

The DEMOCRAT wants here and now to make a prediction. First, that when the new Congress meets it will find itself confronted with a larger number of contested cases for membership in that body than has occurred for many years. Second, that nearly all the contests will be made by defeated republican candidates who claim the seats of their democratic opponents. Third, that the House will decide in favor of nearly every republican contestee without regard to the merits of the contest. This is the history of contests in the House when the republicans held a majority. Sydney E. Mudd, republican, will contest the seat of Barnes Compton of the 5th Maryland district. Compton was elected by a very small majority. In the 4th New Jersey district Samuel Fowler, democrat, was elected by only seventy-two votes, and N. W. Voorhees will try to overcome this by contest. Congressman Shively, democrat, of Indiana, was returned by a still smaller majority—less than forty votes—and Wm. A. Hoyne, his republican rival, will endeavor to secure the seat. As compared with these efforts to overturn a few votes, the contest of T. B. Eaton, a republican of Memphis, Tenn., to oust Congressman James Phelan seems quite herculean. Mr. Phelan received 8,000 majority. Charges of fraud will also be made by F. B. Possey, a republican, who was defeated by William F. Parrett in the 1st Indiana district. For the first time in many years a contested election case is reported from Connecticut, where in the 4th district Edward R. Seymour, democrat, will endeavor to unseat Fred R. Miles, republican. Wm. Elliott, of Beaufort, S. C., who had a contested case on his hands during this Congress, is again to experience the same trouble. Other cases which will excite interest are those of T. G. Phelps, republican, against T. J. Clunie, democrat, in the 5th California district, and John Baker, who defeated "Bill" Morrison, and who has in turn succumbed to W. S. Forman. Judge Waddell, of Richmond, Va., will contest with G. D. Wise the honor of representing the 3rd Virginia district. He charges fraud and illegal voting. This long list of cases does not include the West Virginia districts, which are almost certain to be contested. It is safe to say that the republicans will invariably succeed in these contests.

That is a fine showing the South makes in the way of material progress during the year that is just closing. It reveals the gratifying fact that the good work of industrial growth is still going on and in every direction, not being confined to any particular section, and that it is of the diversified character which must bring the best results. Cotton, iron and tobacco still lead, but this is quite natural, and there is no undue preponderance of these basic industries. Everything indicates that the coming year will eclipse any record yet made, and the work of the immigration companies and bureaus will be prosecuted on a much larger scale than heretofore. Every day the attractions and advantages of the South to the small farmer become more apparent, and with the growth of a more enlightened political sentiment, the number of northern and western men seeking homes in the sunny land will rapidly increase. Let this good work go on for a dozen years more, and the beginning of the new century will see the dawn of a new era for the South and the whole country.

Three thousand female clerks are now employed in the department offices of Washington. They feel quite easy over the prospect of retaining their places. Some of them intimate that their security would not be so assured if female suffrage was engrafted on the political system, in which case their sex might not save them against the demands of an equal number of feminine applicants just as capable as they are and more potential, because the latter had fought in the campaign and had not "grown gray" in the service.

The crusade against the wearing of bustles is not likely to make much headway. The New York Evening World recently sent out a reporter to investigate the subject. He found that out of 1,000 women 89.9 per cent wore bustles, 6.8 per cent did not wear them and 3.3 per cent belonged to the uncertain class, the reporter being unable to determine whether they wore bustles or not.

The distinction of being the "son of his father" is often no advantage to the father himself, and not a matter of pride to the father's friends. It was so in the case of Col. Fred Crant and Walker Blaine, and now appears to be developed in Russell Harrison, who, in his travels in the east, exhibits the enlarged cranium to an extent not favorable to the paternal reputation.

**ECONOMY.**

SALEM, Jan. 16th, 1889.

Editors Democrat:

The Oregonian says the people need have no fears as this Legislature is to be one of economy. This statement is not justified by the course of the Senate in creating the office of 2nd assistant clerk of that body. No such clerk has ever been had before, nor is there any more need for it now than during the last twenty years. It is a mere sinecure. It is currently reported here that Senator Watts refused to vote for Simon for President of the Senate unless his son, who now holds this new position, was provided for. The old man Watts feels that at last he is in a rich harvest field, and he proposes that he and his friends shall feast while abundance lasts.

**ECONOMY.**

Senator Dawes, of Massachusetts, is out in the Forum with an article strongly opposing the anti-Chinese legislation. He says that it is not only unjust but that its effect will be to induce retaliatory legislation from which we will be the sufferers. Mr. Dawes very wisely kept these views to himself until after the election.

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