

GRAB-BAG STATESMEN

(By MARK SULLIVAN, in Collier's Weekly.)

When a congressman or a senator asks you to re-elect him because he was successful in getting federal money spent in your district, look out. There's a reason.

Senator Burkett is flooding Nebraska with a picture of himself standing on a platform, and some of the conspicuous planks in the platform are these:

A million dollars for Nebraska public buildings.

Over 3500 pensions for Nebraska veterans.

Buildings and improvements at Ft. Crook and Ft. Robinson, Nebraska.

Missouri river improvements.

National school of forestry in Nebraska.

What Senator Burkett means is that as a senator he got all these things for Nebraska, and therefore he thinks Nebraska ought to re-elect him as a mark of gratitude. And Senator Burkett is merely typical. Scores of congressmen ask for re-election and get it, because of their success and effectiveness at the federal pork trough.

If the voter will reflect a moment he will understand that there is another side to this situation. It is stated tersely and accurately by a virile local paper in California, the Ukiah Times, in an editorial entitled, "How the Trusts Bribe the People":

"It is managed this way: Mr. Cannon and the 'leaders' make up a list of the congressmen that have been especially serviceable to them. This means the men in congress who do just as they are told, vote exactly as directed and can be depended on at all times in any emergency. Of course, these are the men the trusts and others of the privileged class want back, so they go to them and say:

"Mr. So-and-So, how do you stand in your district? What are your chances of being elected again?"

"Now, Mr. So-and-So is from an inland district where the insurgent feeling is strong and he knows his people don't approve his voting constantly with, by and for Cannon and those he represents. So he expresses his doubts and fears, and is asked if he doesn't want a postoffice building for one of the largest cities in his district, or if there isn't a river somewhere that could be dredged out so the turtles and catfish would have better navigation, or if he couldn't use an appropriation for a park or reserve of some kind or a few thousand dollars to drain an old swamp.

"If he is from a coast district he can have a lighthouse or two and some lifesaving stations, with post-offices, harbor dredgings, river improvements, Indian schools and perhaps a fort or two thrown in as they seem to be needed. So these items are included in the appropriations and go through like greased lightning.

"Then the candidate for re-election is all right, no matter how he voted on the tariff, rules committee, postal savings banks or anything else. He has the 'dope' to bunco the people with and he proceeds to bunco them. He sends out 'press reports' to the newspapers that he knows he can use, because they are as easily bunced as any one, telling what he has done for the district, how much money he has secured for the district, what great improvements he has won for the district, and how deserted and ruined the district would be without him. This the puny editor enlarges upon, drawing heavily on his handbook of superlatives, and closes by pleading with 'our readers' to work their toenails off for Mr. So-and-So, that he may be sent back to congress to continue the good work."

It is another example of the old law that you cannot get something for nothing. If your congressman got a great many public buildings for you he gave up something to get them: what he gave in most cases

was his vote on the tariff. The Seattle Star puts this very pointedly: "Of late days the anti-Pointexter press for its various reasons has found abundant fault with the insurgent senatorial candidate, and its columns have teemed and screamed with the weight of its wo.

"And now, mark you, the cause of all this protesting anguish, all these predictions and maledictions, is the postmaster at Prosser, his appointment, retention or state of his salary, we do not know which, and neither have we curiosity other than that no crime was committed or contemplated. Our interest lies solely in the fact that there is overmuch newspaper ado about this postoffice and its relation to the senatorial candidates.

"Is this postmaster an issue comparable to Aldrichism, Cannonism and standpatism? Has he anything to do with the duty on sugar, wool or shoes?"

"So let's have done with postmasters. Let us meet the issue fairly and squarely. It is Standpatism vs. The People.

"Let us discuss Pointexter in these terms."

Bear in mind that the members of congress who get abundant federal patronage do so only because they pay for it with their votes on important measures which are vital to the political and business machine which dominates the Republican party today. The patronage is a sop to the voters in the district, which the voters, in the long run, pay for dearly.

A Good Speech.

Senator Burton of Ohio is not an insurgent—very far from it. On the other hand, he has no corrupt alliances. He is a conscientious man of a very conservative habit of thought, and as such is extremely useful in the senate. He is opposed to the Appalachian-White mountain forest bill, and he made a powerful speech against it in the senate. Both friends and opponents of the measure ought to read this speech. A postal-card request to Senator Burton would probably bring it. The Appalachian-White mountain bill, after long years of fighting, passed the house during the closing days of the session. It will come before the senate for a vote next February.

The Insurgents at Home.

No insurgent now in congress has been defeated for renomination. In Kansas, the only insurgents in the delegation, Madison and Murdock, had no opposition for renomination. In Murdock's case, so completely satisfied were the people of his district that even the Democrats refused to nominate a candidate against him. Is it possible to deny that the insurgents really represent their constituents more nearly than the Standpaters?

"How many times I have seen men in legislative positions, anxious and trembling almost, for fear they should not secure an appropriation, declaring that if they did not get it their promising future would be shrouded in darkness and that their defeat was foredoomed. But I can say here in the presence of the senate that I never knew a case where

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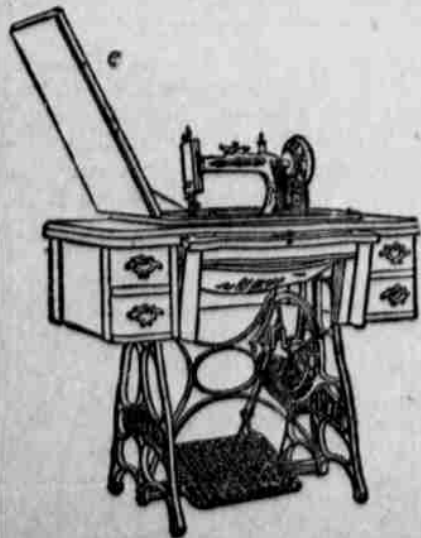
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a single one of those anticipations was realized. On the other hand, I have known cases in which men received large appropriations and were confident that their future with their constituents was founded on a rock, as it were, and yet who lost the nomination the very next week. When you reach the real American citizen he is not going to judge a senator of the United States or a representative for the part that he plays in getting something out of the national grab-bag. He has a higher ideal of a representative and of what should be done by him than that he is merely an agent for his constituency in securing money to be expended in his home locality."—Senator Theodore Burton of Ohio, Congressional Record, June 30, 1910, page 9727.

BRITISH COLLIER WRECKED ON REEF AT WAIKIKI

HONOLULU, Aug. 13.—After losing her bearings at sea and springing a leak the British barkentine Helga, from Newcastle for San Francisco with coal, put back, only to strike a reef at Waikiki and become a total loss.

The crew of the vessel were landed early today without loss of life. One seaman was injured.

The Helga went ashore opposite Fort DeRussey. As soon as she struck rockets were sent up and those on land became aware of the vessel's distress and aided the crew to land.

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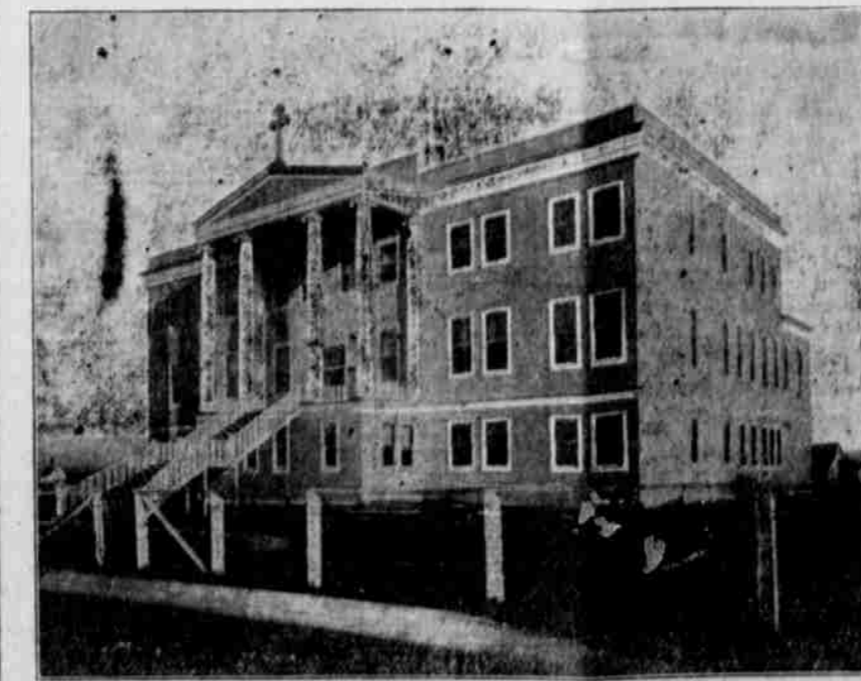
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