

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our regular correspondent.]
WASHINGTON, April 27th. 1888.

Senator Hoar created a sensation in the Senate on Wednesday, while the land grant forfeiture bill was under discussion. He charged that a scheme had been organized here in Washington to get possession, through fraud, of valuable portions of the lands to be forfeited under the bill.

In the belief that in case the lands are forfeited, the settlers who have purchased from the railroads, to which the lands were granted, will lose their claim and title, men have been hired to go to these lands and enter homestead or pre-emption claims. Should the lands be declared forfeited, the railroad title would thereby be rendered null and void, and of course, settlers who have purchased from railroads would have no title. As the lands would be thrown open to public settlement, the plan of the schemers is to have their agents establish homestead or pre-emption claims, and then upon the forfeiture claim the lands under the public land laws. This little game would not work though, because entries not made in good faith are not legal, nevertheless in order to be sure of protecting the settler, Mr. Hoar offered an amendment to the bill, to make good the title of the purchasers of land from the railroads the payment of \$1.25 per acre for the land.

The Senate committee on agriculture has made a favorable report on the bill to enlarge the powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture, and to make the head of that Department a member of the cabinet. This is the same bill that was passed by the Senate at the last session of Congress. It should become a law at once; the immense agricultural interests of this, the greatest agricultural country in the world, deserves a representative in the cabinet.

No Chief Justice has yet been appointed. It is thought that Mr. Cleveland had fully made up his mind to appoint Hon. E. J. Phelps, our present minister to England, but was scared out of doing so by a delegation of Irish democrats from New York, who told him that if he appointed Mr. Phelps he would lose the entire Irish vote of New York.

Senator Padlock's bill providing for the erection of a public building in all towns where the gross receipts for the past three years have exceeded \$3,000 per annum, has been favorably reported to the Senate. The cost of these buildings shall not exceed \$25,000 and the cost of the site shall not exceed \$5,000. It is probable that the bill will be passed by the Senate at an early day.

Senator Voorhees, of Indiana, made one of his old time regulative copperhead speeches in the Senate on Wednesday. His attacks are periodical, but fortunately not very frequent.

Representative Hatch, of Missouri proposes to introduce a substitute for the pending bill taxing compound lard, which will tax all compounded food products and make violation of its provisions a misdemeanor.

The Democrats finding that they could not gag the Republicans of the House in regard to the length of time the tariff debate shall be allowed to continue, finally agreed to give up twenty days, exclusive of night sessions, to the general discussion of the Mills bill. They also found that they would have to divide the time equally between the Democratic and Republican speakers. There will be tariff speeches and tariff speeches, at the rate of from five to six a day from this time until the time allotted to this subject expires. Representative Burrows, of Michigan, who made the leading speech for the Republicans this week made an appeal to the South in which he warned it that the Mills bill boded no good to that section.

Both the Senate and House have passed the bill prohibiting pool-selling and book-making in the District of Columbia. The Washington Spring races began yesterday, and the pool-sellers, on the

day before, taking it for granted that the President would approve the bill, moved their rooms just outside of the city limits.



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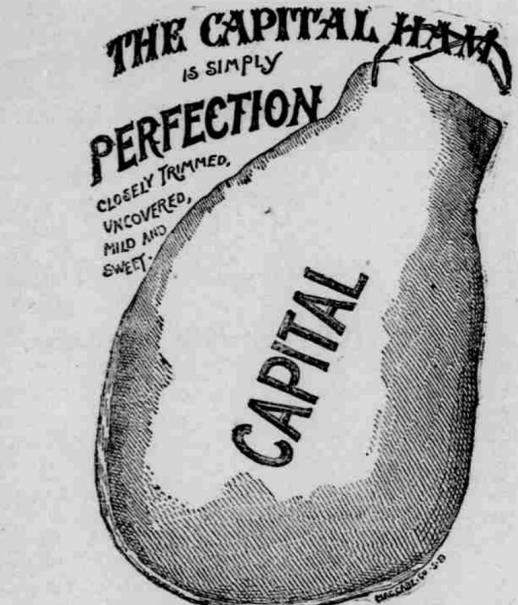
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