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IF PUBLIC BUSINESS IS TO PROCEED.

There is talk in Washington of the necessity for applying closure to the consideration of the tariff bill.

Soon there will be talk in Washington and elsewhere of "gag rule," of "shutting off debate," of "refusing to let the opposition have a chance."

Let us see.

Closure, in effect, means the moving of the previous question.

It means the closing of debate at a certain time and coming to a vote on the question.

Closure does shut off debate. It ends discussion.

But discussion, carried on endlessly and for no other purpose than to delay, prevents action.

Closure may be abused; it may be applied so early in the discussion that it prevents fair consideration.

Debate not only may be abused, but is and has been abused; under the pretense of debate, senators at Washington have made speeches hours long, have read into the record documents covering page after page of fine print, have talked not to influence the minds of other senators by legitimate argument but have "talked against time" to wear out the opposition in a contest of endurance.

That is the situation at Washington. Certain long-winded senators boast of their ability to talk things "to death," to filibuster.

By that means a small minority may defeat action by the majority. In some cases, one senator has defeated the will of all the others.

There is no danger of abusing the rule in the case of the pending tariff bill.

Already it has been debated for days and days. There is danger of paralysis of the legislative machinery if there is no limit on debate.

FILIPINO INDEPENDENCE.

What about the Philippines? A parliamentary mission seeking independence for the islands is now in the United States.

The answer of President Harding, that he could not urge congress to grant autonomy at this time, will probably meet the present need, but sooner or later the United States will have to make a permanent decision.

As a rule nations do not give up territory that they once have annexed.

In spite of any pretension to the contrary, self-sacrifice is not one of the characteristics of states.

Assume for the moment that possession of the Philippines meant the military safety or the commercial advantage of American interests.

Would we still maintain that the only test for independence was whether the inhabitants were fitted to govern themselves?

Unquestionably there are peoples in the corners of Europe who are enjoying—or suffering—from self-determination granted them after the war that are less civilized than the majority of the Filipinos.

It is difficult to see just what the people of the Philippines would gain were the administration of their affairs turned over to native politicians.

The human heart, however, always longs to be free, even though the price exceed the real value obtained.

The desire for Philippine independence may be based more on sentiment than on logic, but for all that it must be seriously considered.

FROM A BYGONE BUSINESS ERA.

William Rockefeller, the brother of John D. Rockefeller, was not only an energetic and intelligent business man, he was a man whom people liked.

Ida Tarbell once wrote. "He was open-hearted, jolly, a good story teller, a man who knew and liked a good horse—not too pious, as some of John's business associates thought him, not a man to suspect or fear, as many a man did John."

Even so, the public impression of this financial figure is one of a silent, retiring man, hardly more than a shadow for his brother.

This was heightened by his reticence before a congressional investigating committee.

His death alone brings him back to mind.

No need to attempt to gloss over the process by which his and other fortunes were piled up.

If there is any moral to be found, let it be the closing words of Miss Tarbell's "History of the Standard Oil Company."

"As for the ethical side, there is no cure but in an increasing scorn of unfair play—an increasing sense that a thing won by the breaking of the rules of the game is not worth the winning.

When the business man who fights to secure special privileges, to crowd his competitor off the track by other than fair competitive methods, receives the same disdainful ostracism by his fellows that a lawyer or doctor who is "unprofessional," the athlete who abuses the rules, receives, we shall have gone a long way toward making commerce a fit pursuit for our young men."

THE VAMPIRE OF THE FIELDS.

Nebraska has declared war on the barberry.

On the first of next month, twenty-eight men from the University of Nebraska, trained in botany, will go forth in united attack on the little bush to which is attributed a deadly grain rust.

Thirty thousand dollars has been allotted to Nebraska for the war to the death on this damaging shrub, and these trained botanists will make a farm-to-farm canvass as part of the eradication campaign.

The barberry bush is an innocent looking little shrub which grows without nurturing and spreads without incentive.

When in full foliage, it is beautiful, but like the notorious vampire of the human race, it carries ruin in its train.

The barberry is a European shrub with racemes of yellow flowers and elongated bright red berries.

Time was when it was growing wild in America, it was looked upon as a thing of great beauty, even mentioned in Longfellow's masterpiece, "Hiawatha."

Where the tangled barberry bushes, Hang their tufts of crimson berries.

More recently it sometimes has been cultivated for ornamental hedges.

Its oblong and acid berries have been much used for preserves and pickles, but

modern botanists have discovered that the accession of deadly wheat rust develops on this same barberry bush.

"Every barberry bush is a source of stem rust infection and should be eradicated," is the battle cry of the phalanx of twenty-eight university crusaders who take the field in Nebraska July 1.

WISDOM GETS AN INNING.

Public men from at least five foreign countries will come to America next month, not on any diplomatic mission, but for an exchange of information and opinion with a group of 300 American publicists, diplomats, army and navy officers, college presidents and professors.

This is the second annual meeting of the Institute of Politics held at Williams college. Bernard M. Baruch is again providing the funds to meet its expenses.

It is not too much to refer to this as a congress of thinkers.

Yet since no vote is to be taken, it is more like a school, with men already illustrious in public life as its students.

The problems of Central America, Russia, China, Japan, Canada, and all the different parts of Europe will be threshed out in lectures and in round table discussion.

The rehabilitation of Europe, the problem of the interrelated debts, of international news and communications and of international law will be discussed by men who are experts in their field.

The scholarly and philosophical approach to these subjects should be of vast utility.

Political leaders, attempting to adjust tangled world affairs on a basis of expediency, have made little headway.

To the extent that the Institute of Politics succeeds in reaching and informing public opinion it will make possible the application of the rule of reason to affairs that now are only muddled.

GOOD ROADS NOT A MODERN FAD.

Road building is not a modern art. In fact, good roads were one of the secrets of the strength of ancient nations.

Traces of old Roman highways are to be found in England today.

Herodotus tells of an Egyptian king who employed 100,000 men for 10 years in building a road across the sands for the transportation of pyramid materials.

It was built of massive stone blocks, and today part of such an ancient pike may be seen in Egypt.

Splendid roads radiated out of ancient Babylon; they are said to have been paved with brick.

Nebuchadnezzar used asphalt as a filler for these brick pavements.

Both the Romans and Egyptians used a mineral cement.

The Incas, who established a magnificent system of roads in Peru and Ecuador, used asphalt.

The needs of transportation have changed, especially since the advent of the automobile, but the materials are much the same.

If anything, modern man has placed more reliance in dirt roads than did his predecessors.

One reads that construction of federal aid highways in 1921 was more than 12,000 miles, a total equal to the program of the four preceding years, and is inclined to marvel at the progress toward more efficiency and economy in travel.

But when one considers that as early as 44 B. C. the Romans were laying brick thoroughfares in Britain, somehow the edge of pride is dulled.

EARNINGS OF COLLEGE GRADUATES.

Ten years after graduation from Princeton university, members of the 1912 class, according to a questionnaire, have an average income of \$6,750 a year.

The largest income reported was \$50,000, by a manufacturer, and the lowest was a teacher's, \$3,525.

The New York World draws from this excellent financial showing the conclusion that a Princeton education is a direct route to competence, remarking also, "This is well above the average income reported for income taxation and represents a superior earning capacity in college men 32 years of age."

For all that, the thought will not down that for the most part these graduates had considerable capital or other backing when they left school.

A monetary test can not be applied fairly to college education. If more of them had gone into teaching or preaching instead of business or clipping coupons they might have been just as useful to the world, worked just as hard and received a sight less pecuniary return.

WATER ON THE LAND.

The energetic way in which the project for supplemental irrigation is being pushed by citizens of Phelps, Kearney and Adams counties begins to show results.

The joint resolution introduced by Senator Norris and Representative Andrews can hardly be rejected.

The Department of the Interior could fulfill the resolution's request for an examination of the feasibility of the plan within a short time.

A reserve of moisture such as this project seeks would be vastly beneficial to a large district south of the Platte.

So long as there is water in the river it should be used to insure against any approach of drought conditions.

This is something the whole state is interested in, and supporting.

A town has been found where no one will run for office and which is without a mayor, constable or any other official.

But it isn't in Nebraska—it's Monroe Falls, O. In the Buckeye state, you know, nothing less than the presidency has much attraction.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon is going to find himself very popular if he stands firm against the efforts of politicians to disrupt his force by handing out jobs to a lot of men who can't make a living in civilian life.

Gen. H. M. Lord has been appointed director of the budget to succeed General Dawes.

No doubt the new official is a very good one, but it is a pity that men like Dawes can't be kept long in the public service.

Texas college professors are said to have asked for a law regulating kissing.

Surely something might be left to the taste of the persons concerned.

Now Joseph Walker has come out for senator on a dry and progressive platform in Massachusetts, but he will have some difficulty dislodging Lodge.

Sweden is to vote August 27 on prohibition.

However, the limit of alcoholic content is considerably higher than that of Mr. Volstead, 2.25 per cent.

Not much is heard of the Maine and Minnesota elections, where the regular republican candidates were victorious in the primary elections.

SETTLE COAL STRIKE NOW

Nebraska Editors Respond to Questionnaire on Problem of Nation's Fuel Supply—Some Advocate Using Troops, Others Arbitration or Public Ownership.

York News-Times.

When individual states are unable to cope with the coal miners' strike, the federal government should take the assistance of the state forces.

Columbus Telegram.

Edgar Howard: I believe the government should act instantly to procure the country a supply of coal.

The Wymorean.

J. M. Burnham: The government should take possession of every coal mine in the United States, paying operators on a valuation fixed by experts.

Kearney Hub.

M. A. Brown: The government should adopt such temporary measures as are possible to end the coal strike.

Norfolk Press.

Marie Weeke: Nationalization of the coal mines must be the eventual answer to the deadly conflict that seems to be inevitable between starving miners and greedy owners.

Blair Pilot.

Don C. Vandusen: The people are the sufferers when mine owners and miners disagree and refuse to mine the coal, an absolute necessity for our present state of civilization.

Filmore Chronicle.

Lou W. Frazier: Plainly it is high time decisive steps were taken to end the coal strike, and government intervention should be employed unless the situation clears up quickly.

Central City Republican.

Robert Rice: I am not an advocate of government ownership of coal mines, but believe in this emergency the government should operate the coal mines for the protection of the public.

SPICE OF LIFE.

Neighbor Jim—Your son just threw a stone at me.

Tekamah Herald.

J. R. Sutherland: We believe that individuals should develop and operate coal mines for their own profit.

Wilbur Democrat.

This is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, therefore it should control strikes and other problems under policy.

Scottsbluff News.

When strikes become massacres it is time for the government to act. Neither miners nor operators should refuse an invitation by the president to a conference and from that conference could come an agreement to cease warfare and accept settlement of differences by arbitration.

Lindsay Post.

H. J. Whitacre: Eventually the government must act to effect a settlement of the coal strike.

Greeley Citizen.

The government should take a hand in the coal strike in view of the past difficulties between the operators and miners.

Pender Republic.

E. L. Barker: I believe that unless an early agreement is reached between the mine owners and miners, it would be prudent for the government to take the mines under government control until satisfactory terms for operation can be agreed upon.

Albion News.

Glenn Cramer: The coal strike has gone far enough and the continued refusal of the mine operators to the strike to arbitrate justifies the government in taking action without delay.

West Point Republican.

As long as no peaceful settlement can be made between the operators and the miners, so long will the public be made the goat and in the end pay the bills for the entire quarrel.

Omaha, June 23.—To the Editor of The Bee:

The murder of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson is to all intent a foul, unpardonable crime and sad to think it was brought about in the way it came.

Speaking of Spirits.

Omaha, June 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am much interested in an article in The Bee (June 20) on "A Spiritualist Speaks," and I wish to congratulate you for the remark you made—"Common sense is not yet ready to accept spiritualism."

More About Spiritualism.

Burwell, Neb., June 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am much interested in an article in The Bee (June 20) on "A Spiritualist Speaks," and I wish to congratulate you for the remark you made—"Common sense is not yet ready to accept spiritualism."

Wife—John, dear, mother was so pleased with all those nice things you said about her in your letter.

Hubby—Yes, I thought she would.

John—But I thought you carried a loaded revolver.

Matty—I do—but he didn't find that—Copenhagen Klods Hans.

Neighbor Joe—Well, then he wasn't my boy—Mugwump.

What sort of a looking chap is Gussey?

Well, if you ever see two men in a corner, and one looks bored to death, the other one is Gussey"—London Opinion.

Bones went into a restaurant the other day and asked: "Do you serve lobsters here?"

The innocent waiter answered: "Certainly, take a seat. What'll you have?"—Fathfinder.

Matty—The thief took my watch, my purse, my pocketbook—in short, everything.

Charlie—But I thought you carried a loaded revolver.

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The Bee's LETTER BOX

Hot Words on Ireland. Omaha, June 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: The murder of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson is to all intent a foul, unpardonable crime and sad to think it was brought about in the way it came.

While mistakes have been made in granting pardons, still there are many that have been pardoned who have made good and become law-abiding citizens, much the better off for their experience.

The question is, shall we deprive the many the privilege of becoming upright citizens because of the few who betray public leniency? J. C.

Then and Now. Omaha, June 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: Gone are the days—When doctors called at women for wearing tight corsets and high heels.

Now cornerettes assemble from all over the world to devise ways and means of putting the dear things back into style, and men stand on the street corners betting whether they're cotton or silk.

When men wore button shoes, and used muscade cups, and women wore petticoats and high combs.

When a fellow took his best girl riding in a buggy, and he was shown the family album when he called on her.

When dinner was prepared on a kitchen range, now it's a gas or electric stove, or carried in from the hotel.

And the world moves on, just the same.

It's interesting to note some of the queer changes that have taken place in recent years.

Cigarettes were taboo. Now they are a fad.

It used to be unpopular to go to jail. Now, if they like being in debt, everybody is doing it.

Women used to dress to be in style. Now if they do they are not.

Children used to be sent to school to learn how to read and write. Now it's to be experts in sports.

Boys used to dream of being president of the United States. Now it's to be director of a picture show.

Politicians, when elected to office, used to be inaugurated or installed. Now they are entrenched.

The hand that hold Aladdin's lamp used to symbolize the common people. Now it's the picture of a goat.

Surely the world doth move.

HENRY FUNKLEY.

Christian Science at an Orphanage. Omaha, June 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: A telegraph item in The Bee announces the resignation of "the entire medical staff of the Hutton settlement, an orphanage near Spokane, Wash., because Christian Science treatment was being given there."

The "medical staff" of the Hutton settlement consists of whomsoever may be called there by those in charge of that institution.

The founder of the institution provided that children placed there should have whatever healing treatment the child or its relatives or guardians might choose, and that, religiously, the orphanage should be strictly nonsectarian.

At the time the above report was circulated the orphanage was caring for 75 children, of whom but two were interested in Christian Science, and these two had never been ill there.

When Christian Science treatment had been given for those desiring it the work was done independently of what medical physicians were doing for those selecting that form of treatment.

Christian Scientists were not interfering with the medical practitioners. Mr. Hutton, he announced that other medical physicians will be called in lieu of those who decline to serve.

In observing the principle of

of Jesus Christ. 1 Timothy 4: 1, 2, 6, Weymouth's translation. You have the whole Bible on your side and my best witness. MRS. V. HAAS.

Mistakes Will Happen. Omaha, June 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: Quite a few persons are criticizing the pardoning powers of state officials.

There is no doubt that occasionally a pardoned person would have been better off to have been allowed to remain under prison discipline.

One of our correspondents makes the following statement: "I think that those who worked to get him out through perverted sympathy should apologize to all that Brown has injured since, for he is the finished product of their sympathy."

While mistakes have been made in granting pardons, still there are many that have been pardoned who have made good and become law-abiding citizens, much the better off for their experience.

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