

QUIT NEXT WEEK

Adjournment of Senate Thursday

Republicans to Present Solid Front

Washington, March 13—Thursday of next week will be chosen by the Republicans of the Senate to make the final vote on the Cuban reciprocity treaty. This will be followed by an immediate adjournment. The proposition will be submitted to the Democrats today, and if acceptable to them it will be adopted as the program.

The Republican steering committee was in session this morning for more than an hour. It was agreed that the Republicans should present a united front against the acceptance of any amendments to the Panama treaty. They fear if the amendments suggested by the Democrats are adopted the treaty will be enlarged in the Columbian congress.

It is also agreed to accept the proposed amendments to the Cuban reciprocity treaty, including the one requiring the concurrence of the lower house.

All the absentee Republicans have been notified to be in their seats Monday and Tuesday, when the voting on canal treaty begins, so as to ensure defeat of the Democratic amendments, and final ratification.

TOWN BETTERMENT.

HOW AN IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE BEAUTIFIED BAY RIDGE.

Cleaner Streets, Neater Front and Back Yards and Many Other Changes For the Better Since the Organization Began Work.

Bay Ridge, a suburb of Brooklyn, has been improved greatly in the last few months owing to the work of the Woman's Improvement League. Its streets are cleaner than ever before, its front and back yards have been beautified with flowers and plants, and the whole place has changed for the better since the league began work.

The Woman's Improvement League is the outgrowth of the Bay Ridge Reading Club, which has met weekly on Thursday mornings for fifteen years, says the New York Tribune. Until last June the club had confined itself to literary matters and occasional luncheons and lectures, but the unkempt condition of certain neighboring streets led its members to consider means for bettering conditions. The day the public schools closed the society was officially organized, and the members left the first meeting in carriages, for flying trips to the schools in order to get hearings with the children before they should be scattered for the summer. Eight awards were offered—first, second and third prizes of \$5, \$3 and \$2 re-

spectively, for the greatest improvement in the back yards and the same for front yards to the middle of the street; \$3 for the best window box in a home where there was no ground to cultivate and \$5 for the largest number of contributing members added to the club. The children were to do all the work of the yards. About fifty children entered the lists. Visits were made by members of the club about July 1 to the houses of all the enrolled competitors and conditions were carefully noted. Suggestions for laying out and planting the gardens were also made. Rounds were again made before the opening of school to note the change.

A condition of the test was that the competitors must not only keep their gardens free from weeds and disorder and their plants in healthy condition, but they must also pick up paper, old cans and all rubbish wherever they saw it scattered in the streets. To insure success in the last undertaking an appeal was sent to the authorities for rubbish cans to be placed at school-houses and at the junction of certain streets. The appeal was heeded promptly, and the receptacles are now dotted through Bay Ridge.

The most thickly populated blocks of Bay Ridge are made up of two family houses, and it was for the benefit of children occupying the second floors of such buildings that the prize for window boxes was offered. This effort has met with less enthusiasm. Landlords object to the placing of window boxes in tenement house windows, as they disfigure the sills. The neighbors on lower floors, too, are likely to remonstrate against the dripping of water over their windows from upper floors. Then if the houses have blinds the boxes furnish an obstacle. It is probable that hereafter prizes will be offered for thrifty house plants.

So far about \$20 in ten cent annual fees has been brought in by the youngsters, meaning an added membership to the league of about 200. The children themselves constitute the associate members of the league and the grown ups, who pay the 10 cents yearly, the contributing members. Each child wears a button bearing a device in the form of a tree and the legend, "Improvement League."

Other committees of the league are devoted respectively to sanitation, cleanliness, the care of trees, of new streets and the gaining of better traveling facilities for the population. The chairman of the sanitation committee tracks strange odors to their sources and reports unsavory conditions to the powers that be. The president both of the league and of the reading club heads the tree committee. She has obtained from the authorities a permanent permit for the league to trim and tend all trees, with the permission of their owners, without further license. This committee discovered that certain

pipes were being placed under the sidewalk of Third avenue instead of through the middle of the street, thus making the successful planting of trees along that thoroughfare an impossibility. Word was sent to the borough hall, and the pipes were laid in their proper place. The widening of Third avenue necessitated the removal of the large old trees lining it. The new street committee sees that when thoroughfares are cut through the work is continued until they are passable for vehicles.

In speaking of their work recently the treasurer of the organization said: "The prizes offered by the Woman's Improvement League of Bay Ridge to the school children of that district for the most carefully kept yards have proved a wonderful stimulus to the young gardeners. In some cases plots that were in the worst condition when school closed are among the best kept now. The parents of the children have shown the greatest enthusiasm in the effort, and their encouragement to the girls and boys has been of the greatest aid."

Sahara's Oases.
Some of the oases of the Sahara are quite large, one of them being 120 miles long and fifty-eight miles wide. The springs are of various kinds—hot, cold, mineral or gaseous. The Kargha oasis has a population of 8,000. They raise grain, onions and dates, but live on the least possible amount of food, work and reasoning power. Marshes abound and fever prevails.

COST OF BAD ROADS.

SOME STARTLING FACTS AND FIGURES BY MARTIN DODGE.

Our Poor Highways Said to Cost Us \$450,000,000 Every Year in Repairs. Their Condition an Obstacle to Rural Mail Delivery.

Poor roads in the United States are costing the people annually the enormous sum of \$450,000,000, which is a tax of more than \$7 a year for every man, woman and child. This amazing fact is pointed out by Martin Dodge, director of the bureau of public road inquiries of the department of agriculture in Washington, says the New York Herald. He advocates the construction of brick track roads with convict labor.

As a result of the good roads movement, which has been largely stimulated by the efforts of the department of agriculture, the road question is at present receiving a remarkable degree of active interest, as indicated, for instance, by a movement in the state of New York for bonding the state for \$80,000,000 to build country roads. This is wholly in line with a bill before the last national congress by Mr. Otey of Virginia for \$100,000,000 for the same purpose.

Mr. Otey declared, "In view of our willingly having spent \$400,000,000 on the Philippines, it is time to do something tangible for our own people."

"This is especially true," comments Mr. Dodge, "in view of the fact that we are continually paying an avoidable mud tax of more than \$450,000,000 each year for the privilege of driving over our dusty and muddy roads. This enormous expense is better comprehended by saying it equals a tax of more than \$7 each year for every man and woman and child in this country."

A careful study of the road problem in detail reveals some important and significant features. While good road stone is found in a very few places in this country, good clays are found in nearly every locality.

"If these abundant clays," Mr. Dodge argues, "can be used economically to build good roads, they will greatly assist in meeting the important problem of how to construct our country roads."

Again, as all loads are hauled over very narrow portions of roads through wheel co. fact-railroad cars, for example—it follows that if such narrow parts



THIS IS THE COSTLY ROAD.

of our roads are cheaply constructed to properly resist the weight and grind of the wagon wheels new and important results will be attained.

"Close study of these conditions resulted in the construction of a section of brick wheel track road in the department of agriculture grounds in the early part of 1900, followed by the introduction of this system in various places for the improvement of country roads and city streets, also with most encouraging results.

"The continued advance in the area reached by the benefits of rural free mail delivery under aid from the national treasury indicates its deserved popularity in the rural sections. A steady increase seems probable in the area thus benefited until all of the more densely populated parts of this country are covered.

"To the rapid and economical extension of rural mail delivery only one obstacle worthy of consideration presents itself, but that obstacle is of such a nature as to greatly affect its practicability and economy. This is the present condition of our country roads.

"Without question one of the first great movements toward the economical free rural delivery of the mails should be the construction of passable roads. This is already evident from the fact that some of the mail delivery routes have had to be abandoned on account of bad roads.

"The circumstance that over \$6,000,000 was appropriated by our last congress largely to be buried in our muddy roads in the delivery of our rural mails, while only the small sum of \$20,000 was last year devoted to meeting the road problem, indicates the great need of education regarding the present necessity and demand for vigorous and intelligent road work.

"As much of these large appropriations for rural mail delivery could be saved if we had good roads, it is obvious that an amount equal to a considerable portion of these sums could be spent to good advantage in educating the people in the work of improving our country roads and thus forever close a large drain on our national cash box. "In view of these facts could not a million or more be sent to the best avail-

able advantage by the national government in constructing a section of brick track road near each county seat throughout the country as an object lesson in each county in the most advanced methods of road construction?"

Indians and Citizenship.

Indians who maintain their tribal relations are not permitted to vote in any state. They are not citizens of the United States, but merely "wards of the nation." In all the states, we believe, an Indian who has severed his tribal relations and become a citizen and a taxpayer has a right to vote on an equality with the whites. In the matter of voting the fifteenth amendment to the constitution prohibits the states from making any discrimination on account of race or color. Our naturalization laws, for instance, do not admit Chinamen to naturalization, but the supreme court has decided that a Chinaman born here is as much a citizen as are the descendants of those who came over with John Smith to Jamestown or with the pilgrim fathers to Plymouth rock. And the Indian ought to have better rights here than the Chinaman.—St. Louis Republic.

One of Mrs. Grant's Bright Sayings.

When Mrs. Julia Dent Grant was living in Philadelphia in the house at 2009 Chestnut street that her husband surrendered to his creditors at the time of the Grant & Ward failure, it is recorded of her that she was visited one afternoon by a rich but parsimonious old woman.

The old woman narrated to Mrs. Grant the misfortunes that had lately attended a ward of hers, a young woman who had married a drunkard and who had just been deserted, though she was penniless and had two little children.

"I couldn't help but feel for her this morning when she told me about her trouble," said the old woman.

"It was well that you felt for her," said Mrs. Grant. "But did you feel in the right place? Did you feel in your pocket?"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Here's a Quicker Fish.

Each one of us has at some time eaten too much, but we have surely not gone to such an excess as this fish has. It is called the "black swallower" and as a swallower takes first place, for its stomach is much larger than its body. It will seize by the tail a fish eight or ten times its own size and work its way over it by repeatedly sliding forward one jaw and then the other. Before taking a meal the swallower is a very respectable looking fish, except for a voracious cast of countenance, but afterward he certainly has the appearance of having eaten too much. Then the walls of his stomach are so stretched as to be transparent. Later digestion begins and the swallower is turned belly upward by the imprisoned gas and his stomach becomes a balloon, which lifts him from the depths of the ocean to the surface, and in this helpless condition he is thrown about by the waves, perhaps cast ashore and left high and dry by the receding tide, in which case he does not swallow any more, for the returning tide finds him a dead fish.

The Constitution in Practice.

The theory of the constitution is that the three departments of the government—the legislative, the executive and the judiciary—are independent of one another. In practice the government is not carried on in harmony with this theory. The system of checks and balances does not operate as its inventors intended. The president was to have had the power of selecting his subordinates; the senate, through the exercise of the power of confirmation, was to prevent the appointment of unworthy men, especially of men who might connive with the president to usurp power. In practice most of the president's subordinates are forced upon him. He usually selects after consultation with a senator, who stands for the whole senate, for he has his power behind him through a custom which has grown to be a rule of conduct, known as the "courtesy of the senate."—Century.

The Widower.

"A widower," remarked the elderly female, "always reminds me of a baby."
"How's that?" queried the young girl.
"During the first six months he cries a good deal, the next six months he begins to take notice, and the odds are against his getting safely through his second summer."—Chicago News.

One Thing She Hadn't Seen.

"And now," said the country cousin to the city girl, "I have shown you everything on the farm."
"Oh, George, you haven't done any such thing. Why, I heard father say before I started that you had a mortgage on it that covered nine-tenths of the ground."

The letter carriers of Berlin, who are the poorest paid government employees in Germany, have been asking for more pay. To pacify them the emperor has graciously ordered that they shall be provided with shoulder straps. What do wages amount to compared with such honors?—After this exhibition of royal favor the letter carriers would indeed be ungrateful to complain.

The Post Check System.

The postoffice committee of the lower house of congress has now under consideration the much discussed post check currency bill, and it is to be hoped that out of the investigation will evolve, if not this particular bill, a measure embracing substantially the same provisions. Before a subcommittee of the above named committee Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden the other day gave an opinion as to the necessity and probable working of the postal check system, giving it unqualified indorsement. He said:

The theory of the post check notes is that a man has them on hand in the current money which he carries in his pocket. There will be nothing else in the way of small bills. The money orders for sums of less than \$5 would probably be taken out of the money order system. Each man would have his own money order or hand if he had a one dollar bill or a two dollar bill or a five dollar bill which he might wish to transmit. All the money of those denominations would be in the form of post check notes and would pass current as money until converted into checks by indorsement. When indorsed, they are good only to the person named. These post check notes would constantly flow in and out of the treasury, and there would be no appreciable contraction.

No one can foresee what will arise in actual practice, but I am unable to see wherein the post check would not work with entire smoothness and without complications. There is nowhere near as much complication in working the post check as there is with the present money order system. The additional work that would be entailed upon the treasury department is not, to my mind, a serious or tenable objection.

From this succinct and comprehensive synopsis the workableness of the post check system seems apparent. It is admitted on all hands that the present postoffice money order system is complicated, cumbersome and inconvenient for both sender and receiver, while it is undoubtedly more expensive to the government than the proposed system would be. One of the heavy items of expense of the present plan is the accounting in Washington, which requires the employment of a large clerical force. As a matter of fact the government loses money by the system, as the fees do not nearly pay the cost in time of postmasters and clerks consumed in the issuance, payment and final accounting of the orders.

The demand for such a convenient and popular medium of currency exchange as that embodied in the pending post check bill is unequivocal and insistent, and the wonder is that so simple a reform in our postal facilities was not long ago adopted.

His Dog Identified Him.

Bank clerks naturally and necessarily require satisfactory identification of persons who ask to have checks cashed. The same rule is followed in the postoffice by clerks who cash money orders, but what the nature of the identification shall be and by whom are matters which rest to some extent in the discretion of the clerk. The Boston Herald tells a story in which a dog bore witness to his master's identity. A Boston business man called at the postal order department to get an order cashed, but the clerk in attendance had only recently been appointed. He said the caller would have to be identified before payment could be made. "Why, I have had hundreds of orders cashed here," he replied, with a show of impatience. "Isn't there some one here who knows me?" "I'm the only one on duty just now. The others are out to luncheon," said the clerk.

No man is a failure because he says what he thinks. The failure comes when a man thinks of the wrong thing to say.—Boston Christian Register.

Head of Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Eben B. Thomas, who was recently elected president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company and the Lehigh Val-



ley Coal company, is one of the most prominent coal operators of the country. He began railroading at the age of fifteen.

WATER STILL RISING

Attempts to Strengthen Weak Levee

Railway Tracks Being Chained Down

Memphis, March 13—The river rose six inches in the last day. It is now three feet one inch over the danger line.

The railway tracks are being chained down to prevent their sweeping away, and the water works and gas houses threaten suspension. The greater portion of North Memphis is under water.

The vast area between the Wolf and Mississippi rivers is under water and houses are beginning to float by.

There are no breaks in the levee up to this hour and Carruths is now believed to be safe. At Texarkana there is only eight inches of the levee bank left and all plantations for a distance of five miles south are submerged 30 feet. Nothing but four days of fair weather can avert a crisis.

New Orleans, March 13:—At 10 o'clock this morning the river was only seven tenths of a foot below the high water of 1897.

Fifty thousand more sacks have been ordered for the levee. All have returned toward Arlington levee, near Baton Rouge, as most threatening with danger. Several hundred convicts worked there all night, although the new levee built back of the old one is almost certain cannot withstand the flood. State engineers say in regard to it this morning that it is only a case of hoping against hope.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the hereinafter set forth petition for the incorporation of the City of North Bend, Coos County, Oregon, will be presented to the County Court of Coos County, Oregon, for action thereon on the 1st Monday in April of the April 1903, term of said County Court, for Coos County, Oregon. Which said petition is in words and figures as follows, to-wit: To the Honorable County Court, of Coos County, Oregon.

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of Coos County, Oregon, residents within the boundaries of the hereinafter described land, do hereby petition to your honorable body that the hereinafter described tract of land may be incorporated and known as the city of "North Bend" under the general law for the incorporation of cities and towns in the state of Oregon, and description of the boundaries of said proposed city is as follows:

Beginning at the south-west corner of lot six of Section Fifteen, of Township Twenty-five South, of Range Thirteen West of Willamette Meridian, run thence Northerly along the West line of lots five and six of said Section fifteen, and along the West boundary of lots two, three and four of Section ten in said Township and Range, and thence Easterly along the North line of lots one and two of said section ten, thence due East to low water line of Coos Bay, thence Southerly along the low water line of Coos Bay to point due East of the line dividing lot four of Section 15 of said Township and Range, equally into North and South halves thereof, thence due West on said line to the West boundary line of said lot four, thence North along the West boundary line of lots three and four of said Section fifteen to the South boundary line of the North-west quarter of the North-east quarter of said section fifteen, thence west along said south boundary line of said North-west quarter of North-east quarter and of lot six of said Section fifteen to the place of beginning.

And we do hereby state and represent to your honorable body that we are more than one hundred and fifty people who are residents and living within the boundaries above described and of said proposed City.

Wm. Vaughn, J. W. Flanagan, L. F. Falkenstein, E. E. Riggs, W. H. L. Clark, Sig. Hanson, C. M. Byler, W. M. Lawler, Jr., Alton Kingston, Ira L. Weiszel, Chas. S. Kaiser, T. T. Golden, C. F. McCoum, John Lindgren, M. P. Pennington, J. W. Grout, C. A. Painter, Thos. Rooke, R. H. Jones, A. Wirth, A. F. Morris, E. Kaiser, C. H. Starbuck, G. K. Walker, E. M. Shaner, W. H. Coudart, John H. Eckhoff, Chas. Eckhoff Jr., J. G. Horn, J. J. Burns, O. N. Riejord, Emil Nielson, J. C. Toelle, Emil Forsell, C. H. Filletrott, Victor Anderson, Walter S. Carsons, D. B. Barton, J. C. Bridges, Ike Freese, Frank Steiner, T. H. Chapman, Fred V. Liffenthal, E. B. Fish, Mike Berghund, John Sandus, John Bernath.

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