

EARLY in January next the Hon. Wm. McKinley will find himself in a rather extraordinary situation. He will be out of office.

ON Tuesday, the first working day of congress, bills for public buildings amounting to \$3,550,000 were introduced in the house, and others amounting to \$4,000,000 in the senate. As in no cases here reckoned the bills duplicated, we have a record of big sums struck for in this opening raid.

A CORNER in camphor is now being worked and prices have been set up to unusual figures. It happens that Japan has secured control of all the camphor producing lands by acquiring Formosa, just as it has come into enlarged use for the manufacture of explosives. Coincidentally, the "nitrate king" and others have cornered the visible supply.

JOHN BARDSLEY, late city treasurer of Philadelphia, a high priest in the G. O. P., until enforced retirement in the Eastern penitentiary about five years ago, wants a pardon and although he has about ten years yet to serve he is very likely to get what he wants. The elections are over, there is a Republican governor, the Pardon Board is Republican, and as Bardsley never peached on his confederates who are still what Bardsley was, "men of influence in the G. O. P.," why, as a matter of course, Mr. Bardsley will be pardoned.

In an elaborately trimmed coffin, with silver name-plate and all, a fox terrier named Sport was buried in New York on Wednesday in Woodlawn Cemetery like a human being. The dog was a pet in the family of Mrs. Ida Hopper, of 109 West Sixty-Eighth street. It was reported that Sport had been unhappy some time, and that he leaped from the roof with suicidal intent. Mrs. Hopper gave the undertaker full power to select trimmings for the coffin, and ordered a plate bearing the dog's name to be placed on the lid. The undertaker was paid \$50 for burying Sport.

An awkward situation is brought about in the public schools of Philadelphia by the compulsory education law. There is such a deficiency of school houses in that city that at least ten thousand children are insufficiently accommodated. The city funds are so largely absorbed by the political ringsters that there is not enough left to provide adequate facilities for the schools. In this dilemma, in which a large percentage of the children can't find room in the school house, a Republican legislature passes a law compelling all the children to be sent to school under severe penalty if the law is not observed. This situation will prove rather embarrassing.

Do the workmen ever stop to think that their condition would be very much better if the highly protected Pennsylvania manufacturers and mill owners had not believed in and practiced free trade in labor? These manufacturers, while demanding protection for their product, were not averse to importing cheap foreign labor out of employment. Fifteen years have made a big change in the labor market of the country, and the American workmen should have no difficulty in discovering that while the protected manufacturers have grown rich by the employment of cheap labor the American workman has grown poorer. The friends of a home market are not the friends of home labor.

The suggestion of Ex-Governor Flower, of New York, that the people who have comparatively small amounts of gold hoarded away should bring it out and sell it to the government has borne some fruit. The New York sub-treasury reports having received \$188,835 from these sources during last week. Probably when all the other agencies have been heard from it will be found that the amount of hidden gold called out has reached nearly or quite half a million, and, while this is not much in itself, it is a large sum to be secured by the small amount of notoriety the scheme has had, and an earnest of the readiness with which the people would respond to a formal appeal by the treasury for this purpose.

The author of the Wilson tariff bill, Postmaster General Wilson, said to an interviewer on Monday: "Mr. Reed's speech is a deliberate admission that the legislation of the last congress is undisturbed will work out a restoration of prosperity to the country."

"That legislation was the repeal of all the important acts of his former congress, with a single exception, from which acts have followed in quick succession most of the distress and troubles of the past three years."

"The fifty-first congress gave us the Sherman bill, which disordered our finances and brought on the panic; the McKinley bill, which rapidly cut down revenue below expenditures, and but for the use of a trust fund deposited by the banks, amounting to nearly sixty millions, would have made a deficit before the end of the Harrison administration. It gave us a permanent scale of higher expenditures and came near giving us a force bill."

"We repealed the Sherman and the McKinley bill, did away with federal election laws and cut down expenses as far it was possible to do it."

"Now come the practical admission of the highest official in the Republican party that the country needs merely rest to recuperate under our legislation. 'It confesses that the existing tariff if left alone will produce ample revenues, and does not hurt one industry.'"

OWING to the fact that many magistrates before whom pension vouchers are executed have been in the habit of forwarding such vouchers to the pension agent for payment enclosed in envelopes which do not have the proper amount of postage thereon, thus putting the pension agents to the trouble and expense of paying the over due postage before such packages can be delivered, it has become necessary for the pension department to adopt a stringent rule for the collection of such abuses. Pension agents have therefore been instructed by the department at Washington to hereafter refuse payment of such deficient postage and to allow all such packages to go to the dead letter office.

Speaking upon this subject Captain Skinner the pension agent at Pittsburg says: "This abuse has grown to such proportions that I have been obliged to pay as much as three dollars in one month on account of such deficient postage. The fault is not with the pensioners who mail their own vouchers because a single letter stamp is always sufficient for the transmission of a single voucher, but with certain magistrates and claim agents who are in the habit of transmitting each quarter a large package of vouchers with a single postage stamp thereon, evidently expecting that the pension agent will pay the deficient postage rather than delay payment to the pensioners. We have sought to correct these petty abuses by saving the envelopes and returning them to the senders thereof, but this course has had little effect in stopping what might be called 'a system of petty swindling,' because we are informed that many of these magistrates collect two cents for postage from every pensioner whose voucher they execute and then fail to use such stamps for the purpose intended. In view, therefore, of this recent order from the pension bureau at Washington I trust that all pensioners and magistrates in the district may pay close attention to this matter of postage in the future. If they do not they may expect great delay in transmission of checks, because all such packages deficient in postage will surely go to the dead letter office."

AFTER all, says the Harrisburg Patriot, why shouldn't the advice of Congressmen Hicks and Mahon be followed and that of Speaker Reed be set aside? If the Wilson tariff law involved the country in its financial troubles—and the Republicans won upon that declaration—why shouldn't a Republican congress frame a bill that the Republicans believe would abrogate the provisions of that law and provide a plan that will restore and perpetuate prosperity?

It is not enough to say that a Democratic president would veto such a bill. Perhaps he would. Indeed he certainly would, for he insists that what the Republicans call "a prosperity tariff" is solely "a customs revenue system designed for the protection and benefit of favored classes at the expense of the great mass of our countrymen." But the anticipation of senatorial disapproval or presidential rebuke did not deter the Democrats from outlining and con tending for a better revenue policy when they held but a single branch of the government. A Democratic house framed its bill, passed it and went to the country for approval. Why should not a Republican house and a Republican senate—just what they are to expect if they elect a Republican president?

Congressmen Hicks and Mahon may not have the political shrewdness of Speaker Reed but they have the courage of their protection convictions. They believe the Republican party was put in power in the house to revise the tariff and they think the body to which they belong ought to keep its compact regardless of the hindrances a Democratic executive may throw in their way. Aren't they right and Reed wrong?

HOLMES, the multi-murderer, who was convicted in Philadelphia last week, was on Saturday refused a new trial and Judge Arnold at once sentenced him to death. He is charged with twenty-three murders and is one of the most desperate and blood-thirsty criminals on record if guilty of only half of the crimes charged. Among his victims were Benjamin F. Pitzel and three children; Julia Connor, wife of his bookkeeper and daughter, Pearl; Emeline C. Cigrand, his stenographer; Robert E. Phelps, Emily Van Tassel, Minnie and Nana Williams. Still other persons who have from time to time been reported to be missing are believed to have been victims of Holmes. In all, Holmes has been charged with the murder of twenty-three persons. He was an insurance agent and would first insure their lives in his favor and then kill them.

SILVER CONFERENCE A FAILURE. The fifty-fourth session of congress assembled Monday last. Three hundred and fifty-six members will constitute a full house—one hundred and sixty seven of whom will be new men—two hundred and forty-four Republicans, one hundred and four Democrats, six Populists, and two with no particular political classification. In the senate there will be forty-two Republicans, forty-one Democrats, and five Populists. The house was organized with Thomas B. Reed in the speaker's chair. If the two Populists act with the Republicans in the senate, and it is probable that many at least will so act, the Republicans will also organize that body.

WITH \$70,000 in precious stones on his person, Anton Hodenpfl, a New York diamond merchant, fell from a wagon at Peoria, Ill., and soon died.

Washington Letter.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 30, 1895.—President Cleveland has completed his annual message to congress and to-day that interesting document was submitted to the cabinet and discussed. Its contents, of course, remain secret until it goes to congress, which will probably not be until next Tuesday, as the session of the house on Monday will be taken up by the election of speaker and the other officers of that body. Mr. Reed must expect to be more Czar-like than ever in his role over the Republicans of the house, if he really thinks he can prevent all legislation excepting that which has the approval of his own party, as those friendly to him and his aspirations for the Republican presidential nomination say he does. Other candidates for that nomination have followers in the house, who have nothing to say about that. In this connection a suggestion has been made by a business man of prominence, which might be turned to good account by President Cleveland. It is that he should appoint a commission to investigate the whole history of the escape of the burglars from Ludlow street jail and the circumstances leading up thereto. The district attorney has obtained the confession of a man who aided and abetted in the escape of the prisoners. This man—Bill Vosburg, the notorious bank thief—in order to save himself from the indictment found against him last August, alleging carelessness and incompetency in allowing the three postoffice burglars—Kiloran, Russell and Allen—to escape from Ludlow street jail, began to-day.

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A VANDERBILT PALACE. New York, December 1.—The work on George W. Vanderbilt's estate near Asheville, N. C., is taking a new turn. The mansion that breaks all records for residences in this country, is reported to be nearly finished. The mansion stands on a spot once occupied by a mountain peak. Mr. Vanderbilt had the peak cut off and carried away. In order to expedite the construction of his castle a plank was put up that turned out 60,000 bricks and 2,000 flower pots a day, the latter to be used in the 75 acre plot set aside for green houses and nurseries. A \$50,000 car was used in the work, and the transfer of materials and this line will be torn up when the work is done.

There is a deer park of 3,000 acres, and extensive trout ponds. The greatest curiosity of the estate, however, is the fact that right in the center of it stands the shanty of a colored man who refused to sell his nine acres to the millionaire. The estate, it is estimated, will cost Mr. Vanderbilt about \$5,000,000. The annual outlay, of course, will be enormous.

THE KOREAN KING'S SON COMING. Washington, D. C., December 3.—Mail advices from Korea confirm the cable announcement that Prince Ouyé Wha, the second son of the King, is now on his way to this country on a special mission to thank President Cleveland for the interest the United States has manifested in the independence of the Hermit Kingdom. The Prince is attended by Yoon Cho Ho, retired vice president of the Foreign Affairs Office at Seoul, who was for twelve years an exile in this country. The Prince is expected here in two or three weeks, and will probably spend a month in Washington, after which he will go to New York, and thence to Queen Victoria and the Czar.

Prince Ouyé Wha is about nineteen years of age, and is said to be the brightest member of the royal family.

DIED FROM HYDROPHOBIA. Shamokin, December 2.—George Shuey, Jr., aged 30 years, died this morning from hydrophobia. Nine days before he was bitten by a mad dog, but up to Saturday last he felt no ill effects from the wound. On Saturday Mr. Shuey complained of feeling nervous. As the hours passed his nervousness increased and he paced the floor of his wife's room. His wife and two children did all they could to soothe him, but he grew worse. He complained that his flesh felt as though it was being pricked by needles. Towards night he began to bark, snap his teeth and froth at the mouth. By this time Mrs. Shuey had summoned a physician, who, with the aid of four men, tied Shuey down. The unfortunate man rapidly grew worse and went from paroxysm to paroxysm until he died.

SENATOR HILL ANGRY. Minneapolis, December 1.—Senator David B. Hill's lecture tour, in which he was to have made a falling and came to an abrupt end to-day, when the senator closed his business arrangements and returned to New York, with the reason assigned for this action that he had contracted a severe cold while at Duluth, making him adverse to further public speaking at present.

The fact is, however, that the audiences which gathered to listen to him at Milwaukee, St. Paul and Duluth were so meagre that the financial returns were insufficient to pay expenses, and Senator Hill refused to talk for nothing. He lectured last night at Duluth and came to Minneapolis this morning. He was booked for ten lectures altogether.

WILL HUNT FOR THE POLE AGAIN. Kansas City, Mo., December 2.—Professor Duynche, of the Kansas university, said to-day that he had practically decided to make another trip to the Arctic ocean in search of the pole, having received an offer of assistance, but he declines to name the source of the offer. It is supposed the American museum, under whose auspices he joined the Peary expedition, has something to do with the offer. The professor says the insufficiency of the food supply has been the sole cause of the failure of previous expeditions, and that given plenty to eat he will get to the north pole as easily as he got within 800 miles of it. His present plan is to creep around the west coast of Greenland and then make a dash for the pole by sledge or boat.

A WELCOME ESCHER OF '96. The beginning of the new year will have a welcome visitor in the shape of a fresh Atlantic, descriptive of the origin, nature and use of the national tonic and alternative, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, manufactured by the proprietor, J. C. Hostetter, of Pittsburg, Pa. The medicine is prepared by the proprietor, J. C. Hostetter, of Pittsburg, Pa. It is procurable in bottles of 50 cents and 1.00, and is printed in English, German, French, Spanish, Welsh, Norwegian, Holland, Swedish and Bohemian.

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NEWS AND OTHER NOTICES. The Kennebec river at Augusta, Me., froze over Monday for the first time this season.

Ohio coal miners expect another strike over their demand to be paid in cash rather than store orders.

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