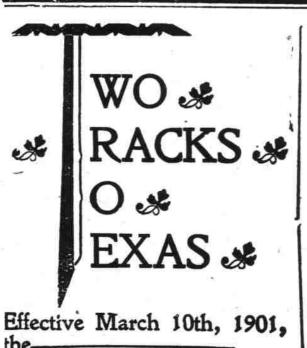


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Genuine stamped C. C. C. Never sold in bull Beware of the dealer who tries to sell "something just as good."

AN ODD PARLIAMENT.

A BODY WITH A STRONG FLAVOR OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

In the Mecklenburg Diet the Member With the Loudest Voice and the Most Vigorous Fist Is Entitled to the Floor.

There is hardly anything more antiquated in parliamentary life than the opening of a Mecklenburg diet. Compared with the opening of the reichstag or the Prussian, Saxon or any other diet. all of which are businesslike bodies, it seems as though one had been set back in the middle ages. Agrarian conservatism pure and unadulterated reigns supreme.

To begin with the calling of the session, a more verbose, long winded and antiquated document is not in use in any modern legislative body.

This antediluvian document is sent to the 800 knights and 45 burgomasters, but only 30 or 40 put in their appearance. Judging from the size of the hall of session, both at Sternberg and Malchin, where the sessions are held alternately, this has never been otherwise. Were they all to appear, the hall would not hold half the number.

Only when a measure that may in principle curtail their rights and privileges is on the docket the knights show up long enough to "kill" the bill. This done, they betake themselves again to their estates. A member of the Mecklenburg diet is not an ordinary mortal. He is not obliged to undergo the ordeal of a political campaign in order to obtain a seat, like deputies in the other German federal states. The ownership of a freehold gives him a seat in the diet. Nor does he forfeit his prerogative by legal offenses which elsewhere deprive the offender of all civil rights and honors. Only in case of bankruptcy and mental depravity must be discontinue the exercise of his rights. Daily allowances are not granted him. However, they are quite unnecessary, as he enjoys a large number of other valuable privileges.

Perhaps the most valuable of these is the one which exempts his estate from the oppressive "canon," or perpetual lease tax, while the copyholder or peasant is groaning under the burden.

After the knights and burgomasters have convened the land marshals inform the commissaries, who represent the grand dukes, that the freeholders have appeared.

where first the commissary of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and then his colleague from Mecklenburg-Strelitz (both grand up in the sixteenth century court style, enumerates the business which the college of serenissimos has selected for the deliberations, including also the petitions that have been received.

Parliamentary rules do not exist. The presiding knight is perfectly free to take up any bill he chooses, and only rarely, that is in important matters, has the subject been discussed in committee before reaching the house.

The knights divide all business into two classes, styling the one "indifferent matters." the other "matters pertaining to the prerogatives of the knighthood." As only the latter really receive the full attention of the knights they are, upon the whole, the representatives of their own

In case the minority, that is, the 45 burgomasters, as against the 800 knights, wishes to defeat a measure, the two parties, the knights and the burgomasters, give their formal statements, whereupon the matter is placed upon the table. The minority prefers this absurdity to a joint ballot in which it would be overwhelmed.

The general order prevailing in the Mecklenburg diet has become proverbial throughout the German empire, and the subject of much ridicule and comment. The tumultuous scenes that often take place remind one of the former Polish

Rules for the floor do not exist. Twenty-seven members may speak simultaneously as long as they please without being called to order by the chairman; nor is it necessary to be granted the right of make a speech. He who has the strongest other's tails and to gnaw the wheels of

There is one advantage in the Mecklenburg methods, they expedite matters im-

modern sense of the word. The absolute Afghan war of 1838 it is said that 3,000 rights of the duchy are limited only by a camels and half the horses engaged were knighthood. A popular representation, as lost in three months. in all the other German states, cannot be

Two-fifths of the country, which is directly subject to the grand dukes, has no representation at all. One-fifth is made up of the cities which are represented in the diet by the burgomasters. As, however, the latter receive their appointment from the government without any previous consultation of the wishes of the cities, they are creatures of the grand dukes. The remaining two-fifths are composed of the knighthood, with 1,020 estates owned by 800 knights. The affairs of the government are con-

ducted in a most arbitrary manner. In Mecklenburg-Strelitz the state's budget is never published for the information of the people. The taxpayers are left entirely in the dark as to the receipts

and expenditures of the government. The agricultural conditions are without their equal anywhere. No one is permitted to dispose at will of his real property, nor to divide a farm which exceeds in size two hides. The peasants can at best rent the land, for which they must pay a rent tax into the grand duke's treasury.—Philadelphia Press.

All's Well That Ends Well.
"Ah, Gwendolynne," exclaimed the impassioned but somewhat obscure author, "marry mel' I cannot live without you. You are the well from which I draw all my inspiration."

The malden thought long before she framed her repty suitable to the needs of the humorist of the Kansas City Star. "No. Harold," she said, "I cannot marry you and be your well, but I will always be a cistern to you."

Love and Time. She-Love knows no time, darling. He-That's a fact. Let's stop the clock. -Boston Courier.

I Know One Sure Bemedy for an obstinate cold. Its name is Pyny-Balsam FAIRLY EAT QUININE.

Foreigners In Mexico Who Keep Full of the Drug All the Time. "The quantity of quinine taken by foreigners on the southeast coast of Mexico is something simply incredible," said a resident of this city who is interested in coffee culture in the sister republic. "There is a general belief among the Americans and English all through that region that the drug is necessary for the preservation of life, and they keep full of it from one year's end to another. The first time I visited the coast I stopped at Frontera, the first port east of Vera Cruz, and as soon as our ship tied up it was boarded by a tall, sallow man, who turned out to be an American engineer, in charge of a big sugar plant up the country. He made a bee line for the purser. 'Hello, Billy,' he said; 'did you bring that quinine?' Sure,' replied the purser, and diving into his cabin he came out with an armful of tin boxes about the size of tea canisters and japanned green. Each of them held a pour quinine. I never saw it put up that v. before, and

naturally I was surprised.

"I soon scraped an acquaintance with the engineer and made bold to inquire what in the world he wanted with such a supply. 'Are you getting it on a speculation?' I asked, with a vague idea that it might be intended for some Mexican army contractor. He laughed heartily. 'Speculation nothing,' said he. 'This all goes to our little colony of Americans back in the interior, and it won't last very long, either.' With that he drew a penknife from his pocket, opened a blade that had been ground off round, like a spatula, and thrust it into one of the cans. He brought out a flaky, white mass-enough to heap a teaspoon-put it on his tongue and swallowed it like so much sugar. 'Have you any idea how many grains you are taking?' I asked in amazement. 'Only approximately,' he replied carelessly. 'A man quits weighing quinine after he has been down here a few months.'

"That was my first encounter with a bona fide quinine eater," the coffee planter went on, "but I met plenty of them afterward. They generally keep the stuff in rubber tobacco pouches to protect it from perspiration, and when they feel like taking a dose they dig in with one of those spatulated knives that they all carry and swallow as much as they see fit. As they go entirely by guess, it is hard to say how much will be taken in the course of a day, but I have weighed the amount that can be lifted on the ordinary knife blade and found it to range between 25 and 50 grains. You The commissaries then proceed with see, quinine is as compressible as cotton, much ceremony to the hall of session, and two wads of it that look about the same size will vary a hundred per cent in

"One would suppose, as a matter of duchies have a joint diet) read the old course, that such enormous quantities of styled summons, after which it is handed the drug would produce an intolerable to the marshal. The capita, also drawn | ringing in the head; but, strange to say, they do nothing of the kind. The average white man down there who keeps under the influence all the time experiences nothing except a slight feeling of exhilaration-at least so I was assured by dozens of habitues. Whether the use of the stuff is of any real benefit is something I am skeptical about. I never took a grain of it myself, and I was the only man on our plantation who didn't have a touch of fever."-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

HORSES NOT AS HARDY AS MEN.

During War These Animals Succumb to Hunger and Fatigue. There have been many instances in which fights have been lost or won ac-

cording to the number and condition of the horses engaged. When the siege of Plevna commenced, the Russians were bringing all their stores and food from Sistova by the aid of 66,000 draft horses, and at the end of the siege it was found that no less than 22,000 of them had died from hard work and exhaustion. The want of rest and food tells on a horse far more than on a man, for in the case of the latter there are stimulating influences of patriotism, the glory of victory and other feelings which are not existent in the nature of a horse. Quite half the horses in England sent to the Crimea never returned, most of them having died from hard work and starvation. Indeed, only about 500 were killed in action.

So reduced and starved have the poor beasts become on occasions of this kind the floor by the chairman in order to that they have been known to eat one anvoice and can stand pounding on the desk the gun carriages. Napoleon took with longest prevails. horses, and on his return in six months he could only muster 16,000. More than mensely, still leaving every member an half the horses which were engaged in opportunity for the full expression of his our Egyptian war of 1882 were disabled. Six hundred of these were killed and Mecklenburg has no constitution in the only three-fifths slain in action. In the

It will thus be seen that actual fighting does not claim so many horses as starvation or overwork. Defective shoeing, sore backs, want of food and rest and other similar causes go far toward rendering horses useless for practical warfare. One more and important cause needs careful attention, and it is the danger of injury horses run when being shipped across the sea. They are in constant motion. They continually fall. many of them to be trampled to death, and the rest become frightened, kick and batter one another about and are rendered useless. As an instance of this, it was found that one regiment on the way to the Peninsular war was deprived of just half of its horses on the voyage.-London Golden Penny.

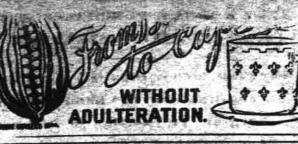
Mourning Clothes In Sweden In Sweden mourning clothes are some

what peculiar, according to our way of thinking. For women a long veil is absolutely necessary, as are also a black dress and a crape bonnet, but a jacket N or mantle of any color may be donned with these, and it is by no means unusual for a widow to wear the regulation weeds in conjunction with a brilliant red jacket. Men also will dress in black trousers and hat and a colored waistcoat, or possibly even a colored coat.

Unjust to the Caterpillar. Dr. J. G. Wood, the scientific lecturer, once explained the structure of a caterpillar to an English clergyman. With due estonishment at the revelation, the cler-gyman exclaimed, "I always supposed that a caterpillar was only skin and squash!"-Boston Christian Register.

Already Informed. Disappointed Admirer-Yo' kin tell Dinah dat if she wants dat chump, Sam Johnson, she kin hab him. See?

Mutual Friend—He done tole her dat
hisself.—Harper's Bazar.



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SOUTHERN RAIL WAY

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What's done can't be undone, especially if it,s a hard boiled egg.

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