

KONGO CASE IS NOW COMING UP

The Lodge Resolution for an Inquiry Distrubs Some Senators.

SHALL UNCLE SAM "BUTT IN?"

Garlin of Oregon Wants Japanese Exclusion at Once—Spencer and LaFollette Hold Amicable Contab.

Special Correspondence.
Washington, Dec. 17.—Members of the United States senate, and especially those who make up the committee on foreign relations, are more or less disturbed by the resolution introduced by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts which provides for an international inquiry into the atrocities alleged to exist in the Kongo Free State with at least the tacit consent of the king of Belgium. There is a general disposition to do whatever may be properly done toward bringing about reforms in the Kongo, but many conservative senators are doubtful if the United States is in a position to take any such action whatever.

NO INTERFERENCE ABROAD.
The Algeiras treaty, which was ratified last week, had attached to it a resolution specifically disclaiming any intention on the part of the United States to interfere with European politics or the internal affairs of any European nation. Had it not been for this resolution the treaty probably would not have been ratified. The Democrats particularly objected to what seemed to them to be an effort to "butt in" to old world politics in view of the fact that we would quickly resent any attempted interference with our internal affairs on the part of a foreign power. The answer made them was that the sole object of the United States in participating in the Algeiras conference was a desire to protect our commercial interests, whereupon they insisted that a statement to this effect be incorporated in the treaty.

INCONSISTENT, SAY SOME.
Now some senators are asserting that Mr. Lodge's Kongo resolution proposes as direct an interference with European matters as did the Algeiras convention without the resolution of disclaimer, and there will be considerable opposition to it on that score. Some authorities express the opinion that we have no more right to suggest an international investigation of the Kongo situation than Germany, for example, would have to ask other European powers to co-operate with her in investigating lynchings in this country. A number of others think that the trouble in the Kongo is by no means as bad as it has been represented to be. Indeed, it is obvious to even the superficial observer that for some reason or other a surprisingly large amount of money is being spent in having the two sides of the Kongo case presented to the American public. The Belgian government is accused of maintaining a special lobby in Washington for the purpose of preventing any congressional action with reference to the Free State conditions, and it is quite possible that the charge has at least a basis of truth. On the other hand, an equally persistent lobby is working hard to create anti-Belgian sentiment. It would be interesting to know what the subterfuge facts are.

NEW JAPANESE TREATY.
Although the story that the president is negotiating a new treaty with Japan has been repeatedly denied, there can be no doubt that a strong desire for the signing of a convention which will have the effect of excluding Japanese cool laborers exists in many parts of the country. Legislators from the Pacific coast would like to get through some sort of an exclusion act at this session, but there is no reason to believe that Japan will consent to anything of the kind until the complications which have resulted from the action of the San Francisco school authorities in segregating Japanese pupils in the public schools are cleared up. Senator Garlin of Oregon has offered a resolution which declares it to be the sense of the senate that the further entry of Japanese laborers is undesirable, and that a treaty providing total exclusion should be negotiated at once.

SPOONER AND LA FOLETTE.
Because two men are political enemies it does not necessarily follow that they thirst for each other's gore. No two men in public life have fought each other more vigorously in the field of politics than the senators from Wisconsin, John Coit Spooner and Robert Marion La Follette. Yet it is not necessary for mutual friends to interpose to prevent an encounter when they are in the same neighborhood. Today the two of them happened to enter the senate marble room at the same time. In a pair of minutes they were deep in a conversation which must have been very funny, judging from the amount of laughter both indulged in. Mr. Spooner patted Mr. La Follette on the shoulder. Mr. La Follette poked Mr. Spooner in the ribs. A great many things are different when looked at from the Washington viewpoint. Next thing you know a spectator, "we'll have the president and Senator Tillman engaging in a love feast."

ONE AT A TIME BETTER.
A large party of Maryland school-ma'ams filed into the house lobby and asked L. White Busbey, Speaker Cinton's capable secretary, if they could see Uncle Joe. They could. They saw him. They sang "Maryland, My Maryland," and nearly everybody was happy. They went on their way, and Uncle Joe returned to his office. "That was bully," he remarked. "I wish they had come one at a time, though."

IS THERE REMEDY FOR OLD AGE?

Prolonged youth is a subject that has received much attention by scientists abroad of late and given rise to many interesting experiments and theories. A number of these theories as to the process of old age are set forth in a paper recently prepared by Dr. Carl Snyder of London, for the Monthly Review.

One of the authorities he quotes, Dr. Demange, holds that old age is essentially a result of insufficient nutrition, brought about by the disorganization and decay of the finer blood vessels and capillaries. But Dr. Snyder argues arterial degeneration is but a part of the general decay, not a cause.

A Russian physiologist, famous for his descriptions of the phagocytes, offers this theory. He distinguishes among these devouring cells two



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varieties—the one which he calls the microphages, that is, the little devourers, whose main business is with the defense of the organism; these are throughout the body—in the brain, in the blood, the lymph and the tissues; and the second variety, the macrophages, sometimes mobile, sometimes fixed. Old age is the work of the macrophages. Everywhere throughout the body, in the brain, in the nerves, in the important organs—Metchnikoff pictures these devouring cells as attacking the most active elements of the tissues—that is to say, brain cells, the liver cells, the kidney cells—and converting these into a sort of connective tissue no longer able to carry on their former functions.

Dr. Snyder states that Dr. Wolfgang Weichardt, a German physician, has recently made a long and arduous series of experiments—800 or more in number—with the most amazing results. He takes test animals—guinea pigs, for example—puts them on a miniature treadmill and runs them until they fall dead from exhaustion. Then he expresses or collects from the fatigued muscles of these animals a juice or sap. When this sap is injected into the veins of unworked guinea pigs they show promptly all the outward signs of fatigue—can support no effort, their eyes stick out from their heads; at the end of 20 to 40 hours they die. The sap converted from the fresh, unworked animals shows no such effect.

Prolonged muscular activity, then, produces in the muscles a poison which, circulating through the body of the animal, causes its death. This poison is a definite substance, which, injected into other animals, produces identically the same effects. It is in its action evidently much the same as the poisons elaborated by bacteria. Following the nomenclature in vogue, Dr. Weichardt calls this an erudutoxin; that is, a fatigue toxin or fatigue poison.

Naturally this discovery at once opened up a wide field for thought and speculation. Dr. Snyder asks why it is not possible that there is an anti-toxin, in a serum which by injection would protect the body from the ravages of this fatigue poison to which old age is attributable. In other words, if there is an antidote for this disease of old age will not its application keep the body constantly young? Will it not practically eliminate old age from civilized nations and materially postpone death?

It would be somewhat startling if after all the fountain of perpetual youth was found to really exist in this twentieth century and to be located in the laboratory of a chemist.

Dr. Snyder says, in discussing this phase of the subject:

"Why should not the fatigue toxins produce an anti-body just like the rest? rest. Dr. Snyder supposes that they are simply oxidized. He holds fast to two noteworthy facts in the matter:

"The first is that old age is in some sense merely accumulated fatigue; the second is that one very striking condition, it is not an essential condition, in old age is lessened oxidation."

Dr. Snyder mentions the Russian pathologist Bejonevsky, who has shown that the hemolyzing, i. e. poison serum which in quantity destroys red corpuscles when administered in very minute doses. This discovery has been used for the treatment of anemia.

Will it be of avail in warding off old age?