Tom Stout's Weekly Letter

An Interesting, Instructive and Unbiased "Who's Who and Why" of People and Events at The Nation's Capitol

Washington, Dec. 20.—The mutations of American politics cannot be better exemplified than by contrasting the political complexion of the present congress with that of the last congress. When the sixty-third congress convened in extra session at the beginning of April, 1913, there were 290 democrats, 124 republicans, 15 progressive republicans and one independent in the body. The democrats numbered exactly twice the combined strength of all opposition members and had a majority of 166 over their ancient antagonists, the republicans. Custom has decreed that the republicans shall occupy seats to the right of the center aisle which leads from the front entrance down to the speaker's stand and the democrats, the seats to the left. During the last congress, when all the democratic members were present, which was mighty seldom, some of the democrats were compelled to cross the aisle and sit with the republicans, the majority side not containing a sufficient number of benches to accommodate the unprecedented democratic membership.

But things are different this year. The democratic overflow is no more. The majority party lost 62 members while the republicans gained 73. The progressives have dwindled to three while there are seven other members classified including one socialist and one prohibitionist. The democratic majority over all is reducted from 145 to a measley 21. The republican side of the house bears some resemblance to its old appearance, numerically speaking, while all democrats can easily be accommodated on their side of the aisle. The republicans gain not only in numbers but in prestige by the return to the fold of old time warriors such as "Uncle Joe," Nick Longworth, Ebenezer Hill, Cy Sulloway and others whose names have long been conspicuous in the lists of the G. O. P. politico-warriors.

The new order of things gives to the individual members of the majority both greater power and greater responsibility than they claimed in the last congress. During the last two years, the men in charge of the democratic legislative machinery could view with complacency any little uprising within their own ranks for they could lose even forty or fifty votes and yet put over their program. Whenever some obstreperous member of the majority, feeling aggreived over the course being pursued by his own organization, felt like kicking over the traces he could proceed to kick and follow up his kick with a contrary vote without creating the slightest ripple for it merely reduced the majority to 138. There isn't much satisfaction in leading a revolt under such circumstances as those and I have seen a good many fellows in whose breast the fires of rebellion were flaming go out and vote with his party or refrain from voting altogether because he knew it was useless to attempt any other line of procedure. It was this situation which aided the president to maintain his hold upon the house. Naturally a large majority of his party in that body were entirely content to follow the direction of their acknowledged leader but those who might have, at times, felt disposed to go another way were restrained by the very futility of such action.

But the situation is radically altered since the majority has been shaved down to a paltry 21. Now, any man who starts out to foment rebellion within the ranks of the majority is likely to receive instant attention by the leaders. He may expect to be taken into some secluded corner and have pointed out to him the danger which his course threatens to the whole party and be made the object of some special pleading to remain regular in order to preserve party solidarity. The opposition can almost always be depended upon, when partisan matters are under consideration, to vote as one man and there is an additional incentive to do so when they can, by merely bringing over eleven recalcitrant democrats, produce discord and consternation in the ranks of the majority.

Another effect of the more even party division in the house will be to improve the attendance of members at the daily sessions. During the last congress, there was a notable laxity of attendance on the part of both republicans and democrats. The democrats felt that it was entirely safe to disregard the roll calls and absent themselves whenever they so desired since they felt that there would always be enough of their brethren on the floor to out-vote the opposition and the minority members manifested an equal lack of interest because they felt that they would always be licked anyway even though all of them should be present. Now, however, the democrats realize that if they are to prevent the republicans from catching them napping and thereby putting over something on them, there must be practically the full membership constantly present and ready to vote. The republicans, hopeful of an opportunity to catch the democrats in just that situation, will also be on the ground every moment of the time. It was no common sight at the last session to find only a dozen or two members on the floor transacting business of the utmost importance to the country but it is my guess that visitors to the house gallery this season will always find a large number of the members right there on the job. While I naturally regret the loss in the democratic membership, it is my judgment that this loss will be largely compensated for in the increased attentiveness on the part of the slender majority remaining.

CONGRESSMAN TOM STOUT.

GOOD PROGRESS IN KILLING PRAIRIE DOGS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—The extermination of prairie dogs over large areas has been practically completed, according to the report of the bureau of biological survey, just published by the United State department of agriculture, and wide stretches of valuable grazing lands have been entirely cleared of this pest. In national forests in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Oklahoma, more than 95 per cent of the prairie dogs have already been destroyed. Active campaigns are still in progress in Arizona, New Mexico, Montana and South Dakota, and in the Rio Grande forest in Colorado.

The average cost of distributing poison on areas infested by prairie dogs has now been reduced to less than 5 cents an acre. In cases where reinfestation has made it necessary to go over the land again, the cost has not exceeded 3 cents an acre. Poisoned oats have been found to give the most consistent results, except in the Coconino forest in Arizona, where a species of blue-stemmed grass is abundant. The prairie dogs are so fond of this that they care little for grain whether poisoned or not.

The biological survey is also carrying on work against ground squirrels, pocket gophers, jack rabbits, moles, mountain beavers, pine mice and crawfish, as well as against wolves and coyotes in the west. The crawfish, which are so injurious in parts of Mississippi and Alabama, can be kept away at an annual expenditure, it is estimated, of 25 cents an acre or less after the lands have been once thoroughly treated.

While endeavoring to destroy these and other pests, the bureau is also encouraging an increase of population of beneficial birds. The results of the second bird census in the spring of 1915 showed that bird life can be largely increased throughout the country. Where efforts are made to protect the birds the population increases rapidly.

Of the new national bird reservations established during the past year, two are in Washington, and one in Minnesota. In all sixty-seven such reservations are now in charge of the department. With few exceptions the conditions on them are said to be very favorable to the increase of bird life.

Things to Worry About.

The man who invented the ham and egg sandwich is dead.

Names Is Names.

Percy Yowler leads a church choir in Norwood, O.

Our Daily Special.

Try to learn where your business ends and that of other people begins.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Act 6-22-10
Serial No. 027438

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Dec. 4, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that William Bauer of Glendive, Mont., who on Oct. 18, 1915 made H. E. No. 027438, for NE¼, Section 20, Township 14N., Range 54E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. commissioner, at Glendive, Montana, on the 17th day of Jan., 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Albert Windel, John Trell, Fred Hohensee and Erwin Babcock all of Glendive, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First Publication Dec. 9)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Act 6-22-10
Serial No. 011479

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Dec. 4, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that John Boyd Case, of Glendive, Montana, who on Feb. 8, 1911, made H. E. No. 011479, for NE¼, Section 14, Township 16N., Range 54E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 19th day of Jan., 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Walter F. Nye, Geo. W. Waterhouse, Frank W. Kinney and Frank J. Hasty, all of Glendive, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First Publication Dec. 9)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Serial No. 014424
Coal—Act 6-22-10

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont. Nov. 27, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that Asbjorn Haaland, of Stipek, Mont., who, on April 25, 1912, made H. E. No. 014424, for W½ NE¼, E½ NW¼, SW¼, Section 22, Township 18N., Range 55E., M. P. Meridmake three year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 12th day of Jan., 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: E. L. Kalberg, Ole Svensvold, Hiram Griffith and Andrew Anderson, all of Stipek, Montana.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First publication Dec. 2)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Non-coal
Serial No. 011400

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont. Nov. 27, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that Albert L. Halverson of Allard, Montana, who on Sept. 17, 1914, made H. E. No. 011400, for North half, Section 24, Township 15N., Range 56E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make five year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Montana, on the 12th day of January, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Valentine W. Fitch, of Glendive, Montana, and Forest Gertson, Ralph H. Foss, Andrew S. Foss, all of Allard, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First publication Dec. 2)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Act 6-22-10
Serial Nos. 08868 and 025360

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Nov. 29, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that William L. Haney, of Union, Montana, who, on May 9, 1910 and May 18, 1915, made H. E. Nos. 08868 and 025360, for W 1-2 NE 1-4, SE 1-4 NE 1-4, NE 1-4 SE 1-4, NE 1-4 NE 1-4, SE 1-4 SE 1-4, Section 24, Township 17N., Range 49E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make five year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Montana, on the 11th day of January, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: August Hamelau, Herman Meeves, Andy Miller, Martin Heron all of Union, Montana.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First publication Dec. 2)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Act 6-22-10
Serial Nos. 014467 and 021193

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Nov. 29, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that Anna A. Manning, of Intake, Montana, who, on April 30, 1912 and Feb. 24, 1914, made H. E. Nos. 014467 and 021193, for S 1-2 NW 1-4, NE 1-4 NW 1-4, SW 1-4 NE 1-4, NW 1-4 NW 1-4, SE 1-4 NE 1-4, W 1-2 SE 1-4, Section 26, Township 18N., Range 57E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 12th day of January, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Arthur Temple and Peter Jonas of Intake, Mont., Dee Dobbin of Hodges, Mont., and Walter Vanderhoof of Intake, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First publication Dec. 2)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Serial No. 014855
Coal—Act 6-22-10

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Nov. 20, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that Dennis J. Kelly, of Glendive, Mont., who, on June 17, 1912, made H. E. No. 014855, for North half, section 10, township 16N., range 53E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Montana, on the 5th day of January, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Thomas A. Murphy, Harry Stubbs, Stanley E. Felt and Edward Murphy all of Glendive, Montana.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First publication Nov.25)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Election Filed
Serial No. 01610

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Nov. 20, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that Emanuel Jirucha, of Glendive, Mont., who, on Feb. 5, 1909, made H. E. No. 01610 for N½ SW¼, SE¼ SW¼, SW¼ SE¼, Section 20, Township 16N., Range 55E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make five year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 31st day of Dec., 1915.

Claimant names as witnesses: Joseph J. Stipek, Ezra A. Martin, Earle Atwood, William Rigby, all of Glendive, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First publication Nov.25)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Act 6-22-10
Serial No. 016888

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Dec. 16, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that Burnes C. Roy, of Glendive, Mont., who, on Dec. 21, 1912, made H. E. No. 016888 for W½ SE¼, S½ NE¼, Lots 1, 2, 8, 9, Section 6, Township 17N., Range 58E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 1st day of February, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Cortez Boren and Roscoe E. Malley, both of Been, Mont.; George L. Pope and Ned Hobbs, both of Glendive, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First Publication Dec. 23, 1915)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal—Act 6-22-10
Serial No. 014064

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Dec. 16, 1915.

Notice is herey given that Warren M. Seekins, of Glendive, Mont., who on March 9, 1912, made H. E. No. 014064, for N 1-2 SE 1-4, S 1-2 NE 1-4, NW 1-4 NE 1-4, E 1-2 NW 1-4, NE 1-4 SW 1-4, Section 34, Township 18N., Range 54E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 1st day of Feb., 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: J. A. Stone, Ernest R. Brown, Mark J. Brown, Cornelius D. Vries, all of Glendive, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First Publication Dec. 23, 1915)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Coal-Election Filed
Serial Nos. 05855—09165

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Miles City, Mont., Dec. 16, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that James E. Klein of Stipek, Mont., who on Sept. 11, 1909 and May 26, 1910, made H. E. Nos. 09165 and 05855, for Lots 1, 2, NW 1-4 NE 1-4, SW 1-4 SE 1-4, and Lots 3, 4, NW 1-4 SE 1-4, SW 1-4 NE 1-4, Section 24, Township 18N., Range 55E., M. P. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make five year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before T. Cato, U. S. Commissioner, at Glendive, Mont., on the 28th day of Jan, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Louis H. Berke, Robert Adams, Hiram Griffith, Arthur Walsh, all of Stipek, Mont.

G. W. MYERS, Register.
(First Publication Dec. 23, 1915)

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