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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

THE WEATHER

Oregon, Washington and Idaho—
Rain.

GROWTH OF CONGRESS.

There are veteran leaders in Congress who believe the membership of both the Senate and House should be cut in two. The theory is that better results would be obtained with smaller bodies. As the membership of the Senate is fixed by one of the fundamental principles of the Constitution, to reduce the number of Senators is out of the question. It could be done only by reducing the number of states and that is as impossible, almost, as to stop the moon in its monthly journeys around the earth. On the contrary, the Senate is bound to increase its membership. It is only a question of time when Arizona and New Mexico will be states, and there will be 96 Senators. Some day Alaska may be a State, and the number of Senators will be increased to 98. It is unlikely, unless Cuba should be annexed, that any of the insular possessions will attain the dignity of statehood, so 98 Senators may be looked upon as the final number.

A Congressional enactment, however, is all that would be necessary to reduce the size of the House. The House now has 391 members, and each 10 years in the past has seen an increase, aside from the increase resulting from the admission of new states. If the practice of years is fol-

lowed, the House membership is certain to go over 400 after the census of 1910. Under the constitutional apportionment of representation, there were 65 members of the House. The first census was taken in 1790, and making it the basis of a new apportionment, the number of Representatives was increased to 106. The census of 1800 increased the number to 142, that of 1810 to 186, that of 1820 to 213, that of 1830 to 242. Members of Congress decided even then that the House was too large and that something must be done to check its growth. So, when it came to making the apportionment under the census of 1840, the number of members was reduced to 232. Since then, however, growth has been unchecked. The census of 1850 increased the number to 237, that of 1860 to 243, that of 1870 to 293, that of 1880 to 332, that of 1890 to 357, and that of 1900 to 391, a portion of the increase in each decade, of course, being due to the admission of new states.

URNS THINGS LOOSE.

Republican leaders in Congress say they have no desire to quarrel with President Roosevelt between now and March 4. It is very apparent that the president is not going to run away from a quarrel; but, then, the President is going out of office in less than three months and Republicans in Congress, except those who fell by the wayside last November, have got to keep on doing business.

Mr. Roosevelt's friends predicted

two months ago that the President would "turn loose" this winter and indulge in some plain speaking. The prediction is being abundantly fulfilled. Never before did official communications from the White House to the capitol so bluntly call a spade a spade. And he has made no secret of the fact that he has other plain language in stock ready for use should Congress invite its issuance.

When you come to think of it, there is no good reason why the President should not now speak his mind. He has champed at his bit, as it were, for several years because party and other considerations made it inadvisable for him to employ the language he wanted to use in discussing divers men and measures. He can have his say now without jeopardizing his own political fortunes or seriously threatening the fortunes of his party.

Congress makes no pretense of liking the things that have been handed it, but, on the whole, the country appears to rather enjoy the situation. There are those, of course, who criticize the President for his most recent strenuousness, but the critic we have always with us. This criticism is not going to bother Mr. Roosevelt hugely. He is firmly convinced that public opinion will back him up, and believes the more he lambastes Congress the greater his popularity. And it would seem that he is justified in this belief.

TO COUNT MILLIONS.

Will Take Many Weeks to Complete Their Labor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The very first big job for this city's new sub-treasurer just appointed will be the unique and laborious task of counting \$282,000,000; that is, the cash on hand in the sub-treasury at the present time. Were the whole of this tremendous amount in bills and coins of the denomination of one dollar each, it would take one man, counting at the rate of 60 pieces a minute, more than 80,000 hours to finish counting them, a matter of 10,000 working days of eight hours each, or something more than 30 years altogether. Indeed if the man who is responsible for the count had to do it all himself he could come nowhere near finishing before another president was elected and his successor appointed, who in turn would have to repeat the whole process. The retiring assistant treasurer

cannot be released from his duties until the count is finished. Fortunately, however, the money on hand is not all in one dollar coins and bills, nor must it be counted by one man. The work will be done by 25 experts assisted by a force of laborers, and heavy scales. All the silver, nickel, copper and bills will be gone over, piece by piece, but the gold will only be weighed in sacks, with an occasional count to verify the accuracy of this process. Even so, however, the counting will be a laborious process for there is on hand at present in the sub-treasury \$170,000,000 in gold coin, 78,000,000 silver dollars, \$2,800,000 in fractional silver, that is dimes, quarters and halves; \$300,000 in pennies and nickels, and \$30,000,000 in bills. All this amount the new sub-treasurer will have to count and his efforts in this line will be watched with special interest as it is rumored that he will attempt to make a new record.

GERMAN WOMEN CONTENT.

Few Suffragettes There, as the Simple Life is Enough.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Girl students of Germany are not permitted to stroll down to the drug stores for dainties nor are they allowed to hold the mirror up to nature with elaborate coiffures, said Miss Harriet Kempf who has returned from Berlin, where for two years she taught at a school. The suffrage movement is not active in Germany, she says, as the women are quite content to lead the simple life. Girl students are rigidly chaperoned.

PERFECT PRINTING PLATES

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THE GUILLOTINE.

It Was Not Invented by the Man Whose Name It Bears.

In a book published by Hector Fleischman in Germany the story of the origin of the instrument of execution which was named for Dr. Guillotin in the days of the reign of terror is flatly denied. "There is no truth in the story, so long believed," he says, "that the genial old physician invented the machine which was named for him and by means of which he is said to have lost his life shortly after its adoption. Guillotin, in keeping with the spirit of his time, proposed on Oct. 10, 1789, that all offenders, regardless of their birth or station, should be dealt with alike by the law, and six months later he proposed to the government that convicted murderers should be beheaded by means of a simple apparatus. The mechanism of which he and no one else had any idea at that time was spoken of as the 'simple apparatus' by the humorists of the day, and the phrase was used to make its proposer ridiculous, so that when a machine finally was adopted the wits of the time named it guillotine. The government, evidently recognizing the value of the suggestion, asked one Antoine Louis, a surgeon at the Salpêtrière, to devise a machine and later gave a similar order to a carpenter by the name of Guillon, who offered to construct an instrument for decapitation for 5,000 livres. This was considered too high a price, and the contract was given to a German cabinetmaker by the name of Tobias Schmidt, who received 824 livres for the accepted model in 1792. Schmidt made guillotines for all the provinces, and the industry brought him a moderate fortune, which he proceeded to squander in Paris, while Dr. Guillotin, who never had anything to do with the making of a machine which bore his name, continued to practice his profession quietly and unostentatiously in Paris until he died there on March 20, 1814."

Could Handle a Shovel.

The foreman of a Chicago iron mill once employed a tramp who had been a college baseball champion. Their acquaintance began in a way that showed the tramp still to be game and cheery. It was a cold autumn dawn, and the tramp had slept in front of a furnace on a warm stone. The foreman, being short of laborers, on his morning tour of inspection spied the fellow and thought he would give him a job.

"My man," he said, "can you do anything with a shovel?"

"Well, I could fry a piece of ham on it."—Minneapolis Journal.

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FLAMES IN MINE.
DUQUOIN, Ill., Dec. 22.—Despite the heroic efforts of the several hundred men who have been fighting flames in Joseph Leiter's colliery at Zeigler, the fires still exist, thought to what extent cannot be determined. It is next to impossible to ascertain any information as to the gravity of the situation at Zeigler as orders have been issued forbidding any non-residents from loitering about the town. It is thought an effort will be made today by a party of men to descend into the mine to ascertain just what has been accomplished in the ten days. It is probable that flooding the mine will next be resorted to.

To be given away at the

... BAKERONIAN ...

CHRISTMAS MATINEE

Every lady and child attending the matinee from now to Christmas will be given a coupon which will entitle them to a drawing on a free present. The presents will be displayed in the show window of the Bee Hive Store on Commercial street. Special matinee prizes for children from now till Christmas, 5c. Who are the lucky ones?

ADMISSION 10 CENTS SEATS FREE

JOIN THE CROWD WHO KNOW AND GET REAL BARGAINS AT WATERMANS

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Free! Xmas Eve a Beautiful \$14 Doll will be given away Free!



Free! That Pretty \$14 Doll May be Yours Xmas Eve Free!

ONLY TWO MORE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS--DO YOUR SHOPPING AT WATERMAN'S TODAY!

Toys For Girls

The favorite toy for the little girl always has and always will be, DOLLS. We have a grand assortment: rubber dolls, rag dolls, A B C dolls, and fine China dolls. We can suit both taste and pocketbook. Our dolls range in price from 15c to \$5.00. Besides dolls, for the little misses, we have doll folding brass cradles, doll dishes, kitchen ranges, small flat irons, wash boards and a hundred and one other gifts to please the little girl. We have a splendid assortment of games of every description ranging in price from 5c to 25c. Story books, nursery rhymes, A B C and holiday books of all kinds

Toys For Boys

For the small boy we have probably the largest stock of toys in town. Repeating air-rifles \$1.50, pop-guns 15c, swords 15c, Christmas horns 5c to 25c, sand pails and spades 10c and 20c, pocket knives 5c to 30c, mail box banks, combination banks 15c, mechanical automobiles 30c, woolen dogs, horses, mules, etc., on wheels 15c; Happy Hooligan iron wagons and trucks of every description at all prices. All kinds of iron toys at from 5c to 50c; mouth organs 10c to 15c, carpenters' outfits \$2.25, soldering sets 15c, and tools, the boy kind, are to be had here galore at low prices. You must visit our boy department to fully appreciate the large assortment.

Gifts For "Grown Ups"

After looking around the many other stores in the city trying to decide what to buy your mother, wife, sister, or sweetheart for Christmas, if you will pay us a visit we will no doubt be able to supply you with "just the thing." For instance, you can get her fancy imported hand-painted China at almost any price, toilet articles, a Merry Widow hat pin and many other styles of fancy hat pins, shirt-waist sets, and links necklaces, handkerchiefs, bracelets, neck pins, jewelry boxes, writing stationery, and other articles too numerous to mention.

GUESS

If you think you are a good guesser, we challenge you to tell us the amount of shot in the small tumbler in our Commercial street window. It doesn't cost anything to guess and you may win the pretty doll for your trouble.

Since Waterman's store has been established in this city. Astoria has at last filled a long felt want, that of a department store where real values are to be obtained at right prices. Waterman's is fast becoming the favorite shopping place in the city for women, and is steadily gaining the reputation of being Astoria's leading store—and again we say

Watch Whose Windows For Bargains?

Waterman's

Our store will remain open until 9 o'clock evenings until Christmas.

Our store will remain open until 9 o'clock every evening until Christmas.

FREE

Just drop into our store and submit your guesses of the number of shot in the small glass tumbler; your guess may be the lucky one and win the \$14 doll to be given away Christmas eve. You don't have to buy to guess.