Panama Political Storm Subsiding

It costs $5000 to Bury a Dead Congressman and We Can't Burry Any Other Sort.

Washington D. C., January 21,1904.

The political storm blew half a gale in Congress concerning Ponama and the post office frauds has subsided somewhat and there is a tendency on the part of representatives of both parties to slow up. It will be some weeks before the Panama treaty can be sent to the isthmus and returned with any new amendments ratified, even after it is adopted by the Senate. This will afford ample time for Senators to exhaust international law hunt down precedents, and announce new departures. The general drift of congressional legislation is along the line of conserving and promoting commericial interests, without disturbing the great questions of tariff or currency. Politically both Republicans and Democrats are sanguine and hopeful, and the apparition of Perry Heath no longer causes consternation. The shadow of "increasing cloudiness with variable winds" in the Hanna forecast has passed away, and the great Ohio President maker will support whomsoever is nominated at Chicago. W. J. Bryan has made many speeches since his return from Europe and said many things which have set men to thinking, but he,too,agrees to support the St Louis nominee. The future is big with events which no prevision can discern. The people are quietly looking over the ground and lining up on either side.

The funeral of the Illinois Congressman on Thursday was another example of extravagant expenditure. Its exact cost has not yet been added up, but as Illinois is not very near at hand, it was probably at least $5000. Whenever a Congressman dies it is deemed "courtesy" to vote public money for an ostentatious leave taking. A committee of ten to twenty member is appointed by the Speaker to accompany the dead man from Washington to his former home. They charter a Pullman car and buffet, stock it with provisions, every necessity and luxury then fill up the rest with reporters, and others who wish to take a free ride Champagne and whisky are always on hand in great abundance, and as they are free to all, they are partaken of with avidity. On many occasions the committee has arrived at its destination in a dismantled and demoralized condition, with several of the members so intoxicated that they could not participate in the funeral. Sometimes the committee is equipped throughout with new silk hats at the expense of the government and on rare occasions waterproof coats have been added, to ensure comfort. A senator gave your correspondent one of the cigars freely handed out on one of these solemn picnics. It was, very appropriately, the color of gold, and it was enclosed in a little cut glass vial like a vial of attar of rose, with a dainty silk ribbon around its neck. Hundreds of these cigars are smoked on one of these junkets. Sometimes, $15,000 or $20,000 or even more is spent on one of these occasions, and on returning, the committee has frequently left their dead colleague's family behind in a state of destitution. Col Dick Bright, Sergeant at-arms, of the Senate under Cleveland and McKinley, made enemies in both parties because he refused to furish champagne and whisky free.

Many petitions have come to Congress from all parts of the country for an appropriation to improve harbors and rivers, but as an election is at hand both parties are proclaiming economy and it is very doubtful if a river and harbor bill will get through this session. Notwithstanding the proclamations of frugality, however, Senator Hanna is holding up his platter, as usual, for a subsidy for ships. He asks what good the Panama canal will do without more ships.

This is the coldest January that Washington has seen for twenty three years. Occasionally dandelions, forsythia, and tulips are in bloom at this date.

As if the pension list of the United States were not already large enough, interested parties are trying to induce Congress to create a civil pension list. To find out the Civil Service Bureau has been taking a census of all government employes and is preparing a report. It is proposed to give a pension of $50 a month to all clerks who have been in the employ of the government for thirty years and have reached the age of seventy. It would seem that a clerk on a good round salary for thirty years ought to save enough to keep him above want for the rest of his life.

Scientific wonders will never cease. Dr. Merril of the National Museum has explored a petrified forest in Montana and reports his opinion that it has turned to opal instead of agate.

Mrs. Roosevelt, having abandoned afternoon teas, it is thought they will now go out of fashion. A new wrinkle for cotillions this year is to invite twenty extra young men to be present so that wall-flowers may not blush unseen and waste their sighs on the ball room air.

The papers of James K. Polk, and Martin Van Buren have been added to the collection in the Library of Congress of manuscripts of distinguished men. They cover two exciting periods of American history, and include thousands of letters written by the leading men of the country at that time,and numerous manuscripts and speeches. The Library has now collections of papers by Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Jackson.

The tremendous enterprises of the Pennsylvania R. R. are making havoc of our seaboard cities. Washington is torn up about as badly as New York. A large part of it looks like a wrecked mine, or as if a cyclone had struck it after being prospected for oil. Where the new Union station is to stand more than 500 buildings have been torn down and cutting, filling, carting, blasting are going on seven days in the week and almost all hours of the day and night. On these ruins a $7,000,000 transportation palace is at once to be erected.

A Suggustion—Please Observe.

Editor Courier:—In the calm that precedes the storm, a few words of caution may be of vital importance to fellow-democrats who choose to view the field of battle before the victory is won or lost.

We all admire dauntless courage in time of action, yet prudence should characterize our every step from this day forward. One very essential item to understand is--not to under-estimate the enemy. Now, let us do the right thing at the right time. Not long hence and there will be a call for a Democratic State convention to elect delegates to a National convention, to be held in St Louis on the 6th of July. See to it that good, honest capable men are selected to fill these places of trust. Do not let state pride dominate the convention by instructing for any particular favorite. No matter if we have a favorite son; other states have favorites too. In short, do not hamper the St Louis delegation by tying their hands. This small matter accomplished, every man is expected to do his duty at the polls, on the first Monday in June. Straws indicate which way the wind blows. The verdict of our June election will show the trend of the pudlic mind.

If we succeed in spiking Republican guns in this state, the November battle is half won. Then by the selection of a prudent Stateman for our National standard bearer--a man of brains, rather than muscle,we shall have a good fighting chance to redeem the state and nation from the stench and stigma of Republican rule. Count on your uncle to assist in the change.

Respectfully,
N. F. Nelson.

SPRINGWATER.

On the 23rd. inst, the young people of Sprinwater Grange gave an entertainment and play entitled out on the street which was a grand success The same will be given at Logan Grange hall Saturday evening on January 30th. Everybody invited.

Died, at Dodge Jan. 19th, 1904, Mrs. Alma Pepper Boudish, age 35 years, 8 months and 17 days. Her remains were laid to rest in Springwater cemetery. She leaves a husband and five children to mourn her loss. She died as she lived, a constant Christian.

The New Fire Box.

A new fire box in that old cook stove will cost you but a few dollars. The old stove is worthless without it. Our new fire box will make it good as new. Remember how that old stove used to bake. Why buy a new stove which will have to be repaired anyway in a few years, when our fire box will make the old one new? If you do not believe these statements, give Mr. H. K. Luse a chance and be convinced. He will do the work at your house satisfactorily or no pay. He is sole agent in Oregon City and Clackamas county for the fire box. Address Oregon City, Or.

An Eye Witness Tells of Fire

A Graphic Description of the Troquois Theatre Fire, by Mrs. Chette L. Cheney.

O. A. Cheney, one of the old citizens of Oregon City, at one time a prosperous newspaper publisher in the central west, has a son, Chette L. Cheney, who resides in Chicago, and is an expect operator on a linotype and works for the Drovers' Journal. His wife, Leonora, was in the Iroquois theatre fire and he has just received a letter from her giving her personal experiences. She says. "I was in that awful hell of fire, the burning of the Iroquois theatre. How I ever happened to get out is almost as much of a mystery to myself as to the people whom I tell of it

"I had a seat in the forth row from the front of the gallery, jammed up next to the boxes with eight or nine people between me and the aisles. The fire started on the opposite side of the stage and I saw the first little tongue of flame. I arose, as did nearly everybody, but when the actors screamed 'sit down.' I did so. In fact about one third of the people on the first floor sat down, while the others continued fleeing in an awful panic. I waited until the flames were shooting into the audience 10 feet right opposite me and I knew that the theatre was doomed. I jumped up on my seat and the entire way out I jumped from one seat to the other over their backs, as the aisles were packed. The flames were not 10 feet back of me the whole way out and it was stifling with the smoke and the terrible odor of burning flesh. Had I sat on the other side of the theatre in the corresponding seat to where I sat I would have lost my life. A dozen persons were found there burned to death were the flames first shot out. When I got to the end of the theatre, having passed two exits that were locked, I saw an exit that was open. It was kicked open by two baseball players, as I learned afterwards. About 200 were trying to get out and we all fought like mad dogs My flesh was a mass of black and blue spots next day My knees are so yet. I was knocked out of the exit and fell on my hands and knees. Had I fallen straight out I would have been crushed to death but I was knocked a little sideways and then crawled across the alley on my hands and knees. A man jumped on my back out I was flat on the ground at the time and was only badly bruised. My hands were walked on until they were all black and skinned. I fought my way across the alley and a man in overalls pulled me to my feet. I think he was an engineer or fireman from a building back of the theatre. I was standing in this big doorway after I was pulled to my feet and saw the poor souls fall like hail from the windows and fire escapes. The flames were shooting out 10 feet beyond them so you can imagine what they were suffering. A flame would climb up a woman or child's dress and hair and that living pillar of fire would drop about three stories to the ground, either being pushed out or jumping out themselves. The screams both here and in the theatre will ring in my ears always it seems. Such agnozing shouts I have never heard in all of my life.

I ran up to State street and asked about a dozen where State street was. They were all hurring to the fire and would't answer, so I grabbed a lady and asken her and she told me I was on State. I could'nt believe it, but she put her arms around me and led me to Marshall, Field & Co where my sister works.

When I reached there I did not know my sister's name nor what department she worked in for about 15 minutes. At last it came to me and went up to her. She had been busy selling a big bill of goods and didn't even know the Iroquois was burning. She was frantic when she found it out and was not able to work for 10 days afterward. She came near having brain fever.

In the meantime Chette got out of work at 2:30 as usual and killed time talking to the machinist until 3:30 and then he started down town on a Halsted car. He heard there was a fire down town but did not happen to hear where it was. When he was almost to the Iroquois thester, he inquired. "Where is the fire?" The front of the theater was not touched so he only saw the fire engines and hose affairs, Some one told him the Iroquois was burning and said, "My God! My wife is in there". I guess the poor boy was fainting for two men caught him. They told him that all the bodies so far recovered were in Vaughan's seed store and took him there. He looked at about 35 or 40 charred bodies but I was not there so he went out and just then he heard some one say that almost all of the first floor escaped. Well, he knew I was on the first floor, for he had strictly forbidden me ever going any where else, so he says the thought occurred to him that Lenore is safe and will go to Marshall, Fields & Co. to sister

The fire started at 3:30 and at 3:45 only a quarter of an hour later, everything was over, those out who got at all and the rest 600 piled up dead in piles 10 feet deep. Dead bodies were piled in Randolph St. five deep along on the side walk and big vans loaded so with dead that two horses couldn't pull them until police men put their weight against the wheel.

I am positive that had Chette come straight down town when he quit work at 2:30 and had been waiting in the foyer at the alarm of fire he would have fought his way into that awful place to help me and would have been killed and me saved.

A Calf's Peculiar Death.

A seemingly healthy, fat heifer calf, two months old, suddenly died last week on the place of Morris Reilly, Mount Pleasant, under peculiar circumstances. It was loose in a roomy stall in the stable. Reilly observed that, some time after its morning's meal of milk, it worked its jaws in an unusual way. He turned it out. It ran up and down the yard, finally ran in a circle,bellowed, the while incessantly opening and shutting its mouth, fell down and expired. He opened the calf and found a wad of cheese, the shape and size of a man's hand, in the first stomach. A.Matthews, the veterinary doctor, says that the acid from the liver flowed too copiously and quickly into the stomach. This abnormality curdled the milk and souring the teeth also, made the calf work its jaws. A liberal dose of raw linseed oil would have dissolved the cheese in the calf's stomach and saved it, the doctor says.

Grange Meeting.

Central Grange No. 276 met last Saturday January 16th., at their hall at Eagle Creek and installed their officers for the ensuing year. State deputy C. C. Borland of Oswego Grange No 175 installed the new officers. Resolutions were adopted infavor of Parcels Post and postal currency by a unanimous vote. The Beaver Creek Grange always has an excellent time at their meetings and visitors are always welcome.