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Lansing Letter.

LANSING, JAN. 18, 1887.

Friday evening, the 14th, the legislature adjourned until the following Monday evening, when the absent state solons returned to the city and resumed business at the old stand. As they are luxuriating in the possession of railroad passes very few of them remained at the capital after adjournment. The possession of passes has a tendency to shorten the working week of the legislature at both ends without any noticeable bulging in the middle. Many of the members go home Saturday and return Monday, thus losing most of two days out of the week. It is said that perhaps this session, as the spirit of reform is stalking through the land, the members who indulge in this weekly recreation will give the state a rebate of \$4 for every such excursion. If I hear of any thing of that kind I will notify you at once by telegraph.

The senators are taking it easy at present, holding only afternoon sessions. Among the more important business thus far transacted by the senate was the introduction of a bill by Mr. Wisner to create a superior court for East Saginaw, and a bill by Mr. Seymour to establish a prison of infamy for the confinement of life prisoners exclusively, for which an appropriation of \$200,000 will be asked.

In the house there was introduced a bill providing for capital punishment for murder and rape. Representative Grinnell gave notice that he would introduce a bill to do away with the superior court of Detroit and a bill to put an end to the board of councilmen of the same city. The same member also introduced a bill to exempt from garnishment the wages of all heads of families. Mr. Ogg gave notice of the introduction of a bill to prohibit the payment of employees with scrip or store orders, the bill also providing for the payment to employees of their wages at least once in ten weeks. Mr. Hosford introduced a land grant forfeiture bill, also a bill making an appropriation to carry on and complete the capitol decorations. A bill was introduced requiring a civil license in order to marry legally; a bill making an appropriation for the support, equipment and expenses of a state weather service; a bill to prevent swindling in promissory notes; and notice was given by Mr. Grinnell of a bill to prevent the manufacture of adulterated candy, and a bill to repeal the law exempting church property from taxation. The petition of Henry Chamberlain praying that Gov. Leche be impeached was referred to the judiciary committee.

Directly after the routine business in the house Thursday morning Representative Chapman moved to suspend the rules and put the resolution to submit a prohibitory amendment to its immediate passage. The motion prevailed, and a call of the house recorded 22 "ayes" and 21 "noes." Nine Fusion members voted with the Republicans, and one of the latter—Berthier, of Detroit—recorded his vote against the resolution. The same afternoon the resolution was laid before the senate and by that body referred to the committee on liquor traffic. It is probable the senate will take action on the resolution this week.

In a previous letter I made reference to the new political party now in process of incubation, which, when fairly under way, is expected to make this anomalous sphere vibrate from center to circumference. John M. Potter, of this city, is one of an executive committee of 13 appointed last September at Indianapolis to carry on the work of the organization. He was named as organizer for the states of Michigan, California and Oregon. The last two states are undergoing manipulation by substitutes commissioned by Mr. Potter, and Michigan will be brought into line at a mass conference to be held at Flint, Feb. 2, to perfect plans of organization and appoint one delegate from each congressional district to the convention at Cincinnati Feb. 22. The resolution of this scheme which is to favor the political world expect to bring things to such a white heat at Cincinnati that they will be able to weld into a harmonious combination all Knights of Labor, Greenback, Trades Union, Soldier, Grange and cognate organizations. If they don't do so they won't have lost anything if they do the leaders of the old parties are expected to order their ascension robes without farther delay.

His Disreputable Namesake.

Sometimes "the fellow that looks like me" proves troublesome. A gentleman, somewhat prominent in Atlanta, once received a letter from Opelika dunning him for a board bill. As he had never set foot in that city, he was greatly annoyed that someone else should attempt to personate him. The creditor, however, was persistent, and placed the claim in the hands of an Atlanta attorney. A few days later the gentleman was called aside by a friend, who said: "I am sorry to see you so far forgetting yourself." "Why, what do you mean?" "Well, they say that you have allowed your three children to be placed in the benevolent home, and your wife, too, is there sick and dying." Furious, the gentleman turned his steps toward the benevolent home. There were three children there with names corresponding to those of his own; the lady had the same name to which his wife answered, and the recreant father and husband bore the same name as himself. Some good came out of it, however, for while there could be no sympathy for the faithless husband those dependent on him were in need of it, which they found.—Atlanta Constitution.

Early marriages is the rule among French Canadians. Originating in the early history of the country, when women were few and the government and church alike encouraged girls in their teens to become wives, the practice has become permanent, and for lads who have not reached their majority to be fathers and girls of sixteen to become mothers is too common to cause remark.

bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicants within one mile of the Soldier's Home will be championed by a strong lobby of the Women's Relief Corps. Mrs. A. N. Moffat, of Detroit, well known throughout the state in connection with temperance work, will head the lobby. When they get a full head of steam on I apprehend the ladies will make life a burden to the unfortunate legislator who has the temerity to refuse to fall into line.

I notice the ladies are contriving in various ways to get a finger in the pie this session, and I am mistaken if they are not heard from early and often. In addition to championing the bill above referred to the W. C. T. U. of the state have prepared and are signing a petition to the legislature to change the age of consent for females to 18 years. This petition may find its way to the legislature in a day or two, though it may perhaps be a week before the returns are all in and the ladies are ready to swoop down on the unsuspecting members. Several Lansing ladies are just now finding time to work up a bill to provide a state home for feeble-minded children. They also have another scheme upon the anvil to which I am not yet at liberty to refer.

Last week during the meeting in this city of the Equal Suffrage Association (a body of women who want the ballot real bad but are not sure what they are going to do with it when they get it), a committee of ladies went about among the members to discover who were all right on the temperance question and who were given to the absorption of fluids with an exhilarating tendency. Running foul of a suspicious looking sideboard they demanded that it be opened for their inspection. This was done, and they were surprised to find it empty with the exception of a bible, seeing which the ladies left the room with evident disappointment depicted upon their features, and prepared to hear Susan B. Anthony speak in the evening. Perhaps it was fortunate the ladies did not know that legislative flasks are now made to fit into a box perfectly resembling a family bible.

While on this subject I may state that the Prohibitionist of Lansing have determined upon the publication of a local organ, the initial number of which will ship the shell about the first of next month. It will appear weekly during the session of the legislature and after that fortnightly.

Oscar F. Wisner, an attorney of East Saginaw, has prepared and will place before the legislature a bill making it obligatory upon the judges of the supreme court to reside at Lansing during their term of office. He claims the residence of the supreme judges at the Capital City would obviate much of the inconvenience and annoyance now experienced, lawyers frequently having to spend twice as much time here as necessary because cases go over from week to week in order to give the judges an opportunity to go home every Friday. He further avers that the judges for the same reason place twice as many cases on call as they can profitably handle. Mr. Wisner expects the legislature to take favorable action upon his bill.

The formal election of Col. Stockbridge takes place at 2 p. m. to-day. There is no question but the action of the caucus will be confirmed. So far as I can learn the gentleman is not in the city and will not be here at this time. However, in the course of a few days he will hold a reception at Lansing, which will indubitably be an affair of unusual magnificence.

A Youthful Leader.

Lord Randolph Churchill will be the youngest leader that the house of commons has had since the days of Pitt, who first accepted the post at the age of 23. Peel was called to the same responsibility at the age of 49, Russell at 42, Disraeli at 47, Palmerston at 70. Happily the nation is unafflicted by any hard-and-fast rule of age in respect of such appointments. Had Lord Randolph been a citizen of republican Rome, he must have waited another six years to be legally eligible for the consularship. Under the French constitution of 1875 he could not be chosen a senator for three years to come. On the other hand, he has added two years to the thirty-five which an American must have lived before he can hold the presidency of the United States. No doubt a majority of the men who have made history had shown the measure of their capacity at 37. Bismarck was just 36 when he became minister at Frankfurt, and his aggressive personality was to assert itself. Gambetta entered on his 33rd year the acknowledged dictator of France outside of Paris. Gordon had just completed the third decade of his life when he assumed the command of the "ever-victorious" army.—St. James's Gazette.

The Portland Oregonian relates a story of a portly and jolly government official who went out of his office one day last week without his cane. "Oh," said he, "I must go back. That is bad luck." So to avert the threatened evil he marched back into the office, sat down, took a half dollar from his pocket, laid it upon his desk, turned it over, and then replaced it in his pocket. He then took his cane and marched out with a cheerful heart. Of course, he did not believe in this hocus-pocus business, but then he had heard the omen all his life, and it could do no harm to go through the rigmarole, so he went through it.

DECORATION OF DWELLINGS.

There are special rules for decorating different rooms to make them exactly suitable to their particular uses. Thus the reception-room should be grand and imposing, calculated to instill in the visitor a sense of the mansion's importance—that is, if you have a mansion. The dining-room, as a rule, should be quiet and subdued in tone, for in this room the special attraction ought to be the repast upon the table, not startling forms of decoration and furniture. But by all means let the drawing-room be bright and cheerful. The character of this room ought to be such as will tend to promote pleasurable conversation, and this is afforded by little odd but often expensive tridles, drawings and articles of vertu scattered about the room. The library should be rich, both in decoration and appointments. Green will be found a capital color for the prevailing tone in a library. In this room everything ought to be characteristic of study and meditation. Let the bedrooms be quiet and cheerful in tone. No paper with a striking pattern is suitable for a bedroom, for the eye is apt to be irritated with the pattern, and the brain troubled in counting the patterns from floor to ceiling. In short, our dwellings ought to be decorated in such a manner as will be best suited to our wants, and that consists in a harmonious combination of color and beauty of form, and by the exercise of a little good taste utility and beauty may go together.

Some little contrivances which have added much to the appearance and comfort of the dressing-room of the lady who describes them are thus set forth for the benefit of others who may like to adopt them: "When a room does not contain a hanging wardrobe, an excellent substitute may be effected by means of a set of portable folding pegs, which can be bought for a very small sum, fastened to the wall by means of strong pegs. But dresses and cloaks are not slightly when hung up; and if not covered they catch the dust in a manner very detrimental to their preservation. So I have adopted the plan of making a crotone curtain the required length and breadth with several curtain-rings at the top. Then I fasten two little brass hooks that screw into the wall over the pegs, run a came about three-quarters of a yard through the curtain-rings and fasten it up, the two hooks supporting each end. Thus a hanging wardrobe is made, and when the room is swept nothing need be done but pin the flowing curtain tightly round the dresses underneath."

A Nomadic Needle.

Mr. Thomas P. Smith of Trego & Co., pulled a needle out of the muscle of his left forearm the other day. It was an inch and a half long, and discolored, but not rusty. How the needle got into his arm Mr. Smith doesn't know. He is now 82 years of age and has no recollection of ever having swallowed one or of any running into him. He never felt it, or suffered any inconvenience from it. One day last week his arm pained him a little, and, feeling the spot through his coat, he thought a boil was coming. The next morning when dressing he looked at the place and was surprised when he saw the eye of a needle. He got the needle out with his fingers, and paid no attention to the hole, which disappeared in a day or two, and there is now no trace of it on his arm. Mr. Smith still has the needle, and will preserve it.

"A good many people," said a physician, "believe that a needle is carried along by the circulation, but that is absurd. Its motion is due to the working of the muscles. A needle will pass through not only thin tissue but through almost anything in the body without being apparent or doing any injury. I have heard of needles going through the wall of the stomach and the intestines, but never had a case. There are positive and negative elements in the body, and these doubtless act upon the needle and turn it over or in any direction. It does not follow because the needle came out head first that it went into the arm that way and remained in that particular place. The gentleman probably had the needle run into him when he was a child, but that is not altogether certain. It may have been gotten in recently without his knowing anything about it. There is nothing in medical literature on the subject, but the newspapers occasionally mention such cases."—Chicago Tribune.

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FARM NOTES.

An application of lye will restore to rough trunks and branches of orchard trees their original smoothness. The digestive organs of swine are easily disarranged under our artificial system of breeding. There is no farm animal more cleanly in its food naturally than the hog. The land that will maintain twenty common herd cows will maintain twenty well bred ones, and the annual profit from the latter will be considerably more than from the former. It is the same with an animal as with a steam-boiler—the more complete the combustion of the food or fuel it gets the more satisfactory will be the result, because there is less waste. Resources of the soil do not end abruptly at four or five inches in depth, yet there are hundreds of farms where all beneath is terra incognita because no effort has ever been made to explore. Honey of different grades should be kept separate. An inferior grade put in with the best will set a lower price on the whole. At the close of each season of bloom grade the whole product. Deep tillage of heavy lands is one of the surest safeguards against drought, for it constitutes provision for storing moisture in the place where it is most readily available for the support of plants. When an Elkhart, Ind., farmer was unloading a load of hay which he had driven to market and sold, he found a very lively rattlesnake in the hay, and in the serpent he found two meadow moles still alive and kicking. The practice of pegging down ever-blooming roses, so that they will cover completely the surface of the bed, is well known to produce very pleasing results. It is said that pegging down dahlias proves quite as satisfactory. A contributor to an old number of the Iowa H. nestled says that the secret of raising winter squash is to plant late, and when the borer gets in cover the vine six inches deep with earth. Burying the worm kills it and saves the crop. In some parts of Indiana farmers are tearing down their worm fences built of black walnut rails and selling the seasoned sticks to chairmakers for prices that will refence their fields with pine and leave a margin of profit on the operation. The value of ensilage as winter food for cows seems more and more appreciated year by year. Improved methods of preparing and preserving the fodder, improved silos, and labor-saving machinery have added largely to the value of the food. Although flat turnips are mostly water, there is nutriment enough to make them an important addition to food for cattle and sheep, and it is therefore desirable that in a season of scarcity they be raised to the full extent of opportunity. Bees do not work well in a hive exposed to the sun. In midday, when very hot, all work on the inside, such as comb-building and storing honey, has to be suspended. Sometimes combs melt down, and the brood dies in the heat of the sun. Do not have too many plants in the hills. If the late corn is backward and growth apparently slow thin out the plants, so as to allow of more room and plant-food. It is better to have one or two good thrifty stalks than three or four weakly ones. If you have thin, flat stones at command, say as thick as roofing slate or somewhat thicker, try mulching a few strawberry plants with them. Tin answers the same purpose. Shingles are good, but inclined to warp. A patented clay tile is sold in some places, but stones are cheaper and better.

Dogfishes.

"We fishermen have a contempt for the shark. He doesn't begin to compare with his first cousin, the little dogfish, for voracity. I would rather fall overboard among ten man-eaters than into a school of dogfish. I might frighten the sharks off by splashing, diving, and making a great noise. But the dogfish is dangerous. There are a great many of them outside now. They followed the mackerel in, and stay there now, feeding on menhaden. The dogfish go in schools of 1,000 or 2,000. They travel close together, and we betide the luckless fisherman who drops overboard. They chase the mackerel into the nets and eat them all to pieces. I have had a thousand feet of net ruined in one night by them. Fishermen have had their hands lacerated by them while handling their nets, and last summer one of the men employed in the mackerel fishing fell overboard, and was literally devoured before the eyes of his companions. A man has no chance with dogfish. Hundreds of them will attack him, tearing pieces of flesh away, and he sinks in a twinkling. A couple of years ago a fisherman named Nantucket was swamped a quarter of a mile from shore. He swam but two or three strokes when he was seen to throw his hands up and disappear. The water was churned all around him and dogfish jumped into the air. He was never seen again. The dogfish now off the harbor are about two to three feet long."—N. Y. Evening Post.

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