

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 14, 1878. The number of bills now dropping through the legislative hopper every 24 hours without the slightest scrutiny, indicate complete exhaustion on the part of our economists; and their failure to do so much as protest against this summary passage of bills involving many millions of dollars and which have been accumulating for 8 months, and waiting just such an opportunity as is always offered during the closing days of a session to rush them through without opportunity to glance at their provisions, seems to show that these lynx-eyed reformers have been reduced to a condition of extreme collapse by their arduous labors during the early days of the session. Gentlemen who have spent days of valuable time in opposing appropriations of a few thousands of dollars to pay debts already contracted, are now silent as clans when bills involving millions are pushed through under their very noses. Men who on the score of economy have persistently urged the further reduction of our skeleton army in the face of a probable Indian war, of a possible foreign complication along our Southern border and in our relations with European Governments, and of threatened domestic convulsions, encourage the passage of bills raiding the Treasury to the extent of many millions with an audacious nod. Most of the large appropriation bills are passed. The General Deficiency went through the Senate Wednesday, precisely as it came from the House—an unprecedented occurrence with a measure taxing the Treasury to the tune of nearly \$6,000,000. The Sundry Civil Bill has been loaded down with amendments in the Senate since it went to that body; and the additions made in the House and Senate since it was first reported will aggregate many hundred thousand dollars. The army bill is still unsettled. The radical differences of opinion between the majority of the House and Senate Conference Committee, have made it one of the most difficult to compromise. It seems the general belief that the Senate will not recede from its position relative to reduction; and that, after all, is the vital point in public estimation. The manner of not a few Democratic members who fancied their party standing depended on assuming a hostile attitude to the army, indicates that they would favor an increase rather than decrease if left at liberty to follow their honest convictions in the matter. But it would never do to break away from caucus-dication or disregard the sentiment in their Districts though convinced that it cannot be other than suicidal under existing circumstances to reduce the present strength of the army to the extent of a single man.

Confusion has reigned supreme at the House end of the Capital for the past three days. The usual crowd of cheap lobbyists has been reinforced by the principals of many of the jobs it is hoped to push through the hopper unobserved in the prevailing hub-bub. The tobacco men came here in force, ostensibly as an excursion party from Richmond, but really to rally their friends and push through the tax reduction.

After a delay of nearly a year the gentlemen who voted \$47,135 to buy newspapers and stationery for the present session, agreed to devote a little more than twice that sum (\$100,000) to repair damages of the Patent Office fire.

Senator Voorhees unexpectedly—at least to those outside Congressional circles—called up the bill yesterday to repeal the resumption act. After some debate the substitute of the Senate Committee was passed by a vote of 45 to 15. It provides that from its passage U. S. notes shall be received the same as coin in payment for 4 per cent. bonds; and on and after Oct. 1, 1878, said notes shall be receivable for duties on imports.

At Tuesday's Cabinet meeting the international monetary conference monopolized a good deal of the time. About every power in Europe has signified its acceptance of Mr. Ewart's invitation save Germany and England. No more important gathering as weighed by its relations to interests that are universal over the whole civilized globe, has ever been convened—at least not in modern times; and Mr. Ewart may feel a justifiable pride in the prominent part he has had in inaugurating a movement that will bring into personal conference the representatives of hundreds of millions of people.

It appears the settled conviction about the War Department, that we are to have another Indian war this summer, and that we may deem ourselves fortunate if we can confine the discontent to tribes already in arms against us. The notorious S. B. seems to have infected about every tribe that Sitting Bull's emissaries have been able to reach. With no data on which to fund such charges other than that furnished by our history of our Indian policy, the dishonesty, incompetency, or both, of Indian Agents are made largely responsible for the present outbreak; and it must be acknowledged that there is much in the past to give color to such suspicions, though nothing, perhaps, in the present situation to positively prove its correctness. KNOX.

The western democracy do not love Tilden, adore Tammany, nor admire Potter. The Kansas City (Mo.) "Times," the oldest democratic paper in Western Missouri, says of the Potter-Tilden mud-digger experiment: "If the democratic party is going into the next fight under the lead and management of New York politicians again, it may as well prepare at once to be not only defeated, but disbanded. Nine-tenths of the western democrats" it adds, "are to-day openly rejoicing that the party was spared the rupture and ruin which Mr. Tilden as President would have precipitated upon them."

The New York "Weekly Mercury" says many maidens become prematurely old because they attach themselves exclusively to one bean when they were very young. We thought some of them became prematurely old for the want of a bean to attach to.

A timely rainfall in the famine-stricken provinces of China has awakened hopes of an abundant harvest and relief from the prevailing destitution.

A DANGER AND THE REMEDY.

It is of the highest importance that before another presidential election comes round, provision be made by law in definite form to regulate the electoral count. Though but recently a great danger was averted by the steadiness of the country and the forbearance of party men, yet a like result under similar circumstances might not happen again. The country cannot safely presume upon it, and it is therefore a high duty devolving on congress to make what provision it can against a recurrence of this perilous emergency. Yet the indifference of congress on the subject, produces discouragement. It seems to be quite forgotten how near we were less than two years ago to a serious conflict. Senator Edmunds alone appears to have actual comprehension of the importance of the subject. He has been urging at every opportunity a bill to provide that presidential elections shall be held on the first Tuesday of October in every fourth year; that the electors shall meet and cast their votes on the second Monday in January next following; and that congress shall be in session on the second Monday of February to ascertain the result. The bill recognizes the authority of the state over its electoral vote, and provides that state tribunals are to decide all controversies respecting the title of electors. Where disputes are transferred to congress that body is to ascertain, if it can, what the lawful tribunal of the state is and adopt its decision, and the interval between the popular election and the meeting of the electors gives three months time in which disputes may have adjudication by the lawful state tribunal. Each state may easily provide by law for trial of such questions, and we may suppose none would omit to do so. The change of the general election to October, if it shall be made, should also be followed by a general change of election days under the laws of the states. Senator Edmunds has given this bill a great deal of attention. It has been drawn with the greatest possible care, makes the most minute regulations with respect to the joint sessions of congress for ascertaining the electoral vote, even prescribing the arrangement of seats, and seems to provide for every possible contingency. The author of the bill is right in urging it with a perseverance proportioned to the gravity of the subject. The narrow escape of the country on the last occasion should be an impressive warning.—"Oregonian."

A CHANCE FOR A NEWSPAPER BOY.

It may be that before long another member of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet will be baked into a Peep. If so, call him Lord Bookstall or Lord Newspaper. Not more than forty years ago, in this great London, there lived a W. H. Smith, who had a certain literary proclivity. He sold newspapers. He died in the year 1835, blessed with seventy-five years, a fortune, a good trade and a son. This son was also W. H. Smith, and I believe in that numerous and varied family of Smiths all over the world there are but few with the initials of W. H. I commend these initials to the Smiths. Filling the gap left by his father, W. H. Smith became the British monarch of the news vendors. I have in the "Enquirer" on a previous occasion penphoted him. From a small newspaper business to a big one there is an immense space. The one practically proves that a little learning is a dangerous thing, the other that a great store of knowledge is power. Bounding from the street by newspaperdom was the aim of the W. H. Smith. Bounding still higher was the aim of the second. He controlled all the railroad bookstalls and much of the newspapers of Great Britain. Here was a fulcrum, and he soon found a lever to work up into public favor. He entered the House of Commons at last. He is in the Cabinet now as the Right Hon. the First Lord of the Admiralty. What next? A peerage or baronetage. How many examples of progress and prosperity do we not see springing from identity with newspapers in American today. Capitalists and ambitious men should think seriously over this. "There's a million in it"—if you look at it one way.—London Cor. Cincinnati "Enquirer."

RAILROAD ENTERPRISE.—The Setacoo Coal Company is now composed of four gentlemen, namely: William Billings, Thomas Heacock, F. R. Brown and Samuel Coulter. They are preceeding with the development of the mine with all possible speed, and, when it is developed, will use in its working the convict labor of the Territory, for which Mr. Billings is contractor. Mr. Heacock is the practical coal man of the concern, while Mr. Brown is a surveyor and engineer, and a man capable, by reason of education, experience and hard sense, of fitting himself for almost any position or undertaking in this or any other community. Mr. Coulter is the moneyed man of the concern, besides possessing business qualification of the highest character.

Hon Schuyler Colfax, was expected to arrive in San Francisco, the middle of this month to deliver a lecture on the "Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln, before the Odd-Fellows' Library Association.

The steel rails for the Canadian Transcontinental Railway imported in 1875 will soon be removed to the mainland, where they will be laid from the town of Yale, on Frazer river, in 1879.

The Rev. Dr. Wheeler, editor of the Pittsburg "Christian Advocate," has been appointed by President Hayes a member of the Board of Naval Examiners at Annapolis, Md.

A telephone is in operation between Walla Walla and Wallula. A concert was recently given at the latter place which was distinctly heard at the other end of the line.

LOCAL NOTICES.

Stereoscopic views of all important points of Puget Sound and California, for sale at Jas. Jones.

Go to Waterman & Katz for the best carpets, at reasonable prices.

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Can make money faster at work for us than at anything else. Capital not required; we will start you. \$12 per day at home made by the industrious. Men, women, boys and girls wanted everywhere to work for us. Now is the time. Costly outfit and terms free. Address True & Co., Augusta, Maine.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

Services will be held in St. Paul's church on Sunday next at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday school at 2 P. M. Evening prayer on Wednesday, at 7 o'clock. Litany on Friday morning, at 10. The ladies will meet as usual on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock, at the residence of the Rectory.

There will be preaching in the M. E. church on Sunday next, morning and evening, by Rev. John Parsons, the pastor. Sunday school at 9:15 P. M. Prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings.

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Drygoods and Groceries,

PORT LUDLOW, W. T.

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AT SEABECK.

Boots and shoes of the very best quality and latest patterns MADE TO ORDER,

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A Fair share

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PORT TOWNSEND, W. T.

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THOMAS T. MINOR, M. D., Managing Surgeon.

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