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HIGH OLD TIMES.

A ROW IN THE SENATE AND MUTINY IN THE HOUSE.

Morton an Anarchist and Hill a Tide-Waiter Financier.

A Cyclone Strikes the Republican Craft and There is Mutiny in the Forecasts.

Bonds in Times of Peace is What Did it.

It seems that Washington has been seething with excitement for the last ten days. The Associated Press has suppressed much and glosses over a great deal more. The readers of the INDEPENDENT have presented to them a vivid picture of the fight against plutocracy in the following columns. ED. INDEPENDENT.]

A Row in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—[Special.]—There was one of the liveliest spats in the senate to-day that has occurred for a long time. Hill got onto the old thread bare stories that were sung so long, to loud and with all conceivable variations during the silver session, viz., preserving the public credit. Teller got hot under the collar as soon as the notes of this old song struck his ears, and as soon as Hill sat down he sprang to his feet and said he wanted to enter his protest against the repeated assertions made by the executive department, and now in the senate, that the government is bankrupt. He made that protest because the securities of the United States were "gilt-edged" securities in every market of the world; and never had they been discredited by any banker or by any body save by the executive department under this administration, and by no member of it who appeared as its champion in the senate. Mr. Teller spoke of the contract under which bonds were issued last year as "a lasting disgrace, due either to the dishonesty or imbecility of this administration."

"We are told," he said, "by the public press that we are to have another bond issue and that it will not be as favorable, at this time, as before, because the government of the United States is in greater distress than a year ago. Against all that I protest."

"There is not a financier," he went on to say, "in the country who will not tell you that we can place our bonds on the market at 3 per cent and sell all that we want to. At the proper time I will express my opinion upon the department, from the president down to the 'tide-waiter' who now assumes to speak on the financial matter."

At this, the senators burst out laughing and Hill who is always as white as a corpse, took on a look ten times more like a cadaver than usual. He arose and began to speak in a slow measured tone, every accent charged with passion and hate.

He said he was in aid of the public credit and not against it and he was probably as competent to discuss finance as the gentleman who hailed from the wilds of Colorado. The bitterness was in the tone more than in the words. The truth is that there is a fierceness noticeable in everything said on the money question of late. The sides are getting farther apart every day. There are no compromises possible now. Bands of iron and rivets of steel cannot hold the silver men and gold bugs in the same party when they get tempered up a little more. That day is not far off either.

Silver Republicans Rebel.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—[Special.]—Long before the gallery doors were opened great crowds thronged the corridors to watch Tom Reed hustle a bond bill through. The whole city is full of loafers—every republican congressman having promised half of his constituents a place if he were elected—and these loafers jammed the building to watch the Great Lord of All, Tom Reed, put through a bond bill in direct violation to the wishes of the American people. Henderson brought in an iron clad, double-barreled rule providing for the discussion of the bond bill until 5 o'clock this afternoon, and at an evening session from 7:30 to 10 o'clock, and at 3 o'clock to narrow a vote on its passage will be taken.

The rule was voted 134 to 101 but it was not long before the republican machine slipped a cog, then two or three cogs, and then half a dozen at one time, so that the rule, the machine which had straggled through from the democratic coalition two years ago, struck with

full force the old republican tub and she not only sprung a leak, as Church Howe remarked, but the pumps wouldn't work, some of her masts went overboard and her sails hung in ribbons.

Dingley, who was on the bridge almost lost his head when the crew began to mutiny. The silver republicans revolted. The first one to flash defiance at the commander was Johnson of California. He comes from the Sacramento district and is a fine speaker. He said:

"I am opposed to this bill because it contradicts all the republican platforms, and all the republican conventions, and all the republican speeches that ever I heard or made or wrote upon the question of the finances. Let us be consistent with our record, let us stand by the rule which we adopted many years ago, that we will not issue bonds in time of peace."

The fight went on through the afternoon and evening, during which time Bowers of California and Wilson of Idaho joined the republican silver ruffians. Even the old Czar, himself begins to look troubled. During the day Dingley called Secretary Morton an anarchist and said he had violated the law as viciously as any mob had ever dared to do.

A Vision of Donnelly.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—[Special.]—There was a meeting of republican kickers at the Ebbitt. House to-night. The greatest precautions were taken to maintain absolute secrecy, but your correspondent got hold of the main facts. There were about 40 republicans present. Towne and Eddy of Minnesota were there. Mr. Towne was very obstreperous. He denounced the rule brought in by Henderson to pass the bond bill in the bitterest terms. He said it was a gag rule and he would not be bound by it. The 40 members present represented 23 western and southern states.

Johnston of California called the caucus. Broderick of Kansas was chairman. They appointed a committee to inform the Czar that they would not vote for bonds, in fact declared their independence.

The Minnesota members were exceptionally rampant. They have, without doubt, the fear of Ignatius Donnelly and his paper always before their eyes, and dream at night that the populist vote next fall will banish them all to the continent of Atlantis. One thing is certain. There is war in the republican camp.

The Way They do It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—[Special.]—To understand how the Tom Reed plutocrats can pass a bond bill almost in the twinkling of an eye when there are at least ten million voters in the United States opposed to it, one must understand the Tom Reed rules. Under these rules the whole procedure in the house has been changed. There is no way now to discuss a proposed law, or even offer an amendment. The speaker, as far as those things are concerned is an absolute, unrestricted despot. There can be no more discussion in the house than there is in Russia when the Czar orders silence.

If Mr. Reed wants a bill passed he speaks to Mr. Henderson of Iowa. Mr. Henderson walks in and the speaker recognizes him. Then Mr. Henderson says he has a new rule to propose. That is a privileged question and has the right of way over everything. Then Mr. Henderson reads his rule, to wit: "House Bill No. — will be taken up at 12:30 p. m. Fifteen minutes will be allowed each side for discussion. At 1 p. m. the house will proceed to vote on the bill without any intervening motion. On this I move the previous question."

The thing is done. The only right left to the American citizen who occupies a seat in the American House of Representatives is to call for a yea and nay vote and he can't do that unless he can get one fifth of all the members elected to the house to second his motion. That is the process which was gone through yesterday, to authorize a scaling up of the tariff, and that will be gone through today to authorize the issue of more bonds. The bill today went through in a jiffy 33 to 81.

Crisp and his little handful of democrats act like whipped cubs, before the great Tom Reed. If they had any courage or a real desire to fight they could kick up a good deal of a rumpus. But the fact is, they don't want to fight. They are the only rear guard of the great army of plutocrats, with the bayonet fixed to their backs, and they are generally made of all the forces, and at his command, back came a good slice of the M-Kinsley bill, under which the treasury of the government ran down so fast that Secretary Foster ordered bonds

printed before he left office. The original order was exhibited in the house today.

When the vote was announced every man seemed ashamed of himself. There was no demonstration. They just sneaked out of the house and went off to the saloons and hotels. TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI.

Contested Elections.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 26. (Special.)—There are thirty-two seats in the present house which are contested. Several of them by populists. This is perhaps the largest number ever contested in any congress, and would put an unusual amount of work upon the committee upon contested elections, and prevent the members of that committee from taking an active part in general legislation. A new rule was therefore adopted creating in reality three committees on contested elections, designating them as Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Heretofore a contest in the house has been a farce, the seat nearly always being given regardless of the facts, to the contestant of the party in power. One of the most notorious of these cases was that of Tom Watson vs. Major Black, where the evidence showed beyond the possibility of a doubt that several thousand more votes had been returned for Major Black in Richmond county than there were male inhabitants over twenty years old.

Major Black made no attempt to rebut this evidence, in fact he did not take the testimony of a single witness or make any defense at all, yet the democratic committee voted for Major Black to retain his seat.

Another game this election committee plays when they have a case of fraud so glaring that it would bring disgrace upon every member of the committee to keep their own man in, is to delay a report for the whole two years but bring it in to the house in the very last hour of the session.

Such a case occurred in the 48th congress from Maine, when a republican who was not elected held the seat the whole congress. Just forty-five minutes before the final adjournment the democratic committee, drew his \$10,000 mileage and went home. The other man who had held a seat to which he was not elected, of course drew his \$10,000 and mileage one way also.

To avoid this sort of thing, the following amendment to the rules was offered: "That the speaker shall administer to each member of each committee on elections, an oath to well and truly try and decide each case according to the law and the testimony."

It was voted down by an overwhelming viva voce vote. So we are to understand that this republican house does not intend to try the cases and decide them according to the law and the evidence, but to vote in a republican every time.

The Fear of Rothschild.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (Special.)—The men from the south and west, (allways excepting the six Nebraska republicans) are furious today over Geo. W. Smalley's foreign letters. He is denounced everywhere by the free silver men for his abominable toadying to English royalties and aristocrats. They are talking in about the same way the populists have done for the last two years.

The populist are rather pleased at his last letter for he says just what they have been saying about the Rothschilds. Smalley however claims that the United States is powerless before them—that the government can hardly exist without their permission, while the populists look on the House of Rothschilds with contempt.

In his last letter Smalley says of the Rothschilds: "No single firm or group of firms, or perhaps all other firms together—for the others never all act together—have an equal authority in the money markets of Europe. Stop, but they are much more than that, they are the trusted advisers, and more than the advisers of governments. They control policies and politics. They dictate terms to cabinets and sovereigns. They are, in some cases, the arbiters of peace and war. It is they who find the money for war. They were partners in the syndicate which hoisted the last loan. Down to within a fortnight they have been extending and increasing their American investments. Now they stop."

Because the Rothschilds are angry, Smalley thinks this great American republic is ruined. That is what makes the western and southern men, leave at ways Meiklejohn, Mercer, Hainer, Strode, Andrews and Thurston, fighting hard. Note—It seems that there was a little too much even for the Omaha Bee, as it announces in its Monday's edition that it will print in course of Smalley's foreign letters. Ed. Independent.]

MORE BONDS VOTED.

Forty-two Republicans Boit and Refuse to Vote for a Party Measure.

BUT MEIKLEJOHN, MERCER, HAINER, ANDREWS AND STRODE ALL VOTE FOR MORE BONDS.

Intense Bitterness Between Free Silver Republicans and the Gold Bugs.

The G. O. P. is Split Wide Open.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (Special.)—All last night and all the forenoon of today, there was the most intense excitement in the republican camp. Desperate efforts were made by the free silver republicans to gather enough nutteries to defeat the bill to issue more bonds, or to at least insert the words "in lieu" and strike out the words "in addition" so as to make the bill read "in lieu of the power now given the secretary of the treasury," but by 11 o'clock they gave up the fight. Forty-seven republicans mutinied. It would have taken seventeen more, and they could not get them.

Meiklejohn, Mercer, Hainer, Andrews and Strode all voted for bonds. These five Nebraska congressmen and the republican senator, Thurston, are looked upon here as the most reliable gold standard men in Washington.

The free silver republican workers who were sent out for recruits reported that they got nothing but insolence and contempt when they approached Meiklejohn, Mercer, Hainer, Strode and Andrews.

The free silver republicans are very bitter against them, for the reason that they all pretended to their constituents before election, and to their fellow members until within the last three or four days, that they were in favor of silver and against bonds.

The bill, as passed, amends the resumption act so as to permit the issue of 3 per cent coin bonds, redeemable after five years at the pleasure of the government, and payable in fifteen years, with the specific proviso that nothing in the bill shall be construed to repeal the act of 1878 for the reissue of the greenbacks, and that the bonds shall first be offered for subscription at the subtreasuries and depositories of the United States. The second section of the bill provides for the issue of three year 3 per cent debt certificates of denominations of \$20 and multiples thereof in amounts not exceeding \$50,000,000 to meet temporary deficiencies.

The men who prepared this bill and forced it through under a gag rule all voted to issue bonds payable in gold alone one year ago. It is the Maine outfit—Tom Reed, Dingley, Boutelle and Milligan.

The result of the vote to day is that the republican party is split wide open. The forty-two republican free silver men who bolted are denounced as traitors to the party, and the bond voting crew are denounced by the western republicans as traitors to the platform and principles advocated on the stump for the last twenty years. The western men are especially defiant and bitter. It does not look possible to-night to keep these two hostile camps in the same organization much longer. They certainly represent diametrically opposite economical principles.

What the populists foretold about this congress has come to pass. They said the moment it began to legislate it would split, just as the democratic party did two years ago.

Washington Notes.

When Hill asked what kind of protection to the treasury the proposition of Allen, Butler and Teller to pay in silver would be, Morgan of Alabama shouted "Good".

Quay wanted unanimous consent to introduce a resolution favoring the building of six big warships, but he was sat down upon by Gorman among the rest objecting.

The three per cent bonds to run fifteen years authorized in the new bond bill are payable in "cash". The certificates to run three years and bearing three per cent interest are payable in "lawful money". This will make a legal distinction between the different kinds of money authorized.

Mr. Dingley in his speech on the bond bill said of the bill: "It will have the effect of creating that condition of the

market which will make the greenback more valuable than gold." If that is so, what becomes of the theory of the "intrinsic" or inherent value of gold, when a paper dollar is worth more than a gold dollar.

The bond bill as it was first drawn was a most cunningly devised scheme to retire the greenbacks. The uproar that it caused among western republicans, (always excepting the Nebraska contingent who are all gold bugs) caused the committee to insert a proviso saving the greenbacks, but it does not save the \$150,000,000 Sherman notes. They will be destroyed if the bill becomes a law.

One democrat, Hutchison of Texas, voted with the republicans for a new issue of bonds. What will the Texans do to him?

In the Middle of the Road.

A new organization of the senate was effected last Monday the republicans getting control by a plurality of two, the populists, except Kyle who voted with the democrats, not vetting.

The Associated Press report of the matter is as follows:

This morning Senator Allen was inclined to object to the consideration of the resolution which it was understood Senator Mitchell of Oregon would make on behalf of the republicans. Allen thought he saw a democratic-republican alliance in the make-up of committees to the exclusion of the populists, but when he entered the senate he discovered differently, and remained silent when the resolution was offered, for the reason that he would leave had enough alone. After the adoption of the resolution by the narrow margin of 30 to 28, Mr. Allen gave the populists' reasons for keeping in the middle of the road, charging both democrats and republicans with incompetency in matters of legislation. Senator Harris asked the senior senator from Nebraska if there had not been a deal on the part of the populists with republicans. Allen denied that there had been any deal. This was the beginning of a verbal war, which lasted late in the afternoon, giving the crowded galleries keen enjoyment.

Populists are at a loss to know why Kyle voted with the democrats, their policy being to maintain a dignified silence. It is understood that Kyle is dissatisfied with his committees, having had hopes of being better placed than in the Fifty-third congress.

CONGRESSMAN BELL.

He Tells of His Interview with Czar Reed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24. (Special.)—There was a populist caucus held of all the populists in both the senate and the house at which Senator Allen submitted his free silver and greenback resolution. It was ordered by the caucus that the same resolution be presented in the house, and Judge Bell of Colorado was chosen as the man to do it.

When Judge Bell was asked why it was not presented in the house, he replied:

"While the House was meeting and adjourning simply, the Populist members agreed in their conference to introduce a resolution in the House and Senate inviting the Finance Committee in the Senate and the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures in the House to investigate and report what effect on the industrial condition of the country, if any, the divergence between gold and silver had. Senator ALLEN promptly introduced it in the Senate, and it passed by a good majority. I was appointed to secure recognition from the Speaker and have him ask the House for unanimous consent for its consideration there. Upon approaching the Speaker, he very thoroughly examined my resolution, and finally replied, 'I should not care to recognize you for this resolution, though the House was then in idleness. Had it been some little local measure or something that the Speaker approved of, he doubtless would have extended the courtesy.'

"I mention this simply to show the complete dependency of individual members on the will of the Speaker."

When Judge Bell was asked what chance a member from the West or South had to address the house, call up a bill or make an amendment, he replied:

"The favored states not only have the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee, but they have the Judiciary, the Banking and Currency, Coinage, Weights and Measures, and Rivers and Harbors, which control everything of substantial benefit to the people at large. The rule also prevails in the House that the Speaker selects whom he will recognize as entitled to the floor, not according to the person who rises to his feet but according to his simple desire. If the member desires to present a measure to the House, he goes and sees the Speaker and has to tell him or show him his proposition and then the speaker will recognize him as to the probability of recognition for such a measure."

Allen Says Cleveland Lied.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (Special.)—There was hot talk all around in the Senate today and some of it came from Senator Allen. Teller was hot, Butler was hot, Allen—well he was mad. He went after Hill and the President like a Sioux Indian on the warpath. Allen made a short speech in which he was no less bitter than Teller when he applied the epithet "tide waiter" to Hill. As what Allen said, created quite a sensation, I send a verbatim report. It is not an ordinary thing for a Senator to intimate that the President is a liar from his seat in the Senate no matter how often he may do so in private, and at the same time tell another Senator from a great state that what he says is not true. It takes courage to do that sort of thing. Allen is perhaps the only man in the Senate who would dare to do it. This is what he said:

"When the President of the United States said in his annual message to us that any of those notes were redeemable in gold he falsified the history of this country. I am not prepared to say that the President of the United States knew that the statement was false at the time it was made. The Senator from New York suggested to me that I had better 'go the whole hog,' as he calls it. I do not want to impugn the motives of the President of the United States. I want to believe that he is the President of the entire United States and not of Lombard and Wall streets alone. But I say when the President of the United States said that the greenbacks were redeemable in gold he gave utterance to that which all history proves to be false. They were specifically redeemable in coin, and gold and silver were coined upon terms of equality at that time and for several years afterwards."

"When the Senator from New York says these different forms of money are redeemable in gold, that statement is not true. The old greenback was redeemable in either metal or in both. The certificates issued under the Bland-Allison Act were specifically redeemable in silver and in nothing else; and according to the terms of the Sherman Act of 1890 it is the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem the notes issued under that act in gold or silver at his discretion. Those were the fatal words entering into that act, investing in the Secretary of the Treasury discretion in reference to the redemption of these notes."

"The Senator from New York would change the whole law of the country. The very element of the law of legal tender is a power or right on the part of the debtor to choose the money in which he shall pay. It has been so throughout the entire history of the common law. There is not a state in the Union where the law is to the contrary today. Yet the Senator from New York, by this resolution, would change that common-law rule and invest in the holder of the bonds of the United States the right to demand a specific kind of money. I want to call the Senator's attention to the fact that that gold reserve was established in 1879, when there was not a statute upon the statute book authorizing it, and there has never been one since."

Reed's Railroad Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24. (Special.)—Huntington has the House committee on Pacific Railroads fixed up to the desire of his heart. Powers of Vermont is Chairman. Reed's determination to insult the West at every opportunity has here a good illustration. The man he has chosen is not from any of the states interested in a just settlement of the questions involved, but as far away from the states interested as it is possible to get one.

That however, was not the principal reason for the appointment of Powers. He was appointed for the sole reason that he is Huntington's pet and confidential man in the house.

When the proposition was before the House to loan the Pacific roads \$100,000,000 for 125 years at two per cent., Powers was Huntington's chief spokesman. He made a long speech in support of that proposition.

After he had finished his speech, Boen, the populist member from Minnesota went up to Powers and said:

"Allow me to congratulate you on your effort."

"I am glad" Powers replied "that you admired the speech."

"I did not admire the speech" replied Boen, "but I could not help admiring the gall of a man who could stand up before an audience of American citizens and make such a speech. I don't believe there is another man in the United States with brass enough in his face to do it."

That is the man that Tom Reed has put in charge of the Pacific railroad committee, and the other members, with two or three exceptions are like unto him.

All this ought to be a source of great satisfaction to the republican farmers of Nebraska, who did their part to help Huntington carry out his plans by sending a Pacific railroad attorney to represent them in the United States Senate.

Ed. Independent.]