

REPUBLICAN officials, particularly those who have been in office, in the departments, for eight years or more, are in a state of mind. They don't like recent indications of a coming change in the Civil Service law. Civil Service Commissioner Roosevelt, in his anxiety in behalf of the republican office-holders, even took the trouble to go over to New York for the purpose of sounding President elect Cleveland on the subject. The immediate causes of this panicky feeling on the part of those who felt their positions on Uncle Sam's pay roll to be safe were two bills introduced in the House; one, by Representative Martin, of Indiana, providing that from and after the first of next July, all appointments in the Government service should be for a term of four years and that each official so appointed should be eligible for one reappointment, but no more; that all officials—here comes the part that has upset the nerves of those who have been feeding at the public trough so long that they thought it belonged to them—who have been in government employ eight years or longer shall be ineligible to reappointment, and the other providing for a suspension of the Civil Service law, so far as it relates to appointments and removals, for a period of one year from the beginning of each Presidential term. Representative De Armond, of Missouri, the author of the last named bill, says in a preamble thereto that no administration can fully and satisfactorily carry its policies into execution if a large portion of the subordinate officers are hostile to such policies

WHEN Vice-President Stevenson assumes the duties of his office on March 4 next one of his first official acts will be the administration of the oath to twenty-nine Senators whose terms will begin with the Fifty-third Congress. Not since the stormy days of reconstruction has the opening session of the United States Senate been marked by changes so many or so decided in the personnel of its membership. A complete change in party policy in all departments of the Federal Government is assured. From present indications the democratic party will organize the Senate in entire accord with the lower house and the Executive chair. Men who have directed Governmental policies and legislation for close to quarter of a century will be relegated to the rear, and the democracy, which has been in the minority in the Senate since the days of Buchanan, will again shape the policies in relation to the administration of the Government. March 4 bids fair to be the beginning of an historical epoch in American politics, and with its advent will come new men and new measures.

The talk that was current for a while of a contest over the Speakership of the House of the Fifty third (new) Congress is practically closed, and there now seems no doubt that Mr. Crisp will be re-elected without any considerable opposition. To start with, there was not

sufficient reason for the movement for Mr. Crisp has made an acceptable presiding officer of the House, and the attempted opposition to him therefore failed to gather strength. Then Mr. Cleveland declined to take any part in the proposed contest and discouraged it. Following this came some uncertainty as to the strongest man to lead the proposed movement against the present Speaker. Mr. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, came to the front as the only available leader of the opposition, and it then turned out that the rest or most of the rest of those who had been talking opposition thought that the situation was probable such as to make it undesirable to have a contest. And so the talk has gradually died out, and very happily and properly so.

THE making of the joint resolution providing for the election of the U. S. Senators by direct vote of the people a party question by the republicans of the House, when it was taken up and passed under a suspension of the rules, indicates that the resolution may be defeated in the Senate by the same tactics. There are, however, a number of republican Senators who, having publicly committed themselves in favor of the proposition, will find it awkward to vote against it.

THE largest appropriation bill—the Sundry Civil—has been completed. It is \$15,000,000 less than the estimates submitted to the House. The Diplomatic and Consular bill is also complete. It carries \$209,000 less than the estimates. The democratic watchword—economy—is being lived up to as much as possible.

Duel Between Giraffes.

Presently the belligerents came within a few yards of each other. Then commenced a scene that baffles all description. Some people might call it ludicrous, says a writer in the London Graphic. It was far more; it was side-splitting, and but for my desire to see the end I must have given way to convulsions of laughter. Although the giraffe possesses a certain beauty when at rest it loses its grace when in motion, and the greater its speed the more ungainly does it appear. But when two mature bulls begin to waltz and dance violently around each other, each endeavoring to outdo the other in agility, at the same mumbling their jaws and emitting fearfully discordant roars, it is certainly one of the most absurd sights human eye ever looked upon. They began rearing as if to bear each other down, their mouths all the time open to grip if opportunity occurred. At length the violent exercise began to tell upon the

elder beast. He made some mistake in a parry, and the younger seized with his teeth the foot of the veteran, who in return laid hold of his opponent's ear. For some moments there was a pause. It was very brief, and then the struggle was renewed. With a gigantic effort the young giraffe threw the old hero upon his haunches. He looked very much as if he had played his last card, but there was pluck in his aged heart yet, but the battle was not for him; years told against him, and victory lay with the youngster, who celebrated it by trying to drag the vanquished after him. This operation must have been very painful, for the shrieks that the defeated warrior uttered were heartrending. After a final worry the hero of the hour walked off, mobbed the two harems of ladies together, and willingly followed by all, took the lead. Not one of the companions of the fallen chief turned a head for an instant to see what had become of him.

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