

Democratic Sentinel



FRIDAY MARCH 4 1887

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March 4 1887.

RENSSELAER TIMEABLE

PASSENGER TRAINS.

NORTH.	SOUTH.
4:39 A. M.	11:27 A. M.
8:46 A. M.	7:54 P. M.
4:01 P. M.	10:50 P. M.

Republican Senators recognize President Smith when they come to draw their pay. His signature is an essential necessity.

The Indianapolis News (rep.) says Gov. Gray must have held a pair of aces up his sleeve when he floored Robertson so completely.

In 1860 Col. Henry S. Lane was placed in nomination by the Republicans of Indiana for Governor, with a view to tide O. P. Morton into place. At the following legislative session Lane was elected U. S. Senator and Morton became Governor, and the republican Senate elected a presiding officer. Did the people elect a Lieutenant Governor in 1862? Will our republican friends answer?

Again, in 1864 O. P. Morton was elected Governor and Corrad Baker Lieutenant Governor. Morton was elected U. S. Senator, Baker became Governor, and the Senate elected a presiding officer. The people were not invited to elect a Lieutenant Governor for the unexpired term. If there was a recognized vacancy, why was it not filled by the people at the ballot box?

The Senate passed a bill for the erection of a soldiers' monument. It went to the House and was passed by that body. The republicans supposed they had reached a point where they could outwit the naughty Democrats, had one R. S. Robertson sign the bill in connection with the officers of the House, and sent it to the Executive for his approval. Gov. Gray immediately returned it to President Smith for his signature, secured it, and then gave it his sanction.

The Republicans at Indianapolis called in their brethren from miles around, by means of secret circulars, and held a 'spontaneous' indignation meeting a few evenings ago in that city. The News, Republican, thus gives its opinion of the effect of the outburst:

"We have a dim glimmering of an idea that the usufruct of the Tomlinson hall meeting will not be large."

Coming from a Republican paper, the following items are not bad:

Indianapolis News: The republicans are like the man who said the horse was seventeen feet high. He meant seventeen hands, but having said feet he stuck to it. Like him they are about that far off from the real size of the situation.

The republicans have been badly advised in the management of their affairs. The only wise thing they have done was the going into the joint convention for the election of a senator, and this they did against the light of the Jack-o'-lanterns, that have since led them

From an article on "The State of the Case," in the Indianapolis News, republican, we make the following extracts:

* * * "The legislation that the members of the two houses were elected and sworn to enact in the interests of the people is not to be enacted at all, and the public interests must bear the damage as they may because the majority of the representatives think the senate is not duly and lawfully constituted, and won't receive any business from it or send any to it. The objectionable condition of the senate, * * is a matter that the members of the house can't change or affect in the least, either by individual or organized action. They are not to blame for it. They can accept it as a fact beyond their control, as they accept a 'cold wave' or a rain, and conform their legislative action to it, as they conform their clothing to a blizzard, or their umbrellas to a drizzle. * *

But the republican representatives will not accept the situation and make the best of it in the interests of the people. They expect to do better by making party capital of it for the next election. That is the hole in the cocoa-nut that the milk gets in at. They hope to start a stampede from the democracy by making the people believe that the democrats only are to blame for the defeated legislation. * * * As the senate is willing to work with the house, while the house refuses to work with the senate, and, as Mr. Speaker Sayre foolishly boasts, would not admit anything "from the senate unless its doors were blown open by dynamite," the blame of the house is more obvious, if not greater than that of the senate."

The people fully understand the action of the house in blocking legislation will be sought to be blamed on the senate. But they understand equally as well that "the senate is willing to work with the house, while the house refuses to work with the senate," and will locate the blame where it properly belongs—with the republican obstructionists. The anxious hope of a "stampede" from the democracy will prove a delusion, and not a 'flattering' one at that.

As to Blame.

It is an absurdity to talk about the republicans of the house being in any way responsible for the present dead-lock in legislation, or being in any way able by their own action to break it; and it would be equally as absurd to indulge in legislation simply to have the courts declare it invalid. The sole obstruction to legislation is in the illegal and revolutionary conduct of the senate.—Richmond Palladium.

To which another Republican paper, the Indianapolis News, responds thusly:

Have the republicans ever "recognized" Green Smith's right? No. But they did recognize his presence de facto; they accepted accomplished facts and legislated with him in the chair, passing the bill for their pay and other legislative expenses and so on, until the decision of the supreme court. Now that decision altered no status quo. It is said, "we decide nothing; we have no jurisdiction." So Robertson stands just where he did and the republicans stand just as they did when they were recognizing Smith de facto and legislating with them. They protested then just as much against his de jure right as they protest now, but they went along passing laws with his help simply as an accomplished fact. Why can't they continue this? They would no more vitiate Robertson's position or their claim by doing it than they have vitiated it by doing it. Thus, for their present position, they haven't "a leg to stand on." They are not responsible for the illegal action of the democratic senate, and legislating with it doesn't make them responsible. If it does, the "rat is in the fire" already, for they have legislated with it, and they can't make matters worse by continuing to do so. They can make them, and are making them a good deal worse by pettishly refusing to do what they have been doing nearly the whole session. In another sense, too, the position of Speaker Sayre and the house is indefensible, and that is under

few points bearing on the situation from Wilson's Digest of Parliamentary Law:

Sec. 1,788. Each house is the sole and exclusive judge of its own privileges.

Sec. 1,790. Neither house of parliament has power by any vote to create to itself new privileges, not warranted by known laws and customs. They are independent of each other and sole judges of their rights and privileges.

Sec. 1,792. Whatever matter arises concerning either house or any member or officer ought to be discussed and adjudged in the house to which it relates.

Sec. 1,354. It is a breach of order in debate to notice what has been said on the same subject in the other house, * * or to refer to the action of the other house.

Sec. 1,355. Neither house can exercise any authority over a member or officer of the other house.

Sec. 1,393. Neither may a member allude to debates in the other house.

Sec. 1,398. Neither may a member speak offensive or insulting words against the character or proceedings of either house.

Sec. 1,781. But the mere order of the house will not justify an act otherwise illegal, and the simple declaration that that order is made in exercise of a privilege does not prove the privilege.

Sec. 1,806. The validity of an election or return can not be drawn into question on the claim of privilege.

We have only quoted the salient features of those sections, and have not quoted all the sections that bear upon the point; but there seems to be enough to show the fatal weakness of the position under all parliamentary law, and thus to leave the whole republican position without defense.

Evidently the News is almost persuaded to become a christian; or what is the same thing—a good, non-pure Democrat.

"There is nothing in the Constitution which so much as raises an inference that the office of Lieutenant Governor can become vacant in a legal or actual sense. If there was a vacancy, then the very Constitution which created the office filled the same. An executive system in which the Chief Executive could in any event appoint his own successor apparent, thereby vesting such appointee with power to become President of the Senate, has in my opinion found no precedent in our form of government. The argument is that a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant-Governor having occurred, such vacancy was to be filled first by appointment by the Governor, and then by the electoral body in November, 1886, under the provisions of Section 4,672, R. S. 1881. To this there are three answers: (1) There was no vacancy. (2) If there was, the Constitution provided a mode of filling it other than by the electoral body, viz.: by the election of a President pro tempore of the Senate. (3) The Constitution on the clearest implication prohibits an election for Governor or Lieutenant-Governor except for the term of four years, which term can in no case commence at any other than the time specified in that instrument. That the Constitution makes no provision for election to fill vacancies in the office of Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, or for the limitation of the terms of persons elected to fill vacancies in those offices, is conclusive that no such vacancies were contemplated."

Judges Mitchell and Howk.

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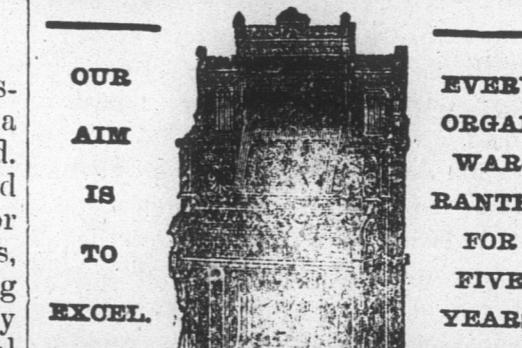
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