

printed copy of it be signed and filed in the secretary's office as the original, while another printed copy is furnished to the printer who is to put the laws in book form.

THE FIRE AND POLICE BILL.

The bill introduced in the Legislative House last Saturday afternoon, designed to place the fire and police departments of cities of the first and second class on a strictly non-partisan basis, is a long document, and covers the subject in detail. The city council appoints two members of a commission, who must belong to different political parties, and the Governor appoints two other members, who must also differ in politics. These four, together with the principal officers of the fire department, comprise the board of fire commissioners; and the same four in conjunction with the principal officers of the police department, make up the board of police commissioners. Their compensation is to be fixed by the city council.

These two boards, or this board, whichever they or it may be called, control the fire and police departments, and all appointments therein. They are required to formulate rules for the government of both, and for competitive examinations of applicants for positions and promotion. Attaches of both departments are prohibited from taking active part in political conventions, but are not debarred from voting, and numerous provisions appear throughout the bill the design of which is to secure non-partisan management and conduct on the part of all persons connected with either department. Firemen and policemen hold their positions during good behavior, and are removable by the board only after a public hearing on charges preferred in writing. The city council is authorized to pension retired or disabled firemen and policemen, in certain cases.

No argument is required to support the proposition that the fire and police departments of a city ought to rest on a strictly non-partisan basis. Neither should ever be permitted to become a part of any political machine. No truth in American political economy will receive more general acceptance than this. Competitive examinations, and reasonably secure tenures of position, are also desirable features. As to the matter of pensions, there is a difference of opinion. In respect to the details of control of the two departments, the bill has a number of commendable features.

But it has one provision which alone is sufficient to justify its rejection by the Assembly, unless the same can be eliminated. The feature here referred to is the appointive power which it confers upon the Governor. Under this provision only one man would stand between the President of the United States and the selection of the firemen and policemen of the principal cities of this Territory. This will strike some people as centralization run mad, yet singularly enough, the acknowledged Democratic leader of the House is the author of the bill. The present occupant of the gubernatorial chair in Utah

is a very urbane gentleman, who sincerely strives to promote harmony and good feeling among all classes of citizens, and the general welfare of all; but territories have often had governors of a very different stamp, and until this commonwealth shall be fully vested with the powers and privileges of statehood, such legislation as that under review will be, to say the least, premature.

While Utah remains a Territory it is the paramount duty of her Legislature to preserve as nearly intact as possible the few fragments of self rule that are left to her; and the appointive power should be placed in the hands of one man only when no other way is open to attain a necessary object.

VERILY, SPEECH IS SILVER!

Just to hand is that particular part of the esteemed *Congressional Record* specially designated as No. 80, Vol. 25; though bearing date of January 22, 1894, it is devoted altogether to a speech delivered in the United States Senate by our stalwart and silver-tongued neighbor, Hon. John P. Jones of Nevada more than three months since. The legislative body at which Mr. Jones hurled his arguments and oratory had under consideration on the occasion the bill to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman act, and the business of the speaker and his sympathizers was to talk the life out of that bill if they could not defeat it any other way. Accordingly, when he was recognized by the chair, Mr. Jones, on the 14th of October, 1893, took all the superfluous covering off his nimble tongue and sailed in. Almost everybody knows the size of the *Congressional Record*—a page contains about two thousand words. Well, our hero gave the gentle Senate twenty pages' worth that first afternoon, a cool 40,000 words including interruptions, etc., and then "the honorable senator yielded for a motion to adjourn," which the grateful Senate adopted, and they and Mr. Jones were able to get a rest until Monday the 16th. On that day he gave them eleven pages more, a dose of something like 22,000 words. At this point Senator Peffer and others relieved him, and we hear him no more until Saturday the 21st, when he administered another sedative in the shape of 20,000 words, again yielding at last to a motion for adjournment. After the intervening day of rest, the tireless champion came up fresh and voluble, and poured forth some 19 pages' worth—about 38,000 words, only suspending operations after that warming-up process because Mr. Teller and others wanted to make a few remarks. On Tuesday, the 24th, he began where he left off the afternoon before. This time he was more moderate, however; he only talked about twenty-one or two thousand words at them; but he gave them nearly as much more next day, concluding this time amid "applause in the galleries." He lay over on Thursday, the 26th, but plunged into the fray again on Friday, the 27th. About 30,000 words was his quota for this occasion; it was largely made up of long extracts in small type and tables of figures that no one on earth could un-

derstand. Then "the honorable senator yielded the floor for the day," and on Monday the 30th of October, he proceeded to tie up the loose ends of his argument, array in compact phalanx his facts, marshal in serried ranks his figures, depict and frame his peroration—all this in a few choice sentences requiring not more than 11,000 words. His last words were a stanza of poetry of which the concluding lines are:

But the brave faith hath not lived in vain;
And this is all that the watcher said.

Most people will agree that it was about enough for the watcher to say. We believe the speech is with one exception the longest ever delivered in Congress, the exception being a former effort of the same Senator. As printed in the *Record* it occupies more than 98 pages of more than 2,000 words to the page, and required for its delivery almost the whole of the time of eight sessions of the Senate.

And yet the bill to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman act passed the Senate, received the President's approval and is now law of the land!

GLADSTONE'S RESIGNATION.

The possibility of the resignation of Mr. Gladstone at an early date and the significance of such a step are discussed by the press at present. The other day the *Pall Mall Gazette* announced most positively that the prime minister of England would resign his office. The statement was officially contradicted, but in such a way as to convey to the public that the rumor had some foundation. The following was authorized by Mr. Gladstone himself and can hardly be considered a complete refutation:

The statement that Mr. Gladstone has definitely decided, or decided at all, to resign is untrue. It is true, however, that for many months past his age and the condition of his sight and hearing have, in his judgment, made relief from public affairs desirable. Therefore, his tenure of office has been at any moment liable to interruption from these causes, which are, in their nature, permanent. It remains exactly as it has been. He is ignorant of the course which events important to the nation may take even during the remainder of the present session of parliament, and he has not said nor done anything which could in any degree restrain his absolute freedom, or that of his colleagues, regarding the performance of the arduous duties now lying, or likely to lie before them.

The question naturally arose, what "events important to the nation" could be of so serious a nature as to lead the premier to consider the desirability of retiring from public life. He is known to enjoy good health, as usually, and notwithstanding his years, to be "full of fight" as Mr. Herbert Gladstone recently said of his venerable father. The British public therefore at once suspected that Gladstone had alluded to the possibility of a near war, and that he would be unwilling to shoulder the responsibility of an emergency of that kind. The suspicion was all the more strong, because Balfour recently in a public lecture declared that war is imminent in Europe.

Should this be the case, probably no