

# PRaise BY Cannon

## Speaker Commends Work of the Sixty-First Congress.

Gen. Smith Says Uncle Same Is Not Prepared for War—How Congress Aided Morse—Dolly Madison's House.

Washington.—On the day congress adjourned Speaker Cannon issued a statement covering the work of the sixty-first session, which he says was the best he has known in his 35 years experience. Incidentally "Uncle Joe" said he expects to return next December and will place his fate as speaker in the hands of his party.

"I do not think the work of a congress should be measured by the volume of business, but by the character of the legislation and the care taken in its consideration," he said. "Measured by that standard, the sixty-first congress will take a high place in the record of legislation. There have been, however, more than 6,000 of the 27,000 bills considered and reported from committees and about 300 public laws enacted in this session, as against 400 public laws for the entire sixtieth congress. I can commend the entire membership of the house for industry and intelligence in their legislative work of this session."

Continuing, the speaker said: "In my judgment, the two sessions of the sixty-first congress have accomplished more and done better work than any other congress of which I have been a member. It has rarely occurred that a congress enacting a new tariff law has accomplished much else save handling the appropriations for the government. This congress has not only revised the tariff, without disturbing business, but it has enacted important legislation, amending the Interstate Commerce law, making that law more effective, giving the Interstate Commerce greater power and creating a court of commerce, and this without seriously affecting the business of the railroads or checking their increase of wages to their employes. This seems to me to meet the definition of statesmanship in legislation.

"This congress has also enacted a



Speaker Cannon.

postal savings bank law, which is an entirely new legislation, blazing a new trail in lawmaking in this country. That law is not on the statute books by means of hurried enactment.

"After the house had prepared a tentative bill, a Republican caucus was called to consider it, and after three long sessions a bill was agreed upon which received the majority vote in the house, and the senate also accepted that bill without amendment.

"In my judgment this is the best illustration of party legislation we have had in many years, and it fully justifies the necessity for party action in a great legislative body. If there had not been party solidarity on this bill there would have been no legislation creating postal savings banks." The speaker detailed other legislation which had been enacted.

"The appropriations," he said, "have been large, but not nearly as large as demanded by the people who were agitating over the development of the various departments of the government.

### INTEREST IN HISTORIC HOUSE.

A great deal of interest centers just now around what is called "the Dolly Madison house," which is one of the historic spots in Washington. This house stands at the corner of H street and Madison place, near the Belasco theater, which is built on the ground where Secretary Seward lived during the war, and where he came near receiving his mortal wound on the night that Lincoln was assassinated.

It was in this quaint old house that Dolly Madison, the widow of the fourth president, lived and held court for a number of years as the social queen of the National Capital. It is said that her home was a fair rival for the White House, for she was extremely popular, always agreeable, and was liked by the young as well as the old.

The house was built in 1825 by Richard Cutts, Mrs. Madison's brother-in-law. It came into the former president's hand the year before his death, and he in turn bequeathed it to his widow, Dolly.

In 1837 congress appropriated \$30,000 with which it purchased Madison's diary, and with this money Mrs. Madison was enabled to take up her residence in her city home. Washington was always attractive to her, and she was glad to get back. Her return was a renewal in private life of all her social triumphs. Her parlors were always thronged, and she entertained practically up to the time of her death in 1849.

After her death the home was sold to Admiral Wilkes, who occupied the house until the civil war. During the second year of the war Gen. McClellan used the house as his headquarters, and its parlors then were the scenes of great military and naval social functions.

### MORSE AND THE TELEGRAPH.

Here is a story of the establishment of the first telegraph line and the circumstances surrounding Mr. Morse's efforts to get congress to appropriate money for the construction, as told by Senator Bailey, of Texas, in the senate.



Senator Joseph W. Bailey.

It is remarkable now to read the story in all its baldness, and yet it is absolutely true, and one is fairly startled to think of what might have happened if Morse had become a little bit discouraged and failed to go on with his wonderful invention. Senator Bailey said that inventor Morse had appealed to congress for an appropriation of \$40,000 for the construction of a telegraph line between Baltimore and Washington. The bill was introduced in the senate, and passed that body near the closing hours of the session. After its passage in the senate Mr. Morse hurried over to the house, and, approaching the doorkeeper, said:

"Will you tell me who is the kindest-hearted man in the house?" "Sure," said the doorkeeper; "Mr. Carruthers, of Tennessee."

Mr. Carruthers was called out, the matter was presented to him by Mr. Morse, and together they went down to the basement of the Capitol, where a miniature plant had been installed for a practical demonstration. Mr. Morse went to one table where there was an instrument, and sent a message dictated by Mr. Carruthers to an assistant at another table, who received it and transmitted the same message back to the first table. Mr. Carruthers was satisfied, the bill passed the house, and in due course of time the line was constructed connecting the two cities.

"And it was a strange coincidence," said Senator Bailey, "that the first message sent over the line from Baltimore was one announcing the nomination of James K. Polk, who had been Mr. Carruthers's opponent for the presidency."

### GEN. SMITH'S INTERVIEW.

Officers of the army and navy who are in Washington were much interested by the interview recently attributed to Brig.-Gen. Jacob H. Smith, retired—perhaps better known as "Hell Roaring Jake"—who has just returned from a tour of the world, in which he declared that the United States is wholly unprepared for war. He was discussing the possibility of a clash with Japan.

"I believe there is little probability of trouble," he said, "but if it comes our army is wholly unprepared and our navy is by no means ready. I hope to heaven such a war never is started. I am one of those soldiers who doesn't want war. But I believe the best way to prevent war is to be prepared.

"Now, how about our army? The people will not let us have enough soldiers to be of any use. The Japanese would seize the Philippines and Sandwich Islands before we could say 'Jack Robinson.' We haven't enough of an army to hold these islands and we have to send our troops 14,000 miles to get them there. Once we lost our Pacific islands we never could get them back.

"As for the navy, our ships are all right, but our idea of battle is different from the Japanese idea. They are as fanatical as Moslems and believe that every soldier killed in battle goes straight to heaven. They think nothing of sinking a ship. The men would go to the bottom singing hosannas. If an American general sacrificed his men as the Japanese commanders slaughtered theirs at Port Arthur there would not be a general fifteen minutes.

"Thank heaven, there is little probability of war. To be sure, the people of the west coast are bitter toward Japan, but Japan has her hands full with Korea and is in no financial condition to undertake another conflict. Then, too, the statesmen of the two governments are getting to understand each other and any trouble that comes up is sure to be settled by diplomacy."

### CROPS FOR DRY FARMING.

Fall-Sown Grains Generally Best for This Purpose.

Wheat is the great money-making crop of a large part of the semi-arid West. It is not particularly a drought-resistant crop, although certain varieties appear to succeed better than others in the dry districts. The hard Red Turkey or Russian wheat is the type or variety which has proven hardest and most productive throughout the Western part of the winter wheat belt. In the spring wheat states the standard sorts grown are Fife and Bluestem, which are also hard wheats. The Durum, or Macaroni wheat, is rapidly coming into use in the Northwestern states, and it appears to be harder and more productive than the ordinary spring wheats. This wheat was introduced from Russia, where it has long been grown in a climate and under conditions similar to those of the western part of the Northwest states. It is decidedly a "dry land farming" crop, and it is the hope of those interested in introducing this wheat that it may prove successful in districts where the rainfall is not sufficient or is too uncertain to grow the common wheat, and thus extend profitable wheat growing still farther west and into the semi-arid lands of the Mountain states.

At present, with the varieties grown, the success of the wheat crop in the West is more largely due to the fact that the crop grows during a part of the year when drouth is least apt to prevail than to the drought-resistant character of the crop. But wheat is a deep feeder and a rapid grower. The plant draws its food and moisture from a large volume of soil and is able to withstand considerable unfavorable weather conditions; yet the crop is often materially injured and the yield decreased by drouth during almost any period of its growth. By hot winds and unfavorable weather conditions a promising crop may be destroyed in a few days.

Wheat cannot stop growing and remain dormant during an unfavorable period of growth, as does kafir corn or sorghum. The grain must finish its growth and mature in about a certain period, whatever the conditions for growth may be.

Spring wheat is not well adapted for growing in Kansas, but with sufficient moisture to start it in the fall, and with the usual spring rains, winter wheat is a profitable crop, even in the western counties of the state, where the annual rain fall does not exceed fifteen to twenty inches.

However, the methods of growing the crop are crude. Often the Western farmer plants so many acres that he is unable to farm the land well, and the result is a poor crop, if the season is at all unfavorable.

Some farmers, however, are adopting better methods. Enough good farming has been done to prove that it pays to cultivate and till the land well. Mr. H. W. Campbell reported remarkable results from practice of his system of culture on the Pomeroy model farm, in Graham county, Kansas. For several years this farm was made to produce twice as much wheat per acre as the average crop in the surrounding country, with on other treatment of the soil except thorough tillage and cultivation.

At the Fort Hays Branch experiment station, in Ellis county, enough has been accomplished, in the ten seasons since that station was established, to demonstrate that in the semi-arid West good farming pays as well or even better than it does in the rich farming states of the Mississippi valley.

### Emmer.

Emmer has proved to be especially hardy and drought-resistant, and in the Northwestern states this grain has given greater yields per acre than barley or oats. However, at the Fort Hays station, in Western Kansas, emmer has not proved as hardy and productive as barley and oats. As a feed emmer will hardly take the place of barley and oats, but it may be ground and fed in combination with these grains or with corn. Wherever barley or oats produce well emmer is not an especially profitable crop to grow, but in those sections of the West in which the grains mentioned cannot be successfully grown, emmer may prove to be a profitable crop.

### Barley.

Barley is successfully grown in Kansas farther west than any other spring grain. In fact, barley is produced in larger quantities in the western counties of Kansas than in the central and eastern counties. The counties producing the largest number of bushels in 1900 were as follows: Pawnee, Barton, Ness, Rush, Thomas, Pratt and Hodgman. Each of these counties produced over 150,000 bushels of barley in the year mentioned.

### Winter Rye.

Another crop that grows successfully in western Kansas is winter rye. This crop, however, is not grown as extensively as barley, and is apparently a less profitable crop to grow than wheat.—Dry Farming Bulletin.

### Train Robbers Confess.

Fairfield, Cal.—Carl Dunbar Bishop, of Kansas City, Mo., who, under the name of Charles Dunbar, was arrested here as a suspect in connection with the robbery of the China and Japan fast mail near Benicia last April 17, has not only confessed his complicity in that crime, but has also admitted that he and his partner, Joseph C. Brown, robbed the postoffice at Armda, Cal., last June 15. Brown had previously confessed the train robbery.

### PROGRESS AND INDUSTRY.

Old age insurance is compulsory in Germany.

Musk imports in 1908 amounted to over \$80,000.

The silk of the spider is lighter and stronger than that secured from the silkworm.

Lavender and rose perfumes are credited with the virtue of being microbe-killers.

Four and a half million gross boxes of matches are used in London in a year.

Traveling cranes are now equipped with scales, so the load may be weighed in transit.

There are about 3,000 weddings every twenty-four hours, taking the entire world into consideration.

The natives of Korea carry visiting cards which measure about twelve inches square, and when their use is required they are merely shown.

The Farthing Gazette, probably the cheapest daily newspaper in existence has been started in Moscow, and has already a considerable circulation.

While two police were set aside to guard the Bank of England, and two the stock exchange, nine were employed to look after the Beckton gas works.

During 1908 the automobile export business of France, United States, United Kingdom, Italy and Germany, the five leading countries engaged in their manufacture and sale, aggregated more than \$45,000,000, against \$9,000,000 in 1902, a growth of 400 per cent. Automobile exports from the four foreign countries named, taken as a whole, increased from \$8,000,000 to \$39,000,000, a gain of 385 per cent, while those from the United States increased from \$1,000,000 to \$5,500,000, a gain of 450 per cent.

### FASHION HINTS



A very attractive dress for a young girl is made tunic fashion of dark blue Rajah, with Persian Bands as trimming. The undersleeves are of deep ecru net, finely tucked.

### WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT.

When It Came to Taking the Sultan's Medicine, Harem Rebelled.

Abdul Hamid, ex-Sultan of Turkey, is certainly a miserable old man. To cap the climax of all his woes it is stated that he has been deserted by his beloved and, up to recently, devoted harem. Wouldn't that make any Turk just a little bit disgusted with life in general, especially a man who has always been famed for the beauty of the ladies who reigned over his heart and home? According to La Turquie, the ex-Sultan was in such fear of being poisoned that all food or drink which he took had previously to be tasted by some member of his entourage. Recently he decided to make similar regulations with regard to the medicine prescribed for him by his medical attendants.

The result was that the women of the harem were called upon to swallow nauseous drugs and potions, a regimen which soon told upon their health. In order to save themselves further experiences of the kind they decided to desert the ex-Commander of the Faithful, which they did at the dead of night, so as to "avoid painful parting scenes with the prisoner."

From an incident at Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, it would appear that after the dispersal of the ex-Sultan's harem some of the women were fascinated by the footlights of the vaudeville stage. The chief attraction at a Frankfort music hall has been eight "genuine odalisques" from Abdul Hamid's harem, who appeared under the charge of two eunuchs.

A member of the audience discovered that one of the women spoke German with a pure Berlin accent. He complained to the police, who proceeded to the hotel where the party stayed to investigate the supposed fraud. The Turkish consul, being called, declared that the passports proved that seven of the members of the troupe were actually women of the harem. The eighth alleged odalisque, who hailed from Berlin, fell on her knees and implored the consul's protection, declaring that she had been kidnaped by the two Turks in charge of the troupe.

### Kept It Several Weeks.

Cynicus—It is impossible for a woman to keep a secret.

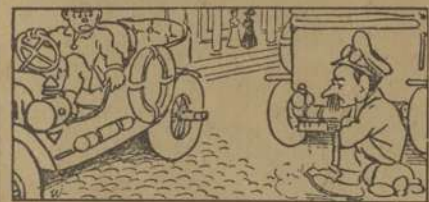
Henpecked—I don't know about that. My wife and I were engaged for several weeks before she said anything to me about it.

### A BIRD AVEGEL.

Editor—I am obliged to decline your poem with thanks. I am very sorry, but—Poet—But what? Editor—The management insists upon my declining all poems that way

# HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

## Sorrowful Face Due to Other Troubles



NEW YORK.—A small, quiet, but sorrowful if not disgusted looking man sat by the side of a medium-sized automobile that was drawn out of the road as a large touring car came along, driven by a man with an interrogatory aspect. The man in the touring car had seen that auto every time he passed that day, so he slowed up and leaned over:

"How long have you been here?" "Several hours."

"Can't you find out what the matter is?" "No."

"Inlet valve all right?" "Yes."

"Trouble with spark plug?" "Think not."

"How are your batteries?" "O. K."

"Haven't got a short circuit, have you?" "Oh, no."

"How's your commutator?" "Great."

"Perhaps your worm gear is clogged."

"No; all clear."

"Got any gasoline in your tank?" "Plenty."

"How about your circulation? Cylinder isn't bound, is it?"

"No, sir."

"Tires seem all right?"

"Never better."

"Well, maybe your vibrator isn't adjusted."

"That's all right."

"Have you looked at your carburetor?"

"Yes."

"How about the cam shaft?"

"Grand."

"Have you tightened your connecting rods, examined your clutches and gone over the differentials?"

"Yes, yes."

The man in the touring car paused a moment and then, looking at the stranger by the roadside, said at last: "What's the matter with that machine of yours?"

"There isn't anything the matter with this machine; but since noon my wife has been in that house over there kissing her sister's first baby good-by. When she gets through, if you are not more than a thousand miles away and will leave our address, I will telegraph or cable the glad news."

## How a Bride's Roses Led Her to Tears



KANSAS CITY, MO.—When Willie Boy got married he bought his wife flowers, of course. And after the wedding Mr. Willie Boy naturally decided to preserve the flowers to look at for all time by pickling them in alcohol. That was all right—it didn't cost much, just \$2 or \$3—but there was a 700-mile trip before Mr. and Mrs. Willie Boy got home.

At first they decided they'd pack the treasure in the brass jardiniere "Art" sent and bring it home in the bottom of one of the trunks. Then Emaline—that's her first name—remembered that among other things it might explode and ruin her perfectly good rose-colored dress that "Doc" went crazy over before she was married, and that there was a 26-inch willow plume in the same trunk, not to speak of a pretty coat, a lavender gown, a few more hats, a couple of hundred doodads or some more clothes. So the natural consequence came. Willie Boy carried the remains.

The Pullman was hot and Willie Boy thought of the explosion. No use leaving the jar out on the vestibule. It might break there. He wanted to stay in the Pullman, but he couldn't. He had to stay outside and hold the pickled roses. Night came and Willie Boy was sleepy. He went to bed, but he didn't sleep; he was too busy hanging the roses out of the window to keep the alcohol cool.

Kansas City came, and then home; Emaline walked into the house and Willie Boy followed with the pickled once-were roses.

"What'll we do with 'em?" he asked. "Why, put them in the attic, of course," Emaline answered.

Willie Boy hadn't been married very long and he wasn't independent. Still there surged into his face the blood of battle and his voice spluttered as he spoke.

"A-attic?" he asked. "Will we? We won't. I carried those things 700 miles, and if they're worth carrying that far they're worth looking at, even if I don't think they amount to much. Attic nothing. Mantel, that's where they're going, understand—mantel. Hear me?"

And that's the reason Emaline cried the first day she had got to her new home.

## Mosquito Gets Credit for a Runaway



NEW YORK.—A mosquito which apparently was a cross of the famous or notorious families of Jersey well-borers and Staten Island rock-drillers, saw George Gordon's nose, buzzed a little song about "Oh, for a pasture new!" and swept down upon the nose. The nose and George were at that moment behind a horse that George was driving.

Now, Gordon had had all he could do to manage that skittish steed before the advent of the insect. When he felt the first jab of the skeeter's surgical scissors George started to knock the squatter off his nasal territory. But he restrained his hand, for in that instant he remembered that he needed both hands to handle the fractious horse.

And there was George in a dilemma equal to that ancient one that concerned a devil and a deep sea. If he didn't knock that mosquito off his nose he'd lose his life blood, but if he took a hand from the reins to deliver

that knockout swing away would go his bad-tempered horse!

Gordon shook his head violently and blew his breath toward the mosquito to dislodge it, but all to no purpose. The insect held on and just bored and bored. Gordon gritted his teeth and remembered the story he had read in school about the Spartan. But what was a mere fox gnawing at a boy's vitals to a real, war-size Jersey mosquito sinking an artesian well in a man's nose!

George could stand it no longer. Up went one hand in a savage sweep. It missed the mosquito. Forgetting all except his desire for vengeance, George swung with the other hand.

And as the skeeter buzzed "Ha, ha!" the horse, freed from control, bolted. Perhaps the wind created by the speed blew the mosquito off Gordon's nose. At any rate the pest vanished. Just as Gordon grabbed the reins and started to saw on the bit a wheel struck a stone and out he shot. He landed bruised and stunned at the side of the road.

Dr. Frederick T. Witte, who was passing in his auto, got out, revived Gordon and took him home in his machine. When they arrived at the Gordon domicile, lo! there was the runaway horse standing quietly at the stable door.

## Eat Muskrat, Maybe; Farm in Chicago



CHICAGO.—"Loins of Chicago Grown Muskrat with Bullrush Sauce." Bills of fare in Chicago restaurants will carry the foregoing item as a "special, fresh today" entree if the plans of three pioneer "muskrat farmers" culminate in success.

The first muskrat farm has been started. Its products are to be food and fur. Its market will be Chicago, as a beginning at least, but success may broaden its scope. Mark Gelder, loan merchant, 1732 South State street; Jack Eck, painter, 348 Twenty-sixth street, and John Horan, Willow Springs, are the proprietors of the farm. Its location is in the "Sag" in the towns of Worth and Palos, 20 miles southwest of Chicago. It comprises 190 acres, is more than a mile

long and consists of the fairest stretch of swamps and shallow, little lakes to be found in this section of the country. It already has a large muskrat population.

The birth of the farm came when Gelder signed a lease for the land with Mrs. Catherine Rawlings, its owner, for a term of 15 years, starting on April 16, at a rental of \$200 a year in advance.

The farm may figure as a worthy champion in the fight against the high cost of living. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson recently recommended the meat of muskrats as a food. He emphasized its cheapness and its good qualities, including flavor and nutritious value. The farm may enable many people to follow his advice.

"Our first idea was just to trap for the furs," said Gelder, "but knowing muskrats were good to eat, we decided to investigate conditions and try to promote muskrats as a popular article of diet. We have strong hopes of success, for a trial will convince people that the meat of the muskrat is good."