

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Visitor of Importance Spends a Day in the House



after the scalps of several of the items in that bill. While Representative Fowler was being repelled by Representative Johnson, Little was playing tag around his father's legs, going in and out between them in most marvelous fashion.

Young Ben interviewed pretty nearly every member of the house. He didn't wait for an introduction, but clambered right into the laps of the country's law makers. From the Democratic side he would hop to the Republican end of the chamber and pull out the watches of his father's dearest political foes, "just to hear the wheels tick." Uncle Joe Cannon contributed to Ben's war chest to the extent of a silver coin and at the end of the day Ben's fists were bulging with nickels, dimes and quarters, which had been pressed upon him by admiring friends.

Representative Mann of Illinois while that statesman was shooting sharply pointed parliamentary arrows at Ben's own father. The little boy cried out from the chamber and Representative Serran Payne as the great tariff expert appeared to be sleeping peacefully at his desk. He rolled upon the middle aisle and forced Representative Ollie James to step over him, while the child himself was unimpaired of the gigantic figure passing over him.

Strange Sounds Come from Smithsonian Building

If you are passing across the front of the Smithsonian Institution at midnight and hear strange cries coming from the Byzantine, Norman or rounded Gothic towers, grotesque battlements, gabled arches and cornices, keep your nerve. The moon may be floating through the southern sky. Now it will be hidden by dense cloud masses and then it will burst through the black mist and cast a silver sheen over the heavens and the earth. Against all this, the long red sandstone towers, the pointed Gothic towers, the battlements, the gables and the cornices, will be submitted. It looks gloomy and lonesome. One almsit feels the damp and stagnant vapor rising from the moat around it, if it most were there.

You can reassure yourself that you are not in the depths of a haunted forest and before some dismal medieval castle by looking northward to catch the glitter of the lights in the post office tower or by listening to the purr and soft rattle of the fountain not far removed from the northwest corner of the building.

The sounds that have stopped you, and it may be, chilled you, come from

IS PROUD OF CANAL

Taft Regards It Largely As the Achievement of His Administration.

WHO PUT IN THE SOLDIERS?

Question for Future Historians to Answer—Splendid Work of Goethals, Gorges, Galliard and Silbert Will Be Rewarded.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington—President Taft's journey to the Panama Canal zone, which will probably be the last extended trip which he will make while president of the United States. Some persons have wondered why Mr. Taft chose this time to go to the isthmus of Panama and have wondered if it might not be that his trip was planned largely for the purpose of taking a rest and having a little enjoyment prior to his separation from the highest office in the land.

The real reason why he is going to the isthmus of Panama is that he wants to assure himself personally as well as he can that "All's well with the isthmus" and that the project is to be left to his successor in office with every assurance, that the present administration has done its duty by it. Mr. Taft is not a man who has any personal interest in the work on the Panama canal. He regards it in a large measure as being the work of his administration, although his presence there does not prevent him, as he said, from acknowledging that the preliminary plans which made it possible were laid by a previous administration.

The president's personal interest in the canal dates back to the time when he was secretary of war, and when civilian engineer after civilian engineer was appointed to the work of building the canal. He has for another. It will be remembered that one of these engineers received a personal verbal castigation from William Howard Taft, that he probably holds in everlasting memory today.

Who Put the Soldiers In?

The canal, it seems to be assured, is going to be a success and the question which the future historian after proper investigation must answer is whether or not the soldiers were digging operations out of the hands of civilians and putting it into the hands of the soldiers. Theodore Roosevelt or William H. Taft?

Col. George W. Goethals virtually has promised that water shall be turned into the canal throughout its entire length in April next. This it is believed will be the beginning of the accomplishment of the canal.

After it was decided to put a soldier in charge, it was Secretary of War Taft who suggested to Theodore Roosevelt that Colonel Goethals be put in charge of the work on the isthmus, but the question which no one has answered yet definitely is whether it was Mr. Taft who insisted that the civilians should get out and the soldiers should get in, or whether it was the suggestion of his chief, Theodore Roosevelt.

Rewards for the Builders.

No one knows yet definitely what reward will be given Colonel Goethals for his great engineering triumph. It is possible that he will be put in charge of the great canal commission which will be responsible for the operations of the canal and for the maintenance. Again it is possible that he may be made a full general of the army, a rank which has been held by only four men in the history of the Government—Washington, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. The most likely reward perhaps is that Colonel Goethals will be made chief of engineers of the United States army, a position which he will hold until the time of his retirement at the age of sixty-four years, which will give him nine years yet of active service.

Among the others to be rewarded for their work on the isthmus will be Col. William C. Gorges, who made the zone inhabitable from a sanitary standpoint; David B. Galliard and William L. Silbert, lieutenant colonels of engineers, who have been charged with the immediate supervision of the work on the Gatun dam and at the Cutlers cut and Silbert were chosen as associates in the canal work by Colonel Goethals.

In just what form congress will show its appreciation of the work of Goethals and Silbert is not known, but it is possible they may be promoted to the rank of brigadier general when vacancies in that rank shall occur.

Tariff Revision Prospects.

Before very long Representative Woodrow Wilson will be before the committee on ways and means and his Democratic colleagues of that body, probably will have a full understanding of the views of President-elect Woodrow Wilson on the subject of tariff revision. Mr. Wilson will confer with Mr. Wilson and will in turn impart the information received to his committee colleagues.

During the campaign Woodrow Wilson said that he wanted the tariff revised in such a way that business would not be disturbed. The Democratic platform also contains a statement as to the amount of cutting which can be done in the schedules and yet avoid "scaring business." The Democrats here understand that the president-elect will make a close study of the bills which were put through the house at the last session under the supervision of Mr. Underwood and that

changes in these bills will depend upon the results of conferences between the incoming president and the congressional leaders of his party.

Views Vary in the Party.

To give an idea of how the Democrats vary their views of the best way to approach revision, it might be said that one Democratic member, Mr. Doremus of Detroit, has been bold enough to tell his colleagues that the result of the recent election does not prove that the majority of the people of the United States desire deep cuts into the body of the rates.

There are views expressed just about those of Mr. Doremus. Some of the Democratic party leaders want the revision to be "as deep as a well" and they say that the results will in no wise be disastrous to business and that the only thing which keeps the party timorous on the subject is the assertion of the opposition that a tariff for revenue only will mean business disaster and the defeat of the Democracy at the next election. The radical revision Democrats tell their brethren that the last thing to pay attention to is the advice of the agents of men who want to see triumphant Democracy, become defeated Democracy.

May Not Resemble Former Bills.

Few Republicans and few Progressive Republicans in Washington believe apparently that the next Democratic tariff bills will bear any close resemblance to those last suggested by the ways and means committee at the last session. Some of the Democrats hold the views of the opposition in this matter, although they content themselves with saying that the wisdom of the ways and means committee can be trusted.

At the last session the Democratic tariff bills which passed the house were sanctioned by the senate only after their form had been changed. The compromise in the senate was effected by a combination of the Democrats and some of the Progressive Republicans who are known as moderate protectionists. If the Republican bill had not been forthcoming the bills which Mr. Underwood's committee framed and which the government never would have reached the passage stage in the senate.

President Taft interposed his veto of the Democratic-Progressive Republican measures of the last session and there are some critics of the congressional action who say that the bills would not have been passed unless it was known that the president was certain to interpose his veto. At the extra session which Mr. Wilson will call for the purpose of revising the tariff, the customs bills which are passed are almost certain to be framed and passed by the government.

At the last session the house of representatives passed a bill framed by Representative Asbury F. Lester of South Carolina which has for its object what may be called a tariff for the protection of the agricultural interests of the United States. In congress agriculture has been spoken of as the "greatest profession," and the idea of the bill is to combine a general appropriation with an equal appropriation from each state which will go for the purpose of paying agricultural demonstrators who will go to the different farms in the allotted territory to give to the farmer the benefit of experience and advice in the matter of intensive agriculture.

The Lever bill is now before the senate, and it is possible it is signed by the president, as it probably will, it will virtually at once become a law. If, however, the senate fails to pass it at this session the measure will fall and will not be begun all over again if it is the intention of the promoters to continue their work in its behalf. All bills die when a congress ends, and this congress ends March 3 next.

Farmers Should Study Bill.

The Lever bill has been mentioned in these dispatches prior to this. There has been a good deal of interest in the measure, but it is suggested to the agriculturists of the country that they get copies of the bill, study it and find out if it meets with their approval in all its details. Congress is apt to pass a bill which is backed by letters of approval and left helpless throughout the long night to suffer from the cold and the pain of her injuries. All this made up the terrible experience of Mrs. Barber, eighty-three years of age, who lives alone on a small farm a mile and a half south of this village.

Detroit—Judge Connelly collected \$41 in fines at the ordinance session of recorder's court. Thirteen who speeded their autos were fined at the rate of \$1 for each mile the motorist's automobile speedometer registered when he pursued the several cars. A number of short measure provision dealers were assessed at the rate of \$1 for each quart their measures lacked of the standard requirement.

Kalamazoo—Merchants, saloonkeepers and hotels during the last week have been asked to contribute hundreds of dollars by a number of farmers who have been operating in Kalamazoo. Using the name of Charles Williams, checks were floated on a number of stores. Later the name of C. L. Lewis was signed to a number of worthless checks. Deputies who are investigating, say they have secured information from the stores to whom they have been committing the wholesale forgeries, but have not been able to locate them.

MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS

Marquette—Former Cashier Elven T. Larson, one of the wreckers of the First National bank at Ironwood some four years ago, and who was convicted in federal court here on a charge of violating the banking laws, after a prolonged and hard-fought trial, has been released on parole from the Detroit house of correction, to which he was sentenced for a term of seven years. Larson was let out of prison after having served more than one-third of his term. He will leave the state. His destination will probably be Utah, where it is said a prominent mining man will assist him in getting on his feet.

Lansing—The state board of auditors tabled the request of the tax commission and the geological department for a mining engineer to appear at the next session of the commission. The two departments have agreed upon E. R. Hamilton for the place, but they had no authority to fix a salary. The board tabled the request, but is investigating the merits, because they thought it ought to come under the jurisdiction of the new board.

Albion—Robert Manning, a veteran of the Civil war who lived alone here for many years, was found dead in his home. He was only discovered when his dog, which lives near the door, missed the smelt from his chimney. Deputy Sheriff Mallory could hardly make his way into Manning's room on account of an eccentric practice he had of barricading all the doors with tables and chairs. Death was from natural causes.

Grand Rapids—By eating candy which had been colored with poisonous dye, Mrs. Ryn Mulder, her two daughters, Lucy and Anna, six and two years old, her infant child, newly born, and her nurse, Mrs. W. Carney, are critically ill. The board of health has begun a city-wide search for all candy that contains aniline dye as coloring matter.

Lansing—A company was formed to manufacture a beet harvesting machine, the Michigan Beet Harvester company of Saginaw having filed articles with incorporation with the secretary of state. It is claimed the new machine will revolutionize the sugar beet industry, as it will be a big labor saver.

Lansing—Governor Osborn has granted a parole to Charles B. Cook, an aged resident of Gratiot county serving 90 days in the county jail for assault and battery. Cook, who is seventy-four years of age, is in poor health. The circuit judge who sentenced him urged executive clemency.

Ann Arbor—A young man about twenty-five years old, good looking and well dressed, made money in a few minutes by passing a bad check at the Chagran jewelry store for \$2. The check bore the signature of Ed A. Monroe. A few minutes later he passed a check for \$7 on the E. C. Edifice drug store. It is feared he may have rapped a considerable amount before leaving the town.

Jackson—Mrs. Emma Smith, formerly of Mt. Pleasant was brought into police court on a charge of shoplifting, it being alleged that she took a 10-cent pocketbook from a counter in a local five and ten-cent store. Mrs. Smith, who is the mother of ten children, told a pathetic story of poverty which touched the heart of the police judge and she was released.

Macgreg—All penny-in-the-slot machines and devices of every nature will be barred from this county and city after January 1. This action followed numerous complaints from not only adults, but children, it is said, were allowed to manipulate the devices.

Plymouth—Bound, festered, tied securely in a chair and forced by threats against her life to disclose where she had \$600 in gold hidden in the house then released and left helpless throughout the long night to suffer from the cold and the pain of her injuries. All this made up the terrible experience of Mrs. Barber, eighty-three years of age, who lives alone on a small farm a mile and a half south of this village.

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PREPARING FOR NEW SETTLERS

EXTENDING THE AGRICULTURAL AREA IN WESTERN CANADA.

For sometime past the Canadian government has had surveys at work plotting new areas for the accommodation of the largely increasing number of settlers coming in to occupy the agricultural districts of the three prairie provinces. There were those connected with the work of securing settlers for western Canada who last spring prophesied that there would be as many as 175,000 new settlers from the United States to Canada during the present year, and there were those who doubted that the previous year's figures of 132,000 could be increased. Recent computation made by the officials of the immigration branch at Ottawa show that the largest estimates made by officials will be beaten and that the 200,000 mark from the United States will be reached. As great an increase will be shown in the figures of those who are immigrating from other countries this year. The results of the year's work in Canadian immigration will give upward of a total of 200,000 souls.

But this is not to be wondered at when it is realized what is offering in the three prairie provinces and also in the coast province of British Columbia, which is always being steadily and successfully, too, for a certain class of settler, the settler who wishes to go into mixed farming or fruit raising. When the central portion of this province is opened up by the railway now being constructed there will be large areas of splendid land available for the settler.

Reference has frequently been made of late by those interested in developing the American west to the large numbers who are going to Canada, but officials in some of the railways being amongst the number to give the facts are critical. "The more these facts become known the more will people seek the reasons and these are best given when one reads what prominent people say of it. What the friends think of it and what his friends say of it. James A. Flaherty, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, was in western Canada a short time ago. He says:

"If I were a young man I would sell out my interests in less than two months and come right to the Canadian Northwest, where so many opportunities abound."—advertisement.

Patriotism.

A quaint little incident is related by a French war correspondent, which sheds light on the enthusiasm and nervousness which the soldiers had entered upon their war with Turkey. When the mobilization orders reached the little town of Chalkis, all owners of horses and mules hastened to comply, but there were no soldiers to catch the animals to Athens, where they were urgently needed, the military being already on the frontier. Thereupon the mayor of Chalkis set an example, which was followed by two or three of the oldest lawyers, school teachers, doctors and hotel keepers. All these notable and learned men put their dignity on one side and turned themselves for the moment into greasers and stable lads. After two days' journeying they gravely marched in procession through the principal streets of Athens, leading their beasts, and nobody laughed, and, indeed, there was no reason to do.

Effective Personalities.

When you bring yourself real life how many different effective personalities there are in the world, you will have your own troubles trying to pick out the wrong kind.

Effective Personalities.

One hearing awkward speech at an evening party last Friday. It was one of those things a fellow says before he thinks and then wishes he hadn't. One of the gentlemen retired with a small group to the smoking room and didn't return until the lady he was escorting grew anxious about him.

Didn't Mean to Say It.

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Sound.

Hub (angrily)—Here! What do you mean by waking me out of a sound sleep?
Wife—Because the sound was too distressing.—Boston Transcript.

Probably the Truth.

Bobbie's sarcasm was unattended. The visitor, "talking down" to the child, ventured, remarked:
"And you know, my father was in the Civil war."
"So was my grandfather," replied Bobby, jealous of the family honor.
"But my father, dear, was captured."
"Gee!" cried Bobby, quite unimpressed and even scornful, "why did he let himself be caught by the enemy? My grandfather could run too fast for that!"

Cigarette Smoking Under Ban of Censorship



Mr. John B. Henderson, who is the arbiter of dancing and dancers in Washington, has always been opposed to the practice. It is said she requested a fair smoker to go outside.

Lady Alan Johnson, daughter of Mrs. James Picot, is one of the defenders of the weed, and smokes when and wherever it strikes her fancy. She even pulled her hair while riding in an automobile from one place to another.

Lady Johnson struck the first note in the battle some time ago, when she offered her cigarettes to other guests at a luncheon. The hostess was a crusader, and is said to have requested Lady Johnson, who happened to be the guest of honor, not to smoke in her house.

Mrs. Frank MacVeagh, who has recently completed her million-dollar palace on Sixteenth street, has provided little balconies from her ball room windows for the men to smoke between dances. If the lady guests wish to smoke they have to go outside.

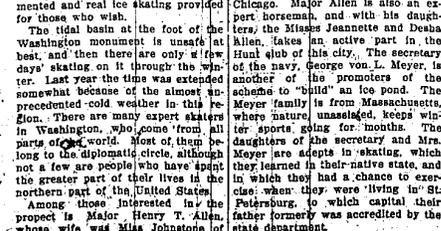
Miss Helen Taft, at a recent luncheon, displayed her displeasure openly when cigarettes were passed.

Ice Skating a Real Fad in Society at Capital

THAT part of Washington society which delights in outdoor winter sports has started a movement to discuss the ways and means of promoting ice skating. To that end invitations were sent out by a committee of interested men and women for a meeting which was held in the banquet hall of one of the large hotels. It is hoped the feeble efforts of "Jack Frost" in Washington may be augmented and real ice skating provided for those who wish.

The tidal basin at the foot of the Washington monument is unsafe at best, and there are only about five days skating on it through the winter. Last year the time was extended somewhat because of the almost unprecedented cold weather in that city. There are many expert skaters in Washington, who come from all parts of the world. Most of them belong to the diplomatic corps, although not a few are people who have left the greater part of their lives in the northern part of the United States.

Among those interested in the project is Major Henry T. Allen, whose wife was Miss Johnston of



Chicago. Major Allen is also an expert horseman, and with his daughters, the Misses Jeannette and Desha Allen, stays not seldomly at the Hotel Hub of his city. The secretary of the navy, George von L. Meyer, is another of the promoters of the scheme to "build an ice pond." The United States has many manufacturers where nature, unassisted, keeps winter sports going for months. The daughters of the secretary and Mrs. Meyer are adepts in skating, which they learned in their native state, and in which they had a chance to excel when they were living in St. Petersburg, to which capital their father, General Meyer, was accredited by the state department.