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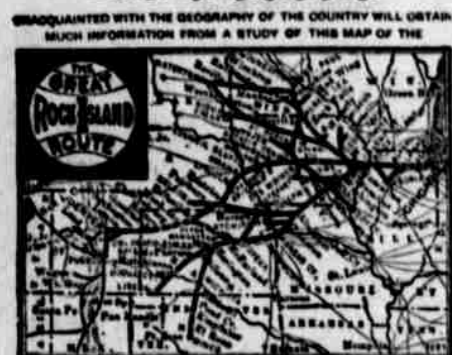
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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

WE HAD A GREAT CONGRESS IN THE YEAR 1866.

Walter Wellman Compares That Period and Its Public Men with the Present. Some Pictures That Exemplify the Flight of Time.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—I was talking the other day with an old timer, a man who has been employed in the Capitol for twenty-five years. "It is wonderful



1866—W. A. HOLMAN—1891. what changes a quarter of a century makes in a great body like the congress of the United States," said he. "I came here in the Fortieth congress, which was elected in the fall of 1866, just twenty-five years ago, and met in special session in March, 1867. That was just after the war, and congress was full of the men who had made their fame in the rebellion epoch. It is a remarkable fact that only ten men who sat in that congress are now members of the national legislature.

I spent an hour yesterday looking up the facts, and here they are: Three men who were members of the senate twenty-five years ago are still members of that body—John Sherman of Ohio, Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, and William M. Stewart of Nevada. Five men who were then members of the house are



1866—W. B. ALLISON—1891.

now in the senate—Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts, William B. Allison and James F. Wilson of Iowa, Philetus Sawyer of Wisconsin, and Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois. Only two men then in the house are still members of the house of representatives—W. S. Holman of Indiana and Charles O'Neill of Pennsylvania. Only one man then in congress is now prominent in public life elsewhere—James G. Blaine of Maine.

"It was a great surprise to me," continued the old timer, "to learn that of 300 men in congress twenty-five years ago only ten survive as national legislators, and that only one other still maintains in another field high place as a public man. This simple fact strikingly shows the high rate of mortality among public men. I do not mean alone natural mortality, though the congress-



1866—PHILETUS SAWYER—1891.

tional death rate is unusually high, but the difficulty men find in keeping themselves in power and the rapidity with which veterans are crowded back into retirement as new men push to the front.

"That was a great congress which met here twenty-five years ago. It was just after the war, when the men who had been tried in the fiery furnace of battle, and in the crucial test of congressional life throughout those stormy days, were the men of the hour. It was a period in which the best blood and brain of the nation were foremost in all public affairs.

"Of 800 men who were in congress a quarter of a century ago nearly 100 bore names which were then or have since become household words throughout the country. I'll mention some of them, merely to point my moral. There were in the senate Charles Sumner, Benjamin F. Wade, Zach Chandler, Thomas A.



1866—J. G. BLAINE—1891.

Hendricks, Roscoe Conkling, James A. Bayard, Oliver P. Morton, Lyman Trumbull, W. P. Fessenden, Henry Wilson, Simon Cameron, George F. Edmunds, Lot M. Morrill, John Sherman, Henry B. Anthony, C. R. Buckalew, James R. Doolittle, Timothy O. Howe, Dick Yates, E. D. Morgan, Jim Nye, Justin S. Morrill, James Dixon, Garrett Davis, Willard Saulsbury and many others whose names are bright on the pages of our legislative history. When shall we have another senate like that?

"The house of representatives, too, teemed with men of national fame and great ability. I can now call to mind some of the names, though not by any means all of them, who deserve mention in this category. There were James G. Blaine, James A. Garfield, Thaddeus Stevens, Schuyler Colfax, George W. Julian, Nathaniel P. Banks, Benjamin F. Butler, Samuel J. Randall, James Brooks, John A. Logan, Elihu B. Washburne, John A. Bingham, Fernando Wood, William D. Kelly, Robert

Schenck, William B. Allison, James F. Wilson, William Lawrence, George Boutwell, Luke Poland, Sam Cary, Thomas W. Ferry, Shelby M. Cullom, Jim Ashley, William S. Holman, Godlove S. Orth, Horace Maynard, Henry L. Dawes, Judge Shellabarger, Philetus Sawyer, Columbus Delano, James E. Beck, William Windom, W. H. Barnum, Proctor Knott, Green B. Raum, Jehu Baker and many others almost as prominent.

"A finer looking body of men than the senate of the Fortieth congress never sat in a legislative hall. You will remember what a magnificent head Simon Cameron had, even in later years. Then he was sixty-eight years old, and a splendid specimen of a well preserved, vigorous old man. Jim Nye, of Nevada, the wit and eloquent orator, had a face like an old Roman! Charles Sumner was almost divine in the nobility of his features, and a handsomer man than John Conness, of California, never set foot in the senate chamber.

"Lyman Trumbull and Ben Wade had faces which it did one good to watch. Young Sprague, of Rhode Island, was then counted by the ladies the handsomest senator, though I think his great fortune and high social station had something to do with their choice. He is still living, I hear, up in Rhode Island,



1866—JOHN SHERMAN—1891.

little better than a recluse. Senator Cattell, of New Jersey, a man now almost forgotten, had a face that was a picture. Doolittle, of Wisconsin, now a grizzled old lawyer, was then a remarkably fine and vigorous looking man, with an eye to threaten and a tongue to command. Senator Pomeroy, of Kansas, was a living image of the Green B. Raum of the present day.

"Fessenden had a grand old face; E. D. Morgan was a splendid looking man and Dick Yates was a combination of Roman senator and a modern comedian. Henry B. Anthony, who served twenty-five years in the senate, was then in the prime of vigorous manhood and nearly as handsome as Senator Hiscok. Henry Wilson was a fine figure in those days and I have often heard him likened to Henry Ward Beecher. Senator Patter-



1866—S. M. CULLOM—1891.

son, of Tennessee, was a man much admired in those days, and I suppose he was the only man who ever sat in the senate while living in the White House. He was President Johnson's son-in-law and lived with his wife's father. There were so many other fine looking men in the senate then that I cannot begin to mention them all.

"There were more grand faces in the house too. A more interesting countenance than that of John A. Bingham was never seen in the Capitol. Thaddeus Stevens looked like the grandest old Indian chieftain you ever saw, with the domelike brow and finer features of the cultured Caucasian. James A. Garfield was then a remarkably handsome man of thirty-six years, and two finer looking young congressmen than Blaine and Garfield never sat together. I remember that they were fast friends



1866—W. M. STEWART—1891.

from their first meeting. They were of the same age, and made their debut in congress the same day.

"A man now almost forgotten, but then a member of the house from Massachusetts, was Samuel Hooper. His was a face of which you would say 'beautiful,' just as you would of a pretty woman. Sam Cary and Jim Ashley, of Ohio, had grand faces, the former like that of a monk and the latter a Grecian warrior. Proctor Knott was then as fine a specimen of Kentucky manhood as one would want to see, and another fine looking young man was William Windom, of Minnesota.

"Of the eleven men of a quarter of a century ago now in public life I think John Sherman has most changed. Twenty-five years have made of him another man. It is only by the expression about the mouth that you would recognize in the John Sherman of forty-four years the John Sherman of sixty-nine. He is much finer looking now than he was in those days. Uncle Philetus Sawyer has grown rounder, stouter and baldier during the twenty-five years, but his expression has changed very little. Mr. Blaine was a splendid knightlike figure twenty-five years ago. He has changed little.

"This is true also of Senator Stewart, whose whitening beard makes him look so much like a patriarch. You would not believe it, but it is true that a quarter of a century ago Judge Holman was a handsome man, and as for Senator Cullom, it is only within the last ten years that he has looked like Abraham Lincoln. Senator Allison used to look like a countryman, but the flight of time has made him handsomer year after year." WALTER WELLMAN.

ODD AND ENDS.

Rattlesnake oil is worth sixteen dollars an ounce. Of the twelve largest cities in the world, three are in Japan. To relieve nausea and dyspepsia drink a cup of hot water before meals. Try a hot, dry flannel over the seat of neuralgic pain and renew it frequently. The fruit output of California increased fully thirty fold during the past ten years.

A New York alderman has married 12,000 couples and received over \$50,000 in wedding fees. The population of Greece is increasing at a greater ratio than that of any other European country. Three tunnels are being constructed under the harbor of Glasgow for foot passengers and trains. The settings for diamonds are plainer than heretofore. The most precious are set with very little gold. One third of a teaspoonful of molasses is a good substitute for a wine glass of brandy in fruit cake or pudding.

William Harvey in his latter days took to mathematics, and for the first time followed them with ease, much to his quiet. The annual amount of sawed lumber of this country, if put upon a train of cars, would constitute a train 25,000 miles long. William H. Seward once declared that the Pacific ocean would be the scene of the greatest commercial activity of the world. In a certain portion of the Ural district camels are the only working cattle used, some large farms possessing a hundred camels. Canadians are pouring into the United States. On one train the other day there were 530, who intend to live hereafter in the United States.

Recent experiments show that if the tassels are removed from growing corn before pollen is formed a much larger amount of grain will be produced. Poor Southey, whose life was not the happiest, was wont to repair to the country, where he found contentment in nature's sympathetic company. The Chicago pension office has on its rolls the oldest pensioner in the United States. He is 103 years of age and was a sailor of the navy in the war of 1812.

A Weather Forecast Note. Roy Meninger, of New Orleans, who has just returned from a tour through Mexico, during which he visited many out of the way places, usually passed over by travelers, gives an account of a singular rock to be found near the little village of Chilpancingo, in the Sierra Madre del Sur. This rock he describes as being possessed of the property of being able to foretell rain, and is said by the natives to be infallible. Mr. Meninger himself was able to witness several exhibitions of its remarkable power, which repeatedly foretold a shower twenty-four hours before any other warning of its approach was given. The rock stands alone in a little valley unusually fertile and green, and seems to protrude from the ground rather than rest upon its surface.

It is irregular in shape, about six feet in height and ten feet about the base, and in fair weather is of a dull grayish tint, and as smooth as polished marble to the touch, but unannaturally cold. On the approach of rain it loses its neutral color and begins to turn a dingy red, deepest about the base and a light pink about the summit. Its temperature increases to about 60 degs. Fahrenheit, and it presents the appearance of being slowly heated by an internal fire. This heat and crimson color increases rapidly as the atmosphere grows heavier, until the rain begins to fall, when, according to its descent, the rock glows and becomes lighter in hue.

When the shower is over the warmth and color gradually depart, and the gray tint is resumed and the rock becomes cold. During electrical disturbances this mineral barometer often assumes a highly heated appearance, emitting a pale blue light, and is so strongly charged with electricity as to be unapproachable. Mineralogists who have examined the stone declare themselves at a loss to identify it.—New Orleans Picayune.

Birds Doctor Themselves. Some interesting observations relating to the surgical treatment of wounds by birds were recently brought by M. Fatio before the Physical Society of Geneva. He quoted the case of the snipe, which he has often observed engaged in repairing damages. With its beak and feathers it makes a very creditable dressing, applying plasters to bleeding wounds, and even securing a broken limb by means of a stout ligature. On one occasion he killed a snipe which had on the chest a large dressing composed of down taken from other parts of the body and securely fixed to the wound by the congealed blood. Twice he had brought home snipe with interwoven feathers strapped on to the site of the fracture of one or other limb.

The most interesting example was that of a snipe, both of whose legs he had unfortunately broken by a misdirected shot. He recovered the animal only on the day following, and he then found that the poor bird had contrived to apply dressings and a sort of splint to both limbs. In carrying out this operation some feathers had become entangled around the beak, and not being able to use its claws to get rid of them, it was almost dead from hunger when discovered. In a case recorded by M. Magnin, a snipe which was observed to fly away with a broken leg was subsequently found to have forced the fragments into a parallel position, the upper fragments reaching to the knee, and secured there by means of a strong band of feathers and moss intermingled. The observers were particularly struck by the application of a ligature of a kind of flat leafed grass wound round the limb, of a spiral form, and fixed by means of a sort of glue.—Medical Record.

What One Girl Did with \$6 a Week. Here is a problem for the girls in higher mathematics to solve. Given an income of six dollars a week or less, never more, how is a girl to dress herself respectably, go to an occasional ball, pay her share of the weekly family expenses, give away little presents, buy books and papers, and save in five years \$350 with its interest? Only one girl has thus far arrived at the solution, and she is the girl who accomplished it and told all about it to the other girls in the up town working girl's club to which she belongs.

The party dress was a black lace which did duty three years with such variety of adornment as her cleverness evolved. The gloves were mits, the slippers her Sunday shoes. However, the fact stands on record as remarkable, even among those remarkable girls to whom it was told, the working girls of the city, whose ingenuity, practical sense and cleverness in making supply meet demand are phenomenal.—New York Sun.



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