

WASHINGTON NOTES

Glance at Senators Elected by the Different States.

AVERAGE AGE IS YOUTHFUL

Terms of Thirty Senators Expire in March and Twenty-three Seats Have Already Been Filled—Many New Faces.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Of the seats of thirty senators whose terms of office expire the coming 4th of March, 23 have been filled by the various state legislatures. In two states, however, the struggle is still on, with but few signs for an immediate conclusion being reached.

In New Jersey a determined effort is being made to prevent the return of Mr. Dryden, the rich capitalist and head of one of the great insurance companies of the country. The fight against him is not only personal but because of the alleged fact that he is a pronounced corporation man and representatives of those interests that have injured the reputation of the party in the state. The chief difficulty of those opposing Mr. Dryden's return appears to be the impossibility of centering upon any one of sufficient strength to draw to him the few concrete anti-Dryden republican votes or induce the weak-kneed Dryden followers to enter into the enemy's camp.

In Rhode Island, the contest is an endeavor to prevent the return of George Peabody Wetmore, the man who bears a name that a few years ago was amply sufficient to conjure with in the politics of any New England state. The opposition to Mr. Wetmore is badly divided and he and his friends have not given up the fight by any means. Just where Mr. Aldrich stands is supposed to be questionable, although the senior senator from Little Rhody declares he is keeping hands off and is as friendly to Mr. Wetmore as to any of the other candidates, all of whom are his personal friends.

Of those Senators who can read their title clear to their seats, beginning with the Sixtieth Congress, seventeen have been reelected, and of this group, possibly the most conspicuous is Mr. Cullom, the venerable old man from Illinois, who has been returned to his fifth election term in the Senate. Mr. Cullom came out victorious in the first election held under the new primary law, in a campaign in which he was handicapped by the want of money, and his chief political asset was his long and honorable career in the public service in which he had always looked out for the public good as he was given to see the method by which the greatest good for the greatest number could be accomplished, and the further fact that his honesty could never be questioned.

He is a poor man and had he failed of re-election it would have been difficult for him to have figured out just how he would have made a living during his declining years. With such a handicap, he won a signal victory over other men who were not popular before the people but who were ambitious and aggressive opponents.

Among those elected to serve for the first time and in the list of those re-elected, doubtless there are men who may be subjected to criticism, because of their methods in public life and the records they have thus far achieved, but there are many others whose return is a distinct public benefit, and their retirement would have been a loss not only to the states that elected them but to the country at large. In this class may be named such men as Frye, of Maine, Bacon, of Georgia, and Morgan of Alabama. These and others like them, are men of great usefulness and of talents that are needed in the construction of proper legislation and exposing the fallacies of propositions that seem at times to be inimical to good government.

he was classed among hard-working members who accomplish more in the committee room by painstaking effort than on the floor through the means of their rhetorical power.

Nebraska has changed front entirely in the character of men it now sends to the Senate. There was a time, not so long ago, when her senators were notoriously railroad lawyers and advocates. In the selection of Senators Burkett and Brown the state now has two strong anti-railroad men representing her, and any measure of reasonable corporation control undoubtedly will meet with their approval. The elections have eliminated every democratic senator from Northern states but two, Messrs. Teller of Colorado, and Newlands, of Nevada. Both these states belong to the Rocky Mountain group, and can hardly be classed as "northern" in sentiment or interest.

Among the new men, more interest attaches to Mr. Guggenheim, who will succeed Mr. Patterson, of Colorado, probably than to any other one man who will sit in the Senate. His large wealth, as the head of one of the great smelting works of the West, and his other investments would be supposed to put him in the class of corporation senators, but Mr. Guggenheim has announced that he has retired from active business affairs and have to the best interests of his state will devote whatever of talent he may and country at large. He says he wants to be a servicable member of Congress and has arranged his affairs so that he will be free to support all measures that look to the general good. Mr. Guggenheim's votes will be watched with interest.

The promotion of William Alden Smith to the Senate, after twelve years of service in the House, will add strength to the upper chamber. Such men as Mr. Smith deserve promotion. He is an expert on tariff and financial matters and going to that end of the capitol full of experience he will enter upon his duties there as well equipped as many Senators who have almost reached the veteran classification. As usual lawyers predominate among the new men elected to the Senate. Mr. Guggenheim and Mr. Richardson, of

Delaware, are the only ones of the seventeen who have never been admitted to the bar. These same seventeen also indicate the infusion into the Senate of young blood, as youth is the characteristic of the entire group. Mr. Richardson is but 37 and the average of all is slightly in excess of that figure. In some respects new young blood is needed in the Senate which is fast becoming less and less patriarchal.

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