

## WHAT OF RALPH BURTON?

Let None but Incorruptible Men be Sent to Congress.

There has been enough of bribery and corruption in the congress of the United States during the past thirty years. That has been the cause of the pernicious legislation with which the country is cursed to-day. If there is one thing that is needed at the present time, and one thing which, if we mistake not the trend of public sentiment, the people are determined above all things else to have, it is pure and incorruptible men in our state and national legislatures. When corrupt men are put in nomination, therefore, for these positions, we believe it is right and just that the people shall know their history and antecedents so far, at least, as they relate to public life, in order that they be not deceived in those to whom these high trusts shall be committed.

We are led to these reflections in consideration of the character of the men who are placed in nomination for congress by the republican party. We have already devoted considerable space to the history of Geo. T. Anthony, and it becomes necessary this week to give certain facts relating to the candidate of the Fifth district. As in the case of Anthony, we are enabled to give good orthodox republican authority respecting Mr. Burton.

We find the bit of history to which we call attention on pages 16 and 17 of the report of the state insurance commissioner for the year 1890. It occurs in the proceedings against the wildcat "Topeka Insurance company," which Commissioner Wilder prohibited from continuing business in the state. The following is Mr. Wilder's statement concerning the commencement of these proceedings:

On the 30th of November, Hon. John Guthrie, of the district court, appointed Judge Eth Sutton receiver of the Topeka Insurance company.

The *State Journal* on that day said:

A sensation was caused in the district court this afternoon when F. P. Fuller, secretary of the defunct Topeka Insurance company, was placed upon the witness stand to give a sworn account of the disposition of certain funds of that company.

Mr. Wilder says:

Fuller swore to paying a legislator \$300. Later he denied this.

To J. R. Burton, representative from Abilene, the company, he testified, gave four or five notes of \$300 each. He was not positive that there were five notes, but he was sure that four were issued. Mr. Burton, he said, deposited these in the Bank of Topeka, for collection, and \$961.55 was paid and endorsed thereon. In addition, the sum of \$13 was paid as interest.

The notes, he said, were signed by himself and the president of the company. The witness qualified the remarkable statement by saying that the notes were not binding against the company, but this statement was overshadowed by one made the next instant which was: "The directors of the company authorized me to make these payments to Burton." He said that on February 22, during the session of the legislature, Burton was paid \$300.

The proceedings grew interesting. A score of attorneys and as many spectators crowded around the witness stand to hear every word of the startling testimony. Judge Sutton tightened the screws, and more revelations followed.

He testified that W. Hackney, of Wellington, was paid \$150 "to help in a case" about that time. It was explained that the case was one brought against the superintendent of insurance to enjoin him from revoking the charter of the insurance company. Hackney was not a member of the legislature, but a lobbyist.

Fuller said that C. A. Colmer, clerk of the committee on insurance of the house, was paid \$50 as salary for services rendered in keeping the company posted on bills introduced, or about to

be introduced, affecting the insurance business in general.

It was testified that the following cash payments were made to Hon. J. R. Burton: On May 3, 1889, \$131.85; on May 13, \$150; on June 3, \$150; on July 5, \$500; on July 8, \$150.

All the testimony of Mr. Fuller regarding the payments was given with the greatest reluctance. He took occasion to guard himself by the frequent assertion that the payments were made as "attorney's fees," but upon being pressed for a more direct reply, he said, to "influence legislation."

Continuing his testimony on January 3, 1890, Mr. Fuller insisted that this money was paid for attorney's fees, but his admission on December 30, 1889, that it was to "influence legislation" leaves no doubt as to the particular capacity in which he acted as attorney for this wildcat company. As a representative in the legislature he acted as such attorney to secure legislation favorable to the company's interests, or to prevent such as was unfavorable; and in this undertaking his efforts were seconded by that well-known patriot, W. P. Hackney, Botkin's partner in the Springfield robbery.

Do the voters of the Fifth congressional district propose to be represented in congress by a man who has already demonstrated his venality, and who could be expected to sell his influence or his vote to the corporation that would make the highest bid for it? What say you, men of the noble Fifth?

For the edification of the "interested citizen" whose vague, incoherent article on freight matters appeared in Saturday's *Capital*, we will say that a reduction in the freight on one article in a particular quantity to one man in one town, or on four articles in specific quantities to five jobbers in four towns, is not our idea of reducing rates; but a reduction in the rates on all goods in all quantities to all towns and all people in the state, no matter whether their wants be great or small, is what we would consider an adjustment of freight rates. This Geo. T. Anthony refused to do or to permit to be done. It might as well be said that a contract for a reduced rate on 100 cars of lumber to one large merchant in Great Bend, while all other dealers paid a higher rate, would be of inestimable benefit to the builders and property owners of the state, as to claim that Geo. T. Anthony's order would save a cent for any consumer, or do good to any but the five wholesale grocers. Who wants or can use a carload rate excepting the wholesalers? If a special rate to them that simply enables them to add so much more to their profits is an "equalization of rates," the moon must be largely made of green cheese.

THE *Great West* and one or two other exchanges reproduce the Chicago Daily Press fake purporting to be a Wall street circular. The thing originated in the fertile brain of F. W. Gilmore, who held a position for a time on the Press. He has been challenged time and again to produce the original if it is genuine, and has failed to do so. The thing is a fraud, and so is its author, and neither of them is worthy of the confidence of the people.

## THAT INTERNATIONAL SILVER CONFERENCE.

The following from the Kansas City *Journal*, the faithful exponent of the gold-bug creed at the mouth of the Kaw, clearly indicates what we predicted some time ago as the outcome of President Harrison's silver conference:

Although all the leading nations have responded to President Harrison's invitation to participate in an international silver conference, the outlook for favorable results of the conference are not quite as bright as they were when the meeting was first arranged for.

It is reported that the instructions given the British delegates are the same as were given the delegates to the Paris conference of 1881. Great Britain, it is said, was bound to repeat these instructions for the reason that the Paris conference of 1881 was never really dissolved. It adjourned to a given day, but for some reason failed to meet on that day. The question has been raised by the French delegates to the former conference whether the United States, after accepting the invitation to the Paris conference, has acted fairly in asking the nations to again assemble in a monetary conference composed of delegates from the same countries which took part in the conference of '81. The proper course for the United States, it is asserted, was to have requested the French government to reconvene the unfinished conference and resume the bi-metallic discussion, as was agreed when the Paris conference adjourned.

The fact that the great nations have consented to honor the president's invitation, however, is evident that they consider the proposed conference proper and timely. The eleven years that have elapsed since the Paris conference are enough to warrant the conclusion that the failure to formally adjourn *sine die* has been cured by time. The only thing to cast a shadow over the prospects of the coming conference is the reported instructions to the British delegates—Great Britain being the country from which the president hoped for most valuable assistance.

Readers of the *ADVOCATE* will remember that only a few weeks ago we published the preliminary declarations of the delegates to the Paris conference of 1881, making known their instructions from the governments they represented. Not a single delegate was authorized to enter into any agreement looking to the international remonetization of silver, and very few were even authorized to vote upon any question coming before the conference.

Here we have the assurance that Great Britain has given the delegates to the present conference the same instructions as to those of the conference of 1881. Those instructions are stated as follows in the preliminary declaration of the delegate:

My instructions impose upon me the duty, a duty which I shall be only too happy to perform, of furnishing you all the information you may desire concerning the laws and the monetary system of England.

They do not permit me to vote upon the propositions which may be submitted to you.

The American delegates to the Paris convention are supposed to have graduated under the "instructions" of this British representative, and a new set has been selected for the school of 1892. No man with a thimbleful of brains ever supposed the coming congress would agree to the remonetization of silver. No such result was looked for or desired by President Harrison. The whole intent of the conference is to deceive the people, and through this deception secure their votes once more for the republican party. The conference will not conclude its sittings until after the November elections, and then the protests of the people will be impotent, as they have been heretofore.

Voters of America, remember that the price of agricultural products runs parallel with the price of silver,

and if you are men, and regard your own interests and the welfare of the entire country, cast your votes this year for a party that is pledged to restore silver to its former position as a money metal regardless of the will or the dictation of foreign powers. What the American people need is an American, and not a British system of finance, and we require no instructions from British subjects as to what that system shall be. Let American voters vote once for American interests.

## WHAT GRAND PATRIOTS.

The Atchison county republican convention adopted the following among other clap-trap resolutions:

Resolved, That the men who saved the union are entitled to fair and honorable recognition from the nation, and we unqualifiedly condemn the sentiment now advocated by the alliance party and their allies, the democracy of this state and county, that in order to forget the past, patriots shall be relegated to the rear, and traitors advanced to places of public trust.

Now, as a plain matter of fact the People's party has more soldiers on its ticket than the republican party, and none of them are accused of being cowards, tyrants or thieves. It boasts no such "patriots" as Geo. T. Anthony, Ralph Burton or Bruce Lynch, nor does it care to. The less the republican party has to say this year about its soldier candidates, the less will be their humiliation.

THE *Emporia Republican* grows desperate in its appeal to the old soldiers of Kansas to turn down the People's party. But it lies shamefully when it states that the *ADVOCATE* "heaped abuse" upon the old soldiers of Kansas in speaking of the political outrage in Wichita. We did heap abuses upon the political shysters who managed the reunion at Wichita, and we have some more abuses in store for them. Now we assert that Botkin is a criminal of so vile a character that if a vote were taken among the old soldiers of Kansas, nine-tenths of them, republicans and all, would protest against allowing him to speak at their reunions. And we repeat upon soldiers' authority that Geo. T. Anthony was not a soldier in the real sense of the term, but that he acted as a coward and a common swindler while in the army, and that by republican testimony he stands convicted of embezzlement, false swearing, and defrauding of creditors since the war. Also that upon his own evidence he is convicted of willfully violating the constitution of Kansas while acting as governor. We also repeat that Jerry Simpson was not invited by any authorized committee to speak at the aforementioned reunion, and therefore had no right to speak there. If the *Emporia Republican* can deny any of the above, we shall be glad to apologize. What are you going to do about it?

WILL the *Capital* dare to sustain its correspondent, "Interested Citizen," editorially in defense of Geo. T. Anthony's freight rate ruling? Let us hear from you, neighbor. Why this solemn silence?

WHERE, O, where is Fletcher Meredith, alias Burton Moon? Is he still standing up for Kansas?