Watauga

VOL. XVIII. BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY.

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Aug. 6. 1y.

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6-11--1906.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

An appeal has been made to President Roosevelt by the Society of Friends of Philadelphia for the establishment of a permanent arbitration congress with the consent and co-operation of the other nations of the world. This plan is not so visionary and emotional as a good many of the peace plans put forward by international arbitration exponents. It recognizes the excellent work that has already been done by the Hague tribunal and does not propose to supplant that institution but rather to supplement its work by creating an international congress from which would eminate a code of international law.

International law as now understood is a somewhat hazy system. It is based entirely upon precedent and is interpreted variously according as suits the convenience of nations dealing with it. The plan submitted to the President provides for an international congress to meet at stated intervals with duly accredited representatives from the various adhering governments and empowers this congress to work out a fixed and definite international code which could be applied in practice before the Hague tribunal whenever occasion arose. President Roosevelt has expressed himself as heartily in favor of the plan and has already laid the papers in the case before Secretary Root with a request that he sound the various foreign governments on the subject and if possible formulate a treaty which it would be agreable for all of them to sign.

Speaking of treaties the extra session discussion has now assumed the phase where it is definitely announced in a good many papers that an extra session will be called after the 4th of March at which the Japanese school question with its resulting Japanese treaty, the Santo Domingo treaty and currency reform may all be calmly and leisurely discussed and disposed of without fuss or hurry. How correct this forecast will prove can be told better after the 4th of March. It is quite certain that there can be no serious attempt to consider the Santo Domingo treaty at the present session. The Japanese situation is in such a shape that the President and the State Department probably would rather have Congress out of the way while the details were being settled. Treaties, of course, are always discussed in executive session and equally, of course, the reports of these discussions are printed in the next issue of the newspapers to the inconvenience of the State Department and the pleasure of such senators as have anything to gain by muddying the waters of diplomacy. The exchange between this government and that of Japan are now in such shape that a treaty can very probably be framed that will meet the ideas of both governments and eventually get through the Senate. But it will take several weeks more of deliberation and negotiation before this solution is definitely reached.

Without even a division the House this week passed a bill modifying the denatured alcohol act in such a way as is thought will make it more to the advantage of the farmers. It is a little remarkable that with all the fuss made in anticipation of the passage of the free alcohol bill nothing at all should have come of it up to date. It is predicted that the Act would be the most beneficent piece of legislation ever passed for the opressed and down trodden farmer, and that it would enable him to use up all the surplus farm supplies even to the weeds in the fence corners for making denatured alcohol from which he could obtain heat, light and power. But since the free alcohol bill has passed it has been utterly nullified by the plans for its enforcement worked out by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The Bureau has made such regulations governing the production of such alcohol as practically prevents any but the already established distillers from taking advantage of the law. The amended act provides for centrally located bonding and denaturing warehouses where the farmer can deliver his alcohol and get the benefit of government of supervision free of tax. It was stated when this amended bill was passed that there were but three interest against it. The whisky trust, the wood alcohol manufacturers and the Standard Oil Company. Whether the new law will prove any more benefit to the farmer than the old one can only be proved by experience.

Postmaster General Cortelyou has been working on a new scheme in connection with the dead letter office that is greatly expediting the work of that division of the Post Office Department and ought to result in giving a much more prompt and effective service than has ever been given to the public by the Department before. Instead of holding letters in the dead letter office months at a time as has heretofore been the practice, a large force of clerks has been put at work opening and inspecting misdirected mail as soon as it reaches the office. All of the letters which can be returned to the senders are immediately forwarded and the aggregate value of this mail is shown from [illegible] that from $6000 to $16,000 a month is thus restored [illegible] transmitters in the inspected letters. Last month 80 per cent of the mail which was remunerative was sent back under the new system and in a little [illegible] will be possible for all of the mail having the address of the sender inside to be returned as soon as it reaches the dead letter office.

Senator Beveridge has expressed himself very forcibly [illegible] the report of the Judiciary Committee of the House which returned his anti-child labor bill to the House Appropriation Committee decided that it was impossible [illegible] federal government to interfere with the internal affairs of the various states by prohibiting the products of child labor from entering Interstate Commerce. Senator Beveridge says that the action of the Committee was mere subterfuge and aimed to prevent the bill from ever coming to a vote and relieve the members of Congress from the necessity of placing themselves on record in opposition to the measure.

A Western Wonder

There's a bill at Bowie, Texas, that's twice as big as last year. The wonder is W. L. Hill, who from a weight of 90 pounds has grown to over 180. He says he suffered with a terrible cough, and doctors gave me up to die of consumption. I was reduced to 90 pounds. Then I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, Coughs and Colds, and now, after taking 12 bottles, I have more than doubled in weight and am completely cured." Only sure Cough and Cold cure. Guaranteed by all druggists. 50 cts, and $1 Trial bottles free.

Missionary—And do you know nothing whatever of religion?—Cannibal—Well, we [illegible] of it when the last missionary was here.—Cleveland [illegible]

GOSSIP.

I certainly hate gossip.
I can't see why folks do it;
Just tell'n silly story,
With not a true thing in it.

These summer hotel women
Don't hesitate a bit
To ruin a reputation,
And never care a whit.

I simply will not gossip,
Oh, have you seen, my dear,
How Mrs. Smith is flirting
With every fellow here?

And Julia Jenks told Ada
She saw her, plain as day,
Kiss that young man from Boston
The night he went away.

I never would repeat it
To any one but you;
I never peddle gossip—
That's one thing I don't do,

But did you hear the Joneses
Have got a motor now?
Well, if they've got it paid for,
I'm sure I don't know how.

For my masseuse told me
She hadn't paid her bill.
But when I know of such things
I don't talk; I keep still.

Why, I could tell you something
About the Brown divorce,
I guess 'twould make that woman
Come off of her high horse.

And that blond, Mrs. Sniffun—
You think it real? Not me!
The roots are dark Peroxide,
My dear, it's plain to see.

Just hear that woman talking!
Her husband's coming down.
You ought to hear my husband
Tell how he acts in town.

Miss Jenkins Did she tell you
I paint? The spiteful cat!
Because her own skin's yellow,
To say a thing like that!

There's such a talky set here;
That's why I know so few,
I can't stand folk who gossip,
I never, never do!

—Washington Herald.

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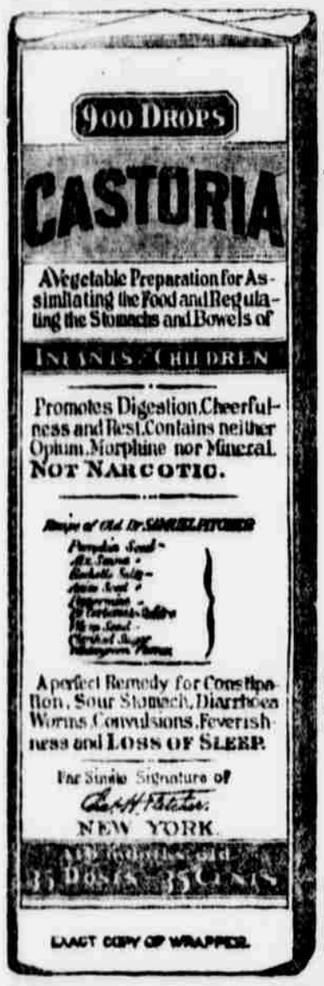

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