DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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Monday, December 3, 1894.

MATTERS BEFORE CONGRESS.

Today, December 3, the Fifty-third Congress convenes for its last or short session. In its previous sessions questions of the gravest importance were dealt with, the principal ones being the repeal of the silver purchasing act and legislation affecting the tariff. But little of an extraordinary nature will be accomplished at this session, even if a disposition to proceed on the lines laid down were entertained by the ruling majority.

In the first place the time for work is short. Deducting the usual Christmas recess and Sundays, only about 65 days remain for actual business, and many of these, if precedents may be relied on, will be used in a display of parliamentary tactics, so as to reduce materially the actual time for the transaction of business. In the second place the sentiment of the country, as expressed in the late elections, will naturally exercise a conservative influence over the members who return to Washington victorious, whatever the effect may be in the case of those who were defeated.

Among the more important matters for consideration is the reciprocity question, which will probably be thoroughly discussed. Recently Germany, supposedly in retaliation for our duty on the sugar, has closed its ports to American beef and may carry the war farther; Spain demands some compensation for admitting our flour to Cuba, and Brazil has given notice of her intention to terminate existing treaties. All these questions would seem to demand immediate attention.

Another question, on which it is supposed an interesting debate will be had, is the Pacific railway indebtedness to the government. Possibly this matter will be postponed for next Congress to deal with, as it may lead to a departure from existing conditions of a radical nature—the turning of our roads to the management of the government.

The Nicaragua canal bill will in all probability also be heard of again. The proposition is that the government guarantee the interest on the company's bonds to the tune of $[illegible], but that the construction otherwise be undertaken as a private enterprise.

The remainder of the time will be devoted to appropriation bills, the currency question, investigations of everything that can be investigated, and debates on some measures left over from the long session. But on the whole, the situation in regard to the great questions of the day is likely to remain unchanged, and the problems involved will be left for the next Congress to consider.

The President's annual message, which appears in full in this issue, will repay careful perusal, as indicating measures upon which he would like congressional action.

DESTROYING THE BIRDS.

People in this vicinity have no friendship for the English sparrow, which is unanimously voted an unmitigated nuisance of whose presence it is most desirable to be relieved. In view of this fact, in all the legal precautions taken to protect the feathered tribe, the sparrow is made an exception, and even has had a price put upon his head. He may be trapped, or killed in any way, even the boys being given full liberty to use their deadly "flippers" or other means of a destructive character to aid in ridding the country of the precocious invader. He seems to have discovered that a war of extermination is being waged against him, and is not so familiar as of old, especially in permitting the boys to approach him; but as a pest he has not been abated to a very great extent.

In the attempt to destroy the sparrow, however, this part of the country is being compelled to suffer a serious loss. It is well known that Utah now has too few songsters among our feathered friends, and that the list of insectivorous birds—those which destroy insect pests—is lamentably deficient. Because of this, our municipal authorities and lawmakers have adopted measures looking to the preservation of these kinds of birds, among others of a useful character. The Territorial law provides that any person "who shall kill, ensnare, net or trap at any time any lark, whippoorwill, thrush, swallow, snowbird, bobolink, woodpecker, or other insectivorous birds and being birds of prey, except English sparrows, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and the possession of either of any of the birds mentioned in this section shall be prima facie evidence of guilt." Notwithstanding this legal inhibition, the license given to boys to kill English sparrows is resulting in a wholesale destruction of all the other birds named, and the sparrows are not being killed except in few instances.

The present is the migratory season of the insectivorous birds which it is most desirable to protect and increase in this Territory, and the slaughter that is going on shows how bad it is to give boys the right to kill them. In the first place, it is bad because it teaches our youth to be cruel; and second, it is a calamity to the Territory because the efforts are directed to killing the [illegible] and other valuable birds that visit us. Day after day and week after week, large numbers of boys can be seen in the fields about this city getting in their deadly work on them. Their victims are supposed by some people to be sparrows, but in fact they are thrushes, wrens, woodpeckers, meadow larks, butcherbirds, etc.—the choicest of the singing and insectivorous classes to be found here—and not sparrows at all. One of Utah's leading scientists and educators who has made a special investigation into this matter the past few weeks, has taken pains to examine the strings of birds killed and gathered by boys in this city, and out of a vast number has not found one sparrow, but all were valuable birds which the law is designed to protect. And the slaughter continues to go on unchecked.

Even were there no law on the subject, when the actual condition is pointed out parents should have enough pride and interest in the welfare of this locality to protect our native warblers and insect destroyers. Teachers in the public schools, in Sabbath schools, in primary and young people's associations, should impress those whom they are chosen to instruct with the seriousness of the wrong that is being perpetrated, and thereby use their influence to check it. Every citizen should lend his aid in putting an end to the abuse, because of the disaster it entails.

In a legal way, municipal officers charged with the enforcement of ordinances can do much in stopping this bird slaughter; and with respect to Territorial and county fish and game commissioners, the statute says they shall "see that all laws of this Territory for the protection of fish and game are faithfully enforced," and the provision first quoted is a part of the fish and game law. Perhaps these gentlemen have not noticed the difference between the sparrow and the birds that are being killed, or perhaps their attention has not been drawn to this phase of the subject. Certainly the law is being violated to an aggravated degree, and the attention of all concerned is invited with a view to securing a change for the better.

GREETINGS FROM INDIA.

Our readers will remember the visit of the Rev. B. Nagarkar, of India, to this city some months ago, and the interesting lectures he delivered in the Theater upon the conditions and religions of his native land. Under date of November 3rd he now writes from Bombay to Elder A. M. Musser of this city, who, as many readers of the News will also remember, fulfilled a mission to India many years ago, and who was consequently much interested in Mr. Nagarkar's lectures and formed an agreeable acquaintance with him. From this letter we are permitted to make the following extracts:

I have a most pleasant and most vivid recollection of my stay in your city and of the great kindness you showed to me. My memory often carries me back to my American friends and I so often wish them to visit my country as in the providence of God I was able to visit theirs. As I am writing this from my Indian home after the experiences of the last year my heart is overflowing with gratitude to God for the many friendships that [illegible] in America. [illegible]

I have just finished the first course of lectures on America in which I dwelt on the social and political aspects of the American people and next month I am going to deliver some lectures on the religious side of your country, giving [illegible] Mormonism. You [illegible] with you in every respect. [illegible] But at the same time I [illegible] the [illegible] of your Church [illegible] hope a sympathetic acquaintance of your faith. Convey my thanks to the friends who so kindly sent those works and accept my obligations for the same.

It will give me great pleasure to hear from you occasionally and to hear what is going on in your midst. * * * I am happy to say that I am keeping fairly good health. I sincerely hope and pray that you and yours are doing well in every way. Remember me respectfully to all and let me hear from you at your leisure. With fraternal regards to yourself, I am,

Yours sincerely, B. NAGARKAR.

Hon. A. Milton Musser, Salt Lake City, Utah.

During the last fiscal year [illegible] immigrants landed on our shores, and of this number only about 12,000 went to the South. It ought to be worth the while of the leading men of that section to ascertain why, with agricultural and other resources second to none in the Republic, the Southern States should be so strangely shunned by newcomers.

Priesthood Meeting.

The monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake was held in the Assembly Hall, at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 1st, Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, presiding.

Roll called showing as follows: Three Presidents, Bishop Elias Morris and George B. Wallace, of the Presidency of the High Priests' quorum, [illegible] Presidents of Seventies and [illegible] Home Missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were [illegible] represented excepting the Second, Sixth, Tenth, Thirteenth and Twenty-first city wards, and Sugar House, Farmers, West Jordan, Granger and Brighton of the county.

The First, Second, Third, Fifth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth quorums of Elders were represented by their presidents, and the Sunday schools of the [illegible] by superintendent Thomas C. Griggs. Members of the Lesser Priesthood were in attendance from the First, Eighth and Twentieth city wards, and Farmers, Mill Creek and South Cottonwood wards.

Bishop Elias Morris, of the Fifteenth ward, spoke of the [illegible] of the Church in the various wards, who need assistance, asking if the [illegible] ... of the ward should be used for their relief as well as for the [illegible].

In answer to the question, Brother Cannon urged that first consideration be given to the poor of the Saints, others being relieved as far as possible. Instances are known where it [illegible] have been made upon the [illegible] by the [illegible] for the support of their poor. It is an injustice to those [illegible] are [illegible] fed. Diligence in looking after [illegible] was strongly urged. They should not be let to [illegible] but should be reached even through communications with their former bishops if necessary. The teachers of the ward should look after such cases, also. No members should be permitted to live in a ward for any length of time without having their fellowship in that ward. If they persist in neglecting this duty they should be debarred from the sacrament. In the matter of persons disfellowshipped from the Church, who still go around and represent themselves as members of the Church and practice impositions on people, it was recommended that the names of the persons thus practicing should be published.

Brother Penrose referred to the fact that some men had [illegible] the faults of others publicly, [illegible] of attempting private satisfaction. He recommended the exercise of charity in all cases where men are known to have weaknesses.

Brother Cannon explained the doctrine of common consent in receiving members on the recommendation of Bishops and others.

There should be a free and intelligent exercise of the voting power in quorums as well as in the Church at large. He strongly urged the giving of a certificate of ordination to each one ordained to any office in the Priesthood, this certificate to be retained by him. Then, when Elders or others move from one ward to another they may carry these certificates to the quorums they wish to enter. But if this is not done, the clerks of the quorums may obtain a knowledge of the man's Priesthood from the clerk of the ward.

It was recommended that the bishops guard against imposition upon their people by indiscriminate means of raising funds for charity.

The meeting adjourned for one month.

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RICHARD B. SHEPARD, Lawyer. [illegible] Commercial Block.

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Croker has Gone to His Doomed Roost. Wilson and Breckenridge are Gone to England.

[illegible]

In the presidential election of two years ago and this one just passed, should teach the men who are chosen to represent the people in their national affairs, that the people are keeping tabs on them very closely, and will stand no more [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Almost all commodities will advance in price. Wages will advance, work will be more [illegible] and the advanced prices will not be so much noticed.

We [illegible] however, continue for a time at least, our hard times prices and continue to make clothing at twenty five per cent lower than most of our competitors, but how long we shall be able to give the splendid suits we are now offering for the price is a question our ability at the present time. But [illegible] $13.50, $16.50 and $20.00 [illegible] our [illegible] though we have [illegible] lower priced.

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