

PALACE OF THE BOURBONS.

Where the Laws of the French Nation are Enacted.

PEN PICTURES OF PARISIAN LIFE.

How Business is Conducted in the Hall of the Deputies—Where the Public Sit—Defeat of the Ministry.

Paris, July 22.—[Special Correspondence of The Tribune.]—The chamber of deputies has adjourned. But the heated debates of the last few days gave this year's session a termination memorable at least for its charm of excitement.

Only one person can occupy the tribune at a time, but the main difficulty arises when perhaps a half dozen members attempt to speak the tribune at the same moment.

The French chamber has its own mode of voting; for minor questions, the members are called upon to hold up their hands, and in case the vote is not evident, to stand up in their place.

A Session of the Chamber.

By a stroke of good fortune I was enabled to attend the chamber on Saturday, the very last day of its session—a day which gave opportunity for a lively debate and witnessing an important vote.

The hall of the deputies is situated in what was the old Bourbon palace, originally erected by Cardinal Mazarin. The building is constructed of gray sandstone in the Grecian style of architecture.

Before that great celebration almost everything was in readiness for the closing order; the emphatic votes against the ministry just before adjournment were the cause of much surprise to the French people.

But on the main proposition, the vote is by ballot. The officers of the house circulate among the members ballot boxes of peculiar spherical shape with a slit at the top, the whole resting upon a stand like a geographical globe.

After the ballots have been deposited, the top of the globe is lifted up, its hinge and the interior copied into a shallow basket. Here they are taken up by another set of officers, and the votes for and against counted into separate baskets, after which the results are given to the president of the chamber and announced by him.

The general demeanor of the deputies approximates that of the members of our house of representatives. A continual clatter and buzzing prevails in the chamber, and the president has great difficulty in getting order.

The Palais Bourbon is comparatively small; it affords room for the deputies only, and the upper house of the French legislature is forced to meet in another building. The exterior is tasteful, not elaborate.

The waiting room is very plain; at one end stands a table provided with blanks for applicants to see the president, and at the other a door through which the cards disappear and the replies are returned.

The uniform messengers are exceedingly polite and conduct the visitor, after he has secured his ticket of admission, signed by a deputy, to the corridor of the gallery.

The most democratic of republics has not yet gotten down to the level that admits the general public to the sessions of its legislature, but still it is much more easy in Great Britain.

Once in the corridor, the visitor is relieved of hat and umbrella or stick by liveried attendants who kindly condescend to take tips whenever offered.

The Hall of the Deputies is semicircular in form and presents a view similar to that of an auditorium of a theater. In general outline it resembles very much the old house of representatives at Washington, now turned into a stately hall and shrubs at present most celebrated for its whispering galleries.

The hall wall forming the diameter of the semicircle is relieved by columns of the Ionic order dividing it into panels ornamented by two handsome clocks and covered with beautiful tapestry. The high platform of the presiding officer is reached on one side by a stairway of not less than ten steps.

At the right and left of his desk and also behind it, are pieces of desks, tables and other officers; immediately in front is the tribune, a pulp-like desk some eight feet long and but slightly lower than the president's table. In front and below the tribune sit the official reporters.

All this furniture is made of finely carved marble with allegorical figures in bas-relief. The seats of the members rise about the platform in semi-circular tiers one above the other. The benches are comfortably upholstered in red cloth, they are stationary, thus enabling the desks of the members bound to be attached to the back of the seat.

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Where the Public Sit. In the assignment of seats to the public a marked contrast between French and English manners is noticeable. In the house of commons the ladies are not allowed at all within the hall itself but are compelled to view the proceedings from a separate gallery behind the fair sex visiting the chamber of deputies receives the greatest attention and is always allotted seats in the first row of the balcony.

Men occupying these places are compelled to vacate as the ladies enter. And as far as I have been able to see, the sessions of the French legislature are the more popular with the fair ones.

How Business is Conducted. The work and parliamentary practice of a legislative body is usually more interesting than the mere hall in which the body meets. Points of contrast rather than those of similarity to accustomed procedure first impress the visitor and to comprehend this no intimate knowledge of the language is necessary.

The president of the chamber seems to occupy a position very different from that of the speaker of the lower house at Washington. He is, of course, expected to maintain order, a task often quite difficult with the turbulent and excitable Frenchmen. For this purpose there is no gavel whatever; on ordinary occasions the president merely taps lightly on his table with an ivory paper knife.

This method seldom suffices, and so resort is had to a large brass bell made to strike by swinging in its frame. Its resonant sound can be distinctly heard throughout the chamber, but the bell must frequently be repeatedly struck before order is restored.

The president of the chamber himself reads the bills—in fact in an inaudible monotone which could scarcely be understood even if the members paid the strictest attention.

The speaker thus faces his audience and turns his back upon the president; he walks up and down behind the tribune, leans on the desk or gesticulates wildly. He allows himself to be frequently interrupted, and keeps up a cross fire with his questioners going without the least mediation of the presiding officer.

When he has finished his address he runs quickly down the steps of the tribune to give way to the next speaker. By this method, the orator faces his audience as he speaks to the whole house, not to the opposition alone.

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TOOK FOUR MEN TO HOLD HIM.

A Reminiscence of Pioneer Days in the Journalism of Omaha.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE "TRIBUNE."

How Chicago's City Employees are Held by Shylocks—Small Packers up in Arms—Gossip from the Lakeside Metropolis.

Chicago, Aug. 8.—[Special to The Tribune.]—An old-time newspaper man, now on the Evening Post, was one of the company of journalists which made the trip overland in early days from Portland, Me., to Omaha and established the Tribune, long since deceased.

The founders of the Tribune brought everything with them—except the press, type, types, managing editor, devil and office tools. That piece of machinery was ordered in Cincinnati and arrived in Omaha some weeks later.

As the new paper came into direct competition with the sometime established Omaha Republican, a lively war of words at once opened between them. The editor of the Republican at that time was Mr. St. A. D. Balcombe, and a man by the name of Dr. Thomas presided at the fountain of authorized opinion of the Tribune.

Thomas had been a preacher, and as a speaker he had four unusual talents, but was said to have had a persistent disposition to exceed the limits of brotherly affection in a controversy with the editor of the Tribune.

His editor had a more usual talent, but was said to have had a persistent disposition to exceed the limits of brotherly affection in a controversy with the editor of the Tribune.

Finally when he had calmed sufficiently to be reasoned with he was told that he might have three columns of space, which he excluded and the following issue, the amount of men things he was permitted to say about his rival to be limited only by the various possibilities of the English language.

Thomas accented the compromise and went to work. When he had finished the three columns he was told that he might have the most choice lot of personalities that was ever heard outside of Billingsgate.

For a while he was content to keep him from carrying out his threat of killing the editor of the Tribune. Much of the time it was necessary to throw him down as he actually did.

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valued railroad scheme, how franchises are granted in Chicago.

Nearly \$1,000,000 rebates for special assessments await owners in the vaults of the city treasury.

Chicago people in Chicago are favorably impressed with the ordinance introduced by Alderman Bovee in Kansas City providing for the taxation of drinkers.

The central committee of the National Council of Women preparing to inaugurate a vigorous crusade in behalf of dress reform in Chicago.

Mr. W. J. Fossick of London has proposed a new club with a handsome bust of the Iron Duke.

A project now on foot for the establishment in Chicago of a monthly magazine for the benefit of the poor.

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is erecting two new buildings this year, has just erected three new departments, has added two professors in agriculture and botany, and in other respects is advancing rapidly to pre-eminence.

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