

A VERY SHALLOW PRETENSE.

Republican Employees in the United States Treasury to Be Discharged for Alleged Inefficiency.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—[Special.] It has been decided at the treasury department that 15 per cent of the clerks are "inefficient" and that all those who are "inefficient" are Republicans. There are about 2,500 employees in that department, hence it will be seen at once that 375 of them are inefficient and that they are Republicans.

The order to make dismissals at this rate under the pretense of "inefficiency" has been put into effect in the office of the first comptroller and third auditor. This rate has been maintained in all the divisions by way of carrying out the instructions from the secretary. About one-third of the employees in the department are Democrats, having been placed there by the civil service. Under the civil service prior to Cleveland the First and after him the Republicans did not make dismissals in this manner. There were absolutely no political dismissals or political manipulations of any kind by way of violation of the law as it is found in the civil service. At present it would appear to be different.

In addition to violating the law under the pretense of "inefficiency," it is proposed to conclude that the Republicans who are not bounced under the hypocrisy of being "inefficient" shall be reduced. It will be concluded that they are getting too much for the work they are doing. The \$1,800 clerk will be reduced to \$1,000 or lower, if it is possible to do so without getting into trouble. In this way the law is violated in a "smart way," as expressed by one of the officials to-day.

It may also be interesting to know how the vacancies will be filled. All the vacancies made in this way will be filled. The chairs and desks will never be allowed to get cool, as far as drawing a salary is concerned. In addition, it is stated that the order is pending, and will be promulgated in due time, to create a number of places in all the divisions, and in this way take in more fellows wanting jobs. There is no trouble about finding them, for they are here on the streets most of the time, even by night as well as by day. Late in the night some of them hide away in the parks, where they have made arrangements with the police for comfort after park hours.

The plan to get Democrats in the places made vacant and the new places to be created is very simple. The department asks the civil service commission to submit the names of many more fellows who have passed the examination than there are places. After the list is submitted it is examined and all the Democrats who have a pull with the administration and the fellows who have goldbug senatorial or representative influence will be selected. All others will be rejected. If it is impossible to get as many fellows as desired who come up to the requirements the shattered and politically perused list is sent back to the commission with the request that some more names be sent in for appointments. In this way the work goes on for getting Democrats in office, and the civil service commission, which has heretofore been one of the Democratic pots, is set aside. It is all very plain and it is estimated that even a Mugwump of the vigor of five years ago will be able to understand it.

This cut of 15 per cent is but the beginning of a series of reductions under the pretense of "inefficiency." This hypocritical method will be applied often. After this plan is carried out once, reaching into every division, the work will be commenced again. About four cuts of this kind will clean out the inefficient Republicans in the department. This will take them all and the work of "purging the treasury of its worthless employees" will have been completed. This word "purging" is now a favorite. It is applied to the pension roll first and next it is used by way of adding a seeming sincerity in the act of violating the law.

The matter was called to the attention of the civil service commission to-day. It was certainly no secret there. One of the commissioners talked in a way about the subject showing that he had heard of it, although he did not want to appear as having heard of the programme. He was not certain that the plan would be permitted to be worked without trouble.

The impression was gained, however, that the commission is not in a hurry about getting into the trouble-making business. There is an impression that the administration disease known as "obesity" has struck the commission.

A forceful illustration of the ridiculous is offered by the execution of the late Republican inefficiency order.

E. W. Coombs, of Leavenworth, and Captain Shields, of Wichita, arrived here a short time ago take charge of divisions at the department. They knew no more about the treasury than anyone else who knew nothing. They have already passed upon the "inefficient clerks" in their respective divisions. Coombs found a man in his division who had been there twenty-six years and was, in fact, one of the best men in that division, but he was a Republican.

The fellow had shown Coombs his duties when he arrived and has aided him every day since, but he is on the list under the pretense of being "inefficient." This is a forceful example of the way the order is being carried out. The clerk referred to comes from a state where one of the senators has a pull and he wants a place vacant from his state where he can put one of his heelers. There is not the slightest attempt on the part of the new officials to hide the real intent of the order. It is a matter of boast and merriment, and anything said about the "good of the service" is met with unmistakable signs of derision.