Congress What It Did Yesterday

The House Passes the Fourth Liberty Bond Act Unanimously. The Issue Against Jiggering Taken Up and Decided—A Minority Filibuster Against an Alleged "Steam-Roller"—The Army Bill Delayed by Riders in the Senate—The Kulturist Draft for Boys of Eighteen Defeated—Full Information From the Federal Trade Board on Profiteering—Peonage Spreading on Farms.

By W. V. BYARS.

The most important things in the world may not seem the most interesting until much later. There may be a deadly dullness about them while they are occurring. This is due to the fact that they nearly always seem to concern some one else. It may, not be, until a year later, (or ten years, if the French are right when they say "Everything takes ten years") that we begin to realize that it was our own destinies in life and death which were being decided all the time. Then the things we thought too dull to read about, begin to be thrilling.

This is an explanation and also an apology for putting first the dullest and most important thing (with possibly one exception) which Congress did yesterday.

This was to pass the "Fourth Liberty act" by a unanimous vote of the House—including all Democrats (and all Agrarian Bourbons, field grown or college-bred); all the Republicans (including, of course, all plutocratic Supermen, who still claim to have been founded by Lincoln); and including also the one lonesome Socialist and of course the only lady member.

They did this as becomes members of the greatest legislative body in the history of the earth, with due dignity, without unnecessary delay and with all the intelligence any body of men on earth could show in passing such a bill. Of course, no body of men ever yet on earth could have the remotest idea of the consequences of passing such a bill, but that only helps to increase the importance of the day's work done in passing it.

Chairman Kitchin explained the bill briefly but sufficiently. It appeared from his accompanying report that the passage of the bill raises "the total bond authorizations since the beginning of the war to twenty-two billion dollars." The bill itself authorized the issue of eight billions in addition to those already authorized.

Chairman Shirley, of the House Committee on Appropriations, was concerned in the next item of billions. When the House was filibustering just before 7 o'clock—as it had spent most of the day in doing—he announced it would have to stay until midnight if it did not give him a chance under the rules to file the report of the conference committee on the sundry civil appropriation bill, which had passed the Senate with its total raised, including "authorizations," to "about four billions." The committee had concurred in what the Senate found advisable increases of the cost of shipping our troops and guns to Europe.

This perhaps was not next in importance to the unanimous passage of the Fourth Liberty bond act. Perhaps nothing else really surpasses in importance the introduction of a new verb into the English language by J. Hampton Moore, of Pennsylvania, at a crisis when it is most urgently needed. It is the verb to "jigger."

As it will not be in standard dictionaries until next year, it must be explained, as illustrated by the day's proceedings, that in jiggering any person, you do not knock him down, shanghai him, pick his pocket, or sell him a gold brick. These may be part of the simple, ordinary, well-understood processes of politics. But if you "jigger" a person, a party, or a people, you go far beyond this. You permit them to go on and do what they think they want to do until they have done it. Then you record the result and show clearly on the record that all they did was done some other way—to wit, your way. If you "put it over" they are successfully "jiggered."

To realize the importance of a new verb, it is only necessary to remember that the Democratic party for over a quarter of a century fought trusts as "combinations and consolidations" until the fight was won to the Supreme Court. Then, when it was found that everything prohibited by law for "combination and consolidation" could be done through "unification and co-ordination," those two words were worth many millions of not billions in "excess profits" to the volunteer experts in efficiency, with whom Mr. Kitchin's committee may be much better acquainted when it succeeds in inducing them to pay any tax first somebody else will not pay finally.

Observe then that the new American verb to "jigger"—though originating at the Capitol, and not in any great modern university—may be the verb of all others which will do most to make the earth safe for democracy—the only verb which will explain to common, sweaty uncapitalized persons what experts in efficiency and other supermen have been doing to them.

As Mr. Moore understood the situation late Thursday (after dinner time, the Speaker said yesterday and "nearly at bed-time") those who voted with him to accept the Senate compromise and break the long deadlock on the postoffice appropriation bill had won a victory and had broken the deadlock, after which they had been "jiggered out of it" by somebody else. This may have been the private opinion of the Speaker who had voted "aye" with them on an apparent tie of 149 to 149. But when, after apparently gaining a vote on the recount, the official returns showed 150 to 149 against them, he announced the official result against them and himself.

The question of what the jiggering was for (it is now agreed that it was purely accidental) is of far less importance than the determination of 150 Americans (right or wrong) when they met yesterday morning not to submit to jiggering, if it took all summer to resist it. They did not submit. When they had opened the proceedings, and demonstrated what grim determination meant, Chairman Kitchin, of the Ways and Means Committee, who had not voted with them, said that as a matter of decency, of the self-respect of the House and of the integrity of legislation, the Journal and the Record should be made to conform to the action of the House. Upon which the opponents of "jiggering" emitted a series of triumphant whoops, while those who had become (accidentally) guilty of it, protested, evaded, and finally surrendered to the inevitable. The Speaker read precedents showing that tally clerks had often made worse mistakes by the purest accident in the rush of great events. So the deadlock ended on the Postoffice appropriation bill and the pneumatic tubes will not be "put out of business" until they have been investigated and reported on by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

After the House had sent the District of Columbia appropriation bill back to conference, with the disagreement standing on the "fifty-fifty" provisions, and several others, the Republicans, under Messrs. Gillett and Walsh, spent the rest of the day in filibustering to prevent what they allege is the Democratic intention of using the powers of the bill for taking the 1920 census as the beginning for a "steam roller" to be used during the Presidential campaign of that year. Though their hope was desperate, they were perhaps nerved to do their utmost by the probably well-grounded fear that Democrats, now constantly studying Republican precedents, may learn to do worse. It may be hard, but anything is now possible.

The kulturist and imperialist attemp tto force the conscription of boys of eighteen was defeated at 5 o'clock in the Senate by a vote of 49 to 25. The great army bill, carrying $12,000,000,000 at least and said in the Senate now to carry $15,000,000,000, was put over for the day by speeches and amendments, germane to a series of "riders," but not to such a bill itself. One of these riders, providing for a $100,000,000 corporation to manufacture airplanes, with stock sold in the market, involves a radical change of both our political and financial system. It was adopted without debate. Any such proposition ought to be debated to the bottom. Perhaps the less said of what was said in the Senate yesterday the better. But if any common father who has raised four boys on short but earned rations and had three of them taken by the draft, should wish to know who led the gallant and patriotic struggle to take the youngest away from being the only "man in the house" with his sisters—then such a person is informed that the fight was led by one of the ablest supermen of the Senate—a "Yale man"—who has never married.

In response to the Borah resolution, in which the Senate called for full information on profiteering, it will be supplied to the Senate by the Federal trade commission. The report made by Chairman Colver and other members of the commission "delivers the goods." It is one of the most important public documents of the year. For example, it shows a little known company operating in Missouri zinc and other minerals paying the manager of the St. Louis office $148,530.59 a year salary, with more than twice as much to the president of the company. After paying all taxes and other expenses last year the "United States Steel Company" had left net $244,738,000, while since 1915 the "Big Four" of Chicago have increased their profits $121,000,000 above their average high-water marks in peace. It is remarked that this information is "astounding." Probably it is. Perhaps in another ten years we may recover from this year's shell shocks far enough to learn something.

Before the House Committee on Labor, Mr. John G. White illustrated the rapid growth of agrarian plutocracy by illustrating the chattel mortgage and lease system under which in certain parts of Missouri, tenant farmers are reduced to virtual peonage. Since 1900, farming has changed radically, until its future promises to be controlled by capitalists. Peonage, which has existed in some States since soon after the civil war as a substitute for slavery, has its indefinite extension threatened by capitalistic agrarianism.

Germany is outeating the United States in potatoes, which accounts in a measure for their ability to keep at their business of war.

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One of Briggs' Best Cartoons Will Be Featured in Next Sunday's Times

SLAYER OF WOMAN IS SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS IN JAIL

Fourteen years in the penitentiary was the sentence imposed by Justice Stafford yesterday on Guy B. Powers, a former employe of the navy yard, for shooting and killing Rosemary Heley, on February 3, 1917. Powers was indicted for murder in the first degree, but an offer of counsel for the accused to enter a plea of guilty to manslaughter was accepted by the prosecution.

Attorneys Hawkin and Havell appeared for Powers.

Powers boarded at the house of the woman on New York avenue, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets northwest. When he noticed that she began to take more than an ordinary interest in him he decided to leave the city. He left the house, according to his story, but before departing from Washington he went back to her to make arrangements for the payment of a victrola which he had purchased. While at her house, he alleged, the woman began to upbraid him for leaving. A quarrel followed. He said she grabbed a pistol which was lying on a table, and in the scuffle to get possession of the weapon, it was discharged, killing her. Powers gave himself up to the police.

URUGUAY TO SEE KTRADE.

Uruguay plans to meet the great maritime nations half-way in after-the-war trade, according to consular reports from Montevideo telling of the creation of the Uruguayan National Bureau of Commerce.

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No Dust—No Dirt—No Cinders
Washington and Old Dominion Railway.

"Borland's Plan Damnable"
—GOMPERS

Mass Meeting in Protest

Sunday, June 30, 1918, 2:30 P. M.
NEW MASONIC TEMPLE
13th and New York Ave.

Government employes willing to do overtime work as patriotic duty in war.

Mr. Borland calls us "slackers" and induces Congress to increase hours..

No increase in pay or overtime pay accompanies increased hours.

President and heads of departments already authorized to require overtime work.

No executive officer has asked or recommended Borland's scheme.

With a normal seven-hour day Government employees during war gladly render all necessary overtime work without pay therefor.

If hours are increased to eight normally we demand a fifteen per cent increase in compensation, and time and one-half for overtime work.

We ask that the $120 increase granted in lieu of 5 and 10 per cent increase be allowed to all alike, as it is a cost-of-living bonus.

We shall continue to ask for justice, equity and fair consideration toward all Government employees and discrimination against none.

Industrial employes are daily receiving substantial wage increases with pay for overtime at time and one-half or double time.

The advance in the cost of living affects all alike and yet under the Borland scheme the wages of Government employees are actually decreased.

Industrial employes are strongly organized—we are not, yet.

Now is the time to organize for the present and the future to prevent profiteering in labor and to secure justice.

There is no other way—do something for yourself, your family and your fellows.

Join the Union now and take an active part in its work—it is yours.

H. M. McLARIN, President,
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYES,
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