

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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A SENATORIAL FARCE.

We print in another column an account of the passage by the United States senate last week of the bill appropriating \$4,000,000 for the erection of a new postoffice building in Chicago.

The account is taken from one of the Chicago papers and is probably as accurate and as truthful a picture of the legislative proceedings in question as can be had anywhere. It tells how the two senators from Illinois, who had constituted themselves champions of the Chicago postoffice building, waited patiently for an opportunity to call up their bill at a time when the probability of opposition should be the slightest.

Just as the senate was about to adjourn after a long and tedious discussion of the Hawaiian question Senator Culom notified the vice president that he had "a little matter" he would like to have considered. There were not a dozen senators in the chamber, much less a quorum. One or two senators ventured to suggest that the bill was of sufficient importance to demand a more deliberate consideration at the hands of that body, but they were quickly ejected into the lobby by Senator Palmer, while Vice President Stevenson as the third senator from Illinois quickly went through the forms of reporting from the senate as in committee of the whole to the senate itself, ordering to a third reading, and perfunctorily declaring the bill passed.

A measure involving the expenditure of \$4,000,000 went through one important stage of legislative enactment without so much as a word said either for or against it and without receiving the votes of more than four or five members of the senate.

This senatorial farce is performed much more frequently than is generally supposed. Senators make it a practice when they have bills which they know will be vigorously opposed by two or three of their associates to hold back until a propitious time in the absence of those senators, or even to procure their absence by one means or another in order to railroad their project through by sharp practices rather than by persuasion and argument. Bills of the utmost importance become law without being acted upon by a constitutional quorum because the few who are present refrain from raising objections in the hopes that their fellow senators will do as much for them some other day.

Legislation under such circumstances is nothing short of mockery. But it is more than that. It is a fraud upon the people, who imagine that their representatives in congress are looking after the public interests and digesting every piece of legislation before giving it their consent. While many good bills go through by this senatorial courtesy it opens the way to measures of doubtful character. It is an abuse for which there is no valid excuse.

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Can stop them from leasing all the letters they please, but they must expect for them only the reception accorded productions of discredited statesmen.

In the January issue of the consular reports there is a resume by the American consul at Rheims, France, of the report of a committee of French wine experts upon 100 samples of California wines brought to Paris from the wine cellars of California.

The vine growers of California, according to expert testimony, have made rapid progress within a comparatively short time in the art of preparing wine, but however much they have accomplished they have yet a good deal to do, and the opinion is expressed that they will never surmount certain obstacles engendered by the climate and some other causes which will likely always prevent them from obtaining fine table wines.

It is said that as a general rule the ordinary wines, which are most commonly used, have been declared the best, and some of them have been compared favorably with the French best ordinary wines. They do not, however, improve with age, but when two years old seem to lose their quality.

In the category of ordinary wines, according to the report of the consul, the red wines have been found superior to the white wines, by reason of the fact that most of the latter are made exactly like the red wines, the white grapes used in this case being allowed to ferment in bunches.

The wines of better grade, made with the grapes grown on the vines imported from Burgundy and the Bordeaux districts, have been pronounced generally good and not lacking in aroma and clearness, but they do not possess the "bouquet" to be found in the products of the famous wine regions of France, and although they are at first fragrant, they do not leave a durable taste in the mouth after they have been absorbed.

It is conceded by these French experts that the Californians have their wine cellars admirably fitted up, that their plants are perfectly constructed, and that they have neglected nothing to make their goods attractive and to introduce them. Moreover, they are making progress continuously and the wines of the last two vintages are very superior to those of preceding years.

In short, it is confessed that the Californians have accomplished all that energy and capital can do to make their wine-making industry a success, but with this commendation ceases. The ordinary California wines, which are the best made, do not improve with age, according to the French experts, but on the contrary lose their quality when two years old.

This being the case the California product cannot be expected to displace the French brands, which the world holds in highest esteem. The French wine experts, however, are of the opinion that portions of California may yet produce a wine that will favorably compare with the best French production.

To quote from the consular report: "That French wine experts, always so conservative and slow in acknowledging even a resemblance of foreign-made wines with theirs, should concede that California is making a class of goods which can be compared to some of France's products, ought certainly to be a great encouragement for the vine growers of California to persevere in their so far successful efforts."

GOLD FROM EUROPE. The negotiation of a bond sale abroad will result in bringing to this country probably \$35,000,000 in gold, which ought to have some effect favorable to the restoration of confidence.

According to London advices there is a strong desire in Paris and Berlin to participate in the loan, and undoubtedly the British purchasers will have no difficulty in marketing on the continent whatever proportion of it they may be disposed to part with.

It is to be presumed, however, that there will be no great desire to sell, for the bonds constitute a first class investment at the rate of interest they carry and the long time they have to run, so that the first purchasers will be very likely to hold on to them. It is noteworthy that while the bonds of the government are wanted American securities generally—that is, those of railroads—continue in disfavor, though there was a little better feeling regarding them at the close of last week.

It is said to be felt abroad that the higher rate of interest which the government is compelled to pay on the new bonds is a reflection upon its credit, but this is really not the case. What the government is doing is buying gold and paying for it in bonds redeemable in coin, and the higher rate of interest is simply demanded by the sellers of gold to pay them for the risk of having the bonds paid in silver. A gold bond could have readily been disposed of at 3 per cent interest. It is an instructive lesson as to how the financial world discriminates between the two money metals, and ought to have a wholesome influence on the public mind.

Those who urge that the United States should have an independent financial policy, regardless of the policy of the rest of the world or the great commercial nations, may learn from this incident that a debtor country, as this is, cannot isolate itself from the rest of the world in this respect, nor can it dictate terms when it goes into the market as a borrower.

The inflow of gold that will result from the latest bond negotiation of the government ought to have, as already remarked, a good effect, and probably will have. But the difficulty is to know how long the government will be able to keep the gold thus received. It would seem that the supply which comes from abroad will be likely to remain in the treasury, but it is to be apprehended that the domestic bankers may repeat the course they pursued after the last sale of bonds and recoup their reserves of gold by withdrawing it from the treasury.

VOICE OF THE STATE PRESS.

Central City Nonpareil: Frank Hilton, late chief of inspector, is reported \$5,000 short. He should keep away from Holt county.

Fremont Herald: We admire Rev. Mr. Ladd for his courage in showing his holdings of supplies until he can secure a favorable rate from the railroads, but we feel sorry for the unfortunate who are starving and freezing during his well meaning but misguided efforts.

Blair Pilot: From the fact that after several days of oppressive silence on the subject, Mr. Croness's paper, the Omaha double-ended has reported some facts about the Hilton embroilment of state funds, it may be that Mr. Croness has cut loose from Hilton and will permit the latter to sink or swim on his own merits.

Fremont Herald: One-third of the students at the State university live in Lincoln and Lancaster county, and it is no wonder the Lancaster delegation is anxious to increase the university tax. In that way Nebraska pays for educating a lot of boys and girls who could not pass an examination in Fremont.

Hastings Democrat: About the nervous pieces of business that we have seen in years past, the measure was all right and good, and expenses for the impeached ex-officials. These men were practically convicted, but a lenient court permitted them to see their respectability and the balance of the term. They ask for \$10,000. The boys are not mad! There are lots of rascals in Nebraska, but these gentlemen could say their respects to the legislature.

Madison Reporter: More than 100 cars of produce and other commodities were sent to Lincoln in the hands of the relief commission appointed by the legislature before the sufferers could get a mouthful. Several cars of provisions and other necessities were left on the tracks week after week and froze so as to be useless.

Madison Reporter: The fact of the matter is that the alleged testimony which Senator Smith has in his possession was trumped up solely to induce the legislature to pass the Churchill-Russell police commission bill. Should that bill become law the police and fire departments would at once be plunged into partisan politics, in which event the enforcement of law would be utterly impossible.

We know quite a number of worthy citizens who would like very much to have Secretary Carlisle figure out a comfortable surplus in their finances as the result of recurring deficits. Inability and Patriotism. The act of the Colorado legislature making it an offense to fly foreign colors in that state would shut foreign shipping out of that state and thus benefit the treasury to be an imbecile in order to be a patriot.

Profts of Defeat. The next proposition of the Pacific railroad speculators who buy out the government's claim: It is said that \$75,000,000 will be offered for the right to consider the bill to a regular session. The coming of the proposed bill would be a great blow to the treasury.

Spurning the Common Herd. Magnate Pullman is upon a pedestal of egotism and he is looking upon his superior being as the human race, and that he should be contented with an opinion that is based on a mere court of justice is an exhibition of a quality that may be described even as populism.

Reception of Deposed Royalty. In the event of ex-Queen Liloukalana's departure from New York, her superior being to her residence in this country, common politeness would not permit her great and good friends to bid her adieu in a manner that would come her with all the pomp and ceremony that is accorded to a monarch.

The Core of the Controversy. Justice Gaynor, speaking as a private citizen, puts his finger upon an important point in the controversy between the companies' oppression of their employees in order to pay the bonds of the United States notes. The steps taken by the Brooklyn City company in this regard are described in his letter to the State Board of Arbitration.

Raising the Cattle Embargo. The national house of representatives has passed a bill which prohibits the exportation of sugar duty, and it is possible that the senate will concur. Presumably that the bill will become a law.

The Outflow of Gold. During the twelve years of the resumption of specie payments up to the passage of the Sherman act, or from 1875 to 1890, the gold exports from the United States notes in gold amounted to only \$1,000,000,000.

Unjust Discrimination. The Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul road has agreed at last to make the fast mail trains somewhat faster between Chicago and Minneapolis.

Chicago Herald (dem): Thomas B. Reed may be slightly incoherent on the financial situation, but it is not incoherence that somebody has hit his presidential crazy bone pretty hard.

CHICAGO POSTOFFICE IN THE SENATE.

The story of the passage of the Chicago postoffice bill tonight is as remarkable as it is brief, writes William E. Curtis in the Chicago Record of Thursday last. At 5:30 o'clock the senate was almost empty and a motion to adjourn had been made.

When it was completed the vice president rose hurriedly with a bill in his hand. "Just a moment," he said, "I have a small matter here that will not take a minute and I want to dispose of it before adjournment."

No particular attention was paid to the request as the few senators who had straggled for the cloak rooms. There was no objection to the request and the vice president directed the clerk to read the bill.

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LAUGHING MATTERS.

Philadelphia Record: The preacher who philosophically describes the wretchedness of paradise is not necessarily an advance agent.

New York Sun: Smith—the real estate market is not here, but it is in the air. It is a matter of time before it will be a matter of fact.

Detroit Free Press: Old Boarders—What do you mean, sir, by asking me to loan you money? I don't know you, sir.

Washington Star: Sayin' de right thing at de right time, Uncle Eben, 'an er great gif'. But not sayin' anything at de right time, 'an er mos' er good 'an er heap mo' reble.

Albany Argus: A medical authority suggests that those who kiss should first sponge their lips with diluted carbolic acid. But where is the whole darned country less'n caught with a bottle of carbolic acid in her pocket?

Buffalo Courier: Visitor (in the far west)—I suppose you're not here, but I'm sure occasionally come high? Vigilante Bill—Yeah, dead right, there, partner. Ain't a telegraph wire in the whole darned country less'n twenty feet.

Atlanta Constitution: Don't grow because the sun is hid, and the weather's out of the window, and you're all right, you'll have all the sun you want next June!

Life: "Men are such inconsistent creatures," sighed Mrs. Witterby. "It was only yesterday they were enthusiastic about smashing the machine of the polis, and now I see that they are going to vote by machinery. What won't they do next?"

IT FIT THE CRIME. Little Miss Kinkles. She ate some nice pickles. In the pantry where nobody spied her. And the very same day. It is painful to say. They occasioned much anguish inside her.

LILL'S APPEAL TO GROVER. New York Sun. Grover, dear Grover, please come to my aid. I'm locked up in Honolulu. My subjects are all in a state of anarchy. And I've no one to help me but you. My throne now is gone. I'm out of a job. And Grover, I really feel ill. So fit out a war ship, and come right away. To rescue your own little Lill. Oh, come, please, please, please. Come Grover and rescue your Lill!

Grover, dear Grover, say why did you take that war ship away from my bay? You're a cruel man, and you're very cold. Since Paramount Blount went away. Oh, what they do to your dusky young queen. When they try her for conspiracy. Get a move on that ship, or you never will see your own Lill again. Your own Lill again. Oh, come, please, please, please. I'm wretched as wretched can be!

QUIZZING TOM REED. Chicago Herald (dem): Thomas B. Reed may be slightly incoherent on the financial situation, but it is not incoherence that somebody has hit his presidential crazy bone pretty hard.

Courier-Journal (dem): The Hon. Thomas B. Reed's efforts at practical statesmanship are the best the country can produce. Winter days for Hon. Benjamin Harrison and Hon. William McKinley.

Chicago Record (ind): As a leader of republicans Mr. Reed is widely recognized as this, for the measure proposed by him to tide over present difficulties avowedly was trimmed so as not to arouse opposition from the ranks of the silver. Perhaps this may be taken to indicate that Mr. Reed's policy in the next congress will be one of concession to free silver men.

St. Paul Pioneer Press: Reed's compromise proposition was voted down yesterday—109 to 187—as it deserved to be. For it was plainly a political maneuver in the interest of his presidential ambition. It was patting in a double sense with a solution in which the country demands, above all, a bold and decided stand on the part of its leaders. As one of those leaders, Reed has no right to place his party in a false position, whatever he may do on his personal account.

New York World (dem): The World sincerely deplores the collapse of Mr. Thomas B. Reed's courage. His "nerve" has always been a character to atone for a good deal of wrong-headedness and high-handedness. The World has recognized and admired it. It is a grief, therefore, to see him introducing a substitute financial bill manifestly for no other purpose than that of occupying the necessity of taking ground for or against an issue of gold bonds for the redemption of treasury notes.

SENATIONAL SPACE FILLS.

A sensational correspondent of a New York paper who has been detailed to find out the suffering in the west, writes as follows: "Unless you wish to do penance for your sins, stay west! Life in the west is one dreadful routine of hardships and privation, without any compensation, unless it be the blue sky and endless stretch of level land."

It is true that there are certain places of a degree of hardship, but take it the year round and there is more hunger, suffering and privation in the tenement district of New York than in all the thousands of square miles of the west. If anybody wishes to "stay east" it is his privilege. But if a few able bodied houses crowd to a bleak prairie represent "life in the west" about as accurately as a back room in a Mulberry Bend tenement illustrates life in the east.

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