

SHORT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Current Topics

Chicago's Third Mayor.

That the third mayor of Chicago is now alive and able occasionally to make his appearance in the streets of the city over whose destinies he once presided, seems at first thoughts to be an astonishing fact. Everybody knows, who ever stops to think, that Chicago is a very young city, but the most do not stop to think, or, anyhow, do not on this matter of Chicago's paucity of years. Measuring time by the successive mayors and their terms, it is seen that the first mayor might well be living today, and possibly not yet a very old man. But the first mayor, W. B. Ogden, was about 40 years of age when he was elected, and, though he was a remarkably robust and healthy man, he could not have been expected to live to be 103.

The third mayor, Alton S. Sherman, was about 34 years old when he was elected mayor—he was born at Barre, Vt., in 1811—and consequently he is



ALTON S. SHERMAN.
Third Mayor of Chicago.

now 89. He is well preserved and, always large and fine-looking, he is now truly patriarchal. He resides at Waukegan, a suburb of Chicago, and does not often visit the city, not because he is too feeble for that, but he likes the spaciousness and comforts of his semi-country home.

Growth of "Oleo" Business.

As indicating the enormous growth of the oleomargarine business in the last few years it is stated that during the last year 104,000,000 pounds of "oleo" were sold in the United States, much of it under false pretenses as genuine butter. This was a jump of 25,000,000 pounds over the sales of the previous year. During the last year also the number of oleomargarine factories in the United States has increased from seventeen to twenty-six. In thirty-two states of the Union there are now in existence laws which absolutely prohibit the manufacture of oleomargarine colored to imitate butter. Notwithstanding these laws, however, no less than 80,000,000 pounds of the imitation butter were sold in the states referred to during the last year.

In the Groat bill, now before congress, it is proposed to make the tax on oleomargarine a part of the internal revenue tax of the federal government. While the state laws are not enforced it is safe to say that the federal statute would be, as the tax would be collected at the factory. Under the provisions of the Groat bill it is not proposed to hinder or interfere with the sale of "oleo" when offered on its own merits and without any attempt to deceive people into thinking they are buying butter. With this idea in view the present tax of two cents a pound which is collected on all oleomargarine is to be reduced to one-quarter of a cent a pound on oleomargarine which is put on the market in its uncolored and natural condition. On oleomargarine which is artificially colored yellow to imitate butter the tax is to be raised, on the other hand, to ten cents a pound. This provision will make it unprofitable for manufacturers and dealers to continue their present policy of selling colored



GROWTH OF OLEOMARGARINE BUSINESS IN RECENT YEARS. Oleomargarine as butter, which is a fraud on the consumer and on the farmer and dairyman as well.

Voter Aged 88 Years.

"Uncle Jimmy" Larkin of Cawke, City, Kan., has voted the whig or Republican ticket ever since the days of William Henry Harrison. Uncle Jimmy, who is a veteran of the civil war, has been confined to his room for two years and as election day approached he was much exercised for fear he should not be able to cast his vote in the forenoon of Nov. 6 the local G. A. R. men went to his home with a chair draped in American flags. In this chair he carried the old man to the polls—he is 88—and Uncle Jimmy deposited what is likely to be his last presidential ballot.

Gave Away Millions.

The old lady who recently died an left President Loubet of France a legacy of \$1,000,000, gave away great sums in charity during her life. On one occasion a man to whom she had given a large sum for charity said to M. Loubet: "In very deed she carried her heart in her hand." The president's ready reply was: "Impossible my friend—her heart is too large to that, and her hand is too small."

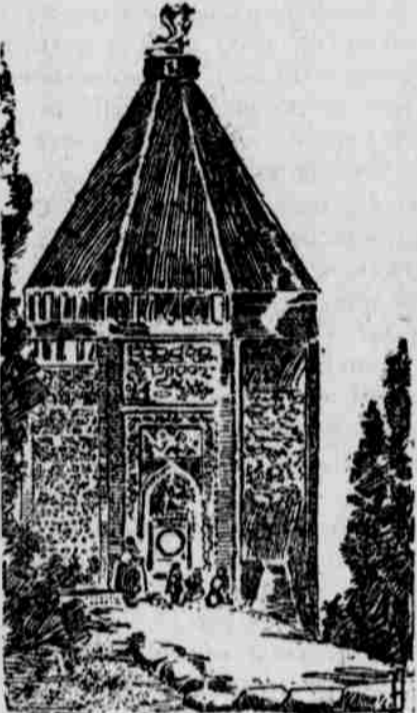
Countess of Birmingham.

An American woman is to be the first countess of Birmingham. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the British colonies, is to be created Earl of Birmingham, and his beautiful and accomplished American wife, formerly Miss Endicott of Boston, will consequently become a countess. Almost Mrs. Chamberlain, alone among the important cities of the empire, Birmingham has been absent from the roster of the upper house of parliament, and now this neglect, according to persistent rumors in well-informed quarters, is about to be repaired by the elevation of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain to the peerage, with the title of earl of Birmingham, his American wife, daughter of President Cleveland's secretary of war, Endicott, becoming first countess of Birmingham.



Mosaics in an Old Tomb.

A German archaeologist, Professor Jacobsthal, has just returned to Berlin from an expedition into Asia Minor, where for eighteen months he has been engaged in researches along the lines in which he is most particularly interested. He spent most of his time in eastern Armenia, in the valley of the Aras. In a lecture recently delivered in Berlin the professor says that but two of the ancient monuments in eastern Armenia are still in existence, and these two are of such highly artificial work that one cannot find its equal in any part of Asia Minor. The smaller one of these monuments used to be the mausoleum of Jusuf Ibu Kutaljr, and according to well-preserved inscription was built in 1162. It is an octagonal building, some 26 feet in diameter and about 34 feet high up to the roof. The other one is the mausoleum of Mu Mine Chatune, who was the wife of the Seldschuk prince



MAUSOLEUM OF JUSUF IBU KUTALJR. Ildgez, and was built in 1166. In its form it is a ten-cornered tower, 35 feet in diameter and about 78 feet high up to the roof.

Commercialism in Salvation Army.

It appears that the struggle between God and mammon is not unknown even within the ranks of the Salvation Army. Commander Booth-Tucker recently discovered that the headquarters of the organization in New York were seriously infected with the spirit of commercialism in the shape of mining stock speculation, and the stringent measures he has taken to suppress it have made a stir in Salvation Army circles not equaled since Ballington Booth's withdrawal.

The desire to lay up treasure elsewhere than in heaven is said to date from the coming of an officer recently transferred from Denver to New York. In a short time a considerable number of the officers in New York had invested in gold mining shares, and Colonel Brewer, the editor of the War Cry, became local manager for a large Seattle company. Commander Booth-Tucker, on learning this, gave the editor the choice of leaving his editorial position or giving up all commercial alliances. The editor promptly transferred his mining stock and managerial position to a friend, but it is said that many other Salvationists have been affected by the speculative spirit, and that this fact will figure in a general shake-up at the annual assembly of the council of the national staff this week.

Many Reenlistments.

Out of more than 40,000 applicants at federal navy recruiting stations during the latest governmental year only 123 were accepted, and of these a noteworthy percentage were reenlistments. Man-o-war's men nowadays must possess peculiar qualifications and knowledge, and in order to acquire these qualifications there must be schooling in actual service. Hence the value of the training vessel system, by means of which a green landsman may be turned out in six months as a finished sailor for duty in ships of war.

(Washington Letter.)

The session of Congress which met December 3d is invested with historic interest, because it was just 100 years ago that Congress first met in the capital city and in the capitol building. November 17 was the centennial day. "It was the day," says a writer, "when the young nation left its temporary abiding place in Philadelphia and came to its permanent home—and to a new building reared for its legislative bodies. Congress had adjourned in Philadelphia on May 14, 1800, to meet in this city on November 17, and immediately after the adjournment

Ship Subsidy Bill.

The ship subsidy bill, which carries an appropriation for ten years for American ships engaged in the foreign trade, will come up and will be fought fiercely. Its fate is uncertain. The house will probably pass it, but the senate may take adverse action. Enemies of the bill estimate that it will cost about \$300,000,000 in ten years for subsidies, but its friends contend that the cost will be comparatively slight, the results considered.

It is pretty well understood that there will be some reduction in war taxes, and the opinion prevails that

soothing topic of the week in Washington.

The canal proposed by this measure is an American canal, in fact as well as in name. Without reference to the Hay-Pauncefote negotiations, and independently of the provisions or restrictions of the proposed treaty, the Hepburn bill authorizes the president to acquire from Costa Rica and Nicaragua the necessary territory, and to pay for the same; empowers the secretary of war to proceed to construct the canal; it empowers him likewise to fortify it; and it limits the total cost to \$140,000,000, directly appropriating

a great opportunity and a crying need exists, says the Tribune. There are in the city a considerable number of so-called music halls and concert saloons in which not only the songs but other features of the performances are calculated to offend and shock decent people. The only way to reform most of these places would be to revoke their liquor licenses and close them up entirely. The proprietors of some of these resorts are men who boast their political influence and "pull." They, it is to be presumed, will be left to elevate the stage in their own way.

Annual Attack on Santa Claus.

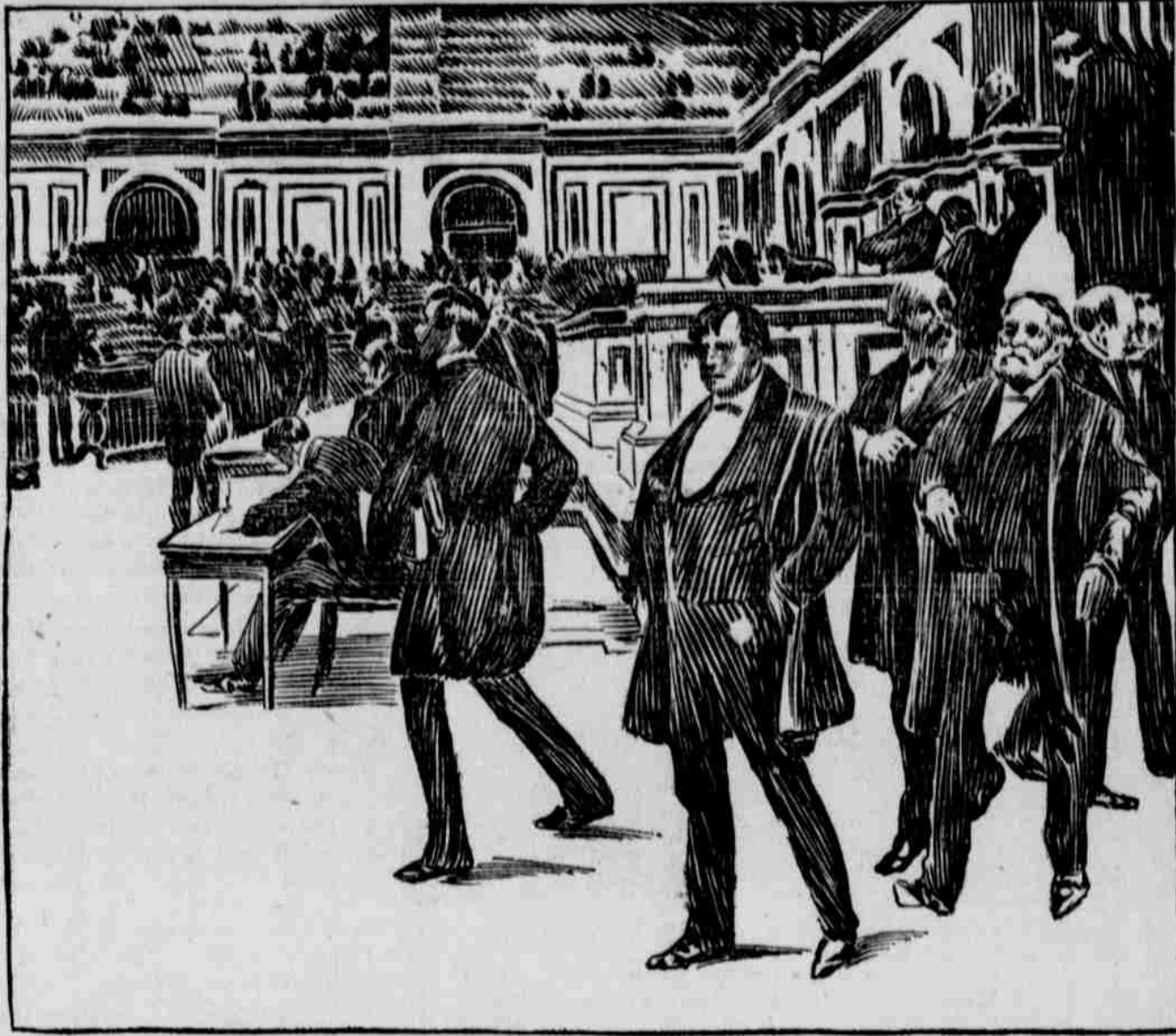
Every year at about this season a number of well meaning but probably dyspeptic gentlemen make a furious and mirth-provoking attack on Santa Claus. According to their own statements the poor old saint is nothing but an idle myth and while there are so many real live flesh and blood dragons stalking around through the land it seems a pity that so much energy and argumentative zeal should be wasted on him. Don Quixote charged a windmill, but that was because there was no other opponent visible on the horizon. The man who couches a lance at Kris Kringle must overlook a hundred great enemies to the moral and physical welfare of all mankind in order to take from childhood a happy and certainly an innocent illusion. But, say the amusing members of the Anti-Santa Claus association, there is no such person as Kris Kringle. He never existed. Therefore, to tell a child about Santa Claus and his reindeer is to tell him a lie and is deeply reprehensible. It is to be wondered whether such painfully and pitifully literal people ever watched a couple of healthy children at their play.

England's Tax on Millionaires.

Richard Croker has made the unpleasant discovery that if he wishes to live in England he must pay the English income tax. The British authorities estimate his income at \$100,000, and they have accordingly levied upon him for \$5,000 a year as the price of residence in that country. At the same time a similar case of still more importance has just been decided in the Lord Chief Justice's court, by virtue of which the estate of another ex-American, William L. Winans, is compelled to pay death duties of \$1,000,000, or nearly 10 per cent of the entire estate. At this rate the British people can afford to give a cordial welcome to American millionaires who prefer to live on British soil, since the strangers are made to pay roundly during life by means of an income tax and are assessed still more heavily at death. A neat sum like that from the Winans estate should be especially welcome now, when the British rate payer must go down into his pockets to defray the \$500,000,000 which the Boer war cost.

Norman the Best Dresser.

"Best dressed man in Washington" is the title given by national capital society to Herman C. Norman, third secretary of the British legation. Mr. Norman, who is about 28 years old, and one of the best looking members of the foreign corps, has his apartments



AT THE TAP OF THE GAVEL.

(Scene at the opening of the short session of Congress.) President Adams gave directions for the removal of the public offices, records, and property to Washington.

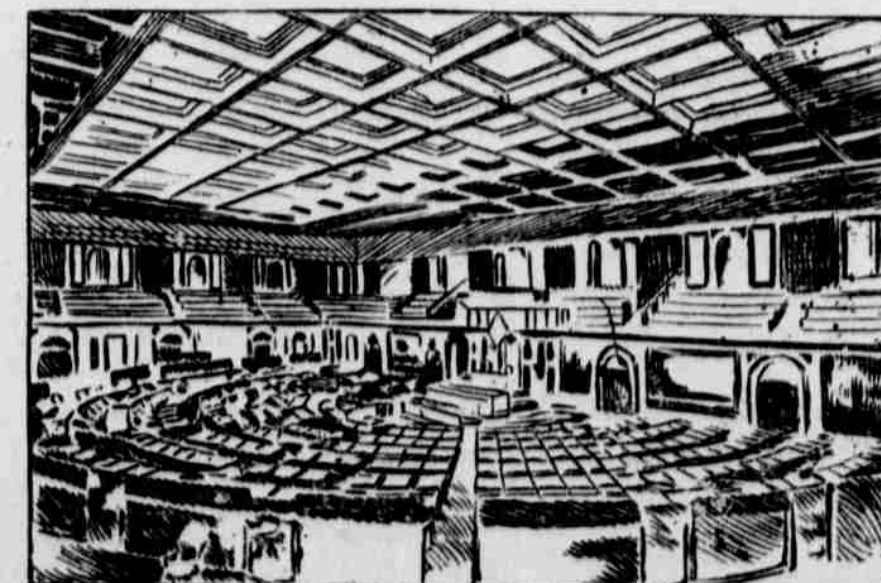
A Short Session.

The closing session of the Fifty-sixth Congress will last a scant period of three months, out of which must be taken the Christmas and New Year's holidays—usually a fortnight in length. In that short time whatever is to be done by Congress before December of next year must be done, for President McKinley, it is said, has no intention of calling an extra session of the next Congress. He hopes to get (after the extra session of the Senate, which will be held in March to dispose of nominations), the vacation he has not had since the year before his first nomination. He is planning to visit the Pacific coast, with the special object of attending the launching of the battleship Ohio at San Francisco.

But, notwithstanding the short time at the disposal of Congress, some legislation of the utmost importance will be considered. The program has not been fully arranged, but it will include matters which will be debated long and vigorously, and the opening of the flood gates of oratory may defeat measures for want of time to pass them.

The Spooner Bill.

The Spooner bill for the government of the Philippines will be pressed for passage. It gives congressional sanction to the government of the islands by the president, and simply repeats, in almost literal language, the authority vested by congress in President Jefferson at the time of the Louisiana purchase. It is understood that congress may also take up the congressional apportionment bill, and great interest attaches to that measure because not only will it necessitate the reconstituting of congressional districts in many of the states, but it involves a possibility of cutting down the representation of the south on account of the alleged disfranchisement of illiterate negroes. For this reason the country, and the south particularly, is watching developments. It is probable, however, the nothing will be done along this line. The president and the leaders in congress are understood to be opposed to any action. The basis of representation will no doubt be raised to 200,000, giving a membership of about 380, as compared with 357 at present.



HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Army Bill.

An important measure is the army reorganization bill.

Senator Hawley of Connecticut, chairman of the military committee, talking about army legislation, said: "Just what the details of the bill will be when agreed upon in the committee and reported to the senate is a matter of speculation. In the near future, of course, there may be cause for reduction, but 100,000 men at least ought to be agreed upon at this time. Again, I think a measure might be passed empowering the president to use his discretion to a great extent in determining the exact strength of the army, not of course to exceed the maximum fixed by congress."

The Isthmian Canal.

The other bill which ranks as paramount over every other measure before the present congress or any other congress for many a session is the Nicaragua canal bill. The main facts concerning the status of the canal question in congress are summarized as follows:

I. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty of Feb. 5, 1900, is unratified. The original convention required that the ratifications should be exchanged within six months; that is to say, prior to Aug. 5, 1900. By a subsequent agreement between Secretary Hay and Lord Pauncefote this period was extended, and the negotiations are accordingly alive. The ratification of the treaty as it now stands would admit Great Britain and other European powers to joint political control of this American waterway. They would become guarantors of the neutrality of the canal in time of war as in times of peace; and theirs would be the right and the duty to enforce neutrality even against ourselves in any war in which this country was engaged. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty allows us to construct this canal, to pay for it and to operate it as a trustee for the world's commerce; it prohibits the fortification of the canal by us.

The Hepburn Bill.

The Hepburn canal bill passed the house of representatives on May 2, 1900. It had not passed the senate when congress adjourned. The bill is now in the senate, and is the all-ab-

\$10,000,000 for beginning the work. The idea of neutrality and of supervision to be exercised by other governments over our control of the canal does not enter.

Aztec Relics in Mexico.

A number of Aztec relics were discovered recently in the city of Mexico during the excavation for sewer mains in the Calle de las Escalerillas. This street and the site of the cathedral formed part of the site of the great temple of Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec god of war. Among the figures just found were representations of Ehecatl, the god of air. One of these is painted red, yellow and black, and in spite of the dampness of the ground where it has lain for centuries, the colors are



THE CAPITOL BUILDING, WASHINGTON.

bright and fresh in appearance. The images are adorned with disks of polished gold which are engraved in a remarkable manner. A number of gold ornaments for the person, beads, amulets, axes, knives, lances, and pieces of earthenware also were found. Mr. Bates, inspector-general of monuments, says that in the Calle de las Escalerillas, two of the 78 chapels which, as Sahagun relates, surrounded the main temple, have already been discovered. The first chapel discovered, says Mr. Bates, was that of Teoyaniqui, goddess of death, with some fine pieces of pottery. The second chapel discovered is that of Ehecatl, the god of air, also accompanied by the attributes known to have been placed about his image by the Aztec priests.

Autocracy in Chicago.

Captain Collier, head of the Chicago detective bureau, went to a music hall the other night and was shocked by one of the songs. Accordingly he ordered the objectionable lines cut out of the performance. When Chief Kipley, who prides himself on his reputation as a dramatic critic, heard what his subordinate had done he was angry, feeling that his prerogatives had been infringed on. In order that he might maintain his professional dignity he went to the music hall himself and cut some more lines out of the same song. Now that these two eminent stage censors have begun to get active it is hoped that they will continue and enlarge their work, for which

crowded with trunks, new relays of clothing arriving from London continually. His latest sensation is a yellow and black trap, in which he drives two coal black horses. The first day he drove this striking turnout he wore a suit of pale dove-color, yellow leggings, a soft hat of dove color and a sash of amber silk. Two "tigers," one in yellow and the other black, ride on the rear seat.

Government Land in Hawaii.

A sale of government land took place in Oloa, near Hilo, recently. The price averaged about \$50 an acre, and the total amount of the sale was \$69,269. The terms of sale were that the purchaser need not pay any of the purchase price for ten years, provided he pays the interest on the purchase price semi-annually in advance. Before a patent can be obtained the purchaser must comply with certain conditions of occupation and improvement. A number of the papers in the island treat the sale as simply a big speculation in land, holding that the terms of sale were such as to induce high prices, the purchasers being willing to pay interest on the purchase price for the chance of selling their rights at a profit as the demand for land increased.

Senators Chandler of New Hampshire and Spooner of Wisconsin have the reputation of being about the best two debaters in the senate. Mr. Chandler is more satiric and quick, but Mr. Spooner is more ready with impromptu argument.