OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

[SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.]

WASHINGTON, D. C. Nov. 23, 1900. —The Chinese question is again on top in Washington. The slowness of the negotiations in Pekin as well as some of the demands talked of by the representatives of some of the powers has aroused the suspicion that some of the powers are not honest in their professions. and really do not wish a peaceable settlement. This government has instructed minister Conger to inform the other ministers of its opposition to making impossible demands of the Chinese government. But the most significant public occurrence in connection with this matter was the publication of an authorized interview with the Russian Ambassador to Washington, who, without mentioning other powers, gives unstinted praise to the U. S., and implies doubts of others. For instance, he said: "It is with a great deal of pleasure that I record the gratification I feel at the absolute harmony of purpose which exists between the United States and Russia in the Chinese question. No one can doubt the sincerity of the American government. Its magnanimous policy has added to its prestige in Europe and Asia." When ambassadors publicly record either their gratification or their regret it is always done for a purpose, and the closing words of the Russian Ambassador leave little doubt of his purpose in this case—to call attention to the acts and talk of the Anglo-German representatives in Pekin. He said: "I am hopeful that a solution satisfactory to the powers and to China will be reached, but to achieve it all must pursue a disinterested policy and have as its aims the objects they had in view when the trouble began." In diplomatic language this comes very near to charging England and Germany with double dealing in China. On the whole the situation is regarded as more threatening to American commercial interests in China than at any time during the trouble.

The National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, which has just concluded a very successful annual convention in Washington, had some vigorous words to say about congressional legislation. It endorsed legislation for the construction of the Nicaragua canal by the United States government; pure food; against trusts; regulating the use of shoddy; the Cullom interstate commerce bill; the construction of a waterway from the great lakes to the ocean; the extension of rural free delivery; the establishment of postal savings banks; and the election of U. S. senators by direct vote of the people. Portland, Maine, was chosen as the meeting place of the next convention, to assemble on Wednesday following the second Monday in November, 1901. A resolution was unanimously adopted endorsing the Pan American exposition, at Buffalo, and making October 10, 1901, National Grange Day.

A delegation of druggists are in Washington, prepared to try to convince the members of the house ways and means committee, which is wrestling with the problem of how best to reduce the war taxes, that schedule B of the war tax law which deals with articles in which druggists are particularly interested, is the one that ought to be entirely wiped out, whatever may be done with the others. The brewers are making a still hunt, with the assistance of shrewd and high priced lobbyists, for the reduction of the beer tax. The majority of the members of the ways and means committee have held consultations with the president, secretary of the treasury and the commissioner of internal revenue, to get ideas about how the bill should be drawn—the minority members will not participate in the committee meetings until the bill has been agreed upon by the majority. Secretary Gage told the committee that reductions amounting to as much as $30,000,000 a year might safely be made, and that is about the amount that will be aimed at in the bill, but the trouble lies in deciding where to make the reduction. It is no enviable task, as no matter how they are made a howl will be made by those interests which do not share in them.

Mr. S. M. Ballou, a Harvard man who has been a prominent member of the bar of Honolulu for five years is in Washington. He said of the election in Hawaii, which resulted in a triumph for the natives, against both democratic and republican parties: "The legislature in both branches has a majority of natives. Fortunately, they have not two-thirds and will be unable to do any great damage, as the governor, through his veto power, can checkmate them. Otherwise, one might expect to see such things as an effort to restore ex-Queen Liloukalani to the throne. Inded, Robert Wilcox, the congressional delegate-elect, frequently advocated that, and promised the Kanakas that if he were sent to Washington he would be able to accomplish not only that, but that he would stop the segregation of lepers."

To judge from the various opinions that are being expressed by prominent members of both branches of congress as to how much of a standing army we ought to have, it is not going to be an easy job to agree on the army bill, which everybody admits must be passed at this session of congress. The war department has officially announced that every volunteer in Philippines will be brought to the United States before their term of enlistment expires—July 1. 1901, and it is now pretty generally known that it will be necessary to replace them with other troops, and those other troops can only be had through the action of congress.

Brave Men Fall

Victims to stomach. liver and kidney troubles, as well as women, and all feel the results in loss of appetite, poisons in the blood, backache, nervousness, headache and tired, listless, run-down feeling. But there's no need to feel like that. J. W. Gardner, of Idaville, Ind., says: "Electric Bitters are just the thing for a man when he don't care whether he lives or dies. It gave me new strength and good appetite. I can now eat anything and have a new lease on life." Only 50 cents. at Eastman's Drug Store. Every bottle guaranteed.

The system of free mail delivery in country districts was inaugurated so recently that many readers will probably be surprised to learn that it now employs the services of over twelve hundred regular carriers who transport letters, newspapers and packages to nearly nine hundred thousand persons in various portions of the United States. The report of First Assistant Postmaster General Johnson shows that more than fifty five millions of separate pieces of mail were handled by this branch of the department last year, while the establishment of the new routes traversed by carriers daily has made possible the discontinuance of 508 fourth class postoffices.

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Custom Influences Language

Pomologists, like botanists, find it impossible to enforce the rules of priority in names of fruits and flowers. In fruits the names of Bartlett for a pear and Telegraph for a grape have not been changed, in spite of the efforts of leading pomologists and pomological societies to support the prior names. Those who lead in these good efforts forget that the only law for language is the law of custom. In a famous grammar we are told "the English language requires the pronoun 'it' for all inanimate objects; bet custom has so firmly made the sun a he and the moon a she that we have to accept it." Thus it will ever be. To secure the adoption of a prior name reformers must bestir themselves before custom gets possession of the field.

If you would have an appetite like a bear and a relish for your meals take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They correct disorders of the stomach and regulate the liver and bowels. Price, 25 cents. Samples free, at Eastman's drug store.

A Head-End Collision.

A serious accident happened to train No. 16, the regular overland passenger at 10:03 Monday morning about half a mile north of Dunsmuir, which miraculously escaped terrible results to its large cargo of human freight.

The passenger was on time and was manned by Engineer J. O'Malley and Fireman Frank T. Green on engine 1950 in the lead coupled onto which was engine No. 1766 in charge of Engineer Jack Campbell and Fireman Frank Carpenter.

Engineer Al. Schadt was returning to Dunsmuir from Black Butte summit with an extra light engine No. 1383 and ran into the passenger train. Both engines were smashed to pieces and the second engine was somewhat damaged. Fireman F. T. Green was the only one seriously hurt, his foot being seriously injured. The train was delayed five hours.

DIED.

WEEKS.—At his home in Ashland Wednesday, November 28, 1900, H. P. Weeks, of spinal meningites, aged 55 years.

COX.—At her home on Spring Street Ashland, Mrs. J. E. Cox, Monday, November 26, 1900.

CINCADE.—At the home of his daughter, Mrs. Perdue, in Gold Hill, R. W. Cincade, Wednesday. November 28, 1900, of Cancer, aged 80 years. He was taken to Medford, Thursday for interiment.

MARRIED.

BROWN--BEAN.—At the residence of J. R. Hardon, in Medford, Wednesday, November 28, 1900, Miss Etta M. Brown to Pearl Bean, Justice Stewart, officiating.

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