

CAPITAL GOSSIP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Every time there is a desire to avoid tariff legislation, a proposition is made for a tariff commission. There have been such commissions before, and there are no less than six of the older members of Congress take kindly to the idea. The commission is to be composed of the members of the Senate Finance committee, the Ways and Means committee, and an equal number of representatives. To provide either for a commission or for a joint committee would be a most important step, and one that some changes in the tariff, or at least to leave the tariff as it is, and some doubts on the subject. Now, we don't want anything but an impression to go before the people. We want to stand pat, to let well alone, and say to the whole people, "There is not only no intention of changing the tariff, but further that there is no need of making any such change."

When Republican members of Congress begin to consider seriously the possibility of reducing the representation of the colored people, they are disfranchised, and they hesitate for fear that they will make things worse. A very prominent Republican was discussing this subject in the Senate, and remarked, "I should oppose such legislation. I should not possess, but with all the power which the Republicans could easily enact, they would repeal their statutes and maintain white supremacy as they have done in the South. In the South, the colored people are kept in the old way. It is as sure as God's feet that the white people of the South will govern the South, and no Federal legislation will be effective. While it has never been believed possible that such a bill would pass, yet it is to be seen that the Southern people are considering the possibility of a measure, and they are ready to do it. It may be when the view presented by the above quotation dawns upon the mind of the colored people, they may be able to see the old methods. It was in the State of Mississippi, who remarked that in his State they went out and got a few guns on election morning to let the negroes know that there was to be a fair election. With the aid of the disfranchisement laws, we have reports of those guns again. The passage of a bill to reduce representation appears very remote. There are some men who are anxious to have done, but it seems that several are in favor of letting matters rest as they are. An intensely partisan organ, like the Fifty-first, was unable to say such legislation. Can the bill. It cannot be possible that the negro has grown stronger, and certainly there are no indications that he has. He said that a great many negroes are in the proposed legislation because they claim that it will be a tacit admission of the right of disfranchisement, and by indirect means the repeal of the amendment will be accomplished. It is an easy guess that no legislation of this character will pass in this session or next Congress.

An old man stood in front of the marble steps of the Capitol, which is one of the contributions of Texas to the collection in Statuary hall. He was not an artist and probably could tell little about the post, the artistic conception, or the lines, but he had been a hunter the old days and had handled the rifle which is a part of the collection. One of the men who made the collection was himself famous. A carved rifle as long as Austin Texas upon the breast. "That rifle," said the old man, "has no sights on it. All those sights, as well as the new kind, have been sight near the muzzle. Steve Austin never carried no such gun as that. It is to be never could have killed a man. Another mistake is the way the trigger is fixed. Every flint lock was made at half-cock. You never saw a flint lock and hammer like that. Around as to the stock there is no piece for bullets and greased patches which were all the old rifles. They all had the patches even when the rifles were carried in a pouch. Look at the trigger horn. Now every one knows that the trigger horn of Austin, or any of the old timers of his days, was not of that shape. This is a pretty curved affair, ornamental enough, but not practical. The regulation powder horn would fit around a man and fit to him. Then you see Austin is represented as being in a buckskin suit, with a hat over his shoulder, but no bowie knife. A bowie knife was part of the equipment of every Texan in the days of Austin. Then look at his face. We get the face of a woman. I am sure that the Texans ever took this statue that the real Texans would say was not theirs."

Washington is more like a Continental than I have visited," remarked a man who had spent most of his life in Europe. He mentioned that some of the buildings were shown in the lack of uniform height of buildings, which is a general rule in Europe. Most of these buildings were erected before the day of elevators, and the prejudice against elevators has continued so that buildings can be used without them are nearly always erected.

John J. Fitzgerald, the only Democrat from Brooklyn in the late campaign, is still willing to be known as the man to man. He was not the man to man, but was the first Democrat in New York to declare his preference for the Federal and Charles E. Landis were a little bit. At the time Landis was a candidate, and the address of his candidate, and the address of his candidate, and the address of his candidate. "Yes, I am an original Democrat," he asserted. "I don't deny it, and in fact am going to deny it. If other districts had done as well as mine we would have been all right."

The ambition of Representative Larnier to remove Judge Charles Swaine, of the Southern judicial district of his district, it was Larnier who introduced a resolution of investigation and has been the most active men in getting and presenting pertinent facts to the sub-committee. He has no doubt the ultimate success of the project, and has so declared to those with whom he has talked.

will look after the political side of affairs, and that some of the graver and more obscure national questions will come under the supervision of Knox.

Between Senator Crane of Massachusetts and his colleague, Senator Lodge, there will be a far closer relationship than between Lodge and the late Senator Hoar. These two latter differed widely upon matters of public policy. Lodge is an ardent expansionist and a defender of the course of the Government in the Philippines. Hoar was as bitterly opposed to expansion and assailed with all his vigor the course pursued in the Asiatic States. In fact, for Republicans the Massachusetts Senators were wide apart. They agree upon most of the national and international policies of the Government. They have

been close personal friends and there is little doubt that notwithstanding his great respect for the ability of Senator Hoar, Lodge will find service in the Senate with Crane far more congenial than with his former brilliant colleague.

Early in the present session, on a day after the Senate adjourned, two distinguished Senators were going in opposite directions across the area in front of the presiding officers. They passed without speaking, and then, with an impulse that seemed to occur to each at the same instant, they turned, shook hands, and then proceeded to seats where they engaged in a friendly conversation. It was not spoken for a year as the result of a colloquy in the Senate, at which they were both seated. Last December, a year ago Senator Hoar introduced a resolution making inquiries regarding the Panama revolution. Senator Daniel called upon the resolution one day for the purpose of making a speech upon it, and he had not progressed very far before Senator Cullom, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, suggested that the treaty to which Senator Daniel was alluding which Senator Daniel was alluding to was before the Committee on Foreign Relations, and remarked that to discuss the treaty would be "somewhat premature."

Senator Daniel, "exists on the other side of the chamber every time a resolution of inquiry is offered that gentlemen are apt to jump before they are spurred."

"I am not excited or premature," rejoined Cullom.

"I am not, either," replied Daniel.

"I simply wanted to inform the Senator of a fact, if he did not know it," continued Cullom.

"I know it," said Daniel, sharply.

From that time the entente cordiale between the Illinois and Virginia Senators was strained. But when they met after the long recess all was forgotten and they are the same good friends as before.

Men from the West, without regard to party affiliations, seem to be anxious to have Tom Carter returned to the Senate from Montana. Senator Dubois of Idaho was saying the other day that the intermountain country would be strengthened by Carter's election. "He has won his fight," remarked Dubois, "and if by any crooked work he is defeated he will be elected next time. The people have a way of getting what they want, and won't stand for the defeat of a man to please any particular set of politicians."

Senator Dubois then related an experience he had when he was elected. An attempt was made to get some of his own party men away from him, and several

Republican promptly stated that "Dubois had won his fight in the State, and if it was proposed to defeat him and elect another man of his party, we will see that he is elected, for we will vote for him ourselves."

Senator Hanbrough of North Dakota is another Western man who is very much interested in the election of Carter. Hanbrough and Carter came to Congress together. They were both members of the celebrated Fifty-first Congress when Reed was Speaker. Both were defeated for re-election, Hanbrough being refused a renomination, and Carter going out with the awful tide of 1900, when the Republicans were nearly swept out of existence. Hanbrough came to the Senate immediately and four years later Carter followed him into the same body. But Hanbrough has been twice re-elected, while Carter's party was not in power when his term expired. These men worked together on legislation for the Northwest, and now the Senator long in service is looking forward with pleasure to the return of his old comrade.

Numbers of foreign correspondents come to Washington at every session of Congress, and nearly all of them express surprise that they can gain admission so easily to the press galleries. They say it is almost impossible for any person

other than a regular correspondent to gain admission to the press galleries of the English Parliament, oftentimes requiring the intervention of an Ambassador and a member of Parliament. In some other countries even this method is not successful.

A foreign newspaper man was here recently seeking information for his paper. A very intelligent man he was, too, and understood quite thoroughly what he wanted. It was suggested to him that certain Senators would give him the information he sought, providing they were not quoted. "There is no reason to quote any of them," he said. "The name of any Senator would carry no weight in France, any more than the name of the chief of the southern department of France would carry weight in this country. Our people know of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Hay, and what they say is important."

Canteen and anti-canteen talk is heard every where. The majority, in fact 90 per cent of the army officers, are in favor of restoring the canteen, of allowing a room in every post where beer and light liquors can be sold to the soldiers. Many cases are pointed out showing that the morality of the men would be better, discipline would be improved, and that the health of the soldiers would be much better if the canteen was again allowed at

army posts and on military reservations. But what is the use of all this argument, this mass of evidence and weight of testimony? The canteen has gone, and gone forever. Instead of restoration, there is likely to be greater restrictions. It would not be surprising if the prohibition advocates and temperance workers some time secured the passage of a bill prohibiting soldiers, sailors, and employees of the Government from drinking, and why not? Great railroad corporations demand that their employees shall not drink liquor. If the United States insisted that its officers of the army and navy, its soldiers and sailors, its clerks in the departments, should also be abstemious, could it not get men, and competent men, as do the big transportation companies? The people who are advocating temperance reforms will stop at nothing, and have the power to prevent the canteen from being restored, and if they thought they could pass a law forbidding every person who draws a Government salary from taking a drink they would do it as quick as a wink.

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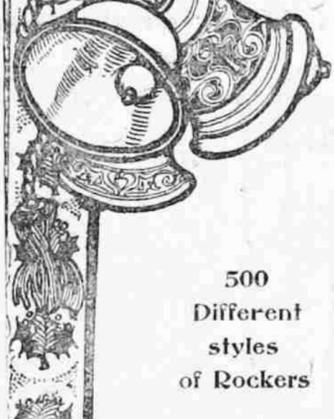
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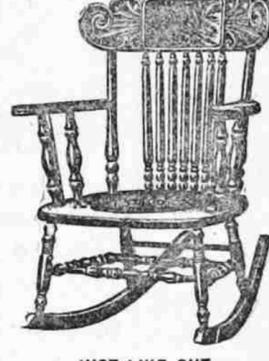
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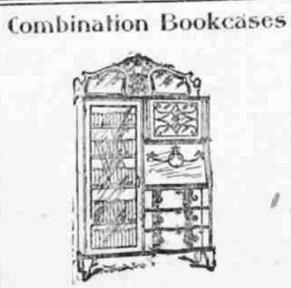


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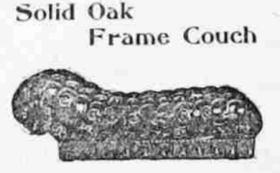
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