

The Sun

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The Senate and the Burton Case

If the Senate desired to exercise its constitutional right to expel Joseph Ralph Burton of Kansas for crime, the precedent in the case of William Blount, a Senator from Tennessee, might be followed.

In the discussion preceding the Blount investigation the Senate decided that as it was the sole judge of the qualifications of its members it could act independently of any criminal proceedings.

In the Burton case there have been criminal proceedings, beginning early in 1904 and including two convictions under Section 1782 of the Revised Statutes.

But the language of the Hale resolution, "That the Committee on Privileges and Elections be directed to examine into the legal effect of the late decision of the Supreme Court," indicates a desire to let the law take its course.

Trusts and Trusts

The immediate activity of the so-called anti-trust law gives every promise of raising some very interesting issues. In theory the purpose of the Administration, operating through the Department of Justice, is the protection of the community against robbery by monopolistic combinations.

The question becomes particularly interesting if the factor of percentage of profits is made the test of good and evil. In granting a patent on a mechanical device the Government grants a monopoly in the manufacture of the device.

The border line of conspiracy for the control of selling prices is vague. An unincorporated association known as the National Association of Retail Druggists has been enjoined because, we understand, of an agreement to maintain certain prices for certain drugs.

The price of a spool of thread or a yard of a particular grade and brand of calico will be the same in all dry goods stores in a certain area. The price of sausages and beefsteak, of spices and molasses, will be similarly fixed by agreement or mutual understanding.

of the price paid by the consumer does not appear as an active factor in the prosecution of alleged trusts, which are usually not trusts at all.

On their present acute trade and combinations are modern institutions. "Trust busting" is an infant industry. It is not a game to be played recklessly or merely for the purpose of making political capital.

The Duma Confronting Russia's Main Problem

Although the members of the Duma were exasperated by the Czar's refusal to receive their deputation in person, the leaders of the Constitutional Democrats again gave proof of singular discretion and ability to dominate an excited assembly.

It is unquestionably true that a large and increasing fraction of the agriculturists who constitute at least three-fourths of Russia's population the most pressing need is for food, not freedom.

But the language of the Hale resolution, "That the Committee on Privileges and Elections be directed to examine into the legal effect of the late decision of the Supreme Court," indicates a desire to let the law take its course.

More than one project for a further distribution of land has been the subject of official discussion during the last six months, but no agreement was reached, although with strange fatuity the so-called Fundamental Law, proclaimed March 7, forbade the Duma, upon which the solution of the problem was through bureaucratic delay devolved.

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group, these two factions collectively comprising more than seventy members, to demand the complete abolition of individual ownership, and the substitution of a system providing for the full nationalization of land, such as was advocated by the late Henry George.

The primary contents of that will be more interesting than those struggles have been heretofore, because of the number of leaders whose old districts have been wiped out by the new Assembly apportionment.

The present primary law was not in force when the apportionment on the basis of 1905 was made. Under the old system the distribution of leadership was made without State supervision.

A New Federal Judge for New York

On Monday the House of Representatives passed Senate Bill No. 5533, authorizing and directing the President of the United States to appoint an additional District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

The Kaiser legend, Kaiser Leo is inextinguishable. Now the German Emperor discovers a soldier firing without adjusting his sights properly and whispers in his ear: "You follow, that will cost you one day if anybody sees you."

The veterans pension bill passed by the Legislature was a measure for which nothing of good can be said. Governor Higgins has done well to veto it. One State House of the class would do it. One in the enactment of others, and the civil service pension law, advocated and supported by all the employees of the State and its political subdivisions, is always held just around the corner, waiting only a favorable opportunity for enactment.

The Hon. Edward Payson Weston proves that he is a better pedestrian at 68 than he was in his twenties. Dr. O'Shea should be notified at once.

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