

## Men Who Shine in Lobby of Congress

Washington has not in a generation been overrun so with persons interested in pushing or preventing legislation as now, reports the New York Herald. This is the short session of congress preceding the beginning of President McKinley's second term. All of the plans that have been laid for great schemes in connection with the expansion of the American nation following the war with Spain are beginning to sprout.

It is no new thing to see promoters of legislation coming here by the carload, but it is a new thing to see them coming literally by the trainload. A trainload of brewers arrived here during the first week in December. At the same time a dozen trainloads of members of the Woman's Christian Temperance union arrived. The brewers came to have the war tax taken off beer. They constituted what is known as the beer lobby. The ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance union came to keep the tax on beer and abolish the army canteen. They were known as the anti-lobby.

A trainload of bankers came on December 8, headed by A. B. Hepburn of New York, Myron T. Herrick of Cleveland and J. H. Eckels of Chicago. They desired the tax on bankers and brokers remitted. Men representing steamship lines are here in sufficient force to make high-priced suites in the hotels hard to obtain.

Representatives of the oleomargarine manufacturers of the west, all of them looking fat, sleek and oily, are holding forth in the corridors of the hotels and besieging the room of the agriculture committee of the senate. Hearty looking citizens with weatherbeaten faces and a heavy tread indicating cowhide boots at home are watching these same oily gentlemen. They of the weatherbeaten features are the representatives of the National Dairyman's association, and might be known as the anti-oleomargarine lobby.

These are a few of the interests represented here. Clustering around the one subject of an interoceanic canal on which the government will spend \$200,000,000 are able and versatile agents of a half dozen different "vested rights." Some of them represent the Pacific railroads, others are looking after the Maritime Canal company that once had a concession from Nicaragua; still others, if they were to divulge their paymasters, would be found representing the Panama Canal company. There are agents of the French government and the Russian government on hand and interests are so interwoven that frequently three or four of these different influences are found working toward one end. These, collectively speaking, make up the anti-canal lobby.

There is an army and navy lobby, and that, like the poor, "is always with us." The secretary of war wants one bill, the general commanding the army wants another; the line pulls in one direction, the staff in another. Makers of patent guns and patent shells, manufacturers of armor plate and builders of battleships, promoters of private claims, seekers for increases in salary, commercial bodies that want their home creek deepened and delegations from interior towns that demand a new postoffice—all of these elements contrive to make the short congressional session a continual round of dodging and yielding to the lobby.

### New King of the Lobby.

There have been changes since the old days when the famous Samuel Ward and Dr. R. Bruce Bradford were the acknowledged leaders in promoting legislation. If any one can be called "the King of the Lobby" now it is probably Colonel W. E. Ayres. Colonel Ayres has been one of the most successful members of the "Third House." His life is a romance.

When he came to Washington, in the neighborhood of twenty years ago, he was in desperate straits financially. He himself tells the story how, not having street car fare in his pocket, he walked miles to the Washington and Georgetown car stables in order to apply for a position as conductor. He is now very rich.

Colonel Ayres for years has represented the Union Pacific railroad in congress. He was long known as a personal friend of Charles Francis Adams. When he became versed in all the ins and outs of legislation he succeeded to the task of piloting the famous McGarraghan claim. Sam Ward had it before Ayres. It had been dragging its slow length along in congress for many years. A day, a few years ago, the whole capital was convulsed with astonishment. The McGarraghan claim had passed, but was vetoed by the president.

A well known representative of corporations is John Boyd. Mr. Boyd is a medium sized man, dresses much like a parson, with very bright eyes set in a very small head. The size of hat Mr. Boyd wears is no index to his abilities. Mr. Boyd in the days of reconstruction held a small position in the house of representatives. He attracted the attention of the late Charles Terrill, who, until his death, represented the late Collis P. Huntington. When Mr. Terrill died Mr. Boyd succeeded him, and he is now the sentinel on guard for the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific railroads.

The Southern Pacific road has for many years succeeded in obstructing the Nicaragua canal. Mr. Huntington was the inspiration of the operation, but Mr. Boyd was the genius that made it effective. Mr.

Boyd emphatically denies that the Southern Pacific road is objecting to the Nicaragua canal now. All the same the Nicaragua canal is in trouble, even if Mr. Boyd doesn't know why.

Colonel Tom Ochiltree will be here with his funny stories in a short time. No session of congress would be complete without the Texas colonel. A personal friend of John W. Mackay, known of all men for his genial wit, he knows everything that is going on, and is particularly versed in the desires of cable companies. Another colonel is Samuel Donelson, a former confederate officer. This colonel is as well known in New York as he is in Washington, and he is usually on the lookout for the welfare of the Louisville & Nashville railroad.

All of the large shipbuilding firms that do work for the government have their representatives here. They must be men of ability and address. The best known is General George H. Williams, who is now in Turkey, looking after the famous contract with the sultan, through which the American missionary claim is to be paid. General Williams looks after the work for the Cramp brothers.

### The Canteen Contest.

Old-time lobbyists opened their eyes a few days ago in astonishment when they heard that the house of representatives had knocked out of the army bill the canteen clause. They were more astonished when they found that this had been the work of one man influenced by a large number of determined women.

The man is Rev. Dr. Krafts, a Congregational preacher. Dr. Krafts is the enemy of the saloon in national politics and is always on guard at the national capitol. Dr. Krafts' business is crushing the demon rum in legislatures, whether they be local, state or national. His efforts have made whole states adopt the policy of prohibition. His work has been effective in Illinois, Kansas, Maryland and Georgia. When the Hawaiian legislation was up he was here pressing restriction on the liquor traffic in that territory. He seems to represent all of the national temperance societies. He has a house at 210 Delaware avenue, near the capitol. He appears before committees, waylays congressmen in the corridors, sends for them on the floor and visits them at their homes.

He is a very thin, spare man, rather careless of his attire, like all intense reformers, but men who are successful in their calling, as Dr. Krafts has been, can afford to be careless in their attire. He rides a bicycle and his nether extremities excite amusement when he goes flashing through the corridors with bicycle clips around his small ankles.

A quiet little man, with a face bronzed by years of exposure to the salt air, takes his lunch in the house restaurant every day. He never seems to have much to say and never seems to be doing anything except looking on. Yet this man for six years has baffled all of the efforts of the combined shipping interests of the United States to abolish compulsory pilotage. He is Captain J. Edward O'Brien of Pensacola, Fla., president of the National Pilots' association. The pilots have a close organization and for years the great steamship lines have been seeking to have compulsory pilotage abolished. They have been outmaneuvered by Captain O'Brien every time and have come to respect him as a worthy foe.

William R. Corwine of New York is very much in evidence in Washington. Mr. Corwine is an old New York newspaper man, with Wall street training. He is secretary of the New York Merchants' association, and that association is interested in legislation at Washington as well as at Albany. At Washington just now they are pressing for an uptown New York postoffice, for



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. LININGER AND GRANDDAUGHTER, MARION HALLER, OF OMAHA VISITING THE PYRAMIDS.

the deepening of Buttermilk channel, and are also opposing those features of the ship subsidy bill that permit foreign built ships to participate in the benefits of the proposed subsidy.

A number of former members of congress remain here when they retire to private life looking after certain interests. Former Representative Elias Brookshire of Indiana is advocating a bill favored by the United States Economic Postage association. What this association desires is congressional sanction for a system of return postal cards and return envelopes which it has designed, by which persons using them need only pay for the postage for the cards and envelopes actually returned.

Former Representative Timothy J. Campbell of New York, who is always looking out for his friends, is very much interested in having the wages of postoffice clerks and letter carriers readjusted.

### Talking Into a Receiver

Dr. Cyrus Edson of New York has made a study of the danger of infection from the use of the telephone, and it is comforting to know that he does not agree with the alarmists, who see in every telephone a menace to public health. In Dr. Edson's opinion the telephone may be used in perfect safety, provided two simple rules be invariably followed. These rules are: The keeping of mouthpiece and receiver in a state of absolute cleanliness and the keeping of the mouth several inches from the transmitter while using the telephone. If these rules are rigidly followed the scientist sees in the use of the telephone no more danger than may accrue from swinging signs.

In a recent article published in the American Telephone Journal Dr. Edson maintains these views, and further adds com-

fort to those who walk daily in the fear of bacteria by giving the assurance that:

"Not every one who is actually inoculated with the germs of a disease develops that disease. There is probably not a day in the life of any individual of the human race who lives in a city that he does not receive into his system the germs of some infectious disease. If we caught disease every time we were exposed to it the human race would be very quickly destroyed. The great majority of us are for the most time immune against all infectious diseases."

Dr. Edson goes on to assure us that many telephone transmitters have from time to time been examined by vigorous upholders of the germ theories. In these transmitters baleful germs of various kinds have been discovered. Dr. Edson does not, however, bid us despair because of this. He declares boldly that the mere presence of bacteria collected in any lodging place proves nothing. We are assured that not less than twenty varieties of bacteria have been found assembled under the fingernails of a man whose hands have just undergone what seemed a most satisfactory cleaning. He insists that bacteria exist everywhere, but adds that we need only concern ourselves with the bacteria of disease.

"I believe," he says, "that if 1,000 public telephone transmitters and receivers were examined only one or two would probably be found to be infected with disease germs. This is a slight danger, which cannot always be avoided. A percentage of the human race must sicken and die, because we find it convenient to live in cities. The railroad, the electric light, the steamship and the gas we burn all claim a number of victims yearly, and in this way man pays for anything that is of great public good, not only with his money, but with his life."

The cleanliness of the telephone is, therefore, its best safeguard. It is of impor-

portance to note that Dr. Edson insists that "no amount of disinfection will take the place of cleanliness."

"In conclusion," says the scientist, "I would state that if the telephone transmitter and receiver are used properly and the same rules of cleanliness applied to them as to other articles of use by a cleanly person, no danger whatever need be apprehended from them." All of which will give great comfort to the timid person who has been made to see through the eyes of the alarmist a bogie rather than a useful and harmless friend in the telephone.

### Our New Population

Immigration into the United States was larger last year than at any time since 1890, says the New York Commercial, and the total number of foreigners who arrived during the last ten years constitutes about one-third of the 13,000,000 increase in population shown by the census of 1900. Increasing restrictions and a decrease in virgin area do not seem to have discouraged the influx of homeseekers from abroad, and, what is more, they are now of a more desirable character on the average than those who came to this country during the great rush between 1881 and 1884.

Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia furnished in about equal numbers three-fifths of the 500,000 foreigners added to the population of the United States last year. Great Britain furnished 50,000, Ireland still contributing a large majority of these. But a few scattering citizens of our new possessions transferred their residence to the United States, thus sustaining what has become an axiom in emigration science, that people seldom leave a warmer for a colder county even where every facility is afforded for the change.

It is evident from the nationality of the people now coming to the United States that comparatively few of them, with the exception of the Russians, are competent to enter at once into the agricultural life of the west. They have been encouraged to emigrate by the demand for manufacturing labor in the United States, and it is from this source that American industrial centers have drawn their mill hands for plants of increasing size, also much of their recent gain in population. The ease with which the present large immigration is absorbed is one of the best indications possible that the United States will not for a long time reach that point where crowded conditions awake anxiety.

In the earlier days of the migration from Europe to America the emigrants left their homes to seek farms in a country where they could be had for the asking. A great army was constantly on the move. Minnesota, the Dakotas and other states in that section were soon filled up with farming people of all nationalities. The life was not strenuous in the sense of subduing forces other than cold, heat and wind. It was largely a question of endurance. The states where Indians had to be fought, real wilderness explored and adventures of heroic kind undertaken were settled as a rule by native-born Americans, who sought novelty and were possessed of great adaptability to strange environment.

The immigration of today comes to cities ready for it, to agricultural communities short of men to till fields already plowed and fenced. The Europeans now added daily to the population of the United States bear the same relation to industrial America as does a batch of recruits to a well-organized army.



PICTURESQUE NORTHWESTERN NEBRASKA—BAD LANDS WEST OF ADELIA, SIOUX COUNTY.