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WASHINGTON NEWS

Interesting News Items From the National Capital.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

National Rivers and Harbors Question, After Thorough Discussion, Meets With Approval of President Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—It's a hard sledding these days for the simple brand of spelling. The reform mhas met with a serious if not fatal setback at the hands of Congress. With almost complete unanimity the important House Committee on Appropriations inserted in the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, which has just been reported, a clause providing that "hereafter" in printing documents authorized by law, or ordered by Congress, or either branch thereof, the Government Printing Office shall follow the rules of orthography established by Webster's and other generally accepted dictionaries of the English language." Thus in one vigorous sweep Congress has undone orthographical reform and repudiated the President's much-entitled order of two months ago. As an example of revolt against executive will, Congress has paled into insignificance the mutinous disregard for the Presidential ruling shown by the Supreme Court and the Navy Department. Even the President of the United States is not powerful enough to tackle some subjects successfully. The "nu spelling" fad seems to be one of these.

Uncle Sam is taking a leaf from the book of experience of Commerce. He is entering on a regular popularizing campaign on behalf of the navy, and in carrying out the idea, a traveling recruiting ship is to be sent up and down the Atlantic coast to popularize the service with eligible young men. The converted yacht Wasp is to be used for the purpose. Desirable young men are to be given actual proof of the desirability of the service, and the little vessel will endeavor to disprove the popular belief that life at sea is a hard fate. This will take the place of the regular recruiting parties sent out by the government.

Probably no convention ever held in Washington left such a deep impression on Congress and the President as the meeting of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, which has just ended a two days' session. Its purpose in seeking an annual appropriation of \$50,000,000 a year was applauded by Speaker Cannon, Chairman Burton, of the House Committee on Rivers and Harbors, Senator Berry, Congressman Tanney, of the House Committee on Appropriations, Congressman John Sharp Williams, leader of the minority, governors of states, men of affairs and prominent citizens from all over the country who spoke of the convention. President Roosevelt, when waited on at the White House by the 1,200 delegates, voiced emphatically his indorsement of the Congress, and promised his aid in accomplishing the objects of the organization. He said: "I have had it brought strikingly to my attention but recently how much we suffer at present because of the inadequate transportation facilities of the railroads for moving the great grain crops and cattle crop of this country. We need, and must have, further facilities for transportation, and, as has been well pointed out, one of the effective methods of affecting railway rates is to provide for a proper system of water transportation." The great project in which the middle West is vitally interested, the lakes-to-the-gulf deep waterway, was kept prominently before the convention. At the reception at the White House, the officers of the ship canal association presented Roosevelt with a silver medal and sang the following song to the air of "Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!":

"We represent the people who want the waterway—
Fourteen feet through the valley.
We represent the shippers who have the biggest say—
Fourteen feet through the valley.
We want the ships a-running and lowering the rate—
Fourteen feet through the valley.
And if we get the water we'll guarantee the freight—
Fourteen feet through the valley.
CHORUS.

We're going to have the Water,
We're going to have the way;
We've got the tonnage waiting
To make the vessels pay;
And we'll get the fifty millions
With Uncle Sam's O. K.—
Fourteen feet through the valley."
The President laughed when the song was concluded, and remarked that he wished the Panama Canal had a poet laureate. He was assured that the official poet of the Lakes to the Gulf Deep Waterway Association would draft out a verse to immortalize the big undertaking on the Isthmus. This association, however, worked entirely in harmony with the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, which recognizes no individual or particular scheme of waterway improvement, but which aims to compel the development by the government of all navigable rivers and harbors.

Senator Burkett of Nebraska this week asked permission in the Senate to have printed as a Senate document a "History of the Congressional Cemetery." Immediately to his right were seated Senator Morgan, of Alabama, aged eighty-two, and his colleague, Senator Pettus, aged eighty-five. On a sofa in the rear of the chamber reclined Representative Bankhead, who recently was selected by Alabama as an alternative Senator to hold himself in readiness to step into the shoes of either of the State's senators who may die. Senator Morgan looked over at Bankhead, and then turning to Senator Pettus, said: "Pretty live subject, this Congressional graveyard matter, eh, Pettus?" Both the aged Senators laughed, while Mr. Bankhead looked uncomfortable.

Secretary Metcalf, in his annual report just published, has put forward a plan for the control of big commercial organizations, by compelling them to take out federal licenses. The plan is considered a good one, giving the federal government absolute control over every corporation doing an interstate business. It also probably will serve to check the great amount of drastic and unthinking legislation being adopted by the different states, and which is certain to cripple the business of the country if persisted in. President Roosevelt sees plainly the drift toward commercial unrest through this cause, and he devotes a considerable part of his message in warning the American people against hysterical attacks on all forms of corporate wealth. He also cautions the public against the demagogues who seek to better their own political fortunes by inflaming the public mind. Under Secretary Metcalf's licensing scheme the corporations would be subjected to the widest publicity, and violation of the laws would give the government immediate right to revoke the license permitting them to do business.

Clad in a cream-colored suit of light flannel, with a flaming red tie, Mark Twain burst on the House press gallery this week. The famous humorist smiled blandly on the correspondents. "This isn't a suit," he said. "This is a uniform. It's the uniform of the American Association of Purity and Perfection, of which I am president, secretary and treasurer, and only man in the United States eligible to membership." The humorist went on to explain that he had reached the age when he believed he could dress as he pleased. He is in Washington attending the hearing of the copyright law, which authors are seeking to have amended.

Charles F. Murphy, biggest chief in the Tammany Wigwam and tamer of the Tammany Tiger, stopped a few hours in Washington on his way back to New York. Mr. Murphy has been resting at Hot Springs, Va., after the strenuous campaign in New York, but

he insisted that he had been there only for a rest and not to lay further political plans. However, the New York republicans here would like to know the true inwardness of the appearance at the Homestead hotel, the big hotel at the resort, of W. J. Conners, of Buffalo, the Hearst lieutenant in the northern part of the Empire State, and the many long walks taken by the two political chiefs over the Virginia hills. Despite the statement by William R. Hearst that he never again

will seek political office, there are those who doubt the sincerity of the announcement, and the burden of the conference of the two leaders at the Virginia watering place might be of interest.

As an indication of how near to total elimination is sectional feeling in the United States, an incident that took place this week is of interest. For several years Boston has prized highly a tattered and torn Confederate battle flag captured in New Orleans

by "Ben" Butler. Some few weeks ago it was decided to return the banner to New Orleans. Mayor Fitzgerald, of Boston, accordingly brought the old flag to Washington this week, and when he met Mayor Behrman, of New Or-

leans, at the waterways convention, to which both were delegates, he announced his intention of surrendering it. Mayor Behrman promptly replied that New Orleans didn't want it. The war was over, the old differences had been forgotten and national patriotism was

too firmly established to require out-parted the best of friends, and Boston undoubtedly has more respect for New Orleans, as New Orleans must have for Boston.

The canning industry in the United States is growing rapidly. The Census Bureau has just issued a report showing the strides made. The largest item is canned vegetables, the value of which in 1904 reached \$45,262,148.

SIMINGTON DRY GOODS CO.

YOUR XMAS SHOPPING

Those who visit our store will find here just what every Xmas shopper so frequently desires. Beautiful goods, plenty of room, complete assortment, moderate prices, and above all that courteous attention which is never officious and is always acceptable.

Long Kid Gloves



Long Kid Gloves, 12 and 16-button length, made from the first quality French Gisco Kid; one pair each in a beautiful

Xmas Box \$3.00 and \$3.50 Each.

Xmas Hosiery



Holiday Boxes of Hosiery put up in beautiful Xmas boxes, 1-4 dozen each in a box; all imported full fashioned lysle and Egyptian Cotton, double heel and toe, lace and gauze effects.

75c to \$1.50 the box

Corsets of Quality.



The best Corsets, the latest model retains the modish shape of the garment as long as it is worn. R. & G. and Warner's Rust-proof are first. If you have never worn one of these Corsets, you should. We guarantee every pair to give satisfaction.

XMAS UMBRELLAS WOMEN'S UMBRELLAS

Covered with piece-dyed taffetas with tape edge, paragon frame and steel rods. Gold, Silver, Pearl and Princess handles. A new line just received for holidays.

75c to \$5.00

Our Stock of Holiday Handkerchiefs will Appeal to all.

Women's Scalloped and Hemstitched Swiss and all pure sheer linen Handkerchiefs, put up in beautiful Xmas boxes, 1-12, 1-4, 1-6 and 1-2 dozen to a box. Every handkerchief of this season's most choice designs, priced from

5c to \$3.00 per box.

Xmas Hand Bags 76c to \$5.00



Women's hand-bags, embracing everything wanted in this line for Xmas shoppers. All leather lined and fitted with coin purse to match. Leathers are Alligator, Crocodile, etc. Prices range,

from 75c to \$3.00

KIMONAS AND BATH ROBES



It's a gift she will like most. Just sound her and see; beautiful patterns and styles just received for the holidays, made from heavy Velour Flannels and Eiderdown, trimmed in silk frogs and satin and silk faced. See window display and you will please someone with one of these choice gifts.

HAND PAINTED CHINA

How well some one will be pleased to have one of these beautiful hand painted china creamers, set of cups and saucers, etc. Choice new patterns in French and colored designs.

In the columns below we mention a partial list of useful lines which may be a very valuable reminder.

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| Supporters. | Lace Curtains. | Silk Dress Patterns. | Fans. |
| Furs. | Pure Linen Table Cloths. | Blankets. | Rugs. |
| Silk Waists. | Hand-embroidered Pieces. | Belts. | Portiers. |
| Neckwear. | Waist Patterns. | Hair Combs. | Silk Skirts. |