

HELPER IN SLAVERY.

Result of this investigation of the Anderson Grand Jury.

A PLAIN RECITAL OF FACTS

Direct Charges Preferred Against Those Guilty of False Imprisonment and of Barbarity.

The special committee of the Anderson County Grand Jury appointed by Judge Benet to investigate certain charges against large land owners in that county made its report last Thursday to the court.

The committee says that in the case of Magistrate J. J. Gilmer we find that for some time past he has been in the habit of issuing warrants and causing arrests and frequently committing accused persons to jail without ever entering the case upon his docket. This is especially true where the cases have been compromised after the arrests were made. We find that from Sept. 16, 1899, to Jan. 12, 1901, he made payment to the county treasurer of a number of fines and items of costs collected by him, but that during that time he collected through the sheriff's office alone \$84.80, which properly belongs to the county and failed to pay them over to the county treasurer as required by law. He also collected \$18.80, which he failed to turn over.

We find that Feb. 19, 1901, after this investigation was begun, the said J. J. Gilmer paid to the county treasurer the sum of \$53.20 to cover these amounts. While we have not been permitted, for the lack of time, to make a full investigation of all the irregularities of this office, we are convinced he has been guilty of the greatest irregularities, and we would suggest that a complete investigation of his books and accounts should be had and that he should be presented for misappropriation of the funds so collected by him.

THE FATE OF WILL HULL.

Regarding the arrest of the Negro Will Hull, which you were directed by the court to investigate, we find that a warrant was issued by Magistrate Gilmer for the arrest of this Negro upon a affidavit of A. T. Newell, charging him for a violation of labor contract, and that W. S. Newell, a brother of the prosecutor, was deputized by the Magistrate to serve said warrant; that the constable so deputized requested the deputy sheriff, J. A. Dillingham, to go along with him and assist in making the said arrest and representing that said Hull would probably create trouble were he arrested, and that the assistance of the deputy sheriff would be needed.

The arrest was made on Friday night and the Negro was brought to Anderson on the same night. The deputy sheriff suggested that the prisoner be taken to jail, but the Negro said that he would prefer to go on with W. S. Newell, and that Mr. Newell informed the deputy that he should carry the prisoner on home with him.

Subsequently the magistrate was informed by the prosecutor that the case had been compromised and that the Negro had agreed to stay with him and work out his contract. The rest of the facts were brought out in open court. We exonerate the deputy sheriff from all blame in the matter.

The principal work of this committee has been the investigation of the stockades of the county and the abuses of laborers under tyrannous contracts that has grown out of the farming out of convicts and the working of free laborers with them. We have taken the testimony of more than 50 persons—that of the landlords, their overseers and guards, together with a large number of laborers and a few other citizens. In these investigations we have been treated with every courtesy and generally we have found no disposition to obstruct our work upon the part of those whose farms and stockades we visited.

A most careful inquiry failed to reveal the general abuse of the laboring class exists in this county, so that our work soon narrowed down to those places where stockades existed and free laborers were employed. We visited the farms of J. Bolton Watson, A. T. Newell, P. B. Allen, J. R. Miller, Elias McGee, W. Q. Hammond and J. S. Fowler.

THESE EXONERATED. We were unable to find any abuses at the farm of J. B. Watson. He has a stockade and works free laborers also, but we found no evidence that free laborers were put in the stockades and worked in line with the convicts, or subjected to any illegal restraint or abuse.

The same thing was true at the farm of P. B. Allen. We found that he had taken two contracts in which the laborers agreed to work under guard and be locked up at night, but his own evidence and that of all the laborers so far as we could ascertain, was that these provisions had never been enforced.

A. T. Newell works State convicts and has a stockade, but he has worked no free laborers along with the convicts recently, and he has taken two contracts of that sort. One of these was the case of the unfortunate Negro Will Hull, who was killed by W. S. Newell a few weeks ago and whose case is referred to above.

them up at night, working them under guard and putting shackles upon them. Among these unfortunate were John Harrison, Will Wright, Warren Sloan and Lee Jones. We found several of Mr. Miller's contracts left blank as to the time of service and amount to be paid, though the contracts were duly signed and witnessed.

In the case of Warren Sloan, he seemed to have been arrested by J. R. Miller and another man, whose names we could not ascertain, near Central, in Pickens county. There is testimony that no contract was exhibited, if any existed, but he was handcuffed and taken to Miller's stockade and kept there until this investigation began. Since our first visit to this stockade he was turned loose and allowed to go home. In our judgment, the said J. R. Miller and J. A. Emerson should be presented by the grand jury for the offenses above mentioned, and we so recommend.

ELIAS MCGEE'S PLAN. In many respects the most remarkable case coming under our notice is that of Elias McGee, who has never employed State convicts, but who built a stockade and prepared to treat his laborers as convicts. His contracts provide that the laborers shall be worked under guard and locked up at night and that should evidence to show that he had locked up in the stockade, laborers under guard and whipped his workers. Among those who suffered a part or all of these abuses were Wesley Norman, Handy Earle, Yace Smith, George Tilly, John Chinkales, Clarence Galliard, Evin Wood, Louis Alexander, Morris Jordan. Some of these negroes had been arrested and signed contracts after being put under guard by John Chinkales, as accused by Elias McGee of stealing corn. He was brought to Anderson handcuffed and after he had signed a contract, but without any trial, turned over to W. Q. Hammond, who carried him to the latter's stockade. We think the grand jury should make presentment against Elias McGee, and we so recommend.

W. Q. Hammond runs a large farm in this county and employs a considerable number both of State convicts and "free" laborers. His contracts provide that the "free" laborers shall be worked under guard and locked up at night, and that during that time they shall be collected through the sheriff's office a number of these unfortunate have been worked under guard and gun, have been locked up at night and on Sundays and have been shackled and whipped. Among those who suffered these things at the hands of Mr. Hammond and his overseers, Wm. Bailey, James Martin and Day, are the following: Isham Abercrombie, Pink Rogers, James Clinton, John Heway, Tom Parks, Charley Johnson and John Chinkales. Several of these were in jail at the time of our examination. They had been indicted last fall for gambling, but had been taken out of jail on bond by Mr. Hammond and kept at his farm without trial until the investigation began when they surrendered them back to the sheriff.

The negro, Tom Parks, whose case was called to the attention of the grand jury by the presiding judge, was released almost immediately thereafter. He was taken forcibly and without trial under one of the labor contracts above referred to and confined in the stockade worked with the convicts and suffered the other abuses above mentioned until this investigation was begun. We learn that perhaps a score of other laborers held under similar contracts have left this farm during the last few weeks. One of them, Pink Rogers, states that he was given a whipping of 50 lashes by Wm. Bailey at the stockade.

We think that the facts disclosed demand that W. Q. Hammond, James Martin, Wm. Bailey and Day should be presented by the grand jury for the violation of law above mentioned and we so recommend.

J. S. Fowler, who first used the contract providing for free laborers to be treated as convicts, worked under guard, locked up, etc., employs a considerable number of convicts and also of the so-called "free" laborers. He has two stockades, one of which is under the supervision of James Cook and which was formerly managed by Willis McGee. The other is under the charge of Levi Thomas. At these farms the convicts and "free" laborers have been worked together under a guard who carries a gun, they have been locked up at night and some of them whipped. There was no evidence of any of them having been shackled. Some of them were accused of trivial offenses and were put under contract to work out debts or to repay money advanced for them. James Erans, Baylis Arter, Alonzo Lark, Frank Bowler, Dan Hill, Robert Brown, Foster Butler, John Hill, Willis Harper, Joe Whitfield, Jim Rice, John Gilliam, Turner Walker, Andrew Dobbs, Dock Freely and Drayton Wheeler are some of the negroes who have been confined in Mr. Fowler's stockade.

Willis McGee, James Cook, Levi Thomas, George Thomas and Mike Robbins should be presented by the grand jury against them by the grand jury for violating different ones of these provisions. Willis McGee was especially cruel. It was testified that he had given the negro Baylis Arter 100 lashes on one occasion and that he whipped Robert Brown most severely and cruelly and on one occasion shot five times at Drayton Wheeler, one of the bullets passing through Wheeler's hat. The testimony goes to show that George Thomas shot at Dock Freely and that he was also ready at the whippings.

Andrew Dobbs was found to be suffering from rheumatism which he says was brought on by being compelled to stand almost waist deep in mud and water in cold weather ditching. He was arrested by A. M. Bailey, who has been acting as a sort of constable for J. S. Fowler but was never tried. J. A. Rice is a negro of rather weak mind who was captured somewhere in Georgia and charred with having escaped from J. S. Fowler's stockade in this county. Upon being brought here it was found that he was not the man he was suspected of being but nevertheless after being kept for several days in the stockade he entered into one of the labor contracts and has been in the stockade for several months, though unwillingly there. A number of "free" laborers have left Mr. Fowler's farm since these investigations were first begun but some unwilling ones were still in the stockades when we visited them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Drunk at the Throttle.

The Moscow correspondent of the London Daily Mail says: "During the recent heavy snowfalls 50 men were seen to clear the snow out of a railway cutting near Wolow, on the Ekassau-Oral line. They were just leaving the cutting when the train came down at full speed and crushed about 50 men into shapeless masses, their clothing clinging to the axles and stopping the train. Inquiry shows that the engine driver and all the guards were drunk."

We found no evidence to connect Mr. Fowler in any way with the whippings of these laborers, but he was a party to these contracts which provided for the illegal imprisonment and working under guard of the laborers and is responsible for these provisions being enforced and that presentment should be made against him therefore.

We submit herewith the memorandum of testimony which we have taken and which will show to the court and jury more fully the facts which we have reported and will enable them to get the names of the witnesses to prove such facts. It is proper that we should add that much of the abuse has already been corrected as a result of this investigation and that some of the parties have been to us with the assurance that they would immediately correct the evils existing on their farms to which we have called attention.

Owing to the widespread influence and effect of that follows any public discussion of the question of farm labor in this State and the result that many follow a presentment such as we propose it is proper that we should in closing this report enter into a brief discussion of the influences that have brought about the evils reported and make suggestions as to the remedies therefore. We have heard rumors that this investigation has already created a widespread interest and that the conditions have been discussed with some feeling by us as far as possible avoided reading anything published or said in this respect in order that we might pursue our investigations without any influence or bias from any quarter. The question of farm labor in this State is a very difficult one and the present law regulating the same are insufficient.

The negroes whom we found confined in the stockade were composed largely of a class of shiftless debtors who are subject to indictment for petty offenses, and who could not be successfully worked under ordinary contracts. They are men who have no property, and men who evade their debts unless compelled to pay them. Against them the process of a civil court is worthless; that of the criminal court under existing laws is inadequate. Something should be done by the legislature to grade the punishment of this class according to the offense. But the worst trouble has not been in the defect of the provisions of the law so much as its enforcement. It has come to be a settled policy in this county that indictment for violation of contract and for disposing of property under lien should be compromised, and not tried.

We are convinced that this is wrong in principle and dangerous in practice. The courts, we believe, should not do an individual by disposing of property on which he has lien, or by the violation of a contract by one of his employees, and whatever force might be given to the effect of penal statutes to induce payment of debts or fulfillment of contracts that never has been the true intent and purpose of the penal statutes. They are enacted to prevent public wrong, and when a prosecution has once been instituted and the power of the criminal court invoked, the question of private recompense should disappear, and the public interest alone should be considered. While this may result in occasional hardships, it is the only safe policy. Abuses will otherwise grow up until the criminal courts are degraded and the law loses its force and often for extortion and oppression. In our judgment it should be an crime to compromise any case after indictment found with a view of private gain.

Nor can we condemn too severely that other fruitful source—in fact, the origin of the abuses herein reported—the leasing out of convicts to work on private farms. Evils already detailed are too eloquent to necessitate a discussion to prove this. Such a system should not be tolerated after its results have been exposed as in this county. We have heard it intimated that our investigations and exposures would disturb the labor conditions to such an extent as to create trouble in this State, but it were not worth the trouble to declare the evils we have herein pointed out, if they should be abolished. The duty of this body is plain: We must stop the violations of law that now exist, and if others begin on the part of the laborers themselves, then we will unite with the law-abiding citizens of the county in punishing and terminating these evils.

The result of our investigations show that the system of working them in stockades does not exist in this county further than we have reported. Probably not as many as twenty men, either as principal or agent, either directly or indirectly, have been engaged in this abuse. On the other hand, the numbers of laborers and honor who have violated the law will double that number many times.

We therefore reiterate that the influence of this grand jury, and we do not hesitate to say of the court also, will not be extended to enable any man to avoid a just contract, and that we have found that most of the labor contracts of the county are legal and just. If violations of just contracts begin as a result of the investigation we have made, we suggest that warrants be sworn out and prompt punishment given. We have not undertaken to assume the responsibility of prosecuting the wrongs who have violated the law, because the position and influence of the landlord makes them fully able to do that without assistance from us. This special report has been brought about because of the oppression and abuse of men who were too poor, too friendless, too ignorant and often too degraded to set for themselves, but who are nevertheless entitled to the full protection of the law, and who because of their weakness have a peculiar claim to our protection.

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A TRUE INDICTMENT

Of the United States in Her Dealing With Cuba.

"LIARS AND HYPOCRITES"

Is What France and Spain Truly Say We Are. Our Country Disgraced Before Nations

The dealing of the United States with Cuba is infamous. If you don't think so read what we print below from the Columbia State:

The Latin races are accustomed to sneer at the hypocrisy of the Anglo-Saxon. Frenchman, Spaniard and Italian regard us as a characteristic of British and American expression, and they marvel much at the curious bent of mind which causes the men of these nations to cloak all their evil purposes with the pretense of high and holy motives. Even more do they marvel at this because the cloak is threadbare from overmuch use and utterly fails to conceal that which it attempts to cover. The solemnity of this moral pretense is made even more absurd by its utter futility. Does the Anglo-Saxon succeed in fooling himself? asks the Latin; how can he? And he can neither delude himself nor the rest of mankind by the assumption of holiness in his worst works, what is the use of it all?

The Latin is right. In this respect the Anglo-Saxon is his inferior, for he not only sins as freely as any other individual of the human family but he aids to that sin the further vice of hypocrisy—and all to no effect except the creation of a universal disgust. The Latin does not trouble himself to be hypocritical. He takes a pleasure rather in being frank about the motives for his wickedness. If he wishes to conquer another he admits that he does so for the sake of glory; if he wishes to seize upon the property of another he acknowledges that he is actuated by the desire for loot; if he wishes to appropriate the rights of another he proclaims that he does it for the sake of power. He is above the contemptible meanness of alleging that he indulges these appetites simply for the good of the victim.

When the United States went to war with Spain in order to "liberate" Cuba, Spaniards and Frenchmen, relying upon their generalization of the Anglo-Saxon character, insisted that the pledge contained in the Teller resolution would be violated and that a way would be found to hold the Cubans in subjection to the conquerors. Time has proven that they were right; time has shown that the honor of the United States, pledged to the world, is as little regarded as it was when the United States administration in the spring of 1861 pledged itself not to disturb the status quo regarding Fort Sumter and telegraphed south, "Faith as Sumter fully kept," when an expedition was actually in making to violate the agreement. Spanish official papers which we read in the interior of Cuba before the close of the war, appealing to the Cubans to make common cause with Spain for the reason that they would be betrayed by the United States and placed under alien control, were prophetic in their warning. The Cubans refused to believe this, and we could not imagine such a faith in view of the professions with which the event proved that they were right. For a concentrated exhibit of Anglo-Saxon hypocrisy in its most loathsome form we commend to the public the inaugural address of President McKinley delivered recently. Nothing is more illustrative of that contemptible vice than this deliverance of the chief magistrate of the United States on his assumption of the powers of government for a second term. The whole address is permeated with cant and false pretense. It gives one the creeps to read it. The president is obliged to admit that the consent of the congress of the policy which the legislative branch of the government deems essential to the best interests of Cuba and the United States—a policy which the president himself formulated and forced through congress by means which can be characterized only as bribery. The same nauseous pretense of obeying the mandate of congress is made in regard to the Philippines—when congress in this matter, as in the Cuban matter, acted only upon the combined influences of menace and seduction proceeding from the executive. The address finally concludes with the assertion that "the government's responsibility is not to the people but to the world; and that the government is bound to do its duty to the world."

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of Cuba would not be betrayed with the promise of freedom only to be taught to look with suspicion and hatred upon the Stars and Stripes as they had looked on the hated yellow flag of Spain!

The sir of both houses of congress was surcharged with electric eloquence that contrasted American honor with Spanish perfidy.

Such a cool headed senator as Knute Nelson of Minnesota declared that there were "better and stronger grounds for our recognizing the Cuban Republic than there was for recognizing the United States by France in 1778. To ignore Gomez and the Cuban Republic," said he, "seems to me to be cold, icy heartlessness, unworthy a great nation and a great people."

Intervention and independence for Cuba were on the lips and in the votes of a majority of the senate, and almost a unanimous house during the night of April 18, 1898, when the momentous resolutions went back and forth between the two houses until they came to a final agreement which let slip the armies of the United States for the emancipation of the Republic of Cuba from the thrall of Spain.

Senator Stewart regarded "the recognition of the independence of Cuba as a condition precedent to any interference whatever." He repudiated all suggestion of "hostile constraint on patriots who have struggled as the Cuban patriots have."

It was "with much hesitation and much sadness" Senator Hawley discussed the declaration of the independence of Cuba which he opposed.

Our own Senator Cullom denounced Spain as a robber nation, and appealed to every "lover of freedom and humanity of the world over" to further the sacred cause of Cuban independence.

In concluding his speech on the question April 15, 1898, this what Senator Teller said in repudiating the idea of a war of aggrandizement:

"Mr. President, I want to make the senate, before we conclude this debate, to say to the world in the most emphatic manner that we do not intend in any way or manner to derive benefit from this intervention on Spain is too weak and too poor to pay indemnity. I want the senate to say that we do not intend to take that island; that whatever we may do as to some other island, as to this island, the great bone of contention, we do not intend to take it from the legally constituted authorities of the island as now established.

"At the proper time, if no one else does so, I propose to offer an amendment to the joint resolution that shall make it clear to the world that it shall not be said by any European government when we go out to make battle for the word of the most emphatic manner that we do not intend in any way or manner to derive benefit from this intervention on Spain is too weak and too poor to pay indemnity. I want the senate to say that we do not intend to take that island; that whatever we may do as to some other island, as to this island, the great bone of contention, we do not intend to take it from the legally constituted authorities of the island as now established.

WHAT IS A GENTLEMAN?

Gunner Morgan Has Proven Himself to Be Entitled to That Honor.

TAX MACHINERY.

The Changes in the Law as to Making Returns.

THE ACTS RECENTLY PASSED

What is Now Provided as to the Requirements for Insurance Companies Working in This State.

The following is the text of the act passed at the recent session of the general assembly in regard to the making of returns of property for taxation, a measure which is of concern to the people of the entire State:

An act to amend section 4 of an act entitled "An act to further provide for the return of property for taxation," approved the 22d day of March, A. D., 1897, so as to make township assessors, equalizers as well as assessors of property.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina, that section 4 of an act entitled "An act to further provide for the return and assessment of property for taxation, approved the 22d day of March, A. D., 1897, be amended by striking out in line 20 the words "but not" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "or," and by inserting on line 40 between the words "greater" and "them" the words "or one hundred dollars or more," and said section be further amended by inserting the following words between the words "them" and "said" in line 27 of the act to wit: "but they shall not reduce the aggregate value of real and personal property below the aggregate value thereof as returned to the county auditor," so that said section 4, when so amended shall read as follows:

Section 4. The township board of commissioners and special board of assessors shall meet annually on the first Tuesday in March, or as soon thereafter as practicable, at some convenient place for the purpose of performing the duties devolved upon them. It shall be their duty to carefully consider the returns and lists laid before them by the county auditor and if necessary to compare the same, with the tax return and duplicate of the previous year or years. They shall diligently seek for and discover all property, both real and personal, in their respective tax districts not previously returned by the owner or agents thereof or not listed for taxation by the county auditor, and thereupon it shall be their duty to list the same for taxation in the name of the owner or person to whom it is taxable and thereupon to be their further duty to fairly and impartially assess the value of all property both real and personal in their respective tax district, entering upon their returns and lists furnished them. And they shall have the right in performing their duties thereunder to increase or to lower the valuation of any property real or personal as fixed by the county auditor, or as returned by any person; and it shall not be deemed material whether the returns so increased was intentionally or unintentionally false, or whether the property whose value is so raised was intentionally or unintentionally returned at less than its fair cash value by the county auditor, and upon the lists by them and assessors, that the majority of the stockholders in capital of said stockholders are free holders and reside within the State, and are worth the amount of their subscription to the capital of said corporation, over all their debts and liabilities, and exclusive of property exempt by law from execution.

A Warning.

The secretary of state asks that attention be called the fact that a law was passed by the legislature preventing any officer from discharging the duties of his position until he had given bond and had been commissioned. College trustees, members of State boards, constables, etc., are considered officers under the law, so are other members of boards of various characters who are provided for by the legislature. They get but little per diem or mileage, but they cannot legally assume duty of set until they have been duly commissioned by the secretary of state. They do not have to pay any for this commission; it is a mere matter of form. A great many members of various kinds of boards have neglected to carry out the provisions of the law, and their attention is called to the fact. The new act indeed makes it unlawful to fail to file the oaths and get a commission before attempting to discharge the duties intended.—The State.

Decided Decrease.

The clerk of the State board of pensioners stated Tuesday that the approved rolls of pensioners had been sent in by most of the county boards. It is noteworthy that these rolls show a decided decrease in the number of pensioners as compared with last year's list. This is probably due to the operation of the provisions of the new act now of force throwing greater safeguards around the disbursement of the pension appropriation. Despite the fact that many of the counties have sent in their lists, the lists will have to be returned for revision, owing to defects. This, of course, will of necessity delay the meeting of the State board, and consequently checks will likely reach the pensioners later than usual.—The State.

Forest Fires.

The winds of the past few days have been productive of very serious and extensive forest fires in various portions of this and Lexington counties and much loss of property has resulted. News of the fires in this county reached Columbia Wednesday. They have been very destructive in the turpentine and saw mill sections near Killian's on the line of the Southern railway and also upon the line of the Seaboard towards Camden. After hard fighting the citizens managed to check the onward rush of the flames, but not before much valuable timber had been lost. Over in Lexington considerable damage of this character has also been done. For several nights the glare of forest fires has been visible from high points in this city.

In a Bad Way.

Minnesota has a novelty in Beltrami county, which is bankrupt and in a condition bordering on anarchy. A court decision which allows logging companies to avoid the payment of back taxes has caused the trouble. The county has no money and no fuel for its offices, and merchants have long since refused to accept warrants. The county judge and jurors have gone out on strike and most of the offices have been closed since their occupants. The sheriff, who has been caring for his prisoners at his own expense, threatens to turn them loose so that he can hunt for a job that will support his family. The legislature is being supplied for aid.

Five Killed.

Five men were killed and two others seriously injured in a mine accident at the Englefield zinc mine in Centre Valley, Mo. The five men killed were confined in the drift and the others were in the main shaft. Early this morning two shots had been fired, but the whole charge failed to explode. This afternoon a whole box of powder was sent into the mine. One of the men accidentally discharged an unexploded shot and the box of powder was set off, resulting in terrible destruction.

WHAT IT COSTS.

Congress Expended Nearly a Billion and Half Dollars.

IMPERIALISM COMES HIGH.

Congressman Livingston Says That the Half That is Contemplated Has Not Been Put in Operation.

Representative Cannon, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, and Representative Livingston, the senior Democratic member of the committee, have prepared statements of the appropriations of the 56th congress.

Both plans the total appropriations for the congress at \$1,440,622,545, placing the same for the first session at \$710,150,882 and for the second a \$729,911,683. Mr. Cannon publishes a table showing the expenditures of the previous congress at \$1,568,212,637 and Mr. Livingston makes a comparison with the 54th congress which appropriated \$1,044,360,273.

In his statement Mr. Cannon says: "Of the total appropriations made at this session at least \$300,000,000 will not, in the light of past experience, be expended. This considerable margin between actual expenditures and appropriations made by congress indicates a sum total of expenditures during the fiscal year 1902 of not exceeding \$699,911,683. This sum includes \$53,000,000 on account of the sinking fund requirements for the fiscal year 1902, which, of course, under the terms of the law, will be only to such extent as surplus revenues in the treasury may permit. After meeting the full set ordinary requirements of the public service under the appropriations which have been made, there will surely remain sufficient revenue for 1902 to meet not less than \$300,000,000 of the requirements of the sinking fund."

"The most marked increase indicated in the appropriations for ordinary expenses of the government made for the two years 1901 and 1902 at the two sessions of this congress over those of the two preceding years 1899 and 1900, provided for by the 55th congress, is for the postal service. The necessity of these increased appropriations to meet large business demands is referred to as a cause for congratulation. The appropriations have been reduced \$128,150,001 by this congress under those provided for by its predecessor and this has rendered possible a reduction of taxes in the sum of \$41,000,000.

"With a continuance of the wise administration enjoyed by the country, there is every reason to anticipate a further reduction of public expenditures in the near future and a corresponding further reduction of taxes."

MR. LIVINGSTON SAYS: "The 54th congress was the last one that made appropriations for the support of the government prior to the beginning of the Spanish-American war."

"The 56th congress is the first congress appropriating for the support of the government since the close of the so-called Spanish-American war. The difference between the appropriations made by the 56th congress and those made by the 54th congress are \$395,482,272.

"During the session just closed the demands of the people, through their representatives, for the construction of the Nicaragua canal, have gone unheeded, and those for new public buildings have been persistently denied. The river and harbor bill has been permitted to fail. The payment of just claims of honest people against the government has not been provided for."

"The most casual examination of the table makes comment practically unnecessary. It shows that the army for each of the two years prior to the Spanish-American war cost a little over \$200,000,000, but little more than \$46,000,000 for the two years covered by the 54th congress, while for the two years since that war—1890 and 1902—it cost \$115,000,000, or \$230,000,000 for the two years, exclusive of the deficiencies that have been provided for in large sums out of appropriations for the expenses of the Spanish war during the 55th congress.

"The navy cost for the two years 1897 and 1898, \$63,962,000, while for the years 1901 and 1902 the appropriations reached nearly \$144,000,000. For the payment of pensions the appropriations show an increase of nearly \$8,000,000 for the two years.

"In a word, this table shows that the price to the people of the policy of this administration that has been thrust upon them by the Republican party, in round numbers, \$400,000,000 within a period of two years, and the half that is contemplated has not yet been put in operation."

Wagon Train Ambushed.

A wagon train and a detachment of the signal corps, together with six Ma-cabebe scouts were attacked by the insurgents about midway between the towns of Silang and Damasmacinas, in Cavite province, P. I. Three American were killed and two of the Ma-cabebe scouts were wounded, while one man is missing. Four horses and one mule were killed. Capt. Mair, with detachments of infantry and cavalry from Silang, arrived at the scene of the surprise too late to intercept the enemy's retreat.

Chinese Cruelty.

The press of India, arriving from China, brings an account of the barbarous murder of Capt Watts Jones. It is said that he was received with apparent friendliness in the yamen of Shan Si and was in the act of receiving his passport when his hands were struck off. He was then taken outside the yamen, sliced in several pieces and his head cut off. His companion, a Roman Catholic bishop, was put to a lingering death, his tortures being inflicted so gradually that it was four days before death relieved him.

Convicts Mutinied.

A dispatch from Florence to a news agency says a serious mutiny of convicts has occurred at Santa Caterina prison, resulting in the military being called out and 10 of the convicts being killed and 57 wounded. The mutiny is attributed to poor food at the prison.