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HOUSE COMMITTEES.

Only a few changes are found in the committee lists of the House of Representatives, and those were already discounted. The prolonged ascendancy of the Republican party and the re-election of Speaker Cannon make the House in a measure, like the Senate, a continuous body. The old scramble for committee appointments at the beginning of each session yields to an orderly progression of members from lower to higher places on the committees in which they have had experience, and insures a continuity of policy that is in general of public benefit. The most conspicuous change is the appointment of the new members of the committee of ways and means who are in sympathy with the Speaker's tariff views and opposed to the opening up of the question of revision at this time.

The most gratifying feature of the appointments is the promptness with which they are made. They are announced a week after the meeting of Congress, something unheard of for years. At the beginning of the first regular session of the last Congress Mr. Cannon was expeditious, but a short extra session just before had prepared the way for the appointments. The President had contemplated an extra session this year in order to get business under way before the holidays and avoid the usual waste of time until January, if for no other reason. The Speaker has accomplished what was hoped for from the extra session and left Congress no excuse for not getting its work well in hand before the Christmas recess.

town"; They will carefully, slowly, but most surely accomplish it, however, and the dance-halls will be the last on the list of the popular relaxations, to be granted immunity.

What Speaker Cannon calls "the white haired mandarins" of the House have shown the "kids" their place, and now the youngsters in the Senate have been forced to bow to the will of the "elder statesmen." These questions of precedence having been settled, it is to be hoped both houses will get down amicably to business.

According to the German Imperial Chancellor "the empire is at peace." The world will gladly accept the assurance as more substantial than that given in like terms by another empire years ago. There is scarcely a power in the world more potential for peace than Germany, and scarcely one that is more interested in maintaining peace.

An inventor writes to a newspaper asking whether the government offers a reward for the inventor or discoverer of perpetual motion. Usually inventors along that line do their inventing first—and then they don't care what the government offers.

The Pennsylvania Society, Ohio Society, New England Society, Southern Society et al are beginning to have their annual dinners. If we can succeed in locating that other hungry man we're going to take him out to lunch for pure sociability.

"Sarah Bernhardt has made an impression on the American stage," writes a dramatic critic. There! Sarah has probably fallen edgewise again in some trying death scene. A thick rug should be used on the stage.

These beautiful, snowy poems and stories in the Christmas magazines would be much more enjoyable if we could only forget how the authors perspired when they wrote them last July.

Another Brooklyn cenetarian is dead at the age of 108. It is hard work sometimes to get across the bridge, but it is worth while if one wants to continue long in the land.

The stream of gold flowing out of Russia will probably be followed soon by a procession of grand dukes and other superfluous functionaries.

The population of Sing Sing continues to increase—greatly to the advantage of all good citizens, and especially of New York City.

If the baseball magnates want to work up interest in next year's games they are advised herewith to start a public investigation of graft.

The engagement of Miss Roosevelt being formally announced, a great burden is lifted from the shoulders of the gossips.

Kansas produces 60,000 barrels of oil a day, which should be ample to keep her prosperity from getting rusty.

The cotton exchange should be removed to Washington. That's the present center of crop misinformation.

Amalgamated copper crossed par yesterday. It was like welcoming home the prodigal son.

The court of appeals has crystallized public sentiment very well.

Hist! the little gunboat is safe!

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WEATHER REPORT.

Portland, Dec. 19.—Western Oregon and Western Washington: Occasional rain.
 Western Oregon: Occasional snow, colder.

THAT NEW HOTEL.

Now that the Democrats have got things all their own way and the recent election has been properly digested, there is ample time to give to other important matters of local significance; and among the most pressing is the construction and opening of a big, new, first class hotel. The City Council has passed the proposition of the Philadelphia man up to the Chamber of Commerce, and the chamber will probably pass it up to the people who will promptly pass it back to the "Quaker City" man with a tag on it that will forever forfeit his further interest in the matter. This is the way such questions are usually disposed of. The one and only thing to do, is to rouse popular sentiment here for a hotel that shall be a credit to the city and then make it essentially an Astorian deal; build it on a site that will make it a distinct ornament to the city; build it of local materials, with local money, and put it in charge of a local man who will make it popular. There is everything here necessary for the launching of a splendid enterprise of this sort and its profits and revenues generally, should be spent at home, just as the cost of its material and labor should be spent among the home dealers and mechanics and laborers. Astoria is rich enough to carry out any hotel program that may be needed or adopted, and we believe she has public spirit enough to take the initiative in its inception and installation; if she has not, let it be demonstrated first, then call in your outsiders.

BEAR IT IN MIND.

Without any individual reflections or personal propensity in the allusion, it is quite in line with cogent, consecutive, political thought to ask if it was a really non-partisan move in the "Citizens" party to appoint a Democrat to the mayoralty? If a Republican had been named, it might have been construed into a genuine non-partisan step on the part of the "Citizens" but since it was a Democrat (and luckily for the city, the best in the party here,) the conclusion is inevitable that it was the first gun of the Democratic masters to emphasize their late acquisition of local supremacy. By the way, we like that word "master" better than "boss," the latter is so hackneyed, ye know.

MERELY A HINT.

In the course of a few weeks the Astorian will have another project of decided public interest to present to the people of this city. The preliminaries are not far enough advanced to indulge in an open discussion, but when they are there will be a conspicuous and inviting theme for wide, public agitation and arbitration. Keep your eyes on these columns.

DISPUTES NIL.

Thirteen years without a labor difficulty is the praiseworthy record of the United States Pottery Association. This body of employers deals directly with the headquarters of the association to which its workmen belong. There is no room for disputes with walking delegates or business agents looking for "graft" and tickled with the notion of ordering strikes. If trouble arises, it is settled between the manufacturer and those in highest authority in the union. It is surmised that there are sensible and conservative men at the head of that workingmen's union. It would be a good example for the study of the house-smith's union, which struck against a local building firm of New York on suspicion that it refused to investigate. The greater the leaven of intelligent and honor among workingmen, the fewer will be the violent disputes between them and the employers.

COLLAPSE OF RUSSIA.

The Russian empire today appears to be in a state of collapse. Throughout the whole vast realm, from the Baltic Sea to the Sea of Okhotsk, from the Euine to the Arctic, the political machine has broken down and the social and industrial fabric has fallen or is falling into ruin. Not for more than a century has the world seen so appalling a spectacle, not since the "Cimmerian World-wreckage" of the French revolution. There may be those who will apply that graphic phrase to the darkness and ruin which now prevail in Russia, seeing that the land of the Cimmeril was in that empire; and indeed it seems as fitting for such application as for the case of France, since if Russia has not proportionately the culture which France then had to be destroyed it has a vastly larger population to be involved, it has already developed savage passions not surpassed in the Reign of Terror, and its government seems to be as close to the verge of failure as was that of Louis at the death of Mirabeau.

The name of Mirabeau, indeed, suggests another striking resemblance between the two revolutions. "There is one Herculean Man; in 'internecine' duel with him, there is Monster 'after Monster' . . . With these shall the 'Serpent-killer do battle continually, and 'expect no rest.' Thus spoke the historian of the French revolution; and every word is precisely true of the Russian revolution of today, with reference not to Mirabeau but to Witte. Vast as are the contrasts between the two men personally, they must be reckoned as one in hatred of anarchy, whether of one monarch or of the mob, as one also in circumstances and in responsibility. That they will not be alike in their endings we must hope. Mirabeau died, and his death was followed by the flight of the doomed king. Witte now speaks of resigning, an incident whose sequel might be no less disastrous than the death of Mirabeau. For if he is not able to stand, who else in Russia can hope to be? And if his wise policy of constitutional order is not to prevail, what can take its place with promise of more acceptance and of more success?

SLOW BUT SURE.

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