

cancy' means one thing and a failure of the legislature to act is another thing, the senate may not accept the executive credentials in such a case as we are now considering. If there be any doubt, there is pretty sure to be a reference to a committee which may consume the interval from March till the regular credentials come up in June. It is strange that so able a lawyer and experienced a politician as Senator Bacon should be so circumstanced, but probably the truth of the matter is that he is the victim of some of the experiments of our Georgia politicians. After going on very comfortably for a quarter of a century having our legislature meeting in October, the time was changed to June. And after going on for over a century in obedience to the constitution by allowing the legislature to elect United States senators, the project was started of having a primary election for that position and thus making the legislature not a legislature but a mere board of election returns canvassers. To the disarrangement incident to these changes, seems due the fact that from March to June next Senator Bacon must rusticate and Georgia get along with one senator."

MR. ROOSEVELT'S apparent victory over republican leaders in the senate, according to the Washington correspondent for the Houston, Texas, Post, was not real. That correspondent says: "The senate has simply dodged. The fact remains that a majority of the senate republicans do not indorse his Brownsville order and have not yet indorsed it. The Foraker compromise simply omits 'questioning' it at this time. If they had intended to indorse the president they would have adopted the resolution proposed by Penrose at the outset. Instead of that the anti-administration republicans have scored a succession of points in the opposite direction. But for Foraker's resolution the senate might have accepted the situation and there would have been no Purdy investigation. There would have been no admission on the president's part that so much of his order of dismissal as related to the eligibility of the soldiers to future civil employment under the government was unauthorized and therefore void. Besides that the fact remains that the senate has ordered an investigation on its own account in terms which do not estop the Ohio senator from again attacking the order when, as he says, 'all the facts have been established in other than an ex-parte investigation.' As charged by Senator Culberson on the floor of the senate, the administration republicans lost their nerve and backed down. They, as well as the president, seemed to prefer going back into the camp of the republican majority rather than have the president indorsed outright, mainly by democratic votes."

THE FIGHT made upon the president by republican leaders will go on according to the Post correspondent. He says: "Meanwhile the fight will go on. The president fully understands what is back of the Foraker attack. He knows that the Brownsville order is being used by the anti-Roosevelt republicans to break him down in popularity with his party. It is another attack from the reactionary element who regard him as dangerous and his policies un-republican. Aldrich, Foraker, Kean, Scott and all that element of the republicans desire to unhorse Rooseveltism and regain control of the party. It is true that the president partially surrendered to them on the rate bill, also that he has promised not to undertake a revision of the present robber tariff, but his income tax theory and other squints toward certain popular reforms make them extremely distrustful of him. They are afraid he won't 'stay put.' These considerations suggested themselves to the mind of the president when he agreed to the compromise with Foraker. It was a dogfall for both sides. The Brownsville incident will be taken up again by the Ohio senator if it shall seem to serve his further political purpose. The fight between the Roosevelt republicans and the anti-Roosevelt republicans has only just begun. From this time forward it will be carried on in dead earnest for control of the party's course in the presidential campaign of 1908. At the next session of congress, with the presidential election looming up close ahead, important developments are expected."

THE POSTAL COMMISSION, appointed for the purpose of rearranging the rates and classification of second-class mail matter has made a report. The commission consists of Senators Penrose, Carter and Clay, and Representatives Overstreet, Gardener and Moon. According to the New York Herald the commission advises some very radical changes which, if adopted by congress, will greatly increase the rate of postage on newspapers and periodicals and will strike a hard blow at the Sunday newspapers. All sorts of restrictions are recommended as to the amount and position of advertising. From the comment at-

ready made by some newspaper publishers it is likely that strong protests will be made against any legislation in line with the more radical recommendations, on the ground that it will injure their legitimate business. The law under which the commission was appointed was enacted as a result of the report of the Postmaster General for 1905, which showed that the cost of the postal service was \$167,000,000 and the revenue only \$153,000,000. Of the mail matter handled approximately two-thirds was of the second-class, but it yielded in revenue only \$6,186,647, or about one twenty-fourth of all the revenue. The commission undertook to decide whether the revenue from second-class matter should be made commensurate with the cost of handling it.

THE COMMISSION has proceeded on the idea that the low second-class rate on periodicals, including newspapers, compared with the high third-class rate on other printed matter, has resulted in the disguising of many pure advertising publications as periodicals, with the result that the mails are overburdened. For this reason it proposes to raise the rates and also to stiffen the requirements of admission to the second-class. A bill has been prepared which provides that no newspaper or other periodical shall be admitted to the second-class unless in the view of the postmaster general it complies with the conditions of the act. Such newspaper or periodical must be published for the dissemination of "current" public information or for "the presentation, discussion or treatment of current topics in relation to literature, the arts, etc." It must not be "wholly or substantially fiction," it must "maintain" a legitimate list of subscribers, it must not be published primarily for advertising purposes or free circulation.

IT IS FURTHER provided that advertisements permanently inserted or attached to the newspaper or periodical shall not constitute more than fifty per cent of the "superficial area of any issue of the publication." It is permitted that a newspaper or periodical be composed of parts or sections, but that all parts or sections shall be made of the same size, form and weight of paper. With regard to supplements of newspapers and periodicals this provision is recommended for enactment: "Supplements shall not be printed on any other substance than paper nor, except in the case of maps and plans illustrative of the text, shall they be of a different form from the main body of the publication. No supplement shall be composed of or contain advertisements, but the same shall be confined to matter germane to the regular issue and supplied in order to complete matter left incomplete in the main body of the publication." This is regarded as a hard blow at the Sunday supplement of practically every newspaper of any importance in the United States, and especially at those newspapers which issue on Sunday a supplement in a smaller form than their regular issue. Provision is made for the admission to second-class rates of sample copies in number not to exceed one-tenth of the total regular issue. As to the rates on second-class matter it is provided that newspapers may be carried free in the counties where they are published in whole or substantial part, provided they are not delivered to a letter carrier office or delivered by carrier. This is a boon to the country press.

THE GRIDIRON CLUB is composed of newspaper correspondents at the national capital and gives an annual dinner to which prominent men are invited. At these dinners all formality is thrown aside, and senators, representatives, supreme court justices and other men famous in political and literary life participate freely in the proceedings which are usually characterized by good nature, although very blunt jokes are directed at some of the public men. As a rule the president attends these dinners but it is believed in Washington that in the future the president will absent himself from these affairs, and thereby hangs a tale. Every one who attends the Gridiron dinners is under solemn pledge not to reveal any of the proceedings; but evidently some one broke faith concerning the latest Gridiron dinner and it leaked out that what almost amounted to an altercation took place between President Roosevelt and Senator Foraker. A Washington dispatch to the Topeka, Kansas, Herald, says: "As the facts are gradually coming to light regarding the sensational episode at the Gridiron club dinner Saturday night in which Mr. Roosevelt and Senator Foraker participated, it is evident that the affair was of a more serious character than has been generally supposed. It is said that the president in his remarks on the Brownsville affair and his criticism of the attitude of certain senators, made plain that he was talking particularly to Foraker. The latter accepted the challenge and replied. He is quoted

as having said: 'No one in this country ever loved the president or fought harder for him than I when he was right, but wrong, I have opposed him and shall always do so. That is the way I see my duty to my conscience, my constituents and my country. I am glad I am able to say this in the presence of our distinguished chief magistrate. People in my state know I do my duty and they know as I told them that they can retire me whenever they believe I have a misconception of it.' According to one present Foraker's president lecture is one which will long live in the memory of those there."

ATTORNEY WILL H. THOMPSON, the poet, brother of Maurice Thompson, novelist, addressed a jury in the criminal court at Tacoma, Washington, in behalf of his son Chester who was on trial charged with murder. An Associated Press dispatch says: "His address was an oratorical effort of great strength, and brought tears to the eyes of the judge and jury. Even the attorneys for the state were overcome. The aged attorney recited from his own poem, 'The High Tide at Gettysburg,' and commented on the fact that he had been a confederate soldier. He declared that he loved his boy and that he loved the law alike, and that he would not make an appeal for the son that was not within the law."

SOME INTERESTING testimony was brought out before Interstate Commerce Commissioner Franklin K. Lane at San Francisco. It was shown that E. H. Harriman paid an extraordinary price for the Coos Bay property in order to drive out competition. Attorney Severance, representing the commission, maintained that in this purchase Mr. Harriman was not buying coal mines but was really buying monopoly. An Associated Press dispatch says: "E. A. Graham, who supplied this testimony created another sensation before he left the stand. As a result of these methods Graham's line went out of business. Graham was called to the stand for a continuation of the story he related yesterday, showing how Harriman forced his company, the Oregon & Oriental, out of business. He stated that the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, owned by Harriman, routed his inward freights and that he was required by contract to give the Oregon Railway & Navigation bills of lading over that road and its connections."

SO STRINGENT were the conditions of this contract that Mr. Graham desired to give some of his freight to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, the officials, particularly Campbell, of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, would not permit him, but compelled him to ship over the Chicago & Northwestern and Illinois Central."

AN ASSOCIATED PRESS dispatch says: "Attorney Severance, for the commission, went carefully into the terms of the contract, drawing attention among other things, to the fact that there was a proviso showing careful regard for the interstate commerce commission. When the Coos bay, Roseberg & Eastern Railway was built, Graham testified, he, in his capacity of railroad contractor, was asked to take the work. Meeting John D. Spreckels at Coronado, he induced him to come into the enterprise. The investment looked promising to Spreckels, so he agreed to buy thirty miles of rails, payment to be made to him after the bonds were sold and the subsidy paid. It was shown that the entire property in Coos bay cost Spreckels considerably less than a million dollars. When Harriman came along and bought the property he was willing to pay \$1,300,000 for it."

ROVER CLEVELAND has been elected chairman of the association of life insurance presidents. An Associated Press dispatch from New York says: "Mr. Cleveland's election was unanimous and he has accepted the position. The association of life insurance presidents, which was recently organized, is composed of the executives of the principal life insurance companies of this country. The object of the organization is to co-operate for all kinds of reform which, the members claim, will increase dividends to policyholders. Mr. Cleveland also will act as chief counsel for the association. In addition to these duties, Mr. Cleveland will act as referee in cases of disputes between companies. For these services he will receive from the association the salary of \$25,000 a year. It was announced that Mr. Cleveland will remain a trustee of the majority stock of the Equitable Life Assurance society, but for these services he will receive no compensation from any source."