

SOME WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Admiral Porter has submitted to the secretary of the navy a report and suggestions for promoting the efficiency of the navy. He considers the question of home defense of vast importance...

The compilation of the congressional committee reports, prepared by the authority of congress and under the direction of Major T. H. McKee, were ready on the 29th for inspection by Senator Manderson...

The president appointed Thomas F. Ashby, of Riverton, Neb., register of the land office at Bloomington, vice Simon W. Switzer, resigned.

ACTING SURGEON GENERAL BAXTER of the army has submitted his annual report to the secretary of war. The report shows for the army a year of exceptional freedom from disease...

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT KIMBALL, in his annual report, presents a very interesting account of the operations of the bureau during the last fiscal year.

SUPR. BELL, of the foreign mail office reports a dispatch from the postmaster general of Belgium, informing the department that the United States mail for Russia...

A delegation of Boston, New York and Chicago business men are urging the president to recommend in his message to congress the passage of a bankrupt bill.

The secretary of war has granted a request recently made by General Hazen to allow Lieutenant A. W. Greeley to remain on duty in the signal service as assistant to the chief signal officer.

Great importance is attached by the Washington newspapers in announcing that Lieutenant James S. Powell, of the signal office, has been detailed to proceed to Omaha to organize the meteorological service of the Union Pacific railroad...

New York is becoming alarmed over the prospects of removing the depot of Indian supplies from that city to Omaha or some other western point.

The French chamber of deputies has passed the Madagascar credits by a vote of 280 to 100. The West Africa telegraph cable connecting St. Paul de Lourenco with Europe took place September 28.

Baron Seckendorff, professor in the Austrian college of agriculture, committed suicide by shooting himself in the mouth.

It is believed in Belgium that the thieves who stole the registered mail in that country are hiding in England.

Mrs. W. H. Ferry, of Chicago, a daughter of John V. Farwell, has brought suit for divorce, making statements which show astonishingly much of the private life of her husband.

THE COMMISSIONERS of the military prison, upon investigating charges brought by General Miles, found that the best material is used at the Leavenworth shoe factory...

PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE.

Reference Thereto by Commissioner Coleman in His Annual Report.

Washington dispatch: Norman Colman, commissioner of agriculture, today submitted his second annual report to the president. He describes in general terms the progress made in agriculture during recent years and the conditions which contribute to make this "the best fed nation on the globe."

Every effort possible under existing laws has been made to locate the diseased animals and isolate all that have been exposed. It would have been most fortunate if every animal exposed to disease and in contact with it could have been summarily slaughtered and the contagion thus eradicated.

As the first step of reform, undoubtedly, the land policy of the United States, in the various regions, requires change according to the conditions of the localities. Besides the good example which the government may set in taking better care of its own timber lands, it might appropriately extend its operations by planting on a large scale in bodies of several contiguous sections in the treeless states and territories of the west.

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THE CONGRESSIONAL LAY-OUT.

Important Measures to Claim Attention in a Short Session.

Washington special: One week from yesterday the forty-ninth session begins its second session. It has a great deal of work to do and very little time in which to do it.

The first session lasted nearly eight months. The second session will last less than three months, from December 6, 1886, to March 4, 1887. The holidays must come out of the session, and perhaps a great consumption of time will have to be allowed for speeches on the labor question.

More than 1,300 bills and joint resolutions were introduced into the two houses during the first session. It is true that a good many of the bills still on the calendar are duplicates in the two houses and that a good many of the measures introduced have already been finally disposed of by veto or by adverse action either in the committee or the main body.

There is also no time to be expended in the organization of the house as during a first session. Still the calendars are overloaded with measures in all stages of advancement, and more than sufficient to take up the time of several sessions. Various presidential vetoes will confront congress to begin with.

There is the question of the fisheries, which has been under consideration by a senate committee during the recess. Our Mexican diplomacy is interested by the Cutting cases. The Pan-Electric investigation will quite surely attract the attention of the senate.

After these and twenty other measures quite as prominent and a thousand private bills on the calendar are considered, it is to be remembered that there are various appropriation bills, in one of which is contained the subject of coast and harbor defense, are themselves important enough to take up a great part of the time of congress in the short session.

THE GOVERNOR WILL READ IT. But There is Not Much Likelihood of His Interfering in the Case.

Paris dispatch: M. Rouzet, secretary of the Paris municipal council, forwarded to United States Minister McLane a petition adopted by the council November 27, asking for his intervention with the governor of Illinois in behalf of the condemned Chicago anarchists.

As the petition is destined for the governor of Illinois and made with the object of sparing human life, I will not refuse my assistance if you persist in demanding it. Now allow me to inform you that in the present case it is useless. You can, you will, not do anything to benefit the prisoners.

Mr. McLane, at Rouzet's request, consented to transmit the council's petition to Governor Oglesby.

Portland (Me.) dispatch: The directors of the Canal National bank authorize the statement that Howard Blackstone, discount clerk, has embezzled funds of the bank to the amount of \$29,000 and absconded. It appears that on Wednesday last Blackstone obtained a vacation from the bank and proceeded to New York.

GLADSTONE WILL PRESS MATTERS. LONDON, Nov. 25.—Mr. Gladstone declines every request to speak until parliament reassembles. He has sent letters to several of his late colleagues stating his programme for the coming session.

A DELEGATE IN CONGRESS.

This is What the Governor of Alaska Says That Country Should Have.

Gov. Swineford, of Alaska, in his annual report to the secretary of the interior estimates the white population of the territory at 2,350, and the native population at 22,000.

They are a very superior race, intellectually, as compared with the people generally known as North American Indians, and are, as a rule, industrious and provident, and wholly self-sustaining.

The industries of Alaska, says the report, are, as yet, principally confined to the fur trade, mining and the curing and canning of fish, which there are about sixty food varieties; the cod, salmon and halibut are the most important.

The governor asks that \$40,000 be appropriated for school purposes. He complains that the officers of the United States steamer Flota, stationed at Sitka, have not afforded him the courtesies that United States officials should have received at their hands.

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SECRETARY WHITNEY'S REPORT.

The Information Which He Conveys Concerning the Navy.

The report of Secretary of the Navy Whitney opens with a renewal of his former recommendation of the consolidation of the bureau so as to insure responsibility in the purchase and care of supplies, and so far as his power extended he had consolidated, in one bureau, the general purchases of the department, the care and custody of the stores, and the creating of a system of book-keeping by which responsibility for care and disposition can be had.

There is at present no real responsibility for the care and disposition of the property. In one bureau a property account is kept and in others none. Property lost, misused or stolen cannot be traced or accounted for, and no person can be held responsible.

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PROMINENT MEN AND WOMEN.

Susan B. Anthony has been lecturing in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Gen. Hancock will make Washington her permanent home.

Mrs. Secretary Whitney is leading lady in the play of Washington society.

Henry M. Stanley will write another book. The public will be glad to see it.

Mrs. Gen. Grant is to visit Washington during the winter. She has not been there since 1884.

Mr. Howell writes in Harper concerning a "Mouse Trap." Herecommends roasted cheese for bait.

Isaac Murphy is a colored jockey not yet so well known as Archer was, but his income is \$15,000 yearly.

Dr. Magoon, the eminent Baptist divine, whose death occurred a few days ago, was in his younger years a bricklayer.

Mrs. Cutting, divorced wife of the border nuisance, was recently married at Kansas City. She has three little Cuttings.

James Russell Lowell enjoys a good dinner or a Greek play. He regards a newspaper interview, however, with pronounced disfavor.

Ex-Gov. Kirkwood's recent defeat in Iowa was the first he had sustained in forty years, and he was always running for something.

The oldest son of the Prince of Wales is coming to this country. Grandma has said he might if she got her castle sold at a good price.

Jonquin Miller has cut off his curls. Unfortunately this action did not affect him as a similar one did Sampson, and he still has strength to misuse a pen.

Mrs. Lucy Parsons is a brunette, with a suspicion of kindness in her raven hair. She is a bad crowd from away back, and often imagines herself a dynamite bomb.

The widow of the dashing confederate officer, Gen. Jerome, has just died in a New York tenement. Her last years were marked by abject poverty, but she steadily refused assistance.

Frances Hodgson Burnett's directions for writing a novel are to have pen, ink and paper in readiness, and combine them generously by the aid of brains and imagination. Some writers omit the brains and imagination.

REPUBLICANS ON THE SLOUGH. CANTON, N. Y., Nov. 30.—The state convention of anti-slavery republicans met here today. Delegates were present from all parts of the state. General Conway explained the views and aims of the new movement. While the Birmingham convention, he said, had started the republican party with its radical resolutions they now met with approval from such men as Evans, Miller, Morton and Hiseock. He said they were in the republican party to stay. There were already 20,000 republicans enrolled in the league, which in six months would be increased to 100,000, and that many control of the republican party of New York, and also that all statesmen and politicians should favor temperance measures and temperance legislation. Committees on the plan of no k, etc., were appointed.

At the night session the committee on the plan of work reported. It provides that there shall be a statement committee consisting of one member from each congressional district whose duty it shall be to vigorously push the work of the league, and to visit the various parts of the league to form a separate political party, nor to nominate candidates for office except in extreme cases when republican nominations are made in the interest of the liquor traffic.

The report of the committee on resolutions declared in favor of submitting a constitutional prohibition amendment to a vote of the people and demanded that the republican party take a positive stand against the liquor traffic. It created discussion and was laid over till tomorrow.

Senator Blair spoke in favor of the movement and said that national prohibition was necessary.

THE PUBLIC DEBT STATEMENT. WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The following is a recapitulation of the debt statement issued today:

Table with 2 columns: Description of debt and Amount. Includes Interest bearing debt, Bonds at 4 1/2 per cent, Bonds at 4 per cent, Bonds at 3 per cent, etc.

Total available for reduction of the debt, \$2,407,533. Reserve fund, \$100,000.00. Fractional silver coin, \$25,808,067. Minor coin, \$163,584.