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FINAL ADJOURNMENT.

The first session of the Fifty-fourth congress, which ended yesterday, did little for the general welfare and nothing whatever for the removal of distrust and depression.

Responsibility for this rests upon the senate, where a union of democrats, free silver republicans and populists prevented the passage of a revenue measure and defeated other legislation intended to give relief to the treasury.

The house passed a revenue bill which would have furnished the treasury with sufficient additional revenue to have put a stop to deficits, while at the same time benefiting numerous industries which are suffering from the effects of the democratic tariff.

This measure was killed off by the free silver men in the senate in combination with the honest money anti-protection democrats, the latter acting agreeably to the opinion of the president and secretary of the treasury that there was no need of further revenue legislation.

The house also passed a bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury to issue a limited amount of certificates of indebtedness to meet deficiencies in the revenues, in which the senate failed to concur.

A bill providing for the issue of short-time low-rate bonds, which would have saved a large amount annually in interest, was passed by the house and failed in the senate. It is thus seen that so far as providing remedial legislation is concerned no fault can justly be found with the house and the senate must be held solely responsible for failure in this respect.

Perhaps, however, the administration should share the blame, for had it acknowledged at the outset the need of legislation for additional revenue it is hardly to be doubted that administration democrats in the senate would have supported a revenue measure and thus made the passage of one possible.

While commending the republicans of the house for the faithful discharge of duty, the same consideration is due to the senate republicans, with the exception of those from the silver states. Every effort was made by Senators Morrill, Sherman and others to secure legislation for the relief of the treasury and the sound money republicans of the senate are in no sense responsible for the failure of such legislation. It is true that they were not disposed to accept propositions for raising revenue which were not in accord with republican policy and in this they were entirely right.

It would have been a grave blunder on their part to have agreed to an increase in the beer tax and to the imposition of duties on tea and coffee, for while such legislation would have given the treasury more revenue, it would not have helped a single American industry or given a single idle workman employment. Republican policy contemplates not only more revenue, but revival of industrial activity and the creation of a demand for more labor.

It was manifestly the duty of the republicans in congress not to do anything in contravention of this policy, or which might interfere with putting it into effect hereafter.

Since the civil war there has been but one earlier adjournment of the first session of congress than the present one. That was in 1872, when the final adjournment took place on June 10. In every presidential year since 1872, until now, congress has been in session when the national conventions were held.

There can be no question as to the meaning of the currency declarations of the Maryland and Connecticut democrats. They are unequivocal for the gold standard and against the free coinage of silver. There will be from now on more of these expressions and their tendency will be to encourage and strengthen the honest money sentiment of the country. The democrats who array themselves on the side of the gold standard probably cannot prevent the Chicago convention being dominated by the free silver element. That seems a foregone conclusion. But their courageous example cannot fail to exert a wholesome influence in strengthening the purpose of sound money democrats everywhere to stand firmly by that principle. There is nothing in the utterances of these conventions which betrays any intention on the part of the gold standard democrats to bolt a free silver platform and candidate, but it is hardly conceivable that they can be persuaded to stultify themselves by falling into line with the free silver element. They must understand that to do this would be utterly disastrous to the democracy as a party and that the only way in which the name of that political organization can be preserved is for the honest money men to repudiate the free silver element and present their own platform and candidate, even though the result should not be a single electoral vote.

THE DEMONSTRATION OF HOSTILITY TO THE UNITED STATES. The demonstration of hostility to the United States which was made at the opening meeting of the congress of the chambers of commerce of the British empire, on the part of the delegates from Canada and Australia, is interesting, though not particularly surprising, at least so far as the Canadians are concerned. The attack upon Americans came from a representative of the Manufacturers' Association of Canada and it is no revelation that the manufacturers of our northern neighbor have a very hearty hatred of this country. The superior energy and enterprise of the American manufacturer make him a competitor of the Canadian manufacturer in the latter's home market, notwithstanding a tariff made to shut out the American and the lower price of labor. Hence the progress of manufacturing industries in the Dominion has not been rapid and the outlook for them is not the most encouraging. The Canadian representative told the congress that the larger body of the

people of the United States desire a war with England and therefore there is no hope of commercial reciprocity.

It is probable that not to exceed 10 per cent of the American people would like to see war with England and yet there is little hope of reciprocity between this country and Canada for the reason that there is no chance, so long as the tory party is in control of Dominion affairs, of effecting a commercial arrangement that would be fair to the United States. No proposition coming from Canada since the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty years ago has been of a nature that our government could accept without a sacrifice of the interests of our own people.

If the liberal party should be successful in the coming general election it is possible that a reciprocity agreement might be negotiated, but nothing could be accomplished in the event of tory success. The American people must expect the hostility to this country of the Canadian manufacturers, as well as of all those who are adherents of the imperial idea, but it is not a matter which need give us any serious concern. As to the hostility of the Australians, it is not so easy to understand it, except on the score of sympathy. The great benefit that Australian wool growers have derived from free wool ought to have made us friends in that portion of the British empire. It was creditable to the English delegates in the congress that they manifested disapproval of the attack on this country.

THE BURLINGTON AND THE DEPOT. Omaha is willing to wait patiently for the response of the Burlington directors to the petition of its business men for commodious depot facilities. But the Burlington managers and directors may as well understand now as later on that any proposition to complete the Mason street monstrosity will not be satisfactory to Omaha. A depot that is accessible only from a viaduct traversed by four tracks of street railway cannot and will not meet the wants of Omaha. A depot that will compel women, children, invalids and cripples to climb a forty-step stairway will not meet the demands of a city that is called upon to entertain two millions of visitors in the year 1898. The talk about the inconvenience to the Burlington or any other road of coming into Omaha and going out of Omaha by an overhead viaduct is the veriest bosh. Such approaches are considered perfectly feasible in nearly every large city on both sides of the Atlantic. The day of grade crossings in cities is past, and the entrance into commercial centers, either by tunnel or viaduct, is becoming universal. It is if anything more preposterous to talk about the half-million dollars which the Burlington claims to have expended on the Mason street site. Where was that half-million expended? Surely not on any improvement that is visible. The only improvement the railroads or the depot companies have paid for is the foundation and walls of the first story of an insignificant railway station. Computed at the most extravagant estimate, its cost did not exceed \$60,000, and that amount has long since been repaid by the various roads for rental of the sky parlor and immigrant shed that have served Omaha as a union depot during the past five years. If any money has been paid by the Burlington for depot ground no loss will be sustained by its entrance into the proposed Farnam street union depot. The ground they purchased is still theirs, and every square inch of it is needed by the Burlington for transfer and trackage purposes. If the Burlington directors have any proposition to make to Omaha to compensate it for any tangible loss or extraordinary expenditure incurred or to be incurred, its proposal will receive fair and friendly consideration. Any scheme to placate Omaha with a promised completion of the Mason street abortion—either on the old plan or a new plan—may as well be dropped.

Japanese electricians, studying the telephone systems of America, pronounce the system in Omaha superior to that of western cities. They are learning all the good points, and will report to the mikado. Think of this! The first telephone was used in Japan five years ago. Now there are many thousands of miles of telephone wires. The government sees the necessity of underground wires and sends a commission to the United States to learn the best system of conduits. Japan owns and controls the telephone in that kingdom, and now, after using it five years, proposes to put the wires underground. These reforms have long been demanded by the people. The municipality should own the telephone system and build conduits for all wires. Japan gets American ideas and then beats us out in carrying them into effect.

The consensus of local opinion among citizens of all parties is that Congressman Mercer deserves the highest praise for his work in behalf of the exposition bill. While Mercer's name is on everybody's tongue, the runners of other candidates for congress are active in charging that Mercer had resorted to a mean political trick in holding the bill till the end of the session. We doubt very much, however, whether such detraction will hurt to the benefit of anybody who aspires to fill Mercer's shoes.

Why cannot the Board of Education raise above party spoils hunters just long enough to appoint leading men to the vacant places of the schools? Let the highest interests of the schools figure in the selections. Put men on the board who are wise from experience and who are patrons of the schools. There are too many cheap men in the school board already. If possible men who are not active partisans should be selected.

One Damage Suit that Failed. SAN DIEGO, Cal., June 11.—The jury has disagreed in the suit for \$100,000 for alleged libel, brought by Dr. J. C. Hearne against Mr. H. De Young, proprietor of the San Francisco Chronicle. The jury stood six to six. The alleged libel connected Hearne's name with the murder of Amos J. Stillwell in Hannibal, Mo., eight years ago.

Henry Estabrook from Franklin.

His Address Places Him High in the Rank of Chicago Orators. CHICAGO, June 9.—(To the Editor of the Bee.) The dedication of the Franklin statue in Lincoln park Saturday afternoon was an occasion which will be cherished in the memory of the thoughtful Americans present as long as they live, and I should regret to see it more than usually interesting to citizens of Omaha in that it was the means of introducing to the nation an orator of uncommon gifts. Mr. Estabrook would be the lion of the hour in Chicago, if you will permit to fill a stickler or two I promise to avoid any repetition of the proceedings, the report of which, of course, you have already read. The hour, the place, the time, were well chosen, and all went off to the satisfaction of even the leaders and the wheelmen and the wheel girls, who thronged the outskirts of the great gathering. Assembled in the inner group were all that is left of the old veterans of the case, and they were a goodly set of men.

There are very few in a generation who can compel the attention of a miscellaneous open-air audience. Daniel O'Connell, I have heard, could keep a crowd together in a rain storm. I remember Colonel Ingersoll at Indianapolis holding a multitude together after pouring showers for more than an hour and a half. But they were stirring national issues in those days which people comprehend more eagerly than they do the silver and gold conundrum of the present day.

One would have said there was nothing left to be said on the subject of the recall of Benjamin Franklin's virtues. Mr. Estabrook came late in the program, and after the reading of the speeches of Joseph Medill and the others excellent in their way—the audience began to feel like going home. Mr. William J. Onahan, who was on the platform, owned up to me that he did not close till October 3. Five since the announcement that a Mr. Estabrook was to deliver the "oration." I was on the point of sneaking over the ropes myself, but I had not heard the other sentences when I determined to stay on the spot and hear that man to the end. I noticed this, that not a magnificent finish left the circle till the magnificent finish.

I am not attempting to say anything about the merit of the speech. What I seek to describe is the effect produced by a lawyer of Omaha who came here under an escort carried away the honors of the day. Let me quote a comment of a literary friend of mine. "The speaker was a man of letters, and he read it twice over something more than the judicious disposal of cabinet places and other offices in order to wean the democratic party from its heresies."

Hence These Cabinet Places. But Carlie's defeat in Kentucky was paralleled by Hoke Smith's overthrow in Georgia. Of 127 counties only ten have supported the administration, but the rest read it twice over something more than the judicious disposal of cabinet places and other offices in order to wean the democratic party from its heresies.

An Unwarranted Sequel. France grows exceedingly hot under the collar when the United States retaliates for the exclusion of American cattle from France by excluding French cattle from the United States. The United States will deal fairly with us she will have to put up with the worst treatment we can give her in return.

Formulas of the Impossible. Have Mr. Morton's labors in the vegetable kingdom, and the beneficial effect upon his sense of humor? Why, even his ornithologists and mammalogists can see the joke, which is as obvious as the capitol or the White House. The formula is to be original, to insist that what shall run up hill, to beg the bricks in a chimney shattered by a gale to fall upward, to demand that the motor car shall be self-lighting, to call upon the inventor to plant on a plain spot, to entreat the Ethiopian to change his skin, or a cash register to speak in English, to command the Hon. Julia Sterling Norton to shut up, are all formulas of the impossible.

Promises of a Beautiful Harvest. Judging from the reports printed in the Kansas and Nebraska newspapers these two states are to be blessed again with the most bountiful harvest. The Topika Commonwealth says that Kansas is on the eve of one of the heaviest crops it ever produced, and the Omaha Bee claims that from every section of Nebraska come tidings of a prospective bountiful harvest. This will be good news for the whole country, for there can be no assured prosperity without good crops. The Omaha Bee estimates that the Nebraska crops this year will be worth \$109,900,000, and it adds that the total product of the product of the country is \$20,000,000 or \$49,000,000 short each year of the annual agricultural product of Nebraska's farms. Such an illustration shows that a different size of the wheel between the size of a product and the noise it can make in the commercial world.

The Vest Pocket Bolt. The story that President Cleveland and several members of his cabinet will support McKinley against a free silver movement is probably no more than conjecture, but it is reasonable enough. There are thousands of the rank and file of the party who will pursue that course, and thousands besides who will not vote at all. Freedom of individual expression is a right which the deserters will be numbered by thousands in this city alone. There is no business man in Chicago who cannot name at least half a dozen democrats in his own circle of acquaintance who are so disgusted at the thought of the silver convention that they have bolted already. Men who have voted the straight ticket for thirty years will assist at the party's defeat and rejoice over it. They are far more bitter than the republicans in their denunciation of Algeid and the other wreckers.

JAPAN AS A SILVER SAMPLE. Some Facts for Wage Earners to Ponder Over. CHICAGO, June 11.—The following are some facts for wage earners to ponder over. It is conceded that Japan is the most progressive of the countries having the silver standard. The feature of the "advanced" condition of Japan is that children of 7 and 8 years of age work for 1 cent a day at the mines. The average wage for a day of twelve to fourteen hours. Thus Japan, in its progress, is beginning where England, on adopting the gold standard, left off.

The first effort to ameliorate the condition of child labor in England was made shortly after the adoption of the gold standard. The first bill for factory inspection followed the adoption of the gold standard. In 1833 children under 10 were prohibited from working longer than nine hours per day, and were obliged to attend school two hours a day.

Legislation in every gold standard country has been consistent and progressive in reducing the hours of labor for adults and protecting children from the rapacity of parents. In a number of the gold standard countries children are prohibited from mining and manufacturing under 14 years of age. In New York the labor hours are limited to sixty per cent for persons under 18 and for women under 21. In Massachusetts the hour limit is 58 per cent a week for minors under 18 and 60 per cent for women under 18.

It is this feature of childhood in the new Japan under free coinage of silver, and if these be the hours of labor necessary for earning 4 and 6 cents a day, the advocates of free silver for the United States should take steps to prevent information concerning "progress" in Japan from becoming common knowledge. The highest standard of civilization is an essential feature of the highest civilization. The treatment of children and women is a supreme test of civilization.

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CLOSING OF CONGRESS.

Date of Adjournment of the First Session Notably Early. The close of the first session of the Forty-fourth congress comes within one day of being the earliest on record since the civil war. The earliest adjournment in the last thirty years was on June 10, 1872. The other three adjournments in June were June 2, 1874, June 20, 1875, and June 16, 1880. The latest final adjournment of the civil war was November 10, 1868, but that was while the fight between congress and President Johnson was on, and congress itself in session adjourned by adjourning from one date to another, because if it once adjourned it could not meet again till December, unless the president called it in special session, which Mr. Johnson would certainly not do. Next to this the latest adjournment was October 20, 1858, when congress spent the summer in discussing the Mills tariff bill and making speeches for distribution as campaign literature. Two years later the McKinley tariff bill occupied the attention of congress, and the session did not close till December 3. Five since the war have ended in August, September, October, the 28th in 1894; the 5th, 1892, and 1896; the 8th, in 1882, and the 15th, in 1880. The 7th in 1884, the 15th in 1870, and the 28th in 1866.

It is no presidential year since 1872 has closed in session