

the bounty clause of the McKinley tariff bill under compulsion will gladly vote for its repeal as a matter of principle. The two Louisiana senators and Senator Peffer are expected to vote against repeal, unless their sugar-raising constituents are protected by a tax on foreign sugar, but no case is recalled of Congress having restored the tax on an article after having once taken it off, and precedent always plays an influential part in Congressional legislation.

A majority of the Senate committee on inter-state commerce are said to favor the amendment to the interstate commerce law which was recently asked for by representatives of a number of railroad companies, permitting pooling of freights, but before such an amendment gets through Congress there will be some very plain talk from those opposed to railroad pooling.

Senator Perkins is in earnest about pushing his idea of making a state out of Indian territory. He insists that it is the only equitable and business-like solution of the Indian problem, and says he believes there is a good chance for it to get through during this session.

A gentleman who seldom makes idle predictions remarked in my hearing this morning that if Jerry Simpson did not get elected to the Senate he would not be surprised to see him made secretary of agriculture. When I attempted to ascertain his reason for saying so he shut up like a clam, and said he was not talking for publication.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1893.—Never before has there been such a general interest in the outcome of senatorial contests as in those now going on in a number of states. Ordinarily, except among those from the states in which the contests were pending, such events have scarcely created a ripple of interest in Washington. One reason for the general interest at this time is that never before were so many senators in doubt, and the very senators, too, who will by their votes decide the political control of the Senate of the Fifty-third Congress, a Congress which, in some respects, may be one of the most important in our history. It is generally believed here by men of all parties that enough of the doubtful senators will be elected by the Populists to give them the balance of power, but there is still just enough doubt, not only about their election, but how the Populists will vote, to keep all hands on the anxious bench, as it were.

Another thing which has brought public interest up to fever heat is Mr. Cleveland's unexpected open fight upon Senator Hill's candidate for senator from New York, a fight which may be as important to the Democratic party at large and especially in New York state, as was the memorable fight between Senator Conkling and President Garfield, which resulted in the dramatic double resignation of Senators Conkling and Platt, and in Mr. Cleveland's first election to the presidency. The politicians in Washington, even those closely allied to Mr. Cleveland, admit privately—they are discreetly mum in public—that Mr. Cleveland made a mistake in making this fight, even if he succeeded in defeating Murphy, which, by the way, few people here believe to be possible

at this late day. They argue that it will give Senator Hill an excuse for embarrassing Mr. Cleveland's administration which he would not have had if Mr. Cleveland had kept his hands off in New York. "Tenn many men here say that Murphy's election has been an assured thing for weeks, the necessary votes having been pledged to him long before Mr. Cleveland came out in that interview against him. They admit that, strong as Senator Hill is in New York, Mr. Cleveland could have defeated his candidate if he had announced his opposition to him before the Democratic members of the legislature were bound up by pledges. A few people here express the belief that he will do it anyway."

The politicians are all very much at sea about silver legislation at this session, and unless they do some remarkable "getting together" in a very short time there is little probability that there will be any legislation. There has been some shifting of positions on the silver question since the subject was last before Congress, but just how many members have changed their views appears to be a matter of doubt. It is suspected that Representative Dockery, of Missouri, a prominent Democratic member of the House committee on appropriations, who has been a strong free coinage man, is one of them, and it is believed that Speaker Crary, who has also been a free coinage advocate, has been converted to Mr. Cleveland's financial ideas. The Cleveland influence and the Harrison influence is still being jointly exerted to bring about a suspension of the present monthly purchases of silver bullion, but the outward indications of the effect have not become sufficiently marked to say whether success or failure will be the outcome.

President Harrison is preparing a special message to be sent to Congress shortly after it convenes, dealing with the advantages enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific railroad by reason of the consular seal system of freight shipments. The message will be accompanied by documentary evidence on the subject which the heads of the executive departments of the government have been collecting for some time. The action of the Canadian government in suspending certain sections of its tariff, concerning the direct and indirect importation of sugar and molasses, which have been regarded as discriminations against the United States, will not, it is thought, cause any change in the tenor of the message, although it may have a conciliating effect upon Congress.

The detailing of army officers as Indian agents has been very satisfactory to the government officials, and, it is said, also to the Indians, but it now turns out that it is not satisfactory to the army officers. This fact was brought out by the powerful influence which Captain Porter, of the Eighth Infantry, and Lieutenant Lovering, of the Fourth Infantry, are bringing to bear on the authorities here in order to get the orders detailing them as Indian agents revoked. Of course if they cannot get the orders revoked they will either have to accept the details or resign their commissions in the army; but all the same it is not probable that

any officer who accepts a detail against his wishes will enter very cheerfully upon his work, or will sit up nights thinking how he may improve things at the agency.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1893.—Since the reassembling of Congress, the silver men, who have kept very quiet during all the talk about silver legislation at the present session, are showing their teeth; and their humor has not been improved by the rumors charging that the Cleveland influence had caused desertions from their ranks. The pressure for the repeal of the present silver law is daily becoming more powerful, and one of the latest arguments is that Mr. Cleveland has said that if it was not repealed by this Congress he would call an immediate extra session of the Fifty-third Congress; another is that the American delegates to the International monetary conference told their foreign colleagues who pointed to this law as an obstacle to any agreement being reached that it would be repealed before the conference came together again in May.

Notwithstanding all this talk, and that which is certain soon to be heard on the floor of both House and Senate, the present silver law will neither be repealed nor will that portion of it compelling monthly purchases of silver bullion be suspended, unless the members of the House who have banded themselves together under the leadership of Representative Pierce, of Tennessee, who was Mr. Band's lieutenant in the hot silver fight during the last session, shall change their minds. They now say that they will prevent the passage of such legislation by filibustering, no matter what the effect may be upon other legislation, including the regular appropriation bills.

The apparently easy victory over Mr. Cleveland which the Hill-Murphy combination has won in the New York legislature is exciting the liveliest interest in Congress, although the Democrats are as a rule non-committal. The general impression here is that Murphy is just as good as nominated and elected to the United States Senate. Senator Hill is here, but he isn't saying a word.

Cotton is no longer king, either in the commercial world or in Congress, but the long-deposed monarch has subjects who are still dreaming of a restoration to power. A movement is on foot for the Democratic senators and representatives from the cotton-growing states to demand one or more seats in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet. One of the originators and leaders of this movement is Representative Crain, of Texas, who speaks his mind about this business in his usual free and easy style. He says: "In the various conjectures about probable members of the cabinet Southern men are almost entirely ignored, and yet, the defection of a few Southern states at the last election would have been fatal to Mr. Cleveland's ambition. Are the cotton-growing states so certain for Democracy that they are only to be considered during presidential campaigns, and forgotten afterwards? Are they to pay the penalty for giving large Democratic majorities? We have men capable of filling any office and we have a right to expect recognition. If Mr. Carlisle accepts the secretaryship of