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THE WASHINGTON LETTER.

President Roosevelt's interest in Maryland politics is one of several circumstances which have made the campaign in that state of national importance, hardly second to that of the contest in Ohio. For some time there has been a bitter factional struggle among the Maryland republicans, between the Maryland Senator McComas and Representative Madd who quarreled over federal patronage. Many of the republicans are determined that Senator McComas shall not be re-elected and this lack of harmony is liable to be of service to the democrats. The leaders of both factions have had frequent interviews with the president and this gave rise to rumors that he favored first one and then the other faction. He has now made it plain that his interest in the campaign is merely a party one and that he is neither for nor against any of the republican candidates. He has appealed to the leaders to put aside their factional differences and unite to defeat the democrats. It is not known just what effect the president's attempts at harmonizing the party will have, but they have much annoyed Senator Gorman who publicly criticizes President Roosevelt for interference in the state campaign. Mr. Gorman's criticisms may be good politics, but they are not very just as there are plenty of precedents for the president's interference in state politics in the interest of the party. It might also be said that the senator from Maryland is himself interfering in the New York campaign, as he is now in that city aiding Tammany. He is one of the most probable candidates for the democratic nomination for president and many republicans feel that he is the strongest man the democrats can put up. His chances for the nomination are supposed to be in direct proportion to the democratic success in his state and this is another circumstance which makes the Maryland campaign of importance. In addition, the race question which has been made the issue of the campaign, is of special importance to President Roosevelt, as he has done much to make it a factor in present politics. He no doubt feels that a republican victory in Maryland would serve as an endorsement of his attitude toward the negro, and as the state has southern sympathies, such an endorsement would have special weight with the president's northern and western critics of his negro policy. Therefore a republican victory in Maryland would give the president prestige as a party harmonizer, would be a partial endorsement of his attitude toward the negro, and would lessen the power of Senator Gorman as a possible competitor in the presidential campaign.

Senator Hansbrough is preparing a bill along the general lines recommended by the president in his message to the last session of the Fifty-seventh Congress. This measure provides that the desert land act shall be so amended as to prevent the assignman's right before the expiration of the three years from the time of entry. Speaking on the subject of land law revision, the senator said recently: "The facts do not warrant a complete reversal of the existing land laws, although the modifications which I have incorporated in my bill I regard as most important. People who have lived in the West, who have watched the struggles of the poor but energetic settlers in that country contending with the fact that they cannot harvest a money crop under eighteen months from the time they enter upon their land, and that in the meantime they must support their families, cannot but appreciate that the provision whereby a settler can, at the end of fourteen months, borrow cash upon his land, make the final payment and get a clear title on which to base a mortgage, is a wise one, as wise today as when it was enacted by congress. The needy settler who has lived in the community for fourteen months and demonstrated habits of thrift and industry, can always secure from the local bankers the funds with which to commence his claim and enough to live on temporarily, stock his farm, buy a few agricultural implements, etc., and that class of man makes a good citizen. I appreciate that there may be a serious fight in congress this session, over this subject, but I have reason to believe that a majority will support my bill."

OBITUARY

Mrs. Harry S. Mott
The death of Grace Brodhead, wife of Harry S. Mott, at Washington last Friday evening came as a great surprise and shock to her many friends here where she was born and passed her girlhood days. Apparently in the best of health about a month ago, Bright's disease developed and she sank rapidly to the end.

She was a daughter of Hon. Daniel M. and the late Marcia Brodhead Van Anken, and was born Sept. 26, 1859. In 1885 she married Harry S. Mott, and after a brief residence in the west, removed to Washington where they have since resided. She was a vivacious, sprightly woman of most affectionate disposition, a devoted wife, loving mother and a warm and constant friend.

Her husband, two children, Theodosia and Van Wyck, her venerable father, D. M. Van Anken, and one sister, Flora, wife of Wilfred Brodhead, of Bergen county, New Jersey, survive her.

The funeral services, conducted by Rev. E. J. Perot, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, occurred at Brookside Villa, formerly her home, Monday and interment in Milford cemetery.

HOW IT RAINED

Some Figures Which Assist the Imagination to Realize It
Experts figure out that 20,000,000,000 tons of water fell in the Middle States last week. The magnitude of this amount of water is too great for the ordinary mind to comprehend. Let us, therefore, resort to illustration. That one rain would fill 40,799,000 bathtubs.

It would, therefore, supply every inhabitant in the United States with 500 baths.

It would fill 20,000,000,000 hot water bottles.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL NOTES

Dr. Frank Beers of Boshkill was in town yesterday.

Oscar M. Walls of New York spent a few days here this week.

H. L. Canne is building a large addition to The Hermitage.

Miss Bertha Kleinhans of Blooming Grove visited in town this week.

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