

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.

THE WATCH DOG.

There are great men on the committee on appropriations, but Holman stands among them like Saul of Kish in the tribe of Benjamin, and he will make just as much trouble for the Amalekites. He will fill Sam Randall's shoes. He may also fill the cuspidor of his committee with tobacco quids, but every quid will represent a saving of \$100,000 to the national treasury.

PAPER CIGARETTES.

Representative Williams of North Carolina, is preparing a bill in the nature of an amendment to the internal revenue laws which he believe will practically suppress the paper wrapped cigarettes. He proposes to tax the paper cigarettes so heavily as to compel the use of tobacco wrappers. Mr. Williams says that the enactment of such a law would not only correct the deleterious effects now attributed to paper covered cigarettes, but would benefit the tobacco grower in extending the market for his product.

FILIBUSTERING ON THE SILVER BILL.

The indications are that there will be some pretty lively filibustering in the House of Representatives before the silver bill is disposed of, its opponents endeavoring thus to stave it off and give the tariff and other matters precedence, while the free coinage men are just as determined to force it to the front and give it precedence over the tariff and everything else. The Republican minority will doubtless enjoy this, and will give the filibustering all the aid and comfort they can, for it plays just into their hands. As they can't control legislation they will do all they to retard it, while the organs, in the near time, taking the cue, will foment the regulation editorial scoring Congress for killing time and doing nothing.

ELECTIONS SHOULD ELECT.

With each new Congress come a number of contested elections, and the contestants are almost invariably defeated candidates who are in political sympathy with the majority of the House. The last Congress was Republican and the contestants were nearly or quite all Republicans. The present House is Democratic, and the contestants are nearly or quite all Democrats. It is only in very rare instances that men contest seats in the House when they must appeal to an adverse political majority. It has been done, and done successfully, in some instances where the wrong was so flagrant that all were willing to correct it; but the general rule is for contestants to expect a party majority to seat them because they are in accord with its political faith.

The last Congress made the most atrocious record of modern times by the dismissal of a number of members, many of whom were elected by large and some by overwhelming majorities.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The President's special message to Congress on the subject of the appropriation to pay for certain Indian lands in Indian Territory raises a number of interesting questions. In the first place, it appears that the money, about \$3,000,000 in amount, is to be divided, one-fourth going to the Choctaws and one-fourth to the Chickasaws. Of the first, or largest amount, 25 per cent, appears to have been guaranteed by the Indian authorities to three men who were act as agents to secure the passage of the appropriation.

As the appropriation was put in the bill by a ye and nay vote, contrary to the recommendation of the committee on appropriations, some of the members of the House are smarting under the exposure, as it carries with it the implications that some of the twenty-five per cent. had to be divided with Congressmen to secure the passage of the bill.

PENSION OFFICE INVESTIGATION.

Speaker Crisp has shown a level-headedness in the appointment of the House committee to investigate the Pension Office which does him much credit, and disarms adverse criticism in advance. All five of the committee are from the Northern States, four of them served with distinction through the war, and the fifth who is not a soldier is a Re-

publican, as is also Brosius, of Pennsylvania, one of the four Union soldiers, so that the committee stands three Democratic soldiers, one Republican who was not a soldier with a wounded veteran, Wheeler, of Michigan, as chairman. It cannot be said even by the most carping critic that this committee is composed of men hostile to the Union soldiers, or opposed to granting pensions. What this committee says ought to have weight with the people of the country regardless of politics for its composition is such as to entitle it to the confidence of every one except, perhaps, the pension shark.

AT ODDS.

There is the best of evidence to prove that the relations between the President and Secretary Blaine, which have long been represented as strained, have become so virulent that each never overlooks even the pettiest opportunity either to harass or insult the other. The gossip about the appointment of William N. Grinnell, the new Third Assistant Secretary of State, has many facts to substantiate it.

John B. Moore was, until some weeks ago, the occupants of this position, and he had the regularly allotted room, gorgeous in upholstery which is relieved by a huge portrait of the Sultan of Morocco, the Akkond of Swat or some other dignitary of an unfamiliar clime. Moore was allowed to retain his position until he completed a valuable treatise on extradition.

It has been for years the precedent in the solemn and unchanging recesses known as the State Department to promote the chief of the diplomatic bureau to any vacancy in the Third Secretaryship. Mr. Blaine naturally asked for the advancement of Theodore W. Cridler to the vacancy, but in accordance with the spiteful procedure now obtaining the President nominated Mr. Grinnell, who is the nephew of Vice-President Morton and who contributed \$2,500 to the "blocks of five" in 1888.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS.

The House of Representatives has thus far disappointed the expectations of those who thought that the great crowd of new members would make it unwieldy and disorderly. The proceedings have been at least as dignified as usual, and notwithstanding the delay in the appointment of committees, caused by the illness of the Speaker, the business of the session is quite as far advanced as is usual at this time.

The action of the committee of ways and means has clearly defined the party policy of the majority. Bills removing the import duties on wool and simplifying the tariff on woolen manufactures, and placing on the free list binding twine, cotton ties and cotton bagging, will be reported in the House and pressed to early passage. There may be other tariff amendments proposed, but these cover the features of the McKinley act most obnoxious and most distinctly oppressive. They will all pass the House, and some of them—that placing binding twine on the free list, for example—may pass the Senate. The party line will, of course, be drawn most distinctly on free wool, and it is not expected that this measure will become a law. But it was on this point that the issue was most clearly made in the campaign that ended in the election of this Congress, and the Democrats will have discharged their immediate obligation to the country when they have passed the bill in the House.

With regard to free coinage the Democrats in the House are not so well united, but a majority of them are evidently in favor of the Bland bill, and it is most probable that it will be passed, though against a strong protest. If considered in the Senate at all, it will reveal corresponding differences among the Republicans there, so that the political significance of this question will be necessarily subordinate to that of tariff reform.

All of these measures are now in a position to be disposed of quite promptly in the House, and there is little else to divert attention from the appropriation bills, upon which there is no party issue to be made except in a record of carefulness and economy as contrasted with the reckless extravagance of the last Congress. As there will be no disposition to stifle the minority or to compel it take part in obnoxious legislation, and consequently no occasion for the minority to interpose delay, there seems now a very fair prospect of a prompt and orderly

disposal of the business of the session that will leave the political issues of the year distinctly defined.

MUNICIPAL SANITATION.

A Splendid Paper on this Subject by Dr. P. Booth.

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners of the town of Oxford: GENTLEMEN—Municipal sanitation is an all important consideration, and I thank you for the invitation and privilege to present to you a few brief suggestions on this point. It is gratifying to know that the public is becoming more and more interested in, and more in sympathy with the work of the sanitarian; for, while no one can assert positively the amount of good it has accomplished and the number of lives it has saved, yet the experience of all ages of which we have a history, and especially of the last few years, point with unmistakable certainty to favorable results.

We can point to cities and towns in our own country scourged with yellow fever, cholera, diphtheria and other filth diseases, freed by proper sanitary measures. We see the mortality of typhoid fever, diarrhoea and dysentery decreased, and enterprises flourish, cities and towns prosper—increasing socially, industrially and commercially by the wise employment of such means as furnish an assurance of a reasonable preservation of the public health. And in England we are told the mortality of scarlet fever and measles has decreased from 14 to 26 per cent, and of typhoid fever 45 per cent. in 10 years; and in some of the manufacturing towns the death rate has been cut down one-half by careful sewerage, pure water and modern sanitation in all its branches.

Then, with these results elsewhere is it not apparent that the welfare of our town demands sanitary attention? It is true, we have had no epidemics traceable to bad sanitation. Yet individual cases might be cited; and the welfare of the individual is the welfare of the community. And is it not wise to take precautionary measures before we are forced to take active defensive ones? I am convinced, gentlemen, that each one of you see the importance of it; for I am sure you do not believe in the theory that the spread of epidemic and contagious diseases should not be checked, as they prevent overcrowding, and prove "the survival of the fittest." Little solace in this, as there is no respecter of person, and the most useful and robust are as liable to succumb as the vicious and puny. Let it then no longer be said that the only money we spend for health is in "doctor's bills and funeral expenses."

There are places in our corporation which are a disgrace to any intelligent community which have at times during the hot weather of summers past excited the disgust and indignation of some of our citizens and served to entertain attention for awhile, but which are forgotten when cooler weather comes. But their lurking germs and deadly gases "are not dead but sleep," and from just such neglected places deadly diseases spring to life. Year by year the filth accumulates; year by year decomposition goes on; and year by year disease germs multiply and become more virulent, until finally with a soil reeking with filth and water stagnating in some places, with drinking water becoming more and more polluted annually, typhoid fever in bastard and true forms, diarrhoea, dysentery and other filth diseases will become more and more prevalent and fatal. Give us then, as far as practicable, the old hippocratic prescription given twenty-three centuries ago, which no one has ever disputed or improved upon, viz.: "pure air, pure water and pure soil."

I could entertain or bore you many hours telling how this might be accomplished, but will content myself with only a few instances. We cannot hope to have perfect drainage or thorough cleanliness without sewerage and water works, but such can be accomplished, and so much greater the demand on your attention. The grand fundamental object to be attained is aptly expressed by Dr

Waring, viz.: The prevention of decomposition of refuse matter anywhere in house or town which implies the complete and immediate removal to a point well beyond its limits of all waste matter. How can this be accomplished in such a place as the bottom running from High street just beyond Mr. Harry Bryant's to the old depot with the refuse from privies on both sides and pig stys on its banks with no way of escape except to be absorbed by the ground? Or of the bottom running from the lot between the Granville Institute and Mr. Hart's by the L. J. Smith prize house with refuse from tenement houses, dwellings and privies lodging and no way of escape? Also the bottom near the Hicks factory with like conditions? I answer by thorough ditching with good fall. These ditches should not be simply "water furrows," but broad, deep ditches sufficient to carry all the water emptying in them and fall to clean themselves—at least 1 foot in 300 and deep enough to drain the soil, with plenty of side ditches emptying into them from either side. And if any one will only take the trouble other places may be found in like condition. Then by observing some of the back lots, notably behind Herndon Blocks Nos. 3 and 4 and the lots behind the rows of stores on Main street below the court house anything but cleanliness will be found. Then there are cellars—one under the old thespian hall, another under the house at S. E. corner of College and Maclanahan streets and perhaps others that will certainly, if they have not already, prove dangerous to health.

These places should be attended to and that at once. All ditching should be done before spring. No ground should be allowed to be turned up between May and November. The effect of turning up ground after hot weather is invariably to increase the number of cases of sickness. And after such an accumulation as will be found in the back lots and privies, both private, and public it is also essential they should be cleaned and disinfected before hot weather. It is not expedient for me to go into details of disinfection and how applied. But by all means have the town cleansed from "turret to foundation" and keep it so.

I would respectfully recommend to accomplish this that you appoint a sanitary inspector, give him power to act without fear or favor, place at his command necessary means to do what is necessary, and make his compensation sufficient to secure a man of good judgment and energy and to stimulate him to do efficient work. Make the physicians of the town an advisory board, and require him under penalty to enforce such sanitary ordinances as we have or you may pass, and I believe in another year our citizens will with one accord endorse the wisdom of your action. Of necessity, gentlemen, I have had to abridge and be very incomplete, but I hope I said enough to show the importance of action and action now, for a great writer has said: "But knowledge is not the sole object of man upon earth. Action alone gives a man a life worth living." And I hold myself in readiness to co-operate in any plan you set on foot either as an individual or in my official capacity.

Respectfully submitted,
PATRICK BOOTH, M. D.,
Supt. Health Granville Co.

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