

WASHINGTON.

(From our regular correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1891.

Speaker Crisp has been ill with the grip but he is so busy making the committee assignments that he says he cannot enjoy the luxury of taking to his bed until the troublesome business is settled, and he expects that it will be settled on Wednesday, when congress will take a recess until the 5th of January. The selection of Northern men for the chairmanships of both the Ways and Means and Appropriation committees, it being about settled that Mr Springer, of Illinois, will have the first, and Mr Holman, of Indiana, the last, has made some dissatisfaction, the argument being made that one section should not have both. But Mr Crisp's friends reply by citing the fact that the south has all three of the democratic members of the committee on Rules—Crisp, McMillan, and Catchings—which, they say about equally divides the power, so far as the control of legislation is concerned.

Representative Mills, who has been quite ill, is now convalescent. In reply to a note from Speaker Crisp tendering him the second place on the committee of Ways and Means and asking which committee—Commerce or Postoffice—he preferred taking the chairmanship of, Mr Mills wrote asking not to be assigned to the Ways and Means committee and expressing a willingness to accept such other committee assignments as may be made for him. The committee on Commerce has been changed to the committee on Interstate and Foreign commerce, and it is thought Mr Mills will be its chairman.

The House committee on Rules reported in favor of increasing the membership of the Ways and Means committee from 13 to 15 and of the quadro-centennial from 9 to 11. After accepting this report, the House, on motion of Mr Springer, voted to change the name of the last committee to that of the Columbian Exposition. The new rules will not be reported until after the recess, but it is not expected that they will differ very materially from those used in the Fiftieth congress, when Mr Charlise was speaker of the House.

Representative Enloe, of Tennessee, offered a resolution, which was referred to the committee on Rules, providing for the appointment of a committee of five to investigate charges against the Pension Bureau, including the notorious rerating and promotion cases, which resulted in the removal of "Corporal" Tanner; the office brokerage, which got a son of Commissioner Raum in trouble; the favoritism by which claims of certain attorneys are given preference over those filed either by individual claimants or other attorneys, and "all other matters relating to the conduct of the commissioner in the matter or to the administration of his office which in the judgment of said committee, may conduce to the honest, clean, just, economical and efficient administration of said Bureau. The adoption of this resolution by the House may be put down as a certainty.

Many members have gone away for the holidays as it was agreed that nothing would be done at the session of the House to be held on Wednesday except to announce the committees.

The nomination of Stephen B Elkins to be secretary of war and of Nathan Goff to be one of the Circuit Court Judges indicates that the administration has hopes of securing the electoral vote of West Virginia next year; but if the senators and representatives from that state know anything about it, Mr Harrison is indulging in a bit of "rainbow chasing."

Representative Culbertson, of Texas, changed his mind after having accepted and declined the democratic vacancy on the Interstate Commerce commission. It is understood that he did it in deference to the wishes of his Texas friends who want him to be a candidate for the senate.

The Supreme Court adjourned from last Friday until January 4th.

Senators Vorhees, and Turpie, will do their utmost to defeat the confirmation of the nomination of the notorious Judge Wood, of Indiana, for the new Circuit Court, and they are not without hope of success.

Notwithstanding the positive statement of J S Clarkson, Mr Elkins, the new nominated secretary of war, is regarded here as a much better Blaine man than he is a Harrison man; and time will prove that his going into the cabinet at this time is a part of a Blaine scheme of some sort, possibly, but not probably, in Mr Harrison's favor.

A curious fact has been noted in some of the Maine streams. The fish go to shallow water to lay their eggs, and they are often seen in water so shallow that the fins on their backs are out of water.

The daughter of congressman Baker, of Kansas, does a man's work on a farm owned by her self. She plows and sows and attends to the various other duties of farm life.

Mrs Taylor of Little Washington, Ia, is known as the oil queen, because she has accumulated a fortune of \$3,000,000 by personal investments in the Ritchie County fields.

Three beet sugar factories in California have closed down for the season. Their total production was 8,073,188 pounds. Total bounty to be paid is \$161,400.

If David B Hill were classified in butcher shop vocabulary he would be termed "owl steak." It is the toughest thing known.

A GLANCE AT THE EXCHANGES.

The West Side punches Pennoyer for recommending Joe Simon for the judgeship saying that the endorsement is inexcusable as he is nothing but a tenth ward politician. The Jacksonville Times says D S K Buick, who has recently been appointed register of the land office at Lakeview, is one of Douglas county's "foxiest politicians." The Yamhill County Ledger declares in the same breath that this is a great country for pasturage and scarcity of butter. The Itasca moralizes on the waning hours of the departing year. The East Oregonian persists in being only just a little lower than the angels. The Hillsboro Democrat has the usual Merry Christmas. How do you do. The Forest Grove Times says it is definitely settled that the Keely Institute for the cure of liquor, tobacco and opium habits is to be moved from Portland to Forest Grove. The Oswego Iron Worker says the democratic party can not afford to shelve Grover Cleveland. The Spokane Chronicle (dem) says the people lost a friend when Senator Plumb died. The Seattle Telegraph says the young men of the country are drifting into the democratic party. The Roseburg Review says Grover Cleveland will be nominated by acclamation and the people will ratify the choice in November. The Salem Journal opposes Hill and wants Boise for U S Circuit Judge. What's the matter with Lord, Mr Journal?

The farmers and agricultural laborers hold the balance of power in English politics. The Tory party has until lately relied upon its support in the agricultural districts; but more of them are finding out that the settlement of the home rule question for Ireland is the necessary preliminary to taking up important matters of interest to themselves. Hence in the coming contest a greater number than ever before are expected to support Mr Gladstone.

In the hot regions of Africa more than 2000 laborers are engaged in building the Congo railroad, and in the cold regions of Siberia many thousands of Russians are employed in the construction of the trans-Siberian railroads.

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