

WILL THEY DO IT?

Opinion in Washington is divided as to whether Congress will pass Mr. Crumpacker's bill to reduce representation from the Southern States. That's what the bill really is, although it purports to be a bill for the re-apportionment of members of Congress.

But will they pass it? They can, if they determine to do it, make it apply to the South and make a strictly party issue of it. But can they do that? With what consistency, if they have any regard for consistency, can they demand a reduction of Southern representation, when there are Northern and Western States, which restrict suffrage in the same way Southern States do?

But it isn't the negro disfranchised nor what they call the unfranchised of the Southern States that are spurring them to action, but politics. They have a good working majority in this Congress, they may not have in the next, and possibly may not have any majority, so if they propose to do anything with this matter Crumpacker and his supporters think they had better avail themselves of their opportunity and do it while they can.

It is said that President Roosevelt is in favor of this scheme and will sign a bill for that purpose if it passes Congress. One of the reasons given for the opinion that he favors it is because he got nettled at the Southern criticisms and remarks on the Booker Washington dinner incident. This may or may not be, and this may or may not be a reason why the President favors that scheme if he does, but Roosevelt is a radical partisan and also a politician with a future, and he is not going to array himself against the majority of his party in Congress and arouse antagonism by refusing to sign a measure so purely political and intended to perpetuate the power of his party.

But it is not so certain that a majority of the Republican members may favor this scheme because the bill must apply to the whole country and that would take in several good Republican States and be practically a declaration to all the other States that they must not pass any laws to restrict suffrage of people who have not been convicted of some crime and paid the penalty by serving some time in jail, in a penitentiary, or with the public road brigades. It virtually means a declaration by the Republican majority in Congress that there shall be no reform in the suffrage laws and that however vile or vicious the mob may be its free swing at the ballot box must not be interfered with.

Some of them may be disposed to ask where is the need of all this when the Republican party has a practically solid North, and is almost certain to win again if it don't make some gross blunders to drive voters away from it? There being no need why should such partisan discrimination be made against one section of the country, which has had recourse to the only feasible way of providing for honest, intelligent, respectable government? These questions will be asked by Democrats and by fair-minded Republicans.

But making the most of it, it is a foolish, ridiculous measure not worth the discussion it will provoke. It is uncertain and unsatisfactory, even if it were as just as its advocates claim it is. It is foolish because it revives sectional agitation which had almost disappeared, to the gratification of patriotic people North and South, and ridiculous for there is no stability about it. It is ridiculous to assume that when there is a light vote cast in the South, those who do not vote are disfranchised by law, when thousands of voters, some of each color, refuse to vote rather than pay the poll tax requisite, and thousands of others don't go to the polls because they do not take sufficient interest in the elections to go from home to the polling place. This is the case both North and South, while at another election much of this vote might be polled, making in the aggregate thousands more votes than in the preceding election. And yet Mr. Crumpacker would make the votes cast, and not the number of people the basis of representation. The whole scheme is so absurd, so ridiculous and depends so much on accident that the surprising thing is that it should meet with serious consideration, which it would not if it were not for the partisan politics there is in it.

An opinion has been expressed in the neighborhood in Virginia where Mr. Marx shot the three men who went to chastise him for an alleged insult to a young lady, that it was a case of jealousy. Marx was an attractive sort of a fellow, calculated to favorably impress a young woman, and there was another fellow in it who became jealous of the progress he was making with this young lady, and put up a job to drive him away from those pastures. Perhaps if he had known that Marx was such a good marksman he would have contrived some other plan of persuading him to leave.

The December of "Christmas" number of McClure's Magazine is a very attractive one, with an interesting list of contents, nicely illustrated, some of the illustrations being in color. Lovers of the drama will be especially interested in Clara Morris' sketch of Salvini, the great Italian actor. Published by The S. S. McClure Company, 141-155 East Twenty-fifth Street, New York.

The Century Magazine for December is superb, filled with choice reading matter, beautifully and artistically illustrated. Many of the illustrations are in color and all are fine. The younger readers especially will be interested in the Christmas articles and in "The Settlement of the West," which gives some idea of what the early settlers had to face. Published by The Century Company, Union Square, New York.

It is pleasing to observe that our tariff mongers have not the least sympathy with the purposes of the German tariff bill to increase duties on the wheat, corn, beef, pork and other products of the United States. Nothing would suit them so well as the Dingley tariff for the United States and free trade for all the rest of the world.

Mr. Corzine's revolver is in the hands of a lawyer, and it is reported that he is being held in the hands of a lawyer, and it is reported that he is being held in the hands of a lawyer.

Mr. Evans, negro, was placed in jail Saturday, charged with breaking into a house at Hope Mills. As the Hope Mills constable was taking him through the streets, he was struck with a brick by a man, and the man was arrested.

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The Home Beer advertisement featuring an illustration of a man drinking and text describing the benefits of Schlitz Beer.

It should be remembered that misrepresentations exist to the detriment of the consumer. It is dangerous to live and risky to die. Beer is a saccharine product, and the germs multiply rapidly in it.

Firemen and Soldiers. There are more firemen in the United States than there are soldiers in Uncle Sam's army. In New York city, for fire purposes, the two boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, with 1,400 firemen, are joined.

Wholesale Prices. The following quotations represent wholesale prices generally, in making up small orders, prices will be charged. No responsibility is assumed for the accuracy of the prices.

Marine Directory. List of vessels in the port of Wilmington, N. C., December 11, 1901. Includes names and details of various ships.

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COMMERCIAL. WILMINGTON MARKET. (Quoted monthly as the closing by the Produce Exchange.) STAR OFFICE, December 10. SPIRITS TURPENTINE—Nothing doing.

PRODUCE MARKETS. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. New York, Dec. 10.—Flour market was unchanged but quiet. Wheat—No. 2 red 83 1/2c. Options expected a weak day from a 1/2c advance in the market.

FINANCIAL MARKETS. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Money on call was firm at 5 1/2c per cent. Last week's rate was 5 1/2c. Prime mercantile paper 4 1/2c.

FOREIGN MARKET. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 10, 4.30 p. m.—Cottons—Spot, fair demand, 11 1/2c; low middling, 11 1/2c; good middling, 11 3/4c.

NAVAL STORES MARKETS. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Rosin steady. Spirit turpentine 74c. CHARLESTON, Dec. 10.—Spirits turpentine firm at 84c; sales—caika, Rosin firm and unchanged.

COTTON MARKETS. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The cotton market opened firm at an advance of the rate to seven points on good foreign buying. Demand for shorts and purchases was no better than expected.

MARINE. ARRIVED. Stmr A. Johnson, Robinson, Cleve, W. J. Meredith. Stmr P. Hart, Robeson, Fayetteville, James Madden.

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Pierce's Favorite Prescription advertisement for women's health, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing the medicine's benefits.