

THE 53D CONGRESS.

ITS RECORD BETTER THAN THAT OF THE FIFTY-FIRST.

What Has Been Done Will Remain Forever a Permanent Benefit to the Country—Price of Sugar Is Highest Where Duty Is Highest.

Has Done Much Good.

Many things expected of the Fifty-third Congress have not been accomplished. Its record has not been such as to make all true Democrats rejoice, and it has been called "incompetent" by not a few prominent Democrats and Democratic newspapers. Many of its most severe critics, however, recognize that, as compared with the Fifty-first, or McKinley Congress of 1890, the record of the last Congress is excellent.

It is not disputed that the McKinley Congress was more effective in that it did more of what it was planned to do. But that is just why the record is so bad—it planned nothing for the good of the country at large. It accomplished nothing—aside from making ordinary appropriations—for the good of manufacturers, mine-owners, bounty grabbers and subsidy hunters.

It greatly increased the protection to the mill-owners, but left labor unprotected, to compete, on a free-trade basis, with the Italians and Huns imported by the mill-owners to beat wages down. It added considerably to the sawdust protection given to farmers, and attempted the new bunco game called "reciprocity," which was to open up great markets for our farm products in South America, as if the great desire of South Americans was to exchange their wheat and pork for our pork and wheat. It threw bounties and subsidies in all directions, so that, by March 1893, the \$100,000,000 surplus held by Cleveland in 1889 was entirely exhausted and the treasury was on the verge of bankruptcy.

The Fifty-third Congress has accomplished a great deal. First, it undid the Sherman silver purchase act of 1890, which, with Republican extravagance, was responsible for the panic and depression which had already begun before Harrison left the White House. Second, it repealed the Federal election laws, which no leading Republican, except Senator Force Bill Lodge, would now rehabilitate. Third, it gave us free wool and reduced tariff duties generally about as much as McKinley increased them. Fourth, it gave us the income tax, which, though it is not perfect, is yet a great improvement upon any tariff system of taxation. It is noticeable that Republicans are not advocating the repeal of this tax. Fifth, it abolished the payment of bounties to sugar producers. Sixth, it lessened the net protection to the Sugar Trust, but, unfortunately, increased the duty on refined sugar about one cent per pound. But for two or three traitors in their ranks—"Senators from Havemeyer"—the Democrats would have given us free sugar and left no protection to the trust.

It is noticeable that the most that the Fifty-third Congress did, or attempted to do, was to undo the work of the Republican Congress of 1890. So far as it has succeeded, it has done excellent work. Practically, all that the Fifty-first Congress did was bad, and all that the Fifty-third Congress has done is good. And yet the Democratic Congress receives kicks and cuffs from all sides, because it could not, in two years, undo all of the evil legislation that Republicans have, for thirty years, been fastening upon this country. The Democrats have partially failed because they undertook too big a contract. What they have done will remain forever a permanent benefit to this country. Not even the Republicans will dare to advocate many of their old laws which the Democrats have repealed.—Byron W. Holt.

Prices of Sugar in Different Countries.

The Sugar Trade Journal (organ of the sugar trust) cannot understand why there is such a howl from one end of the country to the other, because the duty on refined sugar has been increased. To show us how well off we are the Journal of Feb. 21 quoted the prices of sugar in various countries. "The retail price of granulated sugar in the United Kingdom," it said, "is now 1/4d per pound (2.54 cents), while the same sugar sells in Germany at 3d (6.09 cents), in Russia at 4/2d (0.13 cents), in France and Belgium at 5/2d (1.07 cents), and in Italy at 6d (12.18 cents), and in the United States at 3.74 cents per pound. If there was no duty the price would be 2% cents per pound for American granulated and 2/2 cents for foreign granulated in the United States, or quite as low as in the United Kingdom. All the other countries tax the consumers of sugar heavily and pay the bounties on the exports out of the money so raised. Compared with the people of the world the United States is the most favored nation as regards the cheapness of its sugar supply."

These prices prove too much. Comparatively we may be better off than most other protected countries in which sugar is highly taxed. But why are not our people entitled to 2/2 cent sugar? As the Sugar Journal says only the duty is in the way. And this would not have been in the way but for the sugar trust—which now is undoubtedly the most hated of all our large brood of protected trusts.

Do we see any evidence of the blessings of high-priced sugar in Italy, France, Russia or Germany? Does it make their citizens happy and prosperous? The great masses of the citizens of these countries cannot afford to eat sugar at all, at the prices which they must pay for it. The per capita consumption of sugar is small in all of these countries as compared with the consumption in this country or in Great

Britain. Let the United States be as wise as England rather than as foolish as Italy or Russia. Cheap food and clothing is a blessing to the citizens of any country.

The only point thoroughly demonstrated by these prices is that the tariff—at least on sugar—is a tax. Prices of sugar are highest in Italy, because the duty is highest there; and lowest in England, because sugar is free there. If sugar were free in all of these countries the price would vary but little in different countries.

What Free Wool Is Doing.

The Dry Goods Economist, one of the best authorities on the subject, said editorially Feb. 23, on the effects of free wool: The American woolen industry has now entered a period when the heat of the conflict has passed and the combatants are in a frame of mind to listen to the sober logic of cold facts. Never have these been better presented for the consideration of those interested than in the letter prepared by Abraham Mills, the well-known New York wool broker, for the use of the Chamber of Commerce, a copy of which will be found on page 9 of this issue. Mr. Mills very justly characterizes the adoption of free wool under the new tariff as a revolution; for so it was, succeeding, as it did, a policy of protection which had lasted for upwards of eighty years, during many of which years the tariff rate was preposterously high. According to the opponents of reduced tariff rates, the reduction of duties on the manufactured fabrics was to result in the closing of the majority of the mills and the abolition of the wool duties was to annihilate the docks. But what are the facts as they stand revealed to-day? More woolen factories are open than in the active times of 1892, and a considerable number of new woolen mills have either been built or are now commenced.

The sheep flocks of the country numbered at the end of 1892 42,204,004, against 45,048,017 at the end of 1893, and showed a decrease in value of 20 per cent., against 25 per cent. in other farm animals, such as horses.

This, it must be remembered, is the result five months after the removal of duties which had been supposed to be the back bone of the sheep raising industry for the greater part of a century. Further comment is unnecessary.

Mr. Mills draws attention to the fact that since the abolition of the wool duties foreign wools have not found so large a market here as was anticipated, and those that have are chiefly in the coarsest and finest grades, the domestic wools being preferred in the medium prices and qualities. The deluge of foreign wools, which was to sweep everything before it, has not materialized and the prices of the domestic product have held their ground with wonderful firmness when it is considered that the world's product of wool is now admitted to be in excess of the requirements.

Equally delusive and without foundation were the statements of the high protectionists that the inrush of foreign woolen fabrics under the new tariff would supplant the larger portion of the products of the domestic manufacturers, facts already demonstrating that the quantity of foreign goods entered early in the year was less than expected. So far from the domestic woolen industry being destroyed, nothing is more plainly apparent, after five months' experience, than that the three others was so apparent that they have been allowed to pass into oblivion.

The most interesting chapter of the history of the session is made by the attempt at financial legislation in both houses. These are too well known to require recapitulation. No financial legislation has yet resulted from the host of bills introduced during the session, with more or less weight of authority behind them.

WORK OF CONGRESS.

LARGELY A RECORD OF IMPO- TENT EFFORTS.

Review of the Session Shows that Several Important Measures Have Been Debated, but Have Not Become Law.

Has Accomplished Little.

Washington correspondence:



A REVIEW of the work of this last session of the Fifty-third Congress must necessarily deal more with what was attempted to be done than that which was accomplished, since most of the important business considered has been relegated to the first class. The term has been particularly marked by the inability of the Senate and the House to agree upon any of the most important problems presented by them.

Congress met on the 4th of December last, with one imperative and perennial task, to frame and enact the various appropriation bills. Next in importance was the financial question, for which no definite plans of settlement beyond many free silver bills and various individual schemes were then in view. Several important bills came over as a heritage from the preceding session. Foremost among them were, in the House, the Nicaragua Canal bill, the railroad pooling bill, and the bill for the settlement of the indebtedness of the Union Pacific railroads, known as the Reilly bill.

The Nicaragua Canal project has not been able to secure a hearing in the House. Largely through the enthusiastic efforts of Senator Morgan, of Alabama, the Senate bill was pushed to a vote in that body after protracted debate, and was sent to the House, where the conference committee substituted its own bill, which had been on the calendar throughout the session and which differed in several points from the Morgan bill.

The pooling bill was passed by the House early in the session, but the Senate refused to consider it by a negative vote of 42 to 24 on the question of consideration. Strong opposition to the Reilly bill was developed in the House, and after a very sharp debate it was recommended to the committee without instructions.

Several important bills were placed on the calendar of the Senate at the beginning of the term, handed down from the long session when they had been passed by the House. Prominent among them was the bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy, which was debated intermittently, but finally sidetracked. Another unsuccessful measure was the antitrust bill. There were also on the Senate calendar the four bills which the House had sent over, to place on the free list sugar, coal, iron and barbed wire, but the attempt to secure consideration of the free sugar bill was negatived by a small majority, and the opposition to the three others was so apparent that they have been allowed to pass into oblivion.

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The Appropriation Bills.

The principal class of legislation accomplished by the short session was that making appropriations for the support of the Government. Not a little general legislation was incorporated into the appropriation bills. These bills, in the House, were: For the military academy (West Point), army, pension, fortifications, diplomatic and consular, District of Columbia, postal, agricultural, Indian, sundry civil, legislative, executive and judicial, navy and general deficiency. When the last week of Congress began the House had passed all except the general deficiency, and the Senate had the last four yet to consider.

The pension bill, as enacted, contained provisions that pensions shall not be paid to non-residents who are not citizens of the United States, except for actual disabilities incurred in the service, directing examining surgeons to state the ratings to which they think the applicants are entitled, and fixing the lowest rate of pension at \$6 a month.

The diplomatic and consular bill increased the salaries of several foreign representatives, and the Senate placed in it an amendment authorizing the President to contract for laying a cable between the Hawaiian Islands and the United States, and to use \$500,000 in the work, an amendment which the House refused to accept.

The agricultural bill empowered the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce rules for the inspection of live cattle whose meat is intended for shipment abroad in any form, and regulations to prevent the shipment of condemned carcasses abroad or from one State to another, and fixed heavy penalties for violation of such regulations.

Considerable legislation was included in the sundry civil bill, and much more was attempted in the Senate by proposed amendments. The completion of several public buildings was provided for in the bill as it passed in the House, and sums were added in the Senate for new buildings. Another Senate amendment provided for the purchase for \$150,000 of the site of the Blaine mansion. Provision was also included for the transfer of the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to the Department of Justice, to be known as the United States penitentiary, and maintained for keeping United States prisoners who have heretofore been held in State prisons under contracts.

The naval bill was notable because of the "new navy" provision for two battleships and six torpedo boats, and the increase of the enlisted force by the addition of 1,000 men.

The general deficiency bill reported to the House amounted to \$6,519,539. An amendment requested by the Secretary of State to pay the claims of Great Britain for \$425,000 damages for seizures of sealers in Bering Sea was voted down by the clear sky.

The most conspicuous personal legisla-

tion passed was the revival of the grade of lieutenant general of the army that Major General Schofield might be promoted to the rank, while the act of greatest interest to the Government departments and Congress was the printing bill, which practically places the control of all Government printing in the hands of a joint committee of three members from each of the two houses.

Laws affecting shipping were passed—to establish rules to prevent collisions on the great lakes and tributary waters; another of the same effect, applying to harbors, rivers and inland waters, supplementary to the act of Aug. 19, 1890, for preventing collisions at sea. The time for making the report to the Board of Engineers, surveying canal routes from Lake Erie to the Ohio river, was extended to the next session of Congress. Numerous bridge bills were enacted.

The commercial travelers' organization secured an amendment to the interstate commerce law permitting the issuance of joint interchangeable 5,000-mile tickets good over more than one road.

The House adopted a joint resolution, or an amendment to the constitution, providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people of the States, but the resolution was reported adversely by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The most important of the Senate bills which failed to pass the House was a joint resolution for inquiry into the practicability of deep waterways between the ocean and the great lakes and the bill for the regulation of steam vessels.

Among important House bills which died was one for the reorganization of the line of the army and one to punish train wreckers by capital punishment, and attempts at train wrecking by heavy terms of imprisonment.

The only legislation affecting the tariff act was a resolution to extend to April 15 the time for making returns to the interrogatories under the income tax sections and modifying the questions required to be answered.

Total Appropriations.

The following figures show approximately the total appropriations made during the present session of Congress: Agricultural, \$3,303,700; army, \$23,252,608; diplomatic and consular, \$9,157,073; District of Columbia, \$5,916,533; fortifications, \$1,904,557; Indian, \$9,976,948; military academy, \$424,261; pensions, \$14,381,570; post office, \$80,545,957; general deficiency, \$8,600,000; sundry civil, \$47,140,000; urgent deficiency, \$1,235,732; legislative, executive and judicial, \$21,900,000; naval, \$29,100,000; permanent annual, \$113,073,956; miscellaneous, \$50,000; total, \$148,952,524.

SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE.

A Monument Erected on the Scene of the Bloody Tragedy.

One of the most tragic incidents in the history of the West and certainly the most interesting event in the history of the State of Iowa, was the massacre at Spirit Lake, which occurred nearly forty years ago and in which forty-two persons were murdered. The massacre took place in 1857, at a time when the Sioux were very powerful in Iowa. The gold fever was then at its height and thousands of people were flocking westward. Many thriving settlements sprang up along the line of emigration, one of the most beautiful in point of natural situation being Spirit Lake, not far from the regular trail of the overland trains. In 1857 the settlement numbered fifty persons, who lived happily and contented. One night the Sioux Indians swept down upon the peaceful homes of the inhabitants and, taking them by surprise, murdered forty-two of them. At the time of the massacre four of them were absent. The remaining four were carried into captivity, where, after four months, they were ransomed by the Government of Iowa. Of the survivors of this murderous attack but two are now living.

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SPIRIT LAKE MONUMENT.

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INDIANS AS HUNTERS.

They Do Not Frighten the Game Out of Districts as White Men Do.

"It is a remark often made by old-timers who knew the western country when the red man was as common there as the tenderfoot is now," says a sportsman from the Rockies, "that Indians never scare away game from a region in which they hunt. But, they say, whenever the white man comes with his firearms game is bound to be killed off or driven away. These sayings are true, with the qualifying statement that by reasonable game laws game of all kinds can be preserved and, even where nearly exterminated, restored to almost its original plenitude in districts not too fully occupied by man and his domestic creatures.

"Note the Indian in hunting as he searches out and steals upon the deer or wild turkeys with his soft tread of moccasined feet. In the twang of his bow string and the flight of the whistling arrow there is no explosive sound to alarm the creatures near the one that is struck. He, like themselves, is in sympathetic accord with the tints and tones of plain and mountain and forest, and while endeavoring to match their craft against his they are satisfied with trying to avoid him without abandoning the region where he abides.

"It is when white hunters of the sportsmen variety invade its haunts, their presence heralded by the tread of their booted feet, their clothes alien in appearance to the hues and contours of the creatures of the wilds, and their purpose shown by the crack and crash of firearms, that game begins to migrate to other feeding grounds. Add to this the increasing and indiscriminate slaughter for slaughter's sake that characterizes the white man's hunting, and it is easy to see why the depopulation of the forest and plain, when unrestricted by law, is speedy and sure. Ever since the general adoption by Indians of firearms for their hunting it has not been found that large game has diminished materially in regions in which the white man is an infrequent visitor, although Sir Samuel Baker, the explorer, asserts of African game and predatory creatures that 'Animals can endure traps, pitfalls, fire and every savage method of hunting; but firearms will speedily clear them out from extensive districts.'

Use of Chloroform by Burglars.

Burglars sometimes chloroform their victims in the hope that their work will be the more easily and effectually done. As the plan is to administer the anesthetic while the patient sleeps, it is no wonder that failure attends the effort. Happily it is one of the most difficult feats to accomplish, requiring the greatest care and the highest degree of skill. By many good observers it is claimed to be impossible. The latter may be looked upon as the rule, especially with novices. Before primary insensibility is obtained the victim awakes from the irritation of the inhaled vapor, whence force is necessary for the completion of the purpose.

In the meantime an alarm may be given, and the assailants may be captured. Fortunately the chances are always against the latter, as his victim, facing the horror of strangulation, is instantly and almost instinctively roused to desperate resistance. Taking all the chances, however, chloroform should be considered as dangerous to his victim as a club, an ax, or a bullet, and its administration should be punished to the extreme limit of penalty which is due to the employment of other murderous measures.—Medical Record.