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A SENSATION IN THE SENATE

CONFIRMATION OF C. D. CLARK RECALLED.

He Was Nominated to Take Judge Key's Place as District Judge in Tennessee—A New York Firm Makes a Serious Charge Against Clark's Firm.

WASHINGTON, D.c 20—In the absence of Vice-President Stevenson, the Senate was presided over today by Harris (D. m., Tenn.). Reading of yesterday's journal was dispensed with, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business.

In executive session the confirmation of Charles D. Clark, nominated to be district judge for the Eastern and Middle district of Tennessee on the 17th inst., and who was confirmed Tuesday, was recalled. This prevents the issuance of the commission to the recently confirmed judge, and leaves the case still pending before the Senate.

The fact that the Senate should go into executive session almost the moment after the session convened, indicated that something unusual had occurred, and as soon as the doors had closed Senator Harris made a statement to the Senate. He said the nomination of Clark had been endorsed by the bar of Tennessee and confirmation promptly followed so that there might be no delay in filling the vacancy existing on the bench. Yesterday, however, Harris said, the attorney general laid before him the charges that had been preferred against a firm of which Clark was a member by a prominent legal firm in New York City. These charges were that the Tennessee firm had been guilty of unprofessional conduct in accepting a fee on both sides of the same case.

The attorney general thought that charges of this nature coming from a reputable firm should be investigated before a commission should be issued to the nominee, and in this opinion both Senators Harris and Bate agreed. It was for the purpose of putting the matter before the Senate that this executive session had been called.

Bate corroborated what Harris said, and the Senate thought that no harm would come to Clark, were he not implicated in the charge, by having the whole matter investigated. Hoar deprecated the undue haste that had been recently displayed in confirmation to judicial offices, and said that this case, whether the charges were true or false, should suggest to the Senate the advisability of permitting the public to have proper notice of the appointment of men to office by allowing reasonable time to elapse before taking action.

The case was referred to the committee on judiciary with instructions to investigate and report, and in anwhile the attorney general was informed of the action of the Senate and instructed to hold up the commission.

After 15 minutes spent in executive session the doors were reopened and legislative business was taken up."

The time of the Senate this afternoon was given up almost entirely to ceremonies attending the reception of statues of John Stark and Daniel Webster, presented to Congress by the State of New Hampshire and today unveiled in statuary hall.

A BAD ELECTION LAW.

Senator Butler Took His Time to Learn Of It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Senator Butler, speaking of the South Carolina election laws and of his course in appealing to the courts to test their validity, said today in an interview:

"The story from the beginning goes back to a period 12 years ago, when a shrewd lawyer constructed and caused to be enacted a system of registration and election laws calculated solely for the purpose of preventing even the remotest possibility of negro domination of which at that time the people of the South were very much afraid under the existing federal election laws. It put all elections in the State practically under the control of the State machine, and things went just the way the machine said.

"Of course we all acquiesced in these laws for a great many years, for no one seemed to think there was any harm in them. To tell the truth I had never read them or knew what was in them until very recently.

"The white people generally were very well satisfied with this arrangement of affairs, and for years things ran along very smoothly until the Tillmanites got hold of the machine.

"Now it is charged that, although acting strictly under the law, they have disfranchised 40,000 white voters and elected Tillman to the Senate. My term expires on the 4th of March next, and I shall never be a candidate again for any political office. But I am interested in the peace and good order of my state, and I say to you, just so sure as these laws remain unchanged, shotguns will play a prominent part in future party campaigns, and voters will walk through blood to the ballot boxes.

"That is why I am interested in the matter at the present time. Nobody knew how bad these laws were until the workings of the last campaign caused the people to study them. They are so clearly unconstitutional that there can be no doubt whatever as to the result. I believe the supreme court of the State will so decide. I presume Tillman will come here to take his seat the first of next December, and the question of unconstitutionality may then have not been decided by the highest tribunal of the land. In that case it is my belief that the Senate itself would have the right to decide as to whether the legislature that had Tillman chosen Senator was a constitutional body or not."

Want a Fair Share.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 20.—A call was issued today by the secretary of the Weavers' Union for a special meeting of weavers to be held tomorrow evening to take action in regard to the wage question, as the officers of the union believe that the condition of the cloth market warrants an increase in manufacturers' wages.

The Child Saw Murder Done.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Charles Peterson, 38 years of age, of 106 Trinity Place, shot and killed his wife Ruth, aged 33, and then committed suicide by shooting himself this morning. No one witnessed the murder but his eldest child, a little girl.

A RIOT IN COURT.

An Acquitted Negro Attacked By Police Officials.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 20.—There were riotous proceedings in the court of criminal correction yesterday, during which a number of policemen assaulted and fearfully maltreated a negro who had just been discharged by Judge Murphy, and threatened to kill a prominent attorney and some citizens who interfered in the negro's behalf.

When the riot was at its height Judge Murphy adjourned court. When it reconvened the Judge issued an order that no policeman be allowed to carry arms while in the court room. He then asked for the names of the witnesses and the testimony of persons taking part in disgraceful proceedings which caused the court to be adjourned. Although the room was filled with participants and witnesses of the riot, no one would testify. A few minutes later police officer Erbe entered the court room, carrying his revolver Judge Murphy promptly fined him $25 and sentenced him to ten days in jail for contempt of court. He was released on a writ of habeas corpus procured by Chief of Police Harrigat.

During the trial of the prisoner shortly afterward Chief Harrigan entered the inclosure reserved for attorneys and representatives of the press and was ordered therefrom by Judge Murphy. The chief withdrew and threatened to make a test case of the judge's rulings Judge Murphy then announced that all men acquitted of crimes would have the protection of the court and if any one interfered with them on leaving the court room he would consider it contempt of court and deal with them accordingly. Judge Murphy has been on the bench but a few weeks, and his rulings have been a surprise to the police department.

TO AMEND CARLISLE'S BILL.

Meeting Some Objections That Have Been Made Against It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—Springer of Illinois, who has charge of the pending banking bill in the house, had a conference this morning with Secretary Carlisle regarding a criticism which has been made by the opponents of that measure. As a result of the conference, several amendments were agreed upon which Springer believes will meet some of these objections. The Carlisle bill, for example, limits to 75 per cent. of the capital stock the circulation which can be taken out under it. Under the seventh section of the bill, it is claimed by some members, certain banks having more than 75 per cent. of circulation would be permitted to take out circulation to the full amount of 90 per cent. of the capital stock of 75 per cent. This apparent, but not real, conflict, Springer explains, will be remedied so that there will be no confusion, and if any bank has such excess it will be required to retire it by depositing greenbacks for payment in a manner now required by law for retiring circulation.

It is believed that amendments agreed on by Springer and Carlisle today, as as well as others which Springer has announced his purpose of offering, and such as the Democratic majority of the committee may deem necessary to perfect the bill, will be combined with those portions of the bill which now meets approval and be offered as a substitute for the Carlisle bill in order to avoid the tedious delay which would result from their consideration as separate propositions.

A QUIET STRIKE.

Negro Longshoremen Cut the Rate and Then Fall to Work.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 20.—The cut rate of the negro longshoremen for loading cotton went into effect yesterday theoretically, and the result is that the levee is practically idle. The negroes did not present themselves for positions, evidently through groundless fears of violence, and the white laborers belonging to the longshoremen's organization made no application for work, on the ground that notice had been given in the press that the reduced rate for the payment of labor would go into effect Wednesday. They declined to stand the reduction. Only two or three ships were able to get sufficient labor to enable them to handle cargoes. No violence has been reported and none is expected.

PERHAPS IT WAS MRS. STEVENSON.

The Uncle of Robert Louis Stevenson Does Not Think Him Dead.

EDINBURGH, Dec. 20—Dr. Balfour, uncle of Robert Louis Stevenson, has written a letter to the Scotsman in which he says the relatives of the novelist believe that Mr. Stevenson is not dead, but that his wife is. Mrs. Stevenson, Dr. Balfour writes, had been treated for aneurism of the brain while in Scotland. Moreover, she said to relatives in Edinburg last spring: "Do not believe any report about Louis unless I write you."

No message has been received from Mrs. Stevenson, although there has been ample time since Mr. Stevenson was reported to have died.

No Quorum In the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—In the House today Outhwaite (Dem. O.) offered a concurrent resolution providing for a holiday recess from December 22 to January 3. English (Dem. N. J.) made the point of no quorum, whereupon the resolution was withdrawn, the speaker announcing that he would recognize Outhwaite later to offer it, when there was a quorum present.

The House then went into committee of the whole and proceeded with the further discussion of the currency bill.

Did Not Fire the Town.

WOOSTER, O., Dec. 20.—The jury in the case of Rose Reimer and Catharine Reimer, mother and daughter of Dalton, charged with arson in firing their home, causing a disastrous conflagration at Dalton, after an all night session returned a verdict of not guilty. The verdict was applauded and a contribution for Miss Reimer was taken in the court room.

A Famous Mississippian.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 20.—Ex Governor Alcorn of Mississippi died at his home this morning. He was 78 years of age and the most famous man in his state. He was once a member of the United States Senate.

The Prize Fight Must Go.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 20.—In view of the fatal termination of the Bowen fight the attorney general yesterday filed a supplemental suit against the Olympic club for injunction and forfeiture of charter.

THE BUTCHERY AT PORT ARTHUR

JAPANESE SOLDIERS FRENZIED WITH RAGE.

They Found Evidences That Their Fellow Soldiers Had Been Brutally Murdered, And They Then Determined on Revenge—Savage Retaliation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The World today prints a special from its correspondent, James Creelman, who was with the Japanese army, dated Port Arthur, November 24, via Vancouver, December 19:

The struggle for the emancipation of Corea has been suddenly turned into a headlong savage war of conquest. Japan for the last four days has trampled civilization under the feet of her conquering army.

The taking of Port Arthur and the possession of one of the most powerful strongholds in the world was too great a strain upon the Japanese character which relapsed in a few hours back into the brutish state from which it was awakened a generation ago.

Almost the entire population found in Port Arthur has been massacred and the work of butchering the unarmed unresisting inhabitants has been continued. The streets are choked up with mutilated corpses. In spite of the vastness of the battlefield and the strength of the batteries massed in this mighty chain of land and sea forts, the taking of Port Arthur is robbed of its dignity as a battle by the fact that a large and well trained army attacked a mere rabble.

The Japanese lost about 50 dead and 250 wounded in carrying a fortress that would have cost them 10,000 men had it been occupied by Europeans or American citizens.

China is now at the mercy of the Island empire.

As the troops moved into Port Arthur they saw thousands of their slain comrades, some hanging with cords, with noses and eyes gone. There was a rude arch in the main street decorated with bloody Japanese heads. A great slaughter followed. The infuriated soldiers killed every one they saw. No attempt to take prisoners was made. Women and children were hunted and shot as they fled to the hills with their protectors. The town was sacked from end to end and the inhabitants were butchered in their own homes.

REEVES-GREGG.

Wedding at Blackwell's Springs, Near Alexander, Last Evening.

Society about Blackwell's Springs was all a-flutter last evening over a wedding which occurred at Maj. D. A. Blackwell's hotel at 7 o'clock. The contracting parties were W. A. Gregg, a well known citizen of Black Mountain, and Miss Kate Reeves, formerly of Duplin county but for several years housekeeper at the hotel. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Tyson of Black Mountain. Mr. and Mrs. Gregg passed through Asheville on this afternoon's train en route to their home.

A number of friends witnessed the ceremony last evening, among them Register J. J. Mackey and J. M. Johnson and daughter of Asheville.

TO ELECT A CAPTAIN.

A Successor to Capt. Smith to be Chosen Tomorrow Evening.

Maj. White G. Smith received notification from Col. Armfield yesterday that he should at once assume his duties as major of the second battalion, to which he was elected recently. This Maj. Smith has done, although he has not yet received his commission. This, therefore, leaves the Asheville Light Infantry without a captain and Maj Smith has requested that his successor be elected as soon as possible. In accordance with his request, the company at its meeting tomorrow evening will hold the election

In Love With Asheville.

F. B. Kampf, who has been in Asheville about a week, left for his home, Wapakoneta, O., this afternoon. Mr. Kampf came here after a trip that took him through several of the Southern States, in the hope of finding a place in which to regain his health He is more than delighted, he is perfectly enthusiastic over Asheville, and goes home to bring his family here after the holidays. Mr. Kampf told THE CITIZEN that Asheville was the liveliest, prettiest and cleanest city he had seen on his whole trip.

Caught In Asheville.

Alex. Edwads and Robert Love, colored, were arrested here last night by Geo. Greenlee, of the Pinion agency, on a charge of robbery at Waynesville. The men were taken to Waynesville this morning and on a preliminary hearing before Mayor Ray were held in $1000 bond each. The men are thought to have stolen over $200 worth of clothing, etc., from three Waynesville firms, and about one half of the goods were recovered in Asheville, where the men had sold them.

Revenue Officials on the Anxious Seat.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—It is stated at the treasury department that several more removals will likely be made in the Atlanta, Ga., internal revenue collector's office in connection with charges of collusion between the federal officials in Atlanta and the white caps.

Poisoned By Red Stockings.

BOSTON, Ind., Dec. 20.—Miss Eva Dooley had both legs amputated at the knee last night. The amputation was made necessary by a poisoned condition of her legs which resulted from wearing red stockings. Her recovery is doubtful.

Frozen Stiff.

WATKINS, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Dirello Pike of Burdett was found dead in his buggy last night, his body being frozen stiff. In some manner he had fallen forward into the wheel of the vehicle, which had choken him to death.

An Old Land Mark Gone.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., Dec. 20.—The old historic Babbitt building at Park Place and Washington street was destroyed by fire this morning. Total damage, about $100,000; insurance $65,000.

Old Put's Great Grandson.

MARIETTA, O., Dec. 20.—Douglas Putnam, a great grandson of General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary fame, died this morning, aged 85 years.

No Sale.

BIRMINGHAM, Al., Dec. 20—The sale of the Chattanooga Southern railroad is postponed to January 10.