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LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES.

A concurrent resolution which was

presented to the House on Wednesday,

in our opinion was acted upon a

little to the following effect: That as

the statutes of the United States pro-

vide that "No Legislative Assem-

bly of a Territory shall in any

instance or any pretext, exceed the

amount appropriated by Congress

for its annual expenses," therefore

the sergeant-at-arms of each House

shall be required to keep a detailed

account of the disbursements in

amount and kind.

At first sight this seemed only a

proper provision. The amount ap-

propriated by Congress for the ex-

penses of the Legislative Assembly,

is \$25,000. This sum cannot be ex-

ceeded. Therefore it would seem to

be only right that some check should

be put upon the distribution of ar-

ticles to be paid for out of the appor-

tioned. But a little further con-

sideration will show that the dis-

tribution of United States funds

placed under the control of a United

States officer, is beyond the control

of the Territorial Legislature.

Supposing the sergeant-at-arms

keeps an account of the stationery,

etc., furnished him by the Secretary

to distribute among the members.

He does not know the cost, and if

he did, it would not affect the mat-

ter at all. There are other expenses,

such as rent, fuel, furniture, etc., with

which the sergeant-at-arms has

nothing to do, and therefore articles

that pass through his hands from the

Secretary constitute but a small

part of the expense of the Assembly;

therefore his accounts would not

aid very much in showing what the

expenditures amount to.

But supposing they all passed

through his hands, and the Assembly

could thus learn the entire sum

expended by the Secretary. What

then? That body has no jurisdic-

tion in the matter. The Secretary

does not account to the Legislature.

The money does not come out of the

Territorial Treasury. It is not dis-

bursed by a territorial officer. It is

entirely under the supervision of the

United States.

In the instructions sent to the

Secretaries of the Territories by the

Comptroller of the United States

Treasury, appears the following:

"The Secretary of a Territory is

subject to instructions of the Treas-

ury Department, under the law, in

the expenditure of money, and in

no case, to the direction of the Gov-

ernor, or other Territorial authority.

He should use economy in the ex-

penditure of money, and avoid con-

troversies in the exercise of his powers

and the discharge of his duties."

This settles that matter. In the

same circular, the items are given of

allowable incidental expenditures,

covering the printing and binding of

the laws and journals—limited in

every case to the sum of \$2,500—

stationery, fuel, lights, rent of halls,

committee rooms, etc., but in no

case are postage stamps or anything

but the actual necessities for the

business of the Legislature to be

paid out of the appropriation made

by Congress. The Secretary is re-

quired to furnish vouchers for all

his expenditures, and his

accounting is not to any power,

authority or officer of this Territory,

but to the officer appointed for that

purpose by the United States.

So far as the expenditures by the

Secretary of this Territory are con-

cerned, the departmental Washing-

ton has been highly satisfied, and in

deed it has had good reason to be-

lieve that a considerable balance of unex-

pended means has been heretofore

returned to the U. S. Treasury.

The provision of the law, then,

about the limit of expenditures of

the amount appropriated by Con-

gress, is for the government of the

disbursing officers, not for any

action by the Legislature or their

officers. If the Assembly wishes

the sergeant-at-arms to keep an ac-

count of the distribution of articles

to be paid for out of the Territorial

Treasury, it can do so, although no

thing is furnished except by order

of the Assembly, but over the mat-

ters it is clear that the Legisla-

ture has no jurisdiction.

The Secretary, now Acting Gov-

ernor, has given good satisfaction to

the Assembly heretofore, and we

have no reason to believe that he

will appear in another light during

the present session. However, we

think with the members from Cache

County, who introduced a Resolu-

tion a few days ago on the subject,

that better days might be furnish-

ed to the House than the old mis-

erated and riotous concerns that

have served for so many years, and

we hope that authority will be given

to the Secretary, if he does not now

possess it, to make the necessary

provision in this respect. The other

matter, in our opinion, ought not to

be pressed.

THE CONTEST.

The subject of the admission of

Hon. George Q. Cannon to the seat

to which he was elected by the peo-

ple of Utah receives consideration

from most of the newspapers. It is

generally conceded that Mr. Can-

non is undoubtedly entitled to the

seat. We have shown on several

occasions that Mr. Cannon's mar-

riage relations have legally noth-

ing to do with the matter, as the

law of 1883, which is the only one in

force here on the subject does not

affect him in the least, and there-

fore none of the qualifications of

members of Congress, provided for

by law, which he does not possess.

The National Republican, pub-

lished at Washington, has a long

article on the subject, which we

may reproduce at another time, but

from which, to-day, we only have

space for the annexed extract:

"As to the result of the Cannon-

Campbell contest, there is not much

doubt but that the former will be

seated. Despite the fact that he is a

Mormon, he has many warm per-

sonal friends in the House. A re-

publican member of the House com-

mittee on elections, who had been

investigating the matter, said before

the case was referred to that com-

mittee: "The only charge against

Cannon is that he is not a natural

ized citizen of the United States, and

that cannot be sustained. If Mur-

ray had omitted one little thing in

his certificate to Campbell the result

might have been different, but as it

is I see no other way of settling the

case than to seat Cannon."

The "one little thing" that Mur-

ray omitted could not have been in-

serted without straight lying easy

to be perceived.

The Sacramento Record-Union

says, editorially:

"The proposition to admit Camp-

bell to a seat on the strength of his

possession of a certificate alone, was

certainly not merely an immoral

but a very dangerous one. For it

recognizes the right of

Governors to make Congressmen as

Governor Murray undertakes to do,

it will lose control over its own im-

portant prerogatives, and may in

a short time come to be packed

from outside. It is therefore just

as well that the case has been sent

to the Committee on Elections, which

committee will, we are wisely

against the admission of either of

the present contestants, and in fa-