

GOVERNMENT GOSSIP.

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL IN AND ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTS.

The President's Callers To-day--Col. Lamont's Continued Illness--Naval Vessels in Asiatic Waters--Withdrawal of Troops From Panama--The Ten-Cent Special Letter-Stamp.

The question of reducing the annual list of thirty day laborers in Government employ has been agitated in perhaps all of the Departments. No final decision has been reached, but Postmaster-General Vilas is reported to be the only member of the Cabinet favoring a reduction of the force.

One of the recent developments of the retrenchment policy has manifested itself in opposition to the departmental flower-beds. The Treasury grounds and some of the other reservations under the control of the Department of the Interior have long been ornamented by flower-beds.

There is a question in regard to dropping the postage on the Department of the Interior. The last postage appropriation bill provides that the Postmaster-General may, when he deems it advisable or expedient, issue a special postage stamp for any work which appears to have prevailed, as the departmental flower-patches appear brighter and rather more extensive than ever before.

The Secretary of State has received information that the American troops have been withdrawn from Panama and left the city in the hands of the insurgents who are erecting barriers and firing on the American forces.

Preventive measures against cholera are being adopted throughout the country, as recommended by the National Board of Health. In many of the larger cities sanitary organizations are supplementing the efforts of health officers.

MR. EDMONDS' OFFICIAL TERM. Its Duration as Stated by the Commission He Holds. The commission of Judge Edmonds as a District Commissioner is signed by President Arthur and Secretary of State Frelinghuysen.

WORK ON THE MONUMENT. The stairways to be completed and the electric lights put in. Bids will be opened at Colonel Casey's office at noon on Thursday for completing the iron stairways in the Washington Monument.

General N. P. Banks of Massachusetts is in the city for a short stay on official business. In his capacity as Marshal of Massachusetts he is arranging for the assignment of rooms in the new Boston court-house.

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DICKSON NOT GUILTY.

A VERDICT RENDERED IN THE CASE AT THREE O'CLOCK.

The Late Attorney-General on the Witness Stand This Morning--Several Animated Episodes in the Criminal Court-Room--The Defense Submits the Case Without Argument.

The Criminal Court-room was crowded to-day. The expectation that ex-Attorney-General Brewster would appear as a witness brought out all the lawyers who had not business elsewhere, and many who are not lawyers.

When the Criminal Court convened this morning in the Dickson trial, ex-Attorney-General B. F. Brewster occupied a seat at the District Attorney's table. The courtroom was packed in anticipation of a lively session.

Mr. Smith--"I object. The witness is making an argument. He is not a witness. He is simply presenting an argument in defense of his corrupt acts."

MR. BREWSTER BECOMES INDIGNANT. "I submit to the Court that I am not to be treated in this manner. I was not brought here under the law."

A HIT AT THE PROSECUTION. Mr. Smith--"All of this matter was brought here without any asking of the defense. It was brought into this court by the dense stupidity of the prosecution."

CROSS-EXAMINING MR. BREWSTER. Mr. Smith in cross-examination asked Mr. Brewster if he had not employed thirty-two detectives--detectives known as Pinkerton's--to watch the trial.

FOR JUDGE WYLLIE'S PLACE. A delegation of members of the District Bar, including Messrs. John Selden, Samuel M. Wood, Wm. A. Gordon, T. A. Lamson, and Henry W. Burton, called upon the President and the Attorney-General to-day to recommend the selection of Mr. Leigh Robinson of the Washington bar, formerly partner of the late R. K. Elliot, as Judge Wyllie's successor on the Supreme Bench of the District.

THE STORM DEATH LIST. DALLAS, TEXAS, April 27.--The storm death list is swelling, and by the time the predictions are fully reported the loss of life will undoubtedly be equal to any wind and water disaster experienced in Texas during the present generation.

THE OUTLOOK ABROAD.

RUMORS OF WAR WITH OCCASIONAL GLIMMERS OF PEACE.

A Temporary Advance in Stocks, By the Situation Still Critical and Complicated by a Report That the Czar is Going to Moscow to Make Formal Declaration of Hostilities.

LONDON, April 27.--Rumors from St. Petersburg of a fresh conflict between the Russians and the Afghans are causing great uneasiness in London and on the continent, news of the French battle having been preceded by a similar rumor.

MR. KER TALKS. Mr. Ker, at his own request, went on the stand again and made some immaterial corrections in his testimony of the other day.

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GRANT'S BIRTHDAY.

HOW IT WAS OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Flags Displayed and Other Tokens of Respect to the Old Commander--A Salute of Sixty-three Guns Fired at the Capital of Kansas.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 27.--About twenty members were present in the House this morning. Mr. Rogers of Jackson offered a resolution stating that and is the 63d anniversary of the birth of General Grant, the most honored and deserving patriot of the country.

GENERAL GRANT'S BIRTHDAY. A Meeting in His Honor at the Metropolitan M. E. Church. There will be a meeting at the Metropolitan M. E. Church to-night to celebrate the anniversary of General Grant's birthday.

A GREAT CONSOLATION. General Grant Much Affected by the Many Expressions of Sympathy. The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Times yesterday had an interview with General Grant. General Grant said: "It is a great consolation now to know that the people are so kind."

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A NAVAL DEMONSTRATION OF ALEXANDRIA. PARIS, April 27.--The French fleet has been ordered to rendezvous off Piræus, a seaport of Greece. It is believed this action has been taken with a view to making a naval demonstration off Alexandria in the event of the Egyptian Government refusing to make the amends demanded by France for the suppression of the Daphne Egyptian.

THE HAIRY HOCK-YARD BUSY. HALIFAX, April 27.--The dock-yard authorities here are busy building torpedo boats. More men are employed than have been at work in the yard for half a century.

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GOINGS-ON IN SPORTING CIRCLES.

NOICES OF INTEREST TO LOVERS OF THE OAR, BAT AND TURT.

Came to-day at 4:15, Nationals vs. New Yorks. If the National Baseball Club managers continue to change their nines advertised, as the last moment, THE CRITIC will discontinue prosecuting. The nine on Saturday was the weakest the club has had out all season, and, of course, totally unable to cope successfully with the New Yorkers.

THE NATIONALS' OUTFIELD WOULD RUN IN ON GRONDEURS, they would be able to field balls in as quickly as do the New Yorks, who are model fielders in this respect.

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