

THE DAILY DEMOCRAT.

Profligate expenditure has its attractions, but administration newspapers are beginning to remind their leaders in congress that it is attended with dangers and inconveniences also.

Speeches like that of Senator Plumb and the amendments offered by Democratic Senators show why the Republicans want to stifle discussion upon the tariff bill.

There is one thing to be said for Plumb. He can tell when there is going to be a shower, and he generally raises his umbrella in time. Sometimes he is even a little precocious, but that is better than being caught out in a deluge, as some other senators will be.

For the senate to adopt a rule to cut off debate would be a perversion of legislative power and a blow at free institutions. It was not a Democrat who said that in the senate, but Mr. Plumb, of Kansas.

Andrew Carnegie has just given \$50,000 of money taken from American taxpayers to found a library in Scotlandtown. He has also written an article for the *North American Review* in which he insists upon higher tariff protection for our infant industries. In his iron infant industry the tariff has in twenty-nine years given him a fortune of \$55,000,000. If an infant industry well by Mr. Carnegie, what will the industry do when it is an adult?

Mr. Teller is another republican senator who does not believe in burning down one's house in order to roast an egg. He told Mr. Blair in debate that while he wanted the McKinley Bill passed he was prepared to resist vigorously and as efficiently as he could any change of the rules for the purpose of hastening the passage of the Tariff Bill or any other bill.

The movement to cut off debate on the Tariff Bill is entirely opposed to the senate's invariable custom. Senator Gibson points out the fact that two years ago the senators, beginning their sessions at 10 o'clock in the morning, stayed in Washington till October 20th, discussing the Tariff Bill weeks after they knew it would not be passed. Deliberation may sometimes grow wearisome, but it is about the most respectable institution connected with parliamentary government, and a good deal may be sacrificed to retain it.

"Shorn of verbiage," says the emphatic declaration of Mr. Powderly, "the Force Bill is intended to perpetuate the existence of the party in power, besides intending to encourage fraud." The authors and promoters of the Lodge Bill have already been convicted under this indictment, but it is as well, during the pendency of final legislation upon it, that such men as the head of the Knights of Labor should join in the hue and cry against this infamous measure. In his appeal to the Knights to black-list and oppose the re-election of those congressmen who shall aid in the passage of the bill, their Master Workmen strikes at the fears of many to whose political consciences an appeal would be useless. Such threatened retribution is the strongest argument that can be made to the caucus-serving following of Reed.

After delaying tariff legislation for eight months in congress, the Republican leaders now declare that a tariff revision bill, the most important of all our legislation, should be passed without discussion because delay is disturbing to business. Of course, delay is disturbing to business, but even delay is better than tariff legislation that is so oppressive to industry that it won't bear discussion.

After delaying tariff legislation for eight months, and refusing free discussion in the house, the great fear of the leaders is that such honest republicans as Plumb and Paddock will tell so much truth about the bill that it can't be defended before the country.

Between the brain-clout that Blaine gave the tariff bill with the farmers and the incisive prods of Plumb and Paddock, with more of like trouble to come, it isn't surprising that the leaders who have held business by the eyelids for eight months on tariff agitation, now insist that delay is dangerous to the business interests of the country.

The Maine and New Hampshire congressmen know how to utilize a Navy Yard in politics. They always keep a lot of decaying vessels there and proceed to employ large numbers of men to repair them when elections are near. They first employ men for Maine's September election, and transfer them from Kittery over to Portsmouth for New Hampshire's November election.

The Lancaster is one of the vessels that is already for repairs for political purposes. She is a wooden vessel built in 1853 at a cost of \$670,000. She was reported by the Chief of Construction in 1876 as "rotten at Portsmouth," but repairs to the tune of \$1,657,219 have been made on her as political necessities demanded it, and she is now ready for additional repairs to help Wrecker Reed to escape wrecking himself next month.

How pitifully stupid our Philadelphia congressmen are compared with the Maine and New Hampshire leaders. Here, with the best position for a Navy Yard on the continent and the site a mil-

lion gift from Philadelphia to the government, we are without a dry dock at the end of fifteen years, and we are coolly told by our representatives that the Secretary of the Navy has promised soon to propose a plan for the general improvement to League Island. Our congressmen seem to be too stupid or too subsalubre even to take care of themselves.

John Kelley's estimate of the population of Linn county—10,000—is only additional proof of the mess made in the whole census business. The county has not a soul less than 20,000 and it is very possible that the auditor fairly well taken would foot up 22,000. Hundreds of people have been missed in the foot hills as well as in the prairie regions.

In deciding that the Force Bill is impractical and unnecessary, the Matthews Stanley Quay Club of colored men, of Philadelphia, shows a disposition to come in out of the intense heat, whether Mr. Quay does or not.

Recognizing the fitness of things, the Senate has put sponges on the free list. A tariff bill that is essentially a huge sponge on the people cannot consistently tax itself.

As time passes on, the chances of passing the Force election bill by congress grow heartily and sensibly less.

When the Senate reached the earthenware schedule Senator Plumb was quite a bull in a china shop.

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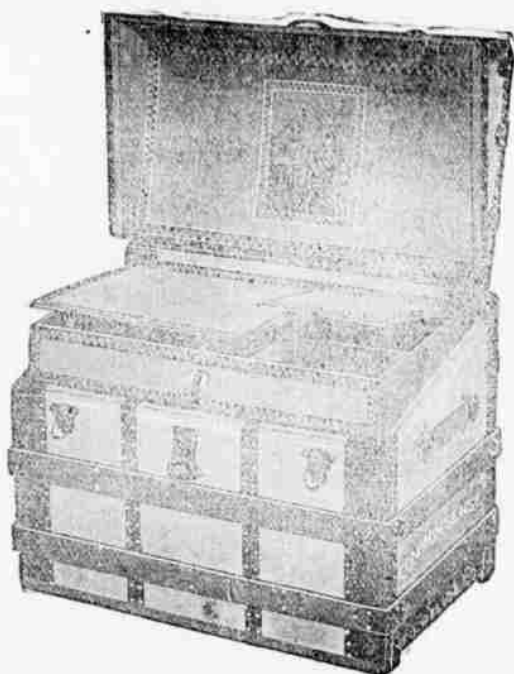
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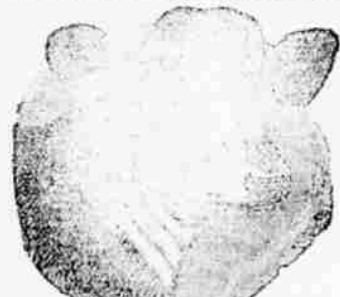
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