

WASHINGTON NEWS.

WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Comments of What is Transpiring in Congress and the Various Departments of the Government—Personal and Otherwise.

CAPT. WILLIAMS' VIEWS.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat correspondent interviewed Hon. Baldy Williams on the cotton question who replied as follows:

"We can't afford to make cotton at the present prices, it is next to bankruptcy," Archibald H. A. Williams said.

"Lint cotton to-day," he said, "is only 6c per pound to the planter, while it costs more than that to raise it; 8 to 10c would be about a living price in my country."

"What, in your judgment is the remedy for the present condition of the cotton industry?"

SILVER MEN EXCITED.

The silver men are very much wrought up over the situation, as they consider that the passage of such a resolution would be an act of cowardice on the part of the Democrats, a large majority of whom are pledged to support free silver. They consider themselves especially aggrieved, since it is an admitted fact that if such a resolution should fail and a resolution for the passage of a free coinage bill should carry many of the Eastern Democrats who are advocating the anti-silver resolution would refuse to be bound by action of the caucus.

The Democratic Alliancemen who have been acting with the Democratic party say that if the resolution is passed the ground will be swept from under them and they will be forced back into the Third party. Situation is quite complicated and there is no predicting what the upshot of the Democratic differences on the silver question may be.

OPPOSED TO A FREE SILVER BILL.

The anti-silver men are making a close canvass of the Democratic members of the House, led by Mr. Harter and some of the most extreme opponents of free coinage, with the purpose, if possible, of drumming up a majority in favor of the resolution which it is designed to pass declaring that the passage of a free silver bill at the time is inexpedient. There are a great many Democratic believers in free coinage who think it inadvisable in the face of a Presidential campaign to pass a free silver bill, doomed beforehand to go down under the President's veto, and these gentlemen will probably support such a resolution.

The shadow of Grover Cleveland, who favors the side-tracking of the silver question, is seen, and the influence of the other Eastern leaders, who were afraid that free silver would jeopardize the chances of the doubtful States in the East, is also having effect. Speaker Crisp, who personally favors free coinage, has said that in this as in other matters of party policy he would be governed by the expression of the caucus, and will, in case such a resolution is passed, oppose the granting of a special order for the consideration of a free silver bill should it be reported from the committee on coinage, weights and measures.

THIRD PARTY.

A lively sensation has developed in the report that the Third Party movement in the South is being backed by the Republican national campaign committee. It is said that the Republican committee is quietly at work communicating with prominent advocates of the Third Party in Georgia and other Southern States, and that Republican emissaries are zealously at work in this new effort to break the Democratic integrity of the South, as they have been unable to do it by any other method. The report goes that the Republican campaign committee has set aside a liberal contribution from its campaign fund to be used in spreading Third Party doctrine in the South. If this report is true, the Third party movement in Georgia is being supplied from the Republican national campaign fund with the wherewith with which to do the work of breaking up the Democratic party. It is a sharp trick of the Republicans, and there seems to be no doubt that there is something in it. A well-known Republican, on being asked concerning the matter said:

"Suppose it is so, though of course I know nothing about it, would it not be all right? The Republican party never has had a fair showing with

the South solidly Democratic, and it never will until that condition of affairs is broken up. We cannot do it by making a straight fight as between Democracy and Republicanism, but if the apple of discord is thrown into the Democratic ranks by the Republican managers it may have the effect of dividing the Democrats and giving the Republican party a surer foot-hold in the South. It is fair politics, and it seems that the scheme, if such a scheme is on foot, is being worked to decided advantage from the reports received from the South."

Active Republicans are in correspondence with the Republican campaign committee on the subject, and in some Southern States it will be observed that many of the most active leaders of the new party came from the ranks of the Republicans. Whether or not the Alliancemen of the South are going to be fooled to any extent by this Republican trick remains to be seen. But the Alliancemen in Congress says that they will not be, and that the farmers will remain true and steadfast to the Democratic party and will work through it their great mission of financial reform, which, if not successful through the Democratic party, cannot be won at all.

Senator Vance has introduced a bill in the Senate repealing all laws discriminating against circulating notes of State banks. Mr. Henderson, of the 7th district in this State, has previously presented a bill in the House for the same purpose. The passage of either of these bills would forever put a quietus on the agitation of the silver question.

"The only relief for the cotton planters in the South is to plant less acres to cotton. If they make 5,000,000 bales instead of 8,000,000, and get 10c or 15c for the five, they will have a change to diversify their crop and raise their home supplies and be more independent. The Farmers' Alliance in some of our cotton counties have recently resolved to plant less cotton in the future. I think that will in a great measure help the cotton interests."

The House Committee on the election of President Vice-President, and Congressmen, by formal vote has approved the principles that United States Senators should be elected by the people of the respective States. The question of the details of an amendment to the Constitution to effect this purpose was referred to a special meeting. "While the principle that Senators should be elected by the people," said Chairman Chipman, "seems to be very strong in the House, and a large number of bills have been introduced with that view, there is a difference of opinion as to whether the constitutional amendment should leave the method of electing Senators optional with the several States, or should be compulsory on all of them. Which position will be adopted by the committee we are unable to say but we believe a bill will be reported embodying some plan on the subject."

REMARKS OF HON. A. H. A. WILLIAMS.

Before the Committee on his Resolution to Elect President by Direct Vote of the People.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Under our Republican form of government, where all power is invested in the people, the simplest mode of conducting elections, that will reflect the popular will, should be adopted. The present system of electing the President and Vice-President by electors is cumbersome, complicated and unintelligible to the average voter. It is an indirect and circuitous way to reach what should be attained by a straight and plain path. There are not, I am sure, in any county in the United States one-fourth of the voters, who thoroughly understand the modus operandi by which our presidential elections are conducted. There are but few voters in any county who give the names of the electors on the ticket they cast, or who know whether they are voting for their real choice or not. A large number of voters cast their ballots blindly, at the behest of some party manager, on whom they have to rely to furnish the "right ticket." They would know themselves which was the right ticket in their judgment if they were permitted to cast their vote directly for the candidates.

In the early days of our country the electoral system was not open to the same objections as at the present time. In those days the electors were chosen by the States without being

pledged as now to any party candidates; and after the election in their own wisdom selected the President and Vice-President of the United States. At this time the candidates for electors are pledged to vote for the candidates of their respective parties, and when we vote for electors we know for what presidential candidate we are voting. This being so, why not vote for the candidate directly? If the proposed change is made, and the people permitted to vote directly for the candidates for President and Vice-President, the doors to abuses and unfairness which now exist will be closed. In the State of North Carolina in 1876, one of the parties had their Presidential ticket printed at a publishing house where they were from some cause executed in such a way as to make them worthless. The names of some of the electors were so changed and arranged, as to destroy the validity of the tickets. The first name on the ticket was right, and the tickets on the top of each package was correct, so that the vitiated tickets, not being in sight, could not be easily detected. By mere change, however, the error was discovered; the manager of the party thus wronged was informed and all the tickets, which had been distributed over the State, were recalled, and a new and correct lot sent out. Thus by a mere accident a great wrong was prevented. If the people had been allowed to vote directly for the candidates, such wrong could not have been possible, for any voter, who could read, would have discovered the error.

In the State of California a few years ago on one of the Presidential tickets there was a candidate for electors, a man who was personally obnoxious to a considerable number of voters. The result was his name was scratched off enough tickets to defeat him, while the other candidates on the same ticket was elected. The choice of the people of California was clearly shown by the number of votes cast for the other electors; yet the one elector lost to the State of California by this circumstance might have caused the defeat of her choice for President. According to the present law, States may vote for electors in different ways. One State may choose electors by the legislature; another by Congressional districts, and another by popular vote. This power has been lodged in the States and cannot be taken away without a change of the constitution. Under this power, what great injustice can be perpetrated, will be seen at a glance. If all the States could be compelled to adopt the same system, the unfairness and injustice could be to some extent mitigated.

The State of Michigan has provided for the election of electors by Congressional districts, and at the next election, the plan will be carried out. In Iowa, they are elected by the State-at-large. The probabilities are that electors of Michigan will be so divided between the Presidential candidates that no one will have advantage of more than two or three votes; in Iowa one candidate or the other will receive the 13 votes of that State. A and B are the Presidential candidates. A's elector in Iowa are all elected by 1000 majority, and the 13 votes of that State are cast for him. In Michigan, 6 of A's electors are chosen in Congressional districts and 8 of B's electors are chosen and the aggregate majority of B's 8 electors over A's 6 electors is one thousand. Thus it will be seen that while the two candidates receive the same number of voters A will have 19 electoral votes, while B will only have eight. This result, unfair as it is, is liable to occur at any time under the present system. The plan adopted by Michigan is better calculated to produce a fair and just result than the other if universally adopted. Under the plan now in vogue in other States, it is possible for a candidate receiving 3/4 of the popular vote to be defeated; the voice of the people thwarted and their country governed by a President, who had been repudiated by an overwhelming majority of his countrymen. This great injustice and wrong liable to befall the people, should alone be sufficient to change a system so much at war with the principles of a Republican form of government.

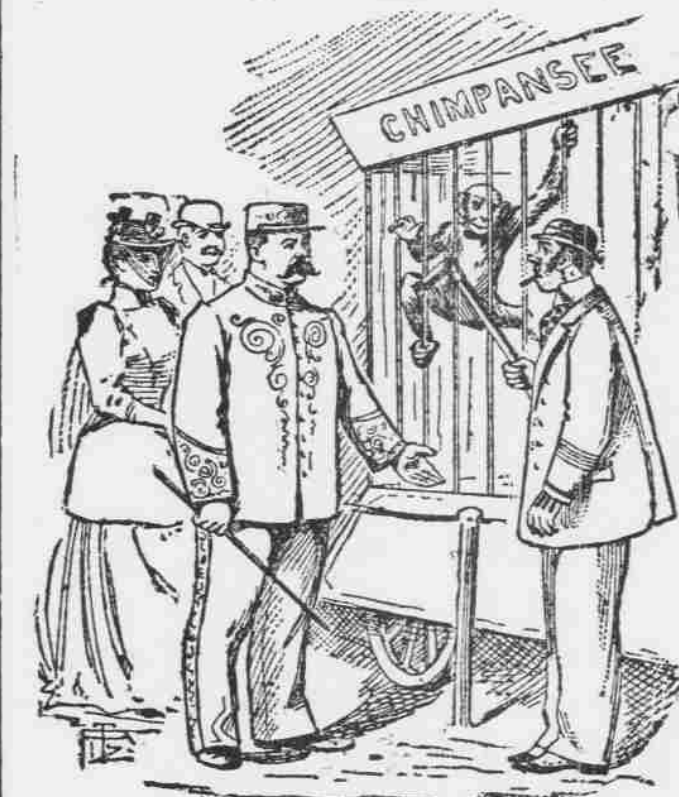
The inequality of citizenship is destroyed by the present system. There should be no discrimination between citizens whose government is based upon the popular will. There can be no equality where the vote of one man in one State, counts as such as four voters in another State. Take for example the State of Ne-

vada, with say:—15,000 votes casting three electoral votes, when Oregon with 60,000 votes casts the same number. The same inequality can be shown by comparing the vote of many other States. The cry that the autonomy of States is protected by the present system weighs but little when the sovereignty of the States is fully preserved by the constitution in the organization of the Senate branch of Congress.

It is impossible for a citizen to divide his vote under the present law when candidates for President and Vice-President are placed before the people by parties. If one desires to vote for the candidates for President on a ticket and does not wish to vote for the candidate for Vice-President on the same ticket he is forced to vote for both or not vote at all. In former times when the electors were not pledged to any party candidate the voter was not thus embarrassed.

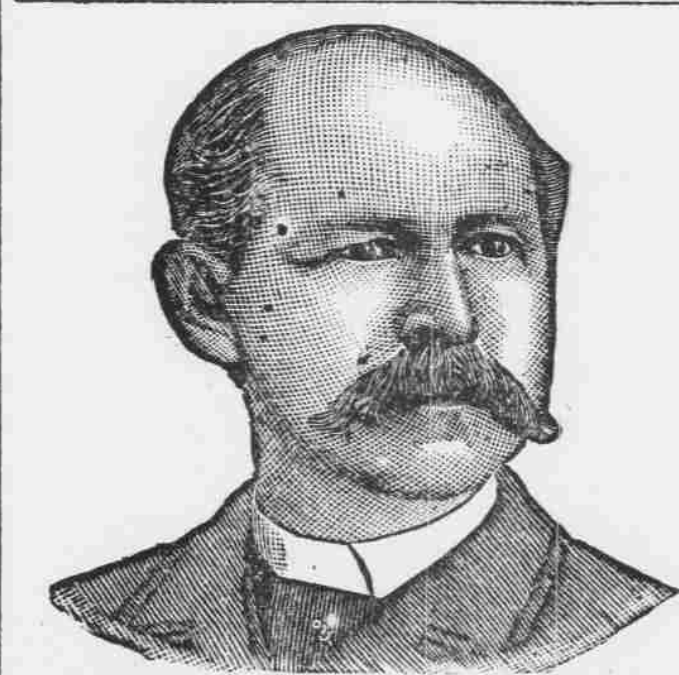
The object of this bill is to change the manner of electing these high officers so as to reach a free and fair expression of the people and so that a majority and not a minority will always control the destinies of the country. The manner of counting and returning the vote is immaterial. The Supreme Courts of the States have been named for this important work as they are presumed to be less partisan and biased than any other tribunal.

Danger of Confusion.



"This animal, ladies and gents," said the showman, "is the chimpanzee. The remarkable thing about the chimpanzee, ladies and gents, is that it comes nearest to being a human person of any species of the monkey tribe. This here is the chimpanzee, ladies and gents," he continued, "the one inside the cage. Please stand a little farther back, sir! You'll get mixed." And he glared at a young dude from Jersey City who was poking the animal with his cane.—Chicago Tribune.

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Large stock Tinware and Lamp Goods. Large stock Crockery from a 5 cent Glass to \$60 China Set.

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Sash, Doors, Blinds, Lime, Plaster, Cement, Terra Cotta Piping, Paints, Oils, Glass, &c.

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Just received new stock Wagons, one and two horse. We warrant these wagons to give satisfaction and the prices are right. Nice stock of Buggies and Carts which must be sold at once as we have too large stock. Buggy and Wagon Material.

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Dixie Plows and Castings, Boss Plows and Castings, Farmers' Friend Plows and Castings, Smith's Cutters, and in fact everything in the way of farming implements.

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T. T. HICKS, Attorney-at-Law, HENDERSON, N. C. Will practice together in the Courts of Granville, Vance, Franklin, and Warren Counties, and in all matters requiring their joint attention. We hope by prompt, diligent, and faithful attention to business to deserve and receive a portion of the law business of this section.

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