

WEEK IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Senate on Packer Bill.

Thursday afternoon the senate got down to work on the so-called packers' control bill, with the prospect of a fight lasting far into this week. The big five of the packing industry were said to be lobbying for its defeat as last session when Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, charged the existence of "a nefarious lobby" here. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, chairman of the agricultural committee and author of the bill, made an extensive address in calling it up, outlining its purposes in creating a federal livestock commissioner and declaring that it was backed by the stock raisers of the country. The 21 senators from agricultural states comprising the "bloc" for the protection of farmers in legislation are in favor of the Norris bill as against the Tinker bill of the house by which a livestock commission of three members would be created.

The army appropriations bill, carrying about \$330,000,000 and providing for an army of 170,000, was passed Wednesday. It was the last of the big government supply bills, and efforts of the economists and pacifists of the senate to reduce the size of the appropriations were without any great success. Senators Borah, of Idaho, and King, of Utah, were the chief opponents of the heavy expenditures provided. This bill carried \$200,000 for the beginning of work on a hydro-electric power plant at Great Falls. A previous supply bill carried \$200,000 for the beginning of work on a conduit to increase the water supply of the national capital. The two projects will involve an expenditure of between \$40,000,000 and \$60,000,000 under the so-called Tyler plan for the development of power for supplying the capital with water and electricity. Speeches in favor of the amendments, by Senator Norris and others, called attention to the fact that investigations had been made looking to the Great Falls development for the last 16 years and that still, within the very shadow of the national capital, one of the world's greatest power sites was going to waste while a 500,000 population suffered inadequate protection from the dangers of a water famine and from exorbitantly high rates for power. Adoption of the amendments favoring the conduit and the power plant commit the government to the Tyler project and the great enterprise is as good as started after many years delay.

AMERICAN marines were eulogized by Senators Overman and Lodge last Monday, the anniversary of the battle of Belleau Wood, where the Germans were turned back in their drive on Paris. On that day also a resolution was passed authorizing the erection of a memorial in front of the Corcoran Art gallery to the dead of the first division. On Tuesday the senate voted \$1,000,000 for the relief of flood sufferers in Colorado.

President Harding's appointment of A. D. Lasker, of Illinois, to be chairman of the shipping board, and T. V. O'Connor, of New York; George E. Chamberlain, of Oregon; Edward C. Plummer, of Maine; Fred L. Thompson, of Alabama; Myer Lissner, of California, and Admiral W. S. Benson to be members of the board were confirmed. Chamberlain, who is a former senator, was confirmed Tuesday in open session, according to custom, while the others were referred to a committee, o. k'd and confirmed Wednesday. Adolph A. Hoehling, attorney of Washington, D. C., nominated to be District supreme court justice, succeeding the late Justice Gould, was confirmed.

Committees of the senate had another busy week, the privileges and elections committee elaborating its probe of the Ford-Newberry election contest in Michigan. Charges that A. Victor Barnes, of New York, a brother-in-law of Senator Newberry, contributed \$25,000 to \$40,000 to the campaign, were the subject of rigorous question, and Senator Newberry himself was preparing to be heard late Thursday when the taking of testimony was at its height. If the committee finds that Newberry obtained his victory over Henry Ford, the Democratic candidate, through violation of the law against fraud practices in elections, it will recommend that he be unseated. The supreme court has reversed the lower court of Michigan which convicted Senator Newberry and more than thirty co-defendants in the case.

THE charges that F. A. Linney, of North Carolina, President Harding's appointee for a district attorneys' position, had interfered with the negro vote in the last election, were under investigation by a sub-committee of the judiciary committee. The committee on education and labor considered the administration bill for the establishment of a department of welfare and the Borah resolution for an investigation of the garment trade in New York. The bill of Senator Capper, of Kansas, to prohibit gambling in grain markets, was before the agricultural committee with witnesses here from many sections of the country. Senator La Follette introduced a resolution Thursday asking for an investigation of the shipping board strike and pointing to the great and growing havoc caused by the idleness of many thousands of men and the tie-up of shipping at many

ports. The foreign relations committee voted to hold a hearing on the Norris resolution proposing recognition of the Irish republic.

In a special report to congress Thursday the federal trade commission charged price collusion and reduced production to maintain prices against the West Coast Lumberman's association.

The resolution of Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, asking an investigation of the soldier welfare agencies of the government, was passed Thursday following speeches of Senators Frelinghuysen, Willis and others extolling the life and patriotism of F. W. Galbraith, jr., head of the American legion, who was killed in an automobile accident in Indianapolis. A resolution, also, of Senator Harrison, of Mississippi, requesting the senate naval affairs committee to investigate the report that Admiral Sims in a speech in London had said that American sympathizers of the Sinn Fein cause were asses and had the blood of American and British soldiers on their hands in the late world war.

It was a lazy week for the introduction of bills, but the calendar is filled and many others are before committees.

Deadlock in House.

CONGRESS ended the past week facing a legislative deadlock. Political cross-currents, sectional interests and insurgency operated to bring about a situation of confused uncertainty, delaying tariff and revenue legislation, and threatening the progress of other measures, including the naval appropriation bill carrying the Borah disarmament amendment, and the peace resolution.

The naval bill has been sent to conference by the house with the conferees uninstructed as to the Borah amendment. In the meantime the house foreign affairs committee has reported out a resolution, which at first was heralded as broadening the Borah resolution, but which the democrats characterize as meaningless since it merely "concur" in the President's announced intention of calling a disarmament conference.

When the conferees report back to the house, one of the republican leaders will move to "recede and concur" in the Borah amendment with an amendment. The latter amendment will be the Porter resolution, upon which the house will vote, and which undoubtedly will be put over by the huge republican majority, but no opportunity will be given to vote directly upon the Borah amendment.

The senate adopted the Borah amendment without a dissenting vote and it is not believed it will accept the house position with docility. The prospect is—deadlock.

The tariff bill which was to have been reported out on June 1 then June 15, is not expected now before the middle of July or the first of August with the prospect of passage pushed back into October at the earliest. That will shove the revenue measure on over until the regular session in December.

THE obstacles which are at present deadlocking progress on the tariff bill and blocking the program of general legislation, include:

Division of opinion between the east and west on agricultural tariffs.

A similar division on the tariff schedules affecting industry and manufacturers.

Opposition of many manufacturers to a high-protection policy in view of present world conditions and the necessity of seeking and holding foreign markets.

Inability to agree on the wool, silk, cotton, lumber and chemical schedules of the new tariff bill.

Uncertainty as to how much revenue will be required from direct taxation in view of the enormous appropriations and continued expansion of governmental activities.

Failure to find a formula for "popular" taxes which people will pay without objection.

Failure to find a substitute for the excess profits tax that will produce an equal amount of revenue.

Hesitancy to adopt a sales tax, which the ultimate consumer would feel every time he makes a purchase.

Lack of any constructive plan for financing a soldier bonus and the knowledge that if a bonus is voted, taxes will have to be increased even beyond present excessive proportions.

Conflict over the wool schedule illustrates the troubles the tariff framers are having. After exhaustive hearings before the full committee a sub-committee studied the subject and reported back a tentative draft of a wool schedule. The full committee refused to accept it and finally it was decided to ask the tariff commission to draft a "scientific" wool schedule to meet the requirements. This will require three or four weeks, the commission said, and of course, another three or four weeks would be required by the committee to consider the commission's report.

ONE important measure passed by the house last week was the Llewellyn resolution creating a joint congressional committee to find out "what is the matter with agriculture," and to make recommendations for legislation to cure whatever

Supreme Court.

NINE opinions of unimportant national significance were handed down by the supreme court of the United States Monday, when the "October, 1920" term adjourned and the tribunal took a vacation until the first Monday next October.

Leave to file a writ of prohibition and mandamus against the United States in a claim for \$80,585, for wharfage, fuel, etc., was denied Hussein Lufti Bey, master of the Turkish steamer Gul Djemal. The plea was made upon the ground that the vessel was owned and operated by the Ottoman government and was not subject to arrest for failure to comply with rules, as it has been.

A certified question of the court of appeals in the case of Albert Harris, a boy, whose father took action against the District government because of injuries the boy suffered when the driver of a sprinkling wagon dropped the heavy nozzle of a hose, was affirmed, to the effect that the District was not liable when exercising discretionary power in sprinkling the streets for the protection of public health.

Judgment in favor of the United States denying \$9,429 additional pay to the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad for carrying mail, was affirmed, and the Seaboard Air Line suit against the government under similar conditions but involving the rights of the road under a merger, was reversed.

Application for a writ of certiorari was denied in the case of a bank against the city of Richmond, Va., a suit in error involving the question of erroneous taxation in 1915 on \$8,000,000 shares of the plaintiff and more than \$6,000,000 of other banks and trust companies. Judgment was reversed and the cause remanded for further proceedings.

The clerical forces of the supreme court will be busy throughout the holiday period, as usual, docketing new cases and attending to the continuous routine of the highest court. When the court will appoint a successor to James D. Maher, the clerk, who died last Thursday night following an operation, is a question that may not be decided before the fall term opens.

evils are found.

The committee will be composed of five members each from the house and senate, the democrats of each body being entitled to two members and the republicans three. Great pressure is being brought to bear to secure appointment on the committee and the Speaker and Vice President apparently are having difficulty making choices.

Lenroot undoubtedly will sit on the committee but he has announced he will refuse to accept the chairmanship. Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, and Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, will represent the democrats in the senate and Representative Sumners, of Texas, and Ten Eyck, of New York, have been tentatively picked to represent them in the house. Republican members have not been announced.

The peace resolution, action on which was promised immediately on convening the extra session, was taken up by the house Friday. It is radically different from the Knox resolution that passed the senate and considerable time will have elapsed before the two bodies will be able to compromise on the measure.

The resolution was brought in under a special rule which would prevent amendment and the plan of the leaders was to railroad it through the house by the end of the day.

Disarmament is not the only feature of the naval bill that is causing a locking of horns between the house and senate. The senate added some \$98,000,000 in appropriations on the measure as it passed the house, and the house members, more responsive to the demands for economy on the part of their constituents, are holding out for smaller appropriations with more spirit than usual.

The senate bill put the size of the navy at 120,000 men while the house bill provided for only 100,000, making a difference in appropriations of virtually \$15,000,000.

Would Aid Copper Miners.

THE general mining laws have long been found inapplicable to deep-seated copper deposits overlaid with wash or nonmineral formations and where it is necessary to drill holes or sink shafts to a depth of several hundred feet before discovery can be had.

The secretary of the interior last week submitted a favorable report on a bill which proposes to authorize prospecting permits to explore for such deposits upon not exceeding 1,280 acres of public land in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. The bill proposes that the permittee shall have three years within which to explore for the mineral deposits, and the secretary has suggested that he be required to pay a permit fee or rental of 25 cents per acre for the first year, the permit and 50 cents per acre for each year thereafter, 50 per cent of the receipts to be paid to the state in which the lands are situated for the construction and maintenance of public roads, and 50 per cent to the treasury of the United States for the benefit of the federal reclamation fund.