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GUFFAWS FROM WASHINGTON

LIGHT AND AIRY THINGS ABOUT CONGRESSMAN.

A Clever Hit Regarding Columbia.
A Discussion of Ghosts—Cannon Wears Two Collars—How Curtis Became a Lawyer.

Special to the Ardmoreite.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The apparent agreement entered into by the members of the house and senate to admit, during the present session of congress, two states which are to be formed out of the four territories, Arizona and New Mexico, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, is not at all pleasing to the citizens of Arizona and New Mexico. They have looked like a Texas broncho but it is now apparent that their bucking will avail them nothing. They must either walk up to the trough and drink the liquor poured therein by the Republicans or remain away and continue under their territorial form of government. I asked Delegate Bernard S. Rodey the other day what the people of New Mexico and Arizona thought of the proposition to put them in one state?

"They don't like it," he replied. "They think that they are entitled to double statehood, and I agree with them entirely. But at the same time, if congress says that we can only have but one state, we may be compelled to accept it. We will then be in about the same position that Mary Ann was when one cold evening she and Pat returned from a visit to a neighbor."

"He gorry," says Pat, "Mary Ann, it is the coldest night I ever did see."

"Yes, you're dead right," says Mary Ann.

"Mary Ann, a little toddy wouldn't go bad," said Pat.

"Oh, Pat! I've taken the pledge, and I've sworn that I never would voluntarily take a drop of intoxicants. But, Pat, you might pour me out a drop and force me to take it."

Since it was proposed in senate debate to recompense Columbia, if necessary, for what Panama did for her, a prominent Democratic senator who is opposed to the treaty under present conditions, has characterized the proposition in a private conversation, as the "gold cure for the Panama jag." The phrase is already going the rounds of the capitol.

Strange things, even ghosts are discussed in the senate when orators digress. Senator Carmack, in criticizing the president observed that he lacked "that essential quality of Banquo, which teaches valor to get in safety."

"Whose quality?" interposed Senator Spooner.

"Banquo's quality," said Mr. Carmack, curtly. "I will tell you about Banquo some time."

"His ghost was too thin to have any quality," asserted Senator Spooner.

"He was a man before he was a

ghost," eagerly observed Senator Tillman, looking with metaphysical air over his spectacles.

"But it was the ghost the senator from Tennessee was talking about, not the man," returned Mr. Spooner. "I was talking about the man and not the ghost," asserted Mr. Carmack, who ended the colloquy by quoting off-hand a passage from Shakespeare.

Senator Cannon entered his private office the other morning much pre-occupied. Neal, the colored messenger of a succession of speakers, noticed there was something lacking in Mr. Cannon's attire. The cravat was missing.

In fact, the speaker had come all the way from his residence without one. He was worried by the discovery. Just a few moments before he had come from the barber shop where he had made another discovery, which he has not yet been able to fully explain.

As he was about to take his seat in the tonsorial artist's chair it was suggested to him that he would do well to take off his collar. Then Mr. Cannon pinched himself to see whether he was asleep or waking.

"I thought I had just removed that collar," said he, and he went to the hook on the wall and satisfied his old eyes that he had. There was the particular piece of linen suspended. But he could not dispute that there was another collar around his neck and he removed it to the same hook upon the wall.

Mr. Cannon had come to the capitol wearing two collars, but no cravat. How he got them on the speaker does not know, but it was done some how in a fit of abstraction.

Representative Francis W. Cushman, the picturesque man from the far-away state of Washington, is heartily cursing the hour when he made his reputation in the halls of congress as an orator.

The morning after he delivered his famous speech on the rules of the house that lanky and humorous member awoke to find himself famous. He is now learning that fame as an orator has its burdens as well as its advantages. It is decidedly an "off day" when he does not have one or more delegates besieging him to make a speech somewhere between Maine and Missouri.

A short time ago the Kansas members had Mr. Cushman surrounded and were almost tearing his clothes off in an effort to secure him as the attraction at some Republican pow-wow soon to be held in Topeka. Mr. Cushman insisted that he could not possibly go. One enthusiastic Kansas member pulled a telegram out of his pocket and shouted:

"Listen to this," and then read: "Bring either Senator Hanna or Congressman Cushman."

"There," he said, "what do you think of that?"

"Well," with the suggestion of a twinkle in his eye, "I think that is a very handsome compliment to the senator. You ought to go right over to the senate and show it to him."

The Washington Post prints a good story about Charles Curtis, representative from the first Kansas congressional district. "Charlie," as he is commonly known, is looked upon as the Indian legislator of the house. The following story describes his

early career, which will be read with interest by many young men who have ambition to become lawyers throughout the country:

"Congressman Charles Curtis of Kansas, father of a great deal of Indian legislation, had a unique career when a lad. Straight out in life the Indian member of the house, as Mr. Curtis is frequently referred to, he began as a race horse jockey, then a hack driver, studied law, became county attorney and finally landed in congress, where he has served for seven consecutive terms."

"The story goes that one day in the early '70s, Judge A. H. Case sat reading in his law office in Topeka when the door opened and a dark haired, dark skin lad entered. He was a sturdy well built youth of about fourteen years, and his coal black eyes and hair and high cheek bones suggested the Indian blood, which flowed in his veins. His clean, but patched clothing bespoke poverty, and there was a manly air about him as he stepped up to the judge, who turned and said:

"Why, Charley, you seem to be in a good deal of a hurry for such a hot day. What's up?"

"Oh, I'm not in a hurry, Judge Case," replied the boy eagerly. "I have decided to make a lawyer of myself and I want an education, and I want to know if you can't give me a chance to do your office work and in pay for it, let me read law with you?"

"Well, well, I hardly know what to say to that proposition," said the judge. "There are more poor lawyers now than that profession can support."

"But there aren't more good ones, and I'm not going to make a poor lawyer of myself, Judge Case," replied the boy quickly. "There's room up round the top of things, isn't there? I hope you will take me and give me a chance, for I'm bound to be a lawyer and I'll promise you I won't be a poor one if hard work and study will make me a good one."

"If you feel that way about it," replied the judge, "I guess I will venture to take you upon your own terms," and the next day Curtis began his real career.

In 1881 Mr. Curtis was admitted to the bar and shortly afterwards began practicing with Judge Case. He soon won a local reputation and in 1884 he was elected county attorney of Shawnee county. In 1885 he was reelected to the same office and during that entire term he did not lose a single case in the district court. During the fall of the second year of his latter term he became a candidate for congress and defeated his Democratic opponent by an overwhelming majority. Because of his popularity at home and his excellent service in the house, it has been impossible for anyone to secure his seat in the National legislature.

QUAY'S STATEHOOD BILL

ADVOCATES OF SEPARATE STATEHOOD TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

Provides for an Indian Senator—Brings up the Color Question—Says no Law Restricting Suffrage Rights of Negro.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Senator Quay's statehood bill is as unique as its author. Last night it was stated that the advocates for separate statehood for Oklahoma had been taken by surprise. Quay had stood in one of the bitterest fights ever made in congress for statehood for Oklahoma as it is now defined. He fought to the closing days of congress and made a speech just before midnight in which he declared that four states would knock for admission in this congress; that New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Indian Territory would ask for admission as separate states.

Statehood promoters thought they could count on Quay to support separate statehood bills. Everybody else was of the same opinion. He had publicly said as much, according to the universal interpretation of his remarks in the Congressional Record. Yesterday Senator Quay came forward with a statehood bill which was returned in printed form today. It is like no other statehood bill ever framed by man. In many respects it is the Robinson bill, but all through it are provisions which are essentially Quay's.

The Hon. Dennis Flynn and the Hon. Byrd McGuire, to say nothing of the Hon. Sidney Clark and numerous other honorables, do not know what to make of it. What is more, Senator Quay, the sphinx, has declined to discuss the subject with them. They are in the air with a heavy sea below them. One of the most remarkable provisions in the Quay bill is in this language: "At least one of the United States senators representing said state shall be of Indian descent." The able constitutional lawyers who have wrestled with statehood problems are agreed that this provision is clearly unconstitutional. They have tried to talk to Quay about it but his reply is, "It is my bill." Over in Pennsylvania that would make the law constitutional, but it is pretty generally believed that Quay cannot over-ride the Constitution of the United States.

This insertion in a statehood bill is only an illustration of the manner in which Quay stands by his pledge. It is a tradition, that Quay, who is a Quaker, has Indian blood in his veins. Be this as it may, the Pennsylvania senator never enjoyed an outing more in his life than the one last summer in Indian Territory. His announced intention was to visit the territory only for game, but when the Indian population and other citizens found he was in their midst, they united to do him honor.

Upon one late occasion a banquet was served and among other distinguished figures present were several Indian chiefs, Chief Porter of the Creeks was present and Chief Rogers of the Cherokees. Hattbutt Micco, chief of the Seminoles, who is now in Washington fighting for statehood, was among the banqueters, and so was Green McCurtain. Quay responded to a toast and among other things said that if the people wanted statehood they should have it so far as he was concerned.

"Moreover, I will introduce a bill," said the senator, "which will provide that one of the senators from the new state shall be of Indian descent." Nobody took the remark seriously. The banqueters thought it was a pleasantry of the occasion. The local newspapers discussed the observation good naturedly and there was much speculation as to what particular Indian should be honored when the Quay bill became a law. But Quay never forgot, and the section quoted was written in the Robinson bill by his own hand.

Still another provision of the Quay bill has attracted wide attention. If it is insisted upon it will precipitate a political discussion almost as heated as those which immediately antedated the civil war. The section in question reads: "The said state shall never enact a law restricting or abridging the rights of suffrage on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, nor shall any political qualification be imposed upon the right of suffrage."

Here is a brand new departure in statehood legislation attempting to prevent any of the steps which have been taken in southern states to disfranchise negroes. Indian Territory has a large negro population. In the Creek Nation alone there are 7,000 freedmen, and those voters make the Creek Nation Republican. The Cherokees had slaves and the Chickasaws. Commerce country has negroes in abundance. The strength of statehood lies in the particularly solid support of the Democrats. The senator who fought to the death any such provision of the anti-slave fight, and was pre-empted by Quay without warning of any kind from any quarter.

The first part of the Quay bill is almost identical with the Robinson bill and the latter part is identical with the Stevens statehood bill. Between these two Quay has incorporated his own particular ideas regarding statehood legislation. He would give the new state six members of the lower house of congress and provide for two federal districts. Ten million dollars are to be appropriated by congress as a school fund in lieu of the impossibility of setting apart school lands in the Indian Territory. The provision in regard to Oklahoma school land is a copy of the act admitting Wyoming, and provides for their sale at public sale at not less than \$10 an acre.

TOOK DESPERATE CHANCES.

Negro Prisoner Jumps From Car Window of Train and Escapes.

Sherman, Tex., Jan. 21.—By jumping from the window of a rapidly moving Texas and Pacific passenger train yesterday morning at a point two miles from Whitesboro, Bill Smith, a negro prisoner, managed to escape from the clutches of Deputy Sheriff Ben Davenport of this city.

The negro was arrested on suspicion at Toiga Tuesday afternoon and the sheriff's office notified from that place. Deputy Davenport was sent after the negro the same afternoon, returning by way of Collinsville yesterday morning. He boarded the eastbound Texas and Pacific with his prisoner. When about two miles east of Whitesboro the negro asked permission to step to the rear car, which was granted. Taking advantage of the opportunity, Smith jumped from a rear window while the train was in rapid motion. As soon as his escape was discovered, Davenport stopped the train and went back in search of the prisoner, scouring the country for a radius of several miles, without discovery. The place from where the negro jumped from the train was plowed up as if a heavy load had been thrown upon it. It is thought that Smith made for Fort Worth, where efforts will be made to intercept him. It is thought that the negro is an escaped convict from the state penitentiary. He is about 22 years old, black, and wore a blue duck suit. A reward has been offered for his apprehension.

HEARING POSTPONED.

The Preliminary Hearing of Reed at Durant Postponed Till Monday.

Durant, I. T., Jan. 21.—The preliminary hearing of Major Reed, who is charged with murdering his father-in-law, John O'Riley in this city Tuesday morning, which was to have occurred in Commissioner Parker's court here yesterday, has been postponed until next Monday, at the pleasure of the court. Reed has been taken to Atoka and placed behind prison bars and is being closely guarded. The crime with which Reed is charged is one of the most cold-blooded in the history of the town and excitement still prevails among our citizens even at this time, although no further trouble is feared.

Girl Victim of Cigarettes.

Chicago, Jan. 21.—Miss Fannie McNab, said to be a victim of the cigarette habit, has been adjudged insane before Judge Carter. She is 33 years old and evidence was introduced to show that she had smoked a package of cigarettes every day for years. Two years ago she was treated at a sanitarium and was supposed to have been cured but the habit regained its hold on her. She was ordered sent to the Kankakee asylum.

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