

other is James Smith, Jr., of New Jersey; the third is George Gray of Delaware. In the south and southwest there are several Democratic senators whose terms expire on the 4th of March, 1899, and who have, at least, some prospect of return to Washington, or of being succeeded by Democrats of similar political no-tions. There are Roger Q. Mills of Texas; John W. Daniel of Virginia; Senator Pasco of Florida; and Senator Bale of Tennessee. There will be one Democratic vacancy in California and another in North Dakota. The term of Senator Hawley, Republican, in Connecticut, expires on the same day.

The three silver Republicans whose terms expire in 1899 are Senators Cannon of Utah, Mattle of Montana, and Stewart of Nevada. The latter, though the stalwart representative of a state politically insignificant, is a notable figure in Washington. He was elected to the Senate away back in 1884, since which time, while he has not been a senator consecutively, he has been long enough in Washington to know what is going on and occasionally to have something to say about it. The Populist senator whose term expires is William V. Allen of Nebraska.

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS.

Accounts still come in of the strange craft which so many people have taken to be an airship. The stories people told in different parts of the country brought much ridicule on those who claimed to have beheld the unusual sight, until persons who saw the night visitor hesitated to relate what they had witnessed. In Utah, as elsewhere, reputable people, and many of them, saw the curious aerial phenomenon or elongated luminous body travelling a short distance above the earth; but no one seems to be able to explain the occurrence.

The theory that it was an airship is no longer tenable, since it never is known to descend to the earth. The idea that it was the reflection of a forest or other fire, presented by a peculiar condition of the atmosphere, also fails because of the various localities and movements of the aerial visitor, and by the further fact that the central flint is more clearly defined than a fire would be, and looks like a red star of great brilliancy from which sparks are occasionally emitted.

The latest theory is advanced from a recent appearance witnessed off the British Columbia coast, where more than a hundred passengers on a coast steamer assembled on deck and gazed at the moving light, which gradually passed from their view beyond the horizon, but which seemed to keep at an even distance of a mile or two above the earth. The suggestion is now made that it is an aggregation of particles of luminous matter, gathered together by some one of nature's processes, its density not being sufficiently great to bring it to earth, or to make it look more than a cloud in the daytime, but yet sufficient to show light as a compact body. How far this theory of the strange sign—or signs, if there be more than one, as

there seem to be—will be borne out by critical inquiry remains to be determined, but one thing is established by abundant testimony, viz., that there is a curious aerial phenomenon with luminous qualities which has been witnessed in the upper deep by hosts of people.

SECRETARY WILSON.

The people here have a cordial welcome for Hon. James Wilson, U. S. secretary of agriculture, if for no other reason than that he is giving to the duties of his office that personal and practical attention which makes him familiar with the needs of various parts of the country, and thereby adds to his qualifications as an official. We believe he is the first secretary of agriculture to come to the coast while in office, and on direct business connected with his department, which is intimately associated with the welfare of a vast number of people in this part of the nation.

Secretary Wilson is interested in the tiller of the soil and is desirous of doing all in his power to promote the agricultural industries of the country to a profitable basis. That is the purpose of his visit West. Whatever the government can do for the good of the farmer, gardener, orchardist or stock-raiser, he wishes to see done. He is giving particular attention to the sugar beet industry just now, because he realizes that a hundred million dollars go out of the country annually for sugar, when the western farmer especially should be raising the beets to keep that money at home, to the farmer's benefit. But he is also devoting time to other branches of soil cultivation and associated avocations.

We trust that Mr. Wilson will find as much pleasure in his visit here as the people feel honored and complimented in having him come; and further, that he will be gratified with the acquisition of such knowledge as will give him a clear comprehension of the aims and prospects of the people here, to broaden and improve the stupendous work now being accomplished by the important government department of which he is the head. We bid him a hearty welcome to Utah, and look for the awakening by his visit of a pleasant and lasting friendship for this intermountain region of the great Republic.

A FADING LITERATURE.

The Pittsburg News offers consolation to its readers, and indirectly to mankind generally, in the discovery by an expert that none of the books now being printed will be of existence a century hence. By way of explanation it may be said that this prediction refers primarily to the mechanical properties of the book. Formerly printed paper was made by hand, the material used being honest rag; while the ink was made from nutgalls. Nowadays straw and wood-pulp, generously treated with acid, constitute the main elements of the paper, and the ink is com-

posed of chemicals and foreign substances which eat into and destroy the paper. The books of today, this expert declares, are thus doomed to rot away; those which have survived two or three hundred years were never made of such sturdy as now characterizes the trade.

Every now and then nature demonstrates that she has her own remedies, and for the current passion for paper and the itch for ink, the expert in question has perhaps stumbled unconsciously upon a welcome cure. The scribbling habit never was so widespread as it is now. Tons of books are turned out every year, and if our posterity were doomed to read them (instead of our literature doomed to decay) the prospect would be indeed aweful. The thought that such a fate may be avoided will be cheering to fond parents, whatever it may be to egotistical postasters and publishers; for own woes in this line should not be visited upon the heads of our children. Besides, posterity may have as strong an attack of the writing habit as we have now, in which event it should have, along with the inclination, the occasion to make its own literature.

HOW DOES THE WIND BLOW?

It is notable that common sentiment often is a precursor of great events. Not always does the popular idea of the future find realization, especially when this is of a hopeful character. But it is a common experience that when whole peoples become imbued with an instinctive yet indefinable premonition of approaching trouble, difficulty of a serious nature ensues. Whatever the source of this forewarning in the nerve-system, as it were, its occurrence is unpleasant. In view of this, it is especially interesting to measure the future of the United States by such a standard. Just now there is a good promise of reviving business, brought by good crops and other events. But there is no relaxation of the unrest concerning the future which has permeated the masses of this country. The nations of Europe are beginning to express a similar feeling—not the anti-American views that have caused many caustic comments, but a real dread of strange and startling developments in this country. In England, it is being urged that financial investment in America is unsafe; and in Germany the press is almost a unit in advising merchants not to extend long credit on this side of the Atlantic. In other nations it is the same—a great collapse, especially in finance, is feared, though none give tangible reasons for anticipating it. Is it possible that the comparative unanimity of sentiment on this point is a straw showing which way the wind blows?

A STRIKE POINTER.

A point as to whether there is truth in the claim set forth by laboring men, that the wealthier classes combine and conspire in the most shameless manner to oppress the wage-earner, especially in the more thickly