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QUORUM FOR BLAND AT LAST.

His Motion Closing Debate on the Silver Seigniorage Bill Adopted.

A STORMY SCENE IN THE HOUSE

When Reed Precipitated an Angry Discussion by Questioning the Presence of a Quorum—Outwalle's Motion.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 28.—After the call of the committees for report, Mr. Kilgore offered a resolution which, he said, ought to be a matter of privilege if it were not. It was read for information, it recited the law requiring the Sergeant-at-Arms to withhold the salary of a representative who was absent except on account of sickness of himself or a member of his family; that at this session of Congress many members had been absent, and he called upon the Sergeant-at-Arms to report whether or not the law in this respect had been obeyed by him, and if he had been delinquent therein, to make a report to the House. It was also asked if in his opinion the law could not be enforced to inform the House the reasons therefor.

Mr. Reed made the point that the resolution did not present a matter of privilege, the way in which it was drawn, it was simply a resolution asking an officer of the House his opinion upon a question of law.

Speaker Crisp called the attention of Mr. Kilgore to the fact that the resolution contained no allegation that an officer of the House had failed to discharge his duty under the rules or under the law, which was necessary to make a privileged matter. It was simply a resolution of inquiry, directed to an officer of the House.

Mr. Kilgore thereupon withdrew the resolution.

Mr. Bland moved that the House go into committee of the whole upon his seigniorage bill, and that general debate be closed at 2 o'clock Thursday.

Mr. Tracy made the point of no quorum, and the yeas and nays were called.

To Compel Members to Vote.

Before the result of the vote was announced Mr. Livingston (Dem., Ga.) said he desired to submit a motion, unless he could, required, upon every proposition presented to the House. The gentleman from New York (Tracy) had refused to vote, and he demanded that he be brought before the bar of the House and explain his refusal to vote.

Mr. Johnson (Dem., O.) said he had a list of twenty-five members who had violated the rule, which he offered to send to the desk.

The Chair stated that the rule was well known. The Chair could not enforce the rule otherwise than by appealing to members to observe it. The Chair was but the organ of the House, and would never make a rule unless authorized and directed as to do by the House.

Mr. Hoar then moved in support of Livingston's motion. It was, he said, an effort to bring a member to answer to a willful contempt and violation of the rules of the House.

These proceedings had been watched with the keenest interest by members, especially Republicans, as having within them the possibility of history-making. When the Chair announced the vote, however, and the incident was over, the humdrum of routine was resumed and the members who had been eagerly crowding into the pit in front of the speaker's desk faded rapidly away.

Mr. Bland moved a call of the House. On this motion there were, first, a viva voce vote, then a vote by division, third, a vote by tellers, and finally a vote by yeas and nays. The latter resulted, yeas, 189; nays, 4. So the roll-call was ordered. It showed 36 members present and responding to their names.

On the motion to dispense with further proceedings under the call, the same procedure was followed—four separate votes being taken, ending with the yeas and nays.

The call resulted; yeas, 189; nays, 2; thus dispensing with further proceedings.

A Quorum at Last.

Mr. Bland renewed his motion, and the yeas and nays were called. As the roll call proceeded, it became apparent to many that a quorum would be obtained, and members keeping tally crowded about the clerk's desk.

Mr. Tracy (N. Y.) occupied the seat at which for two weeks past he has kept tally with the clerk on roll calls, closely following the responses to the call.

When it was determined that a quorum had been obtained on the second call of the roll Mr. Tracy voted aye, amid slight applause from the Democratic side, his purpose being, as afterwards appeared, to move a reconsideration.

The announcement of the vote of the speaker, 17 yeas to 7 nays, evoked a round of hearty applause from the Democrats and Populists.

Messrs. Outwalle (Dem., O.) and Tracy (Dem., N. Y.) were on their feet demanding recognition to present a motion to the Committee on Rules, limiting debate on the pending bill and amendments to two hours, and the latter to move a reconsideration of the bill just taken.

Mr. Outwalle demanded the previous question on his motion, but the yeas and nays were ordered without a division.

Read Resolutions.

After a name or two had been called Mr. Reed precipitated an angry discussion, which for intensity equaled the famous scenes in the Fifty-first Congress, when Speaker Reed was counting quorums.

The gentleman from Maine (Reed) suggested that a roll-call was out of order, inasmuch as the last vote was not to disclose the presence of a quorum.

The Speaker: By what authority does the gentleman make that statement?

Mr. Reed: I am informed by the gentleman from New York (Tracy) that he kept a tally, and that it did not show a quorum voting. The gentleman from New York is not the keeper of the roll for the House. (Applause.) The clerk will proceed with the call.

Mr. Reed, persisting amid cries of "Regular order," suggested that a member arose and suggested that an error had been committed, he was entitled to respectful treatment from the Chair and from the House.

Mr. Reed: Has not the gentleman had it? There has been no suggestion that the vote had been impeached by the gentleman from New York. If one were

examined in the interests of right and truth. While this colloquy was proceeding, members rushed down the aisles to the centre, and Messrs. Outwalle and McMillin, Messrs. Reed and Tracy had accepted the validity and correctness of the vote by moving to reconsider it. His remedy was to have the vote recapitulated, and this he had failed to do.

The House became great, members shouting at each other and the Chair, that the Speaker suspended proceedings until comparative order was restored by members taking their seats.

Reed and Tracy Explained.

Mr. Reed, resuming, stated that he had been out of the hall while the roll was being called attending a meeting of the Committee on Rules, and that he had understood that there was to have an opportunity to be heard on the order reported, and, of course, did not know what had occurred. The gentleman from New York (Tracy) had informed him that a quorum had not been kept tally for a number of days without making an error, he was so much impressed with the correctness of the gentleman from New York, to his duty to call the attention of the Chair and the House to it, that the error might be corrected if one had been made.

Mr. McMillin declared that the gentleman from New York should speak for himself, and that he would not be understood as endorsing any motion which he had made.

Mr. Meredith (Dem., Va.) Mr. Speaker, there has been a comedy of errors here, and the gentleman from New York has been in error for some weeks and is in error now.

Mr. Reed endeavored to make himself heard, and finally succeeded. He said that it was a matter of but little moment. A quorum would be secured in any event, he conceded. But he had kept what he believed to be a correct tally, and it showed but 174 yeas. He would not undertake to impeach the accuracy of the official count. Whereupon the storm subsided and the roll-call proceeded.

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TOWNES' VIEWS OF BRAZIL

THE CONSUL-GENERAL GIVES HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

Effect of Freeing the Slaves—The Bristol Post-Office Case—Yonkers Places Given Virginia Yesterday.

THEY BEHOLD, RALEIGH BUILDING, WASHINGTON, February 28, 1894.

The tariff bill in the Senate is far from being decided upon, and its principal features are as yet unknown quantities.

Caucus succeeds caucus and the Finance Committee adjourns day after day, and yet the token of agreement has never been displayed.

Senator Daniel is still in Lynchburg, where he is detained on account of the illness of General Jubal A. Early. The condition of the ex-Confederate chieftain must warrant the gravest apprehensions, as the Senator when he left here expressed no opinion as to his recovery. His presence in no way hinders the progress of the bill; the Senate so far this week has accomplished nothing, although a great deal of useless talk has been indulged upon the different features of the proposed tariff bill. The closest of friendship and affection exist between him and General Early, he will hardly return here until there is some decided change in the General's condition or until some important legislation demands his presence.

Post-day was set for the argument before the Finance Committee in the Bristol post-office matter, but it was again postponed, at the request of Senator Bate, of Tennessee. The case is now in the hands of the Attorney-General, and the Tennessee senators or congressmen put in their appearance.

Appointment for Mr. Twyman.

Congressman Turner called at the Navy Department, and with the assistance of Secretary Denham, removed the obstacles to the appointment of Mr. Twyman, of Madison, to a position in the Navy Department. The appointment was ordered several days ago, owing to a misunderstanding as to the date of his departure from the office. He was not allowed to enter upon the discharge of his duties, which he will, however, on the 10th of March.

Dr. P. Webster of Norfolk, Va., and Mr. P. H. Harris of Winston, N. C., are at the Metropolitan.

Messrs. John C. White, Jr., and E. T. Bland, of the State Department, George E. Truett and wife of Lynchburg, W. H. Adams and wife of Virginia, and G. W. Foster of North Carolina, are at the National.

Today there were only four removals in the returns from the establishment of which Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Maxwell is the superintendent and general manager. It can hardly be for the credit of the post-office, as Messrs. Hill, Murphy, Smith, Brice, Gorman, Caffery, and White of Louisiana. A further conference was held in this committee-room for almost two hours, these gentlemen insisting that changes be made in the schedule of increased rates on many of the articles of merchandise.

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