

possible the neutralizing of members whom the Speaker dislikes. Cases are not wanted where members have sat through two years of service without being permitted to catch the Speaker's eye, so that the Speaker may practically take away the representation of a district(*q*). An interesting example of the extent to which Mr. Carlisle, the Speaker from 1883 to 1889 carried the power of recognition is given in the history of the Blair Educational Bill. This measure it appears was pending in Congress during the whole of Mr. Carlisle's long administration. It passed the Senate three times, but was never even voted upon by the House, because Mr. Carlisle would never recognize any member to move to take it up for consideration, or to fix a day for its consideration(*r*). What perhaps may be said to cap the climax in this matter is, that it is quite in accordance with usage for the presiding officer of American legislative bodies to suggest points of order to be taken, by upholding which they may checkmate proceedings adverse to their personal wishes(*s*). Several examples of this are given in Miss Follett's pages. It seems little to be wondered at that a member of the House of Representatives said in 1881: "When this Republic goes down it will not be through the man on horse back or any President, but through the man on the wool-sack in this House; under these despotic rules, who can prevent the slightest interference from individual members; who can, if he will, make or unmake laws like an Emperor; hold back or give the sinews of war or the salaries of peace"(*t*).

Thus wherever we have looked we have seen one-man power operating in a strangely despotic way in the United States. We have seen it in the President, in the chairman of committees, and lastly in the Speaker. A strange comment surely this upon the statement quoted earlier in this paper, that to avoid one-man power was one of the main objects of the United States Constitu-

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(*q*) Ibid.

(*r*) Ibid., pp. 260-2.

(*s*) Ibid.

(*t*) Ibid., p. 300.