************* MAKING LAWS IN WASHINGTON

Daily Performance of the House of Representatives.

templation of the serried ranks of seats below them.

At that time not half a dozen of those seats are occupied. One by one a corporal's guard of members strolls in. The place is quiet.

The pages in their two corners are gossiping in the subdued tones of which later they seem to have a monopoly. The few members read the morning paper or work on documents, blandly unconscious that a young man a few seats off is making rapid sketches of them.

Half past 11 comes. So do more Congressmen. So do other folks who have a pass which admits them to the fioor when the House is not in session. Reporters are getting expressions of opinion from chairmen of committees. Even up in the gallery one hears the chairman's "Now, my boys!" And one knows that the "boys" are pressing him too hard.
Odd figures in hats of the long ago and overcoats of the never was, at least in New York, wander down the aisles like so many lost causes. They are constituents from back home. Their representatives have sent them passes to the floor, good for one day. The passes are not good after 11.45 and the representatives are careful not to arrive before that hour.

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At precisely 11.45 one of the clerks formally annnounces the time and requests all persons not having the privilege of the floor to leave. Of course, they don't leave immediately. But at five minutes to 12 any loiterers are hustled out by House officials, who go up the aisles saying, "Time's up!"

A few women may be seen on the floor almost any morning before the House is cleared. They are relatives or friends of the representatives.

By the time the clock is ready to join hands at 12 there is a fair sprinkling of members. Congressmen are a demonstrative lot. Probably they form the habit while they are campaigning. Anyhow, they are given to shaking hands with one another, to shaking two hands, to putting an arm around a colleague's shoulders, to poking him in the ribs, to tapping him on the knee.

At precisely 12 o'clock Uncle Joe comes in at the right of the Speaker's desk, goes up the steps, lays his cigar down at his left with the lighted end carefully adjusted so as not to scorch the white marble. He doesn't always put his cigar there, because he doesn't always bring one into the House with him. Even when he does bring one in he never smokes it within the sacred precincts.

Some of the members are not so particular, but those who smoke at all do it in as unobtrusive a way as they can manage, puffs few, far between, and almost smokeless. There is some sort of rule against smoking on the floor during a session, but it's a case of, "If we don't care, whose business is it, anyway."

As soon as Uncle Joe is at his post—and he is as punctual as the clock itself—the blind chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Couden, prays. He does it as slowly as if he felt his way through speech as well as through the material world.

Everybody in the House, from the Speaker to the smallest red-headed boy in the pages' corner, Jew or Gentile, orthodox or atheist, stands during the prayer. The general attitude is respectful, but a sharp glance shows that

Washington.—To be a gallery god in the House of Representatives is to have a free seat at a unique performance. In that particular wing of the national capitol they make more laws and do it with fewer symptoms of law making than anywhere eise in the world.

The performance is scheduled to begin at noon, but most spectators like to be on hand before that time. Early birds straggle in soon after 11, take up claims in the front row, and settle down to contemplation of the serviced ranks of seats below them.

At that time not half a dozen of these

the galleries.

Mann, of Illinois, sits near the Payne group; that is, he occasionally sits. He has an opinion about most things that come before the House, and if he isn't already provided with one he can ask some questions and fix himself out with material on which to form an opinion. This gets him on his feet often enough to keep his knees from going siiff.

Across the aisle, right on the Democratic frontier, John Sharp Williams used to be. It was mighty seldom that Williams was not in his place when the House opened. He watched everything slosely, leaning forward on his desk, his hard behind his ear to eatch everything said by the Speaker. His enemy, De Armond, is a close attendant, too.

No wonder Williams had to make a sounding board of his hand. The chief difference between the noise in the House of Representatives and the noise in a sowmill is the fact that the mill makes its noise because it is sawing wood and the House doesn't. One man, even though he talks at the top of his voice, is no match for a couple of hundred swapping jokes and arguments in a conversational tone all around him. One source of noise has been done away with of feecent years. Formerly the pages in the House sat on the steps of the Speaker's platform, as they still do in the Senate, and a member summoned one by clapping his hands sharply.

Strangers in the galleries used to be startled, for instance, by an apparent

Strangers in the galleries used to be

Strangers in the galleries used to be startled, for instance, by an apparent burst of applause as soon as the chaplain's prayer was finished. It was not really a tribute to the reverend gentleman, but a call for pages. As the House grew larger and ever noisier this was done away with, electric push buttons were attached to the desks, and the pages were banished to the closk room, where the annunciator was installed.

This caused a lot of delay, so the pages were brought back to the main hall and placed in two corners where noiseless annunciators are in operation. When a button is pressed at a desk the corresponding number disk on the annunciator turns a reddish brown. The color gradually fades, taking about thirty seconds to die out entirely. So there is an end to hand clapping, except for real applause.

applause.

The representatives are fairly generou with this. It is a matter of Democratic duty to applaud any member of the min-ority who gives the slightest excuse for it. That side of the House always seems to be saying: "Though we shout in vain, yet will we shout!" When a vote is

"The ayes seem to have it. The ayes

yet will we shout!" When a vote is taken and there is an indifferent number of ayes from the Republican side, and a violent explosion of noes from the Demo-

The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it."

But when the novice has seen the division of the House upon call after a few of these votes and has observed the number of Republicans which it took to make that number of ayes and has seen that volume of noes peter out to astonishing thinness, he has more confidence in the Speaker's ability to size up a vote. It is an interesting thing, by the way, to see the Speaker count a rising vote. He turns his gavel around, gripping it by its white marbel head and using the foot long splender wooden handle as a pointer. With his head forward, his eyes keen, his lips moving, he indictes each man with a peculiar motion of the gavel so decided and so exact that every member must know by watching that handle whether he is counted or not.

His manner of using the gavel to main-

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taps, mind you— on his desk. If the Speaker tapped on the House desk the gods might laugh, gallery and other varieties. Nobody else would know any-Mrs. Martell snap-shotted while she was addressing a meeting from a cart. good-looking fellows. His preconceived

that.

One of the funniest little ways of the House is its custom of letting those who are interested in a certain piece of legislation get together in a more or less compact group where they can hear and be heard by one another and where they go on with their arguments and their speeches without any notice at all from the surrounding country, so to speak, the outlying desks where the uninterested continue their reading and writing, talking and laughing.

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never shake off the feeling that under would write, but from his narrative and system we manufacture criminals of raw materials which we could

those who have preached to him were not able to coneal the fact that they pitied him—these fellows who ask him to join them treat him as a person of consequence, they offer him adventure. He will show them the kind of stuff he is of the Police Court and the cells by corresponding to the will show them the kind of stuff he is made of. Ten or a dozen years ago, I secured from an ex-convict a pile of manuscript, in which he had written in detail the story of his life. He had served many terms in Toronto Jail, the Central Prison and Kingston Penitentiary.

You cannot believe all that such a man

when a man visite the Central Primary with the surprised as much as he is pained by what he sees. He is surprised to see so many men in prison—so many of them young, and so many of the prison of them young, and so many of the prison of them young, and so many of the prison of them young, and so many of the prison of the young of them young, and so many of the prison of the young of young of the young of young of the y

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Sold by all dealers, 25c per box, or five boxes for \$1. By mail from N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Out., and Hartford, Conn., U. S. A. He says it from force of nabit, for on these occasions half the time his back is toward the Speakes, who for his part is deep in conference with somebody and doesn't know who has the floor anyway. But the novice up in the gallery need not worry.

If he goes to the Capitol often enough to get over being a novice he will see days come when the House is crowded with watchful, earnest men, analyzing minutely a proposed piece of legislation, contesting or fighting for every inch of its way of passage, assailing the Speaker with a rapid fire demand for r.ings which test at once his ability and his integrity. He will reall a then that work

ed continue their reading and writing, talking and laughing.

"Mr. Speaker," says Mann as he jumps into the argument.

He says it from force of habit, for on these occasions half the time his back is

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