WASHINGTON NEWS

About 12½ per cent. of the enlisted men of the Navy deserted during the past year, according to the report of Rear-Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation. He says that when the desertions exceed 9 per cent. there is cause for anxiety. He desires that there shall be careful examination into the cause for these desertions.

* * *

Maj.-Gen. Chaffee is a military martinet. He is every inch a soldier, and he intends to have things done with military precision. In full uniform, he walked into the Adjutant-General's Office the other day. He didn't like the appearance of things there, and giving one glance about the room, which swept it clean, he began to order "trash" removed. Books, pamphlets, odds and ends of things which lay about in unornamental piles were ordered pitched out forthwith. He opened drawers of desks, and in one found a pair of easy-slippers! Out they went! It was a whirlwind of inspection, and took the breath away from the clerks, who are now engaged in making that Department assume the appearance of the office of a military esthete.

* * *

The W. C. T. U. women are after the President for "smoking cigarets and using intoxicating drinks." As the President does not use tobacco in any form whatever, and is so temperate as to be styled a "total abstainer," this new roast really seems very funny.

* * *

On the other hand, the National Association of Liquor Dealers is busy raising a fund of $5,000,000 to defeat Roosevelt for the nomination to the Presidency "because he is the worst enemy the liquor traffic has." The Wine and Spirit Gazette, the organ of the liquor men, is rabidly opposing him.

* * *

Now, isn't there an ideal "between the devil and deep sea" proposition? Mr. Roosevelt might abate the prejudices of a lifetime and acquire a ribald jag, and proceed to shoot holes in the atmosphere for the purpose of reassuring the liquor dealers, but how on earth will he ever square himself with the W. C. T. U.? He never smoked a cigar in his life, or a pipe, or a cigaret, and neither does he drink, yet a big sum of money is being raised by the W. C. T. U. to use in the campaign.

* * *

There are two Richardsons in the House. "The" Richardson is from Tennessee, and is—or has been—the Democratic House leader, beside being the Supreme Head of the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite Masons. The other Richardson is a little sawed-off from Alabama, and has only been in the House one term. He gets very much exasperated because the "other" Richardson seems to be the whole push. He was at the telephone the other day, and couldn't, to save him, make the Hello girl understand that it was Richardson, of Alabama, and not Richardson, of Tennessee, who was talking. "I tell you it is Richardson, of Alabama," he shouted.

* * *

Just at this juncture along came Wachter, of Maryland. He did not recognize the angry voice or the back of the member, and thinking that he could help him out a little, said suggestively, "Richardson is from Tennessee, not Alabama."

* * *

As the receiver was tied fast the Representative from Alabama, who is named Richardson, couldn't throw it at Wachter, but he dropped it with a bang, and turned on the Maryland member.

* * *

"Maybe I don't know who I am, maybe I don't," he exclaimed. "Maybe I don't know where I come from, too. I'm Richardson of Alabama, not Richardson, of Tennessee. That's just the trouble I've had ever since I've been here. Everybody is always taking me for Richardson, of Tennessee. He gets my mail, he gets my telegrams, he gets my maps, he gets my seeds, and it's a wonder to me that he doesn't get my salary and mileage. Now, here you come along and insist that I am Richardson, of Tennessee. I am Richardson, of Alabama, and don't you forget it."

* * *

The "Pope Stone," as it is called, has been a subject of controversy lately. When the Washington Monument was being completed, the stones contributed by foreign nations were stored in a building down close to the Monument. As is presumably well known, the lower inside part of the Monument is lined with very fine marbles and granites which have come from the various States of the Union and from foreign countries. These stones are some of them great blocks superbly carved and sculptured, and are one of the most interesting features of the Monument. They are put in place at the second floor and continue up for several flights.

* * *

The Pope of Rome sent a fine block of Italian marble to place in the Monument, but some Catholic hater stole the stone in 1855 and it was pitched into the Potomac, supposedly, for it is known that several other stones that were contributed shared that fate, and as nothing has ever been heard of the Pope Stone since, it is probably keeping the company of the others at the bottom of the Potomac to-day. A Masonic stone, presented by some body of Masons, fell into the hands of some fanatic, and he threw it into the Potomac. It was fished out a few years later, having been found accidentally.

* * *

Miss Eliza H. Perkins has been appointed an Examiner in Chancery by the Supreme Court of the District. She is the second woman to receive such an appointment.

* * *

What is the Government to do with its superannuated clerks? This has become a pressing question. Every head of a Department in Washington is complaining about the clerks that have grown old in the service of the Government, and who have outlived their usefulness, but, having saved no money, would find the poorhouse their lot if turned out.

* * *

Our whole system of Governemnt is opposed to "civil pensions," and yet that is what seems to be coming. Mr. Gillette, of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Committee on Civil Service Reform, is opposed to the civil pension idea, but has no fixed notion of how the aged clerk may be retired without hardship or injustice. He intends to get to work and map out some plan, however, which he will lay before his Committee and then present to the House. He will propose an investigation into the efficiency of clerks employed in the Departments in Washington, the object being to devise some means of improving the personnel of the service and not be too hard on the aged ones.

* * *

Little George B. McClellan's friends in Congress have been building a Presidential aerodrome for him, but it dives instead of flies. Mr. McClellan was born in Saxony, and his boom butts up against the Constitution of the United States, which says that the President must be a "natural-born citizen." So he won't even be called upon to issue a letter of declination. He simply isn't in it.

* * *

So many acts of vandalism have been committed about the Sherman Statue that the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds has decided to have a number of electric lights placed about it. It will be remembered that the statue was unveiled with great pomp a few weeks ago.

* * *

James H. Worden, United States Consul at Munich, Germany, has informed the State Department that the University of Munich has opened its doors to women students. "Hitherto," he says, "no women were permitted to matriculate in the German Universities."

* * *

Mrs. John W. Mackay, of California, but who has practically expatriated herself for the last 20 years, residing largely in London, is making her first visit to Washington. Although crossing the ocean a dozen times a year and often in New York City, less than 300 miles distant, Mrs. Mackay has never had enough good red blood in her veins to thrill at the thought of visiting the seat of Government of the greatest nation on earth. Mrs. Mackay is the kind of woman who ought to go abroad and stay there. True, such examples give a bad impression abroad of our splendid women, but they are no help here, and we would rather they went than remained here. She is being wined and dined, but is probably regaling her entertainers with stories of how much better they do things on the "other side, don-cher-know."

* * *

The American Mining Congress will ask Congress to establish a Department of Mines and Mining. This means another Cabinet officer, another Cabinet dinner, and another woman added to the receiving line at the White House.

* * *

Representative William Alden Smith, of Michigan, has introduced a bill making Jan. 29 of each year a National holiday. It is the anniversary of the birth of the late President McKinley. Congress might pass the bill a dozen times and the President sign it, but that would not make it a "National" holiday unless the Legislature of every State in the Union ratified it.

* * *

It seems very hard to make the people of the United States understand that this Nation has no "National" holiday. Thanksgiving Day comes as near being National as a holiday as any day we set aside for feasting or fasting, but it is in no sense of the word National, for, after all, each Governor of a State has to issue a proclamation declaring that in his State it is to be a legal holiday, or it will not be such. This has to be done by the Governor of every one of the 45 States before it becomes a legal holiday in any one of them. The President's proclamation makes it legal in the Territories.

* * *

Congress can legislate for the Territories and for the District of Columbia, and has specific powers over the whole Union, but dictating legal holidays to States is not one of them. Each State must legislate on its own legal holidays. Many of the Southern States observe Jeff Davis's birthday as a legal holiday. It would probably take a good deal of time and hard work, backed up by a good sized army, to induce a Northern State to adopt such an anniversary as a legal holiday. On the other hand, Memorial Day is now observed by every Northern State as a legal holiday. The South could never be made to accept it. They have a Memorial Day of their own, or rather a series of them, for they have never been able to unite on one.

* * *

While the Northern Securities case was up in the Supreme Court of the United States, Mrs. Roosevelt was one of the interested spectators. She accompanied the wife of Attorney-General Knox. It is not often that the wife of a President of the United States is permitted to show quite such human interest in anything.

* * *

Now, if you want to know who are the Speaker's best friends and trusted advisers, here they are. He entertained them at the first dinner he has given to anyone since he became Speaker: His guests included Justice Harlan, Senators Hanna, Warren and Newlands, Gen. Draper, former Ambassador to Rome; Gen. Anson Mills, U. S. A.; Representative Payne, Representative Burkett, Representative Olmsted, Representative Morrell, Representative Mondell, Representative Fowler, of New Jersey; Representative James Sherman, Representative Hepburn, Representative Hemenway, Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, and Mr. C. C. Glover.

* * *

Washington has always boasted that she had no slums, but here comes Jacob Riis, of New York, whom the President calls "New York's most useful citizen," with a fearful blast against the slum districts of Washington, D. C., the Capital of the United States, if you please. He says he knows nothing worse even in New York City, which is certainly tough on the "Paris of America."

* * *

Just the same, the people of this District of Columbia are not to blame. Time and again have the Commissioners of the District in years past asked Congress for laws which will permit the Commissioners to close up unwholesome alley tenements, and to pull down houses that are filthy and insanitary, but Congress has steadily refused to grant these powers. The laws of the District are so abominably constructed that if these horrible dens of filth and crime are owned by non-residents, there is no chance to reach them at all, unless they come into the District of Columbia, which, of course, they will not do.

* * *

It is difficult to understand why Congress so grudgingly gives to the Commissioners the powers which are exercised by the Mayor and Alderman or the City Council of even the smallest towns. It is only bit by bit that any power at all has been secured to act in behalf of the "common people" of the District, for there are common people here as elsewhere. In all other cities of any size power is reposed in the City Council to tear down all insanitary hovels. In the District of Columbia not even the doors of such hovels may be closed by the law. The abjectly poor herd together within the disease-infected walls and are immune from the hand of the law so long as they do not flagrantly violate its canons upon the streets. Then the people can be "pulled," but the house soon gathers another crowd of human wreckage.

* * *

Dr. Wiley, who has been conducting the experiments in the use of preservatives in foods, in the Agricultural Department, is nearly distracted. He says it is impossible to get "normal conditioned" young men upon whom to experiment. For his purposes he needs young men of good physical condition who do not smoke, chew or use tobacco in any form, and who are total abstainers from the use of alcoholic liquors. He finds that the young men are all addicted to the use of tobacco in some form or another, and that they nearly all indulge in drinking liquor. He insists that he can not test adulterated and doctored foods properly, when the insides of the young men whom he designs to experiment upon are already poisoned by nicotine and cooked with alcohol. And it would seem as though Dr. Wiley is about right.

* * *

Apropos of the above, how would it do for the United States Government to establish as a Civil Service test, the non use of tobacco and liquor? All the great business institutions of the world are beginning to realize that these two things are responsible for half the crime and misery in the world; that they in time break down the nervous system, and render an employe less fit to undertake missions of extreme trust. The United States Senate and House of Representatives has recognized the fact that to sit day in and day out in an atmosphere impregnated with tobacco smoke and stale cigars is life-shortening, and by rigid rules have shut smokers off the floor of both Houses. They have also recognised the fact that it is not an elevating sight to have a half-seas-over M. C. catering to the risibilities of the visitors in the gallery in a tipsy query of "Where am I at?" Since Congress has set the example, it might not be inappropriate to extend the good work. Then Dr. Wiley's free boarding table might not lack for guests.

* * *

Maj. Alfred B. Taylor, U. S. A., retired, died in this city, Dec. 16. He enlisted in 1862 in the 22d N. Y., and at the expiration of his term re-enlisted in the Regular Army, and was shortly given a commission as Second Lieutenant in the 5th U. S. Cav., in which he served during the remainder of the war. He was promoted Captain in June, 1869, and brevetted for gallant and meritorious service during the campaign terminating with the surrender of Lee. He was retired on account of disability in May, 1879.

* * *

The State Department has concluded to demand an apology from the Sultan of Turkey for the abominable treatment given our Consul Davis, at Alexandretta, and has ordered a warship to take the Consul back to the town. Apologies cost no money and the Sultan is used to them, so one will be forthcoming in a very short time in all probability.

* * *

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt opened their series of State dinners last week by dining the Cabinet. The State Dining Room, which is an almost regal apartment as it now stands, and is the only room in the White House which does not slap you in the face with its crudeness of coloring, was all in white and red for the occasion. The great State table was half moon in shape, and its vast expanse of white linen was staked off with plats of huge red carnations, between which very tall, slender cut-glass vases stood, holding bouquets of long-stemmed white roses. The silver candelabras were capped with red, and boutonnieres and corsage bouquets of carnations and roses lay at each plate, 80 in all. Mrs. Roosevelt was in white brocade and old lace, and Miss Alice Roosevelt came home long enough to appear at the dinner in white lace over pale blue satin.

* * *

The Marine Band, a big splotch of red in the bare white of the great marble hall, played some very fine selections, and of course, the menu, like all the menus at the White House, was very fine also. But Cabinet dinners are dreary things at best. The same men, the same women, the same old colors on the tables, the same old meats and sweets and sours to eat, with the same old wines to wash them down, and there you are. About six of these during the Winter season at the White House, and then each member of the Cabinet gives a dinner to the same old crowd in the same old way, and thus official society travels in the same old half-bushel.

* * *

There is very little doing in the Post Office investigation cases just now. The full report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow has been asked for in the Senate and in the House, and it is more than probable that it will be printed in full for distribution by the members of Congress. Just now you can hear most anything you are wanting to about anybody connected with the scandal. The opinion is quite frequently expressed by those who profess to know the inside of things that the Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General had a "grouch" at Perry Heath and thought this a real good time to get back at him. The why of the grounds is, of course, another story. Briefly, it is said that Mr. Bristow wanted to be Secretary of the National Republican Committee, and, instead, Perry Heath was appointed, and then, like the little vine, the grouch "grew and grew."

* * *

State Senator Green, of New York, charged with bribery and conspiracy to defraud the Government in connection with the sale of time-recorders and cancellation machines, has been indicted in the United States District Court of New York on five counts.

* * *

These cancelling machines cost the Government $250 each and were not worth a picayune. They were never used. It has been charged that for unloading these machines on the Government Perry Heath, when First Assistant Postmaster-General, got $20,000 in stock from the company.

* * *

Some of the indictments against Ex-Congressman Driggs, of New York, have been nollied, but enough are left to make him trouble if they can be made to stick.

* * *

There will probably not be much doing in the Post Office cases now until Congress opens fire. The smoke of its guns usually obscures everything, however, so there is not a great deal of hope of results, but things will be interesting for a time.

The Great Yukon.

Only a few geographers and travelers realize the greatness of the Yukon. It is one of the mighty streams of the continent, having a length of about 2,400 miles, of which 1,300 miles are in Alaska. It is navigable by steamer for over 2,000 miles, and in both Winter and Summer is the great natural highway of travel through the interior of Alaska. Exploration has naturally started from its banks and development has centered along its course. The city of Dawson, in Canadian territory, is the most important settlement on the Yukon, and the traffic of the river consists largely of freight to this point. The steamers plying on the Yukon—in 1898 and 1899 they numbered nearly 100—have up to the present time depended for fuel on wood cut and piled on the river banks. A few of the river steamers now burn coal altogether; others burn both coal and wood. Up to the present time wood has been easily obtainable near the river banks, but since the timber of the Yukon is small and of slow growth, the supply is limited, and the wood cutters have been obliged year after year to bring the wood a greater and greater distance to the river. Coal mines have been operated at a number of points. Those in operation during 1902 are located at Five Finger Rapids and Cliff Creek, both in Canadian territory, and at several points near Nulato, in American territory. This coal has been burned with varying success by Yukon River steamers.

U. S. TREASURY RECEIPTS.

Monday, Dec. 14	$1,558,407.77
Tuesday, Dec. 15	2,150,509.70
Wednesday, Dec 16	1,346,704.73
Thursday, Dec. 17	1,524,438.60
Friday, Dec. 18	1,830,906.10
Saturday, Dec. 19	1,372,335.59
Monday Dec. 21	2,176,786.37

GUESSING CONTESTS.

Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, introduced in the Senate last week a bill to close the mails against any competition or contest involving the award of prizes based upon the relative accuracy of guesses or estimates, and also amending in other particulars Section 3894, Revised Statutes. This bill was drafted by the Law Division of the Post Office Department, and naturally may be considered the result of abuse of guessing contests, certain publications having conducted under the guise of a "contest" what may really be considered a lottery; that is, chances were sold outright at so much a chance, the purchaser paying a stipulated sum for his guess and receiving nothing in return if that guess did not happen to make a winning. In the Middle West at times such competitions have reached enormous proportions.

The introduction of the bill, however, does not by any means insure its enactment. Of the thousands of bills introduced at each session, probably not 10 per cent. become laws. Bills against guessing contests have been introduced at other sessions of Congress, referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and that is the last heard of them. In any case, it may safely be said that provision will be made for the clearing up of any contests that are now running. An amendment has already been suggested to the bill, that would make it effective on July 1, 1904. Even should the bill in its present shape go through during this session of Congress, it will be discretionary with the Post Office Department to make such regulations that no embarrassment would result to publications having on hand a contest of this character.

Until some law is enacted guessing contests are legitimate and will have the free use of the United States mails as heretofore, the decision of the Attorney-General of the United States being that such contests are not lotteries, but are based upon the skill and judgment of the contestants.

CONGRESS.

A Busy Week, With But Little of Exciting Interest.

The House Committee on Insular Affairs has authorized a favorable report on the bill to allow Porto Rico the same privileges in the House that other Territories of the United States have. At the present time Porto Rico has a representative—Mr. Degetau—who sits in the House like a knot on a log, having no voice, no vote, being really just a figurehead. The Delegates from the Territories have no vote, but they have a right to speak in the House upon any bill or anything that may come before the body for discussion. It is really a humiliating position for Mr. Degetau; it is altogether probable that the House will soon vote to make him a Delegate, as all other Territorial representatives are, with every right of other Territorial M. C.'s.

* * *

This bill passed the House at the last session, but failed of passage in the Senate. If it becomes a law it will probably smooth the path of the National Republican Committee, which will then grant Porto Rico a right to membership in that body.

* * *

Senator Patterson, of Colorado, has introduced a bill with five pages of "whereases" on the Colorado strike, and ends it up with half a page of "Resolved," that the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate look into the matter.

* * *

Senator Tillman also loads the Judiciary Committee up with a resolution which inquires "What constitutes a 'recess of the Senate,' and what are the powers and limitations of the Executive in making appointments in such cases?" He also wants to know "what legislation is necessary to prevent the holding of an office by any person or persons whose commissions issue or are held by Executive exercise of unlawful authority, if any there be."

* * *

Mr. Morrell, of Pennsylvania, has introduced a very stringent bill to establish a National Insurance Bureau as a part of the Census Bureau. It is to have supervision of all matters pertaining to insurance, insurance companies, and beneficial orders and associations doing business in the United States, Territories, and Insular Possessions.

* * *

The Southern States have not been able to get hold of the "Captured and Abandoned Property" fund fast enough, and are afraid that some of it may get away through lying unclaimed in the United States Treasury, and so they have introduced a bill, which Carter Glass, of Virginia, fathers. As Virginia will be the State most benefited, it can readily be seen that he is doing a very praiseworthy act—in the eyes of Virginia—in introducing the bill. It provisions are as follows:

* * *

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to make an apportionment of the amount remaining in the Treasury to the credit of captured and abandoned property to the States from which said captured and abandoned property was gathered, in proportion as the whole amount gathered from each State bears to the whole amount now remaining to the credit of said captured and abandoned property, said amounts so approtioned to each State to be used for the public good as each State by its Legislature may determine; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to pay over to each State aforesaid the said apportionment out of any money not otherwise appropriated."

* * *

Senator Perkins, of California, is after illegal naturalization with a club. A bill which he has introduced has among its excellent provisions the following clause:

"It shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the court admitting such alien that he has resided within the United States 10 years at least, and within the State or Territory where such court is at the time held one year at least, and that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; but the oath of the applicant shall in no case be allowed to prove his residence."

* * *

Another clause of the same bill recites: "That section 2170 of the statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows: No alien shall be admitted to become a citizen who has not for a continuous term of 10 years next preceding his admission resided within the United States?"

* * *

Representative Glass, of Virginia, wants the franking privilege extended to the Agricultural Departments of the respective States and Territories, and asks that all documents relating to agriculture be sent to the farmers within the borders of the respective States free of charge to the State.

* * *

Representative Sperry, of Connecticut, has introduced a bill declaring that hereafter it shall be unlawful to sell intoxicating liquors in any building owned or used by the United States Government or in the grounds appertaining to the same. It is probable that this bill is aimed at the suggested restoration of the "Canteen" at Army posts.

* * *

Senator Pettus, of Alabama, wants the Judge-Advocate-General of the Navy abolished and a "Naval Solicitor" appointed in his place, "who shall be the legal adviser of the Secretary of the Navy."

* * *

Senator Hoar has a long memory and a temper. Both were exhibited in a not altogether "pretty" encounter in the Senate elevator one day last week. Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, was in the elevator, and was accompanied by a constituent of his, Editor H. W. Scott, of the Portland Oregonian, one of the most influential newspapers of the West. Mr. Scott is himself almost as venerable looking as Senator Hoar. Senator Mitchell introduced Mr. Scott to the Senator from Massachusetts, and the Western man put out his hand cordially, but Senator Hoar refused to touch it, putting his hand behind him.

* * *

Senator Hoar said in his blunt fashion, "I should tell you why I will not shake hands with you. There once appeared an item in your paper reflecting upon my friend, the late Senator Morrill, of Vermont. It said that he was living along several years to save funeral expenses."

* * *

"I am not aware that such a paragraph appeared in the Oregonian," replied Mr. Scott with some expression of warmth as well as surprise. "I had a Vermont man on my editorial staff at one time, and it may be that he wrote such an item, but I can not say that it did or did not appear. I only know that I knew nothing of it."

* * *

"You are responsible for what appears in the Oregonian," interposed Senator Hoar. "I am," responded Editor Scott with emphasis. "Then you are responsible for that paragraph," declared Senator Hoar.

* * *

"Very well, sir, since you withdraw your hand I will turn my back upon you," and he did.

* * *

Now, isn't that a spectacle for two musty old men to make of themselves? Senator Hoar is not without a sense of humor, and he must know that that stale remark about "living to save funeral expenses" is really and truly quite as old as Methuselah, if it hadn't whiskers when the old gentleman was born. It has been said over and over again that Senator Hoar was in his second childhood, and he seems to be trying to prove it.

* * *

Visitors to Washington will be pleased to learn that one eyesore and blot on the landscape is to be removed. The row of miserable hovels which line the west side of the street just below the Capitol, on First street, are to be torn down and replaced by a beautiful apartment house. Since the start has been made it is probable that all the shacks and cabins which surround the Capitol will soon go. They have been a dreadful nuisance and a real menace, for there was no knowing when the shanties would catch fire and burn down.

* * *

That the moose will not live south of the latitude of Bangor, Me., has just been demonstrated again at the Washington Zoo. The big cow moose has gone where hunting grounds are not known, nor zoos either. Several attempts have been made to "civilize" the moose, but it can not be done. It has its habitat, and outside of that sickens and dies. It is stated as a scientific fact that the moose is found between the Arctic Circle and the latitude a little south of 45 degrees in the belt which extends clear around the world, and that no moose has ever been known to live any length of time outside of that.

* * *

The Duke of Bedford has tried to keep moose, but he says that there is no deer park in England large enough to keep one moose. The animal travels from 25 to 40 miles a day, and when placed in a park and fed from a trough, he gets dyspepsia and dies. That is what happened to the Washington Zoo moose. A Buffalo has died within the last week, too. The herd of 12 buffaloes has now been reduced to two. They will probably go the way of the others. The buffalo does no better in confinement than the moose. Oddly enough, the buffalo and the Indian contract the same diseases of civilization—catarrh of the stomach—and it soon carries them away. The Indian gets catarrh, and then pulmonary troubles develop.

* * *

Gov. Brady, of Alaska, declares in his report to Congress that Alaska needs railroads. Once upon a time a Texas land-boomer remarked that all his State needed was water and people to make it the finest place on earth to live in. Whereupon some irreverent friend remarked that that was all that was needed in Hades. Gov. Brady says that the white population of Alaska has diminished, and that it is as migratory as wild geese, anyhow, so what will he do with a railroad if the Government presents him with one, as he asks.

* * *

Mrs. Laura A. Bradley has been a teacher in the Washington public schools for 45 years, having been first appointed in 1858. Mrs. Bradley got a salary of $1,000 in these later years, but she resigned the other day, and immediately a new principal was appointed in her place at a salary of $1,200. It does look, sometimes, as though virtue had to be its own reward.

* * *

Minority Leader Williams has decided that his side of the House will offer no obstruction to the pension bills in that body. He thinks the proper thing to do is to give the majority a free hand in pension legislation, and then call attention to the extravagance later.

* * *

Mr. Williams only recommended one Southerner for membership on the Pension Committee, and that was Mr. Hopkins, of Kentucky. Mr. Hopkins represents a mountain district in which are many men who served in the Union army, and kept Kentucky loyal. His constituency firmly believes in pensions.

* * *

Representative Hay, of Virginia, is after an appropriation to build a good road from the city limits of Charlottesville, Va., to the tomb and home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. There was an organization known as the "Jefferson Memorial Road Association" which started out to build the road by popular subscription, but the Virginian is not patriotic to the extent of divorcing himself from his money for anybody who has been dead as long as Jefferson has, so it has been found that if a road is built, the Government will have it to do, and $40,000 is the size of demand No. 1.

* * *

Ka-lanne-anne-ole is the way Prince Cupid of Hawaii gets his name pronounced by us, and that is probably about as near right as it can be gotten by our harsher tongues. The first "a" is broad, the next two are pronounced as in "man." "Lanne" is two syllables, and so is "anne," both e's long. The proper spelling is Kalanianaole, and it isn't a bit hard when you know how.

* * *

Senator Daniel, of Virginia, the silver-tongued orator of the Democrats who always says "toe" for "to" and never learned "r" when he was conning his alphabet, took Senator Hoar's roast of the Administration policy on the Panama question as his text Friday afternoon, and the way he did proceed to orate on the iniquities of the Republican President was sure a sin. Senators Daniel and Gorman are evidently sore yet over the refusal of the United States Government to let them secede, 40 years ago, and are jealous of the Panamans. It's too bad, and it is also too late for this ebullition of temper to do any good, nor can it do much harm. If Senator Hoar keeps on in his present course, Mr. Editor Scott, of the Portland Oregonian, may feel like remarking that somebody else is living along "just to save funeral expenses," which in plain United States would mean that he had "outlived his usefulness."

* * *

Representative Shafroth wants a branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers established in Denver.

* * *

Representative C. Q. (which probably stands for Charles Quincy) Tirrell, of Massachusetts, has introduced a resolution which ought to pass. It asks that the Secretary of War procure a suitable medal to be presented to the survivors, and the families of such as may be dead, of the "Forlorn Hope Storming Party" against the works at Port Hudson June 15, 1863, in fulfilment of the promises made by Maj.-Gen. Banks, commanding the Department of the Gulf, and contained in General Orders, 49, June 15, 1863.

* * *

Representative Shafroth wants the time for the convening of Congress changed to the third Monday of January of the year next succeeding the election of the members thereof, and to convene for the second session on the first Monday after the first day of January of the following year. This is probably the only clause of the Constitution which Congress may change itself without submitting it to a ratification by two-thirds of the States. The Constitution gives to Congress the right to set its own date for convening.

* * *

Gov. Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, is very much in evidence at the White House these days. The President entertained him at a luncheon to which Senator Lodge and Secretaries Root and Cortelyou were also invited to meet him, and then Gov. Crane and Mrs. Crane were the guests of the President at the Cabinet dinner. Of course, politicians are putting this and that together in a very circumstantial way. It is very well known that the President wants Gov. Crane to be Chairman of the Republican National Committee in the event that Senator Hanna refuses to accept the heavy duties again. It is said that the President has urged Senator Hanna to stand by him through the campaign, but in case he positively declines to remain at the head of the Committee, it is thought that Gov. Crane will take the Chairmanship.

* * *

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs has ordered a favorable report on the Joint Resolution providing for the purchase of the original manuscript copy of the "Order Book of Gen. Arthur St. Clair." Gen. St. Clair was the second Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army, was a full Major-General, made so by Congress, and the first to hold that title in the United States Army. He was a great favorite of Washington, but an error of judgment led to the cutting to pieces his command at or near the Miami Towns, Nov. 4, 1791, and his star set in a night that had no morning. He died in absolute poverty, discouraged, neglected, deserted, Aug. 31, 1818, and lies buried at Greensburg, Pa.

* * *

Representative Shafroth, of Colorado, who is an ardent "Woman Suffragist," has introduced a bill to amend the Constitution of the United States by providing that the right to vote shall not be denied on account of sex.

* * *

Senor Don Gonzalo de Quesada, the Cuban Minister, had a very beautiful gold pen and holder ready for the signature of the President on the Cuban Reciprocity bill. It was used by Speaker Cannon, President Pro Tem Frye, of the Senate, and Alexander K. McDowell, Clerk of the House. Then it was carried with the bill to the White House, where it was used by the President in placing the final signature which made it a law. The pen will be sent to Havana, where it will be placed on exhibition in the Cuban Palace.

Representative Hearst has introduced a bill to establish a parcels post.

* * *

Representative Gibson, of Tennessee, wants no more war either at home or abroad, on land or on water, so to promote peace between nations, he has introduced a bill to reduce the navies of the world. The bill cites that as "these rival armaments add nothing to the welfare or wealth of mankind, but are an unceasing menace to the peace, progress, and happiness of the world, and in the nature of a scandal and a reproach on our boasted Christian civilization," it is about time to call a halt. So he wants the President authorized to open negotiations with as many of the maritime nations of the world as he may deem expedient for the purpose of international agreement that hereafter no nation will build any more battleships than are actually necessary for policing its own waters and shores, and the protection of its own citizens in other lands. The President is to have $100,000 to pay the expenses of the resolution. The probability is that the President will never need the money.

* * *

Representative Warner, of Illinois, evidently "cottons" to the work that Dr. Wiley is doing in the pure-food way in the Department of Agriculture, and now wants a "Pure-Food Commissioner."

* * *

Senator Hoar's eyes are falling. He has not said so, but they must be, because he objects to the smallness of the type in the Congressional Record, and wants a larger type substituted. He has introduced a resolution which was passed, asking an investigation into the matter.

* * *

The room of the Senate Committee on Judiciary was the scene of an exciting contest with fire the other night. Some member of the Committee had carelessly thrown a match into a wastepaper basket, after having lighted his cigar, then he went out and shut the door. A little later a clerk went into the Committee Room and found one end of it ablaze; a big hole was burned in the $500 rug, two big desks were ruined and the flames "played slap" generally. It was a witless thing to do, but the average man will walk across a room to throw a match in a wastepaper basket.

* * *

Senator Penrose has introduced a Concurrent Resolution requesting the President to use the good offices of the United States to induce the signatory powers of the Berlin Congress of 1878 to convene to see that the provisions of the treaty which guaranteed protection and reforms to the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire may be faithfully carried out. The resolution sets forth that the enforcement of the treaty is necessary to insure the safety of citizens of the United States from danger from the internal transactions of the Government of Turkey.

* * *

Representative Ira E. Rider, of the 16th Congressional District of New York, will resign his seat in Congress. He gives as his reason that ill health makes it necessary. Up in New York they tell another story. Tammany says that it needs him in its business of running New York's "redlight" district, and that Mayor George B. McClellan will appoint him to a lucrative office under him.

* * *

The Senate has reported favorably on the plans for a fine Department building which will rival the War, State and Navy Building.

* * *

Senator Morgan got busy spoiling President Roosevelt's well-laid plans, Saturday, and as a result, "Minister W. I. Buchanan," who is speeding his way Panamaward with the expectation that his commission will come to him by wire, will find, when he reaches Panama, that he is just a plain, every-day citizen.

* * *

Senator Morgan stole a march on the Republicans. He declares that he did not know when Buchanan's appointment was discussed in the Committee, and that the approval of the Senate escaped his notice. It is a rule of the Senate that nominations approved by the Senate shall not be sent back to the President for two days, as a matter of "Senatorial courtesy," thus giving any Senator who may desire to do so a chance to move to reconsider. Senator Morgan has moved to reconsider!

* * *

Congress has adjourned for two weeks, and so no action can be taken on the matter till after the holiday recess. It is said that Senators Morgan and Gorman will then begin a fight all along the line, taking Buchanan's appointment as a text, to prove that the President has no authority to send an envoy to a Government which has not been established according to the rules laid down by international law. Mr. Morgan's particular contention is that Panama has no constitution, no legislature, and no qualified public officials, and in fact has no Government at all.

PERSONAL.

Henry Ballinger, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, now 71 years old, has kept a diary since Sept. 18, 1854; was born in North Carolina; lived in various places in the West since 1848; never used a profane word; never smoked or tasted tobacco; never tasted an alcoholic drink; has been a professed and consistent Christian—a member of the M. E. Church since he was 11 years old. Saw the first railway engine enter Richmond, Ind.; helped build the first bridge over the river there; was in Kansas and took actice part in the troublous days of the border warfare in that State.

* * *

A lurid story is given to the press about the late Col. Frank Coxe, C. S. A., who died recently at Asheville, N. C. The story goes that his great grandfather, several generations removed, "owned all the land which now embraces the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana." This will be news to most historians, who have never understood that all this territory was ever under the ownership of any one man, or any one King even. The story goes on to say that Col. Coxe was born in 1839 in Rutherford, N. C., grew up a local Sampson, standing over six and a half feet high, and weighing 250 pounds, and that he was expected to perform prodigies in the war, which he entered with great spirit, as he was an ardent Secessionist, raising a regiment and leading it to the field. After he had been there a year or so, some property he had in Pennsylvania was in danger of being confiscated, and he received permission from Jeff Davis to leave the rebel army and go North. He hired a man to take his place in the rebel army, however, went to Pennsylvania, where he was drafted into the Union army, and not wanting to fight, hired another substitute to take his place. The situation became so complicated that he left the country and went to Paris, where he lived till after the war. Both of his substitutes proved good soldiers, and fought till they were both killed, and Col. Coxe was troubled with the thought that they had killed one another, and that he was responsible for both their deaths. It is possible that they might have killed one another, because the regiments in which they were were opposed in the fight in which they met their deaths. This makes quite a story, but the chief blemish that we find upon it is that nowhere in the Confederate records can be found the name of such a man as Col. Frank Coxe.

* * *

There is no limit to claims of championships. The Lake City (Iowa) Graphic claims the championship of the United States for abbreviated veteran John Brown, who, it asserts, is the shortest man living who served as a soldier in the Union armies in the civil war. It prints his picture—and it is a good picture of a handsome man of soldierly appearance, in uniform, at order arms, with the muzzle of his rifle opposite his right ear. The article and the picture is a result of a published statement that Comrade Thos. Mierstein, of Sioux City, Iowa, is the smallest, he being five feet two inches in stature. Dr. R. Botsford publishes an affidavit that Comrade Brown, who served in Co. H, 94th Ill., is not stooped, but erect and measures four feet 11 and five-eighths inches. Comrade Brown was born in Scotland, in 1836, April 11. He sailed for the United States in 1850; the ship was wrecked and went down, and the officers, in the lifeboat, deserted the passengers, who were rescued by another vessel. He participated in all the numerous engagements in which the 94th took part. A staff officer once suggested that he would look better riding his knapsack than carrying it."

Deafness Cured

By No Means Until "ACTINA" Was Discovered.

Ninety-five per cent. of all cases of deafness brought to our attention is the result of chronic catarrh of the throat and middle ear. The air passages become clogged by catarrhal deposits, stopping the action of the vibratory bones. Until these deposits are removed a cure is impossible. The inner ear cannot be reached by probing or spraying hence the inability of aurists or physicians to cure. Ear drums are worse than useless. That there is a scientific cure for deafness and catarrh is demonstrated every day by the use of Actina. The vapor current generated in the Actina passes through the Eustachian tubes into the middle ear, removing the catarrhal obstructions as it passes through the tubes, and loosens up the bones (hammer, anvil and stirrup) in the inner ear, making them respond to the slightest vibration of sound. Actina has never failed to cure ringing noises in the head. We have known people troubled with this distressing symptom for years to be completely cured in only three weeks' use of Actina. Actina also cures asthma, bronchitis, sore throat, weak lungs, colds and headache; all of which are directly or indirectly due to catarrh. Actina is sent on trial postpaid. Write us about your case. We give advice free, and positive proof of cures. A valuable book—Professor Wilson's 100-page Dictionary of Disease, Free. Address New York & London Electric Association, Dept. 61 D, 929 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Mo.

A Kicking Surgeon.

ED