Washington News

Orville Wright, who was so badly smashed up when his aeroplane broke on a trial here at Fort Myer, has about recovered his health. He is on his way to Paris to meet his brother, who has been amusing the French with his aeroplane experiments, and who has incidentally taken about all the prizes.

* * *

Senator Dillingham, of Vermont, caused a tremor of excitement to pass over the Senate when he introduced a resolution to amend the Constitution, making the term of office for the President six years.

This measure was introduced by the late Senator Proctor on Dec. 21, 1896, and has been hanging fire since the 54th Congress. The resolution proposes that "From and after March 4, 1909, the term of the President and Vice President shall be six years, and that no person while holding office of Chief Executive shall be eligible for re-election."

The matter was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

* * *

"Ratones" is the polite way to say it, but plain "rats" is right good English. And the plainer English of it is that rats are doing a vast deal of harm in the District of Columbia, and some measure has to be taken to get rid of the pests. The Superintendent of Street Cleaning has issued an edict to this effect. He says that rats do more harm to the District property than fire. He says the French trap is one good way to catch them, but quite as good a way is to saturate pieces of sponge with grease.

* * *

Nobody on earth has ever found just what a persimmon is good for. If you let the puckery things get frozen and stay frozen for a month or two they sometimes make delicious eating; that is, if the pucker is all frozen out of them. If it isn't, then you have to let them freeze for a month longer. The people of the South have a kind of corn pone called "persimmon bread" which is really quite good, and then there was once made in the South a "persimmon beer," which is said to be "perfectly delicious." Maybe it is, and then, again, maybe it isn't. It is presumably altogether owing to your taster as to whether it is delicious or not. Anyhow, President-elect Taft has popularized both beer and bread made of 'simmons. At the banquets given him in the South he had both along with their concomitants—"'possum and sweet 'taters." The 'simmon viands will take off flesh, and the 'possum and taters add it, so he possibly had method in his madness, and considered that with a diet of the two he could keep about even on flesh.

* * *

A Government bond issue of $500,000,000, the proceeds from which are to be used for construction work on the Panama Canal, is proposed in a bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, a member of the Senate Committee on Inter-Oceanic Canals.

The bill raises the limit of the amount of bonds that may be issued in aid of the construction of the canal from $135,000,000 to $500,000,000. The bill was referred to the Committee on Inter-Oceanic Canals.

* * *

After eight years a Junction City, Kan., man, John D. Baldwin by name, has got from Congress $80 for a horse which was killed by a fragment of a shell at Fort Riley in 1900. The animal was struck by a fragment of a shell fired from a gun belonging to Siege Battery O, 7th Art., while at target practice.

* * *

Senator Knox, who is slated to be Secretary of State under President Taft, is getting ready for a big work evidently, for his friends have introduced an amendment to the legislative, executive and judicial bill providing for an Under Secretary of State at $10,000 a year, a Fourth Assistant Secretary of State at $4,500 a year and other employes for the State Department.

* * *

Iowa is getting scared. All this talk about another Secretary of Agriculture after Secretary Wilson has been permitted to gratify his ambition by serving longer than anybody else ever served in that office does not please them. They point with pride to the reforms which Secretary Wilson has introduced into his Department, and ask that he be retained.

* * *

The case of the United States against Robert Powell, involving the question whether the 14th amendment can be invoked in the United States courts to protect negroes against lynching, was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States in favor of Powell, on a writ of error bringing the case from the United States Circuit Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Powell is under indictment on the charge of assisting a mob in the hanging of a negro named Horace Maples, at Huntsville, the specific charge being that, as a member of the lynching party, Powell had deprived Maples of the right to a trial by due process of law.

The Circuit Court held that the 14th amendment was not applicable to the case, and declared that it could not be invoked unless the injustice complained of was inflicted by the State or its authorities. The Supreme Court's decision affirmed the decision of the lower tribunal.

* * *

The United States Attorney in San Francisco has been authorized to institute suit against the Truckee River and General Electric Company and the California-Nevada Electric Power Company and other parties interested, by the Attorney-General of the United States, on the request of the Secretary of the Interior. The action is being taken to acquire land at the outlet of Lake Tahoe, found to be necessary in connection with the Truckee-Carson project in Nevada of the United States Reclamation Service.

The storage of water in Lake Tahoe is an essential feature of the Truckee-Carson project, which has been constructed under the reclamation act, and which involves the irrigation of more than 100,000 acres of land.

The United States has for the last six years been negotiating with the parties who own or control the tract at the outlet of the lake.

* * *

There was a suggestion the other day that as Representative "Charley" Landis was retiring from Congress at this session President Taft might appoint him Public Printer, and put him in charge of the rookery over in the hollow, where the Government printing is done. Mr. Landis, than whom there is not in the whole Congress a man better liked, is a practical printer, owner of a newspaper, and was Chairman of the House Committee on Printing, in which position he has effected many reforms and saved many thousands of dollars to the United States Government. Mr. Landis simply laughed at the idea that he would take the office suggested. He declares that he will retire to his farm "on the Wabash far away" or in that region somewhere, and live the simple life. One thing sure, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Landis are able to make any kind of life attractive.

Feb. 10, 1909, at 1 o'clock, has been designated as the time for counting the electoral vote in the House of Representatives by the terms of a concurrent resolution reported by Mr. Burrows from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and passed by the Senate.

* * *

The men who are being elected this week and all others who come into the Senate for new terms March 4 will serve for six years. That means they will have no cause to worry about their own political futures till the middle of the second Administration from this. For United States Senators are elected for longer terms than any other officials of the Government at Washington, save only the Federal Judges. And when a man gets an election for a six years' term as Senator he comes to Washington wearing a smile a yard wide. He feels well, and nearly everybody else around him feels well because he has gotten such a nice prize that Washington generally estimates as more precious politically than a seat at the President's Cabinet table.

* * *

Keeping Up With the Band.

One almost loses breath keeping up with the procession of events these days of a Washington Winter. The Capitol is surely making history every 24 hours, and the volume of epoch-making material every seven days really becomes quite imposing. And as usual the White House is leaving the Capitol far behind, altho 500 legislators in Senate and House are trying to imprint deep dents upon the scroll of time. Then, there are the Presidential messages issued almost daily to the intrenched statesmen on Capitol Hill. They get first place under the Washington date line and reach first the eye of the country.

Congress, too, is trying to be defiant, but who cares whether Congress is right or wrong? The Congressmen themselves are beginning to think that is the attitude of the country. They do not propose to surrender tamely, not by a jugful. And so it is that week by week they proceed to throw up new intrenchments, work out new schemes for carrying the war into the President's territory, and all that sort of a thing. They say they will not pass a bill that the President really wants, and are giving a good imitation of men who mean what they say. They even are going further than that, and are racking their brains to enact measures the President will have to sign to his own annoyance and embarrassment. But it is all talk. Congress will in the end do exactly as the President wants it to do.

Meanwhile Congress has been so occupied with all these war activities that it has sorely neglected the work that it must actually do before the 4th of March arrives. There are 14 appropriation bills, as nearly every one knows, which must be passed. Almost half of the short session of Congress is gone, only six weeks remain; but only one of the 14 necessary supply bills has been approved by Senate and House. All of which means a sorry mix-up in the closing days of the session—all-night sessions for a week or so, hasty legislation, mischievous riders on appropriation bills, probably heated controversies, verging on fist fights, and then early March days, when 25 or 30 men in the House, who do the work there, and 10 or 15 Senators, who do the work there, will feel and act like men dragged thru seven cities.

Pressing as all this work is upon the Senate and House, neither body is too busy to pause any day to hear speeches in denunciation of the President. And the President? He reads the speeches and laughs and grows fat. Especially is it true in the Senate, where for a good portion of two days last week the time of the sessions was devoted to the President and his doings. Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, had two innings, one that was not of the pitchfork character and one that was. All the time he was explaining how he was not mixed up improperly in efforts to purchase valuable timber lands in Oregon at $2.50 an acre, notwithstanding the President's contentions to the contrary. And then Senator Bacon, of Georgia, took up a lot of time arguing that the Senate could demand information of Cabinet officers directly, whether the President wanted it given or not. The House was not quite so lavish of its time in anti-Roosevelt talk, but it had its little fling also.

* * *

Somebody Fooled.

And in that connection there is an interesting incident. When a resolution was brought in from the Printing Committee to print 2,000,000 copies of the proceedings of the House the day that a rebuke was administered to the President for his Secret Service message, it was tabled suddenly, because some one stated that it would cost $68,000 to print 2,000,00 copies and almost as much more for the Post Office Department to distribute them. It was supposed to have been a circus stunt, largely for the purpose of emphasizing anew, along the line of advertising that the President follows. Some of the House leaders were laughing in their sleeves when it was all over and the emphatic vote to lay the motion upon the table had been recorded. But some men are now asking how it was ever estimated that the printing would cost $68,000. There were only about 30 pages of the Congressional Record covering the eight hours of debate preceding the rebuke. Representative Loudenslager, an officer of the Republican Congressional Committee, who has had large experience in having millions of campaign documents printed, states that he can have 2,000,000 copies of these same proceedings of the House printed at a cost not to exceed $5,000. And members of Congress are laughing anew about that as showing how an absurd statement can go unquestioned in the House of Representatives.

* * *

The Marines.

It is difficult to turn to any particular activity in Government matters at Washington without looking at the President's side of it and the Congressional side of it. The Navy is an example. Last Autumn the President issued the now famous order withdrawing the ramins from aboard ships of war. If the President had done it gradually, without making any announcement, nobody would have thought anything about it. But he did it with great publicity, and a war was started upon him immediately for that action. The result is that the House Navy Committee in the big Navy appropriation bill, just reported and to be considered in the House within a few days, voted in a provision requiring the marines to be employed on board ships. Of course, that means the Navy appropriation bill will be fought by the President's friends all the way thru Congress. The Republicans who stand by the President at all times will try to get the House and then the Senate on record as regards that particular paragraph. There will undoubtedly be heated debates.

But the President is having a little satisfaction at his end of the Avenue. He has organized a Commission, which is making recommendations to him for the reorganization of the Navy Department. He wants an independent Advisory Board, which is another name for a General Staff, but he must have some legislation from Congress to accomplish this. Of course, in its present contrary mood Congress has no idea in the world of giving him that desired legislation at this session, and probably will not enact it at all. But the President has secured a Commission, composed of several popular men, in whom the general public has confidence when it comes to Navy matters—such men as ex-Secretary of the Navy Paul Morton; Mr. Justice Moody, also an ex-Secretary of the Navy; Rear-Admiral Robley D. Evans, Rear-Admiral A. T. Mahan and others like them. He reasons that the people will suspect that Congress is not doing what it ought to do when the recommendations of such a Board as that are not heeded.

And this phase of the warfare between President and Congress is reflected in the renewal of hostilities between the two factions of Navy officers. They are at it again hammer and tongs, just when it was hoped peace had been restored and there would be a reign of quiet for awhile. The President, however, is determined to press his Navy reforms just as far as he can, and is not to be dissuaded by the consequent demoralization in the service.

* * *

Senatorial Elections.

Just when the returns are rolling in from the Electoral College and the formalities for the selection of a President and Vice President are coming to a head the election of United States Senators is becoming conspicuous in connection with the class whose terms begin March 4 next. Every few days now a Senator or a Senator-elect is coming to town to receive the congratulations of colleagues or prospective colleagues. This is the week when many of the State Legislatures ballot for Senator, even tho a number of States have already held their party caucuses.

A few have already elected, such States as New Hampshire, which has just sent Senator Jacob H. Gallinger here for a fourth term. That never happened to a New Hampshire Senator before. In fact, no other New Hampshire Senator ever had more than two terms. Senator Gallinger is looked upon as the Mayor of Washington, because Chairman of the Senate Committee that handles District of Columbia legislation. Senator-elect Burton, of Ohio, has already received the glad hand, for Ohio elected early this year. Indiana is electing a Democratic Senator this week in Benjamin F. Shiveley, who used to be a member of the House, and who will now become the first Democratic Senator from Indiana in nearly 12 years. A fight has started up anew in Illinois, and Senator Hopkins has hurried away to look after his fences. It is no uncommon thing, in connection with these Senatorial elections, for a Senator to jump the city of Washington in a night to get out home to see how things are gaing. Senator W. B. Heyburn, of Idaho, left that way a few nights ago, to take the journey of nearly a week to Boise, altho the State Convention of his party had nominated him and there seemed no question about his re-election. He stayed at Boise only 12 hours, and then started on the return trip.

* * *

Old Story Revamped.

A notable incident of the last few days in connection with the scolding President Roosevelt is getting from Congress, is the alacrity with which the members all at once have seized upon the fact that the President's barber is costing the country $1,600 a year. The story has been told again and again in the years gone by, and is not at all new, that Dulany, a very affable little chap, who is much around the White House Offices during the day, has been carried on the rolls of the Auditor for the Navy Department. Everybody refused to get excited about it, however, till recently, when some one brought the story out anew. Then every man in Congress was talking about it, and the fact of Dulany's employment in such fashion. Of course, Dulany does no work for the Auditor for the Navy Department, does not even report there for duty, and, it is said, has his salary sent up to him twice every month. His employment may not be exactly in the line of Civil Service, which the President advocates, but Dulany's case has by no means been a solitary one, as Congress has known for a long, long time, so what is the use of stepping sideways just at this juncture. If Congress really is hunting trouble why not hunt big things.

Incidentally Dulany has an interesting history. He is dark-skinned, but might pass for a white man. He himself does not know for certain whether he is a negro or a Caucasian. He was left a foundling on a doorstep in the neighboring city of Alexandria, Va., and was taken in and reared by a colored family. He never knew who was his father or who was his mother, but he grew up with the negros, and has spent his life among them as one of the race.

Everybody around the White House likes Dulany, who happens to be very expert with the razor. He keeps the President's shaving tools in a little leather portmanteau, which he drags out from under the sofa every afternoon about 1 p. m., which is the hour that the President wants a shave. There is a chair in the little reception room, where visitors wait for the President. The chair is easily adapted for shaving. The President emerges from his office when he has closed his forenoon's labors, but often there are a few yet to see him, and with them he converses while Dulany shaves him. The President talks volubly. He is always restless, but Dulany shaves away without apparent concern, and has never been known to nick the Presidential skin. He has been known to be so accommodating that he would comb and uncomb the President's hair two or three times if some one was talking who had not quite completed all that he had to say. Of course, in such cases the visitors were men whom Dulany knew and whom he was fairly certain the President would not object to talking with a little longer.

VETERANS IN THE CITY.

A. B. Chase, 3d Mass. Cav., Lowell, Mass. Comrade Chase is one of six brothers who served in the army. One was killed at Jackson and another died in the hospital. Comrade Chase has been selling pianos in Texas for many years.

Comrade Rowland, Co. A, 54th Pa., Clearwater, Fla., for the last 26 years, is in the city on business, en route from Philadelphia to his home in the land of lasting Summer. He naturally gave The National Tribune a call. He is almost helpless from the many wounds he received in battle.

Comrade Dr. James M. McGee, of Philadelphia, who lost a leg in battle when a member of Co. E, 119th Pa., visited The National Tribune, being in the Capital on business. He is Recording Secretary of the U. S. Marine Soldiers' League.

Indebtedness in England.

Editor National Tribune: Kindly inform me whether the United States is at this present time indebted to England? If so, for what? I have been quite frequently told this by British subjects, who are at the present time residents of the Dominion. Not being conversant with the question, I have been unable to answer them properly. —Samuel H. Crist, Marine City, Canada.

Between two such great countries as Great Britain and the United States there must be always some unsettled claims which are in the process of adjudication. There are doubtless many of these now in the process of examination and settlement between England and the United tSates. Whether the balance is on our side or that of Great Britain no one can tell. There is no long-standing debt, however, on either side.—Editor National Tribune.

CONGRESS.

Report of Proceedings From Day to Day.

Senate.

Monday, Jan. 18.—By a vote of 37 to 27 the Senate overruled the Committee on Appropriations, and fixed the salary of the Speaker at $15,000, instead of the proposed $20,000.

Senator Bailey spoke vigorously against any increase. The amendment was favored by Senators Elkins, Bourne and Depew.

Senator Rayner introduced a resolution calling on the Attorney-General for information as to whether the President had ordered suits brought against certain newspapers for criminal libel. It went over.

House.

Representative Willett, of New York, denounced President Roosevelt in a speech on the floor of the House.

General debate on the pension appropriation bill was concluded, and the consideration of the bill for amendment begun.

The House passed a number of miscellaneous bills, including one to extend the provisions of the Cary act to New Mexico and Arizona. This act provides for the reclamation of arid lands.

Representative Sherman, of New York, introduced a resolution taking the measure authorizing the use of the Pension Office for the inaugural ball out of the hands of the District Committee and making it immediate business in the House. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Rules.

A message from the President was read recommending that he be authorized to declare Feb. 12 next, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, a National holiday.

At 5:03 the House adjourned.

Senate.

Jan. 19.—The Senate increased the compensation of the President to $100,000 a year, inclusive of all traveling expenses. The salary of the Vice President and Speaker was fixed at $15,000.

After debate the resolution of Senator Rayner, calling on the Attorney-General for information concerning certain libel suits, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Many private pension bills were passed.

House.

The House passed the pension appropriation bill and the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, and took up the consideration of the naval appropriation bill.

A committee of five was appointed to determine what action should be taken in regard to the speech by Representative Willett, of New York, denouncing President Roosevelt.

A message from the President, recommending an investigation of conditions in Liberia, was read.

At 6:17 o'clock the House adjourned.

Senate.

Jan. 20.—Senator Frazier, of Tennessee, spoke on the Brownsville case, and discussed the race question at some length.

Senator Foraker endeavored to have a time for a vote on the pending bills agreed upon, but, failing, gave notice that on Monday he should move their consideration.

Senator Flint offered a resolution, instructing the Committee on Appropriations to investigate the subject of the alleged use by Army and Navy Officers of Government vehicles for private purposes.

Consideration of the legislative appropriation bill was continued, but no action was taken on any further proposed increase of salary.

Four treaties were ratified, the most important being an extradition convention with Honduras, the last refuge of fugitives from justice.

House.

The House unanimously voted to drop George L. Lilley, Governor of Connecticut, from membership in that body.

Considerable headway was made with the naval appropriation bill, all the provisions for the local Navy Yard going thru without amendment.

At 5:17 p. m. the House adjourned.

Senate.

Jan. 21.—After considering the legislative, executive and judicial bill for three hours the salaries of the District of Columbia Judiciary were raised.

Senator Dick's resolution to proclaim a holiday in honor of the Lincoln centenary anniversary on Feb. 12 led to a prolonged debate, which resulted in the measure being laid on the table.

Items of $1,200 in the urgency deficiency bill for the purchase of automobiles for Mr. Taft were stricken out by the Appropriations Committee.

Senator Warren's bill to regulate examinations for promotion in the Medical Corps of the Army was passed.

The Senate adjourned at 5:45 o'clock.

House.

Committee of Whole discussed naval appropriation bill.

House committee tabled prohibition bill.

House committee tabled bill to prevent officials from owning stock in municipal corporations.

Representative Tawney criticised method of making estimates for appropriations.

House committee approved resolution calling for investigation of fire escapes in District.

House adjourned at 4:55.

Senate.

Jan. 22.—The legislative appropriation bill was finished, and Mr. Hale gave notice he would call up the urgent deficiency appropriation bill Monday.

By resolution Lincoln's birthday anniversary, Feb. 12, was declared to be a special holiday, and $50,000 was appropriated for a survey of "The Lincoln Way," a proposed memorial highway from Washington to Gettysburg.

In executive session a message was received from the President transmitting the reply of the Secretary of the Treasury regarding expenditures from the $3,000,000 war emergency fund. The contents of the report will not be divulged.

The President sent to both Houses the report of the National Conservation Commission, with his hearty indorsement of its recommendations.

The Senate adjourned until next Monday.

House.

The House passed the naval appropriation bill, with the provisions for two new battleships and other ships of war unchanged, the opponents of a greater Navy being utterly routed. The only vital provision stricken out was that restoring the marines to duty aboard ship.

The fortifications appropriation bill was reported to the House, carrying an appropriation of $7,920,111.

The Indian appropriation bill was reported to the House.

At 4:46 the House adjourned.

The Lincoln Boulevard.

M. A. Cleveland, Willoughby, O., is much pleased with the Life of Lincoln in The National Tribune, and he feels strongly that the best monument to the President's memory would be a boulevard with an electric car line from Washington to Gettysburg, to be called by his name. His fame will grow as the years go on. Comrade Cleveland has written to the President-elect, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army and members of Congress in regard to this, and everywhere his letters have met with favor. He is now 86, but hopes he may live to see the enterprise completed.

WHITE HOUSE DANCES.

Dolly Madison Danced, but Most of Them Didn't—The East Room Rich in History—Scenes of Beauty and Informal Jollity.

Dolly Madison was a dear. She loved all bright and beautiful things, and she made sunlight wherever she went, so "they say." She was a bit of a flirt, it is true, but she was so adroit about it, and so adorable that her admirers were legion, and no one could claim advantage over the other, so it wasn't so very awful.

Dear old Abigail Adams, the Puritan first Mistress of the White House and the second "First Lady" in the land, was as serious minded as her sad colored stuff dresses, and there wasn't much light or gaiety about that unfinished barn of a White House in her day. They had "salons," "levees" and "soirees," and heavy dinings, but a dance! Not on your life. The dear lady would have fallen down dead at the suggestion. She had a lot of young people in her family, but they were severe of mind as their mother. One of her sons began being "private secretary" to Ministers abroad when he was just entering his teens, and a boy with a mind like that wouldn't care to trip the light fantastic, you know. But Dolly danced herself, and so she was quite willing to have dancing women

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MRS. ROOSEVELT AND MISS ETHEL

about her, and she did. When Jefferson was President, he rather frowned on such things, but "Pretty Dolly Madison," the wife of his Secretary of State, had things pretty much her own way, and when she wanted a dancing party she had it. Stately indeed were the minuets "grandmamma danced" in the White House. Magnificent were the grand marches, but that was about the extent of it. There was no romping through a two step, no whirling through waltzes, no round up in "Barn Dances," in Dolly's day, or any other until after the war period.

Mrs. James K. Polk, who was considered handsome, and who had cast-iron manners and thought in straight lines, with "prunes and prisms," puckered mouth and a severity of manner that repelled everybody, was shocked beyond measure when a young relative of hers suggested that the East room was just the place for a dance.

"Would you dance in the President's House?" she frigidly asked the presuming young woman, and she promptly wilted. It is recorded that when the Prince of Wales, now King Edward, was here in Buchanan's time, he thought the White House quite presentable, and diplomatically intimated that "the East room would be a jolly good place to take a turn or two in." But he had his trouble for his pains. Not even for a Prince Royal could the traditions of the White House be broken.

All the days of the Lincolns were sad ones, in the White House, and there were no young people to dance, so, as always, there were just "receptions" and "levees" without end. When the Johnsons came in Mrs. Patterson gave some famous dancing parties for her children, but no "grown-ups" took part. Then the Grants came in and pretty Nellie Grant had many children's parties there with dancing for them, and a "grown-up" dance for herself just before she married and went away to unhappiness which had been foreign to her before that. The Arthurs had some children's parties, too, but the Clevelands had nothing but stupid jams called "receptions." They were something awful, those receptions were. Clothes were torn off of the women, tails of coats gave way in the melee, shoulderstraps, swords, spurs of the foreign contingent and medals of all kinds got tangled up in flimy laces and were torn off. The floors of the parlors looked the next morning after as though there might have been a Donny-brook fair held there. And it was not so very much better when the Harrisons came in. Mrs. Robert James McKee gave a "German" in the White House, while her father was President, and the people of the country just "riz right up in rath" at the i-d-e-e-a of profaning the White House in this manner. Yes, indeedy, just like that.

No one ever had the temerity to suggest another dance in the White House until the Roosevelts came to their own. "Princess Alice" had her coming out ball in the White House, and it is one of the things to remember. One of the beautiful beads on memory's rosary. Nothing more beautiful was ever seen in the historic old pile.

That is, until this Winter.

Six dances at the White House is the schedule. Six glorious evenings in the big white and gold East Room, with the Marine Band to play for you. Why, a graven image would certainly get up and gyrate under such inspiration, but when there are fully 200 pretty girls and as many handsome Army and Navy fighters in full uniform, and a pretty good sprinkling of other men in evening clothes, and matrons in not much clothes to speak of—well, if you please, Fairyland simply isn't in it.

Mrs. Washington, Martha, you know, announced to those who frequented her "drawing rooms," which, of course, was not in the White House, that "The General retires at 9, and I usually precede him."

Think of that, will you?

And then gaze on this: "Mrs. Roosevelt requests the pleasure of the company of 'Mrs. Blank' on Friday evening, Jan. 22, at 10 o'clock. Dancing."

You see, you are not supposed to put in an appearance at the White House until an hour after the first President of the United States has gone to bed. But you go. Oh, yes, indeed! You would go at 10 o'clock in the morning or at midnight, if that precious bit of pasteboard came with your name on it and designated such hours. You would go any time set in any hour of the 24; that is what you would do if bidden to a dance at the White House, for it is just the prettiest, most wholesome and thoroly delightful event of the season. When you see the terraces all aglow with lights in between the bay and evergreen trees you may know that Mrs. Roosevelt is having one of her dancing parties for Miss Ethel, the debutante daughter of the house.

You go at 10 o'clock, just as informally as possible, and you leave at 12:30, because at 12:30 the Marine Band plays "Home, Sweet Home," and you know that is a nice way of telling you that right soon the lights will go out, for these—

"Revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air;
* * * "We are such stuff as dreams
are made on."

Indeed, it is no fiction, for those flitting forms, gowned in soft blue and shadowy pink, delicate green and snow-white satin, silk and lace, flashing with jewels, decked in pearls and surrounded by "roses red and violets blue," were so quaint of attire and so free of formality that they seemed as insubstantial as a dream.

Mrs. Roosevelt stands alone, except attended by two Military Aids, in the center of the Blue Parlor, where she receives the guests as they enter. Refreshments are served in the State dining room. The whole of the great house is aglow with light, but it is in the East Room, where tragedy and triumphs, woes and glory have centered since Abigail Adams hung her washing there to dry, or shivered there in its cavernous and chilling gloom while statesmen and warriors discussed the tangles of National Government of the people, by the people, for the people, under flaring tallow dips.

Shades of the mighty! How much history that great room has seen!

But no shadows lurk there; they couldn't under the dancing crystals of the chandeliers, ablaze with the hidden electric bulbs. You see pretty faces, fairy figures and stalwart men in uniforms, in bravery of foreign regalias, in medals, sashes and aguilettes, and you see as in a vision the brides that have plighted troth there, but you shut mind and heart to the crueler pictures of Presidents sent untimely to their rest by assassins' hands. Three of them have laid in state under that great center glow of light.

Miss Ethel, in white satin with some crystal trimming down the front and back of the clinging directoire gown, danced—like a girl in her first season. A young girl who has just turned her 17th year, and who sees all the world at her feet. A blithe, wholesome, happy girl, who has grown up like a flower and whom care seems far from. Not a single minute did the Marine Band pause—polka, schottische, waltz, just as fast as the players could turn their music the dancing went on. There were many belles and beaux of other days there, and they danced, too, just as madly as the younger ones—a turn with this gallant, a swing with that one, half down the long room with one partner, and finished it with another; that was the way the daughter of the White House danced.

And the President danced a measure with his daughter.

If any President before Roosevelt has danced in the White House it is not remembered, but Roosevelt danced with several of the pretty girls, and danced with the same energy he does everything else, and his smiling face as he kept time to the tunes showed his delight.

Mrs. Roosevelt did not dance. She shook hands most graciously with all who came, and again as they went; she had a pleasant word for each and a smile, but she contented herself with watching the joy of her daughter in the dance.

And this is but one of the delightfully informal evenings at the White House when some 300 are asked to gather for dancing. It ended with the barn dance. Can you imagine it? It is a rollicking, mirth-provoking dance, and you have almost got to be young and graceful to do it right, and trains are out of place, so the girls who wore them picked them up in their hands, and from beneath lace-trimmed, silken petticoats small white-shod feet twinkled in and out in the delicious abandon of the barn dance. Twice, thrice, it was played over before the final crash of closing its seductive rythm.

And this in the wonderful East Room.

Indeed, these are nights to remember of the White House.

OUR FREE CONGRESS.

Views of the National Tribune Readers on Tariff Revision.

Campbell Lefors, Tekoa, Wash., favors a revision with a lower tariff on lumber, coal and wood pulp, but approach sugar very carefully, since Washington is a sugar-beet country. The duty on lead should be left as it is, as that is an important Washington industry. The Coeur d'Alene mines are a great market for all of the eastern Washington farmers. They should be protected.

* * *

Owen T. Wright, 14th Ind., Fort Dodge, Kan., says that the Republican platform promises a revision, and we must have revision. Owing to high freights coal is $7.50 a ton at Dodge City. The duties on coal and lumber should be reduced, and reciprocity will help us. Is there any security that if we take the duty off lumber Canada would not put an export duty on the same, as Brazil did with regard to coffee?

* * *

Willard S. Terry, Hilo, Hawaii, says: Revise the tariff with a view of encouraging new industries. In a schedule of 4,000 different articles there must be many changes which should be made. Coffee, fiber and rubber should be protected, and if they are there will have to be new ships built to keep up with the industries developed.

* * *

J. H. Eby, North Robinson, O., wants the tariff revised on a safe and sane basis, with the reduction of duty where it will benefit the consumer without destroying protection. There should be no duties on wool, lumber, hides and leather.

* * *

J. M. Puckett, Bardstown, Ky., says that Congress should make a prompt readjustment of the tariff, so that business will not suffer from its tardiness.

* * *

William Doner, Waymart, Pa., wants the tariff taken off lumber for the benefit of people who build small homes.

* * *

H. C. Neff, Hiawatha, Kan., says that he volunteered the same day that Fort Sumter was fired on, and is still standing for the best interests of the country. Lumber, pulp and coal might be put on the free list, but it is better to make haste very slowly in revising the tariff. Let well enough alone. He has been doing business for 67 years, and these are the best times for 90 per cent of the people that he has known. This is the best country in the world, and let us do the best we can for it.

* * *

S. H. Murdock, 40th Mass., Brockton, Mass., is opposed to a revision. Everyone is doing well; no change is needed.

* * *

J. G. Robbins, Le Seur Center, Minn., says: Let well enough alone until the Panama Canal is completed and paid for.

* * *

George Kaufman, New England, W. Va., says that there should be no revision of the tariff. Everything is good enough.

* * *

D. W. Darbee, Colden, N. Y., would admit free all things that we cannot produce, and put a high protective tariff on all that we can. He believes in America for Americans.

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A UNION SHIP.

A Patriot Craft of Rare Attractiveness.

S. M. Greenbaum, 39th Ill., Chicago, Ill., and now of the Indiana Transportation Company, sends the description of a new vessel which will be launched on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22. It will be a companion to the steamship Theodore Roosevelt, and will have a block of wood from each of the 46 States of the Union in a handsome design in the main cabin. The vessel will be of steel and have 46 staterooms, unless the Territory of New Mexico shall be given the name of Lincoln and admitted to Statehood, in which case there will be 47. Each of these will be named after a State, and on the panels between will be photographs of all the Governors in office at the time the boat is put in service next May. The vessel will be named the United States, and display the Star Spangled Banner in red, white and blue electric lights and also an immense shield. All thru the cabin will be pictures and tablets giving the history of the country. Small brass tablets will bear short sentences and terse paragraphs from our great men, and one of the tablets will have Lincoln's Gettysburg speech. The United States is 215 feet long and 40-foot beam, and will be fitted for service on the ocean as well as the Lakes, so that if there is communication established by the way of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico she can enter upon that trade.

The Pennsylvania Pension Bill.

John J. Nichols, 304 Euclid avenue, Pittsburg, Pa., objects to the provision in the Pennsylvania pension bill limiting pensions to those who served 90 days in the army and navy between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865. If this provision stands it will cut out the boys who enlisted in the latter part of January and first of February, 1865, and who served from six to 10 months, doing their duty, but did not reach the limit of 90 days prior to April 9, 1865.

H. H. Lowell, Penfield, Pa., registers his kick against the Pennsylvania pension bill. He is in favor of each State's pensioning her soldiers, without regard to their present residence. It seems to be the only way to give all a square deal.

New York Pension Bill.

Charles I. Curtiss, 59th N. Y., Westfield, Mass., says, with reference to the New York pension bill, that when men were asked to enlist nobody inquired whether they had lived three years in the country. Many of these were Irish and Germans, who had but recently immigrated, and some of them have gone back to their Fatherland to lay their bones to rest in their native soil. He himself is shut out of the benefits of the law, because he went to live with his son in Massachusetts. New York had the great benefit of men from other States, who came in to fill up the State's quota, and these men should not now be debarred.

The 189th Pa.

William Bratten, 285 North 20th street, East Orange, N. J., wants to hear from any of his old comrades of the 189th Pa.

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1809 LINCOLN 1909

The Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln will occur next year, and it is now time for Grand Army Posts, Woman's Relief Corps and all other patriotic organizations and societies, which may have been formed having similar ends in view, to begin preparations for the purpose of fitly celebrating that important event.

Osborn H. Oldroyd, whose residence is now in the same house in which Lincoln died at Washington, D. C., has prepared an appropriate service to commemorate that occasion.

The program, containing some 20 numbers, consists of songs, recitations and four articles covering the different phases of Lincoln's life. It is a 20-page illustrated pamphlet, printed on good paper and in attractive style. The price of this edition, or compilation, has been placed at 10 cents per copy, $1 per dozen or $5 per 100. It seems impossible that there can exist a single Post or Corps that could not subscribe for and easily dispose of at least 100 copies of this production, and thus make a profit of an amount equal to purchase price, besides serving as an educator to the people upon the true greatness of the character of Abraham Lincoln. Orders sent, prepaid, on receipt of price.

Communications should be addressed to O. H. OLDROYD, 516 10th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

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