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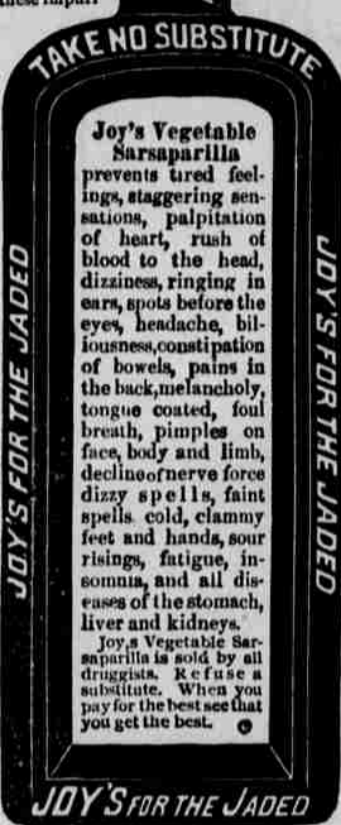
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## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

### ROUTINE WORK OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION.

Substance of the Bills and Resolutions introduced in the Senate and House—Condensed Record of the Doings of the National Lawmakers—Senate.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Senator Wolcott, who has been absent in Europe for some months, was present in the senate today and took the prescribed oath.

Hale, from the committee on naval affairs, reported back favorably the bill to authorize the secretary of the navy to increase the number of enlisted men in the navy. He directed attention to the importance of the bill, and gave notice that he would call it up at an early day.

Butler offered two amendments to the free-coinage substitute for the house bond bill. The first prohibits the sale of interest-bearing bonds without the express consent of congress, and the second makes it mandatory on the secretary of the treasury to redeem greenbacks and treasury notes in silver as long as the market price of 412½ grains of silver is not lower than that of 29½ grains of gold.

At the conclusion of the morning hour Sherman, moved that the senate adjourn, it being understood that the Republicans desired to hold a caucus.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The debate on the senate free coinage substitute for the house bond bill was opened today by Jones of Arkansas in a two hours' speech, which was followed with close attention. Jones took strong grounds for the free and independent coinage of silver, contending that was the only method by which the distress in the country could be alleviated and the treasury department relieved from its dependence on the speculative holders of gold. There was no reply to his argument today, but the debate will be resumed when the senate meets again. During the morning hour Pritchard made a speech in favor of the re-enactment of the McKinley law, and White made some remarks in favor of amending the rules of the senate, so as to give the majority the power to bring a measure to a vote whenever it saw fit. Morgan, the former chairman of the committee on foreign relations, introduced a resolution conveying the congratulations of congress to President Uger.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Morgan's speech on the silver bond bill was the event in the senate today, although a sharp personal colloquy between Hill, Pritchard and Butler enlivened the early hours. Morgan finally addressed himself personally to Sherman, who sat across the aisle, and for two hours arraigned the Ohio senator for the series of financial acts with which he is identified. At times Morgan was bitterly personal. In the main, however, the speech was a scholarly presentation of the silver question. Mitchell introduced and had passed by the senate a resolution calling on the secretary of state for information as to the report of the special agent of the United States sent to the Fiji islands to investigate claims of B. W. Henry, of Oregon, and other American citizens to certain lands owned by them in the islands, and appropriated by the British government. Henry and the other citizens are now pressing for their money. Kyle introduced a resolution asking the president to recognize representatives of the Cuban insurgents whenever they appear to have a seat of government in the island, and a following of a majority of natives of that place. He is directed in that case to grant them belligerent rights. Gear of Iowa introduced a bill in the senate for the admission of New Mexico into the Union.

### HOUSE.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The subject of the annexation of the Hawaiian islands was broached in the house today by Spalding, in a resolution which provided that the Sandwich islands be erected into a new state to be called Hawaii, with a Republican form of government, to be adopted by the people, through deputies in convention, with the consent of the existing government. The conditions were imposed that all questions of boundary or complications with other governments be transmitted to the president to be laid before congress for final action before January 1, 1898; that all property pertaining to the public defense be ceded to the United States, but that the state retain all other property and the United States be liable for none of its debts. The resolution proposes as an alternative that Hawaii may be admitted as a state by treaties between the two governments, with one representative in congress, and proposed the appropriation of \$100,000 for making treaties. This resolution was referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The house gave its time today to a discussion of the proposed amendments to the rules of the fifty-first congress, which were provisionally adopted early in the session to govern the house. Two interesting discussions relieved the monotony of the technical debate. One was precipitated by Walker, chairman of the banking and currency committee, who made a fight against the proposition to drop the committee on banking and currency from the list of committees privileged to report bills to the house at any time. A partisan debate resulted, in which Walker was supported by the Democrats and a Republican contingent, which included many of the free silver men. Walker failed to carry his point. Hepburn inspired the second discussion by an amendment to direct the speaker to recognize any member who addressed him when no other member was on the

floor, and spoke against the growing power given by the rules to the speaker. He withdrew his position, however, after a speech by Bell, who claimed that it would secure for the Populist members the recognition of which he claimed they were deprived. The discussion of the rules was not finished.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The house, after devoting an hour to the consideration of business, reported from the District of Columbia committee today, took up the pension appropriation bill. General debate on the bill consumed the day. W. A. Stone, in charge of the bill, explained its provisions. Graf offered the amendment abandoned by the committee, inhibiting the suspension of pensions for fraud until the fraud had been proved in a United States court, and Bartlett opposed the proposed extension of the dependent act of 1890, by the revival of the inhibition of widows' pensions until they had proved their dependency on their daily labor for support. He estimated that the proposed extension would add 50,000 names to the pension rolls. In the house today, Dalzell of Pennsylvania introduced a bill constituting Andrew Carnegie, George Kelly, Charles Bachelor, Charles McGee and twenty-six other persons, a corporation under the name of the Lake Erie & Ohio Ship Canal Company, with power to construct and maintain a canal connecting Lake Erie and the Ohio river. The house committee on banking and currency considered the project for an international American bank, which was one of the recommendations of the pan-American congress, and was largely the idea of the late James G. Blaine. The bill puts the capital stock at \$5,000,000, and authorizes the bank to act as the financial agent of any government, state or municipality or corporation; to handle bonds, etc., but bars it from issuing notes to circulate as money in the United States.

### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Mr. Cleveland Writes to Senator Caffery About the Bond Issue.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The debate on the Elkins resolution in the senate last Friday, when the administration was accused by several senators of having entered into an agreement with the syndicate to float the expected issue of bonds, is the subject of a letter written Sunday, January 5, by President Cleveland to Senator Caffery. The knowledge that such a letter had been addressed to Mr. Caffery was obtained tonight, and the letter was made public by the latter. It is in the handwriting of the president, and covers six pages of closely written paper. It is as follows:

"I have read today in the Congressional Record the debate in the senate Friday, concerning the financial situation and the bond issue. I am amazed at the intolerance that leads even excited partisanship to adopt as a basis of attack the unfounded accusations and assertions of a maliciously mendacious and sensational newspaper.

"No banker or financier, nor any other human being, has been invited to visit Washington for the purpose of arranging in any way or manner for the disposition of bonds to meet the present or future needs of the gold reserve. No arrangement of any kind has been made for the disposition of such bonds to any syndicate, or through the agency of any syndicate. No assurance of such a disposal of bonds has been directly or indirectly given to any person. In point of fact, a decided leaning toward a popular loan and advertising for bids has been plainly exhibited on the part of the administration at all times when the subject was under discussion.

"Those charged with the responsibility of maintaining our gold reserve, so far as legislation renders it possible, have anxiously conferred with each other, and, as occasion permitted, with those having knowledge of financial and of the monetary conditions as to the best and most favorable means of selling bonds for gold.

"The usual importance of a successful result if the attempt is again made ought to be apparent to every American citizen who bestows upon the subject a moment's patriotic thought.

"The secretary of the treasury from the first moment that another sale of bonds seemed to be approaching desired to offer them if issued to the people by a public advertisement if they could thus be successfully disposed of. After full consideration he came to the conclusion to which I fully agree that the amount of gold in the reserve being now \$20,000,000 more than it was in February last, when a sale of bonds was made to a syndicate, and other conditions differing from those then existing, justify us in offering the bonds now about to be for sale by popular subscription.

"This is the entire matter, and all those particulars could have been easily obtained by any member of the senate by simple inquiry.

"If Mr. Morgan, or any one else, reasoning from his own standpoint, brought himself to the belief that the government would be constrained to sell bonds again to a syndicate, I suppose he would have a perfect right, if he chose, to take such steps as seemed to him prudent to put himself in condition to negotiate.

"I expect an issue of bonds will be advertised for sale tomorrow, and bids to be invited, not only for those allowed by law, but for such other and different bonds as congress may authorize during the pendency of the advertisement.

"Not having had an opportunity to confer with you in person since the present session of congress, and noticing your participation in the debate of last Friday, I have thought it not amiss to put you in possession of the facts and of the information herein contained."

## A GOLDEN OUTLOOK

### RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

The Best Winter Feed for Cows—Some Foreign Dairies—The Washington Dairy School—Some Valuable Information for Dairymen.

None of the resources of the great Northwest give more hope for future development than does the dairy industry.

A careful and conservative estimate, printed in the Yakima Republic, fixes the amount of butter used daily in the state of Washington at 50,000 pounds, and for the week, 350,000 pounds. This, at 25 cents a pound amounts to \$87,000 weekly. Now of this amount, as near as can be ascertained, the state of Washington only furnishes 50,000 pounds, which, at 35 cents per pound, amounts to \$12,500, leaving 300,000 pounds to be furnished from the East and outside the state, which, at 25 cents per pound, amounts to \$75,000 which goes out of the state weekly for that one article alone.

Since dairying has become a leading feature of Eastern Washington agriculture, writes Professor Spellman, of the Pullman Agricultural college:

"The question of winter feed for dairy cattle is an important one. In view of the fact that the various root crops do unusually well in this section, and are eminently adapted for stock feed, a few facts in regard to these crops will doubtless be appreciated by our farmers.

"The particular root crop that has proven the best adapted to feeding dairy cows is the mangel wurzel, white carrots are the best for horses. In selecting a variety of mangel wurzel, three points should be taken into consideration; first, select one that is free from fine, fibrous roots, so that when pulled it will be free from dirt; too much dirt fed to a cow may result in death. Second, one that does not grow too deep, so that it may be pulled without too much effort; and third, one that yields well.

"The Golden Tankard fills these conditions pretty well.

"In selecting a carrot, I would advise planting one of the half-long or stump-rooted varieties; they are easily pulled and yield well. Carrots are also fine feed for cows, and have the reputation of giving butter a yellow color. Carrot tops, however, should not be fed cows in milk, as they taint the milk badly. Mangel and beet tops are excellent cow feed.

"In regard to turnips, it may be said that this section is best adapted to the culture of the Swedish turnip, or rutabaga, as it is called. These do well here, and are excellent for sheep and cattle, but for cows giving milk they must be fed just after milking, and at least ten hours before milking again, or they will taint the milk and the butter made from it.

### The Dairy School.

The dairy school of Washington, at Pullman, will begin February 17, and continue eight weeks. The work in this school is entirely different in character from that done in the farmers' school. The dairy school is intended for the butter and cheese maker, and through instruction, accompanied by regular work in the laboratory, creamery and cheese factory, will be offered in milk testing and in butter and cheese making.

In order to make the instruction offered in the dairy school of the most practical value, the agricultural college has secured for instructor in dairying Adolph Schoenmann, of Plain, Wis. Mr. Schoenmann has been instructor during the past three years in the Wisconsin dairy school, which is, perhaps, the leading school of its kind in the West. He is also secretary of the Wisconsin and the Minnesota State Dairymen's Associations, and he holds a diploma and a gold medal for cheese exhibited at the world's fair in 1893. He is the author of two well-known books on dairying, namely, "Milk Testing" and "The Butter Fat and Dividend Calculator."

### Foreign Dairies.

In some of the dairies in the neighborhood of Edinburgh, and in all those near Glasgow, says the American Agriculturist, the butter is made by churning the cream and milk together. This is done in order to obtain the butter-milk, the demand for which is always great in large cities. When the milk and cream are to be churned together, the milk is kept in the coolers for from twelve to twenty-four hours, and then poured into a milk-tub. It remains here until required for churning; and will, during this time, have coagulated. If a certain quantity of milk is put into the milk-tub, and has coagulated before any more has creamed, the coagulated milk must in no way be disturbed, or, if the two quantities are mixed together, too much fermentation may be the consequence. The milk is not churned till it has become acid; and when once coagulation has taken place, it should be churned as early as convenient. If the milk has not fermented before churning, the buttermilk will keep for a much longer time, will have an agreeable taste, and will bear to be mixed with a little water. When the milk has fermented before being churned, the buttermilk will never be so good nor will it keep for such a length of time as the former.

### Italian Victory in Abyssinia.

Rome, Jan. 11.—News is received that the Italians in Abyssinia have defeated Emperor Menelik's forces at Makelth, the engagement taking place January 7. The Shoans lost heavily, while the Italians had only three of the native troops killed and a few wounded.

## A FIGHTING OYSTER.

In a Battle with a Starfish the Watchful Bivalve Killed Its Foe.

"To look at an oyster you would never imagine that there was any fight in it, would you?" asked an observant fisherman as he pried open the shell of one of the bivalves he was talking about. "No one would think an oyster could and would fight unless he had been a witness some time or other of the oyster's fighting qualities."

"One of the most exciting contests I ever saw was between an oyster and one of the most deadly enemies of the oyster family, and I am glad to say that the oyster won the fight. The enemy was a starfish, and if all of its kind were as fresh and indolent as this one was they wouldn't be a source of so much dread to the oyster farmer.

"Every person who has anything to do with raising oysters has seen many a battle between them and starfish. These destructive enemies of the oyster grow fast, but seldom attempt to attack the bivalves before they are 6 months old, and then their inexperience and overconfidence are apt to get them in a heap of trouble. A starfish that has cut its eye out, so to speak, will get the best of an oyster every time, for it will mount the shell, drill a hole through it, inject its stinging liquid into the oyster and envelope the whole thing with its capacious and elastic mouth stomach before the poor shellfish knows what has happened to it.

"A school of starfish can go through an oyster farm almost as quickly as a tornado can wipe out a wheat farm in Dakota. Starfish are virtually walking stomachs, and I have found them stretched over elms, shell and all, that were a great deal bigger than the natural dimensions of the starfish. When one of these rapacious marauders envelops a clam or an oyster, it simply turns itself wrong side out and pulls itself over its victim, as you would pull on a pair of new socks.

"This fight I was speaking about occurred in shallow water, and I had a good sight of it. I saw the starfish work warily along over the oyster, and then settle upon it. The bivalve was on the lookout, though, and when the starfish was near enough the oyster's shell closed like a steel trap on one of the starfish's five rays and cut it off as slick as if it had been done with a knife. A starfish doesn't mind the loss of a ray or two—in fact, it can stand the loss of four of its rays and then make its way off, in a short time spreading and growing the lost members again. But if the starfish loses all five of its rays its doom is sealed. It will die almost immediately.

"The oyster had no sooner clipped off one of its foe's legs than it set its trap again and waited for a renewal of the attack. This was not long in coming. The starfish dropped itself slowly, with as much confidence that I could almost see it, and was soon astride the oyster again. Again the trap flew shut, and the starfish rose with but three of its five rays left. But it was plucky, and with confidence unimpaired returned for the third round with the prompt and watchful oyster. The round was a repetition of the other two, and the starfish was bereft of another leg. The persistent enemy of the oyster had apparently set its mind on having that particular one, and without a moment's hesitation turned its crippled body to the fourth assault.

"The oyster was now mad all the way through and shifted its position, turning its open shell upward as the starfish dropped toward it. This was the last round of the fight, for the oyster caught both remaining rays of the starfish in the trap and snipped them off at one bite. The myless starfish turned over and sank to the bottom dead."—New York Sun.

### Weather Prophets.

An old man who acts as sexton in the one church of a little New Hampshire village has what he calls a "sure tellin' sign" to assist him in making those prognostications about the weather for which he has acquired a pleasant renown in the neighborhood.

"It's my old bellpope that tells me earth's sure when there's a dry spell comin', an when we may count on a good smart rain. She's just as reliable as last week's paper—or just about.

"When I take her in hand to ring for an evenin' meetin', an her strands is all kinder moistened up a string, I says to myself, 'We'll fetch a storm by tomorrow night, or my name ain't Keshik Hicks,' says I. An we'll fetch that storm tomorrow night—or thereabouts.

"But when I catch a holt of her on a real blusterin' July mornin', when the folks are all comin' along up the road with pay's leaf fans an sun umbrellas, an she's all squonched up together just as dry as an old bone, an not a mite o' give to her, why, I know what to expect. An when the folks stop an say, 'Don't you reckon we'll get some rain to cool us off before long, Mr. Hicks?' I'm obliged to say to 'em that I can't give 'em any unkerredgment.

"A man's eye is fearful unsertin, an even weather reports is kinder liable to prove more an then, but you take an old bellpope that's got the hang of the climate, as you might say, an she won't never mislead you. When she's dry, you can leave your umbrella to home, an when she's m'ist, why, if you don't see it smoochin' up in the east before long it'll be—'it'll be mos' likely because the storm has riz up in the middle o' the night an kedched you nappin'!"—St. Louis Republic.

### Ginseng in China.

The greatest care is taken by the Chinese of the pieces of ginseng of the finest quality. M. Huc says that throughout China, no chemist's shop is unprovided with more or less of it. According to the account given by Lockhart, medical missionary in China, of a visit to a ginseng merchant, it is stored in small boxes lined with sheet lead, which are kept in larger boxes containing quicklime for absorbing moisture. The pieces of the precious drug are further enclosed in silk wrappers and kept in little silk lined boxes. The merchant, when showing a piece hard of its wrappings to Mr. Lockhart for his inspection, requested him not to breathe on or handle it, while he dilated on its merits and related the marvelous cures he had known it to effect. The root is covered, according to quality, with the finest embroidered silk, plain cotton cloth or paper.—Chambers' Journal.

### Hampton's Southern Cross.

General Wado Hampton is still, more than any other living man, the idol of the people of South Carolina. Hardly less interesting than the aged warrior himself is his quaint home near Columbia. It is built from the debris of his fine residence that was burned during the war and was erected by his former slaves under his direction. As new rooms were added to the humble dwelling it assumed the form of a cross, and to the general's friends it is known as "The Southern Cross."—San Francisco Argonaut.