

# The Democratic Sentinel

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## CLEVELAND FOR GOLD

PRESIDENT EXHORTS DEMOCRACY TO BEWARE SILVER.

Says Free Coinage Will Bring Disaster Upon Both Country and Party—Nail Trust Preparing to Put on the Screws a Little Harder.

Grover to His Followers.  
In reply to a request from the New York Herald for a statement concerning the Democratic situation President Cleveland Tuesday night sent the following to that newspaper: "I refuse to believe that the time arrives for deliberative action there will be wrought upon our Democratic creed a demand for the free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver, because I know the Democratic party is neither unpatriotic nor foolish and because it seems so clear to me that such a course will inflict a very great injury upon every interest of our country which has been the mission of Democracy to advance, and will result in the lasting disaster to our party organization. There is little hope that, as a means of success, this free-silver proposition, after its thorough discussion during the political campaign, will attract to the majority of the voters of the country. My attachment to true Democracy is so strong that I consider its success as identical with the promotion of the country's good. This ought sufficiently to account for my anxiety that no mistake be made at our party's convention. In no opinion an effort should be spared to secure such action of the delegates as will avert party demoralization. It is a place for consultation and comparison of views, and those Democrats who believe in the cause of sound money should there be heard and be constantly in evidence. A cause worth fighting is worth fighting to the end. If sound money Democrats suppose there is danger of a mistake being made, such danger should stimulate their activity in averting it, instead of creating discouragement. I am very far from arrogating to myself a controlling influence upon the policy of my party, but as a faithful Democrat, who has been honored by his party and who desires hereafter no greater political privileges than to occupy the place of private in its ranks, I hope I may not be blamed for saying this much at this time in the interest, as it seems to me, of the grand old organization of the Democratic party, and its just and honorable traditions, so always proud of its achievements, and justly so undaunted and brave in its battles for the people's welfare."

## NAIL TRUST'S BONANZA.

How Nails Have Come to Cost More than Flour.

If the nail pool succeeds in gobbling up all of the nailmaking machines and patents in the country, it will form an alliance with the machinery men, as it now contemplates, it will continue as at present. If it fails the pool is certain to collapse, as competition in manufacturing is springing up on every hand, and the feeling in the trade against the combine is very bitter. Nails which sold in Pittsburgh a year ago for sizes ranging to 10 cents are now selling at 25 cents, base rates. The latter term is simply a technical one, so far as the consuming buyer of nails is concerned. To this price must be added anywhere from 50 cents per keg for all sizes from sixty-penny to ten-penny, and 60 cents to \$2.50 for sizes ranging to the smallest. In less than carload lots there is 10 cents per keg still to be added, so by the time it has passed through the hands of the retailer into the hands of the consumer the price is decidedly stiff. The ordinary ten-penny nail used by the farmer to build a corn crib costs \$2.55 at Pittsburgh. In Chicago it costs, with the freight, \$2.70. With the additional 50 cents, per the nail card, the price is \$3.20, and to this must be added another 10 cents, which the retailer pays when buying in less than carload lots. West of the Mississippi a twenty-five bushel farmer's wagon load of corn will just pay for a single keg of nails, providing the retailer dings himself down to a 10 per cent profit. The retail grocer next door to the hardware store will sell a barrel of the finest flour for a trifle less than the hardware man can sell a keg of nails, though the nails weigh but 100 pounds and the flour 190 pounds. Nails for export are offered within a week for \$1.20 per keg, free on board New York, or less than half the price in Pittsburgh, which is the market from which all others are sourced. According to the latest quotations in the trade papers, the price at Antwerp is \$1.75 per keg.

## Standing of National League.

Following is the standing of the clubs in the National League:

Club	W.	L.
Cleveland	27	16
Brooklyn	23	23
Baltimore	22	18
Pittsburgh	23	22
Cincinnati	20	20
Chicago	25	24
Boston	26	19
New York	20	29
Philadelphia	28	21
St. Louis	13	33
Washington	24	20

## Western League Standing.

Following is the standing of the clubs in the Western League:

Club	W.	L.
Indianapolis	26	14
St. Paul	21	22
Detroit	25	17
Minneapolis	23	23
Omaha	20	26
Columbus	18	30
Kansas City	23	20
Rapid	16	31

## Killed by a Pitched Ball.

William Swartz, 19 years old, was killed while playing baseball at Newark, Ohio. A pitched ball struck his temple, after falling, Swartz arose and ran to first base, where he became unconscious, dying within a few minutes.

## Hungary Wins a Cross.

Andor Saxhoffer, of the firm of Andor Saxhoffer, of Budapest, Hungary, proprietor of the celebrated Hungary Janos natural aperient water, has been decorated by Francis Joseph I, emperor of Austria and king of Hungary, with the cross of the Iron Crown, of the Third.

## Banker Shot Down.

A desperate robber or crank shot George H. Wyckoff, president of the Bank of New Amsterdam, N. Y., Monday, because he refused to hand over to him \$50,000. The assassin then shot himself.

## Chance for American Factories.

The Argentine House of Deputies has passed a law exempting from duty machinery of all classes, destined for manufacturing purposes, for a term of ten years. The bill is certain to pass the Senate. It will give great advantage to factories in the United States if they choose to compete.

## Green Goods Gang Captured.

G. R. Bell, T. A. Robins and M. A. McGinnis are arrested at Neosho, Mo., charged with attempting to sell green goods and for raising the mails for fraudulent purposes. Bell said he was an agent of the Government to dispose of canceled United States greenbacks.

## HAWAII WON'T PARDON ASHFORD

Great Britain's Demand Worries the Dole Government.  
The steamer Australia from Honolulu brings confirmation of the report concerning the demand made by Great Britain that Volney Ashford be permitted to return to Hawaii. The Dole Government is very much excited over the report, but the president of the little republic is pursuing a conservative course in dealing with the matter. The news of Ashford's demand originated in Washington, and was forwarded in private correspondence to a Hawaiian paper and several private concerns. The situation is said to be that Great Britain has made a rather sharp demand upon this Government on behalf of Col. V. V. Ashford. The "request" is stated as a suggestion, in diplomatic sentences, that a pardon be issued to Ashford and that he be permitted to return to Hawaii without conditions of any sort. The Honolulu Statesman says the republic declines to accept the British foreign office's view of this case, and refuses to grant the pardon, or remove the ban. There is a likelihood of Hawaii calling upon the United States to extend its offices in the Pacific. Col. V. V. Ashford was convicted by the military commission of misprision of treason. The evidence was that he had advance knowledge of the outbreak. His sentence was imprisonment for a year and a fine of \$1,000. In letters to Hawaii on British subjects mixed up with the revolution, he tried to get the foreign office to give the opinion that court martial was unconstitutional and that there could be no objection to any of the cases except Ashford. It was claimed the evidence against him was insufficient. It seems that Col. Ashford has followed up this point.

## MARYLAND FOR GOLD.

Democrats Emphatically Declare Opposition to Free Coinage.  
By an overwhelming majority the Democrats of Maryland, in convention at Baltimore Wednesday, arrayed themselves against the 16 to 1 free coinage movement. The supporters of the free silver plank, although in a decided minority, were given a fair hearing in open convention, but the sentiment for a gold standard was unalterably fixed. Major Stewart of Talbot was the spokesman of the silverites in urging the adoption of a minority resolution. In no opinion an effort should be spared to secure such action of the delegates as will avert party demoralization. It is a place for consultation and comparison of views, and those Democrats who believe in the cause of sound money should there be heard and be constantly in evidence. A cause worth fighting is worth fighting to the end. If sound money Democrats suppose there is danger of a mistake being made, such danger should stimulate their activity in averting it, instead of creating discouragement. I am very far from arrogating to myself a controlling influence upon the policy of my party, but as a faithful Democrat, who has been honored by his party and who desires hereafter no greater political privileges than to occupy the place of private in its ranks, I hope I may not be blamed for saying this much at this time in the interest, as it seems to me, of the grand old organization of the Democratic party, and its just and honorable traditions, so always proud of its achievements, and justly so undaunted and brave in its battles for the people's welfare."

## PLAN A FIREWORKS TRUST.

Leading American Manufacturers Arranging a Combine.

The six leading manufacturers of fireworks in the United States are planning a trust—to save themselves from ruin, they say, because prices have gone below cost. Three of these are in New York—the Consolidated, Pain and Detwiler & Street. The others are the Rochester Fireworks Company, the St. Louis Fireworks Company and the Due company of Cincinnati. Great secrecy is observed concerning the combination. The secretary of one of the interested corporations said: "The negotiations so far have been entirely of an informal nature between the presidents. Even I have not been let in. But we all know that some sort of agreement must be reached. The principal question is whether an incorporated company should be formed or the companies retain their individual existence and be bound by an agreement concerning prices."

## FEW FAVORS FOR THE WEST.

Only Four States Succeed in Getting New Public Buildings.

Excepting the case of Savannah, Ga., the Western Congressmen from the new States—Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Utah—are the only delegations which have succeeded in securing public building bills from this session of Congress. The House policy has been to report no bills for new buildings, and after exhausting their efforts in that body the Western men turned their attention to the Senate. They secured amendments to the sundry civil bill, and those items were the hardest fought. The amendments were reported, threatened to prolong the session for some days. Senator Dubois, who engineered the campaign in the Senate, was importuned to consent to drop the amendments, but the Western Senators and Representatives refused to capitulate on any conditions, and finally the House accepted them when Mr. Wilson of Idaho made the motion to that effect.

## Trade Shows No Gain.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "Speculative reaction has not in the least changed the business outlook. The fluctuations prices made for wheat and cotton meant no good except for individuals, and the change to prices more nearly in accord with actual relations of demand and supply only conforms to conditions which have been well known for months. The attack on stocks was so plainly artificial that its influence passed with the day, and neither in foreign relations nor domestic business was there anything to justify alarm. The Government report as to wheat indicated a much smaller yield than anybody really expects, but that has become so much the rule that the report had no real influence, and the principal effect was the serious depression caused by large sales in anticipation of the report, which seemed to be thoroughly known in advance to some speculators."

## Costly Revenge.

Because he was not paid his wages an employe of Wood Bros. circus at Chicago, cut one of the main guy ropes of the big tent Wednesday night. The lofty center pole swung to one side, the tent partly collapsing. Three trapeze performers fell thirty feet and two gasoline tank lights dropped at the same time, exploding as they struck the ground. There was a stampede among the 1,000 persons who filled the seats above the circus ring. Charles Cumm, 8 years old, of 703 West Ohio street, who was burned about the head, was the only person injured.

## Sullivan Doesn't Sleep.

John Sullivan, of Philadelphia, issued a challenge to any man in the world to engage with him in a sleepless contest for thirty days. Sullivan works in the Swedish iron furnace, and for exactly one month he never slept. He was in perfect health and worked regularly every day.

## Confession That He Killed Shotmaker.

John O'Meara gave himself up at Cincinnati and confessed to shooting George Shotmaker Tuesday night. They were driving teams and quarreled while trying to pass each other. Shotmaker hit O'Meara with a whip and O'Meara fired. Shotmaker died the next day.

## Deaths Worked.

At Harrisburg, Pa., a desperate duel took place Saturday night between Monroe

Jackson and J. W. Vest, resulting in the death of both men, who were prominent Populist politicians holding opposite views. Jackson and another man were drinking in Vest's saloon and expressed views offensive to Vest, who ordered them out. On reaching the street Jackson and Vest went out to part them. As a result he and Jackson became involved in a wordy quarrel. Finally Jackson drew a knife and Vest a pistol and a terrible fight ensued. Vest was cut in the abdomen two or three times and Jackson was shot through the lungs, in the thigh and in the kidneys. Both combatants fought until they could stand no longer, and bled to death soon after friends had carried them home. Vest had a wife and seven children, and Jackson leaves a widow and six children.

## HAVANA BESIEGED.

Insurgents Attack Water Supply and Bridge Approaches.

Havana was startled Saturday night by two explosions. It was soon found that the stone bridges of Christina and Concha and the aqueduct of Fernando Septima were the points that had suffered from the dynamite. The bridges were partially destroyed, and the pipes on the aqueduct, upon which the city is dependent for its water supply, were much damaged. It cannot yet be stated how extensive is the damage done or how long it will require to remedy it. The dynamite was placed by agents of the insurgents. The great apprehension is felt on account of the security and effectiveness with which the insurgents have been able to carry out the plan. Fever and smallpox have broken out, which, in the unwholesome state of affairs, threatens to become epidemic. Many are suffering from measles, and there is much intestinal trouble among the inhabitants owing to poor and insufficient food. The failure of the water supply under these conditions is a dire calamity.

## SAY CROFTON IS UNFIT.

Commander of Fort Sheridan Physically Incapacitated.

Col. R. A. Crofton, in command of the Fifteenth Infantry at Fort Sheridan, has been pronounced physically unfit for active service by the post surgeon, Major Henry Lippincott, and his assistant surgeon, Captain Charles E. Woodruff. Acting upon the report of the post surgeon, Major General Merritt, commander of the Department of the Missouri, has forwarded a recommendation to the Secretary of War that the colonel be ordered before a retiring board for examination. For a long time matters at the post have not been running smoothly. Col. Crofton has been in several shoddy scrapes with his subordinates. He declares he is physically sound as ever, and says this latest move is the work of his enemies.

## HAD A PREMONITION OF DEATH.

Farmer John Tears Disposes of Business Affairs and Dies.

John Tears, a Burlington, N. Y., farmer, who last year rented the Hallday farm, where the triple murder was committed three years ago, died Thursday, as he had predicted. Early in the morning Mr. Tears arose from bed and started his family by saying that he had received a premonition of his death, to occur before the close of the day. His wife tried in vain to convince him that he was in hallucination, but the man contended he was not mistaken, and gave directions regarding his business affairs. About noon he went to bed and soon died.

## Miners Lose the Strike.

News from Globe, Ariz., announce that the mines of the old Dominion Mining and Smelting Company have closed down, throwing 250 men out of employment. The shut-down is the result of trouble between miners and the superintendent, who reduced the wages of the men from \$2.50 to \$2.25 per day. The miners took up the grievance of the men affected and demanded \$3 per day for all men, none but union men to be employed, and all Mexicans to be discharged. The superintendent was warned that if he did not accede to these demands, the men would be out of town. Under these threats he acceded to the demands. The matter was reported to the Boston office and the mine was ordered shut down. The Old Dominion is one of the best in Arizona, and was recently purchased by Lever Bros. of New York, the price being \$2,000,000.

## Murdered His Brother-in-Law.

Ben Dice, a rancher near Visalia, Cal., killed his brother-in-law, Grant Smith, in a quarrel about water in an irrigation ditch Sunday morning. Dice was a sister of the murdered man. Bad blood had existed between the two families on account of water.

## To Refund Hawaii's Debt.

P. C. Jones, a member of one of the largest banking houses in Honolulu and minister of finance under the late monarchy, is in New York to interest Eastern capitalists in the refunding of the Hawaiian Government's indebtedness.

## Free Masons Are Burned Alive.

In the Indian revolt in Oaxaca, Mexico, Free Masons were attacked, particularly at Jaquila, where the Indians committed several atrocities, burning prominent Masons alive.

## MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$3.50 to \$4.50; hogs, shipping grades, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, fair to choice, \$2.50 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 57c to 58c; corn, No. 2, 27c to 28c; oats, No. 2, 17c to 18c; rye, No. 2, 32c to 33c; butter, choice creamery, 14c to 15c; eggs, fresh, 30c to 31c; potatoes, per bushel, 15c to 25c; broom corn, common to choice, \$2.50 to \$5.00 per ton.  
Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$4.50; hogs, choice light, \$3.00 to \$3.50; sheep, common to prime, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2, 58c to 60c; corn, No. 1 white, 27c to 28c; No. 2 white, 21c to 22c; No. 2 yellow, 25c to 27c; No. 2 white, 17c to 18c; rye, No. 2, 31c to 32c.  
Cincinnati—Cattle, \$3.50 to \$4.50; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2, 58c to 60c; corn, No. 2 white, 27c to 28c; No. 2 white, 21c to 22c; No. 2 yellow, 25c to 27c; No. 2 white, 17c to 18c; rye, No. 2, 31c to 32c.  
Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 red, 63c to 64c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 26c to 28c; No. 2 white, 19c to 21c; rye, No. 2, 34c to 36c; clover seed, \$4.45 to \$4.80.  
Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 spring, 57c to 58c; corn, No. 3, 20c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 16c to 20c; barley, No. 2, 30c to 32c; rye, No. 1, 33c to 35c; pork, mess, \$7.00 to \$7.50.  
Buffalo—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$4.75; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.25 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2 red, 61c to 66c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 31c to 32c; oats, No. 2 white, 21c to 24c.  
New York—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$4.50; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 64c to 65c; corn, No. 2, 33c to 34c; oats, No. 2 white, 22c to 23c; rye, 12c to 16c; eggs, Western, 11c to 13c.

## HOW THE CASH WENT.

THE FINANCIAL LEGISLATION OF CONGRESS REVIEWED.

Mr. Cannon Says the Appropriations Were Small and Economical, While Mr. Sayres Says They Were Enormous and Profligate.

As Viewed by Both Sides.  
Chairman Cannon, of the House Appropriations Committee, and ex-Chairman Sayres Thursday made public a joint statement concerning the expenditures authorized by this Congress, discussing them from the Republican and Democratic standpoints respectively.

The total appropriations for the session, including permanent annual appropriations, is \$515,759,830.49.  
Mr. Cannon's statement begins: "The appropriations charged to this session include \$119,054,100 under the permanent laws, of which amount \$50,000,000 is for sinking fund and \$30,500,000 for interest on public debts, or \$3,555,614.40 more than was included at the last session of Congress in the statements of appropriations, and is on account of the increase of \$162,315,400 in the bonded indebtedness of the country by the present administration up to February, 1898, the interest and sinking fund charge on account of the later bond issue of \$100,000,000 in February, 1896, amounting to \$4,400,000, not being included in the estimates of permanent appropriations."

Increase in Public Debt.  
"The increase in the principal and interest bearing debt of the country under the present administration amounts to \$262,315,400, which entails annual interest charges of \$11,492,610, and to meet the sinking fund obligations the further sum of \$2,623,154."

During the administration of Mr. Harrison the principal of the interest bearing debt was reduced \$28,192,900 and the annual interest charges \$10,327,716.  
"The regular annual bills, including deficiencies, as passed by the House made a reduction in the total estimates submitted by the executive of \$26,083,191.67;

they were increased by the Senate \$22,442,300, and as they became laws they appropriated \$10,636,624.06 less than as passed by the House, \$12,233,818.24 more than as they passed the House, and \$13,374,373.48 less than the estimated requirements of the administration.  
Excluding Rivers and Harbors.  
"The regular annual appropriations, including deficiencies, made at the last session of Congress amounted to \$338,636,896.97, and included no river and harbor bill. Excluding the river and harbor bill passed at this session, the regular annual bills as passed by the House appropriated \$337,608,082.27, or more than \$100,000,000 less than was appropriated by the last Democratic Congress."

Mr. Cannon criticizes the Treasury Department because it has expended \$7,377,440 for the present year in collecting the revenue from customs estimated at \$145,000,000 for the last fiscal year, 1897, under President Harrison's administration there was collected under the McKinley tariff act \$177,452,000 of customs revenue at a total cost of only \$6,607,517.  
The bills establishing salaries, instead of the fee system, for officers of the United States courts, he says, will save \$1,000,000 annually and minimize frivolous and malicious prosecution, and special attention is called to the fact that Congress made no increase of salaries or employees in the Government department.

## Table of Appropriations.

The following table of appropriations is given:  
Fifty-first Congress... \$988,417,183.34  
Fifty-second Congress... 1,027,104,547.92  
Fifty-third Congress... 989,239,205.69  
Fifty-fourth Congress—  
First session... 515,759,830.49  
Second session... 512,121,318.24  
Total... \$2,025,537,877.19  
The Harrison administration ended June 30, 1892, are given as \$1,150,631,214; expenditures, \$998,132,501; for the two complete fiscal years of Cleveland's administration, revenues, \$811,112,094; expenditures, \$792,740,878.  
Mr. Sayres, in his statement, says of the total appropriations for the session: "This sum exceeds the appropriations made during the last session of the Fifty-third Congress by \$18,761,290.83, and those of the first regular session of that Congress by \$23,629,155. It is less than the appropriations by the second session of the Fifty-second Congress by only \$3,744,538.72, although at the latter session \$39,352,494.85 more was appropriated for pensions than at this session. It is more than the first session of the Fifty-third Congress by \$21,303,671.84, and \$25,044,040.80 less than the appropriations at the second session of the Fifty-third Congress."

The Senate organized this session by a combination of Republican and Populist votes, placing the control of committees in the hands of Republicans, by its amendments to appropriation bills as they passed the House, proposed to increase the total \$22,920,442.80. By conference the two Houses this aggregate increase was reduced to \$12,233,818.24.

"The appropriations made at the second session of the Fifty-first Congress exceeded those made at the first session of the same Congress by \$46,767,612.64, or nearly 10 per cent. If the same proportionate increase should be made at the next session, then the appropriations will not be less than \$555,000,000."

Contracts authorized by this session be estimates as follows:  
Rivers and harbors, \$59,616,404; public buildings, light-house and revenue cutters, \$1,406,000; defenses and armament, \$4,195,076; new warships, \$12,900,000; District of Columbia, \$125,000. Total, \$78,148,480.

In conclusion Mr. Sayres says: "If the present Congress had rigidly refused authority for additional contracts, and had appropriated only to meet the immediate or fiscal year requirements under existing ones, the next Congress and administration would have been in a position to largely reduce appropriations and expenditures, and the by the first of the government could easily have returned to an economical method of expenditure. This, however, has not been done, and the majority in Congress must be held responsible for this grave dereliction in public duty."

## MARION BUTLER.

North Carolina's Populist Senator and Father of the Bond Bill.

Marion Butler, the Populist, who is father of the bond bill passed by the Senate, is in Congress by grace of the sovereign State of North Carolina. Senator Butler is Matt W. Ransom's successor. He was made Senator in 1895, and this was a climax of a career which began on a North Carolina farm. Mr. Butler was born in 1833. His mother prepared him for college. The University of North Carolina graduated him in 1855, and then he began to be a lawyer. He studied for a short time then was called home. He was the first born, his father had died, and he must take care of the farm. He sowed and reaped and between times, he looked after the education of his brothers and sisters. In addition, he taught at



SENATOR MARION BUTLER.

a neighboring academy for three years. Then he branched out. In 1858 he joined the Farmers' Alliance and bought a newspaper—the Clinton Caucasian. His ideas suited the alliance, even in that early day, and Butler was sent to the State Senate. Here he was leader of the rural forces and introduced all their reform measures. The alliance made him its State president in 1891 and 1892. He be-

came the principal organizer of the People's party. His greatest success was in carrying out the campaign of 1894, at which his party was triumphant and for which his reward was the toga. Senator Butler is a trustee and member of the executive board of the University of North Carolina.

## THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION.

Three Men Who Are Candidates for the Presidency.

With the Republican nomination disposed of, the attention of the country will be directed toward Chicago, where the Democratic convention will meet July 7 to place in nomination candidates for President and Vice-President and adopt a platform. Who the nominees will be is a matter of conjecture, but a press correspondent says, there is no longer any doubt that the platform will declare for the free coinage of silver. The silver element will control the gathering and will doubtless dictate the nomination. Whether they select an out-and-out silver man for President or take a middle solid silver with a gold lining will depend on circumstances that cannot be foreseen. The present probabilities favor Horace Boies, of Iowa, but there are other strong candidates, such as William R. Morrison of Illinois, Richard Park Bland of Missouri, James E. Campbell of Ohio, Claude Matthews of Indiana, and Benjamin H. Tillman of South Carolina. All of these are too well known to require even a brief biography. Mr. Campbell is the distinguished ex-Governor of Ohio, who defeated Foraker and was himself defeated by McKinley and Bushnell. He is about 50 years of age. Claude Matthews is the farmer-statesman who since 1892 has been Governor of Indiana and has distinguished himself as an able executive. Benjamin H. Tillman first came into national prominence when as Governor of South Carolina he introduced the dispen-

sary laws which closed the liquor traffic under the control of the State. He has since gained notoriety by his erratic course in the United States Senate.

## The Old Idea of Electricity.

When people speak today of the "electric fluid" and the "electric juice," they are only carrying out the idea, common a generation ago, that electricity was not only a fluid, but a liquid, which flowed from point to point as water flows. That, at any rate, was the theory held by one good old lady. This story is told by an operator who now "works" one of the press wires in New York.

I learned telegraphy, as I suppose most boys do, by setting up a "sounder" at home. I had it on a shelf by the kitchen window. The battery stood in a corner under a table. The wires from the battery to the sounder were full of kinks, as they always are, to take up the slack wire without cutting it.

One day the sounder would not work at all, and I got out of patience. Then my good old grandmother, who had been watching me, said: "John Henry, you let me get at it a minute. I'll make it go, if there's any go to it."

She put on her big silver-bowed spectacles and looked it all over. Then she crawled under the table—forgetting all about her rheumatism—and carefully straightened out all the kinks and loops in the wires. Such a satisfied smile as she wore when she got up!

"There, John Henry," she said, "I don't believe but what it will work all right now. You try it and see. You hadn't ought to expect that electric fluid to run through anything so crooked as them wires was."

The funny part of the story is that "it did work all right." In straightening the wires the old lady had probably pulled one of them a little way through the zinc in the battery, and so had made the connection; but she insisted that all that was necessary was to get the kinks out of the wires.

## LABORS OF CONGRESS

RECENT SESSION THE SHORTEST FOR THIRTY YEARS.

Bills that Have Become Laws—Many Measures Introduced, but Few of Importance Added to the Laws of the Country—Pending Legislation.

Done at Washington  
The Fifty-fourth Congress was the shortest "long session" in thirty years, and one of the shortest in the history of the Government. Of the measures which have become laws, the most important, from an international standpoint, was the bill creating the commission "to determine the true divisional line between Venezuela and British Guiana." Of scarcely less general interest were the bills prohibiting prize fighting in the territories; permitting appointments in the army and navy of former United States soldiers who had served in the rebellion, and making one year's residence in a territory a prerequisite to obtaining a divorce there. Excepting these, however, the remainder of the President's approval were not of a character to warrant special mention. The more important were the bills incorporating the National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution; opening the forest reservations in Colorado for the location of mining claims; regulating proof of death in pension cases; providing for a naval training station in San Francisco harbor; making it unlawful to shoot at any railway train or any person thereon, or to throw missiles into such train, and repealing clause 61 of the tariff law, providing for a rebate on alcohol used in the arts. The session, however conspicuous by reason of a larger number of bills in the House than during any similar period for a quarter of a century. In total number of bills introduced during the entire Fifty-third Congress was 3,987, of which 4,405 were introduced during the first session, which corresponds to the session just closed, and in which latter the aggregate is swollen to 9,500.

## Status of Cuban Legislation.

The popular interest in the Cuban revolution was shown in the large number of resolutions—more than fifty in all—that was introduced and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. After careful consideration a concurrent resolution was reported, for which was subsequently substituted, in conference, the Senate resolution expressing the sympathy of the United States with the insurgents, recognizing their belligerency, and calling upon the President to use his good offices to secure the independence of the island. Being a concurrent and not a joint resolution, it did not call for the President's signature, and its only effect was to express the sentiment of the American people as reflected in the two houses of Congress. Measures for which there has been a widespread demand include the bankruptcy bill, the McCall bill, providing an educational test for immigrants; the labor commission and labor arbitration bills, and the bill simplifying the rules of the pension office, so as to facilitate the adjustment of private pension cases.

The Finance Committee, to which was referred 105 different measures, succeeded in getting through the Senate but three of any importance that have become laws—the filled cheese bill, the amendment to the administrative feature of the tariff act permitting express companies to pay the duty on packages valued at not more than \$500 and deliver it to the residence of the importer direct, and the bill to repeal the free alcohol clause of the tariff law. The Dingley bill came out of committee with a free coinage amendment which prevailed in the Senate, and this proposition was rejected by the House.

## Bills Placed on the Calendar.

Some of the most important bills prepared by the committees were not given a hearing in either house or passed but one house, and will be on the calendar for consideration during the short session if their supporters are able to bring them to the floor. Among the most important of these are the Lodge-McCall bill for an educational test for immigrants, with the Corliss amendment to prevent the invasion of Canadian day laborers; the Phillips industrial education bill; the Curtis bill to lessen the number of crimes for which the death penalty can be imposed by United States courts; the bankruptcy bill, and the Pickler pension bill, all of which were passed by the House. Among those passed by neither house are the same bill as the Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma; that for the reorganization of the government of Alaska; the