

HIS TOUGHEST JOB

STATE PORTFOLIO FURNISHES MCKINLEY A PROBLEM.

Water Wellman Describes What Kind of Man is Required for That Place and Undertakes to Say That in All the Republican Party No One Yet Suggested in All Respects Fills the Bill—Reed Would, Harrison Shouldn't and Sherman and Allison Couldn't—White or Tracy, Maybe.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 26.—Water Wellman writes to the Times-Herald as follows: The most difficult problem which President-elect McKinley has to solve in the formation of his ministry is to find a man suitable in every way for the state department portfolio. It is a remarkable fact that there is not in the Republican party today one man who meets all the requirements of this post. According to the tradition, an incoming president should choose for his secretary of foreign affairs the most conspicuous, or at least one of the most conspicuous, of his rivals for the nomination. If this tradition is not followed, then the choice should be made upon a party leader of undoubted ability and prominent service. In addition to these requirements the secretary of state should be a man who has had contact with diplomacy and executive work, who knows international law and the history of nations, and who is in learning, in brain power, in tact, in force of character, and in judgment, in the front rank of public men. Again, he should have a certain temperamental fitness for the work and for the most intimate relations with his chief. It is not enough that he be a man of probity, of high ability—he must be fitted to work side by side, day by day, with the president himself, without danger of friction or jealousy. Where in the ranks of the leading Republicans today will President-elect McKinley find such a man?

AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

It is not a matter of thousands, who think themselves ill, that they are not afflicted with any disease, but that the system simply needs cleansing, is to bring comfort home to their hearts, as of the state department he would have a new trade to learn. Mr. Allison refused a cabinet appointment under Garfield and again under Harrison, and his friends say he will not accept one under McKinley. He can stay in the senate as long as he likes, and his position there is well-nigh ideal. If neither Sherman nor Allison is to be Mr. McKinley's secretary of state, who then? The only one in the present cabinet who may turn to Andrew D. White or to ex-Secretary B. F. Tracy. In either of these the new administration would secure the services of a man fit in every particular to cope with the great responsibilities of the post.

AMERICAN COMMON SENSE

Of Which Judge Hornblower Possesses His Share. New York, Nov. 26.—The 112th anniversary of the evacuation of New York by the British was celebrated by the New York Historical Society at the Waldorf-Astoria on Monday night. The principal speaker was William B. Hornblower, who responded to the toast "American Common Sense."

THREE IMPORTANT POSTS

The importance of a wise selection for this post cannot be overestimated, and I have abundant reason to believe that the president-elect is justly giving the most earnest thought to it than to any other feature of his administration. During the next four years the foreign relations of our government will be complicated, delicate and often critical. It is not reports to the contrary, there is no reason to doubt that the new administration will be friendly to the annexation of Hawaii if the people of the islands express a desire to become a part of the United States. Our relations with Spain are sure to be more or less critical for a long time to come, and a wise head and a strong will in the state department the incoming president needs and must have. The state portfolio is the most difficult of all to fill satisfactorily. In truth, it is the treasury, and perhaps the attorney generalship, are the really important cabinet posts, for the others require only good executive ability, and such ability is abundant among the public men of this country. The war department, the navy department and the postoffice department will almost run themselves, so well they are organized, and so efficient is the trained staff of the permanent officials.

REED AND HARRISON.

The secretary of state must needs be closer to the president than any other cabinet officer. While other secretaries can do go along with the work of their departments without consultation with the president, except for a few moments on cabinet days, the secretary of state finds it necessary to go to the White House for an hour or more every day. There must be something more in the relations between the president and his secretary of foreign affairs than official friendliness, if they are to work well together. There must be confidence, with perfect frankness and compatibility of temperament. The secretary of state must be as true as steel to his chief. If one will closely analyze the character of the two most conspicuous and certainly the ablest of the Republicans who have been suggested for secretary of state—ex-President Harrison and Speaker Reed—he will find abundant reason why neither of them should promise well in the McKinley cabinet. In saying this, one says nothing to the disparagement of either of them. Either would be almost ideal so far as ability and force of character and efficiency in experience go, but it happens, unfortunately, that in temper and training neither could give assurance of harmonious and successful co-operation with the president. Not through any lack of respect or admiration for the ex-president or the speaker, nor from any doubt as to their ability, but wholly through recognition of the obvious facts, Major McKinley has definitely determined not to select either of these gentlemen to be secretary of state.

NO QUARREL WITH REED.

Neither General Harrison nor Speaker Reed wants the place and it is not likely either would accept it were it offered. In some quarters there is a belief that it is the duty of the president-elect to pay respect to the tradition and offer the secretaryship of state to Mr. Reed, but Major McKinley does not believe in meaningless performances, and it is well known that Mr. Reed does not want and does not expect an offer of that sort to be made him. Many stories of impending quarrels between the new president and the speaker are in circulation, but there is no warrant for them. The two men are good friends, and though Mr. Reed has a habit of making sharp remarks of everyone and is a small respecter of persons of titles, he does not mean anything thereby. There is no reason to expect anything but cordial co-operation between the Republican president and speaker.

SHERMAN AND ALLISON.

It is understood that Senator Sherman and Senator Allison are under consideration for secretary of state. The Ohio senator will probably be asked to take the office, but he is not likely to accept. If the truth must be told, Mr. Sherman is well aware that he is too well advanced in years to take a post of which he would be compelled to measure intellectual sword with the keenest man in the world. In any other department of the government even an old man can get along very well if his experience and judgment are good, but as secretary of

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A life in this swamp is deemed by the Spaniards to be as 75 per cent of those stationed there find their way to the hospital, suffering from colds, dysentery, malaria, or the dreaded yellow fever. The sentinels are supposed to exercise great vigilance, but the Cubans cross here at their pleasure.

CROSSING THE SWAMP.

Passing the trocha in the swamp is not so dangerous as it is disagreeable. The insurgents are generally from one to four days in crossing, and have to wade through mud, slime and water up to their waists for more than twelve miles. A misstep causes them to sink to the neck. Arriving near the platform, an opportunity is waited for until a quick dash is made while the sentinel is at the further end of the beat. About half a minute is consumed in swimming the ditch and jumping over or diving under the wire. The latter is more often hit by a bullet is entertained by the Cubans, as the Spaniards are famed for bad shooting. The jungle on the other side once reached there is no fear of pursuit, as the Spaniards will not hazard a chase through the swamp.

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SPOFFORD IS SAFE

CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE IS SATISFIED.

Apparent Shortage Was Due to a Mere Confusion of Accounts, Owing to the Old Librarian's Peculiar System of Bookkeeping, and Not to Any Failure to Actually Turn in Funds Coming Into His Hands—Then He Was Worked to Death—Action for His Relief to be Taken.

Washington, Nov. 26.—The joint congressional library committee has also decided not to investigate the accounts of Librarian Spofford. When the committee was appointed, it was understood it would be optional with it to go into the question of the accounts and the committee for some days has had under consideration the advisability of investigating the charges of irregularities made against Spofford a year ago. The question was taken up in secret session yesterday and after an exchange of views covering two hours time, a decision was reached to allow the matter to rest where it was left by the treasury department. Said a member of the committee today: "We should have gone into the investigation if there had been anything to investigate, but we have satisfied ourselves that Mr. Spofford owes the government nothing. It is true there was a discrepancy in his accounts amounting to about \$30,000, but this was due to his method of bookkeeping. This money from the beginning was in the government depository, but it was there with some of Mr. Spofford's own funds. The accounts were so entangled that the respective amounts could not be determined until the treasury investigation means had been turned into the treasury. This leaves a shortage and, satisfied as we are that there was no intention at wrongdoing, we have concluded not to open the subject at all. We are of the opinion that the trouble was due to the complication of duties imposed upon Mr. Spofford, and we shall, I think, try to prevent a recurrence, by recommending the appointment of a registrar of copy-right. Mr. Spofford has requested that this be done and there is every reason why congress should grant the request."

THE JOINT COMMITTEE IS HOLDING DAILY SESSIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEANS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY AND HAS DECIDED TO INVITE THE ADVICE OF A NUMBER OF EMINENT LIBRARIANS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT BRET OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, PRESIDENT PATMAN OF BOSTON, AND THE HEADS OF THE STATE LIBRARY AT ALBANY, AND THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Members of the committee say there has been no request for the new library building for the inaugural hall. They seem averse to such a program and say the building is not adapted to this purpose.

ENGLAND'S NAVAL WEAKNESS.

Her Ships of War Not as Powerful as Many Suppose Them to Be.

The numerical inferiority of the British fleet of battleships to the forces of France and Russia becomes more serious when we consider the course of a possible war between England on the one side and the allies on the other. Let us consider the result of Franco-Russian intervention did we send our fleet up the Dardanelles. Our Mediterranean fleet, with its 12 battleships more or less damaged, would be trapped in the sea of Marmora, with the Russian Black sea fleet, five or six battleships strong, waiting for it in the Black sea, fresh, undamaged, with magazines and bunkers full. The works in the Bosphorus would prevent the further advance of our ships while they would cover the attacks of the Russian torpedo flotilla, which swarms in the Black sea.

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THE TONNAGE WOULD AT ONCE PUT TO SEA, EFFECT A JUNCTION WITH THE NORTH SEA (FRANCE) SQUADRON AND ATTACK OUR CHANNEL FLEET WITH SOME 20 SHIPS.

As repeated experience has shown that it takes days for us to mobilize, we should not have been able in the meantime largely to reinforce our fleet, and therefore our channel ships must either run or be beaten. In either case, with the arrival of the Baltic fleet to complete our ruin, we lose the command of the channel. The aim of Napoleon 90 years ago is accomplished and this country is open not to thousands, but to hundreds of thousands of invaders. The heart of the empire would be pierced, the paly of death would come upon the empire itself, and in a holocaust of blood and fire the country which has stood up for freedom and civilization would fall forever.

THOSE WHO ARE DEMANDING VIOLENT MEASURES HAVE NOT COUNTED THE COST. GREAT ARE THE PRIVILEGES OF THE PRESS; SPLENDID IS THE WORK WHICH IT HAS DONE FOR FREEDOM AND HUMANITY; HONORABLE ARE ITS TRADITIONS IN ENGLAND. BUT TERRIBLE IS ITS RESPONSIBILITY WHEN IT PRESUMES TO URGE A NATION TO WAR AGAINST THE WILL OF THE NATION'S CHOSEN STATESMEN.