# SENATE RED LIGHTS.

## When They Shine, August Body Is in Secret Session.

### What Happens Then Behind the Well-Guarded Doors Nobody Gets to Know, Except in Isolated Cases.

[Special Washington Letter.]

THIS government of ours is divided into three branches, which are equal in power under the constitution. The executive, meaning the president, who controls all of the executive departments; the legislative, including the senate and house of representatives, and the judicial, which means the supreme court.

The executive and legislative branches of the government are elected by the people; but the supreme court is composed of individuals appointed by the president, and confirmed by the senate. Consequently, the supreme court is farthest removed from the people, although it is, and always has been, the safe conservator of the rights of the people under their constitution. It was the purpose of the framers of the constitution to give to the people everlastingly the right to choose their own president and legislators; but, with wise discretion, they removed from the direct power of popular impulse, the great judicial tribunal. Therefore, in this government of the people, by the people and for the people, the supreme court is free from the immediate power of the people.

Of course, the people elect their presidents, and those presidents nominate judges of the supreme court. Of course, the people, through their legislatures, elect the senators who confirm the judicial nominations, which are made by the president; but when those judges are installed they are so far removed from the people that their judgments are free from any political influence whatever. On this account, mainly, the decisions of the supreme court have universally been commended by fair minded men of all political affiliations. Even the famous Dred Scott decision is admitted to have been an absolutely correct interpretation of the constitution; because the constitution, unamended, gave the negro "no rights which a white man was bound to respect." Even the amended constitution does not compel that respect which was intended to be compelled, because there has always been a lack of vigor in the enforcement of the amendments and of the civil rights statute.

It has become the duty of President Roosevelt to select two justices of the supreme court, and those selections have met with popular approval, as well as senatorial consent. Other presidents have had great difficulty, at times, in selecting for these important positions men whose nominations were wholly in accord with the views of a majority of the senators.

The nominations sent to the senate by the president are always considered in executive session; and what senators say when all of the doors are closed cannot be ascertained by the general public. In those sessions the statesmen talk very freely, and vent their views without always maintaining that decorum of demeanor and that courtesy to each other, which are proverbial when the senate is in public session.

When the senate is in executive session a red light appears over the

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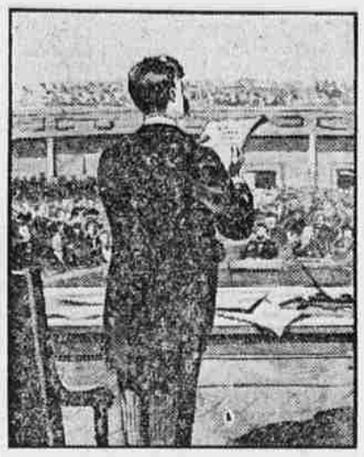
closed doors. It is a nest of electric lights dimly shining through scarlet bulbs, the whole enclosed in a ground glass bulb which is blood red. In other cities the red lights are significant of other conditions; while here, in the temple of national legislation over the entrances of the Sanhedrim of the chosen ones, the red light indicates that exclusiveness profound is ordered. On the inside the legislative deities are considering executive appointments and sifting treaties with foreign governments.

Not only do the red lights indicate that the senate is in executive session. The glittering uniforms of the capitol police officials who surround the chamber, keep the people moving in the corridors, while two sit at either side of each of the grand marble stairways leading to the galleries. Every public entrance is closed. It looks as though the senate had been hermetically sealed. The atmosphere is permeated with awe. One is so deeply impressed that a chilly sensation chases up and down your back, while shrinking from the sacred silence. If one moves too near a door, one of the men in uniform taps the shoulder of the intruder, and in an undertaker's whisper reminds him that the senate is in executive session.

Unless memory is unusually treacherous, it was in 1886 that a postmaster was appointed for Kankakee, Ill., whose nomination made the senate, in executive session, red hot. The enemies of the man appointed got so busy that they called him all sorts of names, and undertook to prove it. If the stories told in executive session at that time had been made public there would have been a lot of trouble in Kankakee.

Then again, in 1894, when the nomination of Alex. Charles to be postmaster at Cedar Rapids, Ia., was under consideration, the senate had an awfully hot time over the charges that were filed. It was alleged that Mr. Charles had done everything on earth except say his prayers and be a good citizen. However, he was confirmed, in the long run.

But to return to the supreme court nominations. President Grant nominated Mr. Williams, of Oregon, to be chief justice, and Senator Sumner made such a hot fight against confirmation that the name was withdrawn. Then Grant nominated Caleb Cushing to be



READING CUSHING'S LETTER.

chief justice, but there was bitter opposition. Finally Secretary of State Fish went personally to the senate and begged for Cushing's confirmation. The opposition was melting away gradually, when Parson Brownlow sent to the clerk's desk and had read a letter from Caleb Cushing, dated March 20, 1861, to "Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy," recommending Archibald Roane, and saying: "He resigns his position in the attorney general's office from sentiments of devotion to that which alone he can feel to be his country, namely, the confederate states. I most heartily commend him as a gentleman to your confidence and esteem."

And that ended Cushing's nomination. Senator Conkling had been championing Cushing's cause; but he quit, promptly. The nomination was at once withdrawn.

Twenty years later President Cleveland experienced similar difficulty. He nominated William B. Hornblower to be associate justice, but Senator Hill prevented his confirmation. Then Cleveland nominated Wheeler H. Peckham, and Senator Hill made an awfully bitter fight, claiming that Peckham, as well as Hornblower, had been instrumental in defeating state tickets; so this nomination was defeated. Then Cleveland nominated Rufus W. Peckham, and he was confirmed.

While the corridors are awesome with dignity, the senate in executive session sometimes becomes a turmoil. This is especially so when friends of the administration are urging the confirmation of some nomination which is particularly objectionable to an individual senator. It is narrated that when a man whom Senator Pettigrew had cause to dislike, if not hate, was nominated to be postmaster at Sioux Falls, Senator Pettigrew resorted to the use of language so forcible that some of the older senators stopped their ears in dismay. But that was Pettigrew's hardest fight; and he won out. Then, after Stanley Matthews had been a senator for six years, and his name was sent to the senate for a position on the supreme bench, all of the enemies of a lifetime began buzzing like bees in a tar barrel, and Matthews only squeezed through the executive session by a majority of one. It was a close call. He had been a good soldier, a good senator and he became a good associate justice.

During the McKinley administrations and during the present administration there have been no conflicts between the executive and the senate. McKinley and his successor seem to have found it not difficult to ascertain, in advance, something concerning the views of the senate, and respected those views as some other presidents have not done. One of the older senators says: "There seemed to be no need of the conflict which arose over the removal of Conkling's friend, Chester A. Arthur, from the collectorship of the port of New York. That called forth the greatest speech I ever heard in all my life; the speech of Senator Conkling in defense of Arthur; a speech four hours long, holding the senate in rapt attention during all of that time; a speech begun in the sunlight and concluded in the moonlight. That conflict was needlessly precipitated, and produced tremendous consequences.

Until the close of this session of the congress, at noon of March 4, there will be many executive sessions of the senate, for the president must make numerous nominations, all of which will require senatorial concurrence. The red lights will be shining over the doors and the uniformed officials will be there, and what is said in executive session we will never know.

There is at least one untarnished free masonry which cannot be betrayed. And the red lights will continue to shine. SMITH D. FRY.

**Talk of the Hardware.**

Burglar, to Accomplice—Screw up your courage, Bill, we'll get nailed if we don't bolt.—Harvard Lampoon.

# A THOUSAND PERISH.

## Terrible Disaster Reported from Society Group of Islands.

### Swept by a Tidal Wave and Hurricane—Over One Thousand Natives Perish—Eighty of the Islands Devastated.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—News of fearful loss of life in a destructive storm that swept over the South Sea islands last month reached here Sunday by the steamer Mariposa direct from Tahiti. The loss of life is estimated at 1,000 souls. On January 13 last a huge tidal wave, accompanied by a terrific hurricane, attacked the Society islands and the Puamotu group with fearful force, causing death and devastation never before equalled in a land of dreaded storms. The storm reigned several days, reaching its maximum strength between January 14 and January 16. From the meager news received at Tahiti up to the time of the sailing of the Mariposa it is estimated that 1,000 of the islanders lost their lives. It is feared that later advices will add to the list.

**Eighty Islands Devastated.**

The first news of the disaster arrived at Papeete, Tahiti, January 26, on the schooner Eimeo. The captain of the schooner placed the fatalities at 500. The steamer Excelsior arrived at Papeete the following day with 400 destitute survivors. The captain of the Excelsior estimated the total loss of life to be 800. These figures comprised only the deaths on the three islands of Hao, Hikuera and Makokau, whose ordinary population is 1,800. On Hikuera island, where 1,000 inhabitants were engaged in pearl diving, nearly one-half were drowned. On an adjacent island 100 more were washed out to sea. Makeno and Hao are depopulated. Conservative estimates at Tahiti place the number of islands visited by tidal wave and hurricane at 80. All of them are under the control of the French governor at Tahiti. The surviving inhabitants are left destitute of food, shelter and clothing, all having been swept away by the storm.

**Relief Measures.**

The French government upon receipt of news of the disaster, took prompt measures to relieve the distressed district and dispatched two warships, the Duranee and Zelee, with fresh water and provisions. The Italian man of war Calabria accompanied the two French vessels on their errand of mercy. As the supply of fresh water and provisions was totally exhausted by the storm it is feared that many lives will be lost before the relief ships arrive.

As far as is known eight white people were among the drowned. Included in these were Alexander Brander, N. P. Plunkett, of Oakland; T. D. Donnelly, formerly a fireman on the steamship Australia, and the local agent of C. Coppenrath, a merchant of Papeete. Added to this number was an unknown woman who committed suicide from fright.

**Sought Refuge in Trees.**

As the islands were barely 20 feet above sea level, and not surrounded by coral reefs, it was necessary for all the inhabitants to take to the cocoanut trees when the tidal wave began to cover the land. These trees grow to an immense height, many reaching an altitude of 100 feet. All of the lower trees were covered by the raging sea, which swept with pitiless force about and over them. The natives in the taller trees were safe until the cocoanut roots gave way and then they, too, were swept onward far out into the sea.

**Swim to Ships.**

The 400 survivors brought by the Excelsior to Papeene gained the ship's side by swimming three and four miles from the tops of the cocoanut trees. The Eimeo, though badly damaged by the storm, brought off as many persons as could swim to her sides, she, like the Excelsior, being unable to run close to the shores because of the fearful violence of the ocean swells.

One of the many acts of heroism reported is that of a woman who climbed one of the tall cocoanut trees and lashed her little babe to the branches, hanging onto the body of the tree beneath the little one as best she could. There they remained for ten hours, suffering great torture until finally rescued.

Thousands of tons of copra and over 200 tons of mother of pearl shells are known to be lost. The pearl shells are valued at $1,800 per ton, and many valuable pearls may now be lost to the world forever, as these were considered some of the best pearl islands in the world.

**Wonderful Gold Strike.**

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 7.—Edward M. Sturgess, a prospector from Mexico, near Douglass, Ariz., reports a tremendous gold strike in the Terres mountains, about 40 miles from Cos, terminus of the Nacozari railroad. Sturgess claims to have taken $150,000 gold in the last six weeks with a very crude outfit. Samples of ore are said to run as high as 3,600 ounces of gold to the ton, with a value of about $72,000.

**Suspected of Murder.**

Cleveland, O., Feb. 9.—Solomon Spiegelstein, a rag peddler, 40 years old, was found dead in a lower room of his apartments Sunday morning with his head and body crushed and mutilated in a horrible manner. Ignatz Zahn, his roommate, has been arrested by the police and is being held on suspicion.

**Orders New Ferryboats.**

Cleveland, O., Feb. 9.—The Pere Marquette Railway company has placed an order with the American Shipbuilding company for two big car ferry steamers to cost about $750,000.

# PRESIDENT DECLINES TO ARBITRATE.

## Allied Powers Dissatisfied With Bowen's Attitude---Ask President to Arbitrate Question of Preferential Payment ---He Refuses.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Irritated by the note of Minister Bowen, Venezuela's representative, addressed to the British ambassador on Monday last, refusing to accept the allies' proposal for a scheme of preferential payments, by which Great Britain, Germany and Italy were to receive 20 per cent. and the remaining eight creditor nations ten percent. of the customs of La Guayra and Porto Cabello, the allied powers have instructed their representatives now to submit the question of preferential treatment for settlement to President Roosevelt, and in the event that he declines to act as arbiter to take this, and possibly the entire Venezuela question, to The Hague for settlement, thereby breaking off negotiations with Mr. Bowen.

**Will Not Serve.**

Washington, Feb. 7. — President Roosevelt has declined the invitation of the allied powers to arbitrate the question as to whether they shall receive preferential treatment in the settlement of their claims against Venezuela over the other creditor nations. He reached this decision shortly before four o'clock Friday afternoon, and instructed Secretary Hay to dispatch a note to the British embassy at once, advising the British ambassador to that effect. The matter, therefore, now will be referred to The Hague tribunal. This will result in the immediate raising of the blockade.

**Would Not Embarrass Bowen.**

The administration, it is stated in an official quarter, was unwilling to approve the effort of the British government to eliminate Minister Bowen from the negotiations, and moreover the president could not have accepted the invitation of the allies even had he been so disposed, without the consent of the other negotiator, Minister Bowen, and this the allies did not obtain or request in their note of invitation to the president.

**A Victory for Bowen.**

In administration and diplomatic circles, the reference to The Hague is regarded as a victory for Minister Bowen, as Venezuela hereby is enabled to recover from the distressing effect of the blockade before starting upon the payment of her debts. The cumbersome machinery of The Hague, it is expected, will delay matters considerably, and the payment of creditor nations cannot begin until the important question of priority payment for the allies is decided. The finding of The Hague tribunal may not be handed down for some months. The tribunal also will decide the vital question to South American states as to whether blockades and bombardments entitle powers to preferential treatment at the hands of their debtor. Coming from The Hague, it will establish a precedent, while a decision on the point from President Roosevelt would have carried no such weight as decisive of a point of international law. The effect of an adverse finding by the president, therefore, could not have prevented the allied powers from repeating their blockade next month if they desired, whereas an adverse verdict from The Hague would add a new canon to the law of nations and stop such a course of practice completely. It was to gain this principle, which necessarily vitally affects not only the future of Venezuela but of the other republics of this continent, that Mr. Bowen stood out for arbitration by The Hague tribunal instead of by the president.

**A Secret Alliance.**

Washington, Feb. 9.—The existence of a secret treaty between Germany and Italy, by which Germany agreed to secure to Italy the same treatment received in the settlement of the Venezuela affair accorded to Great Britain and Germany, has been discovered. The treaty was made without the knowledge of Great Britain, and Sir Michael Herbert, the British ambassador, only learned of its existence late Saturday afternoon. Its discovery at this late hour cannot affect the settlement of the Venezuelan affair. It will serve, however, to put all of the negotiators more closely on their guard in the drafting of the protocols, which they hope to submit to Minister Bowen during the next few days.

Minister Bowen continues optimistic of an early settlement and speedy raising of the blockade. He is hopeful no perplexing or vexatious problems may intervene now that the matter has progressed so far, and that it will not be long before the whole question is settled in its primary stages, the raising of the blockade, arbitration of the question of the preferential treatment and protocols signed for the settlement of the claims themselves, including those of the allied and of the unallied powers.

The British protocol provides for the reference of the contention of the allies for preferential treatment to The Hague for settlement, for the payment by Venezuela to Great Britain £5,500 cash and for the immediate raising of the blockade. The matter of the adjudication of the claims and the collection of the 30 per cent., out of which they are to be paid, has been left for the second protocol.

## KEPT FROM HER SON.

### Eloping Wife of Saxony's Crown Prince Refused Permission to Nurse Her Boy, Who Is Ill.

Geneva, Feb. 9.—The Crown Princess of Saxony and M. Giron have parted forever, the princess giving up her lover for her children's sake.

The sudden end of the Saxon royal romance is said to be due to the refusal of the Saxon court, influenced by Emperor Francis Joseph, to consent to a divorce. It is reported that the princess sought her father's pardon in order to get permission to see her children, but was refused everything unless she left M. Giron. Her lawyer visited Dresden, but failed to get any concession beyond the offer of a small allowance and the promise if the crown princess gave up M. Giron and returned home, that no legal proceedings would be taken against her.

Dresden, Feb. 9.—The crown princess of Saxony made an urgent request of the Saxon court after her separation from Andre Giron Friday that she be allowed to come to Dresden to nurse her son, Prince Frederick Christian, who is dangerously ill. The matter was debated Saturday by the king of Saxony and his ministers at a special council. It was finally decided to refuse to grant the request of the crown princess. It is believed that the ground for the refusal was partly because it was known that her return to Dresden would be the occasion for a disturbance by the people.

Geneva, Feb. 9.—The counsel for the former crown princess of Saxony announced that owing to the great physical and mental depression caused by the refusal to allow her to visit Salzburg or to see her sick child, the princess on Sunday entered the sanitarium of Lametairie at Nyon in order to seek the quietude and medical attention necessary in her delicate condition. Nyon is situated on the shore of Lake Geneva, in the cantonment of Vaud. The sanitarium is well known for the treatment of mental and nervous disorders.

**Pretender a Prisoner.**

Paris, Feb. 7.—A dispatch from Tangiers says the Moorish pretender, Bu Hamara, is a prisoner in the hands of the Riata tribesmen, who have offered to sell him to the sultan. El Nenebhi, the Moorish minister of war, is now negotiating with the Riata tribe, and it is believed that the pretender will be brought to Fez.

**Historic Hill of Tara Sold.**

Dublin, Feb. 7.—The historic hill of Tara was sold at auction Friday and realized the sum of $18,500. The purchaser was a lady whose name was not announced.

## ANTI-TRUST BILL PASSED.

### The Littlefield Measure Is Adopted by the House by a Vote of 245 to 0.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The Littlefield anti-trust bill passed the house 245 to 0 on roll call.

The bill, as passed, requires corporations "hereafter organized" to file returns covering its articles of incorporation, financial composition, condition, etc., with the interstate commerce commission on penalty of being restrained from engaging in interstate commerce, prescribes penalties for false returns, etc. The commission is given authority in its discretion to call for similar returns from existing corporations doing an interstate business. The commission is given power to compel the answer to questions, and a fine of not to exceed $5,000 is imposed for failure to obey the commission in this respect. Rebates by carriers is made punishable with a fine of not less than $1,000, and corporations violating the provisions of this section are forbidden the use of the instrumentalities of the interstate commerce. Carriers are prohibited from knowingly transporting articles produced, manufactured or sold in violation of the Sherman act. In case of prosecutions, no person is to be excused from testifying on the ground that such testimony would tend to incriminate him, but for such testimony the witness is not to be prosecuted. The circuit courts are given jurisdiction in cases of violation, and it is made the duty of the district attorneys to institute proceedings to prevent violations, and individuals damaged by violations are given authority to sue.

**Policeman Kills a Comrade.**

Bristol, Tenn., Feb. 9.—Policeman Grant Walk shot and instantly killed Policeman Houston Childress, of the Bristol force, Sunday morning at the corner of State and Fourth streets. The shooting resulted from a quarrel. Walk escaped. He was traced to his room, where he had changed his uniform for citizen's clothes.

**A Charity Trust.**

New York, Feb. 7.—A Philanthropy "trust," with $10,000,000 capital is projected by A. O. Crozier, treasurer of the National Corrections and Charities congress. The interest, if millionaires will donate the capital is to be used to afford relief to victims of disasters.

**Terrible Explosion.**

Philadelphia, Feb. 7.—Peter McCallaghan, an employe of the United States arsenal at Frankford, a suburb, was blown to atoms, and Joe Hunter, another employe, was severely injured by the explosion of detonating cartridges.

# CELEBRATED CASE.

## A New York Court Decides It Against Mr. Veazy.

### The Case Has Been in Court for Years—Mr. Veazey Entered Into a Scheme to Depreciate Certain Stocks.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 11.—The court of appeals on Tuesday affirmed the decisions of the courts below dismissing the complaint in the celebrated case of Judge James N. Veazey against the brokerage firm of Henry Allen & Co., of New York City which grew out of the investigations of the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Co., and the American Sugar Refining Co., commonly termed the whisky and sugar trusts, by a congressional committee in 1893. Veazey sued to recover half of the profits made by the stock brokerage company, which he alleged amounted to $500,000 in consequence of a decline in the price of stocks of these two corporations by reason of the congressional investigation.

Veazey had, according to the evidence, entered into a contract with Allen & Co. to bring about the investigation for the purpose of depreciating the stock of the corporations. The evidence shows that Veazey and Walton, his son-in-law, received $16,937, as one-half the profit on certain stocks sold.

He was non-suited on the ground that the contract made was contrary to public policy.

The court of appeals sustains that decision and Judge Werner, in a lengthy opinion, says:

"The investigation was intended to, and did, impair the reputation of the whisky trust and resulted in a substantial decline in the market price of its stocks. That was the end aimed at in said contract. That such a contract is one which in its object, operation and tendency, is calculated to be prejudicial to the public welfare, ought not to be doubted for a moment."

## IN HIS OWN BEHALF.

### Dr. Alexander Testifies About His Dealings with Cantrell, the Grave Robber.

Indianapolis, Feb. 11.—At yesterday's trial of Dr. Alexander he said he was employed to deliver 30 lectures at the Central college on osteology or descriptive anatomy of skeletons, during the school year of 1901-02, and he admitted that it was his duty to procure dissecting material for the college.

"We used possibly ten or twelve bodies a season," he said. He received, all told, $60 for each body.

Dr. Alexander said he hired Cantrell to clean a lot of skeletons in the old college building for $25. Cantrell, whom the defendant then knew as William Rufus, said he had worked about medical colleges and wanted employment. On one occasion, in July, 1902, Dr. Alexander talked with Cantrell about procuring bodies for dissection, the negro saying he had done that kind of work for different colleges and would like to do it again.

Dr. Alexander then made arrangements to supply material of this kind and to be paid $30 for each body delivered at the college. Cantrell afterwards furnished seven bodies to the college, but the witness declared he did not know any graves had been robbed until claims were made for bodies at the college. Dr. Alexander denied having bought tools or revolvers for Cantrell, but admitted he had advanced him money, and had paid his fine in the police court.

**Agreed to Arbitrate.**

Chicago, Feb. 11.—The strike of the elevator men and janitors in the office buildings of Chicago came to an end last night. The abrupt finish of the strike was brought about by the Managers' association receding from the position it had taken in refusing to submit its case to the Chicago board of arbitration. It was claimed by the managers that a majority of the men on this board are friendly to the teamsters, who have been allies of the elevator men in the strike, and that their cases would be prejudiced. They wished a different set of arbitrators. They announced last night that they had become convinced that they would receive fair treatment by the board and agreed to submit the case.

**Shot His Sweetheart and Himself.**

Pittsburg, Feb. 11.—Maggie Hill, a domestic, was fatally injured in her employer's house on Atwood street last night and her escort, Nicholas Glasner, a motorman, was found lying near her in an unconscious condition. The woman had a bullet wound through the right eye, while the man had two wounds in the head.

**A Church Is Robbed.**

Newark, N. J., Feb. 11.—Burglars made a rich haul at Grace Episcopal church yesterday. They gained an entrance into the vestry and ransacked the church, securing vestments valued at $10,000. The burglars tried to break into the safe, in which a costly chalice is kept, but were unable to open it.

**A Very Fatal Explosion.**

Sheboygan, Wis., Feb. 11.—One person was killed, two fatally injured and four others badly bruised as the result of a boiler explosion in the foundry operated by Charles Helminger, at Adell, Sheboygan county. The dead: Raymond Whitting, aged 8 years, killed by flying iron. Fatally injured: Mrs. William Burke, David Hoff. The foundry was demolished and the Burke hotel, across the street, was partially wrecked. The loss on the foundry and hotel will amount to about $25,000. Little insurance was carried.