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Editorial Correspondence

Washington, December 1.—The opening of Congress is an interesting event, and always attracts crowded galleries, and concentrates for an hour the attention of the country, but there is nothing particularly exciting or spectacular about it. When the hour of noon arrives, the clerk of the house calls the assembled members to order, and the roll is called. A quorum being present, a resolution is adopted that the house proceed to the election of a Speaker. Thereupon the chairman of the Republican caucus, in a single sentence, presents the name of Hon. D. B. Henderson, a representative from Iowa. The chairman of the Democratic caucus nominates Hon. James D. Richardson, a member from the state of Tennessee; and Mr. Neville, the only man in the house willing to call himself a Populist, amid much quiet laughter, offers the name of Hon. W. L. Stark, a representative from the state of Nebraska. The vote is taken and Mr. Henderson resolves 191, Mr. Richardson 150, Mr. Stark one, cast by the faithful Mr. Neville, and Mr. Amos J. Cummings one, prompted by the modesty of Mr. Richardson. Thereupon Mr. Richardson, Mr. Stark and Mr. Cummings, all Democrats, are appointed a committee to advise Mr. Henderson of his election and escort him to the chair. It is really a very great honor to receive a second election with no opposition whatever within your own party, and with only the perfunctory opposition of your opponents, to a position second in power in this government only to that of the president, and there is no doubt of the sincerity of the thanks which General Henderson returns in simple, but eloquent and graceful, phrase for the notable compliment.

There is no roll call on the election of the subordinate officers of the house. Everybody understands that the nominees of the Republican caucus are to be elected, and the presentation of an opposing list from the Democratic caucus is a mere formality.

The Democratic opposition to the adoption of the rules of the Fifty-seventh Congress is a mere formality also, so far as any practical result is concerned, for nobody knows better than those who make the opposition the utter futility of it, because they have been over the road many times before; and yet they make their fight, and talk in the same old familiar way about the oppression and tyranny of the rules which make it possible for the house of representatives to do business. They tell Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, in a good natured way, about his little fight on these same rules in the Republican caucus; but they have no answer to make to the derisive laughter which volleys over to them from the Republican side when Mr. Hepburn recalls the fact that the rule of which the Democrats now most bitterly complain was first adopted by a Democratic Congress, and was then warmly supported by the men who now most vehemently protest against it.

The organization completed and the rules adopted, the only really interesting business of the morning begins, and that is the selection of seats. This is one instance, and the only one I have yet discovered, in which a new member is on absolute equality with an old member. The seats are selected by lot, and the drawing is fair and impartial, so that the newest member may have an opportunity to select the best seat in the house, while the name of the oldest member may be the last one out of the box. In the drawing today Kansas had the best and the worst luck. The names of Mr. Long and Mr. Calderhead came early out of the box, and they were able to secure exactly the seats they desired. But the name of Mr. Curtis was the fourth from the last, and that of Mr. Miller the very last, while Mr. Bowersock, Mr. Reeder and the writer herself had but little better fortune. As a matter of fact, however, the arrangement of the house of representatives is now so admirable that the location of a member makes but comparatively little difference. The location, especially of a new member, is of small consequence, for it is not expected that he will have much use during his first term for the eye of the Speaker.

So ended the first day. It is customary in state legislatures for a member wishing to introduce a bill to rise in his place, address the Speaker, and say: "I desire to offer the following bill," which is then taken from his hand by a page to the clerk's desk, and immediately by the Speaker

referred to the proper committee. I presume that was originally the practice in Congress, but it has long since been abandoned, and now all the member has to do is to drop his little bills into the capacious maw of the bill box at the clerk's desk, from which they are taken in due course by the journal clerks and referred to the respective committees without ever coming either under the eye or the ear of the Speaker. In this way the opening day of the Fifty-seventh Congress witnessed the introduction of some 2,000 bills. Most of these bills, of course, were private bills, relating to pensions and other claims, but many of them were of a general nature, and will come up for discussion hereafter.

The long agitated question relating to over-representation of the Southern states promises at last to be brought to a definite issue by this Congress. As is well known, a number of the Southern states have very recently adopted new constitutions, the avowed purpose of which is to disfranchise the negro. The first congressional delegation to be elected under this new provision is that from Louisiana, and the whole matter will be brought before Congress by the consideration of the following resolution, introduced by Mr. Moody, of Massachusetts:

Resolved, That the speaker shall appoint a select committee of eleven members, who shall inquire and have leave to report, by bill or otherwise, at any time, whether at the election in the State of Louisiana, wherein the members of the House of Representatives from said State were chosen, the right of any of the male inhabitants of said State, being twenty-one years of age and citizens of the United States, to vote at said election was by the constitution and laws of said State denied or in any way abridged contrary to the Constitution of the United States or the articles in addition thereto and amend thereof; whether if the right of any person to vote was denied or abridged as aforesaid the members from said State chosen at said election are entitled to membership in this House, and whether it is expedient that Congress should enact appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of the fourteenth and fifteenth articles in addition to and amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

It was at first proposed to challenge the Louisiana delegation at the bar of the house, when the members appeared to be sworn in and to have them stand aside until the subject was investigated; but after consideration it was thought best to proceed by means of the foregoing resolution, the debate upon which will doubtless be one of the most interesting of recent years.

It is needless to say that there will be plenty of partisan politics under the great white dome this winter. Aside from the fact of the wide differences of honest opinion upon the many tremendously important questions to be considered, both sides of the house recognize fully that the issues of the next campaign are to be made up here this winter, and that means a battle royal from start to finish. That the Republican party has vastly the advantage of the opposition in this contest goes without saying. It is entrenched; its forces are compact and superbly disciplined; and it has first choice in every position taken. The situation in the Democratic camp is about as widely different from this as can well be imagined. Congressman Burleson, of Texas—himself, of course, a Democrat of the most dyed-in-the-wool variety—outlined it clearly, if somewhat savagely, when he said in a newspaper interview here the other day:

"If the Democratic party should be called into power tomorrow, there would be grave doubts throughout the country whether the Populist ideas of Kansas and Nebraska, the socialistic ideas of Ohio and Illinois, or the semi-Republican ideas of New York and Louisiana would control the particular representative of the party who might be in authority."

"Democracy is wanting neither in leadership nor followers," added the blunt Mr. Burleson. "What is really needed is a party." From which it would appear that Mr. J. Mack Love, of Kansas, was not far wrong when he pointed at the idea of a Democratic love feast at Topeka on Jackson day, enquiring pathetically what the Democrats had to talk about now.

But of all this there will be abundant occasion to speak more hereafter.

The Iola office of Mr. R. H. Knight, for many years a resident there, but now in Los Angeles, California, is interested, and a good deal so, to know that he is now in the securing of a patent on a device of which

he is the inventor to prevent the losing of drills in deep well drilling. Mr. Knight, as manager of one of the oil wells at Pasadena, had some very expensive "fishing" jobs, as a result of which he had a dream one night wherein there appeared a vision of a steel lock, by which the drill could be so firmly attached to the connecting tools as to make its loss impossible. The vision was so vivid that in the morning he was able to make a rough draft of the lock, which he took to a foundry, and from which an apparatus was made that after severe tests seems to be exactly the thing for which all well drillers have been seeking these past forty years. Mr. Knight is in the east to place a large order for the manufacture of the lock, and there seems to be no doubt that he will realize from his dream a handsome fortune. It shows that when things begin coming a man's way, even his dreams can be coined into drachmas. C. F. S.

Washington, December 5.—In one of these letters a few days ago, I said there would be nothing startling in the President's message—nothing to scare anybody. The readers of the REGISTER have had a chance now to judge for themselves, for every word of the message was published in this paper the day it was read in Congress, an achievement, by the way, never before accomplished in Iola, and one to which I trust it is pardonable to express a little pride. It is hardly likely that all of the REGISTER subscribers read the message throughout, for it was rather long, but those who did will testify that it was well worth the reading. Here at the Capital, where people pay more attention probably to such documents than is paid by the public generally in more remote parts of the country, the message was hailed universally as one of exceptionally sustained interest. Its freedom from the wearisome details of departmental reports and recommendations was particularly grateful, while the purity and vigor of its diction gave it a literary flavor which few presidential messages in the past have approached. In both house and senate an unusually large number of members actually listened to the reading of the message, and it was freely applauded, from the Democratic as well as the Republican side. Naturally that portion of it referring to the assassination of President McKinley, and urging the necessity of proper legislation to prevent or punish similar crimes, met with the warmest approval, and that part of the message—if no other—ought to be read by every American citizen, for it explodes so completely the fallacy of those who half excuse the assassin, on the ground that he was "a product of social conditions"—a creature of economical and political injustice. As the President truly says, the anarchist is a product of social conditions, just as a highwayman is "produced" by the fact that an unarmed man happens to have a purse. No point was ever more clearly or forcibly made, and the President deserves the thanks of all patriotic people for giving us all an absolutely unanswerable argument with which to refute the silly but dangerous sophistry of which practically the whole socialistic press of this country—not excepting a certain paper called the Commoner, and published at Lincoln, Nebraska—has been guilty. The closing paragraph of this portion of the message ought to have a familiar sound to the readers of the REGISTER, because it follows so closely the thought expressed in an editorial in these columns soon after the President's death the thought of the futility of anarchy. And its closing sentences, especially, ought to sound loud in the ears of those misguided recitants who pretend to believe that government is to be reformed by murder. "This great country," says the President, "will not fall into anarchy, and if anarchists should ever become a serious menace to its institutions, they would not merely be stamped out, but would involve in their own ruin every active or passive sympathizer with their doctrines. The American people are slow to wrath, but when their wrath is once kindled it burns like a consuming flame."

It is well understood in Washington that President McKinley had fully made up his mind to concentrate his efforts during this session of Congress upon the ratification of the reciprocity treaties, and it is generally understood also that he could have accomplished it. The speech at Buffalo the last week was intended as the beginning of the campaign for these treaties. When Congress assembled, it would have been pushed as William McKinley knew so well how to push a thing in which he was interested, calmly,

quietly, dispassionately, smoothly, but pushed all the time; and in the end the President would have won. But Theodore Roosevelt is not William McKinley. He is just as earnest an advocate of reciprocity as was his predecessor, and he is most anxious to have the treaties ratified, but he recognizes the fact that he lacks the power which four years of most notable, successful administration had given to President McKinley to force the adoption of a policy against the individual judgment of a majority of those who are the final judges, and so he very wisely refrained from committing his administration unequivocally to these treaties, contenting himself with an earnest recommendation that they be carefully considered. The general feeling is that the senate is opposed to these treaties, and that there is little hope of their ratification this winter. The writer of these letters ventures to predict, however, that although the treaties may be defeated, reciprocity will not be forgotten. The word is certainly one that has a pleasant sound to the ears of western Republicans, who remember that Blaine first taught us the meaning of it, and that McKinley believed in it. It is a Republican policy by right of discovery. Sooner or later the Republican senate will be brought to understand that the people desire it to become a fact and not merely a theory.

After being in session Monday and Tuesday, Congress adjourned until Friday, and those who read the despatches from Washington are likely to see reports of a good many adjournments over two or three days between now and the first of the year; but they need not be exercised on that account for fear that the men whom they have sent here to represent them are not earning their salaries, or at least trying to earn them. The adjournments are made necessary by the fact that the Speaker has not yet completed his committees, and no real legislative work can be done until the committees are ready. But entirely aside from this, the adjournments give the members of the house much needed time to catch up with their departmental work which has accumulated during the vacation. Probably every member of the house, certainly every Northern member, who has a large number of pensioners among his constituents, brought with him to Washington enough errand-running to occupy several weeks of his time. Some of them brought so much that they could not get through with all of it if they devoted themselves to this alone during the entire session. In the Pension Office today, for example, I happened to meet a young gentleman who calls himself "Senator Hanna's pension man." He told me that he had on his books more than 20,000 pension cases, and that the correspondence, and the work in the Pension Office growing out of these cases, occupied the entire time of himself and two or three other men. The chances are that Senator Hanna's clerical force—the help that he absolutely must have in order to meet the demands of his constituents—costs fully the amount of his senatorial salary. (This pension man, by the way, is Colonel Beckman, who commanded a militia regiment in Cleveland during the street car strike, and received an ugly cut in the throat from one of the strikers in the course of his duty.) Naturally, the greater a man's reputation, the more demands are made upon him, and the work required of Senator Hanna is doubtless exceptionally great. And yet there are many Senators, and not a few Representatives, who are able to hold their positions only because they can draw upon their private fortunes for expenses which are not nearly met by their salary.

Some letters addressed to me have been delayed by reason of the fact that they were sent to Charles F. Scott, clerk of one of the District Courts here. If my correspondents will address their letters to the House of Representatives the confusion will be avoided. C. F. S.

"No town in the State, or in the wide, wide west, is in better shape than Ottawa to profit by the advantages of natural gas," says the Ottawa Herald. It is all right brother, Iola has tried it and likes it. In fact we use no other here.

CREDIT for devising a way to use cancelled postage stamps belongs to a colored preacher of Galena. He used several successfully. To be sure he is under arrest and will be convicted but he used them.

CHARLES HARRIS is of the opinion that the best story which Mrs. J. K. Hudson has yet written is the "Lost Letters," which appeared recently in Lippincott's Magazine.

Kansas Clips and Comments

Two more escaped convicts were captured at Lawton, Okla., Friday. They were Turner Barnes and Bob Clark.

The people of Wellington gave Evangelist Williams, who has just finished a revival there, a free offering of \$1,500.

The Topeka Capital attributes the present shortage in eggs to the fact that most of the hens are attending poultry shows.

The Salina Union says the adage really ought to read: "Late to bed and early to rise, hustle like thunder and advertise."

It is said the Armour Packing Company will establish three large poultry farms in this State, at Emporia, Abilene and Salina.

When the Orient people heard the report that the road was to be sold to the Prison they became Orieled and denied it sharply.

Will White's baby must have helped edit Saturday's issue of the Emporia Gazette. At any rate the date line read "Saturday."

Says a rural editor: "Owing to the overcrowded condition of our columns a number of births and deaths were postponed this week."

The Washington Post-Register, a Kansas paper, was thrown out of the mails last week because it contained a lottery advertisement.

Will White is in Washington watching Pitchfork Tillman and will write him up in McClure's, that is unless Tillman sees White first.

City ownership has gotten to that fierce stage at Leavenworth where women debate on the question in their clubs. The next step is rioting.

A lot of Kansas editors who made a Thanksgiving dinner of sow bosom printed wordy tales about how to cook the turkey with the breast down.

One of the men arrested for the murder of C. L. Wildberger at Winfield has confessed and declares the Moore boy, suspected of the crime, is guilty.

W. Killiom of Leavenworth has ten thumbs where he should have two and eight fingers. He is known as "Ten Thumb Jack" and inherits the peculiarity.

The Burlington Independent insists that a knucker is a good thing for a town. Well: "Good things," you know, ought to be "pushed along," to the next town.

The Neodesha man who killed the last of the Bender family is now confessing that he killed John Collin's father, only he didn't sign his name to the confession.

The Coffeyville Journal says you can't eat a Cherryvale man as far as you can see him, by reason of there not being enough water in Cherryvale to permit of baths.

The man who extracts the taxes from Chanute people is named Pleas Hurt; the same official at Ft. Scott is Columbus Love. So there is really nothing in a name.

Lawrence is holding her poultry show in "music hall." Which is perfectly correct for the lays of the fowls, if set to music, would discount most classical productions.

Purlington has a Lady Somerset Club, but certain ribald males of the town who claim to know about the club meetings declare "Somersault" club would do for a title.

K. C. Star: General Funston will come home next spring famous the world over as the man who captured Aguinaldo and recovered from an operation for appendicitis.

Last Sunday the monument over the grave of ex-governor Lewelling was dedicated at Wichita. It is a handsome marble shaft costing \$500 and was bought by his friends.

At Ottawa where the "ram power" is hated worse than the devil, a rummage sale brought in \$18.70. Anywhere else there would be mean people to question the "ram-mage."

A Topeka woman has sued for divorce because her husband threw hot grease from a pan in her face. That is one of the evils of women encouraging men to help do the cooking.

William Hole has been sentenced to 20 days at hard labor at Independence for disturbing the peace. And now it is feared the prisoners will escape because there is a hole in the jail.

The Coffeyville Journal predicts a warm winter "because the fish worms are near the top of the ground." That would seem to be a better proof than now is a good time to go fishing.

The rest of the world will wait with much patience as it can muster to hear from the Social Science Club of Salina which announces that it will soon "consider the President's message."

One of the inmates of the Hutchinson reformatory is a professional glass-eater. If there are any tumblers in there they'd better be low or the glass eater may get ravenous and eat them.

While a street fakir was holding forth at Galena a town dog grabbed his silk hat and ran off with it. When the curs and the fake curs fall on honest business men will get their dues.

With 1,642,000 bushels of wheat raised in Montgomery county this year and a score of gas wells around town, Coffeyville can eat cracked wheat three times a day for several years.

Kansas drinkers have used "bug juice," "squirrel whiskey," "pizen" and other drinks and it will be strange if some one doesn't tuck liquid air during the company's tour of the state.

A petition is being circulated among the poker players of Cowley county to have Fred Killion, the convict who won \$1,125 in the Kansas City lottery paroled so they can get at the money.

The Pittsburg constitution is all right. The other day a business man of that place was given knock-out drops by a would-be thief, but the drops had no effect of the Pittsburger's stomach.

A Coffeyville man has invented a patent writing desk. Everybody will hope that the new device will make it easier to indite letters beginning: "Dear Sir—Enclosed please find balance due."

Ira M. Collier of Marion is the son of a man who fought in the revolutionary war under Washington. The veteran married at the age of 74 and the Marion man is the only offspring of the union.

F. S. Brooks, of Wichita, won the \$5,000 prize at the recent convention hall guessing contest in Kansas City. He ought to marry Miss Beals, the Wichita girl who got the second claim near Lawton.

The editor of the Kinsley Mercury declares there are seven closets and two store rooms in his house, yet the women have deprived him of the claim to any but five. And every man knows how true that is.

The Sherman Ranch near Ellsworth has 55,000 acres enclosed with wire fence. How much longer people's pants must last in a country where you strike a barbed wire fence only once in ten miles.

The Neodesha man who wrote to Governor Stanley, confessing that he killed the father of John Collins, has not yet sent in his name although the papers have called his attention to his omitting signing the letter.

State Superintendent Nelson says there are 120,000 children of school age in Kansas not going to school, which means that 120,000 right arms of parents are not applying their strength where they should.

The Santa Fe is making extensive improvements at Independence and the Reporter is hesitating between two opinions, both of which lead it to believe that most of the Kansas traffic will hereafter center about town.

The Mail & Beele says a little Hiawatha girl was asking a blessing and when she got to the words "Give us this day our daily bread," her young brother piped in: "Hit Him for pie, Daisy; Hit Him for pie."

A liverman at Merwin hired a promising youth and finally put him to collecting. It was the youth's forte. Not only did he collect \$45 one day while the liverman was out driving, but he gathered himself together and departed.

Friends of Dr. Wood of Coffeyville gave him a new suit Thanksgiving which was the 99th time he has helped eat a turkey on that day. The old doctor expects to retain that practice even after he gives up all the rest of his practice.

The St. Marys Eagle relates that three wild geese lit in W. Week's yard among his ducks and, Weeks drove the flock, geese and all, into his hen house, capturing them. Which is the first "wild goose chase" that ever sinned out well.

The last census gave Salina 6,000 people but the Union says it feels sure there are from 12,000 to 15,000. The Union has probably printed something people didn't like and is basing its guess on the population on the amount of kicking.

To escape further censure for unfairness the Kansas City guessing contest people are paying double prizes, both to those who guessed on total vote and those who guessed on gubernatorial vote in Ohio. But that don't help the poor devils who lost.

A youth tried to describe to a young lady clerk in an Independence store the kind of shawl he wanted to buy. She finally understood. "Oh yes, I know what you want. Kluge." She referred to the make of the shawl but he never waited for explanations and fled.

The Courier boasts that Natoma has a crack shot in the person of L. G. Isenberger. While out riding that gentleman shot a hole through the dashboard with a double-barrelled shot gun, without hurting himself, his brother beside him or either of the horses.

A letter mailed in France, addressed to "The Great Apple Grower, Kansas, North America," was delivered to Judge Fred Wellhouse of Topeka, the "apple king," of course. Another letter directed simply "In His Steps," was delivered to Rev. Charles M. Sheldon of Topeka.

The last issue of the Highland Vidette is devoted to a extensive write-up of a light hearted two farmers, J. E. Springer and his wife, attached J. E. Ward, shooting at five times, hitting him twice, W. Ward, enough wounded, beat his assailant with a club with a club. Both were injured. The either should be jealous of the police in undiscernable by such as their features in the Vidette.