THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

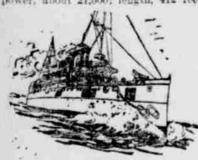
MID-SUMMER MATTERS IN AND OUT OF CONGRESS.

The Question of Premium on War Vessels The Minneapells - Populist Censure of the President-Disagreement on the Taviff Question-Gorman and Hill.

Special Washington Letter. The successful trial trip of the cruiser Minneapolis, while it has afforded great satisfaction to navy officors, has raised a question as to the policy of paying the speed premium that have hitherto been a part of all contracts for the construction of our new war ships. The Minneapolis earned premiums amounting to \$412,000. This is a large sum to pay, and yet we have in the Minnespolis the fastest warship in the world. The question is whether we could secure the speed without paying the premiums. The without paying the premiums. next Congress will no doubt be called

upon to wrestle with the question.

The Minneapolis is a triple screw protected cruiser, intended to be a protected cruiser, intended to be a commerce destroyer, and is a duplicate of the cruiser Columbia, which held the record for speed until the late trial of the Minnespolis. The corrected time for the latter vessel over a fifty mile course was 23.73 knots per hour. Over some miles of the course her according a secretary of the course her according to the course her averaged above twenty-five knots. The value of such a vessel to our naval strength as a nation is simply inestimable. It is safe to say that no great commercial power will wish to attack us so long as we build such vessels. The Minneapolis could overtake and capture any merchant vessel affect, including the great At-lantic "greyhounds." She could do to The commerce of England or any other nation what the Alabama did for our commerce during the civil war. is also a tighting ship. Her displacement is 7.350 tons; indicated horse power, about 21,000; length, 412 feet;



beam, 58 feet; draught, 221/2 feet. Her coal supply will be fully 2,600 tons, with which she can steam 15,000 miles without recoaling, although her theoretical crusing range is 26,000 miles. Her battery will be one eight-inch and two six-inch breech loading rifles, eight four-inch rapid fire guns, and twelve six-pounder rapid fire guns.

It can be safely said that, if the Po-pullsts can get the upper hand in the next Congress, an effort will be made to censure President Cleveland for his action in sending troops into Illinois to protect mail trains and the property of railroads in the hands of United States receivers. The President seems, however, to have earned the praise of both the old parties. Both houses of Congress have passed resolutions com-mending his action, the only opposition coming from the Populists. As a mat-ter of constitutional law, there does not seem to be the least doubt as to the right of the President's position in the minds of Democratic and Republican lawyers. But our Populist statesmen are very much provoked. They look upon "eastern capital" as the great evil of the time, and there never was before such a change to take the railroad magnates by the throat and +xact terms as was afforded at Chicago before the Federal troops arrived. The whole question presents many fine points of law, and is pretty certain to be brought before the Supreme Court for final decision as to some of the problems involved.

That the conference committees of the Senate and House should disagree on certain items of the tariff schedule was a foregone conclusion. This action does not necessarily involve a loss of the bill, as conference committees frequently disagree. The debate in the conference committee has developed the fact that Senator Gorman, of Maryland, is the head and front of the Democratic opposition to the Wilson bill, as it passed the House. It is pretty clearly understood that the Maryland Senators desire a bill to pass, and he has expressed himself during the past week as predicting that a tariff bill will be adopted by the mid-dle of August. The present condition involves another jangle between the aggressive and conservative forces of the Democracy on this great question, but one or the other of them must sooner or later give way. It seems practically impossible for Congress to adjourn without adopting a new revenue measure. The postponement of action will not prove acceptable to the country, but each faction is convinced of success by a little more holding out. The fact that President Cleveland has



distinctly sided with the House side of the controversy indicates that the new bill must follow the lines of the Wilson bill or suffer defeat.

Friends of Senator Hill believe that his opportunity has come through the disagreement of the conference commattee. Many are of opinion that the istute New York Senator has not yet fully shown his hand on the tariff puestion, and that he has a surprise in tore when the opportunity offers. It is a curious fact that Hill has teangod to occupy so independent a posi-

tion in this Congress, and to have com-mended the admiration of Republicans so generally. But nobody believes



that he has given up his ambition to be the next Democratic candidate for President, hence the interest in his present views on the tariff.

TOWNSEND.

Cramp's Ship-Yard.

In the Century Albert Franklin Mat-thews describes "The Evolution of a Battleship," mainly with reference to the building of the Indiana, the most formidable engine of war in the world. It is worth while to look about a place that produces such a monster, he says.

The Cramp shippard has nearly a quarter of a mHe of water front. Along this frontage are ships in various stages of construction, some of the stocks and some in the water, il-lustrating almost every step in the building of a vessel. Here, near the entrance to the yard, is an acre or more of punching machines, enormous contrivances that, as they close their jaws, with their ungainly teeth bite out holes for rivets in the plates and frames as easily as a farmer's wife takes out the core of an apple. Over there is a steel checker-board frame into which big pins are set in a curve. Against the pins stalwart sledge-swingers, half naked, bend the cherry red frames and plates, as they are slid out of the furnace into the shapes they must assume for use in the ves-Here is a great row of blacksmith forges.
Over there is a building where a

dozen monster bollers are in constru tion, and where a traveling conne lifts and moves them as easily as a hotel porter does hig trunks. Here are hig ship engines, some set up and some taken down. Here are foundries where manganese bronze screws are east, and where brass and from are fashioned into a thousand forms. Here is the great mold-loft where every line in the ship is laid down, and from which wooden counterparts of the vessel are wooden counterparts of the vessel are made before the steel construction be-gins. Here are the wood-working shops, the gan factory, the great store-house, and there is the floating der-rick that can pick up a 70-ton boiler, move it 300 feet, lift it high in the air, and place it in a ship in thirty minutes with as careful an adjustment minutes, with as careful an adjustment as a watchmaker uses in fitting a movement in its place.

And here are 5,000 men employed in various capacities—machinists, wood-

workers, molders and perhaps most noticeable of all, riveters in sets of three, one man to hold a big sledge against the red-hot rivet, and two, on right-handed worker and the other left handed, to pound it until it becomes a part of the ship. So the work goes on until after about two years the ship that existed only in specifications becomes a living thing.

New Building Material.

A new building material, called com-poboard, is thus described by the Northwestern Lumberman: It is made of one-eighth-inch strips of wood, from three-quarters to one and onequarter inches wide, placed between two sheets of heavy strawboard, and united under heavy pressure with a strong cement. The process of manufacture is peculiar. Into the machine that molds the board are run two sheets of the strawboard from rolls, one from above and one from below : table onto which are fed from a feed ing device the strips of wood. A roller running in a tank of the liquid cement running in a tank of the hand cement rolls upon the inner surface of the sheets of strawboard, and the three layers of material run together be-tween rolls and into a hydraulic press capable of exerting a pressure of 120 tons to the square inch. Ten feet of tons to the square inch. Ten feet of the board is stopped automatically for a few seconds in the press, then run out upon a table fitted with cut-off saws, where it is sawed to the de-sired length. It is then run upon trucks, placed in the dry kiln, and when taken out is trimmed to forty-eight inches in width.

The strength of the board as com-pared with its weight is marvelous.

The strength of the board as compared with its weight is marvelous. The end of an eighteen-foot board can be brought together without breaking or warping it. No conditions can warp it. The new office building of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company is sheeted within with this material. Wail paper is put upon the board, and the finish is as fine as upon any plastered wall. The strong points claimed for wall. The strong points claimed for the board are. It is not more expen-sive than first class plastering. It forms an absolutely air-tight wall. It stiffens a building much more than any coat of mortar and lath can. It is quickly put on, and produces no damp-ness, thus causing no swelling and shrinking of floors and casings. It is light, thus avoiding the dragging down of the house frame, the consequent cracking of walls and the warping of door frames. It forms a solider, clean-er, warmer, drier wall at no more expense than is involved in the old way.

Preserved Harness.

A sporting paper gives direction for "preserving harness":
Preserved harness may be considered very palatable by those who like that sort of thing, but we don't want a bit in our mouth.—London Answers.

Rev. Mr. Job, of North Middleboro. Mass., has fitted up in the steeple of his church a play room, in which bables are taken care of by volunteer nurses while the mothers attend divine service.

His Art. Mrs. Dix-"Whom do you consider the best actor in romantic roles?"

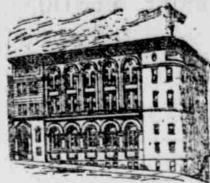
Mrs. Hicks-"My husband. Sometimes his art deceives even me.—New York World.

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

BIG OCCASION FOR THE ODD FELLOWS.

Dedication of a Beautiful Temple at Albany-The Constitutional Convention A Setback for Woman Suffrage State Officals Bave a Good Time. Special Albany Letter

The Albany Odd Fellows had a me-morable demonstration this week, the occasion being the laying of the corner stone of the new temple in this city. The visiting members of the fraternity owned the city during their presence here. The new temple is located cor-ner of Howard and Lodge streets, and when completed, will be a splendid



edifice. It will have a front on Lodge street of 187 feet, and 00 feet on How-ard street. The elevation is three stories and a basement. The exterior will be of Albany pressed brick, with brown stone and terra cetta trimmings. A ribbed roof will complete the building. The interior fittings will be in native woods. The structure will be heated with steam and lighted

by electricity.

The main lodge rooms are on the second floor, the entrance being on Lodgestreet. Commodious ante-rooms are attached. The third floor will be are attached. The third floor will be devoted to working and committee rooms, and will have a fine parlor. In the basement will be a banquet hail, 40x60 feet, together with kitchen, boiler and storage rooms. The first floor will contain a concert hall 55x85 feet in size, with a large stage and dressing stage and dressing stage and dressing rooms.

The exercises accommanying the in-

The exercises accompanying the in-ception of this noble temple of the Albany Odd Fellows, which in a large degree will be representative of the order throughout the State, were of a order throughout the State, were of a very interesting character. The gathering represented the largest body of Odd Fellows that ever assembled in the State. Fully 5,000 members of the order were present, some 2,000 of them representing the fifteen lodges, two encampments and one uniformed lodge of this city. The exercises were conducted under the auspices of District Deputy Grand Master Sanford. The attendance of notables of the order was very large. was very large.

Members of the Constitutional Convention are showing some sensitiveness to the criticism of the press regarding the dilatoriness of their work. The committees are said to be pretty well advanced with their work, the convention will soon settle down to business. Contrary to expectation, to business. Contrary to expectation, the sub-committee on suffrage voted to report an amendment in favor of granting the ballot to women. The report recommended that the amendment be submitted as a separate proposition. The report was really in the nature of a compromise. The majority of the committee are op-posed to the proposed amendment, and they have been encouraged by the ladies who are opposed to laying down their privileges in order to secure their



The report of the sub-commit tee was voted down by the whole committee. The only proposition likely to be submitted to the convention is that giving women the right to vote at school elections.

The convention has rejected the amendments favoring a change in the present jury system. The action no doubt indicates the conservative character of the convention.

Gov. Flower and his associate State officers, with other prominent officials, were the guests this week of State Treasurer Colvin, who took them a trip to Lake George and Glens Fails. They enjoyed a cruise on the lake, dined at the Sagamore, saw the sights from the top of a taily-ho coach, and had a general good time. There is nothing like political good feeling in midsum-

Smokeless Powder Affected by Cold. It has been shown in the course of some recent experiments, which have been made by the Archduke Wilhelm the inspector of the Austrian artillery. that the combustible properties of smokeless powder are greatly reduced by such a fall in temperature as is usual in Austria during a somewhat severe winter. Of thirty-eight charges with smokeless powder, which has been artificially refrigerated, twenty-six failed, though only two out of 120 failed when the shots were fixed at a failed when the shots were fired at a normally mild temperature.—Inven-

Found in the Beautiful Seine. Here is a tell-tale array of facts and figures. The following are a few of the "articles" found in the Seine during the year 1893: Of dogs there were 7,652; of cats, 3,307; rats, 9,108; fowls, 1,720; various other birds, 3,942; rabbits, 1,209; young pigs, 789; calves, 7; herone, 4; horses, 3; sheep, 15; monkeys, 13; serpents, 5.

There are as many men angels as there are women angels.

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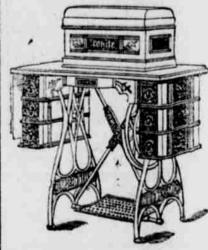
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