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PASSING EVENTS

Of Men and Things in the Public Mind.

Congress Grinding.

The Fifty-seventh congress has been in session now for nearly two weeks, and it has already taken time by the forelock and mapped out a most commendable lot of work to be accomplished before it adjourns next summer. The chief thing at the opening of congress in the United States is the president's message, which is read before both houses the following Tuesday after congress assembles on Monday. Unusual interest was taken in the assembling of the Fifty-seventh congress, from the fact that a new president had been installed in the White House since the adjournment of the Fifty-sixth. Theodore Roosevelt, who had been promoted from vice president to president, was to sound the keynote to his administration at the opening of this congress, and politicians, financiers, statesmen and all classes of citizens were intensely interested as to what that policy would be. Apparently, with the view of giving the president a clean sweep at everything, the halls of congress were overhauled, renovated and completely rearranged, which gave it a most imposing appearance at the opening of the session. The most of the members-elect were present for the opening, and those that were not present on the opening day, for the most part were in their seats when the message was read the following day. The present congress is overwhelmingly Republican, as was the previous congress, and there being many important measures for passage, which were advocated by the Republicans on the stump last fall, they will endeavor to make quick work of the most essential bills and pass them as soon as they can be legally reached.

Plain and Sensible.

The president's message was a voluminous document and dwelt very exhaustively with the various measures that congress is to consider during the present sitting. It was truly "democratic" in its make-up, and showed that Theodore Roosevelt was not only a Rough Rider in war, but a smooth writer in statesmanship. The president in his message rose above partisanship and sectional feelings and instructed congress to pass laws and measures for the benefit of the United States without regard to sections or states. It was a document that pleased alike the Northern man, the Western man, the Eastern man and the Southern man, and it alike pleased the rich and the poor. If congress will only do as the president has suggested, it is very generally believed that a new era will dawn upon the United States, and it will accomplish more within the next decade than it has done in the past two or three decades, which is saying a good deal. The president favors the immediate suppression of anarchism and the building of the Nicaragua canal, or some other canal across the isthmus of Panama, and he likewise believes that the United States should own that canal in fee simple. His advocacy of a Pacific cable, to establish a line of communication between this country and its Pacific insular possessions, is a measure that will meet general approval, not only in the West, but all over the country. His recommendation as to the arid lands of the West is another popular measure, and it is hoped that congress will see it in the same light as he does. To enumerate all of the good things which the message contained would require the reproduction of the entire message, which this paper is unable to do for lack of space, but there is no doubt but that all Christendom feels greatly relieved since President Roosevelt's first message has been given to the world.

Congressional Reduction.

Speaking about some of the work that has been mapped out for the present congress to accomplish reminds the writer that a bill has already been introduced in congress looking forward to the reduction of the number of representatives to congress from the South. No measure should be more warmly supported by the Republicans and Northern men in general than this, and the Republican truly hopes that it will be passed by a unanimous Republican vote in both houses of congress. Congressman Crumpacker of Indiana thinks that it is not fair for the Southern states to get representatives for men who are not allowed to vote, and who are not allowed to vote for no other reason than because they would vote the Republican ticket if allowed to vote at all. It is not a matter of intelligence as to the colored vote of the South why the Democrats want to suppress it, but it is because the colored vote would be Republican instead of Democratic if it was cast. In many of the states of the South the colored vote has been legally disfranchised, and that being a fact, it is unfair, unreasonable and unjust to the other sections of the country that the Southern states should have twice and in many instances three times as many representatives for the votes they cast than the other sections. It is therefore repeated that it behooves every Republican to stand by Congressman Crumpacker's bill and unanimously pass it from a partisan standpoint.

Fleming Gets Funny.

With the view of being funny, Representative Fleming of Georgia has introduced a counter-bill in the house of representatives questioning the legality of the members of the house from Massachusetts holding their seats, because he claims a number of voters are disfranchised in Massachusetts. It is quite true that Massachusetts has an educational qualification law as to persons casting votes, and would to God that every state in this Union had a similar law and would impartially enforce the same. Were such a law enforced in the various states in this Union, so many anarchists and glare-eyed foreigners, who know no more of the workings of this government than the devil does about holy water, would not be able to cast their votes and thereby counteract the effect of good citizens' votes, who are struggling to maintain respectable governments in their sections. There is no parallel between the disfranchised voters of Massachusetts and the disfranchised voters of Mississippi, for in Massachusetts the rule is applied to the white man, the black man, the red man and every other kind of a man one and alike, while in Mississippi the rule is applied to the black man only. Any man as ignorant as the blue imps of hades, just so his face is white, is permitted to vote the same as the college professor in the state of Georgia, the home of Representative Fleming, and the census will show that almost as large a percentage of the Negroes of that state can read and write as the Caucasians, and yet not a single colored man is permitted to cast his vote fearlessly and honestly in the state of Georgia, though, he it said to the credit of the white men of that state, they have stubbornly refused to legalize the theoretical disfranchised colored voters, yet they have practically done so.

Chinese Exclusion.

A new measure has been introduced in congress by Representative Kahn from that district in San Francisco in which there are 300,000 Chinese settlers, which has for its object the continuation of the Chinese exclusion act. Since the Geary act was first passed conditions have radically changed between the Chinese government and the United States, and this country must either moderate its Chinese exclusion laws or it must expect to be shut out from the Oriental trade almost completely. The Chinese officials do not propose to be shut out from this country as they have been in the past and yet continue to buy their modern improvements in the United States as they are doing at the present time. Just what disposition should be made of this bill is the perplexing question that congress will have to wrestle with before the Geary act expires. California does not want the Chinese nor does any of the Pacific coast states, but all of them want the Chinese trade, and just how to get the Chinese trade and yet not get the Chinese citizen is the question. The Eastern sections of this country have not as yet been called upon to handle the Chinese problem, and their representatives are inclined to favor the discontinuance to a large extent of the exclusion of Chinamen from this country. The matter will be fought with a vengeance by the Pacific coast representatives, but it will be considered from a business standpoint by the Atlantic coast representatives.

Carnegie's Great Gift.

And now comes Andrew Carnegie, the great library benefactor, and offers the United States a gift of \$10,000,000 for the establishing of a university of higher education at Washington City which will be something on the order of the Smithsonian institution, the funds for which were given by an Englishman, James Slosson, which amounted to \$1,000,000. Of all of Mr. Carnegie's commendable bequests in the shape of educational work none of them is equal or will bear comparison with this, if it is accepted by congress, and it doubtless will be. The United States is badly in need of just such an institution as this at the national capital, and it is to be regretted that congress itself did not take steps to establish such without it being first suggested by Andrew Carnegie or any one else. In as much as Mr. Carnegie made his millions in the United States, it is nothing more than right, if he intends giving them away, that he give the bulk of them at least to the needs of this country, and it is hoped that congress will not hesitate for a single minute in accepting the princely offer.

Democratic Devils.

The famous Tillman-McLaurin controversy, which had its origin in South Carolina politics, has been taken to the United States senate, and the whole affair gone over in the senate one day this week, when Tillman offered to resign if McLaurin would do likewise, but the offer was flat-footedly refused on the part of Mr. McLaurin. It is to be regretted that this controversy, which is of local importance, is to be brought before the United States senate for adjustment. There is no difference between Tillman and McLaurin Democracy, one is just as bad as the other, and the Republican party should keep its hands off either one of them. They are both Democrats, and that class of Democrats that will always be Democrats, that will always be rebels, that will always be revolutionists and that will always be "agin the government," and the Republican hopes that the Republican party as a party will take no interest whatever in the settlement of the dispute.

BROTHER IN BLACK

Under Critical Eye of Observing Men.

Some of the leading colored men of this country are not pleased with the president's message because it did not call congress' attention to the fact that the colored men of the South are being disfranchised, lynched and murdered in wholesale lots, and suggest some remedy for the evil. The Republican is of the opinion that President Roosevelt took a wise course in not mentioning the matter, not because it should not be mentioned, or not because it is not worthy of mention, but simply because calling congress' attention to the fact would have done no good whatever. Those are state measures and must be regulated by the respective states of this Union, and for congress to try to enact laws to punish the guilty miscreants would be worse than foolish. Since Theodore Roosevelt has been president of the United States he has thoroughly demonstrated to the world that a man is a man with him, without regard to his color, and he has done more to advance the Negro so that he would be on an equal footing with other men than any other man who has been president of the United States since the death of the immortal Lincoln, and for him to indulge in useless prattle in behalf of the colored man of this country would do him more harm than good. The president's feeling as to what station in life the meritorious man of color shall occupy was shown in his entertaining Booker T. Washington, and in his appointment of Judges Hewlett and Terrill to life positions as police judges of Washington City, all of which is far in advance of any step yet taken by any other president of this country. The man to admire is the man who will get instead of talk. The man who promises to do and never does is like unto the man who smothers one with flattery but withholds the beneficial things from him. If the president will continue to remember the Negro of this country as he has during his short occupancy of the White House, the Republican does not care if he never mentions him in his messages to congress.

No Color Prejudice.

A writer from Hawaii to the New York Age says "that island is as free from color prejudice as the heavens itself. All races of people who are on the island mingle freely together and do business and the question of color is never raised, notwithstanding the fact that the island is at present dominated by white Americans from the United States. The population of the island at present is perhaps made up of the most conglomerated human mix-up than any of the insular possessions of the United States. The natives, which are a mixture of foreign whites and aborigines, predominate. Then come the Chinese and Japanese, the American white man, the American black man and every other tongue and nationality on the face of the earth. It is said, can be heard on the island. For any nationality therefore to draw the color line would be an extreme absurdity, and it could not be maintained for a single day.

Paid the Price.

There came to this office a few days ago a letter which contained a check for \$2.00 for a year's subscription to The Seattle Republican. There is nothing remarkable in this, as such things frequently come to this office, but the name attached to this check was W. H. Connel, who is none other than the head of one of Alabama's most noted normal schools for colored students. It so seldom happens that colored men ever subscribe and pay for a newspaper owned and edited by a colored man, that it was a most pleasant surprise to the management hereof. For some reason colored men of the calibre mentioned above feel that it is an honor for the colored editor of a newspaper to send his paper to him, and if he is asked for the price of a subscription he takes it almost as an insult, and yet they are the ones that holler the loudest and longest about supporting race enterprises. Race enterprises should not be supported any more than anti-race enterprises if such enterprises are not meritorious. If the colored man's paper is not edited and published in a sensible and attractive way, no one should subscribe for it simply because it is issued by a colored man, but if it is up to the standard of its class of publication, then it is the duty of the leading colored men to get the example in subscribing for the same. If, however, some one in the distant part of the country sees merit in a paper published in another part and wishes the same to come to his address, he should pay for it just the same as he does the paper published by the Caucasian. It is a rather peculiar fact that the colored subscriber is always delinquent, and when you call upon him for his subscription, generally he refers you to some politician to get your money from him, or ask some politician to pay for his paper, showing no independence whatever and making the newspaper man dependent completely on another race of people for his support. As has often been advocated in these columns, we do not

think that the colored man should subscribe for any paper simply because it is what it is generally known as, "A colored paper," but if he condescends to subscribe for it, he should be man enough to pay for it, and when his subscription expires he should either renew it or inform the management that his paper is no longer wanted. That is business, and until colored men learn to do business as other men, they will find they will have an uphill business at everything they undertake.

From a San Francisco paper it is learned that colored stereos are being successfully used in that port at present. They were put on more as an experiment than an actuality, but they are proving to be so successful that all are being employed that apply for work.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mountain lions in Southern Utah are killing off the herds of wild horses in that section very rapidly.

The pelt of the Canadian black bear brings all the way from \$15 to \$50 when partially dressed.

Recently Mrs. Russell Sage entertained at dinner a football team from Carlyle, which is made up completely of Indians.

A former governor of the Yukon territory is of the opinion that there are over \$200,000,000 of gold yet in the placer mines of that district.

The silk worm, from which the silks of the world come, is not over three inches long, but it has sixteen well-developed legs, which it uses for spinning purposes.

Prince Henry of Reuss, in Germany, pardons all the boys and girls convicted of any minor wrong doing in his dominion, with the understanding and proviso that the parents of the child give it a sound flogging when it has been pardoned.

According to the returns of the census recently taken in the Northwest territory by the Canadian government, there are 21,111 persons in that section. Of these 8,500 are in Dawson, 5,000 at White Horse, 6,000 on the creeks, 1,000 Indians and 300 Eskimos.

Drummers who travel for diamond houses carry a stock of diamonds on each trip valued all the way from 100,000 to \$500,000, and they are seldom if ever robbed of their valuables, though they avoid making night trips, always laying over in some well-known town during the night.

The Bank of England has a capital of \$72,000,000, with a surplus of \$15,000,000, and yet the governor of the entire institution only receives \$10,000 per annum, which, in comparison with the salaries drawn by the managers of the banking houses of this country, is exceedingly small.

According to a report recently made by a London geologist, England loses a strip of land every year the size of Gibraltar, the same being washed into the ocean. Within the past 100 years England has lost a territory by this means equal in area to the county of London.

There are more Indians in the state of South Dakota than any other state in the Union, and both the white folk and the Indians are registering a bitter protest against the government enforcing its new law and making the Indians self-supporting by cutting off all government rations from them.

Near Marquette, Michigan, Mary Ledyard, aged 17 and daughter of a multi-millionaire of that city, eloped with Henry Starbuck, a quarter-breed Indian, aged 65. The two were married, and are now keeping house near the home of the girl's parents in spite of their prayers and protests against her leading such a life.

Two brothers in Indiana are raising snakes as an industry. They started out a couple of years ago with 400 snakes, and last year they killed 100,000 snakes and will probably kill 200,000 next year. These snakes are raised for their oil, which finds a ready market throughout the country for medicinal as well as for lubricating purposes.

Lady Constance McKenzie, an eccentric English woman, has adopted a tiny snake as her pet, which she carries with her wherever she goes. The snake is given comfortable quarters in the bodice of her dress, and she frequently takes it from its hiding place and plays with it as though it was a jewel. Lady Constance declares that the snake is possessed of more intelligence than are many persons.

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