PLUMS IN CONGRESS

Who Will Get Positions at Coming Session.

MANY VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES

Oregon and Washington Representatives Likely to Get Better Berths—Probable Shiftings.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—One of the effects of the recent election will be to make a number of vacancies in the first-class committees of the House, places which will be filled from among the members who have served one full term or more. Of course, vacancies will occur on all committees, but only those on first and second-class committees are sought after. The plums that will prove bones of contention at the opening of the next Congress will be one place on ways and means, one on banking and currency, two on foreign affairs, two on judiciary, and one on appropriations, while military affairs, interstate and foreign commerce, public buildings and grounds, Indian affairs, postoffices and post roads, and agriculture, will all be in more or less demand. It is not to be expected that members of but one term's service will be able to secure such good places as ways and means, banking and currency, appropriations or foreign affairs, but the other vacancies are possibly within their reach.

This becomes all the more interesting because of the fact that both Oregon and Washington have men who are seeking better committee assignments. Mr. Tongue, having two continuous terms to his credit, will be entitled to the highest recognition among the four members. He is now well cared for on the committee on rivers and harbors, where he is able to do much for his state, but an extra term of service entitles him to still further recognition if he makes a strike for one of the better committees. But rivers and harbors is too important for him to give up.

As to Representative Moody and Representatives Cushman and Jones, they cannot expect very high places, but ought to receive better positions. Among the vacancies that are offered there are several places that would be of great service to them.

For Mr. Moody's Consideration.

The place on ways and means is unquestionably beyond the reach of both delegations. On the contrary two terms of continuous service is sufficient to guarantee a member a place on foreign affairs, banking and currency and any of the other committees offered. A place on any of these committees is very much desired, because of the prestige it gives a member. Perhaps the most congenial would be appropriations, but pressure for this place is very great. Foreign affairs is a very comfortable berth, and judiciary is much sought after by men of a legal turn of mind. Service on this committee also gives a man standing in the legal profession in after years. Mr. Moody sought a place on the committee on public lands for his first term, and was successful in his quest. He will now look higher.

It might be well for him to turn his attention to public buildings and grounds. From that committee he could do much for his state. As a matter of fact, in the past, Oregon has been shamefully neglected in the matter of appropriations for public buildings, and has had the hardest kind of a fight every time it secured an appropriation, which was always cut down to the lowest possible point. Military affairs affords a desirable place for a member entering on his second term, and at this time is the more desirable, because of the probable expansion of our Army, but possibly the committee on interstate and foreign commerce would be more suitable to the junior Oregon member. This committee deals with bridges, among other things, a matter that is brought home to Eastern Oregon, and the country around the Upper Columbia and Snake Rivers. Not being a lawyer, Mr. Moody would perhaps not seek a place on judiciary, and Indian affairs and agriculture are not considered the most desirable places now available. Of all the opportunities offered, public buildings and grounds, or interstate and foreign commerce, are the most suitable places within the reach of Mr. Moody.

As to the Washington Members.

Both Rpresentatives from Washington are lawyers by profession, and to one or the other a place on the committee on judiciary may be desirable. It is not possible, nor is it desirable, that both should have places on this committee. Neither is very well cared for in his present committee assignments, but there is every reason to believe that they will be in the next Congress. It is possible that one of the Washington members might be awarded a place on the committee on appropriations, from which position he could command much needed legislation for his state. But it is a hard place to secure.

Like Oregon, Washington has been disregarded in the matter of public building appropriations, and if one of the Washington members could secure a place on the committee on public buildings and grounds, the state would be greatly benefited. Failing in this, the next best place is that on interstate and foreign commerce, a committee which every year handles various bills that are of local nature, both to Washington and Alaska. Postoffices and post roads is also desired by many members, because of the advantage it gives them in securing better postal facilities for their state. With rural free delivery being established quite generally, and Washington being somewhat slighted, it would be of great advantage to that state to have representation on this committee.

Possibly military affairs might be to the liking of Mr. Cushman. It is a committee that frequently has dealings in the Northwest, but is always busy, and affords a member a good opportunity to make himself useful and to gain recognition. Banking and currency is one of the few committees of the House which every member strives for. It is an easy berth in some ways, yet a committee that formerly had great power, and when a member secures a place on its board he may well congratulate himself. When these are gone, there is agriculture, Indian affairs, and a number of smaller committees to fall back on, not to mention other vacancies which will probably be made on other desirable committees due to the promotion of senior members.

Will Be No Lack of Aspirants.

Owing to the number of big plums that are offered for the opening of the next Congress, early efforts will be made towards securing these places. It is very probable that Speaker Henderson will be re-elected in the 57th Congress, and a flattering promise of support, given in an unrestrained way, goes a long way with the Iowa statesman, much more so than with his predecessor. Then the older members, those who have the shaping of the legislation of the House, have a general say in the committee assignments, although they are not supposed to dabble in these affairs, and a good, strong indorsement from these members is a great help to a young member in securing a promotion.

The session will unquestionably be a busy one, and this lobbying will have to be done at opportune times. Much will depend upon the way members solicit indorsement, and whether they strike too high, or within the bounds of propriety. Some members, at the beginning of the present Congress, were cut off, because they overstepped themselves and sought assignments that were altogether beyond the reach of new members. So it is that some few committees are beyond the reach of members entering on their second term. But if requests are made for committee places that can properly be allotted to second-term members, and it is made plain that they want no more than their just deserts, they are the more apt to secure a fitting recognition at the hands of the Speaker. In a word, it is a quest that requires the use of fine-handed diplomacy, not generally recognized in Congressmen, but which goes a long way towards pushing a careful and judicious man to the front.

A number of good committee places will be vacated by Republicans in the Senate, owing to the retirement of Senators Carter, Wolcott, Thurston and Shoup, and the death of Senator Gear. The places made vacant by the retirement of a number of Democrats or Fusionists will, of course, be awarded to minority Senators in the next Congress, and are not available for the Senators from Oregon or Washington. Senator Carter vacates the chairmanship of the census committee, as well as places on appropriations, territories, public lands and military affairs. Agriculture and forestry, and interstate commerce are the only important places left vacant by Senator Gear, aside from the chairmanship of the committee on Pacific railroads. Senator Shoup held the chairmanship of the committee on territories, and was a member of military affairs, pensions and sundry other committees of smaller caliber. The chairmanship of Indian affairs is made vacant through the retirement of Senator Thurston, who held places on irrigation, judiciary, territories and revision of the laws. Through the retirement of Senator Wolcott, a very desirable chairmanship is made vacant, that of the committee on postoffices and post roads, which, like the committee on territories, carries with it a much-sought-after committee room. Senator Wolcott also vacates places on some of the most influential committees of the Senate, among them foreign relations, finance and interstate commerce. All in all, there are a large number of plums which will be in contest when the new committee assignments are made in the Senate.

Situation as Regards Oregon.

At the present time, Senator McBride has the cream of committee places that have been awarded to Oregon and Washington. If he is replaced by some other in the Senate, Senator Simon and McBride's successor would probably secure all the places now held by the senior Oregon Senator. If McBride remains, he will naturally retain his place on commerce, interoceanic canals and Philippines, and possibly public lands, together with Indian depredations and forest reservations.

Senator Simon now has but one good committee, judiciary, and is sure to be given more fitting recognition, although his chairmanship and committee room will probably remain unchanged. He now has a pleasant room, the only objection being that it is somewhat inaccessible to the Senate chamber. Finance and foreign relations, because of his brief term of service, may be yet beyond his reach, but he is almost sure to come in for either military affairs or interstate commerce, unless, through the promotions that are made, some more suitable place is made available. Senator Simon, as a member of the committee on judiciary, has shown himself to be a very valuable individual, especially when the deeper questions of legal matters are under discussion. His standing in that committee will be of great assistance in securing other good assignments for him.

Senator Turner, being a Fusionist, will not be considered in line for the places made vacant by the retirement of Republican Senators, leaving Senator Foster to secure the entire benefits that accrue to the Washington delegation in the Senate. Senator Foster is not now particularly fortunate in his committee assignments. In the first place, he is not a member of any of the really important committees, being a new member, and his committee room is over in the Senate annex, some way from the Senate chamber. It is very likely that he will make a strike for one or the other chairmanships made vacant as above noted.

Then, too, he will cast about for better places on committees. It would be to his advantage to secure a place on the commerce committe, but the fact that his colleague is a minority member of this committee, will cut off that assignment. Interstate commerce is among the possibilities that he may seek, while the committee on territories, which has such extensive dealings with Alaska, will be suitable to Senator Foster, because of the intense interest he has displayed in that territory during his first session. In case he so desires, and turns his efforts in that direction, he may be able to secure a place on military affairs, but in no event will he be able to land all of these places specified. That he will be better recognized, however, there is no doubt, and in matters requiring the kind of influence that secures good committee places, it is thought that Senator Foster, now that he sees how the wires are pulled, will be able to get in and make a few master strokes on his own account.

There Will Be Three Moodys.

The 57th Congress will be graced by three Moodys, two who come over from the present Congress, and a new Moody from North Carolina. Strange to say, all are Republicans. The dean of the Moodys, Hon. William H. Moody, first entered the House during the 54th Congress, having been elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Hon. General William Cogswell. He was re-elected to the 55th, and to the 56th Congresses, and at the recent election, was again chosen to represent the Sixth Massachusetts district. Mr. Moody, although a comparatively young member, and of short service, has developed those qualities which have stamped him as one of the coming leaders of the House.

The second Moody is the representative of the Second Congressional District of Oregon, and succeeded the Hon. William R. Ellis. He has as yet served but one term in the House, but in that time has become known as a steady, conscientious worker, not a speaker, withal, but a man who has his aims, and works for them in a telling manner. His future service will bring him out among the members of the House.

The new addition to the list of Moodys is Hon. James M. Moody, who succeeds the Hon. Richmond Pearson, from the Ninth North Carolina District. He is unknown in Washington, but in the 57th Congress he may develop as have the other Moodys.

If any modern Diogenes is looking for an honest man he will find him in the person of M. T. Clark, at 1826 Wabash avenue, Chicago. Mr. Clark has written the Secretary of War a brief note, inclosing a postal order for $6 24. In the note he states that this amount is due the Government for money overpaid him as a soldier in the Spanish War. He said that he enlisted in Company I, Fifth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and that through some mistake his enlistment was made dated May 4, 1898, instead of May 16, the actual date of his enlistment. He had carefully figured up the amount of pay he drew for those 12 days and sent it to Secretary Root. This is the first instance of anything of this kind happening in the War Department, and Mr. Clark's money will be duly turned into the Treasury and probably placed to the "conscience fund," or it may be credited to the War Department as a part of the money expended on the Spanish War. It is a small amount, but yet it is sufficient to establish the honesty of this Missouri volunteer.

ARTHUR W. DUNN.

For a Sepulcher.

Althea Gyles in Saturday Review.

Between the hands, between the breasts,
Down the white body 'twixt the thighs,
The sword is laid until it rests
Upon the once kissed feet. Men's eyes
Read "Odi et Amo" graven there.

Behind those eyelids now fast sealed,
Behind cold breasts that rose and fell,
With passion, what his life revealed?
The great sword guards her secret well,
With "Odi et Amo" graven there.

Oh, was it Love that conquered Hate?
Oh, was it Hate that set her free?
To Death all questioners come late;
The sword and the wisdom all may see,
And "Odi et Amo" graven there.

TRIP THROUGH SHANGHAI

IS BOTH A EUROPEAN AND A CHINESE CITY.

The Many Sights and Oddities to Be Noticed in a Tour Through Latter Briefly Described.

SHANGHAI, China, Oct. 26.—European Shanghai and Chinese Shanghai are two distinct and entirely different cities. The one is modern, clean and cosmopolitan, while a tour through the other seems to carry the visitor back into the dark ages, if not bury one in the Augean stables before the sanitary labors of Hercules.

European Shanghai constantly reminds one of the small, provincial Paris. Its Bund is not unlike certain features of the Champs Elysees and the boulevards, and when one travels into the French Quarter the resemblances multiply a hundred-fold, and the mind is certain to revert to scenes at the gay French Capital.

The foreign part of Shanghai has a European population of 10,000—English, French, German, American, Portuguese and other nationalities, and possibly 30,000 Chinese, mostly shopkeepers, artisans and servants. This part of the city is thoroughly up-to-date, with macadamized streets, stone sidewalks, electric lights and stalwart Sikh policemen in flaming red turbans. The buildings are handsome brick and stone structures, three and four stories in height, and the main thoroughfares contain a lively and motley procession of carriages, jinrikishas, Chinese chairs and wheelbarrows, and that ubiquitous perambulating beast of burden, the coolie, shouting, pushing and dodging—a veritable pandemonium of squirming, perspiring humanity.

Native Shanghai is a portion of the city that many foreigner visitors never see. It lies to the west of the European city, beyond the French settlement, and is surrounded by a high wall, which is "pierced," as the Chinese put it, by north, south, east and west gates. These gates are heavy wooden affairs, covered with sheet iron, heavily studded with huge rusty nails. Every night at 10 o'clock the officials close and bar these gates until the dawn—a bad lookout for any gay Lotharios of Chinamen who wander far afield late o' nights.

Trip Through the Native City.

After securing an experienced guide from the Astor House, the writer started on a tour of investigation through the native city, in company with Mr. H. H. Delano, of Portland. As we approached the native city, at the west gate, we were assailed by a variety of stenches that reminded us forcibly of the old City of Cologne, where it is said that 70 different smells meet you on every corner. Passing through the old city gate, with its cumbrous doors, we found ourselves in a perfect network of narrow, wet and filthy streets, not more than six or seven feet wide, shut in and semi-darkened by strange, fantastic overhanging balconies, banners, signs and lanterns. The streets had no sidewalks, simply rough stone paving, unevenly laid, which served both as roadway and public sewer, and as a playground for ragged and dirty little Chinese children.

It would be useless to attempt to give a proper and adequate impression of the streets of this Chinese city, to those who have never seen one, because there are no mental standards with which to make comparison. It is sui generis. No one knows with anything approaching to accuracy, how many Chinese are crowded into the native portion of Shanghai. It is said they number at least 1,000,000. Such a thing as a census is unknown, the nearest attempt at enumeration being the sporadic order of the Tao Tai that each group of 10 persons living together shall hang out a sign on the front of the building they inhabit, giving the names of the associated 10, and stating which of the number is responsible for the other nine—a thoroughly Chinese idea, more honored in the breach than the observance. Like the rat and the mole, the Chinese does not like to have the "eye of the vox populi" too closely fixed upon him—as the Western campaign orator once remarked. To the Chinaman that could only mean one thing—more squeeze.

All Trades Are Grouped Together.

One of the first things that attracts attention is the grouping of all the members of a trade or handicraft in one street or quarter, much the same as in some old European cities. The ivory carvers are all bunched together on two most interesting blocks, and the prospective buyer passes along from shop to shop without loss of time, and easily compares variety of workmanship and prices. One of the funny things incident thereto is that when you stand at one open shop front, the adjoining owners and their constituents all join you and freely tell you all they know about the owner and his wares. Shopping is a very public function in Chinatown; all the neighborhood assists and criticises. This is partly because the shop counter abuts immediately upon the street, and you stand in the thoroughfares when making your purchases. Another reason is that the Chinese know nothing of privacy, the crowded condition of their little shops and dwellings rendering such a thing impossible. When the shop fronts are taken down in the morning, the whole city is literally turned inside out.

One of the most interesting visits that we made was to the quaint "Willow Tree Pattern" Tea House, which has been rendered familiar to the world by appearing as the popular pattern of the old-fashioned blue china dishes of our childhood. Who does not know the crazy stairway that winds in such impossible and inebriated fashion all over the plate, in superb disdain for Newton's law of gravitation, which, by the way, was not discovered until long after this queer old tea house was built, for it dates back to the days of the Ming dynasty, more than 500 years ago. Well, we saw it, but, alas, it was not the clean and sparkling pagoda structure of our childish fancy, but only a shabby and very dirty ramshackle sort of place, in the midst of a stagnant pond of green slime. So fade the illusions of youth and give place to hard reality. Never again can I, in fancy, follow the Chinese lover up and down that impossible staircase, and lean pensively over that rustic bridge gazing dreamily at clear and sparkling water. No, I shall only remember the dirt, the green slime and the squalor of the real thing, the "Willow Tree Pattern" Tea House as it is.

Possibly, if some of our "armchair diplomats" in Washington visited China and met John Chinaman at home, as he really is, they, too, might find some discrepancy between fact and fancy, and might modify their fine-spun theories in consequence. The Willow Tree Tea House is not the only thing in China to which distance lends enchantment.

Mandarins' Tea House and Garden.

Our next visit was to the "Mandarins' Tea House and Garden." Around these grounds and structures twisted the famous "Dragon Wall," winding about in what Mrs. Partington called "a turpentine fashion," and ending over the gateway in two fearful-looking dragon heads. This tea garden has some very peculiar and ancient paving mosaic, worked into forms of fruit and foliage with consummate art. Strange-looking rockeries and miniature ponds are placed in all sorts of impossible places, and widening paths bend upon themselves so very much that the poor foot-passenger becomes confused even as to his own identity. In place of glass, a thing unknown in China before the advent of the foreigner, the quaint windows are glazed with thousands of little pieces of translucent mother-of-pearl shell, producing delightfully soft-toned effects of light and color.

The Chinese do not "drink tea" as we do; in fact, they consider our Occidental way crude and barbarous. When we had seated ourselves at a small, square table, the old man in attendance brought little cups of very thin china, each half filled with green tea leaves and red tea blossoms. Then he brought a large bronze kettle of boiling water and poured the boiling water upon the leaves in each cup, quickly covering the cup with another slightly smaller, and thus preventing the escape of aroma. Then still another set of cups was brought, making three sets in use, and into these each guest poured the steeped tea, using the other two cups, pressed tightly together, as a strainer. No milk or sugar is used in Chinese tea drinking; they say they spoil the true flavor, and in this they are undoubtedly right. One strange accompaniment of our tea drinking was that large saucers of peanuts were placed before each guest. Tea and peanuts! An unusual combination, but "not half bad," as our English cousins say.

At a little distance beyond us, a large crowd of natives were clustered around two performing jugglers and mountebanks, who were doing some really clever balancing, at which they are expert, but their legerdemain was commonplace. Occasionally one sees a really good juggler in China, but as a rule they are not the equals of either the Japanese or the Hindoostanee. Beyond this group, and sheltered under a little piece of bamboo matting, was that strange institution of both China and Persia, "the professional story-teller." We have seen a number of these in China, and always with interest. The business is followed by old men, who, by long practice, have acquired wonderful mobility of feature and intonation, and really seem to so perfectly identify themselves with the characters in their story as quite to lose personal identity, for the time being. If any one believes the oft repeated tale that the Chinese are stolid and unemotional, he has but to watch the group gathered about one of these story-tellers, and he will quickly find reason to change his opinion. As the story progresses from sad to gay, each change registers itself in the faces of the audience, who laugh heartily at all the humorous parts, though I must confess I have never seen them weep at recitals which were sad. The Chinaman can laugh, but he cannot cry, at least I have never seen a native crying anywhere within the thousand miles I have traveled. Perhaps they feel like the little boy in Brooklyn when he saw his mother weeping, and said, "Mamma, please do your sorrow in your own room."

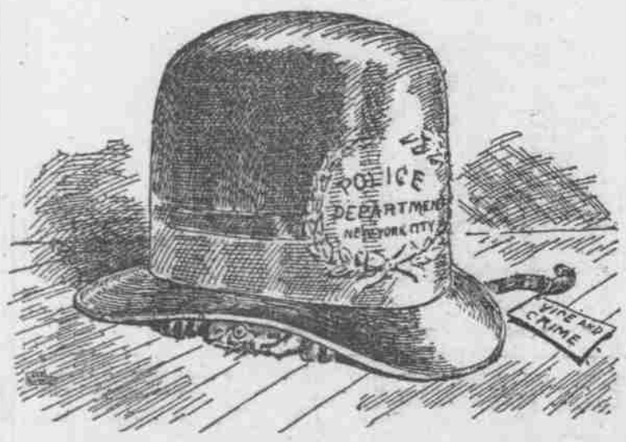
Chinese and American Ways Opposit

In walking through the narrow streets of a Chinese city the eye is constantly caught by strange and unfamiliar reversals of our Western ways of doing things. The carpenter draws his saw toward him only, without any reverse cutting motion. The worker in metals rubs the material on the file instead of the file on the material. The shaving plane is also drawn toward the body, not pushed away from it. Almost everything is done "bottomside up." Ethics and morals seem as much inverted as manners and methods. What is wrong on the other side of the world is very frequently regarded as being right here, and many things that we consider "quite proper" would scandalize a Chinaman or woman. One is led to ask whether questions of conscience are not also questions of longitude, and morality closely connected with geography. As I hope to deal with this matter of Chinese peculiarities in a later article, I will not go into it more fully at present.

Although we had been told that a visit to the native city would expose us to many indignities, and possibly to rough treatment, our experience was quite contrary to this, and though no special friendliness was manifested, we were allowed to go about unmolested. The large forces of foreign troops now quartered in the European portion of Shanghai very effectually serves to overawe and control the native population. The Chinese are great cowards, and quickly submit to any show of force. It is the opinion of all who have had long experience with the Chinese that they are amenable to no other argument, and that it would be a serious, and perhaps fatal, mistake to introduce any other element into the settlement of this Chinese question. It is very difficult for those who are many thousand miles away from the sphere of action to rightly judge the true conditions and needs of the situation in China, especially when those who have long resided here are in profound perplexity and doubt as to the true solution of the problem.

FRANCIS R. WARDLE.

COME OUT—WE SEE YOU.



—New York Tribune.

Time Was Precious.

"How d'y do!" said the busy man. "Will you marry me?"

"O—er," she gasped. "This is so sudden; I must have time to think. I—"

"Say, don't keep me waiting too long, or I won't have enough money left to buy a ring. I came in an auto-cab, and they charge by the minute, you know."—Philadelphia Press.

AN IMPORTANT POINT

NAVY BUREAU'S ESTIMATE OF PUGET SOUND STATION.

Large Coal Storage Facilities Should Be Provided—Other Features of Annual Report.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—The Puget Sound Naval Station is about the only point on the North Pacific Coast that comes in for any attention in the annual report of the Bureau of Equipment, Navy Department. Of this station, the following is said:

"The Bureau is practically without facilities for equipment work at this important naval station. There is a temporary coal shed there, constructed during the Spanish War, without a pier or other facilities for loading or discharging coal. There is also a coal hulk, with a capacity for about 2000 tons. An appropriation for the construction of an equipment building was made by the last Congress, and the work has commenced. A small appropriation exists for the construction of a coal-storage house and pier, with conveying machinery. It is totally inadequate for the purpose desired. As good coal must be transported either from the Eastern Coast or Great Britain to this station, it is necessary to provide large storage facilities.

"The total expenditures at this naval station during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, were $6353, $3319 being for labor and $3034 for material.

"The only facilities for storing coal are temporary wooden sheds to which the coal must be carried from the beach in carts, with the reverse operation when coaling ships, and a coal hulk with a capacity for 2000 tons. It is especially important to provide at this station for storing at least 25,000 tons, with a pier to which ships discharging and loading may moor, and facilities for rapidly handling coal. There are available, under the cognizance of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, $40,000 for the construction of a coal shed and appliances at this naval station. This amount is totally inadequate for the purpose desired, and it is especially urged that it may be increased sufficiently to provide as above indicated.

Survey of the Pacific Ocean.

"The attention of the Department is respectfully called to a former recommendation of the Bureau concerning the necessity for a survey of the Western Pacific Ocean, for the purpose of making a careful examination with reference to the great number of imperfectly known dangers to navigation therein. In consideration of the greatly increased commerce across the Pacific, and the probability of a still greater increase in the near future, this is deemed important. The existence of many of the reported dangers is doubtful, and yet as long as they remain on the charts they are a menace to navigation, and cause much solicitude on the part of mariners. There are many others, the position of which is doubtful, which seriously interfere with navigation from the fact that the mariner is unable to decide precisely upon a safe course to steer.

"Captain B. H. McCalla, United States Navy, commanding the United States steamer Newark, which made a quick passage from San Francisco to Manila not long ago, recommends that all vessels crossing the Pacific be required to traverse certain lines for the purpose of deciding positively upon the existence of dangers now supposed to be on the direct routes, and also for the purpose of assisting such ships as may have been accidentally disabled. The Bureau is very favorably impressed with this recommendation, and is preparing charts showing the proper routes to pursue."

Submarine Telegraph Cable Survey.

"The Bureau, in its last annual report, referred to a survey by the United States steamer Nero, for a trans-Atlantic submarine telegraph cable between Honolulu and the Philippine Islands. An incident of this survey was to discover, if possible, a practicable route for a branch cable between Guam and Yokohama.

"In the prosecution of the above-mentioned work the Nero had proceeded at the time of my last report as far as the coast of the Philippine Islands on her voyage to the westward, along a route 4812 knots in length, sounding at 853 stations with intervals of 10 and 2 knots, respectively, including observations for temperature and for characteristics of the bottom. As stated in last year's report, this voyage established the fact that a practicable cable could be laid across the Pacific.

"An almost level plain of soft mud, at a general depth of about 2700 fathoms, extends from Honolulu to the Midway Islands on a route to the northward of the line of reefs running about west-northwest from the Hawaiian Islands to a point beyond Ocean Island. This plain affords an ideal route for a submarine telegraph cable.

"In general, the bed of the ocean between Midway Islands and Guam is another great level plain from 3100 to 3300 fathoms deep. It is, however, somewhat broken by submarine reefs and mountain ranges. The first thousand miles from Midway, with the exception of one isolated mountain peak, not far from Ocean Island, rising to within 32 fathoms of the surface, is entirely level. The remainder of the distance, however, while in general fairly level, is interspersed with reefs and mountain ranges that required much time to explore and avoid. Eventually, a short distance to the eastward of the great submarine mountain range running nearly north and south that breaks through the surface of the sea and forms the islands of the Ladrone Group, and near the parallel of Guam, this plain descends into the valley of the Nero Deep, with a depth of only 65 feet less than six statute miles. A practicable cable route to Guam was eventually found to the northward of the deep. The southern limits of the deep are unknown, and it may present still greater depths than those found by the Nero.

"Between Guam and the Philippines the bed of the ocean is less regular than to the eastward. For the first 600 knots of the route selected the depths vary from 1400 to 2700 fathoms; there are, however, no sharply defined ranges of hills or valleys, the character of the bottom being of an undulating nature. After 600 knots had been traversed, a low mountain range was discovered sloping to the westward, eventually forming a deeper plain that extends unbroken to the Philippine Islands. The last-mentioned plain varies in depth from 2000 to 3500 fathoms and is also of a gently undulating nature. There is nothing, however, to obstruct the successful laying and working of cables, and the bottom of soft mud and ooze indicates that a long life to cables may be expected.

"This route between Guam and Yokohama lies to the westward of the Ladrone Islands and to the eastward of the Bonin Islands. An almost level plain with a depth of about 2100 fathoms was found for a distance of 500 knots from Guam. At that point a submarine mountain range was discovered which apparently connects the range extending from the coast of Japan to the Bonin Islands with that of the Ladrone Islands. While crossing this range a submarine peak rising to within 483 fathoms of the surface was found and developed, which, if it could be seen, would closely resemble the famous volcano Fujiyama, near Yokohama, Japan.

"To the north of this range the bed of the ocean slopes gradually to the eastward into the great Japanese Deep, that for many years held the record for ocean depths. This record was finally displaced by the greater depth discovered in the South Pacific Ocean by the English surveying ship Penguin, and that must now give way to the Nero Deep.

"Between the mountain range of the Bonins and the Japanese Deep, a plateau, from 40 to 100 miles in width and about 1700 fathoms deep, sloping gently from the mountains to the eastward and then dropping abruptly, was discovered, which extends to the Japanese coast.

"The greatest difficulty was experienced in finding a suitable pass to cross the mountain range between the Ladrones and the Bonins. This being accomplished, the plateau furnishes an excellent resting-place for a cable for the remainder of the route.

"The object o the surveying expedition was most successfully and expeditiously accomplished. A satisfactory route for an all-American cable for the purpose of connecting the Pacific Coast with the outlying colonial possessions of the United States in the Pacific, and with China and Japan, has been discovered, thoroughly explored, surveyed and mapped. In addition, a great amount of data on ocean currents, prevailing winds and tidal influences, in parts of the ocean little known, that will prove of great value to navigation in the future, were collected. The specimens of the bottom collected are now in the hands of the Smithsonian Institution for examination. Undoubtedly they will prove of great interest to science.

"The route for the cable was selected by the bureau after a careful and thorough study of all routes available. The instructions for the survey were also drawn up by the bureau, and were minute in detail. As many emergencies as could be foreseen were provided for, and, in addition, great latitude given to the commander of the expedition, who was at liberty to change the route and extend the survey, if necessary, in order to bring about the desired result. The only portion of the route selected by the bureau that proved impracticable was that passing around the south end of the Island of Guam. In general, the routes followed great circles in order to decrease distances.

"The rapid completion of this survey, accompanied by a thorough and painstaking attention to details, was accomplished only by the untiring energy of the officers and men of the expedition, working day and night, without rest, except for the brief period of two weeks at Yokohama, Japan.

"A complete and thorough survey has been made of the Midway Islands, and landing-places have been selected for a cable at the various stations in the Pacific. The bureau is now ready to lay a cable entirely across the Pacific or any portion of it, at any time.

"The bureau has only to add that it would, in its opinion, be folly to lay any cable across the Pacific except one constructed of the best materials and manufactured by the best cable-makers in the world."

AMUSEMENTS.

"A Divorce Colony" at Cordray's.

Mr. Frawley and his company last night at Cordray's Theater evidently intended to give something light for dessert. "A Divorce Colony," a three-act comedy that might just as well have been called "A Cake of Soap"—for a cake of soap plays nearly as prominent a part in the story as the divorce proceedings, and besides, a cake of soap suggests froth. The style of play and the action throughout was anything but Frawleyesque. The play is a good one in the line of affording the actors and actresses a little recreation at the end of a hard and conscientious week's work.

Alice Johnson, as the vivacious widow, made another favorable impression by her clever depiction of the frivolous. Harry Cashman made a very amusing character out of the South Dakota Judge. He also introduced several songs in the supper scene of the last act, which he sang very well indeed.

The usual crowded house was out to bring to a close a successful week of drama.

Autumn Glee.

'Tis all a myth that Autumn grieves,
For watch the rain amid the leaves;
With silver fingers dimly seen
It makes each leaf a tambourine,
And swings and leaps with elfin mirth
To kiss the brow of mother earth;
Or, laughing, 'mid the trembling grass,
It nods a greeting as you pass.
Oh! hear the rain amid the leaves—
'Tis all a myth that Autumn grieves!

'Tis all a myth that Autumn grieves,
For list the wind among the sheaves;
Far sweeter than the breath of May,
Or storied scents of old Cathay.
It blends the perfumes rare and good
Of spicy pine and hickory wood;
And with a voice as gay as rhyme
It prates of rifled mint and thyme.
Oh! scent the wind among the sheaves—
'Tis all a myth that Autumn grieves!

'Tis all a myth that Autumn grieves—
Behold the wondrous web she weaves!
By viewless hands her thread is spun
Of evening vapors shyly won.
Across the grass from side to side
A myriad unseen shuttles glide
Throughout the night, till on the height
Aurora leads the laggard light.
Behold the wondrous web she weaves—
'Tis all a myth that Autumn grieves!

—Samuel Minturn Peck.

Extra Fares Reduced by the Pennsylvania Lines.

Beginning with Sunday, November 25, New York Express Train by the "Fort Wayne Route" of the Pennsylvania lines, now leaving Chicago at 12:30 P. M., will leave Chicago Union Passenger Station at 12 o'clock noon, every day, reaching the new Twenty-third-Street New York Station next day at 2 o'clock P. M. It thus becomes a 26-hour train from Chicago to New York, and the excess fare will be reduced $1 on each point, making Philadelphia $1, New York $2. "Pan Handle Route" differential fare 9:30 A. M. train will, on and after November 25, leave Chicago Union Passenger Station at 10:05 A. M. For particulars call upon or address H. R. Dering, assistant general passenger agent, 248 South Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

Commissioner Wilson Ill.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—Commissioner Wilson, of the Internal Revenue Bureau, is ill at his hotel in this city with a complication of bronchial and kidney troubles. His condition is considered serious.