Watauga Democrat.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Mr. McKinley, by working overtime and by using a shovel on the pie, managed to send more nominations to the Senate since Congress reassembled than have before gone in in any single week since he took charge of the pie counter, but it has not lessened the pressure on him for pie even a little bit. For every hungry mouth he has filled there are a thousand asking to be filled. There is a suspicion that Mr. McKinley, instead of being opposed to the warm fight that is being made in the House for a modification of the civil service law, is really in favor of it. Lacking the backbone to use his authority to modify the rules under the present law, he will do nothing. But if Congress adopts any legislation he will allow it to become a law, probably without his signature. The ground for this suspicion is ample. Many of Mr. McKinley's warm friends are engaged in this fight, and every member of his Cabinet has gone on record as favoring some modification. The bill now before the House civil service committee limits the law to those positions paying from $900 to $1800 a year.

The Senate has taken up the Hawaiian annexation treaty and, if its supporters have their way, will consider it daily until a vote is reached.

Senator Butler, of North Carolina, has offered a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that would revolutionize the U. S. courts. It proposes that all U. S. judges, including those of the Supreme court, shall be elected by the people, for terms of eight years, and provides for a division of the country into circuits for their election. Speaking of his resolution, Senator Butler says: "There was a time when all the states thought it incumbent upon them to appoint their judges for life. Now the life tenure of a judge in a state is the exception. I believe in placing the power over the judiciary in the hands of the people. If the system of stated terms is good in the states it ought to be equally good for the Federal government."

Many democrats in Congress favor beginning the congressional campaign of next Fall at once, on the floors of Congress, and keeping up a red hot, aggressive fight upon the republicans from start to finish. Among them is Representative De Armond, of Missouri, who said on the subject: "We ought to be aggressive. We want to force the subject: "We ought to lose no time in exposing the hypocrisy and cowardice of our political opponents. We can lose nothing by being aggressive. Those who followed the standard of democracy and Bryan in the last campaign are as enthusiastic and as earnest as ever, and we who are here in Congress representing that sentiment ought not to lag."

Senator Chilton, of Texas, says of the civil service hubbub in republican ranks: "In my opinion, if Mr. Bryan had been elected instead of Mr. McKinley, the fly specks which republican orators in Congress now imagine to be blood spots on the civil service system would have escaped their attention altogether. The sudden realization that the idea of civil service reform has been carried too far is due solely to their purpose to get republicans into places now filled by equally capable democrats, and no democratic senator or representative should give them aid or comfort in their designs."

Czar Reed is the one republican in Congress who has never buckled down to Boss Hanna. On the contrary, he not long ago made Hanna eat a big chunk of humble pie. It all come about in connection with the appointment of a light house keeper in Mr. Reed's district, a place Mr. Reed had asked for one of his constituents. Instead of the appointment Mr. Reed got a letter from the headquarters of the republican national committee, signed M. A. Hanna. That made him mad. He isn't a profane man, but his demand for an explanation from the Treasury Department as to what M. A. Hanna had to do with appointments in his district was as "hot stuff" as anybody on Secretary Gage's staff cared to hear about. An apology quickly followed, as did the appointment of Reed's man. But that didn't mollify the Czar. He went after Boss Hanna and made him apologize also.

Senator Teller made a manly and able speech in reply to the numerous newspaper stories alleging that some of the silver men in Congress have no proper conception of the financial question, and are trying to force it to the front merely to make a breach between Mr. McKinley and his Secretary of the Treasury. He said that it was ridiculous to suppose that Mr. Gage would remain in the cabinet an hour if he and the President were not in financial accord; also that the republican party was to-day fully committed to the gold standard. Every eye in the Senate was upon Mr. Teller when he uttered these ringing words: "I attack the republican party because it is the party of the gold standard. I hope to see it go down in 1900, and I pledge you that I will do everything in my power to drag it down. It's policy is not such as is demanded by a great and free people. I have no quarrel with the President, but he stands for the gold standard, a policy which in my opinion will impoverish and wreck our people."

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THE LIEUTENANT'S PIE.

Mr. Edmund Kirk, writing in the Atlanta Constitution, relates an anecdote which was told him by one of Gen. Grant's staff officers. The occurrence took place early in the war, in southwestern Arkansas, while Grant's troops were on a march through a wilderness, and were really suffering for food. This state of things lasted for two days. Then a few scattered houses were passed, and foraging was in order.

On that day Lieutenant Wickfield, of an Indiana cavalry regiment, commanded the advance guard of eight hundred men. About noon he came upon a small farmhouse, whose appearance indicated that there might be some food upon the premises. Halting his squad, he dismounted, and with two of his subordinate officers entered the dwelling.

Assuming a stately demeanor, he accosted the mistress of the house with a demand for food for himself and his staff. To her enquiry as to who he was, he answered, "Brigadier General Grant," and at the sound of that name all the members of the family flew about serving up all they had in the house with profuse expressions of loyalty.

They were all women, the men being away with the body of Confederates that Grant was pursuing. The lieutenant and his squad feasted to their hearts' content, and then demanded what was to pay. "Nothing," said the mistress of the house, who protended that as a loyal woman she could not think of accepting pay from the defenders of the country. With this, Lieutenant Wickfield and his "staff" went on their way rejoicing.

General Grant had halted his forces a few miles back for a brief rest, and about the time the lieutenant was out of sight he rode up to the house, and inquired if the good people there would cook him a meal.

"No," came from a gruff female voice on the inside of the closed door. "General Grant and his staff have just been here and eaten up all we had in the house, except one pumpkin pie."

"Indeed!" said the general. "What is your name?"

"Selvidge," replied the woman, now venturing to open the door.

"Well, madam, I want that pie," said Grant, tossing the woman a half-dollar. "Please keep it for me. I will send for it tonight."

The woman took the money, and Grant rode on some fifteen miles to where the army was to camp. There the various regiments were notified of a full parade at half past six. This was so unusual that it created a decided sensation, and many supposed that the enemy was upon them.

The parade was formed ten columns deep and nearly a quarter of a mile in length, and after the usual ceremonies the assistant adjutant general read the following order:

"Headquarters, Army of the Field, Special Order.—Lieutenant Wickfield, of the Indiana cavalry, having this day eaten everything at Mrs. Selvidge's, at the crossing of the Ironton and Pocahontas and Black River and Cape Girardeau roads, except one pumkpin pie, Lieutenant Wickfild is hereby ordered to return with an escort of one hundred cavalry and eat that pie also.

"U. S. GRANT,
"Brigadier-General Commanding."

At seven o'clock the lieutenant filed out of camp with his hundred men, amid the cheers of the entire army. This escort returned to camp about midnight, reporting that Wickfield had eaten the whole pie, and had appeared to relish it.—Ex.

A DEMOCRAT RIGHT.

News and Observer.

The courts of Pennsylvania are struggling to settle the question whether a man in his will can condition his legacies to heirs dependent upon their political faith. This provision was incorporated in the will of Geo. T. Wilcox:

"As to all my grandchildren, I give to them a portion each of $1,000 upon the following conditions: That they support the Democratic Administration, both State and National, and in case any one fails to do this, then his share is to be divided among my other grandchildren, share and share alike, and in case none follows my direction, then the money is to go to the Democratic National committee.

"I also give and bequeath to each of my granddaughters $500 apiece in case they remain single or marry democrats. In case they do not follow my direction any one failing, her share shall be divided among my other grandchildren."

The Auditor, a Republican by the way, has decided that the conditions attached are void because of the temptatical creed. He holds that this is contrary to the genius of our institutions. The case will go to the Supreme court.

The time was when a man could not disinherit his children, but in this country every man in his right mind is by law given the right to dispose of his property as he pleases. If Mr. Wilcox desired none but Democrats to receive his property, he had a right to so desire it. It cannot be contended that it was an evidence of insanity outside of Republican Pennsylvania. On the contrary, it was the highest evidence of a sound mind to desire to perpetuate his devotion to the true principles of government in an erring and perverse section.

Citizen: Dr. A. Robinson, a dentist of Grand Rapids, Mich., has a bull terrier which recently broke two front teeth in a fight. Robinson fixed the dog up in his chair and fitted the teeth with gold fillings, and the terrier is again on the warpath.

The Production of Maple Sugar and Syrup in North Carolina.

The value of the yield of maple sugar and syrup in Vermont amounts each year to over $500,000, and the sugar-orchard, as the grove of sugar trees or sugar maples is called is regarded as one of the best paying parts of the farm. Besides its paying so well the work comes in the middle of winter when there is little or no other remunerative farm-work possible. The conditions in several of the mountain counties of North Carolina are quite similar to what they are in Vermont, the winters being hard and cold and allowing but little agricultural work. Although this is so and there are plenty of sugar maples in portions of the northwestern counties of this state, the yield of maple sugar products is so insignificant that this state is not mentioned as one of the producers of those articles. It could undoubtedly, be made into a large and profitable industry, since maple syrup, especially when pure, finds a ready sale in all towns, being preferable to molasses and cane syrups. Besides no expensive outfit is required to begin the wosk, other than what can be made at home or is usually already on hand in the shape of cane syrup evaporators. The North Carolina Geological Survey has published a book on the best method of making maple syrup and marketing it. It is by W. W. Ashe, Forester for the Geological Survey, and will be sent free to persons interested in the subject upon an application being sent to the State Geologist, Raleigh, N. C.

Facts and Figures.

A traveler can now go around the world in fifty days.

Japanese children are taught to write with both hands.

Charcoal applied to the sore will cure a burn in an hour.

There is a clock in Brussels that is kept going by the wind.

In Ptolemy's time any one who killed a cat was put to death.

It is intimated that one English person in every twenty four had red hair.

Forty four muscles are called into play in the production of the human voice.

It takes 72,000 tons of paper to make the post cards used in England each year.

It is said that there is in Sonora a tribe of Indians with yellow hair and blue eyes.

The axact cost of an English cabinet minister's full dress uniform is 120 guineas.

Bread as a daily article of food is used by only about onethird of the population of the earth.

Asheville Citizen: The British registrar general, Dr. Totham, has issued a supplemental report showing the influence of occupation upon male morality. The clergy had the healthiest lives and after them came in turn lawyers, doctors and farmers. The good editors die young.

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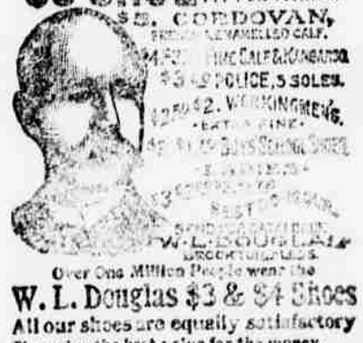
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