

WASHINGTON LETTER

SOME TIMELY GOSSIP FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

A TROUBLESOME HEADLINE

It Headed a Report of the Post Office Department and Caused Commotion in the House—Other Items.

Washington.—Members of the house of representatives have been greatly excited by the action of the house post office committee in publishing Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow's response to the committee's demand for information in regard to increases of allowances for clerk hire and for post office rentals granted on the request of members of congress.

The excitement is an indication of the sensitiveness of statesmen at the capitol just now to any development which might seem to connect them, even remotely, with the irregularities in the post office department. It is due largely to the officiousness of somebody in the government printing office who for the lack of any other headline manufactured for the document the title "Charges Concerning Members of Congress," when, in fact, there were no charges whatever and the document consisted simply of a compilation of routine letters, such as any congressman is writing daily to department officials, on all sorts of matters affecting his district.

In the entire list of congressmen whose names were published there is not one who is properly open to criticism for anything that he did, for there is no intimation that any one of them profited directly or indirectly through the advances they secured in the allowances for post offices in their districts. In almost all the cases the sums involved were small, amounting in only two or three instances to more than \$100 a year, and in almost every instance all that the congressmen did was to forward with his indorsement the local postmaster's request for an advance.

Congressman Overstreet.

Mr. Overstreet, the chairman of the post office committee in the house, is a man about whom a great deal will be heard before the close of the year. He was made chairman of the committee by Speaker Cannon because the speaker knew him to be able and honest and because a man was needed in that position who could be depended upon to handle post office affairs in a clean and intelligent manner. It was all the greater compliment because he had never been connected with the committee before and had no special familiarity with postal affairs. He has made a record already for efficiency which gives him a rank among the real leaders of the house.



Make Pledges to Themselves.

Overstreet is still a young man, only a little over 40, but he is serving his fifth term in congress and he is likely to serve a good many more before he gets through with politics.

In several recent campaigns he has acted as secretary of the republican congressional committee, so that he knows the political end pretty well and understands how to get along with the level-headed statesmen whom he runs up against in the course of his legislative activities. He comes from Indiana, which is a hotbed of politics where some kind of political fighting is going on from one year's end to another. Babcock, of Wisconsin, has been chairman of the congressional committee for the last ten years. He and Overstreet make an efficient pair.

At the beginning of every campaign they have got together, solemnly shaken hands and pledged themselves not to have anything more to do with the congressional committee. Then the party leaders come at them and they go back on their promises to each other, take off their coats and settle down to work as usual. This year they got together in the same old way and, after talking the matter over, decided that they would not make any rash pledges about the future.

The Smoot Investigation.

For the last two or three weeks the senate committee on privileges and elections has had a pretty good opportunity to size up the leaders of the Mormon church, from Smith, the chief revelator, down to the list. Of all the men who have appeared before the committee the Prophet Smith is by far the most interesting partly by reason of his official position as head of the Mormon church and partly on account of the delightful frankness with which he confessed to the attitude of the church on the question of



President Smith.

Smith does not look like either a prophet or a preacher; he does not even have the appearance of a hard-headed business man which a Mormon leader is very apt to be; in his face and bearing he is more on the order of a pedagogue who has been accustomed to give instruction on elementary subjects without having his statements called in question by anybody. While he was seated at the head of the committee table, replying to the questions showered on him by the investigating senators, one might have imagined that he was an old-fashioned college professor delivering a lecture on the rudiments of the Mormon religion and looking down from a superior height upon the ignorance of the pupils who were unfortunate enough not to understand clearly all the intricacies of the subject of which he was an easy master.

The question of the eligibility of Reed Smoot to a seat in the senate has become so complicated with religion, politics and morals that the committee on privileges and elections are going to have a hard time in coming to a conclusion and the senate may have an equally hard time in acting upon the committee's report. The far western senators, both republican and democrat, are very much stirred up about the business. They say that if Smoot is permitted to retain his seat it will not be many years before every one of the Rocky Mountain states will be represented there by a Mormon, so great is the spread of Mormonism through all that part of the country.

New Seat for Beveridge.

Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, will occupy a seat in the senate which was left vacant by the death of Mark Hanna. That will bring him for the first time since he came to Washington over on the republican side of the chamber where he belongs. Ever since Beveridge has been in the senate he has had a place away over on the outer edge of the democratic side. For a time he had as his companions there, Foraker and Depew, and he leaves among the democrats a number of republican unfortunates.



Senator Beveridge.

The howling for desirable seats in the senate is about as lively as anything that happens in that staid and dignified body. It is always a case of first come first served. Favoritism or influence count for nothing. Whenever a senator is approaching the end of his term and there is any question whatever about his reelection some one of his associates who happens to be less fortunately placed in the chamber is sure to file an application with the sergeant at arms for the seat which may be left vacant. The first man who gets his application in gets the seat. There is never any other outcome.

Instances have been known where senators have filed applications on the seats of venerable or invalid associates whose days on earth were supposed to be numbered. That sort of thing is not apt to make a man popular at the time but nothing succeeds like success and after a little while a break of this kind is pretty sure to be forgotten.

"King Row" in the Senate.

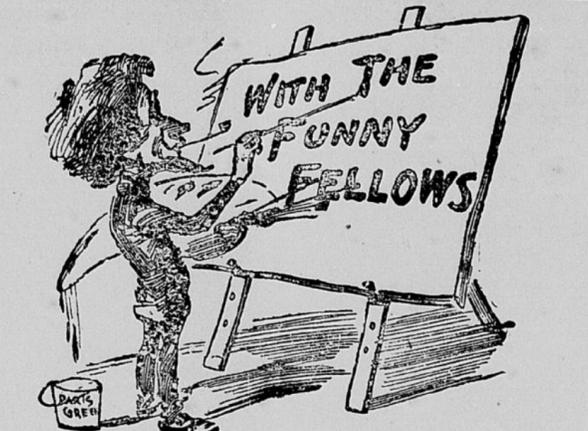
The second row from the front on the republican side of the senate is known as the "king row." Here have been established time out of mind the men who have generally controlled the destinies of legislation, and it is to this row that every young senator aspires.

Adjoining the middle aisle in the "king row" sits Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin. That is the seat which was once occupied by Dawes and Conkling and Sumner. It is the most desirable seat in the senate. Next in order are Allison, of Iowa; Proctor, of Vermont; Hale, of Maine; Hoar and Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Burrows, of Michigan. Gorman, of Maryland, occupies the conspicuous seat in the king row on the democratic side. Aldrich, who is usually regarded as the floor manager for the republicans, has never chosen a seat in the king row, but has a place just behind, and Hanna's place adjoined that of Aldrich. Frye, of Maine, and Platt, of Connecticut, are in the very front row, although Frye's place is usually occupied now by John Kean, of New Jersey, while the Maine senator presides over the senate.

So long as the republicans have so pronounced a majority in the senate it will be the fortune of some of them to be isolated in the corner of the democratic section of the chamber. Just now there are enough republicans over there to form quite a respectable group—Dryden and Kean, of New Jersey; Long, of Kansas; Ball and Allen, of Delaware, and Dick, of Ohio.

The section corresponds to what is known in the house as the "Cherokee strip," where in past congresses some of the leading republicans have been forced to choose seats—Hitt, of Illinois, and Hepburn among the others. The Cherokee strip received its name away back in the Fifty-second congress, when the democrats had so big a majority that many of them had to go over on the republican side. That was when the Cherokee strip in Oklahoma was being opened to settlement.

LOUIS A. COOLIDGE.



SHE HAD THREATENED IT.



"You don't seem to be able to keep the children quiet, Maria. Bring them in to me and I'll sing to them."

"Oh, I've threatened them with that, mum, already, but it don't do any good."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

The Old Man's Advice.

He—If you don't intend to break your engagement with me, why do you allow young Richmond to make you such valuable presents?

She—My father advised me to accept them.

"He did? Why?"

"He said if I married you they might come handy on rent days."—N. Y. Weekly.

WOULDN'T HE LIKE IT?



Lady—What! you've just come out of prison? I wonder you are not ashamed to own it.

Ne'er-do-Well—I don't own it, lady—wish I did. I was only a lodger.—Ally Sloper.

Some Hope.

Mrs. Hiram Offen—What! another dish broken? See here, Bridget, at that rate, my dishes won't last a month.

Bridget—Oh, don't worry about that. O'll be favin' ye before a month, ma'am.—Philadelphia Press.

Epitaph.

Beneath this mound lies all we found Of little Johnny Green. He went one night, by candle light, To get some gasoline.—Judge.

AN ODDITY OF ANCESTRY.



"This," said Mrs. Gotrich, "is one of my distinguished ancestors—my great, great grandfather, in fact."

"Is it possible?" murmured Mr. Thilchedde. "Why, he doesn't look to be a day over 40."—Chicago Tribune.

Going It Blind.

Parke—Poor old Jenkins! No wonder he failed—put all his money into a thing that he was entirely ignorant about.

Lane—Well, maybe it wasn't his fault. I've done the same thing.

"How's that?"

"Well, I've often put all my money into my wife's clothes."—Brooklyn Life.

Easy Victory.

Goodson—It was Lawyer Townsman that won my lawsuit for me.

Simply—Why, I thought he was on the opposing side.

Goodson—He was.—Tit-Bits.

Elsie Cheated.

Said an indignant mother to her young son, "Why did you strike little Elsie, you naughty boy?"

Dick, indignant in turn, exclaimed "What did she want to cheat for, then?"

"How did she cheat?" asked mamma.

"Why," exclaimed Dick, "we were playing Adam and Eve, and she had the apple to tempt me with, and she never tempted me, but went and ate it up herself."—New World.

A Long-Felt Want.

There's a chance for some inventor To spend his days in clover. By devising a cloth for overcoats That will fade alike all over.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

WILLING TO ILLUSTRATE.



"Daisy," said her distressed mother, "I don't see how you can get so dirty."

"Come on out and I'll show you," was the prompt reply.—The Barber-shop.

Advanced.

"You say that Lord Fucash's social position has improved since he married a rich American girl?"

"Yes, indeed. Formerly he was only a nobleman; but now he belongs to our heiresstocracy."—Washington Star.

Cruel Girl.

The love-lorn youth heaved a sigh, As the maid of his choice passed high. For she had a new beau, And he hadn't a sheau. For even one glance from her eigh.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

THE REASON.



"Why don't we celebrate Martha Washington's birthday?"

"Because no woman ever lets us know the date of her birth."—Chicago Chronicle.

Bad Start.

His wedding trip was sudden—He was thinking of the hairer, And stepped upon her bridal train While coming from the altar.—Chicago Daily News.

Telling Tales.

Mr. Oldboy—Always respect gray hairs, my boy.

Tommy—Why? My ma doesn't.

Mr. Oldboy—You shouldn't say that. Tommy—She wouldn't dye them if she did.—Ally Sloper.

The Exact Size.

Patience—You say a cloud has come into his life the size of a man's hand?

Patrice—No; I believe it is about the size of her papa's foot.—Yonkers Statesman.

Two Classes.

"Our club meetings," said Mrs. Uppelsh, "are attended by the best people—the brains and culture of the city."

"Indeed!" exclaimed Mrs. Planebuddy, "and do your swell society folks really condescend to associate with them?"—Catholic Times and Star.

His Objection.

La Mont—Say, old man, there is a widow down the street, who keeps a tobacco store. Why don't you buy your cigars from her?

La Moyn—Because I never did fancy widow's weeds.—Chicago Daily News



WOMAN HOME

MRS. DENISON'S TRAVELS.

President of General Federation of Women's Clubs Has Established a Unique Record.

Mrs. Denies T. S. Denison, president of the General Federation of Women's clubs, is at present at her home in West One Hundred and Third street, Manhattan, resting between journeys. And she probably needs the rest. For three months she was as continually on the road as a commercial traveler. In those three months she traveled more than most women do in a lifetime, and all without going outside of the United States. She crossed the Mississippi six times, got almost out to the coast twice and kept engagements in Louisiana and Texas, and engagements in Michigan and the Dakotas. She visited 22 states in all, traveled about 30,000 miles, talked to not far from 100,000 women and came home fresh as a daisy and having gained weight during her travels.

That is something of a record even for these strenuous days, and now she has started off again to Florida first and then to Arkansas and Tennessee and possibly to one or two other places. All this, of course, on federation business. Who takes the place of president to that enormous aggregation of women must make up her mind to put her own private and personal affairs entirely in the background for two years. And even that Mrs. Denison has not done, inasmuch as her mother has been very ill—a situation which she did not foresee when she took the presidency—and she has been drawn hither and yon by a divided duty, and succeeded in neglecting neither. But poor Mr. Denison! He has been practically wifeless for the past year, between his wife's mother and his wife's clubs. However, he brought it on himself, so far as the clubs are concerned,



MRS. D. T. S. DENISON. (President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.)

for it was he who urged and encouraged his wife to go into club life and cheered her through her first moments of stage fright and was so proud and pleased at the general recognition of her brilliancy and graciousness and ability that she couldn't help being pleased and proud with him.

Speaking of her travels—and even as she spoke Mrs. Denison was dressed and ready to go to a big local club reception as "guest of honor"—she said to a Brooklyn Eagle reporter: "I had a perfectly delightful trip in every way. It seemed to me that each town outdid the last I had visited in its welcome. And those western club women! They are such forceful, brainy, practical creatures. They don't seem to waste so much time on unimportant details, but get right down to the meat of the matter. I suppose that in our eastern cities our various reforms and charities and public works are so well organized, so crystallized that there is not so much for the clubs to do. But out west the women's clubs are an active living public force, doing things that ought to be done, accomplishing things that need accomplishing. And their hospitality is not mere civility; their politeness seems to be a deep seated courtesy that springs from real kindness.

"I think any one who had been on my recent trip with me would have realized the uses of women's clubs. Possibly occasionally they would have realized their abuses, too. But in the main they do stimulate and develop. And the club woman is not necessarily a masculine, domineering, unwomanly creature. She can overdo it, of course, and sometimes clubs seem to become an obsession with women. But those are the women who are naturally ill-balanced; if it wasn't clubs it would be something else. Of course, a whole lot of them take themselves with tremendous seriousness and are awfully funny.

"This southern trip of mine is probably the last one I shall take as president of the general federation. My term ends in the spring."

Stuffing for Green Peppers.
Corned beef hash is said to make an excellent stuffing for green peppers. Of course no one would make hash on purpose to stuff peppers with, but hash is often left over. A housewife of an experimental frame of mind who had hash left over filled some peppers with it, poured around them a brown gravy of butter, flour and water and baked them. She says there is no doubt of the success of that experiment.

Cleaning White Satin Shoes.
White satin shoes may be easily cleaned at home. Stuff out the shoe in shape and rub it gently with a soft cloth dipped in methylated spirit, repeating till clean. Dry with a clean, soft cloth.

UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPH FANS.

A Novelty from Germany Which Is Destined to Become Quite Popular in This Country.

Of the making of fans there appears to be practically no end in these days, and novelty and artistic results are the dual aims of the designer and manufacturer of these essential possessions of maid and matron. The Frenchman and the American are exceedingly adept as fan designers and constructors, but the newest idea in this line comes from the land of the Teuton. It is the photograph fan, of which a picture is here shown. The



THE PHOTOGRAPH FAN.

framework is of thin silk and tortoise shell, the mount elaborately decorated in gold. In orchid design silk is applied on the foundation fabric, with the petals so arranged as to leave space for the painted portraits of the owner's dear friends. In place of the painted picture a tiny photograph may be inserted if desired, and it cleverly done the effect is good, although the painted miniature adds to the picturesque and artistic effect of the fan. The college girl, the debutante and the young girl in general is likely to approve of such a fan, as it can be made to serve a decorative as well as useful purpose and hold the place of honor as a photo frame.—Brooklyn Eagle.

HINTS FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

Caring for the Baby Is Robbed of Many Trials by Adopting a Rational System.

Young mothers usually know very little about the care of babies, and this lack of knowledge is apt to make the task seem a very difficult one. Let his clothes be soft, warm and comfortable. We often fail to realize how much more sensitive he is to changes of temperature than we are, and are not careful enough to guard against them. The room in which he stays should be kept as near the same temperature as possible, and well ventilated, but avoid keeping him in a draft or he will be apt to have the colic. A healthy baby, that has not been taught bad habits, will be happy and contented in his crib the greater part of the day, allowing the mother time to attend to other duties, or to rest. He does not need to be held in your arms all the time, and he never needs to be carried about to amuse him. Few mothers are strong enough for that task, and they should never begin it. A great deal of worry and many cross spells might be saved if the mother would begin by having regular hours for feeding and bathing the baby. The bath should never be neglected, for so much of his comfort depends upon it that he will be restless and cross without it. Have the room warm and the water just warm enough for comfort. Get the bath tub in place, with towels and clean clothes hung on a chair before the fire, so they will be at hand when needed. Bathe him quickly, and wipe him dry with a very soft linen towel. Dust him under the arms and any other places that seem in danger of chafing with a powder composed of ten parts talcum powder and one part boracic acid, thoroughly mixed by sifting together two or three times. This is very soothing and healing, and when prepared at home it is inexpensive, and one can be sure to have it pure. Slip his clothes on and fasten them with as little turning and twisting as possible, and if he is not hungry he will fall into a quiet, refreshing sleep.

When babies are teething they need special care to keep them well. They should have plenty of simple and nutritious food that is easily digested. The gums become swollen and the mouth feverish. Give them a drink of water occasionally and see how eagerly they take it. Any tendency toward diarrhoea should be checked at once. If home remedies fail call a physician without delay.—St. Louis Republic.

They Like to Be Ugly.

As if nature had not been unkind enough, the Thibetan woman heightens her ugliness by smearing her face with a horrible black ointment to keep her skin from cracking in the dry wind. Her dress is not different from her husband's. Her crowning glory is her hair. Plastered down with butter from the part to the ears, it goes off behind into a sunburst of small braids to which is fastened a great fan-shaped headdress falling to the hem of her garments. It is of spreading strips of red and blue cloth joined horizontally by iron bands and ornamented with countless coral and malachite beads, silver coins, and tiny bells. The one poetic thing about a Thibetan lady is the sound of her gong—a soft, melodious tinkle, belying the grotesqueness of her face.

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