

run past it and what was a farm on the outskirts of the town when Sherman bought it is now surrounded by fine homes, and has beyond it some of the best residences of the city. A great part of the estate has been divided up into town lots and sold. Some of it has been given by Senator Sherman as a park to the city, and the remainder, about twenty acres, constitutes the lawns and gardens of Senator Sherman's home. It is a beautiful place, filled with old forest trees and beautiful shrubs. It lies high up above the surrounding country and the senator has a summer house just back of his residence, where you get a view of miles of the rich, rolling Ohio country.

THE SENATOR'S HOUSE

is one of many rooms, all large, airy and, even in these hot July days, deliciously cool. There are many windows and these give magnificent views. Mansfield has neither mosquitoes nor malaria, and as I wandered about under the trees I could appreciate the senator's disgust at having to return to the soft asphalt of Washington's par-boiled streets and to the boxed up rooms of the white stone palace on Franklin park. Here at Mansfield he can wander about in the lightest attire. He wears an old straw hat, light pantaloons, a black sack coat and looks as cool as the center seed of the traditional cucumber. He rises early, eats a light breakfast and then sits down in his big library on the ground floor, in his slippers and loosely made clothes, and dictates answers to his mail. He gets a large number of letters daily, but he is used to dictation and he disposes of them rapidly. His private secretary writes a hand almost identically the same as his, and when a letter has been transcribed by him from his shorthand notes and signed by the senator you would not suppose but that the senator had written the whole with his own hand. After he has finished his correspondence he walked about the place and after lunch usually goes down town, sometimes in his carriage and not unfrequently in the cars. Mansfield was one of the first towns in the United States to put in an electric car line and it has now one of the best in the country. In the evening the senator usually drives out with Mrs. Sherman and his daughter, Miss Mary, and altogether his home life at Mansfield is a delightful one.

SENATOR SHERMAN IN 1893.

I found the senator in his library when I called by appointment yesterday morning. He was answering his mail and while he finished his dictation I spent the time in studying him and his surroundings. His library is that of a man of culture. Busts of our greatest statesmen—Webster, Clay and Washington looked down upon us from above the black-walnut book cases and familiar volumes of fiction and poetry, as well as of history and political science smiled at us out of their well worn bindings on the shelves. There were, I judge, about 5,000 volumes in the library. I noted that these were in all the modern languages, and I am told that the senator reads the French and German as well as the English. He is a man of wide culture and his whole life has been devoted to work and study. I doubt whether we have ever had a statesman

with the exception, perhaps, of John Quincy Adams, who has saved the intellectual pennies so conscientiously as John Sherman. He once told me that the making of books was so rapid and along such foolish lines that it hardly paid one to read a book before it was at least a year old, and that the much reading of newspapers was injurious to one's intellectual health. Senator Sherman's reading of fiction is largely confined to the classics of our literature and his favorite, he once told me, was Walter Scott. He keeps himself abreast of all the best magazine literature and not infrequently contributes an article to the *North American Review* or the *Forum*.

Senator Sherman has been throughout his life as careful of his physical as his intellectual health and his condition today is that of a man in his prime at seventy. His beard is now white and grizzly, but his eyes are bright and his step is as firm as it was thirty years ago. He has never dissipated and his only vice is in smoking, which is confined to three or four cigars a day. He never drinks anything to speak of and his table has always been a plain and simple one. He takes a limited amount of exercise and is in short still physically and intellectually sound. His surroundings here are such as tend to prolong life, and as he concluded his mail I asked him how he liked the idea of going back to Washington in the dog days.

A HOT SESSION.

Senator Sherman said. "I don't like it, but it is a necessity and we have to go. You can see how inconvenient it is. I have my family moved out here and am fixed for the summer. It is the same with the others of the Congress and we have our political work to do as well as other matters to attend to. Now we are compelled to go to Washington. The city is hot, and I think rather unhealthy during the months of August and September. It is certainly worse than at any other time during the summer. I can't take my family with me, and I will have to keep bachelor's hall and go out for my meals.

"What will Congress do at this extra session? How long will it last?"

"No one knows. It is a Democratic Congress. It may last four weeks and it may last four months. If the Democrats decide to confine its work to the repeal of the clause of the act of 1890, authorizing the purchase of 4,500,000 ounces of silver a month it could finish its work in a few weeks, but it will probably try to enact other financial legislation, and when we will get through no one can tell. The session is going to be an exciting one, and there will be much discussion and many speeches. At the special sessions with which I have been connected during the war and since, the work has been confined to certain subjects. I hope nothing outside of the financial question will be attempted at this."

THE SHERMAN CLAUSE.

"Should the Sherman clause be repealed, Senator, and what will be the effect of such action on the times and the country?"

"I think the purchasing clause of the act of 1890, commonly known as the Sherman act, should be promptly repealed," replied the Senator. "But this

will depend on the action of the Democratic party and it will, I presume, give rise to long debate. The Democrats are by no means in a happy condition. The great majority of them have committed themselves in the past to the free coinage of silver, which President Cleveland, is anxious to have them abandon. If they do so the responsibility will rest upon them of determining whether silver should cease to be a standard of value and gold alone be the basis of our coinage and currency. Their present position of opposition to the purchase of silver while supporting the free coinage of silver, is a ridiculous and untenable one. It is in short a piece of hypocrisy which would make a horse laugh. They must do one of two things; they must either adopt free silver or suspend the purchase of silver. The expedient adopted in the act of 1890 has demonstrated the impossibility of maintaining the market value of silver and free coinage means simply the adoption of the silver standard and the reduction of the purchasing power of the dollar to sixty cents."

THE INDIA SILVER QUESTION UNSETTLED.

"How about the action of India as to silver, Senator?"

"The financial policy of India in this respect is not fully settled," replied the Senator. "It is by no means certain but they will purchase the same amount of silver as before, but at market prices instead of coining all that is offered as now. It would not surprise me if they should resort to the same expedient adopted by us in the act of 1890, and buy silver at a market value and maintain it at some fixed ratio with gold. The silver question is a pressing question in India. That country has vastly more silver than we have. Hindostan alone contains 250,000,000 people and these have all been doing business with silver.

BIG CROPS AND GOOD PROSPECTS.

"Are you not apprehensive as to the times and the condition of the country?" I asked.

"I do not wish to be interviewed as to the business situation, but I will say that the country ought to be in a good condition. The crops are phenomenally large. I am getting more hay off my land here than ever before and I expect to have at least twenty tons. The hay crops this year will be enormous and hundreds of thousands of tons will be exported. There is a sort of a hay famine in Europe this year and hay in France is bringing forty dollars a ton. The wheat crop is also large, but the prices are lower than I have ever known them. There is no money in raising wheat at the present wages for farm labor, and I doubt, in fact, if any profitable farming can be done at the present wages. The wheat raised here will not more than pay the wages of the labor required to sow and harvest it.

THE FUTURE OF WAGES.

"Are not wages increasing in the United States right along?"

"They have been," replied Senator Sherman, "but whether they can continue to do so is doubtful. Labor commands today more than it will produce in profit to the employer, and there is a disposition over the country to avoid its demands by the closing of factories