HERALD'S WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON D. C., Oct.22d '91

REPRESENTATIVE Mills and Crisp the two candidates for the Speakership of the House who are by general acknowledgement the leaders in the race, and one of whom will, bearing unexpected developments, be given the coveted honor of presiding over the next House of Representatives while the other will lead the party on the floor, both happened to be in town at the same time this week, and everybody was on the look out for news of their Speakership prospects, but both of the gentlemen are apparently more interested in the several State campaigns now going on than in their own. The Speakership campaign will really not begin in earnest until after the State elections, because no considerable number of Representatives will be in Washington until then.

The Italian Chamber of Commerce of New York City has for a long time, in fact ever since the passage by Congress of the meat inspection act, been at work trying to convince the Italian government of the wisdom of removing the restrictions which it had, in common with other continental nations of Europe, placed upon the importation of American pork. This week M. L. Contencin, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, came to Washington to announce that the efforts had been successful, and that the Italian government would shortly repeal the restrictions. Straight away there was a concerted yell from the administration crowd about "the great diplomatic triumph achieved by the administration through Minister Porter. Diplomatic fiddle sticks. There are, strictly speaking, no diplomatic relations between Italy and this country. Italy has had no minister here since the New Orleans incident. Whatever "triumph" there is about this pork business is entirely commercial and belongs to the organization of Italian merchants in New York city, and not to the administration.

Here is another instance of the administration trying to claim credit to which it is not entitled. By the inscrutable will of Providence Germany's grain crop was almost a complete failure this year and ours was the largest for years. The German officials casting about for some method to cheapen American grain to German consumers, thought of removing the duty on American wheat, and it is now announced as another 'great diplomatic triumph for the administration," which is to be credited to "reciprocity," the Germans allowing our wheat to come in free in return for our admitting their beet sugar free. Their beet sugar has been admitted free ever since the sugar schedule of the McKinley tariff bill went into effect.

Senator Sherman is said to have captured the vacancy on the bench of the Court of Claims for his man ex Representative Thompson, of Ohio.

A delegation of prominent Tennesseans were here last week to ask Mr. Harrison to promote U. S. District Judge E. S. Hammond, of the West Tennessee district, to the bench of the new Circuit Court.

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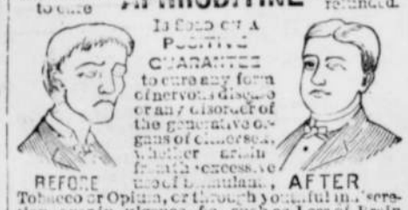

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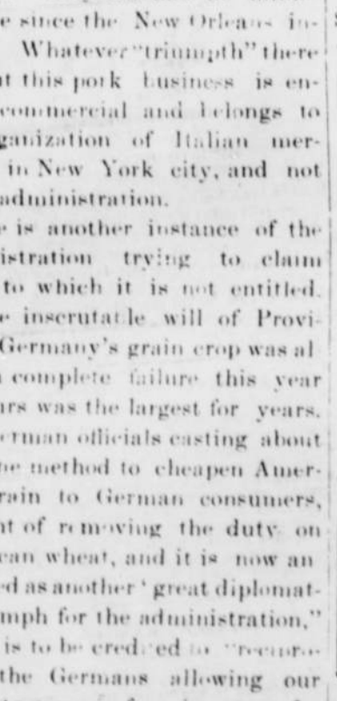

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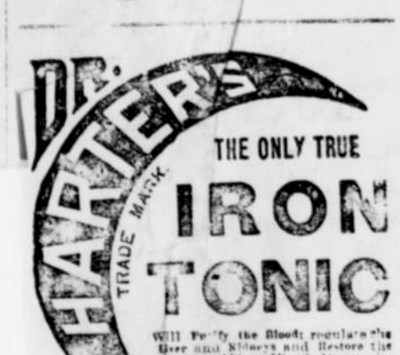

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