

# YALE LAW JOURNAL

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No ACT of the Fifty-fourth Congress during its first year's existence became it so well as its close. After its turbulent and com-motional lifetime the session terminated earlier than usual, and in a dead calm. All eyes and ears were turned in the direction of St. Louis, to the exclusion of all lesser centres of disturbance, and consequently the public in general hardly realized that both houses had closed their doors for the long vacation. There was, it is true, a brief sigh of relief in Wall street, but weightier matters burdened that financial quarter and interest in the end of the ses-sion died away immediately. It was odd to compare the curt newspaper notices of the bare fact this year with the picturesque and jubilant obituaries which followed the decease of the Fifty-third Congress. After the passing of that famous body the country at large breathed more freely and took heart for any lesser evils which the future might bring. But it is now an open question as to whether the Fifty-Fourth Congress has been a lesser evil than its predecessor. The past session has at least emphasized the fact that the public takes each year less and less interest in the doings of the House. Only occasionally during the emotional period of the jingo agitation, and again when the financial question looked really perilous, has the outside world bothered itself very much about what was going on in Washington. If the figures published are correct, this Congress has been an expensive one, having

spent some \$25,000,000 more than the Fifty-Third at its first session; and this has been done in opposition to the President's restraining veto, and in face of a weakened revenue. Probably to most persons this represents about the sum of what has been done during the year, and it certainly gives some ground for the notion of the philosophers that the problem of the next fifty years will be how to carry on a government without the burden of legislative bodies. An effort like that of the Senate in passing the Butler bill is enough to make business men hope that the philosopher's ideal may some day come true. As to any real work at law-making what little there is is done quietly and arouses no such public interest as always follows the work of every English parliament and constitutes the greatest strength of that body. But the session was at least a very short one and for this reason merited the President's congratulations on the early close of its labors. There was a delicious note of sarcasm in this verbal message of the Chief Executive which appeals strongly to everybody outside of politics.

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It seems appropriate that in this, the last issue of the *LAW JOURNAL* for the present college year, the retiring board of editors express their thanks to the faculty and students of the school for their assistance and support. The *JOURNAL*, in spite of the fact that it is chiefly a legal organ, reflects in no small degree the life and growth of the Law Department. Neither does the board forget its obligation to the gentlemen of the Bench and Bar who have helped by contribution and criticism to maintain the high standard of former years in the present volume; it is in this coöperation of different classes of supporters that the success of a university publication must ultimately rest. The incoming board will be the first to carry on the *JOURNAL* under the three-year system, and it is to be hoped that the *JOURNAL* may gain by this extension in the length of the curriculum.