

## THE GREAT PENSION FRAUDS.

### Determination of the Government to Bring the Rascally Agents to Justice.

WASHINGTON, November 8.—The following letter from the Attorney-General explains itself. Under previous instructions from him, Col. Corkhill, United States District Attorney at this point, has nearly completed a number of cases of frauds upon pension claimants for the action of the grand jury. He has received a large number of fraudulent circulars and letters explaining the use made of them. He is desirous that soldiers or that their friends having copies of such circulars or knowledge of such attempted frauds will at once send him full information, and be particular to send the number by which the claim in each case is known at the pension office:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, November 7, 1883.—To the Secretary of the Interior: "Referring to your letter of the 2nd inst., respecting the appointment by the Commissioner of pensions of a person to aid the United States district attorney for this district in the investigation of all claims for pensions and bounties, in connection with which charges are made against the attorney, and to examine such cases as said district attorney shall desire to represent to the grand jury. I agree with you that such an appointment cannot be made to examine cases where the offences charged are not offences against the United States; but the district attorney in his letter to you of the 23d ult. includes cases where these pension agents make formal applications to the pension office well knowing that the claims they represent are fraudulent. This is an offence against the United States. So far as the district attorney makes charges of crimes against the United States he should be aided in the examination of such cases by an officer of pension bureau specially detailed for that purpose by the commissioner. The evil set forth by the district attorney is a growing one, and all means that can legally be employed to suppress it ought in my opinion, to be put in motion for that end. Permit me with this to send you advance proof sheets of the auditor's report which discloses a frightful condition of organization fraud against the poor and helpless who have either served their country themselves and live maimed and broken down in health or who have left destitute widows and children, all of whom are now victims of these designing, bad men, who rob them of their little savings and earnings under the color of gains they are never to have, and overload a public department with work that hinders the necessary progress of their proper business. If this can be put an end to by intervention of officers of the United States, if this can be punished, it ought to be. Very respectfully,

BENJ. H. BREWSTER,  
Attorney-General.

The Auditor's language is as follows: "The great increase in the number of applications for arrears of pensions and bounty is something anomalous, and when it is stated that not one in ten of the applications now being filed possesses any merit, the inquiry is naturally suggested, why at this late period, nearly twenty years after the war, so many claims are filed and the number increasing?" As an answer to the suggested inquiry the Auditor states that not one in twenty of 16,578 claims received in his office during the last fiscal year was filed upon suggestion or by the voluntary act of the claimant, the great majority of cases having been drummed by Claim Agents, who collected fees in advance, filed claims and abandoned them to official routine, well knowing their lack of merit and hopelessness. Although known to be worthless they served to swell statistics in the official reports.

TO BE certain of getting a bite when you go fishing, take it along with you.

THE DETECTIVE PARROT.—An exciting scene took place the other day at Henry Jackson's shoe store, on Columbia avenue, which nearly resulted in the arrest of an innocent man. The cause of the trouble was this: Jackson has an educated parrot which he loves dearly. Henry is generally clobbering in the back room, and the parrot has been taught to scream when customers enter. Mrs. Jackson had laid her pocketbook on the counter and run upstairs to hush the crying of her bouncing boy. Remembering where her pocketbook was she returned and got it. Just then a customer came in. He knocked and rapped for some time, but no one coming in he turned to leave, when the parrot shrieked:

"Henry — customer — pocketbook gone."

Jackson, hearing this, nearly broke his neck in hurrying into the store, dropping his lap-stone on his foot. He shouted in the most violent manner.

"What do you mean, anyhow, by trying to run off with my pocket-book?" The customer, struck dumb with Henry's remark, immediately whirled around and asked what he meant.

"I mean just what I say. You took my pocketbook, and if you don't give it to me I'll call an officer."

"I haven't seen a pocketbook for a month," said the stranger, "and I won't stand any such insult." Whereupon the parrot spoke up: "Bad man—dude."

Both men had worked their nerves up to a high state of excitement, and it looked very much as though there would be a set-to. "Pauline," the parrot, was overjoyed, and shouted: "Police! Police!"

"Oh, blame you, shut up!" cried the thoroughly infuriated customer. Both men stood and stared at each other for a moment, then burst out into a hearty laugh and shook hands. The customer then purchased a pair of "calf English Bals," number ten.—Philadelphia Times.

IT WAS ALL RIGHT.—A man who was looking through a second hand store in Brooklyn, with a view of finding a bedstead to suit him, finally examined one and asked:

"Are you sure there are no bugs in this?"

"Bugs! Why, dot pedstead was out of my own family! We got it when my brudder Moses vvas here, and now he has gone away I sell it for half-price."

"Say, I believe it has had bugs in it."

"Impossible, my friend. My wife vvas so neat dot if she knew of such things in der house, she go crazy."

"And I'll be hanged if her isn't proof!" exclaimed the customer, as he pointed to an unimpeachable evidence. "Vvel! vvel!"

The customer was going out with a heartbroken look on his face, when the other detained him and said:

"Dot's all right after all. Ef you puy dot pedstead, you know you have bugs from a respectable family! Moses vvos head clerk in Rochester, and you know I vvas here twenty-seven years in peesness."—Wall Street News.

—An Irish lawyer having addressed the Court as "gentlemen," instead of "yer honors," after he had concluded a brother of the bar reminded him of his error. He immediately arose and apologized thus: "May it please the Court, in the heat of debate I called yer honors gentlemen. I made a mistake, yer honors." The speaker then sat down.

WHEN Senator Vest was solicited by the sufferage-begging women to help their cause, says a Washington letter, he listened patiently while they contended, in usual style, that the woman was the equal of the man and ought to hold office—any office, Senator, Governor, Postmaster, Justice of the peace or Constable—anything, indeed. "Great heavens," said Vest, "do you mean that? Now, just think of it. Think

of a man going home and kissing a justice of the peace, or tellin a friend that he was in love with a constable! It is dreadful!"

—In the town of Cameron, Steuben County, there reside ten farmers whose farms join each other. They have ten babies and there is only three weeks' difference in their ages.

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Nov 2—3m

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Hardware, Groceries

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Parties wishing Bargains had better call early to secure them.

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Nov 8—4t

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