

LEGISLATIVE LAZINESS.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF DRONES IN THE NATIONAL HIVE.

A Senator's Lack of Dignity in the Chair. He is Always Tired—The Two Hostile Hours—Exhibitions of Congressional Indolence in Public Which Are Not Pretty.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Some of the laziest men in the world are employed by Uncle Sam to make his laws for him.



A LAZY SENATOR IN THE CHAIR.

Ways ready to do anything for those whom he likes except make an effort. A few days ago he was called to the chair by Vice President Morton.

This particular senator is always tired. He is probably the only man in congress who is never seen walking down Pennsylvania avenue from the capital.

If he is the laziest he is not the only lazy man in the senate. What do you suppose the great senators are doing between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock—the hours in which the majority of them will receive neither cards nor notes from impertinent people who would disturb them?



NO CARDS UNTIL AFTER 2.

round, the notes that are repeated o'er and o'er in that apartment, literally furnished with all modern comforts.

One day last week observers from the galleries would easily see that something unusual was going on in the cloak rooms of the senate on the Democratic side.

Some who entered glum as oysters emerged smiling like premiere danseuses. Loud laughter occasionally came rolling out the open door.

These lazy senators who will not receive cards or notes before 2 o'clock are aristocrats, and impertinent aristocrats at that, and I am for sweeping them out. I can't conceive what they are sent to congress and paid \$13 a day for and given private secretaries and committee clerks and no end of luxuries at the government expense, unless it is to serve their constituents and others having business with government officials.

"And why not, pray?" "One of the senators is inside, dictating, and he does not want to be disturbed."

"But I do not want to see that senator. I will not speak to him, and will not disturb him. Surely the committee room is large enough for three or four of us."



A CORNER OF THE HOUSE.

And the understrapper, who probably controls a few votes in some ward in a close legislative district, actually locked the door in my face.

All this is a cover for laziness, and laziness in public servants, particularly when combined with unnecessary exclusiveness, is intolerable. In one respect the senators are more decent in their laziness than the members of the house.

There is a bright wood fire burning in an open grate. If wood cost \$50 a cord and coal 50 cents a ton, the statesmen would insist upon warming their shins by a wood fire.

Evidently the doctrine of Congressman Stockdale, of Mississippi, has many supporters in the senate and house. Stockdale says his idea of heaven is a place in which there is nothing to do, where existence is a state of perpetual inactivity, where even drawing the breath of eternal life calls for no effort.

WALTER WELLMAN.

She Could Stand a Great Deal. Young Lady (evidently much distressed and embarrassed)—Doctor Fatte, I just know I shall never die a sudden death.

Doctor Fatte—Indeed! my dear young lady, and what induces you to think thus?

Young Lady—Because you are now, and have been for the last five minutes, sitting upon poor, dear, little Fido, and I still live!—Cincinnati Chic.

CHOCTAW LEGENDS.

Result of an Interview with Chief Peter Pichehynn.

[Special Correspondence.]

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 13.—In a recent talk with the Choctaw chief, Peter Pichehynn, he told me of a very curious legend in relation to the origin of a subdivision of his tribe known as the "Crawfish," or Crayfish band.

"Their principal place of residence was a great limestone cave, far down in the bowels of the earth, where there was no light, nothing but cimmerian darkness, and they had no language, nor could they understand a word that was spoken to them.

"The entrance to this cave was possible only by wiggling down through the mud, and they used to scamper over the moment they were seen, so that the Choctaws were for many generations unable to get near them, although they would lay in wait for them for months.

"The Choctaws then attempted to smoke them out, and at last, by persistent effort, succeeded. They treated them kindly, taught them to talk Choctaw, to walk erect, made them cut off their toe nails and pull out the hair from their bodies.

Ball playing seems to be common among all tribes, but it is conceded that the Choctaws, in their primitiveness, were the most skilled in this game. Of course it is not at all similar to the American national game in any particular, and is played with two bats or sticks.

The match was usually made up months before the day agreed upon, and led by two champions, or captains, as we should call them.

Each set of players erected on the ground where the game was to take place two upright poles about thirty feet high, and six feet apart, across the top of which another pole was fastened.

All these preliminaries were arranged by old men, who were the judges or umpires of the game; they drew a line from one goal to the other, across which all the betting was made and placed in the possession of "stake holders" the night before the game commenced.

On that night, too, all the players assembled around their respective "byes," where, under the glow of torches, the beating of "tom-toms" and the songs of the squaws, they for more than a quarter of an hour indulged in the picturesque "Ball-Play dance," in their proper dress, and rattling their sticks together, all the time chanting as loud as they could.

At the small stake, from which the ball was to be thrown at the opening of the game on the morrow, four old "medicine men," who were to perform the act of "throwing the ball," were busily puffing at their pipes, smoking to the "Great Spirit" for success in impartially judging the game, as their duties of umpires demanded.

Sometimes seven or eight hundred players took part in the game, and when the contest commenced a terrible struggle ensued to catch the ball on their sticks and throw it home between their respective stakes, which counted one.

HENRY INMAN.

When this happened there was a short halt; then the ball was started again by the judges, and whichever side in that summer counted a hundred won.

A watch factory in Philadelphia has as assayer of metals a young lady. She took a four years' course in chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania.

I was not satisfactory. That was all the satisfaction I could get from him. I found out the next week that he had a brother-in-law. That was the reason I was dished. You can bet I was discouraged.

"The next day I showed up again. I didn't know the first thing about horses, but concluded to stick to one jockey.

"But at the end of the year I concluded to get back home. My people wanted me to come back, so I gave up my job. I hadn't been in town more than a week before I got a position in a railroad office at \$75 a month.

"In the meantime my old employer in the insurance office where I first worked had been making overtures to me, but I had steadily resisted him.

"How long were you absent from your old place?" said I. "Just two years, five months and one day," he replied.

"I might have been manager," he replied. TOM MASSON.

Some Foreign Dishes.

VIENNA, Jan. 28.—In traveling over Europe one meets, as a matter of course, many dishes not often found in American restaurants and hotels, and many dishes one is familiar with are cooked and served so as to be almost as novel as those entirely new.

In Liverpool I got a recipe for Yorkshire pudding, and this is it: Twenty-five minutes before dishing up your roast beef, pour out of the pan one-half of the gravy into a dish for future use.

At Shoeburyness, at the home of one of the officers of the School of Gunnery, I found this new and savory manner of serving cold roast mutton, when it had been carved until the bone was not slightly, and the slices were too small to send to the table.

There is something in the way of cooking the Yarmouth bladders and kippered herring that we cannot achieve, and I think it is because our fires are different. The English toast them down in front of a fire, not over it, and then put a bit of butter and a dust of pepper on it.

LOUISE DALRYMPLE.

Clara Morris does not believe in stage tears. She says there are no tears but real ones shed by intensely wrought-up actresses on the stage.

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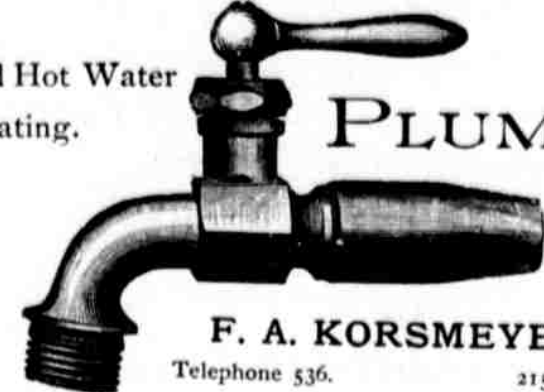
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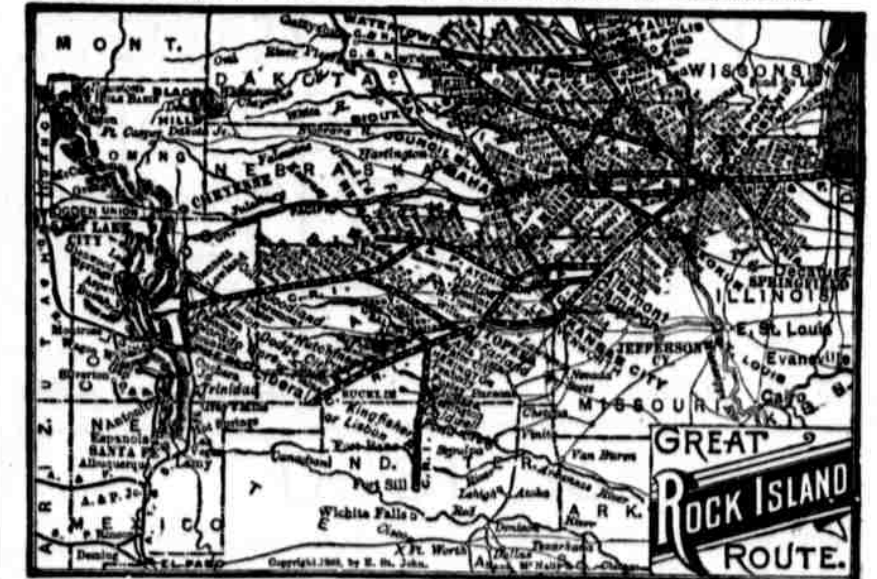
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