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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1897.—The investigation now being conducted by the Senate Committee on public lands may lead to a scandal involving Mr. Cleveland, although every patriotic American will hope not. The investigation is of a land patent recently issued by Secretary Francis to Mr. Perrine, Mrs. Cleveland's step father, and his associates. The patent covers 23,000 acres of land in Florida, and if it has been legally issued, the present occupants of the land will have to move or make terms with Mr. Perrine. The original grant of this land was made to Dr. Perrine, father of the present Mr. Perrine, and his associates, in 1841, and the contention of the settlers on the land, who are represented by ex-Congressman Brookshire, of Indiana, is that it was forfeited by failure to occupy it within the legal limit. The odd part of the issue of this land patent is the manner in which it has been hurried along since Mr. Francis became Secretary of the Interior, and the apparent anxiety of the Assistant Attorney General Lionberger, who was put in office by Secretary Francis, to get the patent issued for the land before the close of the present administration. The Committee may find the transaction all right, and that the relationship of Mr. Perrine to Mr. Cleveland has not figured in the matter at all, but there is a lot of ugly gossip about it just now, and it will probably get into court anyway.

The smart alecks who have been industriously circulating reports as to the intention of the House Committee on Coinage to smother the Senate bill authorizing President McKinley to appoint delegates to any international monetary conference called by any other nation, or to one called by himself if in his discretion, he sees fit to call it, got a knock down blow when that Committee reported the bill favorably to the House with two amendments, one broadening the authority of the President by authorizing him, if he sees fit, to appoint one or more special commissioners or envoys to negotiate with other nations for the calling of such a conference, and the other repealing the act of 1895 for the same purpose, so as to prevent any complications that might arise from two acts on the same subject.

Congress did a sensible thing in abolishing the title of "Private Secretary to the President" and making the title of that very important and useful official "Secretary to the President." Of late years, especially during the first term of Mr. Cleveland and during President Harrison's term, this position has been filled by men who have been in reality confidential advisers of the President, and it was farcical to designate them as private secretaries, in view of the popular idea of the duties performed by a private secretary. The change was made in compliance with a request of President-elect McKinley.

While no republican in Congress believes that the re-election of Senator Kyle, by the aid of republican votes in the South Dakota legislature, was brought about by any deal, there is a general belief that Senator Kyle will, if necessary, help the republicans of the Senate to pass a tariff bill at the coming extra session. And owing his reelection to republican votes will not be likely to make him antagonistic to other republican measures. So long as a straight out republican could not be elected, there is no occasion for republican grumbling at the re-election of Kyle. His populism is much less fanatical than that of others who might be named, and personally he is a very likable sort of a fellow.

Nothing but praise is heard of the arrangements that are being made for the Inaugural parade by Gen. Porter, Chief-Marshal. His idea of making the parade attractive by its quality, rather than imposing and tiresome by its quantity and length, is generally approved. At previous inaugurations few of the spectators, except those who were obliged to remain, saw the whole parade, which upon several occasions did not end until after dark. According to Gen. Porter's arrangement, 12,000 men in line will pass a given point in one hour, which will bring the entire parade inside of four hours, which is about as long as that portion of the spectators—by far the

largest—not comfortably housed and seated, can get enjoyment out of such a spectacle. Other plans are also being perfected to make the spectacular part of the inauguration more compact and consequently more enjoyable.

The time within which the remaining appropriation bills must be passed is growing so short that the most the Senate could do in honor of Washington's birthday was to listen to the reading of Washington's farewell address by Senator Daniel. After that business went on just as though the day were not a national holiday. The House took no official notice of the day, being in the midst of a more or less bitter squabble over the appropriations to be made for its employees.

MIRACULOUS CRUTCH CURE.

Leo, the Famous and Wonderful Indian Doctor, Wins the Day.

On Saturday, February 13th inst., an unusually large crowd collected in town to witness Leo perform one of his wonderful and astonishing crutch cures. About 8 o'clock Leo appeared on his stand with his minstrel troupe. About 1,500 people gathered about him and enjoyed the show feature of his business; whereupon Leo made quite a talk when his patient, C. B. McCall, presented himself. McCall is one of the most reliable and honorable colored men in Richmond county, and his crippled condition—unable to walk for four years without crutches—is well known to all the good people of this section and county.

When Leo concluded his talk McCall was placed in a chair and brought upon the stand by two strong men. Leo rolled up McCall's pants, whereupon his crippled leg was exposed to the public. The knee appeared stiff and swollen and in a dreadful condition but Leo kept his patient cheered up by telling the crowd that he proposed to prove to the people that the Indians know more about medicine in 15 minutes than they could think of in ten years, and to the astonishment of the crowd, so it proved—Leo applied about twelve bottles of his Indian liniment to his patient's afflicted leg and in less than 20 minutes he asked McCall to stand, and McCall made an effort, but seemed afraid to make an attempt to walk, and Leo said: "Does your leg pain you?" and he answered, "Not a bit." Then Leo said, "Bear your weight on it and try," whereupon McCall made an effort, found that he could walk, and stepped right out, walking a distance of 30 feet—astonishing medical skill, as can easily be seen.

Such a wonderful cure was never witnessed in this section of the country before.—Laurinburg Exchange.

Mrs. Marion Butler Gives a Function in Washington.

Mrs. Butler, wife of Senator Mañon Butler, of North Carolina, gave a reception at her elegant home, 1711 Q street, northwest, yesterday afternoon. From 4 to 7 o'clock the spacious parlors were crowded with old Washingtonians, members of Congress and their families, and the North Carolina contingent resident in this city. The parlors were beautifully decorated with palms, evergreens and flowers, while the dining-rooms were ornamented with roses and maidenhair ferns. Luncheon was served. Miss Mary Ruffin, of Wilson, N. C., presided over the bowl of punch.

The youthful hostess was gowned in a becoming toilet of white moire, trimmed with chiffon and lace, and she was assisted in receiving by her cousins, Miss Fowle and Miss Bumgardner. Among those present were Chief Justice and Mrs. Fuller, Vice President and Mrs. Stevenson, and their guest, Mrs. Shepard; Senator and Mrs. Murphy, Senator and Mrs. Gorman, Senator and Mrs. Pettigrew, Comptroller Eckels and Mrs. Eckels, Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Graves, Representative and Mrs. Otey, Mrs. S. Condit-Smith and Miss Condit-Smith, Dr. Sterling Ruffin, Dr. and Mrs. Falls and Miss Falls, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Ellsworth, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Worth, Miss Beamon, Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, Dr. L. J. Battle, Senator and Mrs. Peffer and Miss Peffer, Senator and Mrs. Frye, Representative and Mrs. Hatch, and many others.—Washington Post, 18th.

A NEW POSTAL CARD SYSTEM.

The Senate Passes a Bill Providing Therefor—The House Unseats a Democratic Member in a Contest, in Opposition to the Report of the Committee on Elections.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—The senate passed today, without a word of explanation, a bill which, if it become law, will introduce a new postal card system. Its title is "A bill to Extend the Uses of the Mail Service." It was introduced in the early part of the last session by Senator Vilas and was referred to the postoffice committee from which it was reported back with amendments on the 18th of last month. A week ago an attempt was made to have it passed by unanimous consent; but objection was then made by Senator Allen, who said that from the reading of the bill it appeared to propose the conferring of a monopoly.

Senator Vilas admitted that it did confer a monopoly, but said that as the company concerned owned the patent for the invention, there must necessarily be a monopoly.

Senator Allen promised to look into the matter, and when Senator Vilas asked unanimous consent today for the passage of the bill, and said that Senator Allen was satisfied with it, no objection was made and the bill was passed without its being even read except by title.

Its purpose is to allow the circulation by mail of the postal cards and envelopes with coupons attached, patented and owned by a West Virginia corporation, all regular postal cards and letter rates "paid on presentation of the coupons from the said card and envelopes when detached at the office of delivery." The postmaster general is to test the practical operation of the plan in one or two more cities, and to suspend its operation if the test prove unfavorable. There are nine sections to the bill; but they do not convey a very clear idea of the plan.

The senate had spent only twenty minutes in legislative session, when, on motion of Senator Sherman the galleries were cleared, the doors closed and the consideration of executive business entered upon.

At 6:35 o'clock p. m., the senate adjourned until tomorrow.

HOUSE.

In the contested case of Hopkins, (republican) vs. Kendall, (democrat), from the Tenth Kentucky district, the house today, for the first time this session, on a direct issue of fact, reversed the decision of its committee on elections and seated a contestant whom the committee had declared not elected. The case turned upon the action of the county clerk of Clark county, Kentucky, who, without proper authority had substituted what was called in the debate "an odious thieving coon" on the official ballots in place of the eagle, the chosen emblem of the republican party of Kentucky. It was admitted by the committee that this was a "transparent fraud" and that it was done with intent to deceive but it was contended that the number of colored votes lost in this manner was not enough to overcome the sitting member's majority of 253 over his contestant. The minority report contended that fraud vitiated everything, and that the entire vote of the county must be thrown out. After an exceedingly animated discussion the house sustained this view by a vote of 139 to 91. On the only previous occasion, in this congress where the election committee received a set back, William H. Moody, of Massachusetts, who led the forlorn hope in to-day's debate in support of the majority report, was the successful assailant. He made a minority report of one in the case of "Rinaker and Downing" from the First Illinois district, not in favor of seating Rinaker, but of having a recount of the vote. In this the house sustained him and on a recount Rinaker was seated. In the division to-day, of the ten republicans who voted to sustain the majority of the committee three were from Massachusetts, which led Mr. Hardy (republican, of Indiana) to remark that Massachusetts "had slobbered over too much," an insult to Massachusetts which Mr. Moody indignantly resented. The rest of the session was given up to the passage of the bills by

consent which led the leader to consent to a speedy adjournment, and at 4:30 o'clock the house adjourned until tomorrow.

The general deficiency bill was reported to the house from committee on appropriations, with notice that it would be called up tomorrow. The bill carries an appropriation of \$8,438,357. Among the items in the bill are the following: To enable the secretary of the treasury to restore the compensation of employes at the ports of Baltimore, Buffalo, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Cedar Keys, Detroit, Kansas City, Mo., Mobile, Newport News, New Orleans, Port Huron, Michigan, Pensacola, Pembina, N. D., and Philadelphia, whose salaries were reduced in order to avoid a deficiency in the appropriation for the collecting of revenues, \$41,381; continuing improvement of the Mississippi river from head of Passes to the mouth of the Ohio, \$625,000.

THE NAVAL REVIEW.

Secretary Herbert's Visit to the Blockading Fleet—Medal Presentation on the Maine, The Banquet Last Night—The Secretary's Speech.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 18.—Charleston has been thronged throughout the day by thousands of strangers from South Carolina and the neighboring states who had come to the city to see Admiral Bunce's fleet, that has been blockading this port, passed in review before the secretary of the navy. Among the special guests of the city for the day were: Governor W. H. Elerbe, of South Carolina, all the state officers, senators and legislators. These gentlemen were brought to Charleston during the day and they were among the most interested spectators of the official communications which occurred between the fleet and the secretary.

Secretary Herbert and his party arrived in the city from Washington in the special car "Scipio" via the Atlantic Coast Line, at 6 o'clock this morning. They were met at the depot at 8 o'clock by a committee headed by Mayor Smith. As the secretary stepped from his car a salute of twenty-seven guns was fired by detachments of the first division, South Carolina naval reserves. Then party was then escorted to the Charleston hotel where breakfast was served and the secretary and his friends rested until 11 o'clock. They were then escorted to the custom house dock where they boarded the revenue cutter Colfax. The secretary was saluted as he boarded the ship, all the sailors being drawn up in men-of-war fashion. A few minutes later Governor Elerbe's special train drew up on the siding and the governor, Lieutenant Governor M. B. Sweeney and Speaker F. B. Gary, were taken off to the cutter, salutes also being awarded them.

The harbor was full of pleasure craft of all descriptions which only waited for the cutter to lead the way to cast loose their hawsers and follow her to the bar. At the entrance to the jetties an unforeseen trouble arose. The cutter and its train of pleasure craft ran full into a heavy fog which set the whistles and bells a-going in a perfect din of noise. Many of the small boats put back into port, and the larger vessels slowed down their engines and drifted around for an hour. The cutter worked her way down to the Columbia where Secretary Herbert requested the presence of Captain Sands informed him that the flagship New York was lying just to the northward, and the Colfax moved off once more. When the flagship was picked up in the fog, Admiral Bunce received a summons from the secretary and came alongside in his cutter. The moment he stepped aboard, his pennant was run up and the little cutter became the flagship.

The admiral was told by the secretary that he desired to board the battleship Maine to present Seaman W. J. Creelman with a medal awarded him for his distinguished conduct during the storm. So with both secretary and admiral aboard the cutter once more got under way. Captain Crowninshield, of the Maine, was hailed and informed that the two officials would board his ship with the party. The transfer was made without trouble, the jackies and officers receiving their superior officers with the customary salute and formality. With the ships crew drawn up on deck Captain Crowninshield gave the orders for Naval

Cadet Gherardi, his life boat crew and Seaman W. J. Creelman to step forward. Addressing them, Secretary Herbert spoke of their gallant conduct during the storm. They had, he said, made his proud of the navy; and then singling out Creelman the secretary presented him with the gold medal and an envelope containing \$100 with a few words in commendation of his gallant deed. Creelman, it will be remembered, sprang overboard while the storm was at its height and attempted to rescue one of his shipmates.

When these ceremonies were concluded the visitors became the guests of the ward room of the Maine. When the company was seated, Secretary Herbert lifted his glass, and said that he requested that everyone should rise and drink the health of Naval Cadet Gherardi, whose gallantry was now the admiration of his fellow officers and the nation.

Nearly two hours had been spent on the Maine. When the secretary returned to the Colfax, accompanied by Admiral Bunce, the cutter steamed down the line of warships receiving from each a salute as she crossed the bow. This ended the ceremonies of the day and the cutter steered for port arriving at her dock at 6:30 o'clock.

CURES CATARRH.

A Medicine That Cures Catarrh Wherever Located.

All classes and conditions of people have chronic catarrh. Old men have it; young men and women have it, which soon makes them old men and women. Mothers and grandmothers have it. It spares neither strong nor weak, old or young, healthy or sickly. All ranks of people have chronic catarrh. Rich men, poor men, beggar men, thieves, lawyers, doctors, merchants, priests. Not only catarrh of the head, but catarrh of the throat, catarrh of the lungs, catarrh of the stomach, catarrh of the liver, catarrh of the kidneys, catarrh of the bowels; and a multitude of women are afflicted with catarrh of the pelvic organs. Catarrh is a word which includes a multitude of diseases. Nearly one-half of the diseases to which the human flesh is liable, are in reality nothing more or less than catarrh in some phase or location.

When it is said, therefore, that peruna cures catarrh wherever located, a much larger fact is stated than at first appears. If it be true that Peruna really does cure catarrh wherever located, what a multitude of diseases Peruna will cure. Who is it that says Peruna will cure catarrh wherever located? Doctors say it, lawyers say it, preachers say it, a vast army of men and women say it who have tried it. The old and the young say it. They say it in the east, in the west, they say it in the north and the south. All these say that Peruna will cure catarrh wherever located; and they say it, too, without any solicitation, hesitation, or remuneration. Never was a greater assertion crowded into fewer words: Peruna cures catarrh wherever located.

Send to the Peruna Drug Manufacturing Company, Columbus, O., for Dr. Hartman's latest free book on chronic catarrh, la grippe, etc.

The Popular Douglas Shoes.

There is no shoe made for men's wear that has attained a greater popularity than the celebrated W. L. Douglas shoe. The fact that they combine style and quality at low price has given them universal indorsement. The manufacture of these shoes has made it possible for a man in the most ordinary circumstances to keep himself provided with footwear of as good style as the market affords—the extremely low price at which they are sold placing them within reach of all.

The only cheap quality in them however is the price; in all other respects the grade as high as any shoe in the market. Their lasting qualities have been fully tested and found to be unequalled. They are not only of good style when new, but retain their shape and excellent appearance until completely worn out—a very rare quality in even the highest priced shoes. They are sold in Hickory by Shuford & Setzer who has just received a new invoice of the various styles.