

ARE HARD WORKERS

Busy Statesmen Who Never Take a Christmas Vacation.

Members of Appropriations, Ways and Means and Finance Committees of House and Senate Get No Rest.

[Special Washington Letter.] THE lives of government clerks must be very monotonous, said Congressman William Alden Smith, of Grand Rapids, Mich., as we were sitting from the capitol on an electric car.

"I have often watched them going to and coming from their offices. Now it is four o'clock in the afternoon, and they are coming out of the departments in great droves. You notice that nearly all of them rush for the street cars. That is partly because they are tired, and partly because so many of them live away out in the suburbs. They walk in the mornings, and ride in the evenings.

"Every morning, from eight o'clock until almost nine, the thousands may be seen walking towards the departments, all of them carrying little packages containing their lunches. Some of them walk as much as two or three miles on fair days on their way to their work, and it probably does them good. But, after being shut up in the departments, where many rooms are ill ventilated, or not ventilated at all, they are as tired out by four o'clock as the giant titlers of the soil are when they have worked from sun-up to sun-down.

"There is something procrastinating or somnolent in the atmosphere of this city," continued Mr. Smith. "At my home I am always in my office at eight o'clock each morning. Here it is a task and a struggle for me to get to the capitol by ten o'clock. It is the same with my family, too. We do not get up so early as we do at home, and we do not go to bed so early as we should. I have brought servants with me this year, and am trying to keep house instead of being an uncomfortable boarder. But I find that the servants have breathed the somnolent air of Washington, and they do not get up and go about their work as they did at home. Maybe they see the indolence of other servants in the neighborhood, and are putting on the airs of this community. I hope that a session here will not spoil them for their duties at home when we go back at the close of this session of congress.

"The government clerks, I understand, only work half-days during the Christmas holidays. The six half-days of vacation are not taken from their annual leaves of 30 days. They are very fortunate folks in the matter of days of rest. No other class of working people have 30 vacation days with pay given to them every year. And it is good pay, too."

The congressman did not mention the fact that men in his class also easily acquire the resting habit in this city. No sooner do the congressmen gather here than they begin to talk about the Christmas vacation. They are annually in session about two weeks in December, doing nothing but preliminary legislative work, when they adjourn for two weeks or longer in order that they may go to their homes for Christmas and New Year's dinners with their families. They also receive good pay during their restful periods.

"Uncle Jimmy" Edwards, whom everybody here knows, says: "I have sat at the door of the democratic side of the senate for almost 25 years when the congress has been in session, and there has never been a year when a Christmas vacation of less than two weeks has been taken, except about 15 years ago. There was a short session of congress. President Cleveland threatened an extra session unless certain legislation was accomplished, so that on that occasion the Christmas vacation was only five days. But that was an exception to the rule. I like the rule, however, because when the

grows in population the federal employes necessarily increase in number. This was true before the expansion of territory which was incidental to our clash at arms with a foreign foe.

The secretary of the treasury sends to the congress each year a report of the expenditures of the government for the past year, with estimates for the probable expenses for each ensuing year, and all of these estimates require careful consideration. Each department of the government, and each bureau of the several departments, presents, through the secretary of the treasury, estimates for the development of its work. If it were not for the watchfulness of the congressional guardians of the treasury the annual appropriations would increase the more rapidly. Each bureau chief wants increased appropriations, and the sum total is always alarmingly large. The committees on appropriations study the requirements of each bureau, and make appropriations less than the amounts asked for in a majority of the cases.

The chairman of the committees on appropriations, and the committee



SERENO E. PAYNE. (Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means.)

clerks are charged with great and grave responsibilities. While the senators and representatives are taking their vacations and giving heed usually only to those matters which concern their states and districts, these diligent and faithful public servants are looking after the income and outgo of the government. When the committees on appropriations make their reports on the great appropriation bills, the congress adopts those reports and acts in accordance with their recommendations.

It is a popular fallacy that every member of congress carefully studies these matters. They do nothing of the kind. They know practically no more about the appropriation bills for which they vote than the people do at home, who never see the bills. They take it for granted that what the chairman of each committee reports is all right.

There are members of two other committees who have not the time to acquire the Washington habit of overfulness. The house committee on ways and means and the senate committee on finance have duties which necessitate careful attention to details and investigation of financial conditions. The congress devolves upon those committees the work of levying taxes by customs duties and internal revenue. The chairman particularly must be familiar with the resources of the government, the necessity for cutting down the revenues or of increasing them. From those committees, for example, came the bills which increased the federal revenues for the war with Spain, and the resultant increased expenditures.

While the committees on appropriations make provision for expenditures of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the government, these other committees see to it that there is always sufficient money in the treasury to meet those appropriations. Their members must know exactly what amount of taxation should be laid upon every article, from a needle to a barrel of whisky. You may well understand that the statesmen charged with such far-reaching affairs must be far-seeing and broad minded. Other members may take time for vacations and even for junkets, but these gentlemen must remain at their posts. In congressional affairs they are "the men behind the guns," who keep the ship of state on even keel. Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island, is chairman of the senate committee on finance. Representative Payne, of New York, is chairman of the committee on ways and means.

The emphasis placed upon the importance of the work of these four committees is not intended to minimize the work of the numerous other committees, but to show that there are some who are exceptionally important, so that they cannot enter upon that somnolent condition which Congressman Smith, of Michigan, so graphically and truthfully portrays as characteristic of large classes in our national capital.

SMITH D. FRY.

A Sorrow's Crown of Sorrow. She—Mr. McGroves was very rich, wasn't he?

He—Yes; were you at his funeral? She—Yes. It seemed a great effort for his nephews to control himself.

He—Yes. It must have been very hard trying not to look cheerful.—Harlem Life.

Strategy. Mrs. Mahoolie—Shure, awn th' door is makin' a hog out av Patrick. Mrs. O'Toole—Awn how so, Mrs. Mahoolie?

Mrs. Mahoolie—Phoy, he forbid him smokin' incipit after meals, awn now Patrick aites tin meals a day.—Chicago Daily News.

Tethered by Fate. "They say young Folley has been wandering in his mind lately," said one man to another. "Well," was the heartless reply, "from what I've seen and heard of him he's safe enough; he can't wander very far."—Tit-Bits.

Little Oversight. "Haven't you found the nursing bottle yet, Alfred?" "Oh, yes; but I've mislaid the baby!"—Fleegende Blatter.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

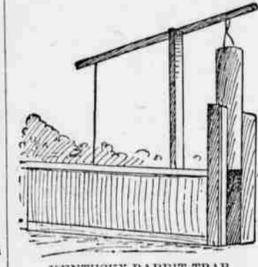
RAVAGES OF RABBITS.

In Some Sections of the Country the Loss Caused by the Little Rooters is Quite Serious.

When the nursery is small it is possible to inclose it with a close slat fence that will "turn" rabbits and serve all the purposes of the ordinary fences required to keep out stock. In timbered countries, where rabbits are most troublesome, fences of this character may be cheaply built. Two types of fence suitable for the purpose are to be seen in the state. The most common is made of rough slats, four to six feet long and about three inches in width. The slats are securely fastened together from one to two inches apart with No. 11 wire, stout posts being set at intervals of 10 to 16 feet to insure

stability and keep the panels upright. Since the slats can be adjusted to any unevenness of the ground, it is possible to exclude anything that a fence can reasonably be expected to turn.

The second type is made of shorter slats, three or four inches long, and these may be supplemented above by one or more wires stretched from post to post. J. Q. A. Rahm has built such a fence about his nursery. He uses slats three feet long, none less than half an inch thick, and sets his posts in spring, waiting until hot weather in August and September before putting up the slats in order to have the wire fully expanded at the start. The wires are simply crossed between the slats and are kept taut, while building, by a barrow loaded with about 1,000 pounds of stone and placed 100 to 400 yards ahead of the workmen. Near a single tree made of a piece of stout timber, a log chain being passed around this and secured to a weighted barrow.



KENTUCKY RABBIT TRAP.

Rabbits are very easily caught, notwithstanding their well known cunning. One of the simplest and best traps used for the purpose is made of rough fence boards six inches wide and about two feet long. These pieces are nailed together so as to make an oblong box, one end of which is closed with a short piece of board, while the other is provided with a board consisting of another piece of board which slides down from above in grooves cut

in the projecting sides or between slats nailed to the end, as shown in the cut.

The bottom piece may also be allowed to project so as to make the door more secure when closed. A small hole is bored through the top at about the middle of the box, and midway between this and the door a stick is secured in an upright position. Across the top of this latter a second stick is secured by a nail in a notch made in the upright one so that it will seewass up and down. A third stick of small size is notched near one end and secured at the opposite end by means of a piece of twine to the end of the larger movable piece. This movable piece is now connected by twine at its forward end to the top of the door, when the trap is ready to set.

The door is elevated, the little stick passed through the hole in the top and secured by the notch to the front edge of the hole. When the rabbit enters it pushes the projecting end of the stick before it, setting it free, allowing the suspended door to descend and thus cutting off its own escape. The traps may be baited with a piece of apple or cabbage placed in the end farthest from the door.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Excellent Rations for Cows. A successful feeder of dairy cows must have some succulent feed for his animals at all times of the year. Whether water or summer the change from succulent feed to dry fodder means loss. The usual summer feeder wishes that his blue grass pasture would continue throughout the summer. The man that has summer silage to feed has the equivalent of a blue grass pasture at its best, even in the midst of the summer drought. Our best dairymen are coming to believe that silage is profitable to be fed every month in the year.—Farmers' Review.

Vegetables in the Cellar. All vegetables keep better at a low temperature and, excepting in the severest weather, the cellar window may be kept open during the day, at least, if it is on the south side. It also helps to keep the cellar sweet and fresh. We know there is no need of an ill-smelling cellar. Vegetables properly buried and an open window in all suitable weather will prevent unsavory odors. Have a regular time for closing the window, as you do for any other "chore," and all will be well.

ROADS IN PHILIPPINES.

How Government Red Tape Has Hampered the Usefulness of a Stone-Crushing Machine.

What has been accomplished by Americans in the Philippine islands is, to a certain extent, attested at Binangonan, on the Laguna de Bay. On a rocky headland jutting out from the Morong shore stands an imposing structure which demonstrates what some of our officials are capable of doing.

In the olden days, when the haughty Spaniard or untaught Filipino desired to repair that portion of the street which lay immediately in front of some grandee's door, if any broken stone was used, the material was obtained in the usual way. After erecting a mat to screen himself from the sun, the Filipino squatted beside a little rock pile and possibly pounded out a cubic meter of broken stone in a day. But this slow and laborious process of obtaining road material did not entirely commend itself to the American authorities. They resolved to erect a large rock crushing machine, and there was no reason why the projected rock crusher could not be operated very successfully. After discussing the merits of various localities a point near Binangonan, on the Laguna de Bay, was the site selected. After studying the situation, a competent engineer carefully drew up the plans for the proposed rock crushing plant and sent in all the estimates required. These plans were pigeonholed in Manila, and certain purchases having been made, it was ordered by "the who must be obeyed" that the rock crushing plant should be erected. The plans of the engineer, the estimates and requisitions of a practical man who knew exactly what was wanted were ignored. But a joblot of machinery was assembled and over it was erected a flimsy superstructure which may or may not fall to pieces at any time.

The engine which operates the crushing machinery originally came from England. In design it is certainly unique. And its actions are eccentric. Attached to this masterpiece are two boilers, which at the outset were said to be ridiculously inadequate. If carefully nursed these boilers will safely carry 80 pounds of steam and supply power enough to run at slow speed one of the two rock crushing machines.

Although not of the latest modern or of the most approved form of construction, the two rock crushers are of American make and capable of doing good work.

The genius who constructed the crushing plant hit upon the happy plan of having the stone run down a platform considerably below the hopper of the rock crusher and from there shoveled up again. The placing of the rock crushers also evokes attention. If the ingenious builder aimed at securing a maximum of inconvenience and a minimum of economy he is to be congratulated upon having accomplished his purpose. Both machines are placed askew, almost at right angles with their proper positions, and matters are further complicated by having several things turned upside down in the arrangements for transmitting the power. Neither can the pulleys nor belting escape observation. Wooden pulleys are used—lopsided affairs that writhe and squirm—and in stretching and destroying belts they are found to be quite effective. So great is the loss of power that, although in the theory the two boilers should furnish ample steam to run the two machines, one of the rock crushers from necessity is always idle.

The miniature railroad track, over which are wheeled the tiny cars of crushed rock, is not laid as it should be, and the arrangement for loading crushed stone into cassettes involves double the amount of work that would be required were things arranged aright.

Launches may tie up under the shadow of the crushing plant, and to obtain water from the lake should be no trouble at all. But for want of a suitable piece of pipe with which to make connections, whereby water might be pumped by the engines into the boilers from the lake, four humberes were formerly employed at one peso each per day to carry water for the engines. The present foreman of the plant arranged to dispense with the services of three water carriers, but the government is still expending a peso a day because of somebody's disinclination to buy for the plant an inexpensive piece of pipe.

Once upon a time the foreman of the crushing plant made requisition through the usual channels for a draw and have a medium sized cold chisel and an ordinary barrel. (It was set forth in the requisition that any old barrel capable of holding water would serve.)

But instead of the things asked for the foreman eventually received a communication from Capt. Dodge stating that samples of all articles requisitioned for must be forwarded to the purchasing agent before any purchases could be made. As the foreman had neither a draw shave, a chisel nor a barrel to send to Capt. Dodge he is still unsupplied with these articles.

And so it goes at Binangonan. Owing to defective construction and ineffective machinery, the output of crushed rock is less than half what it ought to be under proper conditions.—Manila (P. I.) American.

Milk Absorbs Bad Odors. You cannot feed moldy hay, bad silage, musty corn fodder that has been put into the mow when it was not in shape to go there, and get good milk. The use of any such materials will get you into trouble and will of itself prevent you from making high-grade milk. No feed that has an odor should be permitted to remain about the stables. You may set a vessel filled with milk in a silo for an hour; then, if you take it out and heat it, you can tell by the nose it has been in the silo. At the Vermont station we could heat the milk up to 110 degrees and by the smell tell whether it had been near a hog pen or not.—H. B. Gurler, before the Illinois Dairy-men's Convention.

WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES

Regard Peruna as Their Shield Against Catarrh, Coughs, Colds and Catarrhal Diseases.

Catarrh is an old cold. Even the strongest and most robust are liable to colds during the winter months. A cold, if neglected, is almost certain to cause catarrh of the head, which rapidly spreads through the system, setting up catarrh of the throat, lungs, stomach or pelvic organs. What a host of winter ailments would be prevented by a preventive as well as a cure

for colds. Peruna is such a remedy. If taken at the first symptom of catching cold it heals the catarrhal condition before it becomes established and makes impossible a spread of the disease. Should the cold be neglected and result in catarrh, Peruna will cure, but it will take much longer and will result in much unnecessary suffering.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case, and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Manufacturing, Columbus, Ohio.



MISS LIZZIE BRADY.

Miss Lizzie Brady, No. 47 Hoyt st., Brooklyn, N. Y., writes:—"I desire to speak in the highest terms of PERUNA, the medicine which I believe is entitled to more praise than any other and to the confidence and good will of every woman in America. Last winter I caught a severe cold, which settled all over me, and as I first paid but little attention to it I soon found that it had a strong grip on me which no medicine could cast off. I became weak and irritable. I felt nervous and mentally and physically exhausted. I relished nothing late, and medicine only nauseated me. In my trouble I read in the paper of PERUNA. I sent for a bottle, and it proved a god-send to me. I improved slowly but surely, and in less than two months perfect health was restored to me."



MISS BEATRICE BROWN.

Miss Beatrice Brown, No. 596 Walnut st., Memphis, Tenn., writes:—"This fall I became very much run down, being overtaxed with social and domestic duties. I caught a hard cold, and my system being in a weakened condition, I found it impossible to shake off the cold. I was advised by a neighbor to try PERUNA and bought a bottle, and am only sorry now that I did not know of it before, as it would have saved me so much suffering. I shall not be without it again, as it effected a speedy cure."



MISS LOU CETCHUM.

Miss Lou Cetchum, No. 1,155 Bass av., Memphis, Tenn., writes:—"PERUNA brought me relief and health, and I firmly believe in its efficacy. I had a gripe last winter and suffered for several weeks without obtaining relief until I took PERUNA. Three bottles not only cured me completely, but it left my system in a fine condition, and I feel better than I have for years. You have a host of friends in Memphis.—Miss Lou Cetchum."

THE MARKETS.

Table listing market prices for various commodities like CATTLE, HOGS, SHEEP, etc. in New York, Chicago, and St. Louis.

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

Lake Nicaragua, through which the new canal will pass, is the only freshwater lake which holds a species of shark.

Australia now breeds considerably over double as many sheep as the United States, the numbers being 100,500,000 to 39,250,000.

France, with her colonies, covers 3,945,000 square miles; just 200,000 square miles more than the territory of the United States.

Japan has only one orphanage, yet in no other land are fatherless children better cared for. Every family cares for the sick, destitute or orphans nearest to it. There is a superstition that a childless house is accursed.

Humility is still considered a chief feminine virtue in Japan. M. Hitomi writes in Le Reveur that the reason why Japanese women persist in the fault of stooping forward all the time is that if they did not do so they would be thought "stuck up."

A WONDERFUL CURE.

Wright City, Mo., Dec. 30.—Medical men are still wondering over the Symes case, which has aroused such a widespread interest in this neighborhood.

Mr. Joseph G. Symes had suffered very severely with inflammatory Rheumatism, enduring pains which were something terrible, and which made it altogether impossible for him to work by day or rest or sleep at night. In spite of all treatments he grew worse and his case seemed to defy all the usual remedies.

He began a treatment of Dodd's Kidney Pills and very soon noticed a marked improvement, which increased as he kept on till six boxes were used, when he found himself without a trace of pain or ache. He is now able to work all day and sleep all night, and his rapid and complete recovery is regarded by the doctors as little short of a miracle.

WINCHESTER "NEW RIVAL" FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS. outshoot all other black powder shells, because they are made better and loaded by exact machinery with the standard brands of powder, shot and wadding. Try them and you will be convinced. ALL • REPUTABLE • DEALERS • KEEP • THEM

ABSOLUTE SECURITY. Genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills. Must Bear Signature of Brewster. See Fac-Simile Wrapper Below.

NOTES FROM ABROAD. Lake Nicaragua, through which the new canal will pass, is the only freshwater lake which holds a species of shark.

W. DOUGLAS SHOES \$3.50. Notice increase of sales in table below: 1898 - 608,183 Pairs. 1900 - 1,259,754 Pairs. 1901 - 1,566,720 Pairs.

HAZARD GUN POWDER. If your shooting has not been successful, try Hazard Gun Powder. It is the best in the world.

OPIMUM WHISKY and other drug habits cured. We want the worst cases, boot and references. FREE. Dr. W. H. WOODLEY, Box 2, ALBANY, N. Y.