MANY NEED PENSION

Hundreds of Old and Infirm Government Employes.

PLAN IS WARMLY OPPOSED

Here Fight Certain Before Any Bill Can Become Law is Passed by Congress—Philosophy of James Burke, in 1776 Recalled.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—The 59,000 clerks in the Washington civil service still are deeply interested in a measure now receiving legislation from congress which will enable them, when they have grown old in the service to retire on pensions. There is a good deal of opposition in congress to any measure for civil pensions, but England has old age pensions and other countries on a kind which recently seems to have interested many of the American law-makers, and it is predicted here in Washington that before many years the government employes will be in the same relationship better by put on a footing with the army and navy.

There are some hundreds of men and women, too, in Washington who would be eligible for civil pensions if the law were to be enacted. In the daily procession to the departments at the hour for beginning official work are many men and women moving along laboriously on crutches. Hundreds of others need canes to aid the faltering steps and hundreds of others who need them get along without them, fearing that the use of them would be an open confession of weakness.

Two Sides to the Question.

There is a plan to retire every man and woman who has exceeded the age of seventy years. If this bill should become a law some of these men and women who have passed the limit in Washington's allotted span of life will not have to take the trail that leads from Capitol Hill to the poor house.

There are two sides to this civil pension question. There are men who say that there is no reason why the government employes should not have saved enough to provide for their old age just as other men and women are compelled to take care against the future. The other side, of it is that the cost of living is very high in Washington and that government pay is none too generous. One thing is to be taken for granted, there will be a hard fight before any civil pension law is passed by congress.

Roosevelt and the Stork's Baby.

The United States marshal for the district of Massachusetts is Guy Murchie, a Harvard man, who was a sergeant in Roosevelt's regiment of Rough Riders. Marshal Murchie is the well known in Washington and the city heard not long ago with sorrow of the death of Mrs. Murchie, the marshal's wife. There are four children in the Murchie family, all under six years of age.

When Theodore Roosevelt was president he paid a visit to Harvard university, where his son was to join a club in which his father had belonged before him and was to be put through certain ceremonies in which the graduate members have to do the honors. The president also was to make a speech to the Harvard students and the time allotted for his address during the visit was so brief that everything he was to do was timed and timetabled and there were to be no interruptions to the program.

The president reached Boston and met the mayor and the governor had greeted him and the president thought was turning to the next affair on the program. Mr. Roosevelt received a message. It informed him he had carried a cane and was whirled away to a Mount Vernon street residence. It was the home of Guy Murchie. In the parlor of the house were Mr. and Mrs. Murchie, a number of their friends and relatives and Bishop Lawrence of the Episcopal church. There was also a baby, and the president knew that Bishop Lawrence was to baptize.

It was the baby's baptism then took President Roosevelt to the Murchie home and there, good Dutch Reformed citizen that he was, he was the good godfather and "did promise and vow through the godfather" in the name of the baby at the font, a good Episcopalian babe and the grandchild of one of the greatest Episcopalian bishops the church has had in its communion, Dr. Phillips Brooks. Then, she died soon after and when the baby was christened recently as a member of Bishop Lawrence's church, Mount Vernon Church, Mrs. Murchie was a memory.

Story of Long Ago.

The other day in the Senate at the noon hour, when the chaplain was about to open the session with prayer, Senator Burton of Ohio arose and asked that the prayer be omitted and that instead of it the chaplain read the story of the battle of Bunker Hill. The request was granted and the chaplain began. Thomas Burke of North Carolina 130 years ago created a disturbance in congress. For a time he was a disturber. Edward Langworthy of Georgia, but only for a short time.

Burke left the 4'clock on the evening of April 16, 1776, the day the colonial press took into consideration the draft of a letter in reply to General Washington's letter of the 6th, and the progress being made thereon, a motion was made to adjourn. It being 10 o'clock."

Counsel For His Filibuster.

At the story goes on. It is discovered that Mr. Burke, after voting for adjournment, declared that the others might vote as they pleased, he would "open his honor adjourn himself;" and accordingly immediately withdrew "by which means congress could not proceed to business." Mr. Langworthy, the then resigned Representative Georgia, also withdrew.

Congress sent a messenger to find the absent members and to request them to return to attend congress. When the messenger came back he reported that Mr. Langworthy had said that he would not, personally, but that Mr. Burke had replied that the devil might take him if he would come; it was too hot and too unseasonable.

The upshot of the whole business was the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the manner in which Mr. Burke withdrew on the evening of the said 16th instant, is highly disorderly and contemptuous; and that the said member return back to this house that Mr. Langworthy had said that he would not, personally, but that Mr. Burke had replied that the devil might take him if he would come; it was too hot and too unseasonable."

The upshot of the whole business was the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the manner in which Mr. Burke withdrew on the evening of the said 16th instant, is highly disorderly and contemptuous; and that the said member return back to this house forthwith, and that the president inform him accordingly."

The messenger came back and reported that Mr. Langworthy had said that he would not, personally, but that Mr. Burke had replied that the devil might take him if he would come; it was too hot and too unseasonable.