

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

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Entered at the Laclede postoffice for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3, 1906.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Our Regular Correspondent Writes From the National Capitol.

Congress is now in a quiescent. It is conceded that the "insurrection" in the house, if it ever had any real foundation, has broken down. The joint statehood bill will pass unless something very unforeseen happens to prevent, and the house rate bill, which it is conceded embodies the president's ideas more than do the several senate bills, will go to conference and get trimmed as sure as there is a conference. The senate is not in the habit of giving up to the house, and while there has been some talk of the house "standing pat" on the rate bill, it is not thought that it will. Possibly this estimate of the house's stamina may be wrong, but there will be more chance to tell at the end of the week.

One of the most futile bills of national importance that have been introduced into the senate for a long time is that of Senator Overman to appoint a commission to study foreign trade conditions with a view to increasing the American foreign market. Now Senator Overman ought to know—everyone else does—that the department of commerce and labor, the state department, the treasury and even the department of agriculture are full of the very information that he would send a commission abroad to obtain. The magazines and the newspapers have been full for some years past of facts and figures, much of the magazine material having been written by such men as Frank Vanderlip and Mr. Conant, who have made a study of the subject and whose conclusions are of more value than those of the most politically appointed commissions. The information is all at hand, but the thing that is needed is the reform in the consular service which has been urged by the state department and thwarted by the very senate of which Mr. Overman is a member, and there is needed an awakening on the part of American manufacturers, who have yet to grasp the first principles of world business. The time is rapidly approaching when America will have to capture world markets to keep up the standard of national prosperity that has been set in the past decade. But the information is already in hand and world markets will not be captured by appointing fresh commissions at comfortable salaries to find what is already known at home.

The coming of the imperial Chinese commission to Washington has been something of a revelation to officials here, and in no way more so than in the manner that the Orientals today went after facts in national finance in the treasury department. The mere coming of the commission is an indication, not that China is waking up, but that she has awakened. The Chinese are among the most expert accountants in the world, and those who have seen them say the most honest. It is a fact that all of the big banking and commercial houses in Japan have Chinese cashiers and tellers to handle the money because a Chinaman is notoriously more honest than a Jap. But when the Chinamen got in touch with the officials in the treasury department, they showed that they knew what they were coming after and knew the answers to at least half their questions before they asked them. Most of the imperial commission speak English like natives. The financial interpreter was a graduate of Harvard and Stanford. He and his fellows were not interested in seeing machines punch holes in discarded greenbacks. They wanted to know the system of government book-keeping, the safeguards against leaks, the relation of national bonds to national bank circulation and things in that line that would be useful to a nation that has just established a paper currency and is extending its national banking system. The members of the commission have been quick to deny that they were in this country either looking after war material or exclusively interested in material progress. They say that they are commissioned to study social and economic problems. But from the thoroughness with which they went through the naval academy and apparently absorbed the whole system, it would not seem that they were not negligent of the warlike side of western progress either. And if China with her four hundred million of population decided to reorganize on a military basis, she will force the rest of the world to sit up and take notice. Arrangements have been made tentatively for the interment at Arlington of Gen. Joseph Wheeler. A site has been selected near the front of the historic Lee mansion and it has been arranged that there will be an escort from all the branches of the United States forces stationed around Washington. The outlook is for the greatest military funeral since the interment of Gen. Lawton at Arlington after his death in battle in the Philippines. Gen. Wheeler was known and liked in Washington long before his service in Cuba. But that service identified him as the real stuff that patriots and not partisans are made of and no one will grudge him the honor of a national burial.

Revision of Tax Laws.

Governor Folk has announced that he will appoint a commission of seven representative citizens whose duty it shall be to revise the revenue laws of the state. These statutes are in a tangle that needs unraveling and it is proposed to accomplish this through legislative action, based on the report of a commission, that will devote perhaps a year to the work of revision. This commission is to serve without remuneration and therefore, the state is assured of securing the services of good men. There will be no scramble for the job and the men to whom the places will be offered will consider it an honor to give their services to the state.

It is proposed to change the laws so that personal property cannot be assessed for state purposes. It is pointed out by Governor Folk that the income of the state is now sufficient, if economically managed, to answer all demands without a personal tax, thus leaving it optional with counties to levy such personal tax as the necessities of the county demand.

This is in line with modern laws on the subject and meets the approval of assessors, as well as of the people in general.—St. Joe Star.

Stray Pointers.

It is a good sermon that stays with a man when he is swapping horses.

Don't look before leaping when an automobile comes scorching your way.

Nothing will be done well if you do it yourself if you don't know how.

An honest man's word is as good as his bond when you've nothing to lose.

The man who makes the best of opportunities is apt to get the best of obstacles.

Some people think that a weakness for rest gives them a right to wear wings.

So act as if the principle upon which you act were to become a universal law of nature.

A man may owe something to himself, but the chances are he owes more to other people.

You can never be thoroughly honest with other people until you are honest with yourself.

Even the man who denounces capital as a curse never objects if the curse comes home to roost.

The easiest way to forget things that you don't want to remember is to think of something else.

A man is never quite sure whether a woman is worried by her own troubles or those of neighbors.

The only man braver than the hero who fears not ridicule is he who fears it and yet faces it in a good cause.

Many men are like machinery—they live so fast and use their gear so hard that a hot finish is their sure end.

AN EYE ATTRACTOR.
APART ALTOGETHER FROM THE HIGH VALUE AND EXCELLENCE OF INTERNATIONAL SUITS THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THEM THAT IS MORE THAN USUALLY EYE ATTRACTIVE. THEY LOOK WELL. THEY NOT ONLY ATTRACT ATTENTION BY THE ELEGANCE OF THE FABRIC BUT BY THE GRACE AND BEARING OF THE CUT.



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