

# Round the Capital

Information and Gossip Picked Up Here and There in Washington.

## Sixtieth Congress Ends First Session



WASHINGTON.—With the passing of an emergency currency measure and a few remaining appropriation bills, the first session of the Sixtieth congress has passed into history.

What Speaker Cannon calls "the mill" was well nigh choked with would-be legislation that was crammed into the hopper during the session. There have been bills of all varieties, shades and sizes. Bills for the regulation of nearly everything under the sun have been introduced. Notwithstanding the diminishing revenues and the warnings that the treasury was facing an almost certain deficit there was no abatement of the clamor for appropriations. If all the appropriations asked for had been granted the government debt would be multiplied tenfold. "If we had put through one-third of the bills that were offered us," said a prominent

member of the house, "more than a century would be required to straighten out the conglomerate mass."

All records were broken by the number of bills introduced during the session. Senators and representatives came to Washington last fall with their grips full of bills, and between 5,000 and 6,000 were introduced the first day. Among them were several dozen currency bills, for in the early days of the sessions nearly every legislator had a panacea for the country's financial ills. The more the members studied the question the less they seemed to understand it and in the closing weeks few of them would admit to expert knowledge of the subject.

The rush of bills kept up all winter, the total number presented in the two branches of congress being 29,215. The house members introduced 22,035 and the senators 7,180. A great many of these measures were private pension bills, only a small percentage of which finally became laws. During the first session of the Fifty-ninth congress, which continued five weeks longer than the recent session, 9,518 bills were introduced in the house and 6,556 in the senate.

## Bryce Interfered with Tennis Cabinet



THE entire diplomatic corps is chuckling over the way Ambassador Bryce, of Great Britain, unwittingly interfered the other afternoon with a specially called session of the tennis cabinet, to the discomfiture of President Roosevelt and his fellow-ambassadors, M. Jusserand, of France. The president had summoned the racket wielders for 4:30 p. m. on the White House courts. Jusserand and Assistant Atty.-Gen. Cooley responded promptly.

Assistant Secretary of State Bacon was the only member who failed to answer the call. He had just started from his office at 4:26 for the scene when Ambassador Bryce appeared at the state department. He had come to discuss one of the pending treaties. Secretary Root at once sent for his assistant and caught him just as he

was leaving the building. Excuses were telephoned the president, who, it is said, is far less apt to look with leniency on absence from the tennis cabinet than he is on failure to appear at the regular councils in the cabinet room. He wished to know why. It was explained that Mr. Bryce had come to make up an important matter, and that Mr. Bacon's presence at the department was necessary.

Under the circumstances he had to let Bacon off. A hurry call was sent for Secretary Garfield to make up the set. He could not be found for some time, so until he reported a three-handed game was played, Jusserand and Cooley easily making the president their victim.

When Bryce was informed of the matter he expressed deep regret, saying that his interference with the game was entirely unintentional and had he suspected such an unhappy outcome of his visit he would have delayed the diplomatic interests of his country for a few hours. He laughingly voiced the hope that there would be no serious entanglement between Great Britain and France on account of the episode.

## Early Available Coal to Last 150 Years



CLOSE investigation of the coal resources of the United States, made at the direction of President Roosevelt by the geological survey, has resulted in a probably accurate summarization of the fuel resources of the country. This has been portrayed in a special map prepared by the survey, which is the greatest map-making bureau in the world.

As shown by the new coal map, there are about 327,000 square miles of what may be termed the more easily mined coal fields, with an esti-

mated content available for future use of nearly two thousand billion tons. With the maintenance of the rate of increase of coal consumption that has held for the last 50 years the supply of early available coal will, according to the director of the geological survey, George Otis Smith, be exhausted before the middle of the next century.

An interesting feature of the coal map is the large extent of western area portrayed as lignite—probably one-fifth of the total coal-bearing area of the country. This is a low-grade coal until recently disregarded as a factor in the consideration of the nation's fuel resources. Gasproducer tests of this coal made at St. Louis, however, have demonstrated its high fuel value, bringing it into favorable comparison for industrial purposes with the best eastern coals under steam boilers.

## Heir to Mexican Throne Becomes a Monk



PRINCE AUGUSTINE DE ITURBIDE, grandson of the great liberator of Mexico, heir to a throne, man of the world, highly educated, widely traveled, and a member of the jeunesse doree of many European capitals, has forsaken the ways of the fashionable world and joined the Third Order of St. Francis.

Interwoven with his life is the romantic history of the Land of the Cactus for the last hundred years, and the melancholy fate of the Austrian archduke, Maximilian. By right of descent from the Emperor Iturbide, as well as from the fact that he was declared heir by Maximilian, Prince Iturbide would be entitled to the throne of Mexico were that country again to become an empire.

The Emperor Iturbide was born in 1783, led the revolt of the colonies, then known as New Spain, against the mother country. This war began in 1821, and lasted seven months, ending in the success of the colonies, the leader of the army, Iturbide, becoming emperor. This state of affairs was concluded in about a year by the abdication of the emperor, who sailed for Europe, in which country he made his home for some time.

Hearing that his native land was to be made the object of attack by the European powers, he returned to Mexico only to find that the republic which had existed during his absence had made a law that his life should be forfeited should he again set foot on Mexican soil.

This was in 1824. The family of the emperor came to this country, settling in Washington and Philadelphia.

In Washington fashionable society Prince Iturbide was prominent for many years. Suffering recently from severe illness, he has of late spent many months in the hospital.

## RAYNER AIDS COL. STEWART.

Requests Court of Inquiry for Officer Exiled to Abandoned Fort.

Washington.—Senator Rayner recently introduced a resolution "authorizing the president to convene a court of inquiry" to consist of five officers of the army to investigate charges and accusations against Col. William F. Stewart of the army.

Col. Stewart has been detailed to serve until retirement at the abandoned military post at Fort Grant, Ariz.

Personal peculiarities, chiefly a bad temper, causing constant friction with



COL. WILLIAM F. STEWART

his enlisted men and associate officers, are cited as the cause of the displeasure of the war department officials and of the president toward Col. Stewart.

The officials do not disguise their wish to get him out of the army, yet they admit that the end could not be attained through court-martial. So they have adopted the plan assigning him to duty where there is no duty and in the most unpleasant surroundings to be found.

Col. Stewart is determined to serve his full time in the active service, of which he has three years remaining. He, therefore, has avoided committing any breach of regulations. When ordered to the abandoned post at Fort Grant, Ariz., he obeyed and immolated himself in the desert.

When ordered to the other abandoned post at St. Augustine, Fla., thither he went. He was then ordered back to Fort Grant.

Senator Rayner has looked up the precedents and finds that the case presents violations of American law unparalleled in time of peace.

## TO HONOR FOUNDER OF Y. M. C. A.

Monument to Sir George Williams to Be Erected in United States.

New York.—To assist in perpetuating the memory of Sir George Williams, founder of the Young Men's Christian Association, and commemorate the great work he initiated, a memorial will be erected in some American city, yet to be selected, by the Canadian and American associations. The matter has been discussed



Proposed Monument to Sir George Williams.

informally for some time, but no conclusion has yet been reached. However, at the conference of international committees, to be held in Atlantic City soon, the subject will be taken up, a location chosen and the preliminaries arranged. It is probable that either New York or Washington will be the fortunate city. The above design is by Mr. George Frampton, R. A., one of England's foremost sculptors.

## A Man of Means.

Mrs. Stuckup—Is this Mr. Slimpurse you have engaged yourself to a man of means?

Sensible Daughter—Yes, mother. He means all he says, and that's the sort of a husband I want.—New York Weekly

## STAR CUB PITCHER NEAR RECORD



MORDECAI BROWN

"Three Fingers" Brown, star twirler of the World's Champion Cubs, a few days ago missed by the narrowest possible margin performing the rare feat of shutting a team out without a hit and the much more rare feat of not permitting an opponent to reach first base. Only three times in major league annals has a pitcher kept a team from getting a man to first in nine innings, and only once since the present pitching distance was established. "Cy" Young did it in 1904 against the Athletics.

## WADDELL MAY BE BARRED FROM ORGANIZED BASEBALL

Eccentric Pitcher to Be Banished for Life if He Jumps St. Louis Contract.

That Rube Waddell, the star pitcher and baseball eccentric, is tempting fate, is made evident by the statements of President Herrmann, chairman of the national baseball commission. "If it is true that Waddell has jumped his contract with the St. Louis Americans to go with the outlaws and this fact is proven to the commission," Herrmann said, "Waddell will become permanently ineligible, his case being exactly like those of contract jumpers who were banished to Tristate league for life."

Waddell's desertion of the St. Louis Browns is one of a hundred or more foolish and eccentric things that the celebrated southpaw pitcher has done since he has been in the major league spotlight. So weird and unnatural have been his escapades that people have long ceased to be astonished at his notions of attracting publicity.

In all these years he has fooled himself far more than he has fooled his employers, for his salary has always been small in comparison with the amounts paid for less capable pitchers of good habits.

Great twirler that he is, Rube has always been, first of all, a prize donkey. Connie Mack says that had the Rube been faithful and true, he might have had from \$6,000 to \$10,000 a year, instead of his comparatively small salary of \$2,500 or \$3,000.

One of Connie's reminiscences is of a game the Rube played in Wilmington, Del., on one of his runaway days. He was assigned to left field, in which was stationed a big lawn roller. Rube went over and sat in the driver's seat, 20 feet outside of the foul line. Whenever a ball was hit to the left he would abandon his seat and catch it. And then he won the game with a three-base hit.

"The trouble with McAleer is that he takes 'Rube' too seriously," says Connie.

He recalls no story about the Rube with as much enjoyment as that incident about his loss of his American league pennant charm in 1895. The Rube pawned the golden gem for a pittance and the next day Connie missed it from his watch charm.

"Have you lost it?" asked Mack.

"Yes," said the Rube.

"Then we'll offer \$50 for its return," said Connie. "It's solid gold and worth \$100."

The \$50 was offered and the bartender who bought the charm for \$10 brought it back. Mack paid the \$50 and gave Rube his charm.

Mack's friends say that most of the \$2 and \$5 hand-outs to the Rube in the last six years have come out of his salary.

## CRISS BECAME PITCHER IN PECULIAR MANNER

Texas with St. Louis Browns Threw Curves on Infield in an Exhibition Game.

"Dode" Criss, the husky Texan now with Jimmy McAleer's St. Louis Browns, became known as a flinger in a peculiar manner and if the tall fellow had not turned loose a curve while playing the infield in the spring of 1907 he might not be in the major leagues as a pitcher to-day.

Eddie Ashenback secured Criss for his St. Paul team of the American Association from the Texas state league along with Ferris, also with the Browns this spring, and several other players. Criss was supposed to be an outfielder, but in an exhibition game one day he was used at shortstop. Old Joey Sugden, a catcher in the big leagues a long time ago, was playing first base that day. About the third inning a ground ball was knocked to Criss. He gobbled in the sphere and shot a curve to first. The break on the curve was so snappy that Sugden misjudged the ball and the runner went to second while the ball bounded away.

"You'll have to give me the signal when you're going to throw 'em like that," Sugden told Criss and the big fellow only laughed.

When the Saints went to the bench Sugden said: "Say, Dode, can you throw that shoot whenever you want to?"

"Wal, I reckon I kin," replied Criss. In the sixth inning the St. Paul pitcher was pounded pretty hard. Ashenback asked Criss if he thought he could go into the box and hold the other fellows down.

"I reckon I kin do it," said Criss, and the next inning he went to the hill. For three innings he was a complete puzzle. He allowed no hits and fanned six of the nine batters who faced him. As soon as Jack Dunleavy, formerly of the St. Louis Cardinals, joined the St. Paul club, the outfield, Criss was given a regular position on the hurling staff. He won 11 and lost 10 games for the tail-end club of the association last year. He played 18 games in the outfield. He finished the season with a batting average of .281.

Criss is a quiet fellow and hardly ever breaks into a conversation. Whenever his manager asks him if he can do a certain thing, he simply says, "Wal, I reckon I kin," and tries it. Criss was carried on the Browns' first trip, but was not used in a full game. He worked one inning against the White Sox, replacing Waddell, and sent the Jones men down in order.

"Young Eddie" Hanlon, son of the former manager of the Reds, is managing one of the best amateur teams in Baltimore. The younger Hanlon does not appear in the line-up of his aggregation.