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WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS ARE CLOSE MOUTHED ON OCCASION.

They Often Know Much More Than They Print—Secretary Blaine's Wonderful Memory—How a Subscriber's Question Was Answered—Notes of Interest.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Senator Teller's sensible proposition to abolish the secret sessions of the senate is likely to carry when that body again convenes. The secret session is a farce and a nuisance. It is a farce because it is not secret, after all, and it is a nuisance because it inflicts upon senators the necessity of lying and upon newspaper men the need of asking great statesmen to violate their oaths of office. Everybody knows that the newspapers print more or less correctly the proceedings of these so-called secret executive sessions, and the information on which their reports are based must come from the senators themselves, since they are the only persons present. As a rule every newspaper man has two or three senators on whom he depends for information.

In most cases these senators are from the state in which the journal is printed that the correspondent represents, but not always. The correspondent keeps two or three senators "on his string," so that if one cannot be found in good time there remains at least one more to fall back upon. Correspondents do a good deal of "trading" in this matter of secret sessions, and find it a great help. For instance, the Boston correspondent worms from the Massachusetts senators all he can and gives the substance thereof to his friends, correspondents from Philadelphia and Chicago. These have meanwhile extracted as much possible from the Pennsylvania and Illinois senators, and when it is all put together each correspondent finds he has a pretty full and correct account of the proceedings.

It must not be supposed that senators willingly talk of secret sessions. As a rule they are exceedingly reluctant to speak, but many of them are under such obligations to correspondents and the papers they represent, and have such a full realization of the necessities of the case from a journalistic standpoint, that they permit themselves to be coaxed into giving up a few fragmentary words. A vast majority of the senators try to still their consciences with the conceit that in refusing to do much more than give assent or dissent to the interrogatives of the correspondent they are preserving their oaths inviolate; but there are a few senators who frankly say the secret session is a humbug, and tell all they know without guile or guerd. Lucky the correspondent who has one of these senators "on his string."

One of the remarkable phases of public life in Washington is the close relationship and perfect confidence existing between statesmen and newspaper correspondents. The successful correspondents at Washington are men of character and honor. If they are not men who can be safely trusted with secrets they are out of place in Washington. One of the chief duties of a capital newspaper writer is to discriminate as to what may be properly printed. In his free and friendly relations with public men he becomes possessed of information which he could not give to the public without working injustice to his friends; and though not bound by either the expressed or implied obligations of the confidential communication he finds it necessary to be on the alert, lest he at one time or another fail to exercise the nice discrimination which judges so infallibly between the public and the private. It happens very frequently that newspaper men become possessors of secrets which would ruin the careers of public men if published in full, but no line of which ever finds its way into print. Discretion and honor are so well understood here as newspaper characteristics that senators, representatives and cabinet officers place more confidence in correspondents than in their own colleagues. Neatly illustrative of this was a little incident which occurred in the Arlington hotel when Gen. Harrison was quartered there, just before inauguration. An Indiana friend of Gen. Harrison's was giving two newspaper men a bit of information, "absolutely confidential, not to be published." He had not proceeded far in his relation of the state secret when he paused and whispered:

"Step over this way a little. I'm afraid Senator — is overhearing us."

As an instance of the confidence placed in newspaper correspondents by public men an odd story may be told, though the name of the chief actor must of course be omitted. Two or three months before the Republican national convention last year a New York correspondent called on a certain senator, who had not been generally considered a candidate for the presidency, and was astonished to hear the senator say:

"I believe I can be nominated for the presidency by the Chicago convention. I have about made up my mind to be a candidate in dead earnest. Now, I will tell you of a little plan I have in mind. I'll charter a special train from Washington to Chicago, and invite all the newspaper representatives to go along as my guests. Invitations for this trip will be sent out about three weeks before the convention, and I count that, inasmuch as newspaper men are only human like the rest of us, this little stroke of mine will result in having me a good deal boomed for the nomination in all the leading papers of the country."

of the railroads sends out a special train to carry the correspondents free of charge. Many of the correspondents refuse to accept even this favor. Newspapers and newspaper men are much more independent about such things than they used to be. If you hire a special train, senator, you will not have enough passengers to make up a good whist party. If I were you, I should dismiss the idea from my mind at once."

The senator took the newspaper man's advice. He hired no special train, and his name was not mentioned in the Chicago convention.

Secretary Blaine is a much richer man than he is generally credited with being. He is more than a millionaire. Probably the luckiest investment Mr. Blaine ever made was in the Little Hope mine at Leadville, Colo., which has alone made the secretary rich. That mine has paid \$4,500,000 dividends in the last five years, of which large sum Mr. Blaine's share has been about one-seventh. "That mine appears to be misnamed," said a friend to him, recently; "it should be called Great Hope instead of Little Hope." "Yes," replied the secretary, "Great Hope would be better. I have already got from that mine \$1,800 for every one invested, and have the stock left." Mr. Blaine is also a large stockholder in the Pride of Erin mine at Leadville, which is paying dividends of \$25,000 a month.

Secretary Blaine's wonderful memory for names and faces is almost daily demonstrated by actual test. A few days ago ex-Congressman Thomas, of Illinois, took a cousin of his to call at the state department. "Blaine won't remember me," said the cousin, who is a Chicagoan named Saunders. "I never met him but once, and that was only for a couple of minutes, here in his office, when he was secretary of state under Garfield. It would be simply miraculous if he were to remember my face, let alone my name, at this late day." The ex-congressman had so much confidence in Blaine's memory that he wagered the secretary would either call him by name or remember his face and tell where and under what circumstances they had last met. When the pair entered the room of the secretary of state Mr. Blaine stepped forward to give greeting to Thomas. This done, he turned to the cousin, held Saunders' hand ten or fifteen seconds, looking him meanwhile in the eye, and finally saying: "I am glad to see you, Mr. Saunders. Eight years have passed since we met in this very room." And thus Thomas won the wager.

Among the many office seekers still remaining in Washington is one whose case possesses more than ordinary interest. Mrs. Col. Young, widow of one of North Carolina's most prominent Republicans, wants the postoffice in her town, and could get it if her congressman would endorse her papers. This the congressman refuses to do. "And just to think," says Mrs. Young, "that my husband and I once owned this congressman. Mr. Cheatham was once our slave. His middle name is Plummer, and that is what we used to call him. I can remember the little mulatto boy so well. Dozens of times I said to my husband: 'Don't keep little Plummer out there in the cold holding the horse. Tie the horse and let the boy come in to the fire.' I was very kind to the little fellow, and he used to think everything of us, but now that our slave has become our congressman he doesn't seem to wish to be kind to me. He has even proposed that I agree to take a minor clerkship here in one of the departments, as he has decided to put one of his colored constituents in the postoffice, and he wants to get me out of the way."

Writing of newspaper men reminds me of an old duty which often falls to them in the regular run of business. If the subscribers of metropolitan daily newspapers knew the trouble they were putting people to with their never ceasing inquiries about naturalization laws, land laws, etc., perhaps they would be more modest in their requests. Let us follow one of these inquiries from start to finish. It was received through the mails in the office of a Chicago newspaper. The managing editor assigned it to one of his assistants. This painstaking and patient gentleman spent three hours in the office library trying to find out the information asked for, but without success. He reported his failure to the managing editor, and that personage merely exclaimed: "Wire the Washington office to look it up."

In ten minutes the Washington correspondent had started his young man for the department of justice with the telegraphed inquiry between his fingers. At the department he was told: "We never answer questions. In fact, it is against the law for us to give opinions that are not asked for by the president or members of his cabinet. Besides, if it were to become known that we were answering legal questions to everybody, it is my belief that inside of a month we'd be getting 50,000 letters of that sort a day. I can't answer your question, but I will show you where you can find the information you seek." And after a few moments' inspection of a big book the assistant correspondent was on his way to his office with the solution of the problem in his pocket. In a few minutes the answer was speeding over the wires Chicagoward, and next morning "Old Subscriber" picked up his paper, read with much satisfaction the slight but clear and comprehensive response to his query, and said to himself: "It doesn't seem to be a bit of trouble for these newspaper fellows to answer questions. They know everything."

WALTER WELLMAN.
Mr. Broughton's Art Address.
Mr. Broughton, A. R. A., delivered an interesting address at Birmingham lately, on distributing the prizes at the Municipal School of Art. He cited to the students the words of his own master: "Don't talk of what you want to do, or don't want to do, or what you are going to do, but go and do your best, and let that talk for you." Others besides art students would do well to take this advice to heart.—London Truth.

Chattel Mortgage Sale.
Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the second judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein John L. Farnell is plaintiff, and Emil Schultz et al defendants, I will, at 2 o'clock p. m., on the 15 day of May A. D. 1889, at the front entrance to the district court rooms in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to wit: The north west quarter of section No. 26 township No. 7 north of range No. 5 east of the 6th P. M., Lancaster county, Nebraska. Given under my hand this 10th day of April A. D. 1889.
S. M. Melick, Sheriff.

Chattel Mortgage Sale.
To all whom it may concern. You are hereby notified that on the 20th day of April 1889 at 2 o'clock p. m. at the Halter block in West Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, by authority of a chattel mortgage executed Oct. 9th 1888, by Grant & McGoff to Benson & Parkington and by them assigned to me and filed for record in the office of the county clerk of Lancaster County, Nebraska. On the 9th day of Oct. 1888, as No. 2521 of chattel mortgages, I will sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash the following articles of personal property, to wit: "All fixtures in the saloon building owned by A. Halter on lots 7 and 8 in block 17 West Lincoln, also all merchandise and partitions in said room, in said building, said room being west room."

Default has been made in the terms of said mortgage and the mortgagee feels himself unable and insecure there is now due this 30th day of March 1889, the sum of \$733.00.

A. HALTER, Assignee of Benson & Parkington
By Talbot & Bryan, his Attys.

Chattel Mortgage Sale.
To all whom it may concern. You are hereby notified that on the 23rd day of April, 1889, at 2 o'clock p. m. at the Halter block in West Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, by authority of a chattel mortgage executed by C. W. Welsh and U. S. Grant to me dated November 15th, 1888 and filed for record in the office of the county clerk of Lancaster County Nebraska, November, 6th 1888, as No. 2957 of chattel mortgages I will sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash the following articles of personal property, to wit: 2 pool tables, 1 billiard table 32 pool balls, 4 ivory billiard balls, 3 cue racks 20 cues, 3 bridges, 2 ball racks, 2 strings of beads, 1 pin pool board, 4 chalk holders, 12 billiard room chairs, round walnut table, 4 lamps with shades and hanging attachments, 1 counter, till and back shelf, 1 looking glass, 2 pictures, 9 goblets, 5 glasses, stove, 10 joints of pipe, tobacco cutter, small iron stove, brooms 3 screen doors with hangings, 1 board partition, bedstead, springs and mattress and bed clothes, wash stand, table covers, ice tank and all other articles of personal property used in connection with the billiard hall all of said articles above described being situated in the billiard hall formerly occupied by said mortgages in Halter's block in West Lincoln, Nebraska.

Default has been made in the terms of said mortgage and the mortgagee feels himself unable and insecure there is now due this 30th day of March, 1889 the sum of \$589.00.

J. S. BARWICK, Mortgagee.
By Talbot & Bryan his Attys.

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