

# DIGNITY AND POWER OF SENATE

### Highest and Mightiest Parliamentary Body in the World—Leaders' Methods of Ruling—Secret of Aldrich's Power.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Some time during the present session of congress a senator of the United States will arise in his place in the senate, and having obtained the recognition of the chair, he will look about him and say: "This, the senate of the United States, the most powerful, potent and pleasant deliberative assembly on earth." And there is no one to say him nay, for upon that subject Aldrich agrees with Gore, Hale with La Follette, Lodge with Tillman, every senator with every other senator. Senators are not oppressed with a false modesty which forbids them publicly to declare their appreciation of the worth and dignity of the body to which they have the honor to belong. Every session witnesses from one to fifty public declarations of the faith of the senators in the senate. It may be Bailey of Texas, who, gracefully brushing a raven lock from his altitudinous brow, declares in sonorous tones, the doctrine of senatorial responsibility. It may be Hale of Maine who, frowning disapproval upon some luckless wight guilty of the crime of youth, intones in sepulchral voice the litany of senatorial courtesy and deportment. It may be Daniel of Virginia who, knowing his patrician face recalls to every mind the portraits of the fathers of the republic, pleads with pebebian radicals not disturb the precedents of a glorious past. But whoever it may be there is none to take him lightly.

**House Follows Senate.**

"As a man thinks, so is he." The house of representatives refuses to take itself seriously, the senate declines to consider itself in any other light. Every senator looks upon the senate as the highest and mightiest parliamentary body in the world. And they are right. No other house in any parliament has so much power. Granted by the constitution equal rights with the lower house in all legislative matters except the origination of tax bills and a considerable share in the executive branch of the government. It has gathered to itself by usurpation and by the voluntary abdication of rights by the lower house, practically all legislative power. The senate is supreme. No matter what the house does, the senate will do it over, and in the end the house usually submits to the senate's will.

On account of the rigidity of the rules of the house of representatives true deliberation has been made impossible in that body. Men have come to regard the senate as the only deliberative body left in the national government. Despite the theory of the constitution, it appears to be true, in a majority of instances, that the senate is more responsible to public opinion, more representative of popular demands and more reasonable in shaping legislation to meet the needs of the nation than is the house of representatives. This estimate of the senate has been growing ever since the adoption of the Reed rules in the house. It is said that the house is ruled by one man, while in the senate every man may have his say; that the house rushes measures through the legislative mill without giving the opportunity for amendment, while in the senate every senator may offer as many amendments as he

## ARTIST SUED BY WIFE



Howard Chandler Christy, the artist, has been sued in Zanesville, Ohio, by his wife, who seeks to obtain possession of their daughter, who is 10 years old. Mrs. Christy asserts her husband took their daughter from her by force in New York in July, 1909, and has since held her. The Christys have not been divorced, but they have not lived together for some time.

desires and may have each of them considered and voted upon.

**Senate Machine Powerful.**

Against these claims for the superiority of the senate as a tribune of the people may be set some very cold facts. The house may rush bills through in haste, but it does accord public hearings before full committees on many important measures, while the senate committee will consider the same measures in secret session of the majority members. It was thus that the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was considered. The house committee gave public hearings, and invited the people to come and say their say. The senate committee, where the bill actually was shaped, considered it in secret, not permitting even Democratic members of the committee to be present.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon has carefully pointed out on a number of occasions that the boasted freedom of debate in the senate operates to make much talk during the first part of the session, but that when adjournment approaches the senate passes bills with a rapidity which is impossible in the house. And "Uncle Joe" is right, for the senate machine, to all intents and purposes, is just as powerful as the house organization, except when it is opposed by a determined filibuster. As such filibusters are prevented in all but exceptional cases by

senatorial courtesy, the senate machine usually has easy going.

**"Steering Gear" Active.**

The senate is ruled by a committee on the order of business, a committee not included in the official lists of the senate committees. It is ordinarily known as the "steering committee." The Republican steering committee controls the senate, the Democrats having a similar steering committee to guide the minority. Senator Hale of Maine is the chairman of the majority steering committee. He is the helmsman of the Republican senate ship, of which Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island is captain.

Senator Hale has charge of the daily routine of senate business. He makes the motions to "proceed to the consideration of executive business," which means that the senate will retreat behind closed doors. He makes the motions to adjourn, to take recess, to do this and to do that. He is also the official guardian of the precedents and the dignity of the senate, and it is he who rebukes the new senator, or the reckless senator, who has inadvertently or designedly transgressed the ancient and honorable rules of senatorial behavior. Senator Hale is constantly in the attitude of deploring the iniquity of the opposition, but in recent years he has not been forced to deal with an opposition strong enough to endanger his steering gear.

**Aldrich, the Leader.**

Senator Aldrich is the real leader of the senate. He considers policies of state, and he is able usually to shape them to his liking. He is fortified by the possession of four things most required in a senate leader: length of service, with its increment of experience and seniority; ability to compel, persuade or command as the occasion demands; capacity for infinite labor and study, and therefore, complete knowledge of any subject under discussion; and, lastly, the sympathy and confidence of those conservative forces which have been supreme in the American government for the past generation.

In the tariff bill fight during the special session of this congress it developed that Senator Aldrich's leadership was quite as powerful as that of Mr. Cannon in the house. The measure of loyalty to the opposition was not how a senator voted on a particular schedule this time and that, but how often did he vote with Aldrich and how often against Aldrich. The Aldrich methods differ widely from those of the house organization, but it does not appear that they are less effective.

The senate always has had strong leaders. The triumvirate of Clay, Calhoun and Webster was most famous, but the united strength of these three was unable to oppose the successful leadership of Thomas H. Benton, Stephen A. Douglas and Charles Sumner were examples of greatness in senatorial leadership. John Sherman left indelible impressions upon the history of the country as a senate leader.

**Secret of His Power.**

But never has there been a man who has been so successful and so powerful in leadership as Nelson W. Aldrich. Unaided by any system of rules such as supports the speaker of the house, open always to attack by the opposition, and having little or no general popularity to support him, Mr. Aldrich by sheer force of superior ability, has attained to his high position. He has none of the spectacular attainments which have given fame to great senators—his is the genius of labor. He works hard, and he can do more work than a dozen ordinary men. This, and the fact that he has had such long service, is the secret of his power.

The country is divided, of course, in its opinion of the wisdom of Mr. Aldrich's leadership. For the first time in many years he is facing some organized opposition in the ranks of his own party. The senate, as the house, has its section of "insurgent" Republicans. They will attack Mr. Aldrich's leadership, but with little hope of success. Nevertheless they will force a fight, and will bring the senate much into the public eye.

During this session of congress the senate will indicate what course it will take with respect to the pending subjects of legislation, and will foreshadow the legislative program of the Taft administration. Altogether, the present session of congress promises to be one of the most interesting of recent years.

Tomorrow — Washington Memorial Hall.

**Temperance Fight in Manitoba.**

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 12.—The local option campaign in Manitoba, which has been the most extensive, thorough and strenuous temperance speaking campaign ever attempted in Canada, started on its final lap today. The leaders of the temperance movement, on the strength of reports received from many points, are looking forward to a sweeping victory at the polls. The session has already been abolished in a score of the municipalities of the province, and the temperance element believes that the prospect is very good for the carrying of the local veto vote in at least half of the remaining 100 municipalities.

Durability and the absence of places for dirt to lodge are the advantages claimed for a new washboard, made by forming a single piece of sheet metal around a rod which forms sides, top and legs.

## QUALITY OF TOYS MUCH IMPROVED

### Displays Show Christmas Goods More Serviceable and More Expensive.

New York, Dec. 12.—The dealers in toys in this city evidently believe in the prosperous condition of the people and expect to do a land office business during the two weeks between now and the holidays. They have laid in a record breaking stock of goods and display in their show windows a wonderful selection of toys, more tempting and, in many respects more interesting, than in former years. Although it is still comparatively early, the majority of people having scarcely begun to make their purchases, business is reported to be excellent, with a prospect of beating all previous records.

A careful observer, making the rounds of the various first class and minor toy shops on Broadway, Sixth and Seventh avenues and the principal cross streets of the business district, cannot fail to notice that the character of toys has undergone a marked change. Toys have become more scientific, more substantial and more true to nature. It may also be added that in a general way the quality of toys is superior to that in former years and the proportion of expensive toys greater.

**Toy Aeroplanes.**

The world's progress and achievements in the mechanical inventions, methods of locomotion, physical discoveries, etc., and the most striking events of the year's history are reflected in the toys. It was but a short time after the first bicycles were put in practical use, that toy bicycles made their appearance. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Christmas market this year is flooded with toys suggested by the recent achievements in the field of aerial navigation. Toy airplanes, that really fly, propelled by fan propellers driven by springs or other means, are among the most striking toy novelties this year. Some of these aeroplanes fly, most of which came from France, are quite expensive, costing from \$10 to \$15 apiece, but there are others, of a more primitive construction and smaller in size, which may be purchased for 50 cents or less. Some American toy makers have turned out a clever line of such mimic aeroplanes, but the most expensive models are of French make and the most substantial ones from Germany, which holds the record for making the strongest and most artistic toys.

**Current Events in Games.**

Dirigible airships, telephones, moving picture machines, automobiles and little power machines, some of the most ambitious models actually self-propelling, are in the market. Of moving toys, in the shape of dolls, animals of every description and mechanical contrivances for the amusement of children there is a greater variety than ever before and it is remarkable how the scientific character of these playthings has improved. Teddy bears and Bill Taft opossums are still popular, but they have found dangerous rivals in the polar bears, Eskimo dolls and dogs, which the discovery of the North Pole has suggested to the toy makers. The ever popular games have also been influenced by the events of the year and North Pole games, African jungle games and Marathon race games are among the leaders in that line.

Hurricane football, a new game, is played on a table representing a miniature field, the players sending the ball about with air driven through hose from bellows operated by their feet.



# Do Your Christmas Shopping

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