

Speaking Against Time, and Winning.

The longest speech on record is believed to have been that made by Mr. De Cosmos in the Legislature of British Columbia, when a measure was pending whose passage would take from a great many settlers their lands. De Cosmos was in hopeless minority. The job had been held back till the eve of the close of the session. Unless legislation was taken before noon of a given day the act of confiscation would fail. The day before the limitation expired, De Cosmos got the floor about 10 A. M., and began a speech against the bill. His friends cared little, for they supposed that by 1 or 2 o'clock he would be through, and the bill could be put upon its passage. One o'clock came and De Cosmos was speaking still—hadn't more than entered upon his subject. Two o'clock—he was saying "in the second place." Three o'clock—he found a fearful bundle of evidence, and insisted on reading it. The majority began to have a suspicion of the truth—he was going to speak till the next day and kill the bill. For a while they made merry over it, but as it came on to dusk they began to get alarmed. They tried interruptions, but soon abandoned them, because each one afforded him a chance to digress and gain time.

They tried to shout him down, but that gave him a breathing space, and finally they settled down to watch the combat between strength of will and weakness of body. They gave him mercy. No adjournment for dinner; no chance to do more than wet his lips with water; no wandering from the subject; no sitting down. Twilight darkened; the gas was lit, members slipped out in relays and returned to sleep in squads, but De Cosmos kept on. The speaker, to whom he was addressing himself, was alternately dozing, snoring, and trying to look wide awake. Day dawned, and the majority slipped out in squads to breakfast, and the speaker held on. It can't be said it was a very logical, eloquent or sustained speech. There were digressions in it, repetitions also. But still the speaker kept on; and at last noon came to a baffled majority, livid with rage and impotence, and a single man, who was triumphant, though his voice had sunk to a husky whisper, his eyes were almost shut, and were bleared and bloodshot, his legs tottered under him, and his baked lips were cracked and smeared with blood. He had spoken twenty-six hours, and saved the settlers their lands.—*Courier-Journal.*

The Coushatta people are rejoiced that the Congressional Committee has been instructed to investigate the recent killing of King and wounding of Twitchell. As will be seen by our Coushatta letter, they also desire an investigation of the affair of 1874 and the causes which led to it. We were sure that they desired this investigation. If it is thorough, it will show the white people of Red River in an entirely different light from that in which Kellogg and the Republican have represented them, and it will expose the rascalities and outrages of Twitchell, Dewees and company in that country. When a fair, able and energetic committee tackles Radical rule in Red River, and North Louisiana generally, we will have some interesting reading. Nobody in Red River fears this investigation but Twitchell and his brother thieves. [N. O. Democrat.]

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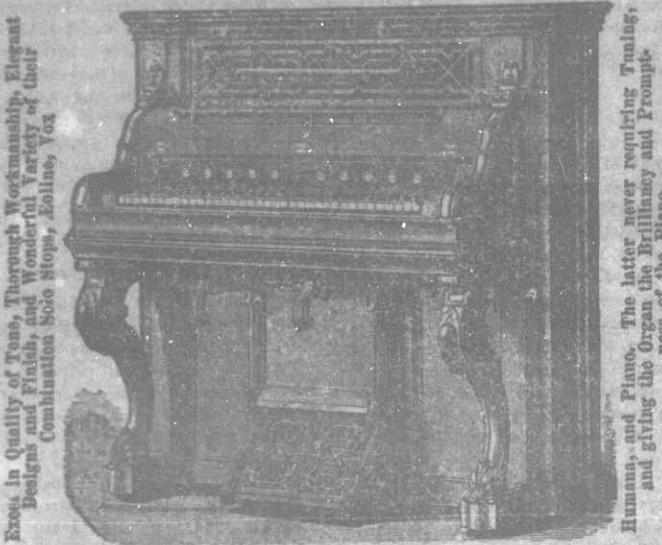
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