

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.
WASHINGTON, April 24th, 1896.

The people are sometimes quicker to see the undesirability of proposed legislation than the Congressmen are, and in election years, if at no other time, the expressed disapprobation of the people is quickly deferred to by the men who control Congress. A case in point is the Pacific Railroads bill which has been reported to both House and Senate. Now, although his bill involves an enormous amount of money, and that it is much more favorable to C. P. Huntington and his ring of capitalists than to the government, as was so ably shown by the protest written by Senator Morgan, from a sick bed and presented to the Senate as a minority report, it was proposed to railroad it through Congress during the last days of the session. This programme had the support of Speaker Reed and of leading men in the Senate, and was being whooped up by Huntington and his lobby. The bill has been so generally condemned by the people that a halt has been called in the programme, and it is now said that the bill will not be acted upon at this session of Congress, if it ever is in its present shape.

Senator Cockrell succeeded in his humane effort to have the Senate amend the Indian appropriation bill so that it provides that two years shall be allowed the sectarian (Catholic) Indian Schools to prepare to turn their scholars over to government schools, if they do not wish to teach them at their own expense; but there is no certainty that the A. P. A., which has shown its control of the House several times during the session, will agree to it.

President Cleveland assured the delegates to the National Arbitration Conference which met in Washington this week, who called on him, that he was thoroughly in sympathy with their aim to bring about a system of international arbitration of all disputes not affecting the sovereignty of nations.

The unseating of Representative Cobb, of Ala. in favor of Goodwynn, the populist who contested the seat, by the republican majority of the House, was a part of the deal through which it is expected to carry Alabama this year by a republican-populist combine. This was so palpable that a few republican members refused to vote for it, but not enough to defeat it. The danger of putting young men with more egotism than parliamentary knowledge in the Speaker's chair was exemplified during the debate in this case. Speaker Reed desiring to consult with some of his boomers called Representative Barrett, of Mass., to the chair and retired to his private room to figure on his chances for the Presidential nomination. Mr. Barrett got tangled up, and was about to get the House in the biggest sort of a row by attempting to shut off Mr. Cobb, who had been allowed one hour to speak in his own behalf. Fortunately somebody sent for Mr. Reed and he returned to the chair and straightened out matters. He also tried to let Mr. Barrett down easy by saying that he had misunderstood the agreement under which the House was acting, but Representative Bailey, of Texas, promptly called him down by shouting: "Ignorance, not misunderstanding." This man hopes to be Speaker of the next House, if Reed becomes President and the House remains republican—a formidable "if."

Senator Smith, of N. J., has probably been scratched off Andy Carnegie's list of friends, if he was ever on it. The reason is an amendment which Mr. Smith wishes to have attached to the Naval appropriation bill. This amendment instructs the Secretary of the Navy to make no contracts for armor plate for the battle ships provided for in that bill unless the price be at least as low as \$300 a ton of 2,000 pounds. Carnegie is now making Uncle Sam pay \$500 a ton for armor plate, but has promised to reduce the price, to prevent the government undertaking to make its own armor. Senator Smith wants to make sure that the reduction is what it should be, and yet there is no injustice in the figures he names as that is the price at which Carnegie and his associates have taken a Russian contract. It remains to be seen whether Carnegie's friends in Congress can head off that Smith amendment.

There has been some excitement in Congress this week on account of a statement made by Representative Sulzer, of N. Y. to the effect that Walter Dygert, a young American recently imprisoned by the Spanish authorities, had been secretly executed. Mr. Sulzer's information came from Cubans in New York who got it direct from their friends on the island. Secretary Olney thinks there is a mistake about it, as he has the promise of the Spanish authorities that young Dygert would be given his liberty and allowed to leave Cuba. If investigation proves that execution story to be true Spain would better look out for serious trouble.

The Increase of Murder.

There has been nothing more startling in criminal statistics than those presented in a recent address of Andrew D. White, formerly president of the Cornell University, before the Patria Club, of New York. His theme was, that in this country murderers were less frequently punished than elsewhere, and he backed up this position by an array of figures which were paralyzing.

Comparing the murders of 1889 with those of 1895, he finds that while there were 3,567 cases, or 58 to every million persons in the former year, there were 10,500 murders, or 115 to every million of population, in the year last past; an increase for the six years of 6,933 murders and of 57 per million inhabitants. In 1889, one murderer out of 42 paid the penalty of his crime on the scaffold; in 1896 only one murderer in 74 was executed. Lynching had, however, become rapidly frequent, and while the population had only increased 25 per cent., the murderers' butchers' bill had increased 50 per cent. Mr. White said further that if all murderers at that time were locked up there would be 43,000 of them filling condemned cells, while, in fact, there were but 7,351 homicides in prison.

Among the many causes which have led to life being held so cheap and punishment so difficult, it is easy to trace the most pernicious. Mr. White declared that there has been a weakening of righteous indignation against such crimes; that long deferred convictions have had a large share; that there is too much maudlin sorrow and sickly pity for criminals; that legal proceedings have become a chance game; that chicanery and technicalities have been too freely permitted; that the facilities for appeal and retrials have been abused; that too many escapes have been permitted, and that the gubernatorial power of pardon has been outrageously abused.

Mr. White's remedies for these abuses of the criminal law are sensible and cogent, and commence with the moral education of the people, continues with practical examination of criminal and charitable institutions, leads up to the remodeling of prisons and their punishment; the strict punishment of subsidiary crimes, and a general development of the theory that murder trials are not mere exhibitions of defensive tactics; that verdicts shall mean what they say; that long delays between arrest and trial shall be avoided, and that no man shall have the individual right to step between the convicted man and the executioner. With these emendations the law would soon win back the respect it has lost and fulfill its true mission of being a terror to evildoers.—*Phila. Times.*

Best Family Medicine.

Punxsutawney, Pa., April 8, 1896.—We have a large family and we all take Hood's Sarsaparilla as we regard it as the best family medicine that we have ever had. We recommend it to our friends as the best that can be obtained. Burt Pennan.

Hood's Pills are easy to take, easy to operate.

Every Tree is Earning its Living.

It is a question worthy of grave consideration, says the Lancaster *New Era*, whether the counties of the State cannot foster forestry more by remitting or at least lowering the taxes on timbered lands. That would, no doubt, save many a stately woods that is doomed to fall under the ax before its time. In a recent address before the Bucks County Science Association, Dr. Rothrock stated the question in a most convincing way. He said that "every hour a tree stands it is a citizen, earning its living; holding water for the commonwealth and protecting the land. Whether on the hillside, in a forest or alone in the woodlot, it is earning its living. Any tax that compels the cutting off of timber is working a harm to the commonwealth. If taxed at all it should be in a class by itself. In this state are fully four thousand square miles of land so steep that it is being rapidly washed away. All of that land is paying nothing now and should be put into trees. Every farm has some swampy land that can be put to no use, or some barn or outbuilding that needs a shelter; not a farm is there but that will be better for more trees."

The famous cat of ex-mayor Eby, which goes out into the neighboring fields and captures snakes, which he drags into the house for the inspection of the family, has a rival in the same block, tells the Harrisburg *Telegraph*. W. L. Powell, who went trout fishing the other day at Newville, and got stuck in the mud, has a cat which also developed snake charming propensities. Mrs. Powell was horrified to see a snake two feet long on the kitchen floor the other day which the family cat had captured in the cellar of their residence. There will be few snakes left at Cottage Ridge if the two cats are permitted to get in their work unobstructed.

Facts About Thermometers.

Sensitive Instrument Which Registers Heat From the Moon.

To tell whether a thermometer accurately does its work invert the instrument, says the *New York World*. If the mercury does not fall to the end or if it breaks into several small columns, the thermometer contains air and is inaccurate. If perfectly made the slender thread should fill the tube or break off at the bulb and fall to the end of the tube.

There is another interesting fact about thermometers. Nine persons out of ten think the mercurial column round, but that is not the case. The thread of mercury in thermometers is flat. If it were round the column could hardly be seen, for the opening of the tube is as fine as the finest thread. Some eight or ten years ago a Boston manufacturer introduced a scheme of coating the back of the tube with white sizing. That makes the column of mercury stand out clear and distinct.

Thermometers are cheaper and better than ever before. You can now buy a heat marker for twenty five cents, but a first class instrument will cost you two dollars. A cheap instrument is like a cheap watch—it is unreliable. The reason for this is that a perfect thermometer has a scale of its own. The cheap thermometer is made on guess work. Hence you see a difference of two, three or five degrees between thermometers in the same locality on the same day.

The most sensitive heat marker is the Crookes. It consists of four arms suspended on a steel pivot, rotating like a miniature wind gauge, and the whole affair is inclosed in a glass tube from which the air has been exhausted. The light of a candle one or two feet away causes the arms to rotate. Quite as sensitive is the thermopile, which is used to detect the faint rays of heat transmitted from the moon and stars to this cold world.

Trying to Save Holmes.

An Effort to Have the Multi-Murderer Imprisoned for Life.

Coroner Castor of Indianapolis, received a telegram last week from S. P. Rotan, 602 Girard building, Philadelphia, attorney of H. H. Holmes, asking him to come at once to Philadelphia and bring with him the records of the Pitezel inquest. The attorney also wired \$75 to the coroner for his time and expenses. The coroner says that he will probable go to Philadelphia on Saturday.

The coroner thinks that the telegram means that Holmes intends in some way to make one more fight for his life. He thinks that Holmes, instead of making his high priced confession for the benefit of his wife and children, made it in order to procure funds with which to make one more effort to save himself.

Henry W. Bullock, the Indianapolis attorney for H. H. Holmes, says that there is a movement on foot to get the sentence of Holmes changed to imprisonment for life. The movement is being made by Attorney Rotan and by Mr. McCaffrey, who represents Bullock in Philadelphia. He says he understands that in Pennsylvania they have a board of pardons, of which the lieutenant governor is president. It is said that the lieutenant governor is opposed to capital punishment, and thus the advisers of Holmes have hopes of saving their client's life.

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Shaker Digestive Cordial makes those fat, who have become thin by not digesting their food.

It restores the spirits and the appetite of those who are dejected and fagged out from the wearing effects of indigestion.

It relieves the symptoms of dyspepsia, and, after using for a reasonable time, finally cures the complaint.

Sold by druggists. Trial bottle 10 cents.

Voted to Build a \$50,000 School.

A special election was held at Sunbury last week to decide the question of building a \$50,000 central high school, and those in favor of the school won by 237 majority.

Reading's Relief Association.

The statement of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Relief Association for the month of March, 1896, shows payments of benefits aggregating \$17,618.80. On account of deaths, \$7,147; on account of accidents, disabilities, \$4,534.40. Thirteen death claims were paid, four occurring from accidents and nine from natural causes. The total number of new cases reported during the month was 1,014.

WON'T ADMIT THE WOMEN.

Scheme for Their Admission to the Methodist Conference Defeated.

The proposition to admit women as lay delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Cleveland, O., has been defeated. The vote of the North Dakota Conference, which has just been received, was the last to be taken on the question. With that vote included in the table the vote is shown to be 7515 for the admission of women and 2529 against. According to a provision of the discipline it is necessary for a proposition to change any of the restrictive rules of the Church to receive the support of three-fourths of the members of the annual conferences voting on the proposition and two-thirds of the members of the General Conference. As the total vote was 10,044 it would have been necessary for the supporters of the amendment to have cast 7533 ballots to win. They lost by eighteen votes.

WOMEN DELEGATES ELECTED.

A complication of the question will be caused by the presence of three women at the next Methodist Episcopal General Conference, who have been elected as lay delegates and who will apply for admission to the Conference. One of these is the wife of President Bashford, of the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, Ohio. The women may be admitted on a simple majority vote, it is said, and if this is done it will settle the whole question in their favor. There will be a large majority in the Conference in favor of the admission of women.

The Penn Steel Casting and Machine Company of Chester has received an order for 800 tons of steel castings for the Baldwin locomotive works, which are for sixty locomotives being built for the Russian government. This is the largest order that has ever come to Chester.

KIDNEY DISEASE

Cured, Says A. J. Spencer, of JACKSON, PA.

A. J. Spencer of Jackson, Tioga county, Pa., writes: "I was troubled with kidney and urinary complaint for a long time. My family physician gave me various medicines but they failed to help me. Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy was suggested to me and I bought two bottles. After the first two or three doses I could see it was helping me. Before I had used the contents of the second bottle I felt like a new man and I have enjoyed good health ever since."

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Edward B. Harper, Founder. Frederick A. Burnham, President.

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\$69,000,000 of New Business in 1895.
\$308,000,000 of Business in Force.
\$4,084,075 of Death Claims paid in 1895.
\$25,000,000 of Death Claims paid since Business begun.

1895 SHOWS—AN INCREASE IN GROSS ASSETS, AN INCREASE IN NET SURPLUS, AN INCREASE IN INCOME, AN INCREASE IN BUSINESS IN FORCE, OVER 105,800 MEMBERS INTERESTED.

The Annual Meeting of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association was held in the Association's Building, corner Broadway & Duane St., New York City, on Wednesday, January 22nd, and was attended by a large and representative gathering of policy holders who listened with keen interest to the masterly Annual Report of President Burnham.

Many policy holders evidently regarded this as a favorable opportunity to meet face to face the new chief executive officer of the Association, President Frederick A. Burnham, the man whose grasp of life insurance, whose keen executive ability and strong individuality have enabled him to take up the work laid down in death by the founder of the institution, the late Edward B. Harper, and make of the administration of his office of President, not an echo or copy of that of his predecessor, but a piece of finished work, characteristic of a man of independent views, and worthy to follow the work which had carried the Association to a position never attained in the same length of time by any life insurance organization in the world. It is rare, indeed, that a great institution like this passes, without check to its prosperity, through a change in the executive chief, for it is rare indeed that a chief like the late Mr. Harper finds so able a successor as President Burnham.

The record of the year 1895 speaks for itself, and shows the following gratifying results.

The GROSS ASSETS have increased during the year from \$5,536,115.99 to \$5,661,707.82.

The NET SURPLUS over liabilities shows a NET GAIN for the year of \$306,329.43, and now amounts to \$3,582,509.32.

The INCOME from all sources shows a gain for the year of \$631,541.97, and amounts to \$5,575,281.56.

DEATH CLAIMS to the amount of \$4,084,074.92 were paid during the year, an increase over the previous year of \$1,013,560.91.

The BUSINESS IN FORCE shows a gain for the year of \$15,293,265, and now amounts to \$308,659,371.

Counting three hundred working days in the year the daily average income for 1895 is \$18,584.27; the daily average payments for death claims, \$13,652.25, and the daily average gain in business in force within a fraction of \$51,000.

Persons desiring insurance, an agency, or any other information concerning the MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE ASSOCIATION may apply to

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