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THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1894.

REPORT IN THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

SENATOR MORGAN has introduced a bill looking to the reorganization of the State Department and the reform of the diplomatic and consular service. It is certainly time something were done in this line. So far as concerns the evils which could be cured by the application of the merit system, it seems to us that all that is necessary is to extend the civil-service rules so as to cover the positions which Mr. Morgan's rules are intended to cover. There is no need of any new examining board, for the Civil Service Commission is amply qualified to hold the necessary examinations.

But the result which the Senator is aiming at is most desirable. His bill provides for examinations in United States and general history, international and constitutional law, political economy, geography, arithmetic, English language, and either German, French, Spanish, Italian or Russian. Those who pass the examination are to be eligible to the lowest grades of the service, and it is by promotion from these grades that the higher positions are to be filled. Those now in the service, as well as new applicants, are required to submit to the examinations. There are to be no removals for political reasons, but only for inefficiency or misconduct. The only officials who are not to be examined are the Secretary of State, the First Assistant Secretary, solicitor of the department, ambassadors, envoys and consular agents. There are provisions as to salaries, and consular fees—except fees not in excess of \$500 a year paid to consular agents—are cut off.

This bill, in something like it, should pass. As things are now, places in the diplomatic and consular service are looked upon as rewards for party hacks, and as convenient receptacles for men whom it is desired to keep as far away from home as possible. The whole thing should be taken out of politics. A man who once gets into the service should be able to look forward to the possibility of making a career for himself. This is manifestly impossible under the present system. A reform is sorely needed, and it should be so radical in its character and so firmly entrenched in law, to keep worthy men out of the service and to protect worthy men from any future Josiah Quincy who may happen to break into office.

TWO YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY.

SENATOR HILL proved his party loyalty yesterday by introducing and voting for a dilatory motion for the Senate to adjourn until Monday. In this attempt to sidetrack the tariff bill he was supported not only by all the Republicans, but also by his brilliant associate, Murphy, who fought such a heroic battle for collars and cuffs; by Brice, who was paired in favor of the motion, to say nothing of Call, McPherson and Faulkner, who were absent unpaired, Irby and Stewart, who are more Populists than anything else, voted with Hill and the Republicans, while Populists Allen, Kyle and Peffer voted with the Democrats again. Hill and his motion. The vote was 26 to 25 against Hill.

It is clear that notwithstanding all the concessions that have been made, Hill, Brice and Murphy have not yet got their price. Gorman and Gibson of Maryland, Caffery of Louisiana, and Smith of New Jersey seem to be "fixed." But the bill is evidently not satisfactory to the interests in whose behalf it has been mutilated. And if yesterday's vote may be taken as a test, the Republicans have a little more than an even chance of beating it. The plausibility of the situation lies in the fact that the Democratic party in the Senate is committed to a bill which not only seems likely to be defeated, but which very many devout tariff reformers look upon as hardly worth saving.

Such an exhibition of incapacity has rarely been seen in American politics as that which has marked this attempted tariff legislation. Viewed from a strictly political and partisan standpoint, the conduct of the Democrats in Congress—particularly in the Senate—has been amazing. Two years ago State after State was instructing its delegation for Mr. Cleveland, and the whole party was a flame with enthusiasm for tariff reform. Every other consideration was lost sight of. Demagogic and shifty politicians were sent to the rear. The silver issue, which for a time seemed so threatening, was retired. Even in New York the party was in revolt against David B. Hill—the man who is now the real Democratic leader in the Senate. When the national convention met in June, the same spirit of devotion to a great principle controlled its deliberations. It was known that the politicians and the machine po-

ple were opposed to Mr. Cleveland's candidacy. His own State sent a delegation solidly instructed for Hill. But the convention's mind was made up, and, putting aside every unworthy consideration, it decided that it would rather go to defeat under Mr. Cleveland's leadership than to victory under the leadership of any other man. In a word, it did not care to win a barren victory; it preferred that the party's triumph, if there were to be a triumph, should mean something.

Thus it was that the party went into the campaign, and in November, 1892, the cause of tariff reform, as represented by its most distinguished exponent, triumphed overwhelmingly. No one questioned the meaning of the election. It was universally conceded that the Democrats were pledged to a thorough reform of the tariff. That was the issue—in it was it had been on the other side of the sea.

But not till a year after the victory had been won was a beginning made in the construction of the new tariff. When the bill was reported to the House its conservative character surprised high professors and disappointed legal reformers. The House passed the bill and sent it to the Senate more than two months ago. And from that time to this the one object which the Democrats have seemed to have in mind has been to discover some way "how not to do it." The bill was treated by the finance committee as though it were a Republican measure. After numerous delays and endless dithering it was reported to the Senate. Then debate was postponed for two weeks, and now it is very doubtful whether the mutilated, distasteful bill can pass at all.

In the meantime the Democratic party all over the country is disorganized and demoralized, and is being beaten in election after election. And yet only two years ago the party was invincible. Now its own members are turning against it. They rightly feel that they have been betrayed. Whether this betrayal is the result of treachery, venality, or simply stupidity on the part of the supposed leaders of the party is not important. Whatever their motives may be, they have played havoc with the organization which they pretend to serve and love.

THE ART ASSOCIATION'S OPPORTUNITY.

The Art Association, which has labored so long and so faithfully for the promotion of the good influences which flow from the cultivation of a love for the beautiful, has held a business meeting and resolved upon several noteworthy things. One is that the annual exhibit is to be held in May, the plans for which are not yet completed. It appears, further, that, as a result of the past work of this association, it now owns sixteen pictures—a very respectable collection, indeed. Another thing the association resolved upon was an effort to raise a fund of not less than \$5,000, for building an art museum. Subscriptions will be small, payments easy, the sum meanwhile profitably invested. These are all good things. We have year after year had many words of urgency for popular support of this cause. What has been done has been largely done by women. The result shows that strong interest and persistent labor, even though this labor be difficult and the field be small.

In these many years that this commendable work has gone on, Indianapolis has gone on. To-day Indianapolis is a large city. City and suburbs to-day contain probably 130,000 people, and there are many things here now that go to make up advantages of city life, though there are very many things that we still lack. It is wise to take counsel in this general progress.

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