

Fixing Standards by Law.

Recent Act of Congress That Was Not Political.

Washington, March 6.—A most important bill, which passed Congress at the eleventh hour was one providing for the establishment of a national bureau of standards sometimes called a "national standardizing bureau." Its name is awkward but suits its uses very exactly.

Under the care of the superintendent of the coast survey are a few brass disks, weights and other articles by which scales of weight and measurement are tested. They are supposed to be exact, and every year a commission is appointed by the President to visit the several mints of the United States and test the scales by which the coins of the Government are weighed. That is all our Government pretends to do in this line, although in England, Germany, France and other civilized countries there are official authorities whose business it is to test anything in chemistry or physics that a citizen desires to have tested. These officials are custodians of the standards by which everything is measured, and, as everybody can imagine, they are frequently called upon to decide disputes, their judgment being final in all cases.

We have no such thing in this country. Private manufacturers and corporations get their standards from Germany, and not long ago the navy of the United States was compelled to ask the German government to make tests in order to determine the power of certain electrical machinery.

The bill referred to establishes "a national standardizing bureau," which shall be the custodian of all standards of weights and measures, and whose duty it shall be "to compare the standards used in scientific investigations, engineering, manufacturing, commerce and educational institutions with the standards adopted or recognized by the Government, the construction, when necessary, of standards, their multiples and subdivisions; the testing of standard measuring apparatus; the solution of problems which arise in connection with standards; the determination of physical constants and the properties of materials which such data of great importance to scientific or manufacturing interests are not to be obtained of sufficient accuracy elsewhere."

The bureau "shall exercise its functions for the Government of the United States; for State or municipal government within the United States; or for any scientific society, educational institution, firm, corporation or individual within the United States engaged in manufacturing or other pursuits requiring the use of standards or standard measuring instruments."

"The whirligig of time brings in his revenges." Two of the new members of the senate—Mr. Kearns of Utah and Mr. Dubois of Idaho—were among the little band of silver Republicans which followed Senator Teller when he left the St. Louis convention in such a dramatic manner in 1896. Kearns supported Bryan that year, and contributed liberally to the Democratic campaign fund. He came back to the Republican party in 1900 and was equally generous to Mr. Hanna's war chest. He still adheres to a belief in the free coinage of silver, but does not sympathize with Mr. Bryan on the "paramount issue," being a broad gauge expansionist. Fred Dubois, on the other hand, has gone over to the Democratic party and expects to stay there.

Far otherwise has it been with Senator Shoup, of Idaho, who retired from the Senate on March 4th. It was Shoup who originally elected Dubois to the Senate. He has been a Republican "boss" in Idaho for many years, and the man he supported was always elected until the Republican party split on the silver question. When Dubois left the St. Louis convention with Teller, Shoup remained almost alone in the delegation and held up the banner of that State, yelling for McKinley and the gold standard. Now Dubois returns to the Senate and takes the seat of his political patron, and Shoup goes back to the merchandise business in the mines which he has found so profitable.

MATTERS IN MANILA.

Manila, March 10.—Judge Taft and his associates of the United States Philippine commission, accompanied by their wives and a number of prominent Filipinos, embarked today on the United States transport Sumner and sailed for Lucena, province of Tayabas, Luzon, where they will organize a provincial government. The pier was thronged with natives, who cheered the commissioners and gave many other proofs of the popularity of the commission.

The insurgents have surrendered 500 rifles in the provinces of Pangasinan, Bulacan and Batangas during the last four weeks.

The Methodists report 120 converts in Manila last week, and the Philippine Evangelical Church claims to have secured many new members.

The Cuban Convention.

NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION.

Habana, March 10.—Although the political demonstrations have ended the radical element in the Cuban constitutional convention has not given up here that the United States will recede from the position taken regarding the Platt amendment. The radical press is doing everything in its power to keep this view before the public. It attributes the action of the United States congress to the influence of the trusts, declaring that the American people "are in favor of giving Cuba absolute independence and of rebuking the action of the administration." Articles from American papers which seem to sustain the attitude of the convention are given wide publicity.

Senator Gualberto Gomez says in La Patria: "Let us, the champions of our country's independence and sovereignty, preserve the calm, dignified attitude we have assumed. Do not let us lose our calm judgment. Let us maintain our energetic resolution to be free, but let us avoid furnishing the slightest pretext for the unhealthy imperialism which is corrupting the blood of a generous people and inclining them to trample upon our rights."

"Let us still have faith in the justice of our cause and in the honor of the country, which produced Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln."

At street corners in various public places placards have been posted which read thus:

"To the people of the United States: Do not make any promises that you are not sure to keep, and never go back on the work you have given."

"Signed George Washington." This is recommended to the consideration of "all worthy patriots of the great America."

Thus far the radical members of the convention remain firm in their determination not to accept the Platt amendment. The committee on foreign relations will meet tomorrow but a final report is not expected for several days.

RAINING BLOOD.

The Startling Phenomenon in Sicily and Its Cause.

Palermo, Sicily, March 10.—A strange phenomenon is now witnessed here. Ever since last night a heavy red cloud has extended over the city, the sky being a deep red. The rain now falling resembles drops of coagulated blood.

This phenomenon, which is called "bloody rain," is attributed to dust from the African deserts, transported by the heavy south wind now blowing.

OVER SOUTHERN ITALY

Rome, March 10.—The phenomenon now to be seen in Sicily extends also over Southern Italy. At Rome, the sky is yellow, and at Naples a rain of sand has fallen, the heavens being dark red.

GILMER'S RESIGNATION.

Gov. McSweeney has accepted the resignation of Magistrate J. J. Gilmer, of Anderson, who was presented by the Anderson grand jury for gross irregularities.

Gov. McSweeney wrote Senator Sullivan, of Anderson, that it was his purpose to remove Magistrate Gilmer, on the showing made by the grand jury, but, as a matter of courtesy, asked him if there was any reason why there should be no removal. Senator Sullivan wrote Gov. McSweeney recommending the removal upon the charges preferred by the grand jury.

GEN DEWET IS SAFE.

Capture of His Force in His Own Country Almost Impossible.

London, March 11.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Asaogelkop, March 9:

"Gen DeWet has escaped northward by a forced march with 400 men. His objective is believed to be the vicinity of Kroonstad."

"Four other Boer leaders are still in the southwestern part of Orange River colony."

"Now that Gen DeWet is back in his own country it will be almost impossible to operate against him. Just as soon as he is pressed, his command dissolves, to meet again a few days later."

"Only a few bands of Boers are now left in Cape Colony."

The city of Charleston which has been exercised over the pure water question is felicitating itself over the discovery that there are within ten miles of the city, springs which have a flow of nearly 8,000,000 gallons a day, which with careful treatment may be increased to 16,000,000. This water comes up through strata of sand from a depth of from 300 to 400 feet and is found by chemical tests to be pure. It can be piped into the city at small expense.

Matters of Interest

in Washington.

Hanna Would Rule Senate—The Cuban Matters.

Washington, March 11.—Senator Hanna's project for making the senate a one man body, by the adoption of Reed rules, has been postponed, but by no means abandoned. The kicking was so vigorous at even the mention of the project that it was apparent to Mr. Hanna that the senate would be kept in extra session all summer, with no certainty of success in the end, if the attempt were made to put the project through at this time. So it was decided to let it go over to the regular session, and to spend the recess in pulling wires to make voters for it. The adjournment of the extra session of the senate was hurried to prevent the growth of sentiment in favor of a reorganization of the committees, which would have deprived a number of senators of some of the patronage they now control.

Although the published news from Cuba indicates much kicking against the conditions laid down by congress for the withdrawal of American authority, members of the administration, claim to have secret information which causes them to expect an early acceptance of the conditions by the Cubans. The rumored intention of the administration to send more troops to Cuba is strongly denied in official circles.

Other seekers after official plums are saying unprintable things about the greed of ex senators, who are going after all the desirable places and landing them, too. Ex Senator Carter's appointment as commissioner of the St. Louis exposition has been officially announced, and three other ex senators—Lindsay, Thurston and McBride, are understood to have been promised places on the same commission.

Tom Carter's appointment, which carries \$5,000 a year for three years, with not very much work to do, was his reward for having, at the request of Mr. McKioley, talked the river and harbor bill to death in his last senatorial hour. Senators are recalling the statement of Senator Hanna, regarded at the time as a bluff, that unless the ship subsidy bill was passed, the river and harbor bill should not.

A proud record in their line is that of C. A. Snow & Co, the Washington patent lawyers, who have procured more than 22,000 patents for inventors—many of them for inventions that have played important parts in the industrial progress of the past quarter century.

A sub committee of the senate committee on military affairs has been appointed to investigate during the congressional recess, under the Pettigrew resolution, adopted by the senate, the charge that Lieut Col H. O. S. Heistand was interested in a scheme to corner the hemp supply of the Philippines through official favoritism. Whether the investigation is to be a whitewashing affair or is to get at the real facts is not yet apparent. If it be the latter, there are reasons for the belief that a sensational looting scheme of large proportions will be uncovered.

The administration hangs on to the reciprocity treaty with France, notwithstanding the determined opposition in the senate, that caused it and all the other reciprocity treaties negotiated under the Dingley tariff law, to be left unratified, and an agreement has been signed by Secretary Hay and the French ambassador, extending the time in which the treaty with France may be ratified to Sept. 24, 1902.

In an answer to the senate resolution Secretary Long admits that commissioned officers in the navy, promoted from the ranks, are not allowed to use the same uniforms worn by officers of the same grade graduated from Annapolis, but denies that the discrimination is made because one officer went through the Naval Academy and the other didn't, but he failed to give any other plausible reason therefor. He further admits the justice of the complaint of those discriminated against, by stating that the navy department is now preparing a uniform regulation book, "showing all uniforms and permitting officers promoted from the ranks to wear certain insignia and uniform, not now worn by them, but which are permitted for other commissioned officers." All of which shows how thoroughly impregnated with Sampsonian snobness our navy department has become and the necessity for congressional action to restore American methods, and destroy the illusion in many naval officers' minds that a course at Annapolis makes them better than the people who put up the money for that course.

Chicago, March 11.—By the explosion of the boiler in the Doremus laundry, 458 West Madison Street, this morning, eight people were instantly killed, 29 were injured and several are missing.

If ex Senator Mills, of Texas, be reasonably economical he can live comfortably in his old age. He is getting about \$15,000 a month from the oil wells on his Texas lands.

Chicago, March 10.—One of the worst windstorms of the season struck Chicago early today and during the two hours that it lasted, damaged property throughout the city to the extent of \$175,000.

Child Labor in North Carolina.

Mills Compromise and Enter Into an Agreement Limiting age and Hours.

Charlotte, N. C., March 10.—The present session of the North Carolina legislature has decided not to enact any legislation regulating work in any of the cotton mills of the State. The operatives as well as the mill owners were anxious to avoid any legislation, preferring to work out the problem in their own way. An agreement signed by nearly all the mill owners of the State was submitted to the legislature, and this agreement was accepted in lieu of the proposed law regulating labor. Following is the agreement entered into by the mill owners of the State:

First. That one week's work shall not exceed 66 hours.

Second. That no child less than 12 years old shall work in a cotton mill during the term of an available public school. Provided, This shall not apply to children of widows or physically disabled parents. Provided, further, that 10 years shall be the lowest limit at which children may be worked under any circumstances.

Third. That we will cooperate with any feasible plan to promote the education of the working people in the State, and will cheerfully submit to our part of the burdens and labors to advance the cause of general education.

Fourth. On the basis of the above agreements of cotton mill owners and managers we hereby petition the legislature not to pass any labor laws at this session of the legislature.

A Thousand Tongues

Could not express the rapture of Annie E. Springer, of 1125 Howard St., Philadelphia Pa., when she found that Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption had completely cured her of a hacking cough that for many years had made life a burden. All other remedies and doctors could give her no help, but she says of this Royal Cure—"It soon removed the pain in my chest and I can now sleep soundly, something I can scarcely remember doing before. I feel like sounding its praises throughout the Universe." So will every one who tries Dr. King's New Discovery for any trouble of the Throat, Chest or Lungs. Price 50c and \$1. Trial bottles free at J. F. W. DeLorme's Drug Store; every bottle guaranteed.

THE PUERTO RICANS

ASK FOR RELIEF.

Impoverished Country Staggering Under Taxation.

Washington, March 11.—The president this morning granted a special audience to Messrs Wencesla Borda, Jr., and Vincete Balbas, members of the Puerto Rican commission, which was appointed at a mass meeting of the citizens of the island at San Juan on Feb. 2 to protest against the law enacted by the legislature known as the Hollander bill. This measure provides for the raising of revenue by property and excise taxes.

The commissioners presented a formal protest which enumerated a series of 18 objections to the law. It is contended that there exists today in Puerto Rico three taxes levied and collected for the same purpose "from the impoverished pockets of the people," the new excise taxes under the Hollander law, the old insular and municipal taxes, and the customs duties under the Puerto Rican civil government act. Any of these, it is held is sufficient to cover the budget. Under the bill \$500,000 or more will be collected semi-annually in advance; thereby the protest says, lessening the money in circulation of which there is less than \$2,000,000 and producing a state of impoverishment and business stagnation, as the taxes are collected by summary process. It is asserted that the measure is both an income and property tax law, that two of the principal industries of the island (rum and tobacco) are taxed so heavily under it that their production under present conditions is practically prohibited, that the only standard of valuation of property will be the personal opinion of the assessors, and as they may be appointed by political favor there is a danger of injustice to a large section of the community from excessive valuation.

Robbed the Grave.

A startling incident of which Mr. John Oliver of Philadelphia, was the subject, is narrated by him as follows: "I was in a most dreadful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite—gradually growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Fortunately, a friend advised trying 'Electric Bitters,' and to my great joy and surprise, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they saved my life, and robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50 cents per bottle at J. F. W. DeLorme's Drug Store.

Vienna, March 11.—A ferocious duel with swords has been fought at Lantsbau, Hungary, between Lieut Ederle and Lieut Exter. The former was killed and the latter, who is now in the hospital received more than 20 wounds.

S. A. L. Not Sold to L. & N.

No Truth in Story Sent Out From New York.

Richmond, Va., March 10.—President John Skelton Williams was asked today regarding the report published in a New York newspaper, that the Seaboard Air Line system has been purchased by August Belmont and the Rothschilds. He ridiculed the story and said: "The report that a controlling interest in the Seaboard Air Lines system has been purchased by parties allied to the Louisville and Nashville or any other system is an idle one, and without foundation. I regret that newspapers should be willing to frequently and periodically give currency to such reports. I and my immediate associates own a controlling interest in the Seaboard system. My financial interest in it today is larger than it ever has been before. The condition of the system is stronger than ever, and earnings are heavier than at any time in its past history. We are satisfied with the property, intend to hold it, and operate it, and a controlling interest in the Seaboard Air Line system is not for sale to anybody at any time at any price."

POULTRY SHOW.

Splendid Exhibits to Be Made at the Pan-American Exposition.

In planning a great Exposition of the magnitude of the Pan-American, to be held in Buffalo next summer, where all the great industries of the United States will be represented by exhibits which will be of the best quality and character that can be produced, the wisdom of the management is shown in the magnificent preparations that are being made for the Division of Live Stock.

In no line of breeding domestic animals has greater strides been made than in the poultry industry, and while the interest taken in the Live Stock Division of the Exposition by prospective exhibitors is very encouraging, the poultrymen of the United States and Canada are manifesting an interest that is truly phenomenal. The poultrymen in the past few years have seen the industry double many times until today it exceeds in value any single farm crop. The annual sale of eggs, poultry and fancy birds for breeding purposes in the United States and Canada exceeds \$1,000,000,000. The proposed show at the Pan-American will be fully adequate to the great interests involved. The time of this show will be most propitious to the fanciers—Oct. 21-31—and the accommodations will be all that are desired. The stables, covering ten acres, will all be devoted to the poultry and pet stock show.

PAN-AMERICAN SPORTS.

Will Be Held in a Stadium Seating Twelve Thousand People.

The popular sports of the Americans have been handsomely recognized by the Pan-American Exposition. A Stadium, beautiful in design, with a quarter mile track and ground area ample for the requirements of all the popular events proposed, is provided. It has a seating capacity of 12,000. The nature of the sports planned is varied. Amateur events of all kinds will be particularly encouraged as representing the most desirable of athletic competitions. There will be professional events as well. College sports will be made a feature, and intercollegiate events are being planned. There will be amateur and professional baseball, football, lawn tennis, Marathon race, cross country runs, lacrosse, cycling, basket ball, roque, shooting, Caledonian games, gymnastics, military maneuvers, turling, cricket, bowling and other sports.

One of the Two.

"You say our friend insisted that he had a plan for a perpetual motion machine and a formula for converting base metals into gold?"

"Yes." "I wonder what has become of him." "If he stuck to his workshop, they have probably locked him up. But if he went out and organized a few stock companies he is no doubt rich and comfortable."—Washington Star.

The North Pole.

The north pole is the mathematical point at the northern termination of the earth's axis. Whether land or water be there the phenomena of the sun during the polar day or of the stars during the night would indicate its position.

Loaned the Noise.

A little 4-year-old was taken on a visit to grandmamma in the country. There for the first time he had a view of a cow. He would stand and look on while the man milked and ask all manner of questions. In this way he learned that the long crooked branches on the cow's head were horns. Now, the little fellow knew of only one kind of horn, and a few days after obtaining this information, hearing a strange kind of hollowing noise in the yard, he ran out to ascertain its cause. In a few minutes he returned with wonder and delight depicted on his countenance, exclaiming: "Mamma, mamma! Oh, do come out here! The cow's blowing her horns!"—Exchange.

The Real Trouble.

Mrs. De Style (looking from her paper)—The idea! I told that reporter not to mention my name in connection with the Gulgore's reception, and yet he's done it. I'll just go down to that newspaper office tomorrow and see about this.

Mr. De Style—Oh, I wouldn't pay any attention to it, my dear.

Mrs. De Style—I wouldn't, but they have got my name spelled wrong.—Philadelphia Press.

The Parson and the Skipper.
An old globe circler says that in going around the world there is scarcely one traveler in a hundred who remembers that in going from east to west a day is gained and that in going from west to east a day is lost. Many of those who come into contact with this truth knew all about it when they were at school, but never think of it on the high seas. In illustration of the point he tells this story:

"My first trip around the world was from England to Australia. Out in the middle of the Pacific a sign was put announcing that the date was Thursday, July 17. This was all right, but the next day the same sign was put up again. This was an opportunity for those of us who thought we were real wise to show the ship's officers that they were not infallible. After we had expended our choicest sarcasm and had been rebuffed by various officers the captain set us straight.

"On my way back one day the card went up announcing that it was Saturday, Aug. 13. The next day the sign said Monday, Aug. 15. Two ministers on board thought the captain a somewhat profane old salt, who had skipped a day to avoid the religious services which they had prepared. He convinced them that it was a mere coincidence that on that particular date the last day was Sunday. Since then I have never attempted to teach the ship's navigator his business, and he can skip a century if he wishes without my saying a word."—Baltimore Sun.

Surprised by Dickens.

"I vividly recall hearing Charles Dickens read selections from his own writings in Steinway hall, New York city, shortly after the close of our civil war," said a well known judge. "The hall was densely packed with an audience of cultured people, by far the major part of whom were intense admirers of the man who was to entertain them that evening. I was a youngster then, but was glad to part with \$2 to hear the author of 'Nicholas Nickleby' read his own lines. But his appearance on the stage, though greeted by applause, was a distinct shock, so thoroughly out of keeping was his costume with the conventional evening attire of a gentleman. He was clad in a short velvet coat that looked exactly like a smoking jacket, velvet vest to match and a flaming red necktie. Such a garb was in reality an affront and an impertinence to that fashionably clad assemblage. But it was overlooked as an eccentricity of genius, and much applause attended the rendition.

"Nowadays the newspapers would roast any man, however famous, for daring to come before the public in such grotesque attire, but I do not recall that any of the New York papers criticised the distinguished visitor for his sartorial laxity."—Washington Post.

The Antithetical Chinaman.

To attempt to get a Chinaman to assign a reason for anything is futile. One day while riding a donkey through the country west of Peking I noticed that the women of the country villages, mostly farmers' wives and daughters, did not bind their feet. I said to the donkey driver who was running along beside me, "The country women do not bind their feet, do they?"

"No." "Why?" "They do not bind their feet." "Why is it that the Chinese women bind their feet?" "They bind their feet." "But why do they do it?" "That is their custom." "But why is it their custom?" "There is no why—no reason whatever."

Ask a child, "Why did your brother not come to school today?" "My brother did not come to school today."

Or inquire of a man, "Why is it that the Chinese build a pagoda 13 stories high?" and he will most probably answer, "That is the way to build a pagoda."—Isaac Taylor Headland of University of Peking in Washington Star.

Obeded Orders.

One of the officials of the road had invited a party of gentlemen to take a little pleasure excursion over a part of the line on his private car. Before the appointed day he was taken sick and called in his chief and commissary.

"Eph," he said, "I have asked these friends and can neither go with them nor disappoint them. I want you to give them the best there is in the larder and see that it is served as well as it would be at the best hotel in the world."

Eph scratched his head and looked troubled, but simply said, "Yes, sah." On the return several of the gentlemen congratulated the official upon having such a "man," and one or two intimated that if Eph ever wanted another position he would have no trouble in securing it.

Finally Eph reported, "It wa' a greet outin, sah." He assured his employer, "Yas, sah; dat's right, sah; a stupendificious outin, sah. De gem'men all done me proud, and I tells 'em it wa' you, sah."

Then Eph showed the bill, and it was a stunner for length and amount. He stood hat in hand until the official said: "Pretty steep, Eph; pretty steep. Nothing left out and nothing but the best." "Dat's right, sah. I was fusticated mos' to deaf, sah, but I jes' says to myself, sah, dat dey was no greater epicene in de lan dan you is, and I bought and cooked and served, sah, jes' like it wa' you."—Detroit Free Press.

Letting Well Enough Alone.

Mr. Mecke—There's an error in this plumber's bill, but I guess I won't say anything about it.

Mrs. Mecke—Why? Mr. Mecke—He might charge me for making the correction.—Brooklyn Life.