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E. H. SUMY, . . . Editor
R. HARPER, . . . Business Manager

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THE ELECTORAL COUNT

It will be remembered that during the excitement over TILDEN'S election before the Electoral Commission was established, Republicans claimed that it was the duty of the President of the Senate to count the vote and declare the result. The President of the Senate at that time being a Republican, of course they expected him to count the returns from South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida and R. B. HAYES and declare him elected.

Senator EDMUNDS, now acknowledged to be the ablest Republican in the Senate, after declaring that the vote in the recent count and return that CLEVELAND and HENDRICKS appear to be elected, said:

"And the President of the Senate makes this declaration only as a matter of statement in the presence of the two Houses of Congress of the conclusion at which the papers opened and read on the occasion, and not as possessing any authority in law to declare any legal conclusion whatever."

This statement created quite a flutter among those Republicans who still hold that the President of the Senate has the power to count the vote and declare the result and that the two Houses are merely present to witness the count. The rage in the Senate over this simple declaration, which was a death blow to this extraordinary claim, was conducted, or rather engaged in, by CONGER, INGALLS, WITHERS, LAPHAM and others, while in the House the assault was led by KELLEY.

Senator EDMUNDS simply gave vent to his honest convictions. The fact that it created a stir among the Republicans is one of the best reasons why Congress should settle this matter of counting the vote and put it beyond the possibility of a controversy.

IT REQUIRES BRAIN

The *Orphan's Friend*, published at Oxford, has many good things in it, and things of much common sense. The following is a sample:

The idea that farming does not pay; that the time is coming when it will be less remunerative, is simply preposterous. So long as people eat, just so long will farming be profitable. The great difficulty is, there are too many idlers; too many to be supported from the products of the farm. To our knowledge, there is no occupation that pays half so well. Many of our successful business men, had they stuck to the farm, would have done better. The idea that fools and partial idiots are the only persons that should till the soil is too common with the rising generation. A man of weak brain and strong muscle may become a good laborer but never a farmer. There is no occupation that calls for brain, more discretion, more general information, than that of the farmer. Not long ago we heard a prominent Dr. D. say that he would rather his daughters (and he has several) would marry farmers than any other class of men. It is more ennobling to the soul; the farmer sees each day his dependence on God for all the temporal blessings, and hence he becomes purer and better. Think well, young man, before entering upon your life work. Have ever before you this prayer: "Lead us not into temptation."

A LEAP IN THE DARK

The Senate branch of the General Assembly has been disposing of the following bill which passed its third reading by a vote of 22 to 15:

A bill to be entitled an act to enable railroads and other transportation companies to extend their lines and to aid in the construction of railroads.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Sec. 1. That any railroad or other transportation company may purchase and hold, or guarantee or indorse the bonds or stock of, or may lease, any railroad or branch railroad or other transportation line in this or an adjoining State connecting with is directly or indirectly.

Sec. 3. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

These questions naturally suggest themselves: What corporation wants this legislation? What railroad or branch road do they want to build or lease? Is it the interest of certain bondholders who have rejected the very fair proposition offered by the State to settle her debt? Unless a satisfactory answer can be given to these questions, we say with Mr. GILMER, "it is a leap in the dark." An amendment was adopted making railroads built under this act subject to taxation. Had the amendment offered by Mr. BASON, making any railroad company or corporation taking any of the benefits and privileges of this act liable to taxation, including it that *all its property* be subject to taxation, the game would have been pretty well blocked. But even with this amendment we are inclined to regard it as dangerous legislation. We hope when the bill comes before the House it will be so amended that every body will not be "in the woodpile."

We fear the Legislature will prove piecrunish on Judicial reform. Twelve Judges will not give the relief the people demand unless there is a great change made in the practice. We hope the Senate will improve on the bill that has passed the House.

HASTY AND INCONSIDERATE.

[illegible] the Democratic press [illegible] the action of the Legislature [illegible] in electing Judges [illegible] the people, that we have no use for Judges and a number [illegible] New Berne?

[illegible] in the House [illegible] which [illegible] New Berne [illegible]

HOME-MADE FERTILIZERS.

WHERE TO MAINTAIN IT.

A NEW PHASE.

THE NEWS.

[illegible] Cypress [illegible]

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The novel entitled "Money Maker," just issued recently by A. [illegible] Co., is making a good [illegible] Frank Hurd, of Toledo, is [illegible] Hurd, of the "Money Maker." Mr. Hurd is a polished writer and a good reader and one of the most thorough students of social problems in Congress. Whether one agrees with his extreme views or not it must be conceded that he has all the literature of his theories completely at his command. He is a most eloquent man and speaks with such fire and earnestness as to impress every one with the sincerity of his convictions. If any Protectionist expects to maintain a tariff discussion with Hurd he must devote himself to profound study, for Hurd is not a man who can be overturned by shallow arguments or by careless statements of facts. He is a bachelor and slightly above medium height. He is forty-four years of age, or rather will be forty-five upon next Christmas Day. He is considered very lucky [illegible] upon Christmas Day. He is [illegible] in the main has been lucky in his case. He has been [illegible] for the next Congress, but defeat has simply turned his efforts in another direction. He has completed his novel since the [illegible], although he had it under advisement that. He has a round, good face, high colored, a high, [illegible] forehead, dark, black eyes, [illegible] nose and a large, full-shaped mouth. His face is smooth shaven, with the exception of a long, walk-down mustache. He is quite bald. He has lived for a number of years at Wormley's Hotel. He does more reading than almost any member on his side. He is also fond of the society of men and is a strange combination of student and what is known as a good fellow.

Hurd despises conservatives. His opinions are always radical. He believes in no halfway measures. If he could have his own way he would abolish every tariff to-day, even with a Congressional decree. He would throw open our ports to the entire trade of the world without a single moment's notice. He has always been an extremist. If he had had his own way in 1877 Hayes never would have been counted in. He was the leader of the minor faction of Democrats who refused to recognize the work of the Electoral Commission.

There has been a good deal of talk about drunkenness in Washington society this winter. There is no doubt that there has been a great increase in the direction of [illegible] drinking in the last few years. The punch-bowl and its [illegible] have [illegible] the festivities of [illegible]. There is [illegible] Capitol. Places [illegible] where [illegible] no punch-bowls and [illegible] void sherry. An old member who came here ten years ago told me that he went out calling the first day he was here on New Year's Day. He went with a veteran [illegible] from his State. They called at sixty different places during the day. They visited every [illegible] house in Washington. At [illegible] places where there [illegible] punch-bowl [illegible] sherry [illegible] Now [illegible] punch-bowls [illegible] sherry [illegible] Champagne [illegible] Madeira [illegible] Rhine wine [illegible] Claret [illegible] Sauterne [illegible] Burgundy [illegible] Hock [illegible] Moselle [illegible] Tokay [illegible] Malaga [illegible] Port [illegible]