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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

At the risk of offending some of the virulent antagonists of Senator Reed Smoot, we notice a few more comments on his case, the course of the committee on privileges and elections in relations to it, and the probable action of the Senate when a consideration of it is reached by that body. In spite of the seven-to-five vote on the Dubois resolution, there is a general feeling of doubt as to the vote upon the main question when it is taken up in the Senate, and the feeling of the press of the country seems to be largely against unfavorable action by that body. We have quoted some remarks made by the New York Sun on this matter as reported in a contemporary, and we now reproduce the entire editorial from the Sun, entitled "Intimidating the Judges," as follows:

"Ever since Reed Smoot of Utah took his seat in the Senate of the United States, on March 4, 1903, the Congressional Record has borne constant testimony to the unceasing activity of the persons and organizations that want to see him ousted from that body. Practically each number of the Record has contained a long list of petitions intended to influence the minds of the Senators against him, and now that early action seems probable the Mormon's enemies have redoubled their efforts. Yesterday a number of bulky volumes, each containing the petition of protestants in a single State, were presented in the anti-Smoot library.

"In deciding on Mr. Smoot's eligibility to membership in the Senate the members of that body act as his judges. In seeking to influence their conduct by the means that have been adopted it is apparent that his opponents have given little or no thought to the judicial nature of the task, for they evidently desire a decision based on popular prejudice and not on the facts and the evidence. One distinguished Senator regarded these efforts to force the Senate to expel Mr. Smoot as improper and indefensible. On November 11, 1903, George Frisbie Hoar of Massachusetts, presenting several anti-Smoot petitions to the Senate, said:

"'I ask the unanimous consent of the Senate to say, for the information of the very excellent and admirable citizens who have signed these petitions, that the decision of the title of a Senator to his seat in the Senate is a purely judicial question, to be determined upon evidence and the application to the evidence of the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that it seems to me, with all due respect to these petitioners, it is as much out of place to address such petitions to this high court which is to determine those cases as it would be to petition the Supreme Court of the United States to take up some case which was before it or decide it in a particular way.'

"If Mr. Smoot is disqualified for membership in the Senate, his disqualification rests on the fact of his membership in the Mormon Church and the obligations he owes to that organization, and not on the prejudice against that Church that exists among many worthy persons. In considering his case the Senate should be guided only by the evidence that has been produced against him. The cartloads of petitions that have been got up against him show a distinct plan to intimidate individual Senators and sway their judgment by introducing outside considerations. It is seriously to be hoped that no such scheme will bear fruit and that every Senator will vote in the Smoot case on the evidence, and not in accordance with the prejudices of the respectable but mostly uninformed signers of these petitions.

This bears out so strongly the views expressed in the "News" on the subject of Trial by Petition, that we have given space to it in extenso. The right of petition extends to all rightful subjects of petition. Good common sense will distinguish between those that are and those that are not rightful. The notion that objections to the latter preclude the former, is an absurdity that is only advanced or entertained by anti-"Mormon" sophists, scribes and Pharisees. The annexed remarks on the subject of the vote are from the Chicago Record-Herald, which says editorially:

"The Senate committee on privileges and elections has voted, seven to five, that Senator Smoot of Utah is not entitled to his seat. This resolution is an expression of opinion, but nothing more. Even should the Senate formally adopt it, it is doubtful whether it would have any effect on Senator Smoot, unless it hurt his feelings so badly that he resigned, which is not probable. In order to oust him the Senate must take express action, and a nice point of procedure is involved as to whether a majority or a two-thirds vote is necessary. The Senate committee had two other resolutions before it, providing for the two different methods of action, but it could not muster votes enough to adopt either of them.

"It is over three years—more than half of a senatorial term—since Senator Smoot took his oath and with it his seat. The attack on him had begun before that time, but it was tacitly agreed among the senators that he should be allowed to serve pending the trial of the charges against him bearing on his eligibility for the office.

"If the Senate had investigated the charges before letting Mr. Smoot take the oath of office, a bare majority would have been sufficient to exclude him. This power the Senate has under the Constitution, which provides that:

"Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members.

"Some of the opponents of Senator Smoot insist that even though he has been sworn in, and has held his seat so long as he has, this power can be used against him now.

"His friends, who are supported also by some of his opponents, say, however, that the Senate exercised its power in this respect when it allowed Senator Smoot to take his seat, and that if it wishes to get rid of him now it must act under another provision of the Constitution, which reads:

"Each house may, * * * with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

"It will remain for the Senate to decide which method of action it will adopt. Its decision will be of vital importance to Smoot for the impression seems to have gained ground that a majority vote against him is possible, while a two-thirds vote is not to be expected."

The Springfield Daily Republican, which has on the whole been opposed to Senator Smoot's cause, seems to be under the impression that the action of the committee is not very likely to produce the effect desired by the agitators and the enemies of the Senator, and remarks:

"While the committee stood 7 to 5 in favor of the declaration that Senator Smoot is "not entitled to his seat," the same men could not reach a conclusion as to whether he should be merely "excluded" or expelled. Exclusion, which requires only a majority vote of the Senate, was voted down, yet on the question of expulsion, which requires a two-thirds majority, the committee found itself evenly divided. On the face of the returns, then, the committee calls for Mr. Smoot's removal, yet favors neither exclusion nor expulsion. If the Senate divides in much the same way, whatever the motives of the various members may be, the Utah senator may find himself in some anomalous position hitherto unheard of."

The New York World gives an account editorially of the voting in the committee and then makes these comments, although it considers that "the Smoot case is of little real importance, except as an unfortunate product of religious passion:"

"That the Senate has power by a two-thirds vote to expel a member for any reason whatever is disputed by nobody. Even if the Senate were to undertake by a mere majority vote to exclude Mr. Smoot there is probably no tribunal which could review its decision, but the propriety of its action would be open to grave question. Such action would establish a precedent which at some period of intense partisan passion might be the source of the greatest public mischief and evil. If Mr. Smoot is to be deprived of his seat at all—and we cannot see why he should be—the Senate should expel him."

The Montana Missoulian has an editorial on the current question which, after explaining the action of the committee and the rights of the Senate concludes with these paragraphs:

"Whatever may be said to the contrary, the expulsion of Mr. Smoot from the United States senate means the triumph of the petticoat; a pretty good banner, by the way, but it has its limitations.

"Smoot has been attacked on account of his religion. The claim is made that the Mormon Church is a menace to our free institutions; that a Mormon holds his Church above his country and that he can not be a true citizen because his first allegiance is given to his Church. A. P. A.'s use the same argument, but that is neither here nor there. They are not the flowers that are blooming in this particular spring.

"Some of the Mormons in Idaho took a decided stand against Senator Dubois, who can never represent Idaho again in the United States senate. He has proceeded to get even. Of course, there is always trouble in Utah between Mormons and Gentiles, but Dubois has made the fight a national one. He has been the prime mover in the gospel of hysteria. In every state and territory in the Union women have forwarded miles of petitions to the United States senate, praying for Smoot's expulsion, and for no other reason than that he is a Mormon. He was fairly elected. He is a clean man. He has but one wife. He is a good citizen—but he is a Mormon. This means that Mormons will be disfranchised. Bear this in mind: A successful warfare against one religious denomination means a successful warfare against another. Which will be the next?

These excerpts may not prove very comforting to the irrational opponents of the senior Senator from Utah, nor to the hysterical religionists who have pleaded for his exclusion or expulsion, but they will be read with interest by a large portion of the public, which can form its own conclusions as to the probable result.

THE PLAIN TRUTH.

One of the notable magazine articles of the present month is that which appears in the North American Review in the form of "An Appeal to our Millionaires." The writer points out that we are now confronted with the conditions against which Daniel Webster uttered a warning word, to the effect that if the tendency of the laws should be to create a rapid accumulation of property in a few hands, the great majority of the people would have slight cause to interest themselves in the support of the government. This condition, the writer in the Review thinks, exists now. And the conviction has become general that the accumulation of property in a few hands has been the result of illegal and reprehensible practices. For this reason, he says, it is of the highest importance, if we are to escape violent revolution, to consider whether we cannot find some basis for private property which might receive the approval of the majority of the American electorate. He adds:

"The truth is that no genuine service in any department of human effort has ever been conferred upon mankind merely for the sake of money, nor is any person who is desirous of having 'money to burn' capable of rendering any really valuable service. The two qualities of mind always have been and always will be incompatible. The good work of the world has never been done from such an incentive. The good men of the world have never done any work from such an incentive. Excessive gains, like excessive salaries, are inherently dishonest, and the men who seek them cannot possibly be of any genuine value to the American people. The less temptation, therefore, we offer men to work merely to amass great fortunes the better for them and for us, and the more sternly we confine everybody to honest returns for honest service the better for them and for us. Whoever has a dollar for which a dollar's worth, in property or service, has not been given, has a dishonest dollar, and if he keeps it, he is a dishonest man, no matter by what fine phrases he seeks to cover such dishonesty. And a dishonest man can confer no real benefit upon an honest community."

THE SEA SERPENT.

The New York Evening Post devotes a column of editorial space to a serious discussion of the sea serpent, observing that "uncouth and terrifying creature that he is, he has made great progress in the past few years toward recognition by scientific men and a respectable place among classified creatures."

The main question still is, does the sea serpent exist, or is it only a creature of imagination?

On one side we find hundreds, if not thousands, of intelligent sailors and fishermen who either claim to have seen the monster themselves, or to have heard reliable men state that they have seen it. They are convinced of the reality of what they have seen and the truth of what they have heard. There are also many ancient authors who give descriptions of the animal. Olaus Magnus, Pontoppidan and Hans Egede are among the Scandinavian writers who have left accounts of enormous sea monsters. On the other hand, we have the emphatic denials of scientists who refuse to accept the current stories as based on facts.

But the weight of the scientific argument is lessened, when it is remembered that scientists necessarily must be cautious in accepting hearsay testimony. They refused for a long time to accept as true the assertions of travelers concerning gorillas, and pygmies, until convinced by ocular demonstration. Recently the skin of a strange inhabitant of the African jungles has been brought to London from Congo. The first accounts of this creature, the Okapi, sounded quite as fantastic as any description of sea serpents. The okapi was said to be a short-necked giraffe with yellow cheeks, red forehead and ears (ears fringed with black); a sepia neck and wine-red body; hindquarters snowy white; tail chestnut; hind and fore legs snowy white or pale cream color, the whole touched here and there with orange and boldly marked with purple-black horizontal stripes and blotches. Now this wonderful freak has been proved to exist. Why should not some future explorer be so fortunate as to catch a sea serpent?

It is well known that monsters of gigantic proportions plowed the turbulent oceans in the early days of the earth. Is it impossible that some of these leviathans still survive? That is the essence of the question of sea serpents?

Newspaper readers will remember the reports published in 1897 that Lieut. Lagresille, commanding the French gunboat Avalanche, had sighted two strange creatures in the bay of Fai-tsi-long. Their length was estimated at sixty metres. When he fired at them at a range of 600 metres they vanished under the surface of the water. On February 15, 1898, the same vessel sighted another pair of similar monsters, and made chase for an hour and a half, but without avail. Less than a month later, when the Avalanche had on board some officers of the Bayard, the creatures were sighted a third time and pursued. It has also been recorded that observers on another vessel, the Decidee, sighted the monsters in the same waters in the spring of 1904.

These are recent testimonies regarding the existence of sea serpents. Scientists are rather less sceptical now as to that subject than they used to be, but certainty can be arrived at only by the capture of one of the delusive beasts of the deep.

All the good trusts appear to be in hiding.

How about the Utah slaughter houses?

The Czar still lives; and it is to be hoped, learns.

What is so rare as a day in June without rain?

For genuine excitement the douma rivals an Indiana legislature.

Graft is progress towards fortune along the line of least resistance.

The packers want "court review." Instead they are getting publicity.

It is very evident that Mr. Cassatt does not know all about his own road.

And now everybody believes there is something uncanny about canned meat.

Confession is good for the soul, and investigation for the soulless corporation.

Senator Crane is engaged to be married. After a while the stork will be around.

The life insurance companies are shouting to the railroad companies, "Et tu, Brute."

"Philadelphia, to be admired and loved, needs but to be known," says the Philadelphia Press.

The kiss that Emperor William gave Emperor Francis Joseph smacked more of diplomacy than of love.

And now the Beef trust realizes what is meant by the saying, "It all depends upon whose ox is gored."

Why didn't the Chicago health authorities discover the condition of the stockyards for themselves?

The Dunkards are against telephones and automobiles. No one would have believed their shell was so hard as that.

If the Oregon election returns come in slowly it should be remembered that the Webfoot State was ever noted for its conservatism.

The long wedding festivities in Madrid are drawing to a close. They came near being ended before they were well begun.

Governor Ysabel says the Americans turned the hose on the Mexican strikers. Instead of cooling them off it made them hot; and then the rioting started.

If Argentina and several South American republics should withdraw from the Pan-American congress it would be a misfortune. She is the leading South American country, and her influence in many ways is predominant. If Secretary Root can prevent withdrawals from the congress he will have scored a great diplomatic triumph.

It is claimed that the disclosures connected with the Chicago packing houses have created a tremendous sensation in Europe. They would naturally have that effect, and if a prohibition of meat importation to some countries is the result, that would cause no surprise. American pork was once proscribed abroad because it was believed that every pig in this country was infected with trichinæ.

THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

New York Evening Post.

Quite recently the German government has ordered that all railway officials and employes must learn to speak English. In Antwerp, also, the authorities are urging all classes to study English and are providing special facilities in the public schools; the city has become "almost an English-speaking port." In Japan all school-children are now obliged to learn our language. A few years hence tourists from this country will be able to get along there as easily as on a trip at home. With Great Britain, India, Australia, Canada, the United States, and large sections of Africa using English, what hope is there for any other language? The rest might as well give up the unequal contest and make it unanimous.

PAN-AMERICAN MANNERS.

New York Mail.

When the first Pan-American Congress met at Mexico, in 1902, more harm was probably done by the manners of the American delegates and their wives than good by the excellent work of the congress. The wife of one of the American delegates, seeing Mexican officers in the room at an evening reception, expressed audibly her unwillingness to dance with "these Pullman porters," and left the place. One of the American representatives, a worthy man of wealth but without manners, slept through a reception with his head on the back of his chair and his mouth open, while the Spanish-speaking delegates whispered "Puerco Americano!" as they passed him. No such mistake in the composition of the United States' delegation to the coming session of the Pan-American Congress at Rio de Janeiro will be made.

WE ARE LOANING MONEY.

San Francisco Call.

Who would have thought, a week after the fire, that in 30 days San Francisco would be loaning some of her surplus money in New York?—yet that is what we are now actually doing. Our local banks have just sent to New York through the Sub-Treasury, $2,710,000 and loaned it out at 4 per cent. The Union Trust Company alone sent $1,000,000. This is a very pretty business for a city thirty days after the greatest urban conflagration ever known, and would have been worthy of remark even if there had been no fire. It is supplemented by the statement from New York that San Francisco would shortly be a large lender of funds in that city. The Call may be pardoned for recalling with pride that not ten days after the fire it predicted that nobody here need worry about money—that there would be plenty of it. But even the Call did not expect the city to be actually loaning millions of dollars to the greatest American city and in one of the great financial money markets of the world, within thirty days.

JUST FOR FUN.

On With the Dance.

All yer tribulations
Never stand a chance,
Ef you've got a banjo
An' ready fer a dance!
—Atlanta Constitution.

East and West.

When they build that national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, hitting the pike will be a matter of much convenience.—Baltimore Sun.

Wisdom and Work.

De man what don' know nuffin' oughter be satisfied, 'cause he kin b'lieve evahthing.

Ef folks was all ez hones' es dey 'peahs to be de worl' would be mighty tame.

Dey tells me dat worry kills mo' dan wu'k. Dis am speshully true erbout worryin' cause yo' ain got no wu'k.—American Spectator.

Queered.

They sat out on the lawn listening to the serenade of the frogs. He was proposing.

"Darling," he whispered, "I love you, I love you!"

"It is all very nice for you men to say such things," replied the beautiful girl coyly; "but how do I know you will be true?"

"True? I shall be as true as gold. I swear by yon red moon peeping above the horizon."

The beautiful girl giggled.

"Why, George, you goose, you have been drinking those horrid cocktails again."

"W-what do you mean?"

"Why, that's no red moon. That's the end of pa's cigar. He has been sitting out on the porch for the last hour."—Puck.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The June number of The Four-Track News teems with articles and items of interest and value, from the leader, which is entitled "A Star in the Wilderness." In an article entitled "By the 'River of the Vineyards'," Mary Catherine Crowley tells the story of Monroe, Mich., and in "New Zealand's Yosemite" the wonders of that country, its mighty mountains and deep gashed fiords are portrayed by J. Cowan; Lella Weekes Wilson tells of Boston's "Literary Thoroughfare," and also of "The Paul Revere Birthplace;" "With the Birds," by George Wharton James, is a particularly interesting description of some of the California aviaries, and most satisfying to the reader will be "A Catskill Reverie," by Charles B. Wells; "Among the Lakes of Michigan," by L. F. Brown, and a number of other special articles.—57 East 42nd St., New York.

The leading articles in the June number of the Electrical Age include the following: "The Electric Smelting of Iron Ores," by A. J. Rossi; "The Development of the Nickle-Plating Industry," by Isaac Adams; "Discrimination in Rates," by J. S. Codmon; "Electricity in a Modern Shipyard;" "A Large Lighting Load in a Small Town," by A. D. Adams; "Electricity As an Amusement Purveyor," by D. A. Willey; "The Corrosion of Iron by Acids," by C. F. Burgess and S. C. Engle; "The Depreciation of Electrical Properties," by G. W. Bissell; "Electric Rock Drills," by W. H. Radcliffe. Many of the articles are profusely illustrated, the engravings being of unusual excellence, and the whole presents a very attractive appearance.—3-7 West Twenty-ninth street, New York.

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