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IT IS DIRECTED, that, upon any requisition being made by an appointing officer for eligibles to fill any vacancy in the Classified Civil Service, the certifying officer shall certify from the eligible register from which the eligibles are to be drawn, the names of all persons who have a claim to preference to appointments under Section 1754 U.S. Revised Statutes; provided however, that if there are upon said register the names of more than four persons who have a claim of preference, only four of them shall be certified in the order of their grading. If, upon the register of the State entitled to an appointment, there are not preference-claiming eligibles enough to fill a certificate, or if there is upon said register the name of no preference-claiming eligible, the certifying clerk shall complete, or make, the certification by taking the names of preference-claiming eligibles from the registers of other States, taking care to select from such State registers in the order of the right of each State to an appointment under the apportionment authorized to be made by the Commission. If upon the register of no State entitled to an appointment there is the name of a preference-claiming eligible, and the name of such an eligible appears upon the register of a State the quota of which has been filled, the name of such preference-claiming eligible shall be certified.

Copy
Relating to 1784
C. S. Cornish

Section 1754, Revised Statutes, provides, that persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, shall be preferred for appointments to civil offices, provided they are found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices.

Section 7 of the Civil Service Act provides as follows:

"That, after the expiration of six months from the passage of this Act, no officer or clerk shall be appointed, and no person shall be employed to enter, or be promoted in, either of said classes now existing, or that may be arranged hereunder pursuant to said rules, until he has passed an examination, or is shown to be specially exempted from such examination in conformity herewith. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to take from those honorably discharged from the military or naval service any preference conferred by the 1754th Section of the Revised Statutes."

To require a person claiming preference in appointment under Section 1754 R.S., to pass an examination to ascertain whether he has the necessary business capacity for the proper discharge of the duties of any position included within the Classified Civil Service does not take from that person any preference he may have under Section 1754 R.S. for appointment to such position. The Commission therefore holds, that no person who has been honorably discharged from the military or naval service by reason of disabilities

resulting from sickness or wounds received in the line of duty, can be appointed or employed to enter the Classified Civil Service until he has passed an examination by the Commission, or is shown to be specially exempted from such examination under the provisions of the Civil Service Act. He must make application for examination in the same manner that any other citizen desiring to enter the Classified Civil Service makes application; must be examined in the same manner; be graded as eligible or ineligible in the same manner; and his examination papers must be marked in their turn. The fact that a person claims a right to be preferred in appointment under Section 1754, R.S., does not give to him that right, and the Commission cannot decide the right of a competitor to be preferred for appointment. The appointing officer must decide the question of preference. All the Commission can do is to give to the appointing officer an opportunity to prefer for appointment any eligible person who has a right to be preferred for appointment. Therefore it is the duty of the Commission to ask concerning each person who passes an examination, and is graded as eligible for appointment; "Has this person a prima facie right of preference under Section 1754 R.S.?" If the Commission de-

icides this question in the affirmative, it is the duty of the Commission in making certifications, to prefer that person before all the other eligible persons, and send his name to the appointing officer in preference to all other names on the register; and in doing so call attention to the fact that he claims preference in appointment under Section 1754 R.S. But the Commission cannot determine the right of any person to preference in certification until that person has a right to be certified, and the Commission cannot say that any person has a right to be certified until after he has passed an examination and has been graded at not less than 65 per cent. Therefore all applicants for examination stand upon terms of equality, and consequently the Commission has no right to prefer for examination, or in marking papers to prefer the papers of those applicants for examination who state in their application papers that they have a right of preference in appointment under Section 1754 R.S. The right of preference in certification cannot be determined by the Commission until after the applicant has successfully passed an examination; and the right of preference in appointment cannot be determined by the appointing officer until the applicant's name has been certified by the Commission.

1
Dear Sir: raising money by
The question of taxation for
the support of the District Government
as reported by the daily papers -
has without doubt brought about
an interest among the large number
of taxpayers who have not hitherto
taken but little, if any, ^{interest} ~~attention~~
in the proposed legislation, feeling
that it would be useless to do so
when Malabar Speculators.

Were, as now, presenting all
sorts of schemes for the good?
of all, without doubt there are
none but who wish to see our city
made beautiful, but still there are
thousands of people who are
paying for modest homes, by paying
in a most economical way.

11

to meet the monthly payments,
paying interest, and reducing the
principal. This Class, without doubt
would welcome any safe proposition
enacted into law provided the
law shall be enforced.

The question of a personal tax does
not concern them, for it will be
small to a very few, to the many
nothing at all, for the reason that they
are not enjoying, or gratifying their
desires and tastes to make their
homes more attractive by the purchase
of costly unneccessary things, in fact,
can not, and meet the monthly
payments on their homes they are
trying ^{to} own.

The question of personal tax is
objectionable to those only who would
have it to pay or swear it off the list.
They perhaps do not want to do
either, but the real question is an effort

111

to meet the demands, is, which
will they do?

In a Magazine article, I find the following
"Last year the total assessment of personal
property of New York city was \$3,324,095,389.
fully five sixths of which was "sworn off"
so that the actual amount levied upon
was \$350,192,612."

"Last month the new assessment rolls
were thrown open, and the announcement
was made that the total of personal
property assessed for 1902 was \$3,472,780,802.
Citizens are now appearing in swarms
before the tax Commissioners, and the result
will be that 80% of the amount will be
remitted, and that much of what remains
will be levied against the estates of widows
and orphans"

Now I do not present this as an argu-
-ment ^{against} the proposed personal tax.

The question still is which will they do
pay or "swear off" You have heard it,
said that the law officers of our city think

It too much trouble to try persons^{IV}
for perjury in bail cases. I can call
to mind but one person tried, and that
was a poor defenceless woman, and that
failed, as it ought to have done.

The exemption of a large amount
of Church property in this District
I think not less than ^{these perhaps would be accepted} \$20,000,000
worth, ought to be taxed. Let me sight
a fine, a Cemetery association own
100 acres, exempt from tax since 1852.
Sold some two or four years ago 47 acres
for \$80,000, another 97 acres, with but 20
acres set apart for burial purposes.
With all these broad acres, the unfortunate
poor are buried in potter's field. And
None but speculators in prospecting
applicants for burial rights are benefited
by exemption from tax paying. And finally
When the land values are sufficiently
advanced, the cry goes up, of the wicked
they condone of that particular residence
section, and the bodies must, and all
move without the consent of the heirs of ^{the} ~~the~~

4

The most of our so-called Charitable
institutions, are Church property
and all as soon of income to the Church
and ^{this} can be demonstrated.

Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore,
was reported in our daily papers as
having come into this District ~~and~~
on two separate occasions, and borrowed
my recollections is, about \$400,000 and
placed a deed of trust on all the R.R.
property, to secure the loan, and the
4% interest. And he it remembers
he consults no one. Is this not taxing
Church property, and in a most
arbitrary way, and for the support of
whom or what?

The next question which naturally
presents itself, is, how and who pays
of this debt or loan and the 4%.
Cardinal Gibbons? No the people? Yes.
and of the District, and by appropriations

by Congress, - by Congress, in violation
of the laws on the statute books.
and by all sorts of schemes, arranged
by the Church, to attract the people
to a get-rich-quick, game, in viola-
-tion of the laws of the District.

The law officers of the District know
this, but refuse to enforce the law.
In the State of New York, at the last State
election ~~the~~ ratified the Legislative amend-
-ment to the State Constitution by a large
majority the taxation of Church property
and have got rid of an abuse - and
wrong, of long standing.

And yet no part of our County has suffered
as has the taxpayers of the District.

and the whole people of the Union
have been and are now doing, for
Church property here what they are
opposing - in the several States.

To continue this sort of business and
you assist in making the poor poorer.

VII

so soon they become criminals,
and a charge upon the tax payers.
Then follows the necessity for an increase
of the Police force, an increase in the
Number of judges of all grades - and
Court officers, of all sorts, ^{-increasing-} & pay all their salaries.
The time was and but only a few
Years since when we had but one
Police Judge, now we have two, and
follows ten or a dozen Magistrates
with large salaries to help out
the Police Court.

545 Police. Make but few arrests
of criminals, Mal Criminals -

The Mal Criminals arrested, are by
a dozen Policemen on the force
designated as Detectives, Crime is
not in the least prevented either by
fear of the law or by the Police as a body.
No arrests are made except on suspicion
or until after the crime has been

VIII

Committed, and thus a rule by
one or more of the fair detectives
who are informed of the Theft or
Murder or assault committed
No matter how ~~strong~~ large the
Number of Police. Crime Contemplated
will not be prevented.

Fair taxation of all property for
support of the legitimate expenses
of the district. Fair salaries for all
employees of the district government
according to their several needs, ability
responsibility and sort of labor performed.
\$480,00 per year for 12 or 16 hours for
one set of employees. 900,000 to 3,000,000 per
year for from 4 to 7 or 8 hours work for
another set. is not fair.

Government Printing Office,

Washington, D. C., April 16th, 1887.

My Dear Sir:

Yours of the 10th in relation to the dismissal from this office of Mrs. Cloesser W. S. Seymour. Mr. Scott and Mr. Wallace is at hand. It conveys to me the first information I have received that these persons are either the widows or orphans of honorably discharged soldiers or sailors, or honorably discharged soldiers or sailors themselves. There is no claim or such on file in this office. We have anyone but type set up such a claim.

These discharges were made for the reason that their services were no longer needed or to make place for the reinstatement of honorably discharged soldiers or sailors. None other than such have been put in their place. In their discharge I have had fully in view the provision of statute you refer to. As in this and all like cases I

✓ Government Printing Office,

Washington, D. C., 188 .

I have fully examined it, and in no case have I knowingly violated it. Referring to you of the 13th December in the 14th I do not feel that I have neglected it. My time is so taken up that I cannot answer such letters as require my personal attention the same day of receipt. I decline to make charges against the discharged employees of this office. In my personal opinion I have commended such fully as much as I can with any other. With a view of meeting requests of you wherein you have expressed so deep a personal interest, I have undertaken to call for additional evidence from the most responsible sources. It takes time to do this, but it will be given you. I have no complaint to make. I do not doubt your sincerity. In question you "stand by" as equally to your profession as you state. I respect your position personally, and honor your obligations.



Government Printing Office,

3

Washington, D. C., 188 .

To the Honorable Secy of the War Dept.

Mr. J. B. Cooke
Dpt. Commanding
G. A. C.

Respectfully
J. E. Meddick
Public Printer

Government Printing Office,

Washington, D. C., May 30th, 1887

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of April 30th & I am only pressed for time to answer it, & as one who can in matters of personal or their relations. Your inquiries and criticisms might have force if they were well founded.

If things here were as you informants Com. officials to you you might have just cause for complaint. I had no knowledge of Wallace being protected under the law you refer to. I only know I needed some fine persons less in the division he sent. This information I received from the person in charge a veteran soldier. Wallace was a good reader. The discharge of Spencer a Compositing as you suggest would not meet the wants of the Service I thought

V
Government Printing Office,

Washington, D. C., 188 .

To Bureau. Spencer is not protected by
Wallace & Lang. There was no politics
in the matter. Wallace's support for
reinstatement is all Democratic. The
Mrs. Mehan you refer to is unknown
to us. Miss Blair was a free-press
I missed her series. Mr. Colcler was
in the Inquiry. There was no record here
of her being a soldier's widow. Miss
Blair came out to her work soon
she Mrs. Colcler's. Aside from all these
facts there are many and other matters
that operate with unequal force in the
matter of all reductions of force in this office.

At the close of this fiscal year every dollar
of my office appropriations will be exhausted.
This fact influences above all other the regulation
of employees & of force in this office. Until people

100*

Government Printing Office,

3

Washington, D. C., 188 .

Look at matters of public administration
from a standpoint outside of their own
personal interests and watch the
large influences which control the
action of public officials will be lost
sight of by them and they will stand
with hands full of "points" against those
charged with administration.

Maj J. B. Burke
Dept Com^{dr}

Respectfully,
H. E. Medley
Public Printer

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, D. C., February 4, 1887.

Hon. E. K. Wilson,

U. S. Senate.

Dear Senator:

Permit me to introduce
you with my friend Col. J. B. Burke,
of whom I spoke to you this morning.
I will thank you for your valuable
assistance in his behalf.

Very respectfully yours,
Fred Grimm,
Asst. Division.

Washington, D.C.
March 18th / 87

Mr. Bukey,

Dear Sir,

Received
your note this morning, and as
Nellie was away, she had secured a
place in the sewing room at
Woodward & Lothrop's Store, #3, per truck,
I put on my bonnet and
waited on Mr. Graves, through
the courtesy of Capt. King, who is
a true gentleman. Mr. G. said
he wanted to see my Daughter
and for her to come see him
and she should see the work
if she could do it. asked her age
and health. Now if I had known
you would have gone there, I
should have told you that
his wife's Aunt, Miss Gale, I have

known for years, and Nellie asked
her a week ago, if she could get
her work under Mr. Graves, she
replied yesterday by letter after
seeing Mrs. Graves, that he could
give her work, but all were requiring
to go as Press girls - and she did not
think Nellie was strong enough. so
Mr. Graves said as soon as he saw
me that the work was hard - I did
not say to him, ^{all I had heard} but I asked Capt
King many questions. We have heard
such awful things about the
Printers there, he says while as a
rule they are unrefined yet they
~~do not~~ not use the dreadful language
I have heard. and there are many
Gentlemen among them. He says four
sons is there, and if he should
give her the place, I shall hope it
may be ~~the~~ ^{shall} be at his press.

Nellie will not be able
to get off till Monday, to see
Mr. Graves, then we will
report progress, I would come up
this evening ^{to see you} but I am clear
beat out. Had my walk round
back to the Bureau.

And now dear Mr. Burke, we
both thank you from our
hearts for your effort in our
behalf God will reward you.
For all your kindness to the
Widow & Orphan, of the Soldier.
And I hope you ~~will~~ ^{be} happy all your
life; as we shall be when Nellie
gets work.

Yours respectfully,
V. Gusaek,

P.S. I do not think I shall trouble Mr. Browning,
as his influence, is only second hand for
us. P.S.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission,

Washington, April 7, 1887.

J. B. Burke Esq.

Dep^t Commander &c -

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 5th inst. has been laid before the Commission. The members of the Commission will always be glad to be of service to deserving men who have performed military service for the Country, & you can safely say to any such men who may desire to apply to us for positions, that if they send in their applications they will be favorably received & considered, with every disposition on our part to grant them when

Copy of Letters to
Pub-Prints
Apr 13th 887

M. EMMET URELL, S. V. Dept. Commander.
DR. FLORENCE DONOHUE, Medical Director.
A. J. GUNNING, Ass't Quartermaster General.
LUTHER R. SMITH, Judge Advocate.

JEROME B. BURKE, Department Commander,
1751 PENNA. AVE. N.W.
S. E. FAUNCE, Ass't Adj't. General,
225 INDIANA AVE.

JOS. H. JOCHUM, J. V. Dep't Commander.
REV. BENJ. SWALLOW, Dep't Chaplain.
D. B. GALLATIN, Dep't Inspector.
JOHN P. CHURCH, Chief Mustering Officer.



Washington, D.C., April 13th, 1887

Hon. E. Benedict
Sir

Another appeal from
Mrs. Batten comes to me asking me to call
your attention to her case and condition of her
self and family. She has been by reason
of her discharge forced to separate from her
sick sister who she had hoped to be able to
care for until relieved by death, which from
all reports to me is not far off. I hope you
can find it possible to care for her in some
way in your office. She has no claim on the
Grand Army but it seems to be a case that calls
upon every humane sentiment.

In the case of Mrs. Etter I am prepared
to defend her character against any charge
that has been made. But I shall not
attempt to prove a negative. And in view
of the fact that she has been dismissed

M. EMMET URELL, S. V. Dept. Commander.
DR. FLORENCE DONOHUE, Medical Director.
A. J. GUNNING, Ass't Quartermaster General.
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JOHN P. CHURCH, Chief Mustering Officer.



Along with many others and as you informed
me frequently for cause other than a reduction
of the force in your office I must assume
that charges have been made which are
of sufficient importance to justify your
action of dismissal of many of our comrades
and widows and orphans of our dead comrades
Now as these charges affect both the official
and private character and as they are furnished
to you by parties unknown to us and
acted upon by you without having any
defense or explanation from these people
It has been, to some extent, omitted about
that these charges are of a nature to seriously
attack the character and social standing of
these ladies and have been passed upon by
you without an opportunity being afforded
them to defend and vindicate their character

M. EMMET URELL, S. V. Dept. Commander.
DR. FLORENCE DONOHUE, Medical Director.
A. J. GUNNING, Ass't Quartermaster General.
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JOHN P. CHURCH, Chief Mustering Officer.



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And social standing I deem it but an act of simple justice to them, to ask that I be permitted to see and examine the said charges, to the end that Mr. May know precisely with what they are charged and thus be enabled to defend against them. No person Mr. Beudich, can defend against a stab in the dark. These charges have been filed secretly, have been acted upon, ~~ex parte~~. I think it due to the organization I have the honor to represent as well as the victims of these charges, that they be shown to Mr. ^{May} that they be permitted to have their defence. as a result I respectfully make this appeal to you believing that your sense of justice will not only perceive the propriety of the request but impel you to accede to it.

M. EMMET URELL, S. V. Dept. Commander.
DR. FLORENCE DONOHUE, Medical Director.
A. J. GUNNING, Ass't Quartermaster General.
LUTHER R. SMITH, Judge Advocate.

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D. B. GALLATIN, Dep't Inspector.
JOHN P. CHURCH, Chief Mustering Officer.

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE POTOMAC
Department of the Potomac,
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Non Senator Coakley Washington, D. C., April 18th, 1887
Sir

Will it not be proper for you
in your investigation of the workings of the
Several Executive Departments to know how
many persons are employed and by whom
recommended and appointed to positions in
the several Departments of the Government
of both Sex who are not Citizens of the United
States. It would seem to be some persons business
to do so. "If a public office is a public
trust" no matter how small the office. Let us
trust American Men and women first. The Civil
Service Law requires this. True Americans demand
it

Very respectfully

J. B. Coakley

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C., May 24, 1888.

Major General B. B. Burke,

Dear Sir: By mistake
your name was omitted from
the list of parties summoned
to appear before the Committee
of Investigation of G. P. O. to-morrow
(Friday) morning, at 10 o'clock.
Will you kindly consider this
a notification to so appear,
bringing with you all corres-
pondence between the Public Printer
and yourself as Department Com-
mander of the G. A. R., and all
papers relating to the employ-
ment and retention of soldiers

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C., 188 .

and wards of the Grand Army.

By so doing you will greatly
oblige -

Yours Most Respectfully,

J. H. Gallinger

Treasury Branch G.P.O.

Washgt DC

July 12th 1888

Sir:

At the request of Mrs Myers of 4722
Liberty St Pittsburg Pa. and who is
one of the heirs of Jos Reich dec'd
I write to know, if a check correspo-
-nding to that sent to Mrs May Reich
has been sent to Mrs Myers; and to
state that it has not been received
by that lady. If it has been sent
to her, she desires to know, in order
that she may look it up through
the Postoffice authorities, I shall be
pleas'd if you will let her know through
me

Treasury Branch G.P.O.
Washgt D.C.

July 17th 1888

Hon. N. J. Coleman
Commissioner of

Sir:

Mrs. M. A. Edair Wife of

Christopher Edair made an application in latter part of June 1888 through the G.A.R. for employment in your department. The Committee of the G.A.R. basing said action on their part, by the contents of said application in which she uses the following words - all of which are untrue in fact, "that she is the wife of a disabled Union Soldier - now confined in the Garfield Hospital for physical disability - that she has five children to support by her own exertions that she was homeless, friendless, & penniless without food, for her and their support &c &c - The facts are that her daughter Florence is in the Patent Office at \$50. per month another daughter (Mabel) in Nat Museum at about

\$30 pr month, a room at the house she
rents at \$12 pr month and the stable at \$3

The Committee of the G. A. R. has made
a mistake and I protest against her
application receiving that consideration
at your hands which under other circum-
stances I should join and labor hard
to secure that recognition at the hands
of the appointing power (which the class
of people she represents have a right to be)

Miller & Herbert
Stationers,

Penn. Av.
above Willard's'

Judson's Charcoals

Treasury Branch U.P.O.

July 24th 1888

Hon Thos E. Benedict
Pub Printer.

Sir:

I very much regret that I am compelled to add to the constant annoyance you are subjected to by persons seeking employment, but self preservation is the first law of nature. and as Benj Butler once said "if you want to see Mr. Lincoln appoint this man" so I say if you will appoint Miss Ella Grear I have a good chance to live a while longer, if not there is no telling how soon there will be a vacancy

Edwin A. Burke

Washington D.C.

July 30th 1888

Hon Edward Clark

Architect

Sir:

Treasury Branch G.P. Office
Washington D.C.

Aug 27th 1888

Hon N. J. Colman,
Commissioner &c.

Sir:

Permit me to call
Your attention to the application of
Miss Emma Szegedy for temporary
employment in the Seed division
of your Department.

It is perhaps unnecessary to repeat
the history of this Lady and that of
her family, and her claims for employ-
ment.

J. H. Burke

Copy. Patrick O'Farrell
Attorney and Counsellor at Law &c.
1319 F. Street NW.

Washington DC. September 13. 1888.

Dr. Kay, Esq
Editor Grand Army Review.

N.Y. City Dear Comrade =

Enclose please find pamphlet

of the National Veterans' Rights Union of this City, in which you will find letters addressed to Pres. Cleveclaud, calling his attention to the great injustice done by his subordinates on the Union Soldier. He has never answered this letters nor given the matter any attention whatsoever and Union Soldiers are kicked out of office almost daily and their places filled by Copperheads and Rebels. I wish you would ventilate the matter in your valuable paper to show the boys how the present Administration treats them and the utter ~~disregard~~ disrespect the present incumbent of the White House and his subordinates have for the Soldier and for Civil Service Reform which latter only exists in name.

I am Sir in F. C. & L.

(Sgd) Rudolph B. Schwickardi

Late Captain 39 N.Y. Vols.

Envelope in which enclosed
is O'Farrell's.

Treasury Branch G.P.O
Washington D.C
Sept 19th 1888

Jo. W. Kay Esq

Sir; As Comd.

Yours of the 15th to hand
this date and in reply to the
main questions, I have to ans-
wer, first that, I was not
consulted as to the propriety
or intended use of the docu-
ment referred to in your letter
Capt Schivickardi asked me
if I had left on hand any
of this particular document
I told him I had not, but
thought he could find some
at the office of Comd. Odell
I think it was the same day

I met Amade Odell, or
Crandall, and spoke of the
Matter and he said yes.
Capt Schwickardi being
a personal friend and
one of the good Causes on
which we attempted a
fight for the Veterans, I
asked either Odell or Crandall
to send him some of the
documents, named by him
(S.) Since which time
I have heard nothing and
had no occasion to give
it any thought until I
received your letter.
But, it is a Matter which
was freely and lavishly
distributed at San Francisco

in 1886. and while I see
no way of preventing
the further distribution ~~for~~
or Circulation, no Matter
for what purpose, or by who
there does not seem to me to
be any thing wrong so far
as the Union, is interested;
then when they were first
put in Circulation by the
V. R. U. in the interest of the
Comrades, and if Capt S.
desires to use them in this
present Political Campaign
against Mr Cleveland, he
only uses them for a different
purpose than what we the
V. R. U. intended them for
and we have no power to

Government Printing Office,

BRANCH OFFICE, TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., September 3rd, 1888.

Hon. Geo. E. Gunder

Pub Printer, Washington D.C.

Sir:

One year ago, by the consent of the Secretary of the
~~The~~ Army as many of my comrades of the Grand
Army of the Republic will testify that I have

Hon Thos E. Benedict
Pub Printer-

Sir: One year ago August
4th last you voluntarily tendered me
a position in the Treasury Branch G.P.O.
which I accepted and performed
the duties of that position to the best
of my abilities. Continuously up to this
date

I accepted the position with the implied
if not distinct understanding that I reserved
to myself the right, to at all times
think and act in matters pertaining
to the grand army of the Republic
or the interests of its individual members
as my best judgment might dictate
and that my rights as a free American
Citizen should not be abridged ^{in any way} by the
acceptance of the position. So far
as I know no act of yours has given
me cause for complaint. But on the termination
our official relationship has been of the pleasantest

All Official Letters to this Office must be addressed to the "Commissioner of Internal Revenue," and in replying to Letters from this Office the marginal initials should be referred to.

4% - October, 1888

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE,

WASHINGTON,

18

Whole number of pp 1777, or 445 sigs
15 pp. new matter
12 forms lost by inserting
1100 hours.

Whole no. of pages, 531, or 133 sips
3 forms lost by insertion
8 pp new matter
124 hours for correcting and revising.

4%, September, 1858

No 1

Washington July 29 1889

Hon Public Printer Palmer

Kind Sir

I am an Applicant for a position in your office or some employment in the Bookbindery. I am fully competent as I understand that kind of work, I will be thankful for any employment you choose to give me, I am a widow of a Soldier who served in the late war, and who served three years, and suffered a great many privations and hardships and was a Prisoner twice - was at Bell Isle, and made his escape; and some time after that he was shot down at Meads Mill Va; and fatally wounded and taken Prisoner again, and sent to Castle Thunder then afterwards transferred to Libby Prison. Then afterwards he was exchanged, and sent to Washington, where he was carried to the

Mrs Dalton.

Columbia Hospital, where he layed at
death's door, for some time. And when
he became well enough to do duty, he was
transferred to Co. J. 6th Regt. Vet Res
Corps. Feb 16th 1864, then transferred to
1st Co. Bro. Camp at Washington in
August 1864. His time expired Nov 11
1864, when he was honorably discharged
at Washington by expiration of term
of service. My Husband enlisted the
30th of October 1861, he was first in Co. H
44th Regiment New York Vols to serve three
years, which he did, faithfully,
My Husband was in 16 battles, I will name
some of them, The second battle of Bull
run, Battle of Yorktown, Battle of Fredricks-
burg, Battle of Shiloh, Battle of
Antietam, Battle of Gettysburg and othe-
rs, He certainly was a brave young Soldier,
And peace be to his ashes. My Husband
is quite an invalid ever since the
war, as he had a Bullet in him, and
has since caused his death.

Washington July 28.

Dear Major:

I called to see you to-day and regret to find that you are now employed in the vicinity of the Pacific building, and consequently all business is suspended. I notice on the proof-reader's desk several jobs to be read, but he assures me that when you do come you will soon put a colon to them.

Yours, longingly

Geo. W. M. Merrin,

Personal

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON.

Genl. J. B. Berke

Dep't. Commander -

Dpt. Potomac

Washington D.C.

Dear Genl.

I have your writt letter from
Anas Cross late Dr. 6th U.S. Artillery.

If you can do so conveniently, would
you would drop in at my office and
let me tell you about him. I think
it will cause you to smile.

The paper he asks for
had already been sent him prior to
receipt of your endorsement.

Very truly yours.

J. H. Johnston

Act. Surg. Genl. U.S.A.

The President

Sir: I have the honor to inclose
herewith for your information the
Correspondence between the Commis-
sioners of the District of Columbia and
the Chairman of the ~~the~~ Senate District
Committee, which will explain it self
but I desire to add, ^{that} the excuse
for a violation of the law

What you would then have no
power to do - but while it remains
they will look to you to do, what
in their behalf I ask you to do -
use whatever legal means may
be at your command, to see
that the law is executed, and
not permitted to be nullified
by rulings of the Commissioners
in plain conflict with the
Statutes.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
J. B. Burke

To Governor Cleveland
President of the U. S.



Oi APXOYTES

DEPARTMENT OF THE POTOMAC.



Washington, D. C., Aug. 1, 1899.

The Archons will embark on the Steamer Samuel J. Putz at 6:30 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, Aug. 3, 1899 and proceed to River View where the Customary Midsummer Feast will be celebrated in the Ancient Manner with the usual et ceteras concocted by the P. M. G.

Let every Archon respond with promptness and alacrity to this call to duty and pleasure.

By order of the Chief Archon

Geo. E. Corson
Exeribano

To Archon Burke

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C. July 26, 1897.

Hon. Frank Palmer,

Public Printer.

Dear Sir:

I beg to hand you herewith a petition asking your favorable consideration of the application of Major Jerome B. Burke for promotion. I promised to hand it to you in person but Congress has adjourned and my other duties are so many before leaving that I find I shall not have time. I beg that you will give Mr Burke careful consideration.

Very respectfully,

D. S. Alexander

374, East N. E.
Washg^t D. C.

July 25/99.

Dear Comdr Jos. M. Kay.

I am advised of the
Candidacy of Comrade Shaw
by your circular letter, now
before me. I am further in-
formed - and I suppose correctly -
that Comrade Shaw as well
as yourself are on the National
Encampment Executive Committee.
And now I want to be further
advised as to how much
truth is stated or implied
in the enclosed clipping, cut
from the Washington Post of
this City, of this date. If it is
a fact that both you and Comdr
Shaw, or either of you, are, or is,
as the case may be - on the

Pension Committee you can
tell me, just about what
you report to the Encamp-
ment will be. And yet it may
be that the Committee has
resolved that none of the findings
of the Committee, relative to the
Administration of Ammission
Cases, will be made public
until after they are reported
to the Encampment. That being
the case I can have no hope
of getting further information
from you at this time.

The fact is, I do not think I can
know, until the Encampment
meets, so my mind, there is
a good deal coupled in this
Clipping, and if as stated when
I have understood I shall feel
called upon to state facts on
the floor of the Encampment

which may not be pleasant
for some to hear. If as stated,
"The members of the Committee
held a long consultation with
him, and have made their posi-
tion very plain." Then the President
knows pretty nearly what the report
will be, and if an effort is made
to influence the report one way
or the other you will know it, and
perhaps others not on the Com-
mittee will know. It would be
a reflection on the intelligence of
the Russian Committee to tell
them of the exact relationships
of the Russian Bureau to the
Executive Mansions, or of the
Commissioners of Russian, to
the Chief Executive, and I shall
not do so at this time.
Neither you nor I can, in fact,
do. Comrade of the Encampment
can afford to sit quietly by and

Let Certain legislation go through
the Encampment without a
protest for one I will not. Had I
been present at the Encampment
last year, I certainly would have
entered a protest. I have certain
other fraternal relations outside
the Grand Army, which are
watching and taking a lively
interest in this fight, and will
take a lively legitimate interest
at the press, no matter what may
or may not be done "to keep the
Veterans in line." Mr McKimley
perhaps, did not expect the G.A.R.
Committee to consult him, the
Committee had no right to do
so. If they did, as reported, or "make
their position very plain" giving
him, as it were, timely warning
of the danger of losing the Soldier
Vote in Ohio and other States, unless
Mr Evans is removed. This of course,
as this clipping states of Commodore
Shaw, is reported as an enemy of

Mr Evans if this is so, I shall
not support him; this not because
of the single fact that he is an
enemy or personally opposed to
Mr Evans or his administrations
of the Pension Office, but the fact
that he does, or will, favor certain
other interests or persons who
are interested in certain men
and measures, In other words
the National Encampment ought
not for its own good, and that
of the individual Comrade, do
any thing which might be construed
as endorsing or condoning any
one for his actions while holding
a prominent political office.

The best friend the Union Soldier
you had in the Chair of the Chief
Executive, and proved it by his actions
was Mr Cleveland, and I ask you
how would the Encampment, how
would Comrade Shaw receive the
name of Cleveland today?

The Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C.
Dist. District of Columbia,
Feb. 10/1902.

The question of raising money by taxation for the support of the district government, and to pay for contemplated improvements, as reported from time to time by the daily papers, has without doubt brought about an interest not heretofore developed, at least not seen ~~nor~~ heard, presenting their interests before the lawmakers, but paying their tax levies against their mokest holding, taking but little if any interest or part in proposed legislation, because, perhaps, they felt it would be useless to do so when real estate dealers, and speculators of many sorts were presenting schemes of various kinds to be enacted

into law, on the plea "of the greatest
good to greatest number" ~~of the people~~

Without doubt there are none
but wish to see the much needed
improvement contemplated, and
our City made more beautiful.
Perhaps like the speculators, in
anticipation of an increase of values
on their small holdings, and yet
among this class are many, very
many who hesitate, for fear the
struggle they are now making, to
enable them to meet the monthly
payments on the homes they are
trying to own, ^{be in vain,} ~~will finally fail~~

because of increased expenses
and ^{enact a law} failure to justly and equitably
tax all real estate, ^{would require the consent} ~~has done,~~ ^{in the names of} this
Class would welcome any safe
proposition enacted into law
provided, the law shall be enforced

The argument is made that
the expenditure of a large sum
of money for the greater Washington
will only benefit real estate holdings
therefore a personal tax ought not
to be exacted, If this sort of argument
should prevail, then it must result
in an increase of ~~the~~ the tax on
real estate or go without the needed
contemplated improvements.

Which shall it be? is what we who
have not heretofore attempted
to show superior wisdom or in
any way to interfere with the
powers that be, want to know.

I hardly think the people of this
district ~~want~~ or the people of the
Whole County want the large
expenditure of money contemplated
whether the District gets a loan
from the general government with
or without interest. Until the

the people of the District can see and know that the personal, or some other tax law has been enacted, to meet the necessarily increased demand

I beg to suggest, and this is my principal object in writing this letter, that perhaps those who do not want to do either pay, or "swear off" a personal tax, perhaps they would agree, that all Malistau in the District of Columbia, now exempt, be taxed, 20,000,000, or more, this would solve the whole matter.

In order to support the justness in of this proposition, I would have to write at great length, but which I have not the time, ~~but~~ I would like, ^{however,} an opportunity to present all the facts, and ^{show} abuses of the present laws in our Statute books, relative to exemptions,

I find in a magazine article, on
the personal tax question, in which
the statement is made that in the
city of New York, the total assessment
for 1901. was \$3,324,095,389. and that
fully five sixths of this vast amount was
"sworn off" and that the actual amount
levied upon was \$350,192,612,

For 1902, the amount is 3,472,780,802,
and the article says, "that fully 80% of
this amount will be "sworn off"

No one knows at this time what a
personal tax levied in this district
would amount to, nor how much
would be "sworn off," but it would
appear that as New York state
has by the ballot agreed to tax
all Church property, that she
could do without the personal tax,
so perhaps with our district,
particularly if no tax money be
appropriated by Congress to
private institutions.

Let us have such legislation for
the district, as will rid the people
of our statutes, of abuses and wrongs
of long standing. There is no doubt
in ^{my} mind, and in the minds of many
that the corrections which now obtain
has resulted, first in making the
poor poorer. So poor ^{many become} they ~~next~~
become criminals, ^{second} they follow a
demand for an increase of the Police
force, additional judges for our
Police Court, with Court officers
of all sorts, and grades, and in
consequence of this additional
taxation, the present law is the
cause. I have stated the effect
and have already intimated

Can be demonstrated. ~~Crime~~ ~~Crime~~ ~~Crime~~
~~Can no more be prevented than crime~~
~~statute, or committed can not be~~
~~prevented by an increase of the Police~~
~~force,~~

Crime contemplated can no more be prevented
than crime already committed. An increase of
the Police force, will not cure this evil.

Fair taxation of all property
for support of all legitimate needs
present and contemplated,
for the District Equally fair as
to salaries for all employees of
our District government. If the already
high salaried officials are to have
an increase, let it not be done
until all others are provided
with something in proportion
to their actual needs, and services
are equally necessary to the people.

J. P. Burke

To the Chairman

Washington D.C.

Feb. 12, 1902

Senate Committee

on District of Columbia.

You have before you the question of raising money ~~for~~ by taxation for the support of the District government as also, to meet the expense of contemplated improvements.

This announcement has been made from time to time by our City papers, and has brought about an interest among a class of people who have not heretofore been heard or seen presenting their interests, before any Committee of Congress.

They now begin to see, they think, that there is several things about to be declared by law.

An additional tax on small holdings of real estate, as also on larger ones without an equitable adjustment of the tax law.

as also, what appears to be just,
a personal tax levy, to be equitably
administered, if such an enactment
can be had. Because of past ex-
perience, this class of our citizens
look with more or less suspicion
upon the class who are now, as in
the past, presenting all sorts of
schemes and propositions, to be
enacted into law, without first
providing ways and means to meet
the expenses thereof. True it is they
favor a 11,000,000 loan, but ^{not} the
personal tax proposition.

The old plea of "the greatest good
to the greatest number" will not
be accepted by the people, as the
real reason, why one thing is agreed
to and another objected to.
Without a doubt there are none

but wish to see all the much needed
improvements provided for, as also
those contemplated, which are to
add to the beauty of our City, and
not without an equal share of selfish-
ness, proportionate to their holdings.
but I doubt if any this class will
be heard before your Committee
opposing a personal tax, unless
some equally as just, but less objec-
tionable, proposition should be
presented. Many, very many of
this class are paying for modest
homes through building associations
paying in monthly instalments, as also
interest and taxes, and all they
ask or expect of our lawmakers
in framing the law, ^{is} equity, equal
justice to all,

I beg to suggest for your consid-
-eration

the many, and beneficial only to
the few, it ought to be repealed.
Such a law we have on our statute
books, and of many years standing
and I think it can be shown that
it has led to the violation of our
Police laws and regulations.

even to crime.

I think bad laws, or perhaps the
want of better ones, has caused an
increase in the number of judges
for our Police Courts, and the necessary
attendants thereon, Crime has in-
creased more rapidly than has the
population of our city. The conditions
among the poor of our city, are
such as to justify the assertion
that no day passes but that
one or more contemplate committing
a crime of ^{high or low} ~~some sort~~ or degree.

and it is a fact that Crime Antici-
pated, can no more be prevented
by our Courts, or Police, than can
Crime already ~~be~~ committed.

The Criminal and those ^{who will} ~~are~~ to become
Criminals know the law as well
as they know a Policeman in
uniform, but they do not sufficiently
fear either, to prevent a contempt
of the law, or even murder.

Let us have just, equitable taxation
of all private property except
none, neither appropriate any
public money for private institutions
permit no competition with
our public free schools, but give
every youth of our land the same
sort of training and education for
American Citizenship.

Report in Circulation, started just around
the corner from us, that I really have
a rival for your affections, in fact, Mamie,
says when you write to Annie, ask her
about Mr. Christman I have forgotten
his name, so I can't ask you about
him but I have this advice to give,
if he is a first class, a No. 1. fellow.
Close the bargain at once, have no
regard for my wounded and bruised feelings
in the matter, if however he is only
an up to date young man with an
extra high collar, hair parted in
the middle of his head, pants turned
up at least two inches, according
to London regulations, sucks cigars
swallows the smoke, and generally
found doing damned fool things,
fire him, don't expect to brase him
of facts you may now see in him
it can't be done but after all there
may not be any truth in this story

And I am only writing about an
imagination being. if so the laugh is
on me, all the same, I am interested in
you and a da, quite as much as your
mother, remembering you are the only
girls in our immediate family -
But you will pardon me for writing
in so serious a vein or bringing up the
subject which prompts it. I prefer
to take, as well as to look for the brighter
side of all things, and enjoy life
according to our desires so long as
the physique being is not made to
suffer. I often think the many
rules made for the government of
society are of great injury to the
physique being, and a greater sin
than violations of what is marked out
as great moral laws or rules to be
followed, rules made by some one or
more persons, and accepted by those

Who come after without a question,
Preachers, & Priests, Doctors & Lawyers
And learned men generally teach one
thing to the unlearned and practice
that which they have learned to be
best, without any regard to the so
called Moral law. And so I say look
for the bright side, the enjoyment of
the good things of this life so that
one can honestly thank God for them.
But it was not in my mind or
purpose when I sat down to write
you this letter to be so serious
on any subject that might present
itself, I don't like to deal with subjects
of this sort when writing for the fun
and pleasure I have, with, and which
it gives me to write you.

So let Mr doop A. and say something
funny, Oh if I only could, If you were
only here, here in my presence I am

the past. There is at the present
time at least \$20,000,000 worth of
church, and other corporate property
in the district now exempt.

and ought of right be taxed, and
the law of exemption ought to
be repealed - if for no other reason
than because of ^{the} shameful manner
in which it has been abused.

and can be demonstrated, but
not in this paper for want of space.

I would like to have an opportunity
to present all the facts, and
show to whom ^{the} government
has been ^{regarding}

Our courts can not discriminate
between law and justice. The two
in the mind of the court must go
together, ^{and} it can be proven
that the law, which governs and
directs our officials in their admin-
istration of the same is unjust to

MAY TRANSFER EVANS

Outcry Against Commissioner May Yet Be Heeded.

VETERANS' OPPOSITION VIGOROUS

**Change in the Head of the Pension Bureau
Probable Before the Grand Army En-
campment Meets in Philadelphia—Con-
sidered Necessary in Order to Keep Re-
publican Soldier Voters in Line—Evans
Has No Political Influence.**

The persistent outcry on the part of the veterans of the civil war against Pension Commissioner Evans may not, after all, be in vain. There is a strong pressure at the White House to bring about a change before the next encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which will assemble in Philadelphia in September. The President is earnestly urged to transfer Mr. Evans to some other field of duty, and to make the change soon, in order to forestall unfavorable action by the G. A. R. Mr. Evans' fault consists in being too rigid and exacting in the matter of granting pensions. Corp. Tanner, when he was Commissioner of Pensions, suffered, it will be remembered, from the other extreme. President Harrison did not have a plethoric Treasury, so Mr. Tanner had to be displaced to stop the frantic outcry against pension extravagance. In the present case, Mr. Evans has demanded a strict observance—too strict, it is claimed—of the rules of evidence, and in doing this he has aroused the enmity of the pension attorneys and the Grand Army of the Republic. The latter is a powerful political influence in the Republican Party. Its demands are generally granted. This year, on the eve of a Presidential campaign, it wants Mr. Evans deposed.

Will Not Exonerate Evans.

It is stated positively, in spite of the report to the contrary, that the committee of the Grand Army which recently investigated the operations of the Pension Bureau will not exonerate Mr. Evans in the report which it will make to the encampment next fall. It will admit that many of the charges are unfounded, and that there are many things to commend in the administration of the bureau, but Mr. Evans will not be completely exonerated, as has been reported. The President knows the conclusions at which the committee has arrived. The members of the committee held a long consultation with him, and have made their position very plain.

The occasional resolutions of disrespect which have been hurled at Commissioner Evans by veteran organizations are but a tithe of the complaints which have reached the White House. The President has been told that if he wants to carry Ohio this year he "must unload Evans." Already, it is stated, a petition for Evans' removal has been signed by 6,000 old soldiers in Ohio, who assert that if he is retained they will not vote the Republican ticket. It is not difficult to appreciate the effect which such a petition will have upon an administration which desires, above all things, to secure a Republican victory in Ohio this year. And what is true of Ohio is true of other Western States—notably Kansas and Nebraska—both of which are not altogether out of the doubtful column. In these States the percentage of voters who were in the civil war is very large, and the President has been advised that they should be kept in line, even if Mr. Evans has to seek another field of usefulness.

Has No Political Influence.

Mr. Evans' State counts for nothing politically. Even his attempt to promise the Tennessee delegation for McKinley is leading to an exhibition of jealousy on the part of those who dispute his title to leadership in the State. This, however, is a minor detail. The leaders of the Republican Party understand thoroughly enough that the delegation to the next Republican National Convention will be for McKinley, whether Mr. Evans is in or out of the Pension Bureau, and they are equally aware that it is futile to expect that the State will go Republican when the test comes on election day. There would be nothing to lose, politically, by displacing Commissioner Evans, so far as his own State is concerned, while his transfer to some other duty would please thousands of old veterans who vote the Republican ticket.

The Commissioner is personally very popular, and has the confidence of the political leaders. But even some of his personal friends, it is understood, have suggested to the President that his transfer to another position would be advisable under the circumstances.

This file contains also contains a map(s), chart(s), or other items that has/have not been scanned because it/they are oversized.