

WASHINGTON.
(From our regular correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1891.
Speaker Crisp may have made some promises before his election as speaker—few men ever occupied the position who had not done so in their canvass for votes, but he has made few, if any, promises since his election. He lets the other fellows do the talking while he does double duty as a thinker; he knows that it will be impossible to so arrange the committee assignments that all the democratic members of the House will be pleased, and if those who enjoy his confidence may be relied upon, he will devote himself principally to the task of making an equitable distribution of the chairmanships and places upon the important committees between the various sections of the country; believing that no representative will allow his personal disappointment to make him angry when he sees that his section is fully represented. It is now almost certain that the lists of committees will not be announced until after the Christmas recess, and it is expected that Speaker Crisp will, after all the members have been given a chance to be heard, retire to his home in Georgia, or to some other place, where he can devote his time during the recess to making up the committees.

All sorts of gossip about the chairmanships and the make-up of the important committees may be heard, but about the only thing that everybody seems to be agreed upon is that the Ways and Means committee, which deals with tariff matters, will be dominated by northern and western members, whoever its chairman may be. The general opinion is that Mr Mills can have the chairmanship of this committee if he wishes it, but some of his close friends say that he will not take the place, several reasons being given why he will not; one of them being that if there is an extra session of the Texas legislature in the Spring he will be a candidate for the unexpired term in the senate of ex-senator Reagan—now temporarily being filled by Senator Chilton—and that if he is elected he will resign his seat in the House. But there are those who think that that is just the reason why he should take the chairmanship. They argue that for Crisp to tender this important place to Mr Mills and for him to accept it would show that no bad blood was left by the hot fight for the nomination, and that the committee could from the first take up the hard work of the chairman and that in the event of the election of Mr Mills to the senate this gentleman might be made chairman.

Resolutions providing for an investigation of the Pension Office will shortly be offered in the House by Representatives Cooper, of Indiana, and Enloe, of Tennessee. The latter gentleman says that his resolution will be for an investigation of the methods used and is intended to save some of the tax payers money that now goes through leaks which he thinks are in the machine. Mr Cooper is particularly interested in going for Gen. Raum, he being of the opinion that the investigation by the last congress was not as impartial as it might have been. Both resolutions will not be adopted, but the probabilities favor the adoption of a resolution that will be acceptable to both gentlemen.

Gen. Forney, of Alabama, who was the senior democratic member of the House Committee on Appropriations in the last congress, has, on account of his age and somewhat failing health, declined the chairmanship of that committee, which was tendered him by Speaker Crisp. It is believed here that Representative Holman, of Indiana, will, in the interest of general retrenchment in appropriations, be put at the head of that committee.

Speaker Crisp pleased those members who wished to get the cash for their mileage before Christmas by announcing at the short session of the House held on Saturday, previous to the adjournment until Wednesday, the membership of committee on accounts and that on mileage, as follows: Accounts—Rusk (Md.), Cooper (Ind.), Dickerson, (Ky.), Moses, (S. C.), Seerley, (Iowa), Pearson, (Ohio), Quackenbush, (N. Y.), Griswold, (Pa.) and Cutting (Cal). Mileage—Castle, (Minn.), Crawford, (N. C.), KenJall, (Ky.), Caldwell, (Ohio), and Fick (Iowa.) Representative Culbertson, of Texas, one of the best fitted men in public life for the position, has decided to accept the democratic vacancy on the Interstate Commerce Commission, which Mr Harbison tendered to him some time ago. His nomination will go to the senate at once, and he will forward his resignation of his seat in the House to the governor of Texas.

It was rumored that some of the republican senators proposed taking steps to have the senate declare Senator Hill's seat vacant, because of his not having appeared to be sworn in and of his retaining the office of governor of New York, but the most diligent inquiry failed to confirm the story.

Many valuable high mountain mines which could not be worked profitably owing to the expense of transporting fuel to the engines are now being operated by electric motors whose power is furnished by another motor in the valleys which uses water power.

One of the best mining experts of Arizona is Nellie Cashman, a tall, dark-eyed young woman less than 30. She is known all over the state as a most reliable worker.

Some days ago the DEMOCRAT, in speaking of the report that the reason for Crisp's election to the speakership was to be found in the fact that he and his lieutenants were in favor of changing the attitude of the democrats with reference to the tariff question, said that no graver mistake could be made and closed up the article by saying: "But the DEMOCRAT would expect and hope for the defeat of the party if it should now desert its tariff views."
For this an esteemed democrat who says he has been a close reader of this paper for twenty years calls us to task and asks if the editor of the DEMOCRAT is now going to turn his back on the work of a life time devoted to building up the democratic party. No, verily. The DEMOCRAT does not propose to turn its back on the great and disinterested work done by the democratic party. It is that very thing which we protest the party shall not do. For years democrats with unselfish, patriotic devotion have labored in and out of season to educate the people to a comprehension of the very wickedness of the republican protection scheme by which the millions are taxed for the benefit of the hundreds. And now when we have reached the point when the promised land is discernible, to have it even suggested that there should be any wavering on that question is to show craven cowardice. The interests of the people are far more important than the success of the democratic or any other party. Party is only a means to an end, and when it basely deserts a policy which it has labored long to promote simply because it thinks that course would lead to success, then it would richly deserve defeat, and we repeat, if the democrats should shift their attitude on the tariff question we will rejoice in their defeat.

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