

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1908.

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17, 1908.

"If ever there was an opportunity for Democratic victory this is it," said a prominent Democratic member of the Senate today. "Why the Republicans are fighting like the famous Kilkenny cats. The President and Taft are determined that their policies shall triumph, regardless of the welfare of the party, and the opposition would rather split the party wide open than endure another four years of Rooseveltism, whether it is administered by Teddy himself, or by Taft. The latest plan of the anti-Roosevelt crowd is to carry the Republican National Convention with 'rotten Borough' delegations from the South which can be counted on to vote against Taft and for such other candidate as will pay the highest price. These delegations are almost entirely composed of negroes who will sell out at the drop of the hat, but there is no danger of their selling to the Taft people because the Taft crown has not got the price. Well, we on this side can look on with entire equanimity. I hope, indeed that they will succeed, for the American people will not stand for that kind of election of Bryan, 'surer than fate.'"

Senator Stone of Missouri, talking of the professed intentions of the Democrats to revise the tariff, said today, "Did you notice how Mr. Cannon treated those members of the National Manufacturers' Association who came to Washington to ask Congress to appoint a tariff commission? They came at instance of Senator Beveridge. They were all Republicans who have enjoyed the benefits of protection until they have got enough and they want a little bit of the tariff wall shaved off. And yet Cannon treated them with contempt. Now what have we to expect if the Republicans win the next election. Cannon will be Speaker again and he will be just as much of a stand pater as he is today. The people have got to elect a Democratic President if they want tariff revision, just as they did in 1902. This talk of Republican tariff revision is all a bluff."

Senator Aldrich is driving his financial bill through the Senate with his usual skill. The Democrats are all opposed to it and many of the Republicans are against it, but they are afraid of Aldrich to a man and the Democrats, who constitute only one third of the upper house, are powerless to do anything without the help of the Republicans. The President has announced that he favors the Aldrich bill and when Aldrich and the President get together no Republican dares raise his voice in protest.

The anti-Bryan Democrats very nearly executed a neat little coup the other day. They proposed to elect Rep. Ryan of Virginia to the chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Committee. It was a little scheme of Thos. F. Ryan of New York, who is a distant cousin of Rep. Ryan. Some of the members of the Senate learned of the game Mr. Ryan of Interborough Railway fame was putting up however, and blocked it in the eleventh hour.

It looks very much as if the country was going to be burdened with another and more than ever infamous pension bill. This is a

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bill to pension every widow of every man who served 90 days or longer in the Civil War, and to raise the pensions of all widows from \$8 to \$12 a month. Speaker Cannon is back of the bill, which will cost the country about \$12,000,000 a year in addition to the \$151,000,000 it is already spending for pensions, but they say that Mr. Cannon thinks it will help him to gain the Republican presidential nomination and as he does not have to pay the bill he considers it cheap at the price. Of course most of the real widows of the veterans are dead that is women who were the wives of veterans during the war, but this bill gives pensions to all that host of young women, many of them of not too enviable reputations, who have married old soldiers many years their senior in order to secure the old mens' pensions after their death.

Mr. Bryan has declared in favor of the guarantee of all deposits in national banks, these to be secured by a sort of insurance fund to be accumulated by a tax on all deposits to be paid into the national treasury. The Democrats in both houses of Congress favor this scheme and an earnest effort will be made to add it as an amendment to the Aldrich bill, but as the bankers are opposed to it it will probably fail.

The Secretary of War has issued a general order creating a Division of Militia in the War Department. This division will have charge of all the relations of the militia to the regular army, such as joint maneuvers, etc. It is to be in charge of Colonel E. M. Weaver who is known to many national guardsmen as the officer who had charge of the joint maneuvers of the militia and the Coast Defense Artillery, last summer. Hitherto, Colonel Weaver has been assistant Chief of Artillery.

If Democrats quarrel often it takes Republicans to quarrel bitterly. The spectacle of Senator Foraker denouncing the President, of a Republican Representative denouncing Mr. Foraker and of the President putting the Senator from Ohio in the already over-crowded Ananias Club are distinctly Republican and are typical of the brotherly love which at present characterizes the Republican party.

Bloomsburg Souvenir Books, 48 half tone pictures, 25 cents, at the COLUMBIAN office.

Nobody Wants it.

Office of Prothonotary in Schuylkill County Goes Begging.

No candidate has filed a petition on either ticket for the nomination for the office of prothonotary in Schuylkill county and nobody seems to want the office on account of the meager compensation connected with it. The naturalization law, recently passed by congress, has cut the fees of the office almost in half and after paying the two deputies needed to conduct the office the next prothonotary will have less than \$3,000 a year for himself. As it costs as much to campaign for this office as any other county job, the candidates are evidently scared off.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.

What Liquor Costs.

There Was An Increased Consumption of Beer and Spirits in 1907.

The saying that figures can't lie is so familiar as to be trite—together with its corollary that liars can figure. It is, however, manifest that false deductions may be reached by glancing superficially even at figures which are authentic. Thus the statement is put out by the Federal Commission of Internal Revenue showing that during the past fiscal year the American people consume 160,000,000 more gallons of beer than in any preceding twelve months, and that their purchases of distilled spirits were also larger by more than seven million gallons than for the year ending June 30, 1905. The first and most natural thought suggested by this showing is that drunkenness must be on the increase. Yet as a matter of plain facts, nearly all intelligent observers will agree that the contrary is the case. It is always to be remembered that the population of the United States is rapidly growing—especially since we have acquired the habit of taking within our gates a million or so immigrants yearly. That alone would account largely for the reported increase in the consumption of moderately or strongly alcoholic beverages. But without attempting to minimize the evils wrought by the excessive use of intoxicants, it is obvious that the so-called "temperance question" is being gradually and on the whole effectually, dealt with by public sentiment. Total abstinence on the part of their employees is now required by numerous railroad corporations; in most forms of business the knowledge that any responsible worker falls into even occasional inebriety is deemed cause for his dismissal; the intoxication which in the "good old days" was not regarded as seriously marring the standing of a "gentleman" is now under the ban in all decent society. Although the national drink bill may still be a good deal too big, drunkenness is assuredly far less prevalent than it was even a single generation ago.

Facts of Interest.

A recent visit of continental royalty to London cost King Edward \$250,000.

A letter addressed to "The man who wears the tallest hat in Bristol," has been correctly delivered in that English city.

It is estimated that the Kafirs in the diamond mines at Kimberley, South Africa, steal \$1,250,000 worth of diamonds in a year.

As a result of recent accidents to various navies the British warships will have their magazines coiled with refrigerating machinery.

The rice flour cracker of China is by far the whitest biscuit product in the world. In comparison with it the whitest American biscuit looks dingy.

Herr Mauser has invented what he considers an improvement on his well-known rifle by which it reloads itself automatically from a cartridge chamber.

A portable army outfit for water sterilizing was turned over to the United States government in August. It has a capacity under test of 400 gallons of water per hour.

It is estimated that there are 2,500,000 dogs in Great Britain.

The output of all the vineyards of the world is estimated to be 3,554,416,000 gallons.

Mexicans resemble the Japanese in that the vast majority of them eat no butter of any kind.

Annie Louise Cary, the greatest of American contraltos during her operatic career, has just passed the sixty-fifth anniversary of her birthday.

The second of its kind in the country is the picturesque temple of worship which 7,000 Greeks at Lowell, Mass., have built, it being a \$100,000 structure with a brilliant golden dome and two golden turrets.

That the St. Louis balloon carnival and recent demonstrations abroad have shown that dirigible balloons are indispensable to the army is the belief of Major Edgar Russell, temporarily in charge of the Signal Corps. It is said that for this reason Secretary Taft's report will ask Congress to appropriate a substantial sum for beginning the construction of the United States' aerial fleet.

Does a Cat Bring Bad Luck?

There is no locality in the world which is above attaching some superstition to the poor old cat. Man, whatever his color or creed or condition, seems unable to prevent himself from believing that the feline is a lucky or unlucky object.

These superstitions go back as far as history. In Egypt, for instance, even in its remotest days, the cat was an object of veneration. Temples were erected to it and sacrifices made in its honor. When the household cat died every member of the household was required to shave off his or her eyebrows. For thousands of years this idolization of the feline continued. Even at the time of the invasion of the Persian King, Cambyses, it is related that the victory was won by him in his various battles because his soldiers drove cats in front of them. The Egyptians, fearful of harming the animals, practically ran away.

In modern times, while there is nothing akin to worship, there are some very curious ideas as to the influence the cat casts upon affairs of the human life.

In Massachusetts it "brings good luck" to throw a dead black cat over the left shoulder and turn around twice.

In Alabama the spirit of an old maid after death takes possession of some black cat. In the same State to cut off the end of a black cat's tail and bury it under the doorstep is to keep sickness out of the family.

In Iowa is found the superstition that if a farmer kills a cat some of his stock will die.

In Canada, Michigan and eastern Kansas a cat of three colors brings luck and in the last named place is regarded as a protection against fires. A "smutty" nosed cat brings wealth to its owner.

"Up in Maine" it means poverty to own a white cat.

In Ohio, if a neighbor's cat comes listening around your house it means news-carrying and you may know that the neighbors are gossiping about you.

In Labrador it means visitors when the cat scratches the door post.

The cat also runs a weather bureau.

A cat "bawling" is a sign of rain in Newfoundland.

A cat eating grass indicates rain in Maine, Michigan and Massachusetts.

In Alabama a cat washing its face means rain. In New England this statement is limited to abutions on the part of the cat before breakfast or in the parlor.

That putting a coal black cat under a bushel measure when it is raining will make the rain stop is a belief entertained in Maryland.

It is a general belief that a cat should never be left alone with a sleeping child, as the cat "may suck the child's breath."

In Ohio is found the belief that playing with a cat will make a child stupid.

In New England it is regarded as unsafe to have a cat in the room during a thunderstorm.

In Maine it is believed that in the tip of every cat's tail are three hairs of the devil—which accounts for the cat's disposition to prowl.

Dr. Miller's Anti-Pain Pills relieve pain.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Asa Yorks, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, appointed an Auditor by the Orphans' Court of Columbia county, on exceptions to the second and final account of Asa Yorks, late of said county, deceased; and also to make distribution of the estate in the hands of his Executors, will sit to perform the duties of his appointment, at his office in the town of Bloomsburg, on Thursday, February 20th, 1908, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when and where all persons having claims against the estate, or interest therein, must appear and present the same, or be forever debarred from coming in on the said fund. JOHN G. FREEZE, Auditor.

Fred Ikeler, Att'y for Executors. A. L. Fritz for the Heirs. Wm. Chrisman for Exceptions. 1-16-ta

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