

THE END STILL AFAR

Solution of Japanese Question Has Not Been Reached.

OTHER WASHINGTON ITEMS

Movement to Buy Log Cabin Occupied By General Grant—Damage Done By Mississippi River—Curious Letter to Cannon.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Despite the prompt action of Congress in enacting legislation to care for the Japanese question, it is altogether probable that, like Banquo's ghost, this problem will not drop for some time to come. Following a number of protracted conferences at the White House, Mayor Schmitz and the California delegation, the course they had mapped out with the President practically deferred a solution of the subject. That the Coast is not satisfied is evinced by a strong telegraphic protest now in the hands of Mayor Schmitz, in which O. A. Tveitmoe, president of the Japanese and Korean Exclusion League, protests against Secretary Root's amendment to the Immigration Bill. According to advices received here by way of London, Japan has agreed not in any way to any solution of the San Francisco problem depending upon the exclusion of Japanese laborers from the United States. This leaves open the whole question, and it would appear that the United States is treading upon very thin diplomatic ice. In all likelihood, the matter will be one of the big issues to be threshed out in the Sixtieth Congress.

Simultaneously with the movement to buy up and preserve the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, one has been started for the preservation of the old log cabin occupied by General Grant prior to the Civil War. Representative Coudrey of Missouri has introduced a bill providing for the appointment of a commission of three members to investigate the Grant farm, which is situated in Missouri. This commission is to go over the ground thoroughly and report a plan for the preservation of the farm and its historic log cabin. It is hoped to induce the Sixtieth Congress to make an appropriation sufficient to preserve the old homestead of the great General, transforming it into a repository for Civil War relics.

In a report issued this week by the Geological Survey, attention is called to the great damage done by the shifting channel of the Missouri River. The report says:

"The channels have shifted so rapidly in late years, that, whereas fifteen years ago, steamboats plied regularly as far up river as Omaha, there is now no regular line above Kansas City. At many points the channel has shifted in these fifteen years over a mile of ground, and where once were fertile farms are now only brushy gravel banks and worthless sand bars."

This report directly supports the contention of the National River and Harbors Congress that the improvement of rivers not only will permit of their carrying on their waters fleets of boats bearing the commerce of the country, but it will also prevent in large measure the great damage done each year by floods and freshets. With the rivers improved by deeper channels to provide for all stages of water, their enormous loss to the country at large each year would be obviated, while at the same time the gain made by the stimulation to commerce would be vast. The National Rivers and Harbors Congress is seeking to have the government devote \$50,000,000 a year to this work, and it is endeavoring to make its appeal the more powerful by adding to its membership, which now includes shippers, business organizations and individuals in every State in the Union. To this end, Captain J. F. Ellison, secretary of the organization, which has its headquarters in Cincinnati, has issued a general appeal to every one interested to join the movement. The National Rivers & Harbors Congress has the heartiest endorsement of President Theodore Roosevelt, Speaker Cannon and Representative Burton, chairman of the Rivers and Harbors Committee of the House of Representatives, while the president of the organization is Congressman Joseph E. Ramadell, of Louisiana.

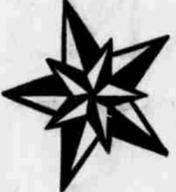
Speaker Cannon's mail contains ma-

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ny odd and curious missives from the citizens throughout the country. One of which reached him this week was addressed to "Uncle Joe," care of "Uncle Sam," Washington, D. C. The postal authorities had no difficulty in ascertaining for whom this letter was intended. When it was opened by Co. Busbey, Speaker Cannon's private secretary, it proved to be from Columbus, O., but the writer failed to attach his signature. The letter read: "Dear Uncle Joe: My minor left toe fairly aches with a desire that you will use your big influence to curb both trusts and trustees while saving as much time and money as you can during this short session. May your arm be both lengthened and strengthened as the session shortens. Please give us fewer battleships and railroad wrecks, small salaries and mileage bills, brief Congressional Records, more postpaid parcels post and one cent letter postage to atone for time wasted on the Brownsville affair, and you will fame as you deserve, not only in Illinois but in Ohio." The letter has been placed among Uncle Joe's collection of curios.

In these times of piping peace both the War and Navy departments are hard pressed to find both men and officers. At Annapolis the staff of instructors is so depleted that it has been necessary to press into service some of the upper classmen to direct the study of the newcomers. The War Department faces a like condition in

coast artillery service, for which branch it can secure neither the necessary number of men nor officers. A large number of guns and much expensive coast defense material is lying idle at the present time because the government can not find men to man the engines of war. For the same reason, the new battleship Vermont is not being fitted out, the Navy Department being unable to enlist recruits fast enough to equip a newer navy. However, this condition of affairs is not worrying the cadets at Annapolis to any great extent. The season of post-graduation social activity has begun thus early. Senator Kittredge of South Dakota this week having inaugurated the round of dinners when he acted as host to the South Dakota delegation in the Academy at a banquet spread in Carvel Hall. A number of other state and class dinners are on tap, and one already is planned to take place at the Homestead Hotel, at Hot Springs, Va.

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