

Whether Common or Not.

THE GREATEST AMERICAN.

We've had some mighty big men in our nation
 Since the fathers fought and won the revolution;
 But after some long days of cogitation
 We've found the big one of the institution.
 He is oily, suave and cute,
 He's a schemer, too, to boot;
 He's possessed of pull and might and giant will.
 He can make the black look white,
 And can prove that wrong is right,
 And he bears the lovely name of Shipping Bill.

Shipping Bill's a plum Jo Dandy, don't you know,
 And in point of worth and true benevolence
 Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, Monroe,
 A resemblance truly bear to thirty cents.
 They thought only of the good
 Of the human brotherhood,
 While Bill is out for business and for trade.
 And he thrusts his dirty paws,
 Backed by scheming robber 'aws
 Into the treasury to the shoulder blade.

Bill has got a strangle hold on Uncle Sam,
 And proceeds to give the equine cachinnation;
 For he knows this easy nation is a clam
 Baked and served for Shipping William's delectation.
 He is ruler of the roost,
 And we give his schemes a boost.
 Shipping Bill is out for money with his knife.
 When you see him heave in sight,
 You should tremble with affright,
 For with Bill it's either money or your life.

Once we listened to the warnings of the sages—
 Men who yearned alone to perfect human rights—
 Who left words of wisdom that might guide the ages—
 Words to serve as blood-bought Freedom's beacon lights.
 But since Bill heaved into view
 With his mind made up to "do"
 Everything and everybody that he sees;
 We've forgot the warning word
 That our hearts once quickly stirred,
 And when William takes his snuff we have to sneeze.

Men like Lincoln should go way back and be seated,
 For their ideas of the right are antiquated.
 Bill has got his daisy graft about completed,
 And the ancient rule of justice renovated.
 For the rights of those who toil
 Making goods or tilling soil,
 Shipping Bill does not the least attention pay.
 At the men who fought his graft
 Shipping Bill has merely laughed—
 Is he not the greatest ruler of today?

Senate File No. 334-453,187.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR MUD STREET MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN THE DEPOTS IN EVERY OLD VILLAGE AND THE POSTOFFICE, TO PROMOTE DRAYAGE, AND TO ENCOURAGE ANY OLD THING THAT NEEDS IT, AND HAS GOT A PULL.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled.

TITLE.—Mail Conveying Vehicles.

Section 1. The postmaster general is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract for a term of not less than five years nor more than fifteen years, with American citizens possessed of any old kind of a vehicle drawn by any species of live stock, for the carrying of mails between the depots of all American railroads and the postoffices of the government by the nearest route.

Section 2. That vehicles so employed in the mail service shall be owned by American citizens and drawn by live stock as follows, to-wit: First two years of such contract, by at least one mule and any other animal; during the next succeeding three years by at least two mules, and during the remainder of the time by at least one horse and one mule or two horses. Said animals shall be sound in wind

and limb with the exceptions that they may be afflicted with spavin, ringbone, glanders, stringhalt or blindness, but not more than three of said diseases at one and the same time. The vehicles shall have either wheels or runners as best suits the season, and in the case of unusually muddy roads they may be operated as scows.

It shall be stipulated in the contract that said vehicles may carry passengers with their baggage upon giving bond to pay fare and relieve the government from liability in case of wreck, runaway or failure to reach destination in time for dinner.

TITLE II.—General Subsidy.

Section 1. That from and after the 1st day of June, 1902, the secretary of the treasury is hereby authorized and directed to pay, subject to the provisions of this title, out of any moneys not otherwise deemed the property of the syndicates and corporations, to the owner or owners of any dray, wheelbarrow, farm wagon or dump cart owned by a citizen or citizens of the United States, and being engaged at the time in hauling, transporting or carrying any old thing between points within the United States, one cent per hundred pounds for each one village or city block so hauled.

That compensation under this title shall not be allowed in respect of any of the following named vehicles:

A vehicle that is so badly greased

that it squeaks.

A vehicle that has not been painted at least once in its whole existence.

A vehicle that has neither shafts nor tongue.

A vehicle that has been foreclosed under chattel mortgage.

A vehicle which is driven by any other person than a white man, black man, brown man, yellow man, sun-burned man, blonde man or brunette man, or a wife or daughter of said man in case the aforesaid man is too lazy to work for his own living.

That the blockage to be decided on under the title shall be determined by the nearest direct route around all mud holes, chuck holes, stumps and hog wallows. If during the trip the vehicle shall be stopped at two or more points to permit the driver to secure liquid refreshments or give the motive power of said vehicle a bag of oats or a wisp of hay, said stops shall be counted as a part of the distance traveled.

Section 2. That any vehicle, before receiving compensation under this title, shall have with it on each trip at least one spotted purp for each cubic yard of vehicle bed capacity and any other old kind of a purp for each additional half yard cubic measurement of said bed.

Section 3. That the owner of said vehicle, before receiving compensation under this title, shall agree in writing to turn over said vehicle to the government of the United States whenever it is deemed necessary for the government's safety.

TITLE III.—Any Old Kind of Fishing.

Section 1. That from and after the 1st day of June, 1902, the secretary of the treasury is hereby authorized and directed to pay out of the public treasury any money not already mortgaged to J. Pierpont Morgan or the Standard Oil company, bounties as follows:

To any owner of said vehicle who shall carry friends to the nearest fishing resort, two dollars per passenger, provided that each passenger furnishes his own bait and gives bond to tell the truth about his catch.

TITLE IV.—General Provisions.

Section 1. The president of the United States shall from time to time enforce this act if he is not too busy changing his cabinet.

The Miles Plan.

In accordance with the request from the house that the correspondence between the administration and General Miles, relative to 'General Miles' plan for establishing peace in the Philippines, was made public on March 29. The correspondence follows:

"I have the honor to invite attention to a subject that I have had under consideration for several months, and to request that this letter be laid before the president.

"It is now three years since the opening of hostilities between the United States' forces and those in the Philippines and this warfare has been conducted with marked severity. More than 120,000 United States troops have been at different times sent or are now under orders to go to the Philippines, and more than 40,000 still remain on duty there. . . .

"During the last century thousands of Indians have been called to the capital for consultation and council, and I have, under authority, sent to Washington many red-handed representatives of different tribes of Indians, the result of which has been a reconciliation, a restoration of confidence, the prevention of war, and the establishment and continuance of peace within the states and territories.

"Our friendly relations with the people of Cuba and Porto Rico have been largely promoted by consultation with the representatives of those islands here in Washington, both before hostilities began, during the Spanish war, and since; and I have never found any people, whether savage, semi-civilized,

or civilized, who were not benefitted by candid, frank and honest consultation and council.

"In view of the above considerations, I make the request that I be authorized to proceed to the Philippine islands, taking with me ten men whom I may select from Cuba and Porto Rico, whose assistance has been found useful in promoting friendly relations between the people of those islands and the United States, and who could properly explain to the Filipinos the benefits their people have derived through friendly relations with this country, and while there to give such directions as I may deem advisable and judicious for the best disposition of the United States military forces to the end that they may occupy the most healthful and strategic positions. . . . Also to take such measures as will tend to restore, as far as possible, confidence to the people of those islands; and demonstrate that the purpose of our government is prompted by the highest sense of justice; and that, on returning, I be authorized to bring to the capital such number of representative Filipinos as I may think advisable, in order that they may see and know the advantages of our civilization and realize the disposition of our government toward them, at the same time affording an opportunity for a full consultation, whereby intelligent and definite action may be taken concerning their future destiny. . . .

"Should this request be approved, I am confident it would result in a better condition of our military forces in that division, in the cessation of hostilities within a reasonable time, thereby permitting the return of a large number of our troops from those remote and unhealthful stations, and, I should hope, in an amicable adjustment of affairs in those islands, which would be satisfactory to the inhabitants thereof, as well as to the people of the United States."

Secretary Root forwarded this letter to the president marked "disapproved" and with the following comment:

"The conduct of military affairs in the Philippines by General Chaffee and his predecessors and the conduct of civil affairs by Governor Taft and his associates in the Philippines have been able and successful. Much more rapid progress has been made toward the complete acceptance of American sovereignty, the restoration of peace and the establishment of civil government than we had any right to anticipate when the treaty of Paris was ratified. The plan proposed in the within paper involves practically superseding the officers mentioned in the control which they now exercise. Not only is this without justification in their conduct, but I should regard it as a most unfortunate interference with the present satisfactory progress. There have been exceedingly full, extended and long-continued consultation and counsel between the government of the United States and the leaders of opinion among the insurrectionary Filipinos, resulting in a full understanding and most friendly feeling between by far the greater part of the Filipino people and ourselves, and a participation by many members of the Aguinaldo government in the civil government under American sovereignty. . . .

"It is not perceived that any additional benefit would be obtained by taking delegations of Cubans and Porto Ricans to the Philippines, or by bringing delegations from the Philippines to the United States in advance of official delegates provided for by the bill now pending in congress. On the other hand it would be very difficult to keep such a proceeding free from spectacular and sensational features, which would be injurious.

"It is not the fact that the warfare in the Philippines has been conducted with marked severity; on the contrary, the warfare has been conducted with marked humanity and magnanimity on the part of the United States army."