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WASHINGTON LETTER

From our Regular Correspondent.

A real investigation of the sugar scandal—one that would go to the bottom of things and not get frightened off when on the track of information that would incriminate Senators—would be a good and desirable thing to have, but another fizzle like the last one would be worse than useless, because it would do more harm than good. The people recognize a job of whitewashing as quickly when it is done by Senators as by humbler wielders of the brush. Senator Jones, of Nevada who was inferentially charged by Senator Aldrich with having giving out the sugar schedule before the tariff bill was reported to the Senate, is Chairman of the Committee on Contingent Expenses, to which Senator Tillman's resolution for a sugar investigation by a committee of five Senators was referred, and he says the committee will report the resolution favorably. That makes it reasonably certain that the resolution will be adopted, because a number of Senators who would like to vote against it will not dare to do so. It will all depend upon the formation of the investigating committee whether it will mean business or a farce. Senator Tillman will be Chairman of the Committee. If he be given four colleagues as fearless as himself, the guilty Senators, if there be any such, will be brought to book, and the sugar trust, the head of which got cleared on that other indictment will also be shown up; but if he be given colleagues who are afraid of their shadows, nothing will come of the investigation.

The Republican Steering Committee in the Senate is slowly but surely undoing the work of the sub-committee that prepared the amendment to the Dingley tariff bill, and by the time the bill gets through the Senate, the rate of duties imposed thereon will average almost or quite as high as the Dingley bill. The tax on tea and the increased tax on beer are doomed, and we are likely to have an internal revenue tax on bank checks, mortgages, etc., in their places, unless the Republicans get frightened out of the idea by protests.

Mr. T. G. Peyton, a well-known Virginia gold Democrat, thus sizes up the present situation: "It seems to me now that those of us who contributed to the success of the Republican ticket have been the victims of a confidence game. As I view it now, a very great mistake was made last November. It would have been much better for the country to have elected Mr. Bryan. I have not become a convert to free silver since the election, my belief in sound money is as strong as ever, but I am satisfied that if Bryan had been elected, the country would

have recovered more quickly from the ills that have afflicted it."

Speaker Reed's readiness to reverse rulings made by him as Speaker and opinions given by him as an authority on parliamentary law would be amusing, if the matter was not of too serious a nature to be so regarded. What ever standing as an authority on parliamentary rules and practice Mr. Reed had previous to the present session of Congress, has been lost by his decisions, which have made it plain that he recognizes nothing higher than his own will in making decisions. Heretofore many people who disagreed with Mr. Reed's parliamentary rulings in many particulars have been willing to give him credit for conscientious belief in them himself, but they are not now. After all, Mr. Reed is not solely to blame. A few Republican members of the House could at any time rebuke the methods pursued by Mr. Reed, by voting Democrats, but they have not done and are not likely to do so. On the contrary, if Mr. Reed should rule that the Chaplain's prayer was out of order and a Democrat appeal from the ruling, the Republicans would almost to a man vote to sustain the Speaker. With the Republicans in the House, it is not a question of which is right to do, but of what Reed wants them to do. Senator Morgan was doubtless out of order when he made that stirring attack upon Speaker Reed and the House on the floor of the Senate, but the attack was certainly deserved and Senator Morgan's assertion that the present method of the House are not constitutional is receiving close attention, and may result in a change.

The selection of Whitelaw Reid and his brother-in-law, Ogden Mills, to be respectively Special Ambassador and Secretary to the Ambassador to represent the United States at the Queen's Jubilee ceremonies in London, is another indication of Mr. McKinley's disposition to cater to the wealthy. Whitelaw Reid, thanks to his father-in-law's money and some never very clearly explained business manipulations, acquired a controlling interest in the paper established by Horace Greely, and later by political trickery got Levi P. Morton turned down by the Republican National Convention and himself substituted for Benjamin Harrison's running mate in his last campaign. These may be reasons why he should be especially honored, but why Mr. Mills who has never been any thing but an idle society man should be honored is inexplicable on any other ground than that of money-worship on the part of Mr. McKinley.

Bad company is a greased plank on which many a boy has made his first slip to a low fall.—Youths Advocate.

Our Epworth League and Sunday School Conference.

Church and Home.

This conference met at Valle Crucis, on Thursday, May 20, 1897. Promptly at 10 a. m., the Conference was called to order by the Presiding Elder and after religious services and a few words of explanation, the Conference organization was completed by the election of H. K. Boyer as President and E. O. Masten as Secretary. With appropriate words of appreciation, Mr. Boyer took the chair and announced the programme of exercises for the day.

Rev. H. M. Blair moved that the order of the morning hour be suspended, and that the Conference hear the addresses of welcome, and that the President be requested to respond to these in behalf of the Conference. This motion prevailed and the addresses followed.

The first address was by Miss Emma Baird in behalf of the Valle Crucis Sunday School. This was followed by Prof. W. L. Nicholson in behalf of the Valle Crucis Epworth League, and by Rev. A. G. Gantt in behalf of the Watauga Circuit. These addresses set the time to a high key and there was never an ebb in the flow, of enthusiasm till the finish. The address of Miss Baird was particularly striking and appropriate. In modest, yet beautiful expression, she welcomed us to the hearts and homes of the beautiful valley of the Cross. Her address would have been creditable to a lady in any of our metropolitan churches, in both matter and manner of delivery. The addresses were all in fine taste and they were responded to in the same spirit by our President, Rev. H. K. Boyer.

Ten of the fifteen preachers of the District were in attendance, besides a good delegation. There was enthusiasm from first to last, and the finest discussion we have ever heard in a conference. Of course, this is saying a great deal, but the facts warrant the statement.

The impressions made were profound and the effects of this conference must necessarily abide in years to come. What we have said of the discussions, may likewise be said of the preaching. Our space forbids details and particulars. Suffice it to say that there will be another conference next year at Sparta in which we confidently believe that the enthusiasm will be greater.

Valle Crucis abounded in a hospitality which had no little to do with the great success of the occasion.

We were particularly fortunate in our officers. Bro. Boyer makes a model presiding officer, and Mr. E. O. Masten is an expert at the Secretary's table. We trust the Secretary will give to the public through the N. C. Christian Advocate a full account of this occasion.

CASTORIA

Life is a building. It rises slowly, day by day, through the years. Every new lesson we learn lays a block on the edifice which is rising silently within us. Every experience, every touch of another life on ours, every influence that impresses us, every book we read, every conversation we have, every act of our commonest days, adds something to the invisible building.—J. R. Miller, D. D.

Governor Russell's Reception.

Nashville, Tenn., June 2.—The State of Tennessee celebrated today its one hundredth birthday by a most elaborate programme for "Governors' Day." At ten o'clock the parade of military was formed and escorted Governor Taylor, staff and committee to the Duncan House, where Governor Russell and party were received as the guests of honor. Proceeding in carriages to the exposition grounds the party were taken through all the buildings and thence to the Auditorium, which resounded to the inspiring strains of "Dixie" from Cincinnati's famous band, while the party of distinguished visitors were seated. The party comprised about one hundred persons, of which fifty-two were staff officers in full dress uniform. Governor Taylor welcomed the guests and the burden of his most eloquent address was addressed to Governor Russell, the honored representative of North Carolina, the beloved mother of Tennessee. His remarkable address was tender, pathetic and witty, bringing both smiles and tears from his vast audience. As he concluded his speech he led a quartette in singing two stanzas of "The Old North State," the effect of which was intense surprise and pleasure, bringing forth loud and prolonged applause. When Governor Russell was introduced the audience gave him such an ovation as is rarely seen and made every North Carolinian proud that the State was so ably and honorably represented on this occasion. Governor Russell's reply to the welcome and his cordial reception was truly a gem of eloquence and appropriateness. He spoke entirely without preparation or notes, yet he won all hearts by his sentiments of patriotism and mutual good will as existing between North Carolina and Tennessee. After the ceremonies were concluded the whole party was conducted to the Women's buildings, where a most elegant and elaborate lunch was served by the committee of reception, Governor Russell occupying the post of honor at the head of the table. In the afternoon and evening there were gorgeous displays of fire-works and concerts by the band and almost every moment has been spent in doing some honor to old North Carolina and the men and women who so well represented her here. This day has done much for the State and the benefits will be many and lasting.

Our Building.

Life is a building. It rises slowly, day by day, through the years. Every new lesson we learn lays a block on the edifice which is rising silently within us. Every experience, every touch of another life on ours, every influence that impresses us, every book we read, every conversation we have, every act of our commonest days, adds something to the invisible building.—J. R. Miller, D. D.

The Lobbyist.

I cannot refrain from expressing my views upon the subject of the professional lobbyist. At every session of the legislature just measures are killed by the enemies of good government and equal rights and the means used to compass their death are the paid lobbyists who infest our halls. If the members of the legislature are not intelligent enough to give independent thought and action to great public measures without the aid of those who wine and dine and cajole and flatter and bribe, at least some step should be taken to modify the nuisance.

I do not propose to formulate rules for the government and control of those whose business it is to obstruct legislation. All attorneys who practice before courts and juries must be admitted as members of bar are required to pay certain fees and observe certain rules. If the lobbyist, like the poor, must be always with us to aid in thinking and assist us in acting and furnishing us food and drink, there should be some method of enrollment and a fee demanded as a condition precedent to the right to practice before the people's legislative jury.

It has come to my knowledge that some of these professionals have secured large retainers from individuals and corporations who are interested in obstructing honest legislation, and I trust a roll will be made of all such in order that their particular purpose may be clearly known and understood.

It unfortunately happens that in the past at least a few of the members of both houses have occupied the dual capacity of legislators and lobbyists, being paid by the people a small salary to serve in the former capacity and being hired by the people's enemies at high salaries to serve in the other capacity. It has not been necessary for these to be enrolled as their real employers are generally discovered early in the session of the legislature. I trust that there are no such public servants in the present legislature and that such evil work will not be felt or recognized.—Extract from Governor Pingree's message to the Michigan Legislature.

The strawberry season just ended has witnessed the greatest movement of berries since our truck growers began to raise them for the northern markets. The shipments have been about 165,000 crates. In 1869, the shipments were 110,000 crates and in 1895 70,000. In two years the shipments have more than doubled, says the Wilmington Messenger.

There is nothing in nature more charming than the beautiful valley of the Watauga. In fact Watauga county abounds in the most beautiful and fertile valley, and her people are as charming as her natural scenery. The conference was captivated.—Church and Home.

To Cure Constipation Forever, Take Castoria. Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. If C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

The Raleigh News and Observer says State Treasurer Worth, who is very economical when other people are concerned, is extravagant enough when the outlay of public funds is for his own comfort. That paper says he has a very good office in the State capital but wants it improved. He wants the wooden floor replaced with marble tiling and the most approved bank fixtures put in. The council of the State has not decided as yet to authorize the outlay.

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