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ISSUED WEEKLY

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Perhaps the explanation is that Senator Lodge got his telephone wires crossed.

Is it possible that the president is doing some San Juan hilling on this rate question?

By this time Chancellor Day is doubtless fully convinced that he has earned all the money.

It will be noted in passing that the question of veracity is between two very eminent republicans.

Newspaper compliments to the anthracite miners will not put any bread and meat in the lunch basket.

From his usual position on the top of the fence Senator Allison can view the veracity situation with equanimity.

President Roosevelt's letter to Senator Allison is another glittering proof of the fact that language was given to conceal our thoughts.

A lot of metropolitan papers are congratulating the anthracite miners upon their decision to return to work under the old conditions. The mine operators can afford to congratulate themselves.

If "Bob" Taylor were in the senate right now his famous fiddle would be given an opportunity to prove that "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast." But it might prove a terrific strain on the fiddle.

The Russian legislature, or whatever you may call it, has started. In the very beginning it went off just like our own house of representatives, only in Russia it was "the czar," not a "speaker," that supervised things.

"While the democratic coterie is making faces, the republicans will go ahead and make a rate bill. That is what the country wants," says the Milwaukee Wisconsin. The country evidently does not want the kind of a rate bill the bosses of the republican side of the senate would make.

MIGHTY GOOD HUMOR

Referring to the railroad rate legislation, the Minneapolis Journal (Republican) says: "The president has the Aldrich crowd whipped." The members of the "Aldrich crowd" appear to be in mighty good humor for people who have been badly "whipped."

WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

Washington, D. C., May 21.—But for the persistent efforts of the leaders of the democratic party it is conceded by all fair-minded men here that there would have been no legislation by this congress on the subject of regulating rates on railroads engaged in interstate business. It is known to every intelligent youth of this nation that in democratic national platforms only was the demand made for this legislation. On that question the republicans remained silent. They did not dare face the issue for the reason that they were not only under very great obligations to the railway corporations for campaign contributions but also to every other sort of combination and trust, and as has been shown by recent investigations even the officers of the gigantic insurance companies gave lavishly of the funds in their charge to help the republican party to win what republican orators and newspapers termed a mighty victory over the forces bent upon "destroying the industries of the country" and placing in power men who would bring about "chaos in the land."

Unfortunately the democrats in the senate are not as numerous as they were some years ago. But it is due to the readers of this article to state that never in the history of legislation has the democratic party had a more active, aggressive lot of men in the upper branch of congress contending for what they believe to be right. From start to finish they put the republicans on the defensive and kept them there right up to the time the rate bill was passed with its many amendments and sent to conference. The controversies between the president of the United States and Senators Tillman and Bailey and ex-Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, are fresh in the minds of the people, but it is due to the three well known men last mentioned to say that in this exciting contest all of them have come out of it with honor and credit. There has been no trimming or sidestepping on the part of the senate democrats. They have met the issue squarely, and if they had not taken a bold stand no railroad rate bill would have been passed by this congress.

"Under hack" is a common expression used by boys in many of the southern states. Possibly it may be known in other states of the union. It means that a boy in that unfortunate position not only keeps his mouth shut, but he hardly looks at the other boys in the school room or on the play grounds. For the past three or four weeks over half of the republican senators have been "under hack." They seemed afraid to raise their voices in defense of the administration after Senators Tillman and Bailey showed how the republican administration had shifted position on the rate bill and broken faith with the democrats, and in so doing enabled Senator Aldrich and his followers to frame a bill that is more to the liking of the railway corporations than could have been possible if the president had not gone back on his democratic allies. For a year or more, Mr. Chandler has stoutly maintained that this republican administration would be lost in the wilderness, so far as the rate bill is concerned, but for the support given it by the democrats in congress.

During the closing days of the debate in the senate on the rate bill it was a study of intense interest to watch the faces of most of the prominent republicans. If ever a lot of men were "under hack" they were. The venerable Mr. Allison, of Iowa, credited with being the author of the court review amendment that was fixed up at the White House, sat in his seat with his eyes riveted on the floor while Senators Bailey and Tillman scored the administration and a couple of correspondents of republican newspapers for their misrepresentations. Senators Hale and Frye of Maine, usually on the alert and ready to talk, could not command nerve enough to plunge into the debate. Senators Spooner and Knox seemed to be pained, and Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, supposed to be the closest friend of the president in the senate, also got lost after his rash performance in telephoning the White House and getting a reply from the head of the nation that impelled Mr. Lodge to state for the president that Mr. Chandler had been guilty of a deliberate falsehood in saying that he, the president, had said anything derogatory of Senators Spooner, Knox and Foraker, and which Mr. Chandler subsequently asserted in most positive terms had been told to him by the president.

To use a common expression Mr. Lodge made a "bad break" and got his friend, the president, into more trouble than was expected.

Beyond any doubt the popularity of the president with the masses of the people is on the wane. For a month or more visitors from all sections of the United States have expressed this opinion. They are frank enough to say that the head of the nation has only himself to blame for the change in sentiment that is apparent all over the country. This reference is not made with any intention to do the head of the nation an injustice or written in a partisan spirit. Other presidents have won and lost popularity and in future years it will be the same. Mr. Roosevelt parted company with the democrats, and has been convicted by ex-Senator Chandler, who is such a rank republican himself that in order to apply salve to the sore spots some of the eastern republican dailies are trying to discredit Mr. Chandler by shouting that he and his namesake from Michigan thirty years ago robbed Samuel J. Tilden out of the presidency and that no democrat ought to have anything to do with the New Hampshire man if consistency with democrats amounts to anything. For more than a year Mr. William E. Chandler has contended that if the democratic support were withdrawn from President Roosevelt he could not possibly be given an opportunity to consider a reasonable railroad rate bill.

Ex-Governor Robert L. Taylor recently designated by the democrats of his state to be the next United States senator from Tennessee, is expected here shortly. "Bob" Taylor, as his friends call him, has never been defeated before the people of his state. Once before he tried to come to the senate, but in that instance he had to appeal to the legislature. They adopted the primary law in Tennessee virtually on the same lines as that of Virginia, and Mr. Taylor felt confident that under that system he would win. What is known as the East Tennessee congressional district is overwhelmingly republican, and yet Mr. Taylor, when barely of constitutional age, carried and was sent as a democrat to the house of representatives. Tennesseans in this city who are acquainted with conditions in the state say that Mr. Taylor could carry that district this year if he had made up his mind to come to congress as a representative instead of a senator. The republicans of Tennessee are preparing for a big fight this year on the governorship and will nominate as their candidate former Congressman H. Clay Evans, at one time assistant postmaster general, commissioner of pensions and more recently consul general at London. Mr. Evans is conceded to be the strongest republican in his state. His nomination will compel the democrats to bestir themselves. Mr. Taylor is going on the stump, and when Governor Taylor takes the field the republicans have to surrender.

Because ex-Governor Taylor used to play the "fiddle" and has for the past fifteen years been delivering humorous lectures quite a number of the republican daily papers have been trying to prove that he will be a misfit in the United States senate. "Bob" Taylor, it is true, is full of fun. He believes in smiles, in mirth and doing all he can to make life's burdens light; and wherever he has lectured since he adopted that as a calling he has never failed to have a large audience. In addition to the stories that he tells and the songs that he occasionally sings in connection with a lecture Mr. Taylor is an orator and word-painter and his best friends maintain that if he lives to take his seat in the senate and serves out his term it will not be many years before he demonstrates that an alleged "funny man" will prove that his people made no mistake when they sent him to the upper branch of congress.

The chances are the railroad employes' liability bill will pass the senate before the end of the session. It has already passed the house. The senate republicans held back as long as they could before ordering a report on the measure. They would not have done anything this session but for the active work on the part of the democratic senators. Fully 600,000 railroad employes are interested in this matter and through their legislative committee have insisted that a law should be on the statute books giving them the right to collect from the roads damages for accidents in such a hazardous service.

ALFRED J. STOFER.