

WHEN REED RULED

And Raised a Row In Congress by Counting a Quorum.

HOW THE QUESTION AROSE.

The Issue That Moved the "Czar" to Overturn Both Democratic and Republican Precedents and Put the House in an Uproar.

In his "Life of Thomas Brackett Reed," popularly known as "Czar" Reed, Samuel W. McCall relates how the great question of the quorum that was counted arose. The famous issue came up shortly after Reed's reelection as speaker in December, 1880. The Republicans had so narrow a majority that business would have been difficult even without the filibustering of the opposition.

On Jan. 20, 1880, Dalzell reported from the committee on elections an award of a contested seat to a Republican.

"Crisp raised the question of consideration, and only 163 members responded, or two less than a quorum. Not merely was it beyond the power of the Republicans to produce a quorum at that time, but it appeared equally certain that they would not be able to produce one at any time during that Congress.

"Reed had carefully planned to meet the emergency which had long seemed to him inevitable and had determined upon his course. But the element of doubt was whether his party associates in the house would sanction the radical course which he meditated. He was intending to overturn not merely Democratic precedents, but Republican precedents as well.

"Times almost without number the leaders of his own party had maintained that the constitutional quorum was to be determined by the roll call and not by the bodily presence of members. The position had never seriously been questioned that if a majority of the representatives failed to answer to their names on the calling of the roll there was no quorum present for the transaction of business, even if every member might actually be present in the hall of the house.

"Instead of ordering the roll to be called again Reed calmly said, 'The chair directs the clerk to record the names of the following members present and refusing to vote.' He then proceeded to name a number of Democrats and among them Carlisle and other Democratic leaders who were present when their names were called and who refrained from voting.

"At once the house was in an uproar. There was an explosion as violent as was ever witnessed in a legislative body. The speaker's recital of the names was interrupted by passionate remonstrance. His course was denounced as revolutionary. For a considerable time the tumult stopped the business of the house. Reed remained unruffled, and when the noise would for a moment subside he would add to his count of Democrats present and not voting.

"One member of much dignity, but not conspicuous for sense of humor, gravely arose with a book in his hand and said, 'I deny your right, Mr. Speaker, to count me as present, and I desire to read from the parliamentary law on that subject. Reed raised a hearty laugh by coolly saying in reply and with his customary drawl: 'The chair is making a statement of fact that the gentleman from Kentucky is present. Does he deny it?'

"After the noise had subsided sufficiently for the speaker to make a connected statement he proceeded to state the question to the house: 'The chair treats this subject in orderly fashion and will submit his opinion to the house, which, if not acquiesced in by the house, can be overruled on an appeal taken from the decision.'

"He then proceeded to state his opinion in a few words. Referring to the constitutional power of the house to compel the attendance of absent members, he said: 'If members can be present and refuse to exercise their function—to wit, not be counted as a quorum—that provision would seem to be entirely nugatory inasmuch as the constitution only provides for their attendance, that attendance is enough. If more was needed the constitution would have provided for more.'

Disorder was renewed, but after a hot debate the ruling was sustained. Reed's party standing by him to a man, and the supreme court subsequently confirmed the point.

Force, Wisdom and Faith.
When a human soul draws its first furrows straight the rest will surely follow. Henceforth your existence becomes ceaseless activity. The universe belongs to him who wills, who knows, who prays, but he must will, he must know, he must pray. In a word, he must possess force, wisdom and faith. He conquers on the earth. Your convictions will be changed to certainties. —Honore de Balzac.

Boyhood.
Mamma—And you actually ate a little food? What in the world made you do so? Little Lester Livermore—Willie Kikover bet I wasn't.—Judge.

Pocketknives.
Pocketknives with blades to fold into the handle by a spring were first made in the middle of the eighteenth century.

All is not lost when anything goes contrary to you.—Thomas a Kempis.

IMPROVE THE POTATO

Must Good Can Be Accomplished by Planting the Best Potatoes Obtainable and in Hill Selection for Future Years. By County Agriculturist A. E. LOVETT.

Those of us who have not obtained our seed potatoes early in the season are finding it a very hard matter to secure the seed at present. Good seed is always in demand and is taken early, so that the man who must purchase this late will usually have to take comparatively poor seed and do the best he can with it. The good sound, marketable potato, true to some standard type, is the one that will sell. Any deviation from this type of potato will lessen the chances of a profitable sale and materially affects the profit to be obtained from raising the potato in any section. It is foolish for us to expect that we may be able to make money by raising either an unmarketable type of potato, or even a marketable type where the yield is small. Our aim in the potato-growing business should be to raise the best marketable potato with heavy yields per acre. Any man with the poorer seed may improve his potato business materially by carefully selecting the best seed in the lot true to some standard type, and planting this seed in plots or rows by themselves. By using this method, we may know where the best potatoes should be obtained and by hill selection of seed next fall for the following year's planting, we can obtain potatoes not only true to the type we are after, but also from a prolific hill, which should in turn produce prolific hills of potatoes for our field the following season. A large yield can not be obtained from a field where the average hill yields only two to five marketable potatoes. If we will first raise the marketable type and then select seed from hills producing from sixteen to twenty marketable potatoes, we may usually

double or treble yields of any land. I would recommend to all those planting potatoes this season that they select the best potatoes they have and plant them to themselves, so that their seed for the following year may be saved from the money-making type of potato—marketable and prolific. Treat all seed for scab and keep your farm free from disease.

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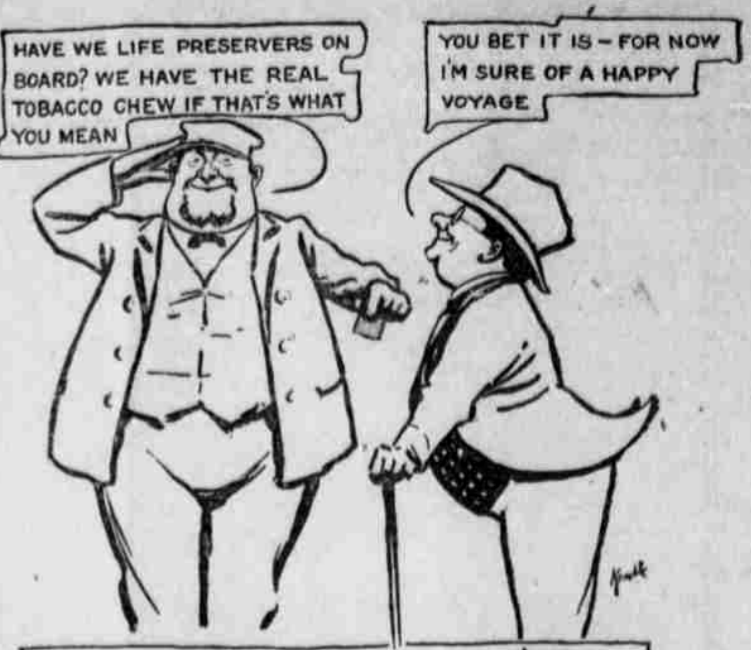
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