more immediately connected with ministerial advice and conduct, brought about a different condition of affairs, and that the delay which must have occurred from calling a session might result in great injury. This feature of the case is one upon which the press and general public are entirely in the dark.

"I understand it is considered contrary to official etiquette to make known the full details at the present time. I can say this much, that in one instance alone, had the Lieut.-Governor accepted Mr. Attorney-General Eberts' advice, and his construction of the Revenue Act, as explained to me by His Honor, an important check which the Constitution Act places on the payment of money out of the treasury would be a dead letter, and the power of the members of the government of the day over the money in the treasury would be practically unlimited. This is a power which the best of governments, to my mind, should not possess, and which the Constitution Act expressly prohibits.

"It was very evident that the relations between the Lieut.-Governor and the Turner administration were of a character that could not have continued. The circumstances connected with the ministerial action and advice as disclosed by the correspondence, and as related by His Honor to me, brought me to consider that prompt action was essential and that it became a duty to endeavor if possible to assist in averting a crisis in provincial affairs. You know the result.

"I could have formed an administration which, I believe, would have ex-

PRaise FOR MCKINLEY.

The London Times on the President's Part in the Late War.

Prise for McKinley. London, Aug. 15.—The Times this morning comments editorially upon the generous universal recognition of the part which President McKinley played throughout the war between the United States and Spain, and says: "If foreign observers might presume to have an opinion upon his conduct it would probably be that President McKinley kept his finger constantly upon the national pulse, and has known how to stimulate and direct national thought without markedly intruding its movements. Everything has been done in open, every move has been discussed as a possibility over the United States before the government was irrevocably committed one way or the other. The result of this cautious, tentative policy is that where he stands at this moment the president has the whole American people at his back. We do not know that there can be any higher statesmanship for present and future than that of McKinley's administration. It is noteworthy that while the Spaniards, who are usually regarded as the victors, have turned first to the financial aspect of the situation, the Americans, who are usually supposed to be the victors, have turned first to the financial or economic side of the question. What occupies the American people at this moment is not the question of territory, but the question of their acquisitions or balance of profit and loss account, but the moral result of the struggle. Whether Bryanism is dead or not, the financial and smaller issues of party warfare are superseded by larger and more worthy conceptions of national policy, or only the town-fairing into a mere party game, there can be no doubt that the war had, and will have, a profound effect upon American ideas and action. Not only has it removed the great naval struggle, but supplied, in a sense, the contact of external forces, which is probably the chief reason why the national spirit is so high.

New York, Aug. 15.—The Rough Riders are home. With Col. Theo. Roosevelt and "Fighting" Joe Wheeler, they have reached San Francisco, after a long and arduous march from the front. The Rough Riders, who were with the Gates City, St. Louis, Virginia, and Matwan, lie at anchor off shore. Col. Roosevelt reports that both he and his command are in first-class condition.

The Manila Transports. San Francisco, Aug. 15.—Major-General Merritt, in response to his inquiries as to the progress of the Manila transports, has received the following information: The transports are all on the coast, and are being loaded with supplies. The Manila transports are all on the coast, and are being loaded with supplies.

Penae Island of Porto Rico, Aug. 15.—The Fifth Regiment of the United States Army, under the command of Major-General Merritt, has been ordered to Porto Rico.

THE CABINET FORMED. Later—Shortly before three o'clock this afternoon the announcement was made that Messrs. Semlin, Martin and Cotton would be sworn in at four o'clock as members of the executive council, with the following portfolios:

MR. SEMLIN, Premier and Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

HON. JOSEPH MARTIN, Attorney-General.

MR. COTTON, Finance Minister.

The other cabinet positions are being filled and the personnel of the new administration will be known within a few hours.

NEWS OF VANCOUVER.

Vancover, Aug. 15.—(Special).—A naval brigadier is to be formed here. Admiral Palliser is now here in connection with the matter. Mrs. Clement, a new arrival from Winnipeg, was found in the Victoria mill block. There are rumors of suspicious circumstances attending the matter. Her husband is here. A curious house breaking case was reported last night. An unknown man went right through a big house on Melville street, the fashionable quarter, and things topsy-turvy, yet took nothing.

GREASY NOSES AND LIVERS.

"A greasy nose is a sure sign of a disordered liver," explained a physician to a reporter, "as anything that I know outside of real sickness, and by studying this as a barometer much trouble is averted. In these days when a fall outfit of medical grates for liver troubles can be secured at any drug store for 10 cents, there is but little excuse for it, except those rare cases, when 10 cents' worth of medicine won't do the work, and here a physician is necessary. I was much amused at reading in a New York paper recently an article written by one of those modern beauties of a preparation that was said to be a sure remedy for a greasy nose. If you want to tell how much rose leaves and half a dozen other things should be used in a preparation to wash the nose, and after telling all these it wound up with advising that some liver medicine should be used in connection therewith. Now, I can assure that the liver medicine would effect the cure without the rose leaves and the other stuff, and, indeed, in spite of it. I don't mean to say that that medicine does anything but times enlarged and fiery red proboscis can be reduced with a little liver medicine, but what is known as greasy nose will be removed by it."—Washington Star.

BORROWED FROM CYCLING.

The practice of cycling is picking many new phrases into this portmanteau language of ours. A man who boasts is now said to "ride with a very high gear." One who is unduly bright "has sand in his bearings." But the newest is the description of a slow and dull person as a "regulator"—after an imaginary class of cycle so called as being so slow that all other machines "go by it." And it is not polite for one cyclist to call another a liar. It is he calls him a cyclistometer the same end is more elegantly achieved.—The Globe.

CLAUS CHEATS

The Stikine Murderer Dies From the Effects of a Dose of Strychnine.

Had a Horror of Hanging and Boasted He Would Not Ascend Scaffold.

Nanaimo, Aug. 15.—(Special).—Claus, the condemned murderer who was to have been hanged on Wednesday next, died from the effects of the poison which he had taken the day previously, despite the heroic endeavors of a number of physicians to save the doomed man's life. It is not known how Claus obtained possession of the deadly drug—strychnine—but it is suspected that certain friends of the murderer who have been in the habit of visiting him, passing a quantity of the poison to him while on a visit. The dead murderer had an intense horror of hanging and repeatedly asserted that he would never ascend the scaffold. When informed on Friday that there was no hope of saving his life he is reported to have said: "I'll die on Saturday morning early."

An inquest is being held this afternoon. The crime for which Claus was sentenced to death was the murder of Burns and his wife, which was committed on the Klondike river early this spring. Claus crept out of his tent one night and was encamped on the Stikine, then coated with ice, and taking an axe hacked at the heads of the two unfortunate miners, instantly killing them. He then dragged the two bodies to a crevasse in the ice and hid them. He then became terrified, and leaving the bodies and the axe, fled to the coast. He was captured at Glenora by the Northwest Mounted Police and afterwards brought to Victoria. A search was made and the bodies of the victims and the weapon were found frozen in the crevasse. Then the pursuit of the flying murderer began, and he was soon overhauled. He was captured at Glenora by the Northwest Mounted Police and afterwards brought to Victoria. A search was made and the bodies of the victims and the weapon were found frozen in the crevasse.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE. WITHIN THE CREASE. The Fifth Regiment of the United States Army, under the command of Major-General Merritt, has been ordered to Porto Rico.

W. W. Minor, 25; W. H. Adams, 22; R. Short, 18; Fletcher, 17; W. H. Adams, 9; W. H. Adams, 8; W. H. Adams, 8; W. H. Adams, 8.

SHIPPING NEWS. The Happings of a Day Along the Water Front.

Shippers are still holding off unwillingly to meet the views of grain exporters, consequently few charters are reported. The northern exporters, though, have secured much tonnage, to be shipped to the coast. The grain business could be done at Tacoma and Everett at 32¢ and 33¢ respectively, but these figures are about 2¢ above exporters' views. Ships are not much sought after, but a few vessels, whose owners were dickering for grain charters, have accepted nitrate freight, and one, the Edward May, which arrived here a few days ago from Vladivostok, presumably to load grain, goes to San Francisco.

AT THE RACE. The race marked on Saturday afternoon for the benefit of the Victoria Association, and by J. S. Williams brought on a very hot and anxious day. The race was a very hot and anxious day. The race was a very hot and anxious day.

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THE VOYAGE OF LITTLE AH ME.

Little Ah Me dwelt far in the East, where the people are queerer than quere; where they eat a raw lobster and call it a feast.

Now what would we think of that here? His little black eyes were put in on the flag, his little black pigtail was shiny and straight; but his tightly bound feet—well, they really gave an idea of their pitiful state.

This Little Ah Me sat one day on a stone, by the side of the glittering sea, while his wife went travelling on all alone. For a dreamy young heathen was he!

He boarded a vessel just ready to sail, to the land where the tea is all sent; when quite unexpected there blew a great gale. And into the ocean he went.

He fell on the back of a huge, slimy whale, which moved with a willowy grace; and shook all the while that he stayed on its tall. Right into the poor little face.

Soon up came a porpoise, a swordfish or two. A sea lion, with hideous roar; and flung his tail into the water, and so on. They stood in the water way up to their chins. And winked with their dull, fishy eyes, then opened their mouths in most threatening grins. Then straight from the water they rose.

And rush right upon that unfortunate child as he sat on the whale's broad back. So he jumped in the water with a cry of fright and with. And vanished from sight through a crack.

Here little Ah Me, as he nods on the shore, just drops in the water too. But old Papa Chopsticks, who stood by the door, pulled the sleepy boy out by his queue!—Exchange.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA. Americans in London. A London letter says: The American dramatic invasion of London closed for the season when the curtain fell on "The Garrick Theatre to-night. Taken altogether, the invasion has not proven so formidable as some might have expected. The drama as local managers feared. The playhouses of the English actor-manager, Irving, Tree, Alexander, Wyndham, and Hare, maintain their old-time prominence in the London public's estimation.

So far as America, the legitimate plays imported from across the water, they have furnished the chief amusement and been shrewdly experienced have taught the American managers that English tastes were not to be solved by any fixed rules, for the conspicuous American success, "The Belle of New York," and the equally conspicuous failure, "A Stranger in New York," were such on the same order of entertainment.

Charles Hoyt's London trip proved the most melancholy experience which has befallen him since his early attempt at melodrama in Boston. Such a vigorous and ambitious undertaking, with all the royalties visited upon him, has seldom been gained here. Talented actors who carried the skill suffered a lowering foothold for struggle as they would to arouse the English to laughter. Hoyt's American humor seemed to inspire only solemnity and amusement.

Marie Tempest Married. The cabled report that Marie Tempest had been privately married in London was received with interest here. She is at present understood to be financially responsible for "Lily and Lady Alice," which is running beyond the usual season's limit at London's Comedy Theatre. Marie Tempest is the successful actress who appeared in America in 1880 in "The Red Hussar," and afterwards in "The Peaching Master" and "The American Girl."

Charles Edwards' management in the British capital. She was the original Gelsa, and she is leading singer in the new musical piece at Daly's London theatre.

ORIGIN OF SOME SEA TERMS. In the early days of English naval organization vessels of war had double crews, a military one for fighting purposes, and a civilian one for the voyage. In consequence, a large number of English sea terms have a military origin. At that time the rank of admiral was unknown, and the chief officer of the command was called a constable or justice. The term admiral as now used is derived from the Arabic "amir al-bihar," a commander of the sea.

The early English form was "ammiral," still preserved as such by the French. The title captain is not a naval but a military one. Originally the real admiral was placed on board, though he knew nothing of nautical matters. The title of lieutenant is borrowed from the French, and meant as a pier-holder or one who takes the place of the captain when absent. In former days there were no crew lists, but with the growth of the advance of politeness the term cadet was appropriated from the French, boatswain is derived from the Saxons, and a servant. The term quartermaster, as used in both the army and the navy, appears to be confused and anomalous. The army officer who performs important and arduous duties; in the navy he is simply a warrant officer, directing subordinate duties. In old ships he was known as the fourth part of the master—hence the term quartermaster. The ship's cook was once a separate rank, and there are instances on record of his being promoted for efficient preparations of the food. The ship's steward was originally the caterer. The board and starboard come from the Italian "bordo dritta" and "bordo sinistra," which mean right and left respectively. The use of the term in the original form having been the cause of many accidents, the word was handed down from the days of the ancient galleys of the Phoenicians, Carthaginians and Romans, it having been a board which ran along the whole length, serving as a passage for the rowers to and from their seats. It was also used as a resting place for the mast and sail when not in use. The deck, in the lowest part of the vessel below water, used during an action for the treatment of the wounded, is derived from the old days of the English sport of cock-fighting, but this has been forgotten, and is now known as the "decks"—why, no one can explain. Lubber is from the Dutch, meaning a lazy, cowardly fellow. Another comes from the Latin "lubus," or "lucus," which up to 800 B.C. consisted simply of a large sack with a hole through it. The peculiarity of so many parts of a ship's rigging bearing names derived from the language of the horse can only be accounted for on the fact that the rigging was made by soldiers as well as sailors, the natural consequence being that they (the soldiers) adopted some of their terms to meet the fancy. Among the various ropes, etc., will be found bedlines, whipple, lifts, strappes and the like. The old and well known term grog was originated as a term of derision and disapproval, when Admiral Vernon introduced the wise innovation of making his crew drink their spirit ration diluted with water instead of neat spirits, as had hitherto done. The sailors did not like the watery business, and an "evil genius" named the diluted mixture as grog, from the fact that he generally was an overcoat of a color then known as grogram grey.—Detroit Free Press.

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