

ones where election judges have been stuffed with liquor or beer till they were unable to perform their duties intelligently. And while there is liability of men being appointed to that office who will not abstain voluntarily from the use of intoxicants when engaged in their duties, there ought to be some regulations inhibiting the presence of alcoholic beverages within reach of the judge; or, if one indulges in their use, to have him superseded by a better man. In the matter of selecting judges also, there should be a higher standard of qualification than is now required. It is well known that the appointing power cannot scrutinize or vouch for even a respectable proportion of the judges named, because of the impossibility of the commission going to every precinct in the Territory for that purpose; but those who send in suggested names should be given to understand that only men capable at least to the extent of reading carefully the instructions issued to them and of manipulating figures with a reasonable degree of accuracy, are acceptable.

It is not probable that any necessary trouble will grow out of the present count. That this is the case will be due to the extreme care the canvassers are giving to the matter, in order that no wrong may be perpetrated. No doubt there will be some changes from the result as formerly unofficially announced, but these will be only such as the facts warrant. But as to be forewarned is to be forearmed, the lesson of the present is to guard as far as possible against a repetition of what in the future might lead to grievous injustice in thwarting the will of the voters as expressed by their ballots.

MATTERS BEFORE CONGRESS.

Today, December 3, the Fifty-third Congress convenes for its last or short session. In its previous sessions questions of the gravest importance were dealt with, the principal ones being the repeal of the silver purchasing act and legislation affecting the tariff. But little of an extraordinary nature can be accomplished at this session, even if a disposition to proceed on the lines laid down were entertained by the ruling majority.

In the first place the time for work is short. Deducting the usual Christmas recess and Sundays, only about 65 days remain for actual business, and many of these, if precedents may be relied on, will be used in a display of parliamentary tactics, so as to reduce materially the actual time for the transaction of business. In the second place the sentiment of the country, as expressed in the late elections, will naturally exercise a conservative influence over the members who return to Washington victorious, whatever the effect may be in the case of those who were defeated.

Among the more important matters for consideration is the reciprocity question, which will probably be thoroughly discussed. Recently Germany, supposedly in retaliation for our duty on its sugar, has closed its ports to American beef and may carry the war further; Spain demands some compensation for admitting our flour to Cuba, and Brazil has given notice of her

intention to terminate existing treaties. All these questions would seem to demand immediate attention.

Another question, on which it is supposed an interesting debate will be had, is the Pacific railway indebtedness to the government. Possibly this matter will be postponed for next Congress to deal with, as it may lead to a departure from existing conditions of a radical nature—the turning of our roads to the management of the government.

The Nicaragua canal bill will in all probability also be heard of again. The proposition is that the government guarantee the interest on the company's bonds to the tune of \$87,000,000, but that the construction otherwise be undertaken as a private enterprise.

The remainder of the time will be devoted to appropriation bills, the currency question, investigations of everything that can be investigated, and debates on some measures left over from the long session. But on the whole, the situation in regard to the great questions of the day is likely to remain unchanged, and the problems involved will be left for the next Congress to consider.

The President's annual message, which appears in full in this issue, will repay careful perusal, as indicating measures upon which he would like congressional action.

GREETINGS FROM INDIA.

Our readers will remember the visit of the Rev. B. Nagarkar, of India, to this city some months ago, and the interesting lectures he delivered in the theater upon the conditions and religions of his native land. Under date of November 3rd he now writes from Bombay to Elder A. M. Musser of this city, who, as many readers of the News will also remember, fulfilled a mission to India many years ago, and who was consequently much interested in Mr. Nagarkar's lectures and formed an agreeable acquaintance with him. From this letter we are permitted to make the following extracts:

I have a most pleasant and most vivid recollection of my stay in your city and of the great kindness you showed to me. My memory often carries me back to my American friends and I so often wish them to visit my country as in the providence of God I was able to visit theirs! As I am writing this from my Indian home after the experiences of the last year my heart is overflowing with gratitude to God for the many friendships that He enabled me to form during my sojourn in America. These I consider not merely passing acquaintances but permanent fellowships in the household of God's children.

I have just finished the first course of lectures on America in which I dwell on the social and political aspects of the American people, and next month I am going to deliver some lectures on the religious side of your country, giving one whole lecture on Mormonism. You do not expect me to agree with you in every respect. You know me only too well to think so. But at the same time I must say that the industry, perseverance and courage shown by the Mormons in the process of the development of their Church are great lessons to the wide world, and I purpose to draw the attention of my people to this practical side of

Mormonism. On this score there can be no two opinions. The valuable works which the authorities of your Church presented to me have been of great use to me in making an intimate and I hope a sympathetic acquaintance of your faith. Convey my thanks to the friends who so kindly sent those works and accept my obligations for the same.

It will give me great pleasure to hear from you occasionally and to hear what is going on in your midst. * * * I am happy to say that I am keeping fairly good health. I sincerely hope and pray that you and yours are doing well in every way. Remember me respectfully to all and let me hear from you at your leisure. With fraternal regards to yourself, I am,

Yours sincerely, B. NAGARKAR.
Rev. A. Milton Musser, Salt Lake City, Utah.

THE INDIAN OUTRAGE.

It is regrettable to note the action, or rather inaction, of the government officials in regard to the incursion of the Southern Utes who have left their reservation in Colorado and have entered San Juan county, Utah, where they are reported to be killing stock belonging to the settlers and conducting themselves in an impudent and arrogant manner. A first cause of regret for the official inactivity is the imminent peril in which human life and property is placed thereby; and second because the failure of the proper officers to move is not based on lawful, reasonable or humane grounds.

It is not pleasant to have to point out what appears in this instance to be clearly a dereliction in official duty, for which only the flimsiest and most evasive of excuses is offered. In response to the complaint of the settlers and the Governor, the only reply vouchsafed was, first: that the Indians had been in the habit of coming into San Juan county in winter; and second: that if they said Agent Day told them to come they were lying. And upon this the officials rest content to let the Indians do as they please. Now if there is anything dignified or honorable in this manner of treating the question, we fail to perceive it. To us it is the reverse of all that is commendable. Suppose the Indians have been in the habit as alleged—which is not true; that was not the basis of complaint. And suppose they are not telling the truth about Agent Day—which seems hardly probable in view of his present attitude; redress was not asked for on that score. The fact is, the Indians are off their reservation, which should not be permitted; they are in Utah, where they have no business to be. It is the duty of Agent Day and other officials to keep the savages on the reservation. If the Utes had been in the habit of leaving their lands, the shame is all the deeper on the officials who permitted it; and if Mr. Day did not give them his consent, why does he not make them return? There is but one correct version of the affair to be considered, viz: The Indians are unlawfully away from their lands threatening the lives and property of the white settlers, and the failure of the proper officers to compel them to return at once to Colorado is an outrage on American citizens. There seems to be but one sentiment backing this movement, and that