

SENATE AND HOUSE.

WORK OF OUR NATIONAL LAW-MAKERS.

A Week's Proceedings in the Halls of Congress—Important Measures Discussed and Acted Upon—An Impartial Resume of the Business.

The National Solons.

Mr. Cullom of Illinois spoke at considerable length in the Senate Monday against the pending bill to prohibit the issue of bonds. The President returned to Congress three private pension bills, with his veto in each case. In the case of two of the bills, granting pensions to Mrs. Amanda Woodcock and Jonathan Scott, both originating in the House, he points out that, owing to careless descriptions in the bills, the pensions could not be paid under their terms. In the other, a Senate bill granting a pension to Helen M. Jacob, the President forcibly sets out his objections to allowing pensions to soldiers' widows who remarry. The President says: "There is no duty or obligation due from the Government to a soldier's widow except it be worked out through the deceased soldier. She is pensioned only because he served his country and because through his death she as his wife has lost his support. In other words, she becomes a beneficiary of the Government because she is a soldier's widow. When she marries again and thus displaces the memory of her soldier husband and surrenders all that belongs to soldier widowhood she certainly ought not, on the death of her second husband, be allowed to claim that she is again the soldier's widow."

The Senate Tuesday, by a vote of 32 to 25, passed the Butler bill to prohibit any further issue of bonds without the consent of Congress. The debate was sharp and bitter, but all the amendments were defeated and then the final vote taken, on which the bill was passed. The filled-cheese bill was taken up and made the unfinished business. Mr. Allison introduced a joint resolution for a scientific investigation of the Bering sea seal fisheries. At 7 o'clock Mr. Hill moved to adjourn, and as the motion was carried, Mr. Hill exclaimed: "And may God save the country." The House devoted itself to passing the river and harbor bill over the President's veto and to meeting by a vote of 162 to 93 John J. Walsh, the Democratic member from the Eighth New York district, whose place will be filled by John Murray Mitchell, Republican. Both of these actions were foregone conclusions, so that they excited comparatively little interest, although there was a full house to vote on the river and harbor bill. It was passed by 220 to 60, many more votes than the two-thirds necessary to override a veto, and it was passed without debate, although Mr. Dockery (Mo.) protested vehemently that debate had been promised. Thirty-nine Democrats voted to override the presidential objections and twenty-six Republicans stood by Mr. Cleveland.

The Senate Wednesday followed the lead of the House and passed the river and harbor bill over the President's veto by the following vote: Yeas—Republicans—215; Nays—Democrats—135. Carter, Chandler, Clark, Culom, Davis, Dulois, Elkins, Gallinger, Gear, Hale, Hansbrough, Hawley, Lodge, McBride, Mitchell (Oregon), Nelson, Perkins, Pettigrew, Platt, Pritchard, Quay, Sherman, Shoup, Squire, Teller, Warren, Wetmore, Wilson, Wolcott—33; Democrats: Bacon, Berry, Brice, Faulkner, George, Gibson, Gorman, Jones (Arkansas), Lindsay, Mills, Mitchell (Wisconsin), Morgan, Pasco, Pugh, Tillman, Turpie, Vest, Walthall, White—19; Populists: Jones (Nevada), Butler, Peffer, Stewart—4; total, 56. Nays—Democrats: Bate, Chilton, Hill, Smith, Vilas—5. The House began clearing the decks for final adjournment by extending the length of the daily sessions. A partial conference report on the general deficiency bill was agreed to and the bill sent back to further conference. The Murray-Elliott contested case from the first South Carolina district was debated for four hours. The majority report favors the seating of the contestant, who is a colored man, and who was seated by the Fifty-first House in place of Elliott.

The Senate Thursday passed the filled-cheese bill. Manufacturers of filled cheese are taxed \$400 annually; wholesale dealers, \$250; retail dealers, \$120. In addition to these taxes, the product itself is taxed 1 cent per pound, and imported filled cheese is taxed 8 cents per pound in addition to the import duty. All packages must be branded, and dealers must display a big black sign on white ground, bearing the words "Filled Cheese Sold Here." The controversy over the number of battle ships remains open. Mr. Quay's motion that the Senate recede from its amendment reducing the number of ships from four to two being defeated—17 to 33. The Senate also defeated by a vote of 17 to 31 a motion by Mr. Lodge of Massachusetts to recede from its amendment relating to sectarian Indian schools. Bills were passed as follows: Granting 100 acres of land to Biloxi, Miss., for a charitable hospital; authorizing the appointment of the survivors of the Lady Franklin bay expedition as sergeants, retired, of the army; for the improvement of Fort Smith, Ark.; government reservation, and a bill constraining the laws relating to the award of life-saving medals. By a vote of 153 to 33 the House decided against the claim of William Elliott from the First South Carolina district and gave the seat to George W. Murray. Murray is a colored man and in the Fifty-first Congress was seated in the place of Elliott. Murray was given a round of applause when he came forward to be sworn in. Mr. Elliott is the ninth Democrat unseated by the present House. The remainder of the day was mainly occupied in debating the case of Martin vs. Lockhart from the Seventh North Carolina district. The Senate amendments to the bill to retire Commander Quick-embush were adopted. The conference report on the bill to pension the widow of the late Senator George Spencer of Alabama was agreed to.

This and That.

The branches of the Mississippi River have an aggregate length of fifteen thousand miles.

Most physicians think that the sun radiates heat as it does light or as a stove emits warmth.

The horn of the rhinoceros is not joined to the bone of the head, but grows on the skin like a wart or corn.

Microscopists say that the strongest microscopes do not, probably, reveal the lowest stages of animal life.

An Electrical Fancy.

The astonishing progress of electrical science is neatly satirized by a Parisian paper, which imagines Mr. Edison, in his laboratory, hearing the news of a declaration of war between Great Britain and the United States. A young man, his assistant, rushes in, pale and out of breath, and exclaims to the great electrician:

"O master, war is declared! It is terrible!"

"Ah!" says the master. "War is declared, eh? And where is the British army at this moment?"

"Embarking, sir."

"Embarking where?"

"At Liverpool!"

"At Liverpool—yes. Now, my friend, would you please join the ends of those two wires hanging there against the wall? That's right. Now bring them to me. Good! And be kind enough to press that button."

The assistant, wondering and half-amused, presses the button.

"Very well," says the inventor. "Now do you know what is taking place at Liverpool?"

"The British army is embarking, sir."

The inventor pulls out his watch and glances at the time. "There is no British army," he says, coolly.

"What?" screams the assistant.

"When you touched that button you destroyed it."

"Oh, this is frightful!"

"It is not frightful at all. It is science. Now every time that a British expedition embarks at any port, please come and tell me at once. Ten seconds afterward it will simply be out of existence, that's all."

"There doesn't seem to be any reason why America should be afraid of its enemies after this, sir."

"I am inclined to believe you," says the master, smiling slightly. "But in order to avert future trouble, I think it would be best to destroy England altogether."

"To—to destroy England, sir—"

"Kindly touch button number four there."

The assistant touches it. The inventor counts ten.

"—eight, nine, ten—it is all over. There is no more England."

"Oh, oh!" screams the young man.

"Now we can go on quietly with our work," says the master. "And if we should ever be at war with any other nation, you have only to notify me. I have an electric button connecting with every foreign country which will destroy every country in the world, the United States included. Be careful, now, that you don't touch any of those buttons accidentally—you might do a lot of damage!"

The War Telephone.

An interesting experiment of installing a telephone by trotting cavalry was recently successfully undertaken by some Prussian Uhlans between Berlin and Potsdam. Two sets of one officer and two non-commissioned officers proceeded in the early morning respectively from Berlin and Potsdam. Each set was equipped with a complete telephone apparatus, which one of the men carried in a leather case on his chest, beside the requisite quantity of this wire. The end of the wire was connected with the respective towns' telephone station, and the wire was, by means of a fork fixed at the end of a lance, thrown over the tops of the trees along the road. As each kilometer of wire was thus suspended, a halt was made, and it was ascertained whether there was connection with the station. A new kilometer of wire was then connected with the former, and on went the men. The two sets met at Teltow. The wires, having been respectively tested with their respective stations, were connected, and telephonic connection between Berlin and Potsdam was established. The distance is about twenty miles, and the whole thing was done in about four hours.

Chess on the Brain.

A chess champion, a German gentleman whose name is well known to all players of that scientific game, recently told the writer that the intense mental activity which is necessary to display while engaged in a combat on the board often led him to unconsciously do ridiculous things when the game was over.

For instance, he said, it is not an uncommon thing for me, when walking home in the evening after several games of chess at my club, to imagine that I am one of the pieces upon the board. Quite unconsciously, and probably while thinking about something else, I will take great care to plant my feet firmly in the center of the flagstone and not step upon the dividing lines. Again, I am a knight, and those who walk behind me are convulsed with laughter to see me take a step forward, and one to one side, which is not, to say the least of it, a dignified method of progress. Sometimes I am a bishop and move in a slanting direction, till forcible concussion with a wall brings me to my senses. I suppose it is that the game, its chances and possibilities, are so continually running in my mind that chess to me is almost becoming a second nature.

In the Classics.

Someone with leisure to follow a delicate quarry should devote himself to the genealogy of slang, or to illustrations of what is nothing else than slang, in the classics. For instance, "We shall smile," is in Julius Caesar. "I have been here before," is in Rossetti's "Sudden Light," and "We give ourselves away," in Mr. Aldrich's sonnet on sleep.

Covered in the Presence of Royalty.

The Lord of Kinsale has the privilege of wearing his hat in the presence of his sovereign. On one occasion George IV. rebuked the then holder of the title at a drawing-room for asserting it.

Nature will take care of you in winter, but you must take care of yourself in summer.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

Have a Place for Everything and Keep Everything in Its Place—Protection for School Teachers—Educational Progress in the South—Notes.

An Orderly Room.

"A place for everything, and everything in its place," is a maxim nowhere more necessary than in the schoolroom. Unless the rule be constantly impressed and observed, disorder and much waste of time will inevitably follow. Picture a room in which the rule appears to be wanting; books litter the window sills, the boards are half cleaned, maps and other specimens of work are pinned to the wall without the slightest semblance of order, the teacher's desk is covered with odds and ends of various kinds, and the children's desks are likewise untidy. Another picture shows a room of a different character. An open cupboard door reveals neat rows of books, boxes, papers, and other materials; window sills are bare but for a half dozen house plants standing in shining saucers. On the teacher's desk are arranged the books and materials necessary to the day's work, while the children have nothing on theirs but the slate and pencil.

Comment on the order and general working of these two classes is unnecessary. Disorder in these external matters does not bespeak orderliness of spirit, but rather the reverse, and there is no doubt as to the effect upon character of a strict observance or orderliness and neatness in all things. Try to have the children take a pride in their room, and encourage them in every effort to make it pleasant and attractive. Though nothing be done to-

ward, fear of personal violence. The attack now in question has called out widespread sympathy for its victim, and the criminal proceedings against his assailant will be watched with interest by teachers everywhere.—Harper's Weekly.

Keep Close to the Ground.

Or as our genial and direct Hawley Smith puts it, "lower your hind sight." This remark is occasioned by the writer's recently repeated experience in the institute field. We who are working with teachers as institute instructors, as superintendents or editors need to bear in mind that the good that is done will depend upon what we do that appeals to the intelligence and understanding of the average teacher. That teacher in the institute, that teacher in the district schools does not need long and dry disquisitions upon psychological queries or philosophical casuistries or discussions of apperception or elaboration of any phase of concentration or co-ordination so much as she needs a little plain every-day work in "reading," "riting," "rithmetic," together with something concerning the management of an ordinary school of ordinary boys and girls. Give us less of "federal," less of trimming and more of definite material, simple and direct application to everyday work. The institute season will soon be here. Will you, fellow instructor and county superintendent, note what other workers with you have to say on this subject? There isn't any disagreement among us as to what should be done, but somehow when we plan and work and outline what is to be done at our institutes we get away from notions in which we all agree and try to introduce the novel, the startling and that which seemingly lifts our institute and our work above the level of the "other fellow."—Exchange.

Progress in the South. Supt. Hogg, of Fort Worth, Texas, estimates that while the South has gained 34 per cent. in population during

THE GRADUATING CLASS.



wards decorating, it can be kept clean and neat. If this spirit prevail there will be no hats on the floor, no papers about the desks, no dirty slate cloth (sponges and a clean rag should be the rule), and no untidy desks. There will be pictures on the walls and on the unused blackboard, plants in the windows, and perhaps a flower glass on the teacher's table.

In the early summer, when wild flowers and shrub blossoms are plentiful, the children take great delight in bringing their little bouquets to "the teacher," and it is sometimes difficult to know what to do with them all. I have always provided myself with two or three earthenware jars to hold this deluge of flowers, for of course none can be discarded. They hold a great deal, and make a pretty ornament of the window sill, where there is no danger of the water being spilled.

It is a great deal easier to keep everything in its place than we sometimes think. All that is necessary is to return everything to its accustomed place as soon as we are done using it.

"Order in everything" must be our motto if we would have a successful school; the order to which love, sympathy, and regard for others are the incentives. The influence of orderliness in these so-called small matters reaches far beyond the school walk and the school life, and cannot be too highly estimated.—Educational Journal.

Protection for Teachers.

The protection of one of the Chicago public schools was made the other day the victim of a peculiarly brutal personal assault on the part of an aggrieved parent whose boy had failed to pass an examination. If the case were an isolated one, it would hardly call for comment, but several incidents of the sort have occurred during the past year or two, and the offenders have unfortunately escaped with a trifling fine. This time, it appears, the ruffian is likely to receive something like his deserts. The school authorities are determined to make an example of the assailant, and see that he is punished to the full extent of the law. There are too many parents nowadays who, instead of seconding the disciplinary efforts of their children's instructors, are inclined to antagonize them, and hastily to assume that if a child does not get along well at school it must be the teacher's fault. Instead of taking it out of the boy in the good old way, they take it out of the teacher in the improved modern fashion. A teacher is a public officer, and a physical assault upon a teacher should be treated more seriously than such an offense committed against a private individual. It is a matter of the highest concern to the State that teachers should be made to feel that the law will give them full protection in the discharge of their duties, and that they should not be terrorized into an unduly lenient treatment of idle or vicious children by

TIMELY FARM TOPICS.

MANAGEMENT OF THE FARM, GARDEN AND STABLE.

A Home-made Spraying Contrivance that May Be Used with Success and Profit—Tree Trunk Support for Sweet Peas—Agricultural Suggestions.

Home-made Spraying Outfit.

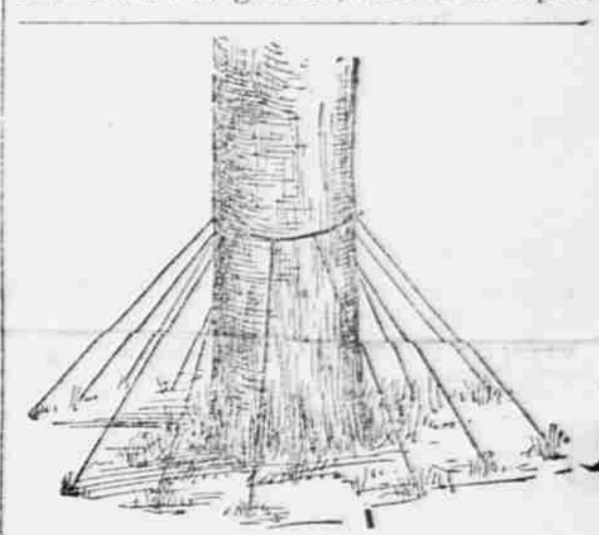
Where spraying is conducted on a considerable scale, various rigs have been made to squirt insecticides and fungicides over all portions of a tree. The spraying contrivance illustrated here has been used with good success and profit. Many fruit growers use an ordinary wagon, with box or rack and a 50-gallon barrel; but if one has much spraying to do, it is generally economy to use a larger tank, especially if water has to be hauled some distance. More thorough work can be done in old orchards if the operator is elevated above the barrel. The use of long pieces of 1½-inch brass, iron, copper or even gas pipe, with nozzle attachment to the end, is advisable when working among the tops of trees; such are apt to be a nuisance if one works from the ground. Pipes are awkward if more than ten feet long.

In my orchard of twenty-five acres the trees are twenty to thirty feet high. With my outfit, one man to drive and pump and two men in the tower, each with a brass extension tube eight feet long with double nozzle on each end, every part of a large tree may be sprayed in from three to five minutes. We find it much easier to spray on a level with our work or downward, than to stand on a wagon box and spray up with the Bordeaux mixture running down our sleeves and into our faces. The work is also more thoroughly done. In 1894 I used a power pump and sprayed from a wagon. I had fine fruit up as far as the spray went, but the tops of the trees were bare of fruit, proving to me the virtue of the spray. The rig is on a pair of wide-tired trucks coupled short so that we can turn from one row of trees to another. I pumped the water, mixed the ingredients and did the spraying of my orchard in three days. The spray pump

especially the English sparrow, which drives them away from their old haunts near dwellings. In the wild woods the small birds are exposed to many enemies. Hawks of various kinds prey on them, while squirrels plunder their nests and destroy their eggs. Nothing will set small birds to such a storm of protest as the presence of a squirrel in the neighborhood of their nests. It is a guide to any one who is hunting the squirrel, for this outcry of the birds gives warning of his approach before the hunter could possibly see him.

Support for Sweet Peas.

A bed of sweet peas about a tree trunk can be trained very satisfactorily in the manner suggested in the accompanying illustration. A stout bit of cord is tied about the trunk some three feet from the ground, and from equal



A TREE TRUNK SUPPORT.

spaces about it strings are carried out and down to the ground, where they are secured by pegs driven into the ground, these pegs forming a perfect circle about the tree. When the plants have secured a hold upon the strings and have come to blossoming, the effect will be very pleasing and attractive.

The Farm Tenant Help.

The practice of hiring married men and furnishing them a tenant house with garden as a part of their pay is growing in favor. It relieves farmers' wives from much hard labor in the extra work required to cook and provide food for a number outside their own families. It is also pleasanter and on the whole better to have the children of the family not so closely associating with the hired help as they must needs be if both occupy the same house. The married tenant, if a good help and receiving fair treatment, will be likely to remain a number of years. When help is hired to live in the house it is usually dismissed in the fall and entirely new help secured in the spring. But if the tenant is a good worker and honest, he will expect and should receive as good treatment socially as the farmer accords to neighboring farmers. There are and should be no social distinctions based only on wealth in farm life. Thousands of men, once owners of farms, have been obliged to become tenants, even when they have retained enough capital to hire the farm and run it on their own account. On the other hand, a great many farm laborers manage to save money enough so that after a few years they can become the owners of farms. Whenever they do this they generally prove to be more efficient farmers than are those who secure what they have from the patrimony left to them by their fathers.

The Weather Bureau.

This institution is doing better work this year than ever, says Farm and Home. Its weather forecasts are not always correct, and it is doubtful if it will ever be possible to make them absolutely true for every nook and corner of the country, but they are a great help to farmers who are so located as to be able to get them in time. The farmers want to-morrow's forecasts this afternoon, so that they can plan their work accordingly. Every farmer should also obtain the weekly weather and crop report issued by his State weather bureau in co-operation with the national weather bureau at Washington, and the latter publishes a weekly crop and climate bulletin that will be found of great value. In most of the States, the headquarters of the bureau is at the State capital and it may be addressed there.

Bad-Tempered Bulls.

Too much care cannot be taken to keep the bull always in subjection. A ring should be put in his nose before he is a year old, and if this is done a snap fastening a stout stick to the ring, and which can be detached when not in use, will keep the animal in perfect subjection. On no account should a bull be led or driven without this contrivance. The bull when feeling well is a very playful animal, but if in play it once draws blood, the sight of it will make him furious. The tempers of most bulls are spoiled by teasing them and then getting out of the way. If the bull never sees any one who is not his master, and is always kept in subjection by the stick and ring, his usefulness may be protracted till he is 8 or 10 years old.

Farm Notes.

The finest butter imported into the English and French markets is said to be made in Normandy France, and is known as Normandy butter. Its quality is ascribed to the breed of cattle, pastures and method of manufacture.

Oats contain the elements of the tissues of young animals most perfectly balanced, and, with milk, promote healthy growth. Dry oats are an especially excellent feed for young calves, and to induce them to eat them they may at first be slightly moistened with milk. If put into the milk the calf may be choked.

When a pasture has so deteriorated that it will not be profitable to use it for cows it will serve for sheep. If the sheep are allowed grain also, but next fall such pasture should receive a heavy dressing of wood ashes after being plowed and left unharrowed. It does not pay to use land for pasture unless something can be had from it.

Tree Tops Easily Sprayed.

caused no expense or hindrance throughout the season.—A. H. Dutton, in Farm and Home.

Selecting Seed Grain.

It is impossible to tell by looking at grain in a heap or bin what its value for seed may be. The plumpest, finest-formed berry, and one with uninjured vitality may have grown from a seed that produced only a single stalk and head and that poorly filled. Such a seed will tend to produce a like plant from that on which it grew. What may be done by the proper selection of seed is shown in the great improvement that is made in the productivity of corn, which with skillful cultivators is always chosen on the stalk, selecting those that bear two full ears. Yet if size of kernel were the test the largest and best grains might often be found on the nubbin corn where the ears were not filled out, so that each grain could grow round and full instead of being compressed as it is in a well-filled ear. Yet, on such an ear there will always be found at the tip and butt some grains that had room to grow full size. These will produce better and stronger plants than will the compressed grains from the middle of the cob.

Applying Land Plaster.

A little at a time and often should be the rule in applying land plaster. The finer it is ground the more evenly it can be spread, and a very light dusting will do as much good for the time as a heavier application. A bushel per acre, which will be about 100 pounds, is what farmers usually sow on clover. If they have the plaster on hand they sometimes apply another hundred pounds after the first crop is cut, to make a larger second growth. This is not done, however, on clover where a seed crop is to be grown, as the extra growth of stalk and leaf is made at the expense of the seed.

Have a Little Fun.

An excursion to your State agricultural college or experiment station will amply repay any farmer. If a little effort is made to get up a large party, reduced rates can be secured and the trip can be made most enjoyable. This will make a pleasant outing to take as soon as the spring work is completed. In the fall just before the summer campaign, it pays to get a little rest at this season, and again just before and also after the heavy work of harvest. All work and no play makes the farmer a dull boy.

Enemies of Birds.

The fact that the various kinds of small birds once so common are now very scarce is commonly attributed to their destruction to gratify woman's pride in trimming her hats. But the song birds have other enemies also,



TREE TOPS EASILY SPRAYED.