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## WASHINGTON LETTER

From our Regular Correspondent.

A great political sensation may follow the delivery of several speeches during upon the methods employed in the election of McKinley, in the Senate before the close of this session of Congress. Several Senators, including Mr. Jones, of Ark., and Teller, of Colo., have had agents at work ever since the result of the election was announced, investigating and gathering facts to be used in the speech as they intend to make.

No gold democrat nominated by President Cleveland to hold an office from which a silver man was removed, will be confirmed, unless the silver Senators change their minds. This agreement was reached by them after mature deliberation. If the offices are to be held by gold men, they prefer that they shall be gold republicans selected by McKinley. Altho' it has not been fully decided there are reasons for the belief that Secretary Francis and some of the other men who were nominated to fill vacancies not created by the removal of silver men will be confirmed by the Senate, but if failure to confirm his nomination would not cause litigation by throwing a cloud upon the legality of his official acts as Secretary of the Interior, it would be by no means certain that the nomination of Secretary Francis would be confirmed.

It will be some time before the gossip about the scarcity of Senators and Representatives at the President's reception is stopped. There were less than a dozen Senators present, and only one of them was a democrat, and out of about two dozen Representatives not more than half of them were democrats.

If the original McKinley republicans can have their way, McKinley's administration will start out just about as harmoniously as did that of the last Ohio President, poor Garfield. The latest edict of these bog politicians is that the friends of ex-President Harrison need not apply for office under McKinley. With the friends of Matt Quay, Tom Reed, Tom Platt and Ben Harrison black-listed as far as official favors are concerned, the new administration would find itself confronted with as vicious a lot of enemies within its own party as could be gathered together. It is possible, however, that McKinley is wiser than some of his would be advisers, and that he would not put himself up as a target for all the stones thrown by this quartette and their friends, lest there be a little David among them.

Senator Jones, Chairman of the democratic committee, has written the following letter to a discouraged correspondent, which speaks for itself: "I don't agree with the gloomy view you take of our efforts. When we polled a million more votes than Cleveland did four years ago, when he was said to have

ried the country by a landslide, we certainly have accomplished a good deal, especially when we remember what the feeling of the party was when the Chicago convention met. Another thing is a matter of decided satisfaction to me and that is that we polled at least two-thirds of all the intelligent voters in this country. The large republican vote embraced millions of negroes and utterly unlettered foreigners, who have no conception of the genius of our government, no appreciation of the obligations of citizenship and no idea of economic questions. In this country I believe that intelligence is bound to win, and considering the fact that the overwhelming majority of intelligent men were on our side in this controversy, I see nothing to dishearten the friends of democracy."

Senator Wolcott, who has gone to Europe to confer with the leading advocates of international bimetallism, stated before his departure that he was not encouraged by anything he knew to believe that his trip would be productive of results, but that he was going to make it because he was requested by the bimetallic league to do so, for the purpose of ascertaining in an authoritative way what prospects there are, if any, for international bimetallism. Silver men in Congress while, of course, hoping that Senator Wolcott may bring back encouraging reports, do not believe that he will. There is more or less uneasiness among republicans about his trip. They fear that if he comes back and reports that there is no prospect of obtaining any agreement for international bimetallism, that he and the other silver Senators who supported McKinley may follow Teller and the other silver Senators who supported Bryan out of the party, and that would make the Senate anti-republican for a long period of years.

Senator Vest, who spent his holiday in Washington, has gone home to remain until the Missouri Legislature elects his successor. He is confident that he will be his own successor, and unless all the information received in Washington has been wrong his confidence has a solid foundation.

The Spaniards visited Canada previous to the French, and finding no gold and silver, which they were in search of, often said among themselves: "Aca nada." There is nothing here. The Indians learned this sentence and its meaning. The French arrived and the Indians, who did not want their company, and supposing they were also Spaniards on the same mission, were anxious to inform them in the Spanish sentence "aca nada". The French, who knew as little Spanish as the Indians, supposed the incessantly recurring sound was the name of the country, and gave it the name of "Canada" which it has borne ever since.—Ex.

CASTORIA.

**The Penitentiary is Self Supporting.**  
For ten years the people have been struggling with the problem of making the penitentiary self-supporting.

The fight was begun while Hon. Augustus Leazar was a member of the Legislature from Iredell county. He and State Senator Adams of Union county, in the Legislature of '87, were the first to protest against taxing the people to support the convicts, and to advocate a revision of that policy, thus compelling the convicts to support themselves.

Under the administration of the late Col. Paul E. Faison long strides were taken in the direction of making the institution self supporting, but it remained for Hon. A. Leazar, as General Manager of the penitentiary, to execute the plans he set in motion as a Legislator.

Mr. Leazar is closing his fourth year as General Manager, and if political consideration should call for his retirement, he will go out of office with the proud record of having performed what very many of the wisest men in the State believed was impossible, and what has required the most laborious work that any State officer has been called upon to perform. The exacting and difficult task has given Mr. Leazar no time for anything but work and planning. The days have not sufficed. In order to be near his work and give his nights as well as his days to the task of creating a surplus out of a deficit, Mr. Leazar has lived in the penitentiary, seldom going out of it, except to the farms, and to the banks on business. Indeed so resolved has he been to accomplish the result upon which the State is felicitated, that he has overtaxed his strength and injured his health. Such public servants are so rare that the people ought to know their fidelity, and show their appreciation of it.—News and Observer.

**Farewell old 1896.** Remember that it was in your time that W. J. Bryan and Cy. Watson were defeated and other great calamities occurred. My advice to you is to be modest in history and not monopolize a whole book in the narration of your events. If you had put many men who are now about to survive you away in their political graves the angels would celebrate the New Year with many more companions and the devil would get his dues sooner.—Sanford Ex.

General G. W. C. Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee, president of the Washington and Lee University since his father's death in 1870, has resigned that position to take effect July 1, 1897. Continued ill health has forced him to take this step. He has been appointed president emeritus for life and will give as much of his time to the University's interests as his health will permit.—Ex.

To approach the matter bluntly, the way to which we refer, and which is beginning to undermine

our whole system of justice, is the ease with which bloody-minded criminals evade justice. This fact has become so notorious and demoralizing that it has taken the shape of a threat against the safety and security of society. The law itself, or the system of procedure, or the laxity of the judiciary, has become one of the most familiar avenues by which the most blood-thirsty criminals escape justice.—Atlanta Journal.

Col. Harry Skinner, his erst while black hair showing a gray tinge, is in the fight for Pritchard. There is no longer any doubt that Pritchard and Skinner have formed a combination to throw Butler overboard. Skinner is to help Pritchard to go back to the Senate; and when Butler's term expires, Pritchard is to throw his whole weight to secure the election of Col. Skinner to the Senate to succeed Butler. There may be many denials of this statement, but it will be shown to be true. If not true, why should Mr. Skinner remain away from his seat in Congress to take hold of the populist end of Pritchard's campaign? Why should he be telling populists that Pritchard is a silver man? The Col. is in fight up to the hilt and is putting in his very best tricks for Pritchard. Can he dethrone Butler and become the populist leader?—Observer.

**A Knoxville, Dispatch of the 30th ult. says:**

One thousand relatives and friends gathered at Round House, Ky., to witness the marriage of William Sexton, 103 years old, to Mrs. William Croft, aged 101. The first Mrs. Sexton died sixty days ago, and Mr. Croft died a few days later.

The ceremony to-day was performed in a log house Sexton helped to build ninety years ago, and after the wedding the couple drove away in a carriage eighty-three years old.

The man and woman have known each other from childhood, and the marriage was suggested by their relatives.

**Why Picnics are so Called.**

Everybody knows what a picnic is, but most folks would find it hard to say how it got that name, and yet it is simple enough when you come to learn it. When a picnic was being arranged for, the custom originally was that those who intended to be present should supply the eatables and drinkables. A list of those necessities having been drawn up, it was passed around and each person picked out the article of food or drink that he or she was willing to furnish, and the name of the article was ticked, or ticked off the list. The open air entertainment thus became known as a "pick and nick." The custom is said to have dated from 1802, so that the picnic is wholly an institution of the nineteenth century.—Ex.

There are about 119,000,000 old copper pennies somewhere. Nobody knows what has become of them, except

that once in a while a single specimen turns up in change. A few years ago 4,000,000 bronze 2 cent pieces were set afloat. Three millions of these are still outstanding. Three million 3-cent nickel pieces are scattered over the United States, but it is very rarely that one is seen. Of 8,000 half-cents, which correspond in value to British farthings, not one has been returned to the government for recoinage or is held by the treasury.

**A Proposition to Divide the Year into 13 Months.**

It is suggested that on January 1, 1900, a new division of the year into thirteen months be instituted. It is claimed that this is not so preposterous as most people would be likely to consider at the first thought. If such a division were made the first twelve months would have just 28 days, or four weeks each, and the new month twenty-nine, to make 365, and thirty in leap year. After a few days there would be no need refer to calendars, as the same day of the week would have the same date through the year. If January 1st were Monday, every Monday would be the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd; every Tuesday the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, and so throughout the year. The changes of the moon would be on about the same dates throughout the year, and many calculations, like interest dates of maturing notes, Easter Sunday and many other important dates would be simplified. Altho' the present generation would have to figure new dates for birthdays, and all legal holidays except New Year would be on different dates, yet the gain would be more than the loss as that would be permanent and the objections trifling.

The proposed change certainly has the merit of novelty, and it is just to say that the argument in favor of the metric system on the ground of utility apply with considerable force in the present case. We fear, however, that the objections on the grounds of sentiment, which are very strong in the matter of weights and measures, would be even stronger against the proposed revision of our methods of computing time.—Exchange.

For several years Squire W. W. White has kept a record of the days on which no rain falls each year. Last April when his house was burned his records was burned with it, but he has kept them since the 13th of April last, and from that date to January 1st he finds that there were 207 dry days. This does not take into account the rainfall at night but only refers to daylight.—Landmark.

**IMPORTANT.**

Don't delay having your house painted while the season is here. Don't have your paint wasted and your work half done by an inexperienced painter, as paints cost money. I will be glad to do your painting and paper hanging during this season. Ten years experience Best of reference given. J. P. ABSHER, Boone N. C.

9-23-37

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