

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Dec., 10th, 1897.

Secretary Gage is about the only member of the administration who would really like to see his recommendations for cinching the hold of the single gold standard in this country become laws. Mr. McKinley did not dare to endorse the recommendations of his Secretary of the Treasury, and he has no real desire for the financial legislation he half-heartedly suggested. He knows that his roundabout suggestion, of getting rid of the greenbacks by turning them into gold certificates could not get through Congress, even if only the republicans voted upon it. He was afraid that the recommendations for amending the National banking laws, so as to reduce taxation on National Bank currency, to allow currency to be issued to the face value of the bonds deposited with the government, and to allow the establishment of National banks with \$25,000 capital in small places, might get through, so he added a proviso that he knew would kill the whole—to make all National bank notes redeemable in gold. The administration is simply trying to bluff a portion of its own party and the country. It doesn't want any financial legislation. This has already been made plain in the House by the grab-game engineered by Mr. Dingley by which his committee—Ways and Means—will take charge of all financial bills and smother them. Republicans have also plainly indicated by their talk that they had received intimations from the administration that no financial legislation was wanted. If public criticism of its attitude makes it necessary to strengthen its bluff, the administration will, through Mr. Dingley, fix up a bill and jam it through the House, knowing that the Senate would not act upon it. Of course, the people of this country are fools enough not to know the difference between this sort of thing and real statesmanship, and they will be so sorry that the administration isn't able to get what it doesn't want—so sorry that they'll elect a democratic Congress next year.

The administration doesn't wish the Nicaragua Canal question to be acted upon by this Congress, and when Mr. McKinley said in his message that he would have something further to say on the subject when he admitted the report of the Commission which has just started for Nicaragua to make a new survey and estimate of cost, under an act of Congress, he was fully aware that the commission was not likely to make a report before the death of the Fifty-fifth Congress. In fact, it is known that members of the commission were given a broad hint before their departure that their report was not expected before March 4, 1899.

One Nebraska republican—Mr. Winfield S. Strawn, an Omaha lawyer—has turned up in Washington who is honest enough to publicly say that the republicans have no chance to carry that State, either at the Congressional elections next year or the National election of 1900. Mr. Strawn says the republicans have not been able to get back the farmer votes they lost on the silver question, and that they are not likely to get them back so long as that question is unsettled.

With the exception of Senators Morgan, of Ala., and Gorman, of Md., every democratic Senator is now lined up against the annexation of Hawaii, and the opposition among the republicans already includes Senators Hoar, Morrill and Pettigrew. This makes it impossible to procure the two-thirds vote needed to ratify the treaty providing for annexation, and the republicans are already seriously thinking of abandoning the treaty and trying to secure annexation by majority legislation. It looks a little as though the annexation question was going to be used by the Reed machine to whack McKinley over the head. The Czar is understood to have privately announced himself to be opposed to annexation. In fact, present indications are that before this session has closed the republicans will be sharply drawn.

If Spain isn't entirely pleased with the situation at the Washington end of the line she must be hard to please. It was a new thing for a President of the United States to devote nearly half of his message to Congress to an argument in favor of allowing a foreign nation more time in which to try to squeeze the life out of the people residing in sight of our coast, and the innovation was nauseous to many. A dose equally nauseous followed, when Secretary Gage presented several columns of solid newspaper matter, giving in detail the extraordinary efforts of this country to aid Spain by suppressing filibustering. Senator Allen offered a resolution in the Senate for the recognition of Cuban independence, but it is feared that the Committee on Foreign Relations, to which it was referred, will pigeon-hole it.

The first skirmish in the war on the civil service law was pulled off in the House this week, and it was lively while it lasted. A conference of all members of the House who desire change in this law is to be held, in order to arrange for an organized attack.

Catarrh Cannot be Cured with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props. Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Speculative Markets Show More Strength Better Demand For Iron and Steel Products and Advance In Securities.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The opening of congress, with the president's annual message and reports, has not discouraged business, as some predicted, but all speculative markets are stronger than a week ago. The productive industries, even in the season usually about the duldest of the year as to new orders, meet a definite improvement in demand for important products, presumably the fruit of a prevailing conviction that new business will begin to crowd the works after the new year starts. The outward movement of wheat and other products continues so heavy that foreign exchange has fallen three-quarters of a cent, and instead of exports of gold which have marked December in recent years, imports would come if gold were wanted.

Securities are advancing by reason of the increased earnings of railways, \$47,085,801 for November on reporting roads in the United States, 16.8 per cent. larger than last year and 5.9 larger than in 1892.

A sudden rise in December wheat at Chicago to \$1.09 would do harm were it not based on avowed contracts to ship some millions of bushels to Europe. That fact and the continued foreign demand in spite of such contracts, has helped a rise of 1 1/2 cents here. The report that western supplies are running low is discredited by receipts from farms.

Cotton is a sixteenth stronger in spite of estimates ranging from 10,000,000 to 11,000,000 bales by well known authorities. A strike in English mills is no longer threatened, and the possibility of one at Fall River has little weight.

There is more demand for iron and steel products in preparation for railway work, bridges and buildings next year and on contracts for export, including one for a government bridge in Holland, others for bridges in Japan, with large shipments of various products to England and other countries. Foreign contracts for 40,000 tons rails are pending, 15,000 for Mexico.

In and about New York bridge and building contracts call for 25,000 tons, and Chicago works are figuring on numerous contracts for 5,000 railway cars.

The formation of the American steel and wire company is expected to strengthen prices and cause some buying. While Bessemer at \$10 and gray forge at \$9.15 are slightly lower at Pittsburgh, prices are stronger at Chicago and in all quarters heavy business is expected after the new year.

Connellsville coke production is 151,100 tons weekly against 149,000 in November and no advance is now expected above \$10.50 for furnace coke early next year. Anthracite coal is weaker and sells here at \$3.75 to \$3.85 for stove.

Failures in the first week of December were but \$2,617,240, manufacturing \$379,420 and trading \$1,791,570. Failures for the week have been 312 in the United States against 380 last year and twenty-nine in Canada against forty-three last year.

Stop drugging yourself with quack nostrums or "cures." Get a well-known pharmaceutical remedy that will do the work. Catarrh and Cold in the head will not cause suffering if Ely's Cream Balm is used. Druggist will supply 10c. trial size or 50c. full size. We mail it. ELY BROS., 56 Warren St., N. Y. City. Rev. John Reid, Jr., of Great Falls, Mont., recommended Ely's Cream Balm to me. I can emphasize his statement, "It is a positive cure for catarrh if used as directed."—Rev. Francis W. Poole, Pastor Central Pres. Church, Helena, Mont. Just try a 10c. box of Cascarets, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made.

STATE APPROPRIATION.

The distribution of the State appropriation for school purposes will be on a new basis next year. Superintendent Schaeffer announces that it is a matter that affects every school district in the State—the new law governing the distribution of the State appropriation. The appropriation heretofore was distributed on a basis of the number of taxable residents. Commencing next year the appropriation will be distributed on a basis of the number of resident taxables and of children between the ages of 6 and 16 years. Dr. Schaeffer, superintendent of public instruction, admonishes school directors to see that the returns made to the county commissioners by the assessors are correct, as after the returns made by assessors have been certified by the county commissioners to the state department and the calculations for distribution of the appropriations begun, it will be too late to make corrections for the current year. The new law provides that on and after June 1, 1898, one-third of the money annually appropriated for the common schools shall be distributed on the basis of the number of paid teachers regularly employed; that one-third of the appropriation shall be distributed on the basis of the number of children of school age, between the age of 6 and 16, the remaining one-third of the appropriation shall be distributed on the basis of the number of taxables as returned by the last bi-ennial assessment. The law makes it the duty of the county or ward assessor to make an enrollment of the total number of children of school age, between the age of 6 and 16 years, in addition to the duties required of them under existing laws and for the compensation per diem now allowed by law. The returns or assessments are to be filed in the office of the county commissioners, duly verified by oath or affirmation, on or before the fourth Saturday of December, 1897, and bi-ennially thereafter, the county commissioners to return a summary of the same to the superintendent of public instruction on or before the last Saturday of January next following. Any assessor who shall refuse or neglect to make the enumeration and official returns required by this act, shall pay a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 and be liable to removal from office.

HEAD RELIEF IN 10 MINUTES.—Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder gives almost instant relief and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, Colds, Headache, Sore Throat, Tonsillitis, and Catarrhal Deafness. One short puff of the powder clears and cleanses the nasal passages. It is painless and delightful to use.—50 Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Blow at Fake Contests.

The postoffice department at Washington is taking a firm stand against the so-called "missing letter" and "missing word" contests which are being conducted by a number of publishers to increase the subscriptions to their papers. The lottery law directs that the postmaster general, upon evidence satisfactory to himself that a concern or person is operating through the mails a lottery or scheme of regular prizes dependent upon lot or chance, to prohibit the delivery of all mail matter to it. Missing letter contests are held to be such violations, because many correct answers can be given, but only one list is deemed to be the "correct list" by the promoters of the scheme. The chance consists in guessing what words compose the so-called "correct list." Such schemes are held to be especially obnoxious, owing to the skillful wording of the advertisements, which make the chance for obtaining a prize more remote than in the detunct Louisiana lottery.

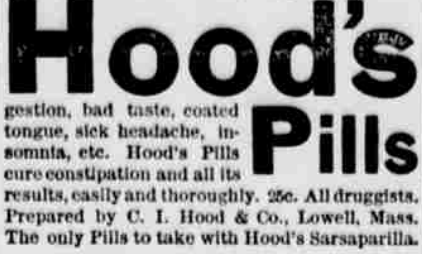
Glass Workers' Troubles.

Manufacturers Demand Concessions on Shop Rules. The window glass workers and manufacturers of Pittsburgh, are again in conference over the shop rules. It is difficult to predict the result, but it is safe to say the workmen must concede something, if an agreement is reached. President Burns expressed himself strongly respecting the implied threat that if the concessions demanded were not made the American Window Glass Company would cease to manufacture and import. Burns threatens to appeal to Congress. The cutters and flatteners, having already left the Window Glass Workers' Association, will now leave the Knights of Labor and identify themselves with the American Federation of Labor.

PILES—ITCHING, BLIND AND BLEEDING CURED in three to six nights. Dr. Agnew's Ointment is peerless in curing. One application gives instant relief. It cures all itching and irritating skin diseases, Chafing, Eczema, etc. 35 cents.—51. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Constipation

Causes fully half the sickness in the world. It retains the digested food too long in the bowels and produces biliousness, torpid liver, indigestion, bad taste, coated tongue, sick headache, insomnia, etc. Hood's Pills cure constipation and all its results, easily and thoroughly. 25c. All druggists. Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.



An act which may be of interest to constables, as well as others, was passed by the last legislature relative to forest fires. It provides that township constables shall become ex-officio fire wardens, from Jan. 1, 1898. They are equipped to take the necessary measures for extinguishing forest fires in their townships, and for this purpose are authorized to call on any person or persons in the township for aid. While thus engaged, they are to receive fifteen cents an hour, one-half to be paid by the county and one-half by the state; but no county is required to pay more than \$500 in any one year. The constables are to make returns, at each term of court, of any violations known to them, of any provision of law for the protection of forests from fire. For a neglect of duty a constable may be suspended from office, or convicted and sentenced to a fine not exceeding \$50, or an imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both. Any person refusing to assist the constable, when summoned, without reasonable cause, is liable to a fine not exceeding \$10, or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or both. The word "forest," for the purpose of the act, is to include an area of timber or brush land of not less than fifty acres, or a smaller area which may, by proximity to another tract of at least fifty acres, be liable to communicate fire to it.

Carroll D. Wright, chief of the bureau of statistics, recently discussed the question whether women are hurting the chances of men in business. "From tables based on the United States Census of 1870, 1880, 1890," says Wright, "it is found that the proportion of women laborers, all the occupations of the country being considered, is gradually increasing, not to an alarming extent, but yet steadily, the gain being a little less than three per cent. The census of 1870 recorded but one architect among the women of this country, while twenty-two were found in 1890. There were no women among the chemists, assayers, and metallurgists in 1870, while the enumeration in 1890 found forty-six engaged in these occupations. There were sixty-seven clergy women in 1870 and 1,235 in 1890. Dentistry has also attracted women, and while there were but twenty-four in 1870, there were 337 in 1890. The fact is absolutely demonstrated that the proportion of females in all occupations followed is gradually increasing. A study of all the facts shows that women are more generally taking the places of children than of men. In 1870 the percentage of children of the whole number of persons employed in manufacturing was 5.58, while in 1890 the percentage was only 2.68. There need not be any alarm, therefore, as to the encroachments of women upon the occupations held by men, for, on the whole, the encroachment is slight. Very many reasons are given by employers for their employment of women in place of men, the most common being their greater adaptability for the particular work for which they are employed. Many employers also consider them more reliable, more easily controlled, cheaper, more temperate, more easily procured, neater, more rapid, more industrious, more careful, more polite, less liable to strike, and more easily to learn. Of course very many employers give a combination of two or more of these reasons. The facts relative to woman's compensation show that there is progress in her favor, although the statistics bring out a very great economic injustice in this respect. In one investigation it was shown that in 1871 instances in which men and women worked at the same occupation, and performed their work with the same degree of efficiency, men received greater pay in 595 cases and women greater pay in only 129, which in only fifty-seven instances out of the whole number did they receive the same pay for the same work, which is only 7.3 per cent. of the cases noted." Wyoming and Utah have laws according to men and women equal wages for equal work.

They're Swindlers. Several months ago two slick individuals were in Milton soliciting orders for a patent asbestos pot which they said retailed at \$1.00. Their scheme was to get an advance of fifty cents from each customer which they did in many cases. Of course the buyer never heard of them again. We understand the dodge is being worked in town again and would warn our readers against having anything to do with the agents.—Standard.

We Manufacture PURE ICE FROM DISTILLED & FILTERED WATER. In our storage rooms we hold good for many months Apples, Pears, Grapes, etc. If you have any thing to store, give us a call. Cold Storage & Artificial Ice Co.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD.

Table with columns for Stations, A.M., P.M., and EAST. Lists stations like Norumberland, Cambridge, Danville, etc.

STATIONS WEST.

Table with columns for Stations, A.M., P.M., and WEST. Lists stations like Schanton, Bellevue, Taylor, etc.

Connections at Rupert with Philadelphia & Reading Railroad for Tamaqua, Tamaqua, Williamsport, Sunbury, Pottsville, etc.

W. F. BALLSTEAD, Gen. Mgr., Schanton, Pa.

Table with columns for SOUTH, STATIONS, and LEAVE. Lists stations like Schanton, Danville, etc.

HUMPHREYS' CURES

- No. 1 Fever, Congestion. No. 2 Worms. No. 3 Infants' Diseases. No. 4 Diarrhea. No. 7 Coughs & Colds. No. 9 Headache. No. 10 Dyspepsia, Indigestion. No. 11 Delayed Periods. No. 12 Leucorrhoea. No. 13 Croup. No. 14 Skin Diseases. No. 15 Rheumatism. No. 19 Catarrh. No. 27 Kidney Diseases. No. 34 Sore Throat. No. 77 Grip & Hay Fever.

For Catarrh May-Kever Cold in Head. ELY'S CREAM BALM is a positive cure. Apply into the nostrils. It is quickly absorbed. 50 cents at Druggists or by mail; sample 10c. by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 86 Warren St., New York City.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM. Promotes and restores the hair. Cleanses and nurtures growth. Restores Fall to Balding Gray Hair. Cures scalp diseases. Hair falling out. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.

Pennyroyal Pills. Cures Catarrh of the Bladder, Gleet, Gonorrhea, etc. Original and Only Genuine. Rarely obtainable. Ladies are advised to use Caution. Beware of cheap imitations. Sold by all Druggists. Price, 50c. and \$1.00. P. H. L. & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Pennsylvania Railroad.

Time Table in effect Nov. 28, '97.

Table with columns for Stations, A.M., P.M., and F.M. Lists stations like Schanton, Pottsville, etc.

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GET YOUR JOB PRINTING DONE AT THE COLUMBIAN OFFICE