VOL. 7.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1902.

No. 18

## A Bird's-Eye View of Congress.

As it was my privilege to be in Washington for a few days recently I have been asked to give a bird'seye view of Congress. I spent two hours in the House of Representatives during the final discussion and passage of the Nicaragua Canal Bill. The room in which this body meets is, I should think, about the size of our armory—60 by 90 feet—the Speaker's desk is at the middle of one of the long sides, and is raised five or six feet above the floor. Each member has a desk, but they are small and crowded very close together. The Republican members sit at the Speaker's left and the Democrats at his right. A large gallery extends around the entire room, one section of which is given up to the public, another to friends of congressmen, another to ladies, and still another to reporters.

On this afternoon the galleries were full, and nearly all the members in their seats. The discussion was spirited at times. The house was unanimous that an isthmian canal should be built, but there seemed to be consider a ble doubt as to the advisability of deciding at once on the Nicaraguan route. A very strong senti-ment developed in favor of allowing the President and the Canal Commission to decide whether the Nicaragua or

the Panama route should be selected. The arguments in favor of the former were that it was nearer to this country, would make our southern cities sea port cities and would save from two to four days time on each trip; better also for sailing vessels. This argument had force, as three-fifths of our ocean traffic is still carried in sailing vessels. Those advocating the Panama route claimed that the canal now partly constructed and upon which over two hundred millions have been expended could be bought for forty millions; would cost less to maintain it when completed; offered better harbors, was not so likely to be injured by earthquakes; was shorter, etc. All amendments offered were voted down and the bill passed by a vote of 308 to 2.

As it requires from twenty to thirty minutes to call the roll, the voting is done as often as possible by the aye and nay method. The method has also another advantage, at times very much appreciated by the average representative. It places no one on record. If the vote is close, a standing vote is taken. With such a large number it is not easy to count accurately and if the vote is still close the minority will ask that the House be polled. The speaker then names one from each side; these step into the vacant space in front of the speaker's desk, and facing each other, require those voting in the affirmative to pass between them. When they have been carefully counted, those voting "no" pass through in a similar manner. In this way the vote is taken accurately and no one is placed on record. When one fifth of the members demand\_it, the roll must be called, and a record made of each member's vote.

It is very apparent that the members exerting the most influence are those who have been in Congress for a long series of years. Those states that make a practice of reJoint Meeting of the Michigan Political Science Association and Farmers' Institute.

The closing Institute of the campaign for this winter will be held at the College the last four days of February next. Beginning Tues-day noon there will be a joint meeting of the Michigan Political Association and the Michigan Farmers' Institute. Here are a few of the men from outside the State who will be at this meeting: Secretary James Wilson, Gifford Pinchot, chief of the division of forestry for the national government, and the Hon. Mr. Prouty of the Interstate Commission, all from Washington; Hon. George C. Creelman from Toronto, Professor Graham Taylor of Chicago; Superintendent of Public Instruction Harvey, of Wisconsin. Others have been invited and are are looking forward to a large attendance of cheese-makers. believe that we have now the most perfectly equipped cheese-making room in the country. Cheese of all grades of firmness will be made, ranging from the firm cheddar to the soft Michigan cheese.

We wish cheese-makers to bear in mind that during the last year a great many applications came in for cheese-makers, indeed many more than we had men to supply.

JOHN MICHELS.

## Botanical Club.

At the meeting of the Botanical Club last Tuesday evening, Mr. Moses Craig gave a short talk on "Experiments in Forcing Lettuce." After tracing the history of growing lettuce under glass he stated why cut-leaved varieties as "Grand Rapids Forcing" are grown in

Michigan to the exclusion of cabbage varieties. He outlined his work by telling us what plants he used to work out his experiments. He took 2000 stocky plants of Grand Rapids Forcing and Boston Market and set them in two, 6x45 ft., benches 500 plants of a variety being in each bed. These were subjected to the same conditions except that one bed had a slightly stronger bottom heat. The plants in the warmer bench gained

nearly two weeks' growth on those in cooler soil without one

plant rotting. Some plants were also placed under a bell jar to try the effect of ventilation, and it was found that under this condition the plants doubled in size and the foliage remained healthy. A thin layer of sand spread over surface of soil proved beneficial in preventing stem rot. None of the plants sprayed with copper sulphate solution rotted. The remainder of Mr. Craig's experiments will be given later.

After a brief discussion of Mr. Craig's paper, Mr. Gingrich gave a short talk on the Chicago Carnation Co.'s greenhouse and his work there during vacation.

Mr. R. L. Brown gave some notes on varieties of structure of wood in the different parts of trees with special reference to the medullary rays.

Mr. Samuel McClure has returned to his home on account of illness.



STUDENTS OF THE SPECIAL BEET SUGAR COURSE OF 1902.

electing their congressmen exert a great influence in legislation. The influence that Maine formerly exerted and that Iowa is now exerting is due largely to this cause. Michigan is represented by an able body of men. If they could be kept right where they are for twenty years this State would exert an influence in Congress second to no other state in the Union. If we expect much at the hands of our representatives it is certainly folly to make a change about the time they begin to be useful.

J. L. SNYDER.

Prof. and Mrs. Taft and Prof. and Mrs. C. D. Smith gave a large euchre party Saturday evening to a large number of College people, the guests being received at Prof. Taft's home.

A. M. Welch, an institute worker whose home is in Ionia, visited the College last week. Mr. Welch is one of the largest stockfeeders and dairymen in the State.

expected but have not formally ac-

Preparations are being made for the largest and best convention of farmers and all interested in rural affairs that the State has ever held. There will be official delegates at the College from nearly every county in Southern Michigan and hosts of farmers have already signified their intention to be present. The legislature is not in session and there will be ample hotel facilities for handling the crowd.

# The Creamery Course.

Our special creamery course has opened with a large class of experienced and high grade men, several of whom are college graduates. There is a great demand for these men and applications have always poured in so rapidly that we could not fill them.

We wish to remind the cheese makers at this time that the special cheese course opens Feb. 17 and we

# THE M. A. C. RECORD.

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For various reasons THE M. A. C. RECORD is occasionally sent to those who have not subscribed for the paper. Such persons need have no hesitation about taking the paper from the postoffice, for no charge will be made for it. The only way, however, to secure THE RECORD regularly is to subscribe.

Communications and other matter pertaining to the contents of the RECORD should be sent to Howard Edwards, Editor of the RECORD.

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Society.
H. N. Hornbeck, of the Y. M. C. A.

He that runs against Time has an antagonist not subject to casualties.

—Samuel Johnson.

Under the new elective system at the University of Michigan, which includes the abolishment of all baccalaureate degrees except the A. B., English is the only study still required.

In discussing "New Standards" in a recent paper, Commissioner R. D. Bailey, of Gaylord, Mich., made the following statements which deserve earnest and prolonged consideration by all students:

"Whatever the course, and whoever the teacher, we have a right to expect greater accuracy in work conceived and executed by pupils. Schools are cursed with error. Too much work is accepted that is partly right, nearly correct. The world will demand of these pupils that they be absolutely correct, in balancing the ledger, sending the telegram, cutting the timber, making the change, counting the brick, estimating the time of a train, or the effect of a drug. Pupils need to acquire the habit of exactness."

Dean Hudson, of Ann Arbor, remarked in his paper read at the State Teacher's Association: "In the educational world there is a growing catholicity. \* \* \* We are no longer disposed to deny that an education may be gained along any of the lines that together constitute human learning. Some lines, no doubt, have certain advantages over others. The classics may impart a literary finish and polish which the new education so far lacks. But after all the decisive thing is the spirit with which a student approaches his work, and the manner in which he does it." It is gratifying to us to know that this broader catholicity is already an assured fact; but far the more important fact for us to take notice of is our attitude toward studies of any kind. He who sordidly seeks to

get out of any subject only that which will bring him dollars and cents is not gaining an education whatever the subject, and this remark will apply as well to the subjects of the old education as to those of the new.

Crediting us evidently with an unusual degree of musical knowledge, the management of the Boston Ladies' Symphony Orchestra, which gave a concert last Friday night before a large and expectant audience in the College armory, deemed it supererogatory (or inexpedient) to furnish us with printed programs or to trouble themselves to announce the selections by word of mouth. Although taken unexpectedly and therefore somewhat at a disadvantage, we rose serenely to the situation and determined that the confidence thus generously reposed in us by these comparative strangers should not be illplaced. And it was not. We recognized every number and wrote them all down on the bosom of our shirt, so that we might not forget them when we came to write this article. There was one song about which for a time we were just a little in doubt-that sweet and touching little refrain sung with such exquisite feeling and so aptly hit upon after they had sent around and turned off the lights - but we gathered all our musical knowledge in both hands and by a determined effort, remembered and then we knew. It was the Aria da Capo in the Walpurgis Nacht.

We know all the other pieces, too, (are they not written on our shirt bosom?) but it would lead us too far were we to allow ourselves to revel in the somnolent luxury of calm emotionlessness inspired by each piece as it came. There was no exception. Each number was a new revelation in the same direction. It might be imagined that one phase or condition of feeling, so intense and long continued, would prove exhausting; but it did not. We enjoyed it, and we again enjoy it in memory. The delightful independence of individual players in some of the numbers, and the general deliberateness of execution (which possibly by some ill-in-formed persons may have been taken for apathy and perfunctoriness), are characteristics quite unusual even in the highest grades of musical skill and in renderings of the most thoroughly classic music, and we again insist that we enjoyed

We are firm in the belief that these young people can play, and perhaps nearly always do play; that they are thoroughly skilled in technique, and have a large and varied repertory of high grade music. Our lecture course committee was in every way warranted in believing all this and is still warranted in so believing. "Bosting," however, not knowing just where "the West" is, is skeptical about any pretentions to culture in a land 26 hours removed from that source "from which all blessings flow," and feels that it has been trifled with when to the 26 hours is added a three and one-half mile carriage ride out into the darkness and silence of the open prairie to give a concert. Still, even on the open prairie, and in an agricultural college, conscientiousness, artistic and other, should not be forgotten.

HOWARD EDWARDS.

### The Daily Program.

There is sometimes considerable dissatisfaction among students because of the arrangement of the program. During the present term, for instance, it is said that no place is left for athletics, the recitation and laboratory hours covering the whole day from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m., and the drill taking up the hour from five to six; and in a way the complaint is just. Each class, except the senior, is divided into sections, and the full course for each class has to be duplicated on the program. When it is considered that many of the subjects in each class require two-hour periods each day, and some four, it will readily be seen that if the same instructors and the same equipment are to be used, the eight hours of the day exclusive of the drill period are none too numerous for the work of these different sections. It is unfortunate, but it is true, and the writer of this has not been able to see any possibility of a different arrangement.

The question, then, naturally arises, are athletics entirely to be neglected? We may, possibly, not be able to realize the gravity of the situation, yet we do not see that this is the only alternative. If athletics are engaged in by all the students, then surely one possible alternative is to section the athletic work just as the shop work or the drawing is sectioned. If, on the other hand, only a part of the student body take athletics, a little care in arranging sections would bring all the athletes into one section of the class, and so bring them together on the athletic field.

The arrangement of the daily program is, at the present stage of our development, a seriously complicated matter. It frequently happens, as in the mechanical course and the department of drawing, that the same equipment must be used for three or even four classes, each divided into not less than two sections. It is really an extremely perplexing problem to know just how to manage the matter, and the resultant arrangement, whatever it may be, is sure to be an unsatisfactory one to nearly everybody interested. The only point we desire to make is that it is no more unsatisfactory to the student than it is to the teacher. In fact with the teacher it is a question of what is possible, not what is desirable.

These remarks are made with a purpose, and it is this: The coming spring term is the most important to athletics, and the program is yet to be arranged. The writer desires to begin work upon it, so that the best possible arrangement may be hit upon in time. He would welcome any feasible suggestion that would favor the cause of athletics. As far as possible, the arrangement of last year will be followed; only, as a new class has to be introduced into the sophomore year, considerable change may be necessitated. It is sometimes overlooked that a single transposition, even, in the program may necessitate half a dozen other changes with hours of tentative rearrangement and numerous and repeated conferences. H. E.

# Horticultural Notes.

The Horticultural Club was favored by an excellent talk on the carnation last week by Mr. Gingrich. He gave us his experiences with the Chicago Carnation Co.

during the holiday season, and according to his account he gained much knowledge about running a greenhouse. Mr. Gingrich has been doing some valuable work with the carnation (especially with the diseases) in the course of which he has found a parasite for one of the rusts. After a discussion of the carnation by the club, election of officers took place; Mr. Bennett was elected president, Mr. Moore vice-president, Harry Henderson secretary and treasurer. A number of new names were added to the list of members. We wish that all students interested in any line of Horticulture would attend these meetings.

Miss Mamie Crosby has for her thesis work, "The effects of colored light on seedlings." In this work Miss Crosby uses the double-walled bell jars to set over the soil in which the seedlings are growing. She will use all the spectrum colors in solution, and will note the effects the different colors have on the growth of the seedling. Special attention will be given to the formation of chlorophyll and growth. Colored glass is not used for the reason that heat rays as well as light rays pass through. Corn and wheat seedlings will be used for the experiment.

T. G. P.

# Resolutions of Respect.

WHEREAS, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to call to her last rest, Mrs. Daniel Forman; and

Whereas, Clarence J. Forman, son of the deceased, was a member of the Union Literary Society, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Union Literary Society, extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy; and, be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, and a copy of the same be printed in the M. A. C. RECORD.

A, G. CRAIG, H. C. MEEK, A. E. KOCHER, Committee.

# Correspondence.

H. L. Kimball, with 'o2m, who had to withdraw from college and go to Colorado for his health, writes Prof. Weil that he "has felt fine" since he got settled. He writes very interestingly about the country and the Bessemer Steel Works near Pueblo.

"One coming from the damp climate of the Lake States can scarcely sit still. I have walked over the whole city; walk miles every day and do not become the least tired.

"Pueblo is a city of about 55,000, situated about 25 miles from the foot hills of the Rockies. The mountains rise up in full view and serve as a protection from the cold west winds. Pike's Peak can be seen at almost any time at a distance of 50 miles. Pueblo is a dirty, rough city; none of the streets are paved and smoke and dust are hardly endurable. But it is a busy place and no one needs to lie idle if able to work.

"Bessemer is a small town about two miles from Pueblo and connected with it by electric line. This is a booming little town and will some time put Pueblo in the shade. Besides the Bessemer Steel Works, located there is the Philadelphia Smelter, consisting, I think, of three blast furnaces of a daily capacity of 400 T. Besides the usual produc-

tion, spiegel is produced from Leadville a few miles west of here. The pay roll for the month of December at the steel works was something like \$212,000. Of course I was not allowed to go inside. All I saw was from a bridge outside. Though I think I could get plenty of work right here, I am thinking quite strongly of going out on a ranch owned by a Michigan friend to work for a while. I enjoy outdoors more here than I ever did before. There is much surveying to be done but there seems to be plenty of men to do it.

"There is a splendid opening here for M. A. C. beet sugar men. That is fast becoming a leading industry. Several large factories have been built and one city (Sugar City) of 2,000 inhabitants has grown up in the last two years where two years ago there was nothing. The farmers are pushing the business with enthusiasm, and their crops are scarcely ever a failure if on irrigated land. One can rent land and raise beets for about one-third of the income."

# Merkel Motor-Cycles.

The Mechanical Department has received from the Merkel Mfg. Co., of Milwaukee, Wis., a circular descriptive of the Motor-cycle built by this firm. The firm, as will be surmised by some of our old students, includes J. F. Merkel, '97m, W. J. Merkel, '98m, and the father of these young men. The description of the machine they make is attractive. It has a speed of from 5 to 25 miles, is controlled by a single lever which serves three separate purposes, costs for gaso-line, lubricating, and batteries \$0.0029 per mile, is odorless and comparatively noiseless, does not require an expert machinist to operate it, and weighs complete ninety pounds. The list price is \$175.00. We wish our friends every success with their new machine.

# Debating Club.

At the meeting of the Debating Club on Jan. 16, several of the young ladies attended, and added interest to the session by their presence. The question debated was: Resolved, That the Nicaraguan route is the more suitable for an Isthmian canal. Mr. Bennett and Mr. W. F. Millar maintained the affirmative, and Mr. W. R. Wright and Mr. A. C. Miller the negative. Both sides had made good preparation on the somewhat technical and rather intricate question.

Mr. Bennett considered the question under two heads, the military and the commercial advantages of the Nicaraguan route. He showed the climatic advantages to be greatly in its favor, the country itself to have a more stable form of government, and the territory to have larger commercial possibilities than has that of Panama.

Mr. Wright, on the negative, contrasted the engineering difficulties of the Panama and the Nicaraguan route, much to the advantage of the Panama route. He laid especial stress on the contrast as to distance -49 miles to 183 in favor of Panama; on that of vertical height over which vessels must be raised - 90 feet versus 110 feet; on that of time required to traverse the two routes -12 hours as against 25 hours; on that of number and sharpness of

curves - 25 curves of 8,000 to 10,ooo ft. radius as opposed to 53 curves with 3.000 to 4,000 ft. radius. He maintained that the Nicaraguan route would be impossible at night, and urged the relative cost 144 million dollars as against the lowest estimate for Nicaragua - 190 mil-

Mr. W. F. Millar emphasized mainly two new points, (1) the advantage of the shorter distance through the Nicaraguan route to all North American and Asiatic ports; (2) the weight of the Hepburn commission's report in favor of Nicaragua—a report the result of five years of investigation, carried on at a cost of over one million dollars, and adopted by Congress with only two dissenting votes.

Mr. A. C. Millar ably replied to much that the affirmative had alleged, especially in regard to the advantage of distance, arguing that in our day distance is measured by time and not by miles traversed, and that the slow rate through the longer canal coupled with impossibility of passing its sharp curves at night would more than offset any matter of 300 miles of plain sailing on an

The decision of the judges was in favor of the affirmative.

The question for next Thursday evening relates to our Philippine possessions and is, Resolved, That our public policy will be injured by undertaking to govern dependent peoples. H. E.

Miss Mary Robson is sick with the mumps.

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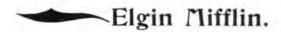
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## Old Students.

C. W. Kaylor, '01, wishes his RECORD sent to Sand Hill, Michigan. It would seem that he has left his position in Ada.

Mr. Joseph T. Berry, '96, is visit-ing on the campus. He has just returned from the west and his many friends gladly welcomed him.

Mr. John F. Coats, 'orm, is now in the draughting room of Superintendent of Motive Power and Machinery of the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railway at Marquette, Michigan.

Hugh Baker '01, writes Prof. U. P. Hedrick that he has been in Southern Virginia recently making some studies in forest plantations. Mr. Baker speaks also of having been in New York City with Ray Towar, '01, and of having visited Frank Warren, '98, in Philadelphia.

Walter Goodenough, '95m, is one of the firm of Holmer & Goodenough, Naval Architects and Engineers, Battery Park Building, New York City. Writes D. J. Crosby of him: "Goodenough was here a snort time ago. He has been in business for himself about two months and expects to reap profits from the anticipated rapid growth of American ship building.

## Notes Gathered Here and There.

Mr. Albert Case has a relapse of the mumps and is in the hospital this week.

Prof. Ferguson has returned from the Charleston, S. C., Exposition, where he was judge of cattle.

Mr. Harry S. Reed has returned from his home, where he attended the funeral of his grandfather.

Mrs. A. G. Gulley is visiting at the College today (Monday). She is on her way to New Mexico for her health.

Miss Blunt gave before one of the ladies' literary clubs of Lansing a highly appreciated address on Goethe's Faust.

Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge, of Chicago, brother-in-law and sister of Prof. H. K. Vedder, are visiting at the Vedder home.

Prof. and Mrs. Taft entertained several members of the faculty and a few Lansing guests at a six o'clock dinner Thursday evening.

The Misses Slaight received on Saturday a telegram announcing the death of their step-father, Mr. Davidson. He died somewhat sud-

Prof. C. D. Smith, it is announced by the papers, is one of the Michigan delegation in Washington to represent the Beet-sugar interests before the House Ways and Means Committee on tomorrow (Wednesday).

While skating on the Grand River last Sunday, one of our most conspicuous seniors (Mr. Henderson) fell in, but fortunately help was near by and he was saved from danger. Moral:-Keep off the ice on Sun-

The president of the Utah Agricultural College, Dr. Wm. J. Kerr, visited President Snyder on Monday and spent some time visiting the grounds and buildings. This is the school with which our Prof. U. P. Hedrick was formerly connected and where Prof. E. J. McEwan is now located.

The Feronians held an interesting debate on the Philippine question Saturday evening. The Misses Elma Bowerman, Smith and Ross supported the negative, and the Misses Crosby, Buskirk, and Van Orden, the affirmative, the negative getting the decision.

A Sunday school was organized Jan. 5, 1902. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: B. A. Faunce, superintendent; Geo. Humphrey, assistant superintendent; Mary E. Jenison, secretary; Edith Dresser, treasurer. Meetings will be held each Sunday at 3 p. m., in the district school house.

The Holstein-Friesian Breeder's Association has asked Prof. C. D. Smith to give the principal address at their next annual meeting at Utica, N. Y., in June. Prof. Smith addressed the Association last year and was enthusiastically received. The chairman of the executive committee in asking Prof. Smith to be present writes: "I can assure you that it is a high compliment to you to be invited the second time - this is the first instance in our Associa-You seemed to get right down into the hearts of our breeders, and they would be only too happy to listen to you again."

Hon. G. B. Horton, master of the State Grange, visited Lansing and the College last week on business connected with the choice of a city for the meeting-place of the National Grange. Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing, are competing, and the executive committee of the State grange will select the city most available. It is estimated that the National Grange will bring some 8,000 visitors to the city in which its sessions will be held. Mr. Horton stated that the chief difficulty in Lansing's case lay in lack of a convention hall sufficiently large. He found the corridors of the capitol admirably adapted for the display of the proposed exhibit showing the resources of the State. Lansing is making great efforts to capture the big grange meeting and the College will aid in every possible way.

# Y. M. C. A.

Thursday evening prayer meeting was led by F. C. Calkins. Theme: "What it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ." To be a true disciple means to be ever learning of the Master and at the same time working out the lessons in our every-day

Chapel services Sunday morning were conducted by Rev. F. A. Perry, pastor of the Main Street Methodist Protestant Church, Lansing. He took for his theme I. Peter, 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called. Because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that ve should follow his steps." The ve should follow his steps." service was well attended.

The union meeting of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A., Sunday evening, was led by Prof. W. O. Hedrick. Subject: Bible Study. Some of the reasons why we should carefully study the Bible, are: First, to know the Bible; second, the literary benefit to be derived from a careful study of the Bible; third, the historical value; but brightest and best, the moral and spiritual benefit which we derive from the Bible. There is no other name under Heaven given whereby we must be saved, except the name of Jesus, and the Bible teaches the simple plan of salvation.

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T W. HAGADORN, M. D.-Office hours, 11 to 12 A. M., 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 P. M. Office at 212 Washington Avenue S.; home 219 Capitol Ave.

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