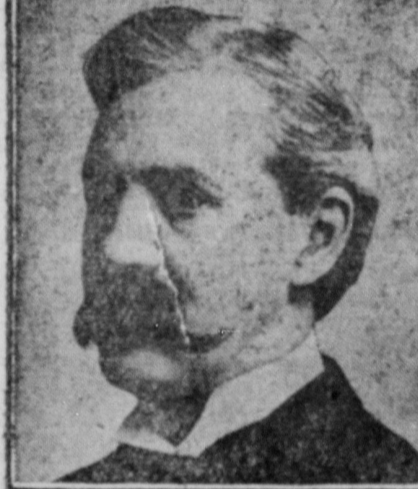
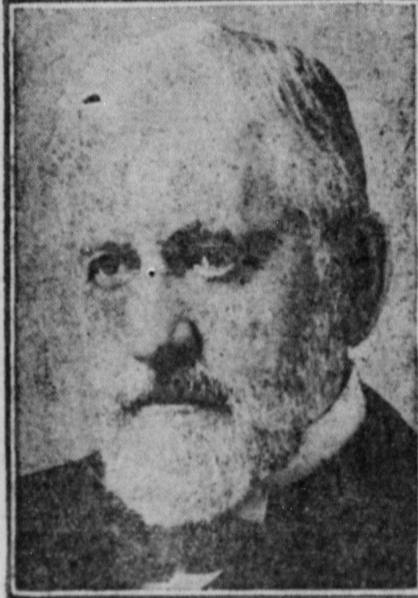


WILLIAM B. ALLISON, DEAN OF THE SENATE

Veteran Senator Whose Contest With Governor Cummins Is Attracting Much Attention—His Remarkable Career.

Iowa Statesman Has Served Thirty-five Years in the Upper Branch of Congress—His Strict Conservatism.

THE contest in Iowa between Governor Albert B. Cummins and Senator William B. Allison over the latter's seat in the upper branch of congress is attracting considerable attention. Both men are national figures and both have a following of devoted and trustworthy admirers. The adherents of the present senator claim that his splendid service during a period of so many years



should entitle him to the retention of his seat as long as he may desire it. The governor's friends say that Mr. Allison ought to be content with the honors he has had and give the younger blood a chance. Mr. Allison is the dean of the senate, which he entered in March, 1873, having previously served in the house in the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Forty-first congresses. His service in the senate covers a period of thirty-five years. The senator recently celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday. While he is not the oldest member of the senate, his continuous service covers a period longer than that which can be credited to any other member.

Senator Allison and Governor Cummins were born in adjoining states, the former in Ohio and the latter in Pennsylvania. The governor is fifty-eight and in the prime of his manhood, with iron gray hair and erect, athletic figure. He is nearly six feet in height. It has been said of him that wherever he sits down there is the head of the table. He is the author of the "Iowa idea" regarding the tariff and is the first man in his state to be nominated and elected governor for a third term. He broke up the operations of the barbed wire trust west of the Mississippi and has fought the railroad lobby in his state to a standstill. Cummins has been likened to La Follette. The two have political histories in many respects similar. Both stand for tariff revision, for railroad control, for primary reform and popular election of senators and elimination of corporation influence from politics. Cummins has been carpenter, express messenger, civil engineer and lawyer. He was a candidate for the senate in 1890 and was defeated by three votes through railroad influence.

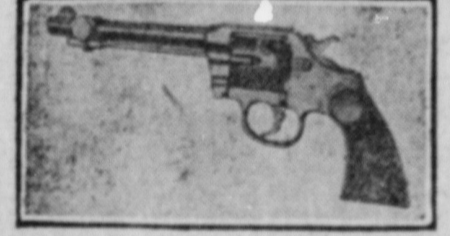
Governor Cummins was pointed out at the Republican national convention in 1900 as the handsomest man on the platform. The first time he ran for governor of Iowa they called him "Handsome Albert" and "the Des Moines Apollo," in the notion that those were damning epithets, but he was nominated, and the veriest hayseed in the convention that named him said, "Well, our county wasn't much for him, but when I seen 'im up in 'is room he looked so much like a gov-ner that I concluded I'd vote for 'im, anyhow."

Senator Allison is recognized as one of the foremost statesmen of his day. He has been described as "the youngest old man in the senate." He has red cheeks and a handsome head of rumpled white hair. He is polished, leisurely and courteous upon all occasions, was never known to be excited or angry and in the course of his thirty-five years of service in the senate has accumulated a store of knowledge which has made him of great value as a legislator for the nation. He has often been talked of for president, but, as some one put it, "the bee of emulation was in his bonnet; the canker of disappointment was never in his heart." His quiet, easy manner and his cautiousness in taking a position on any question have led to many jokes among his colleagues in the senate, with

whom, however, he is very popular. The late Senator Vest once said that he could walk over eggs without fracturing a shell. Another member declared that he could walk with hobnailed shoes on piano keys from Washington to Dubuque and never strike a note. One of the senator's characteristics is that of guardedness in answering a question. A correspondent once inquired of him when he thought congress would adjourn. "I can't say," the Iowan replied. "But it will adjourn soon, won't it?" "As to that," the senator replied, "I am reminded of the story of the man who went out riding and was caught in a rainstorm. He didn't know whether to go on or seek shelter, and he applied to a farmer who was plodding along the road. 'My good man,' he said, 'do you think it is likely to stop raining?' 'Well,' said the farmer, 'it always has.'

A NOISELESS GUN.

Dangerous Possibilities of the Invention of Hiram Percy Maxim. The terrible possibilities of the new silent gun, the invention of Hiram Percy Maxim, have almost appalled the man who fathered the idea. The Maxim family is a very inventive one, especially where guns are concerned. The Maxim in question is a son of Sir Hiram S. Maxim, whose name is associated with many inventions of much importance and especially engines of war. As the elder Maxim invented the Maxim quick firing gun and the automatic system of firearms as well as the smokeless powder known as cordite, it seems quite in line with family traditions that the younger man should invent a gun which may be fired without making a loud explosion. The principle of this firearm is similar to that of the automobile muffler, the gas produced by the ignition of the powder being allowed to escape gradually, thus preventing the sudden impact with the atmosphere which causes the noise when the ordinary rifle or pistol is fired. The device may be applied to any ordinary pistol or gun. Mr. Maxim has for some



HIRAM PERCY MAXIM AND THE NOISELESS PISTOL.

years been interested in the manufacture of automobile apparatus. In common with many others he was seeking a means of muffling the reports of gas engines, and it was while doing so that he ran across the invention he has just patented. In the case of the automobile he located the seat of the trouble in the piston of the engine, and when he arrived at the solution of the problem the idea flashed across his mind that if he could kill noise in the motor vehicle by application of the principle he had discovered he could apply the same theory to weapons of war. Strangely enough, like the mythical individual who opened Pandora's box and let out the mischief makers, Mr. Maxim once he had invented noiseless guns began to regret it on account of the dangerous possibilities he had created. "I am fully conscious," said he, "of the awful possibilities of this gun, and my conscience is not at all easy on the subject. If it could be taken hold of by the government alone and its manufacture be restricted to the government, it might not be so bad. It is not a perfectly noiseless affair—that is to say, there is a slight hissing sound, perceptible a few yards away perhaps. But in the open air the rustling of the leaves in the trees or the noise of passing wagons would completely drown the sound of the gun. You would not even know what had killed the victim until an examination was made."

Mr. Maxim's fear is that foreign governments may learn the secret and arm their forces with noiseless guns or that the latter may get in the hands of the criminal classes, the Black Hand conspirators, for instance. "Perhaps," he says, "I'd better get to work right off and try to devise something that will offer a means of protection against the gun."

FAULTY CONSTRUCTION.

Other Communities Draw Lessons From Lakeview School Disaster.

School authorities and fire boards all over the country have been stirred to inquiry and in some cases to action by the burning of the Lakeview school at Collinwood, near Cleveland, resulting in the death of so many pupils. In cities where there are school buildings with doors opening inward the authorities in several cases have taken steps to change these conditions immediately. The secretary of the state board of health of Illinois on learning of the disaster sent out orders to all city, county and town officers to close all schools, both public and private, not provided with doors opening outward and with noncombustible fire escapes and to keep them closed until changes in the direction of safety are made.

Most of the children who perished in the Collinwood disaster lost their lives



BURNING OF LAKEVIEW SCHOOL AT COLLINWOOD, O.

because in their mad efforts to escape from the flames they rushed against the doors at the foot of the main stairway. Had these doors been constructed so as to open outward no great loss of life would have occurred. The Lakeview school was not an old building, having been erected in 1901. But it was not of fireproof construction. Its wooden stairways and wooden floors permitted the flames to spread with much rapidity. In up to date schools concrete construction for such parts of the buildings is usually employed.

RUSSIAN PLAYS IN AMERICA.

Mme. Vera F. Komisarzhewsky and Her St. Petersburg Company.

At Daly's theater in New York may now be seen dramas in Russian played by two countesses and a baroness, not to mention several untitled Russians noted in the czar's empire for their literary and histrionic ability. The advent of Mme. Vera F. Komisarzhewsky and her company of Russian actors on New York's Great White Way is worthy of note if only on account of the name which the distinguished actress who heads the company brings with her to this country. Besides possessing this extraordinary stage name, she is ranked as the Duse of Russia and in private life is the Countess Vera Mouravieff. Her company includes thirty players, the cream of the St. Petersburg stage, among them the Countess Noida, Baroness Tizenhausen and M. Kasimir Bravche, her leading man, founder of the Literary and Artistic theater in St. Petersburg, which he abandoned to play with Mme. Komisarzhewsky. The latter is a very attractive young woman of about thirty who has made her theater the center of all that is best in the dramatic art of Russia. As the result of a contest which she had with the St. Petersburg Dramatic theater some years ago, when through intrigues in the interest of court favorites there was an attempt to stifle her rising genius, she has become independent and now owns the theater in the Russian capital where her company plays. She triumphed over the Imperial the-

ater and its court supporters through



demonstrations of the people. Before her rise the goal of all dramatic artists had been the Imperial theater. Now it is Komisarzhewsky's Dramatic theater, and the most noted actors are glad to play subordinate parts in her company. She renders chiefly dramas of the natural school in which Ibsen, Sudermann, Maeterlinck and Gorky figure. This is the first visit of the Russian actors to America.

During an operatic performance a well known prima donna burst into her dressing room and flung herself sobbing on the lounge. Her maid begged to know what was the matter. After a few incoherent ejaculations the singer told her awful story. She was approaching the end of an aria and was exceeding herself when all of a sudden a horrid mouse ran right in front of her. "Ah, madam, and you screamed?" asked the maid. "Yes, yes! My prospects are forever blighted!" Just then the maid answered a call bell and reported that the manager's assistant wished to see her. "Let him come," said the singer. "The manager," said the young man, "wants to know whether you ran away from the curtain call because you were sick?" "No, I am well. It was only"— "And he wants me to tell you that high C you let out at the end was the finest he has heard in years and that the audience is crazy over you. You must give a repeat."

"I can't! I can't!" wailed the prima donna, "unless you get another mouse." The Only Way. Little Ruth had been quietly listening to her mother's description of heaven as she napped her big doll's golden mouse.

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nead and affectionately pressed it to her breast. Suddenly she turned to her mother and said, "Mother, can dolls go to heaven?" "No, Ruth. Heaven is for people, not for dolls." "Would I have to leave dollie here if I went to heaven?" "I'm afraid you would, Ruth." "Well, then, mother, when they come for me I'll be very perlitte an' say: 'No, thanks, Mr. Angel.' Ad' then I'll take dollie an' my rockin' chair an' go an' sit by th' fire."—Lippincott's.

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