

ROBIN HOODS IN SENATE
S ENATORS opposed to the ship subsidy bill have won their filibuster in the United States Senate.

In the early days pirates who seized treasure laden galleons were called filibusters. That is where the term, as applied to tactics in the Senate, originated. Taking advantage of parliamentary rules, a minority group can, by invoking delays, prevent a measure from coming to a vote when but a few days of a session remain. By making long speeches, when the right of speech is unlimited, they can talk a measure to death.

Naturally, the victims of a filibuster say it is unfair. Some Senators who worked to defeat the ship subsidy bill agree that the filibuster is unjustifiable. Senator Underwood, Democratic leader, for one, took this position. He said the majority, vested with responsibility for legislative action, should not be thwarted in this way.

The filibusters' argument was this:

"The ship subsidy bill passed the House only because lame ducks, who in the last election were repudiated by the voters, cast their ballots for it. It could pass the Senate only if voted for by defeated Senators whose terms expire in a few days. The majority of citizens are against the subsidy, and they have said so at the polls. This filibuster was merely to prevent the public's decision from being thwarted by a group of Senators about to retire. Isn't that fair?"

Generally speaking, a filibuster is a form of parliamentary free-booting no longer justifiable. But equally unjustifiable is the practice of defeated Senators enacting measures disapproved by the public. This time, the parliamentary pirates appear in the role of "Robin Hoods" defeating the unscrupulous tax-grabbers and aiding the poor.

FIGURING POPULATION of our country now is 110 millions and will be 120 millions by 1930, estimates National Bureau of Economic Research. Growth can continue at this rate for centuries before America becomes overcrowded.

We have enough land in the United States to give a piece of ground 300x270 feet to each of a billion inhabitants. A family will be able to live on that, if scientific agriculture keeps progressing. Some—one—probably a Texan—figured that Texas could grow enough crops to feed the world.

OLDER THAN TUT TEMPLE of the Moon, believed to be the oldest building on earth, is uncovered by scientific diggers at Ur on the lower Euphrates River. It was erected about 7,000 years ago, and was used continuously as a church for 4,000 years.

King Tut seems very ancient to us, yet here's a building that was about forty centuries old when he was born. Discovery of the Temple of the Moon is important. It helps confirm the scientific belief that the first civilization was along the Euphrates. Somewhere in that vicinity probably was the cradle of the human race—though the Chinese claim that their authentic history dates back a least 22,000 years.

PRICES AND SAVINGS Up go prices of crude oil, steel and many other commodities. An advance of \$5 a suit on medium grade men's clothing is predicted for next year by Julius C. Morse, vice president of the National Retail Clothiers' Association. We seem to be in a "secondary period of inflation."

But prices of city-made products are rising much faster than farm products. That makes our system of "exchange of commodities," already lop-sided, more and more out of balance. And the more it gets out of balance, the more it will act as a brake on the whole machine.

Now is a good time to save for a rainy day.

WAY OF BUILDING A CHURCH built 120 years ago at Grimsville, Pa., was put together so solidly that a wrecking crew is unable to tear it down. It is blown up by dynamite.

They built to last, in the old days when timbers were hewn with an ax and wooden pegs were used instead of expensive iron nails. Modern construction is frail, compared with those old buildings. All for the best. Improvements come rapidly, a new building in our century soon is out-of-date. It reflects our transitory existence, living for the present, soon tearing down to make way for something new and better. If we wanted to, we could build many times as strong as the old church at Grimsville. The new and improved is preferable to the old and enduring.

Future homes will be large flying machines.

Deep Sea Soundings Are Taken With Fine Steel Measuring Wire

QUESTIONS ANSWERED You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indiana News Bureau, Washington bureau, 1222 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in postage. We can't guarantee to answer every question, but we will do our best to do so. If you have a question that you would like to have answered, it should be prepared in advance, and the question and answer should be typed. All letters are confidential, and receive personal replies.—EDITOR.

How are deep sea soundings made in the deepest parts of the ocean?

All deep sea sounding machines are dependent on the use of a very fine steel measuring wire with a heavy detachable shot as a sinker. The amount of wire passing over a recording-measuring wheel gives the depth in fathoms or meters as may be desired. This sinker and wire are allowed to run out from a revolving drum with all freedom possible, but even with the best conditions it takes, for example, a full half hour for each shot to reach bottom at 3,000 fathoms; and in greater depths the time to falling of the shot and wire is rapidly increased by the friction of the longer wire. The sounding machine in use by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey ships is that designed by Elsner.

Can you give some common examples of capillary attraction? The absorption of moisture by papers, sugar, salt, etc.

What are selenium cells and how are they used in photography?

They are a photographic electric couple of selenium and other metals (usually copper) producing an electric current under the action of light. In using them in photography the selenium acts as a conductor of electricity, its conductivity being diminished con-

Capitol Jokes

BY JOHN E. RANKIN

U. S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM Mississipp, First District.

J A certain town there was to be a hanging.

The scaffold had been prepared, the prisoner was ready and the sheriff was just about to adjust the noose and put the black cap over the man's head, when it was discovered that the official's watch was wrong and that it was half an hour earlier than the legal time for the execution.

When this situation was explained a local politician arose and remarked that he would, if allowed, occupy the thirty minutes in talking in behalf of his candidacy for Congress.

The condemned man looked at the would-be orator. Then he turned to the sheriff and said, "If it's all the same to you," he remarked, "I'll waive that thirty minutes. Hang me right now. I've heard that bird before."

"Birds among the branches sitting Always seem to think of you."

To imagine birds thinking of "Mother" is stepping some, even for poetry!

Another said:

"Soft clustering locks of silver hair, Of Angel faces, a loving pair."

A loving pair of what? Faces?

Three cheers for Miss Bullock! She

should have received the entire award.

A "POOR" VERSIFICATION

The Editor's MAIL

Prize Verses

To the Editor of The Times

No fair minded person could find fault with the awarding of first prize to Miss Mary Bullock in the valentine verse contest, for her poem had rhythm, rhyme and sentiment and was faultlessly expressed—but, merciful heavens! what a "pumk" bunch the other 1,775 entries must have been—my own included!

One of the other winners praised her for seven lines and ended with, "Oh, Mother Mine," and that is all "Mother" got out of it. Another said:

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