

INDEPENDENTS ARE IN CONTROL

Neither of Great Parties Has a Majority in the House

DISSENSION IN REPUBLICAN RANKS

Democrats, However, Will Vote Solidly for Champ Clark

Washington, Dec. 28.—Neither Democrats nor Republicans will have a majority of the next House necessary to elect a speaker. Revised figures on returns of the last election show that a handful of independents will determine which side will control the organization.

Conceding seats to candidates in possession of certificates of election, because they are certain to participate in the organization of the House, the personal now stands: Republicans, 214; Democrats, 213; Independents, 2; Progressives, 2; Prohibitionists, 1; Socialists, 1; contested, 2. A majority is 218; hence should either Democrats or Republicans win both of the contests they still would be short of a majority.

On the speakership Kelly of Pennsylvania, a Progressive, formerly a Democratic member of the House, is listed as a Democratic probability. So are Randall, Prohibitionist, of California, who voted for Speaker Clark the last time, and London of New York Socialist, who sits on the Democratic side now and has been shown favor by Democrats and has been

Schall of Minnesota, Progressive, the leaders agree, probably would lean toward a Republican candidate if convinced of his progressivism. He campaigned for the national Republican ticket during the last campaign, although opposed by the regular organization in his state. Fuller, independent, of Massachusetts, also is classed as a Republican hope.

Martin of Louisiana, Progressive, comes from a large sugar district in Louisiana, and has indicated that assurance of protection of the sugar interest will be his first concern in voting on the organization. He formerly was a Democrat, however, and Democratic leaders hope to get his vote. At the same time Republicans think he can be convinced that their party is the only one which has his sugar interests at heart.

Contests in which certificates have not been issued are on in the 32d Pennsylvania district, where Representative Barefield, Republican, is contesting the election of Guy E. Campbell, Democrat, who on the face of the returns won by 46 votes, and the third New Jersey district, where Representative Scull, Democrat, is opposing the election of Robert Carson, Republican. Scully now is reported to have a lead of 125 votes on the recount, but there still are about 3,000 votes to be passed up by the courts. At least 20 seats, it is said, will be contested in the House after it has organized.

Democrats Solid for Clark. Should the Republicans set both of their contestants and hold their membership solid for their candidate they would need only two independent votes to win the speakership, while the Democrats would need five. On the other hand, should the Democrats win the contested seats, the Republicans would need four independent votes while the Democrats could win three votes.

There is no question about the Democrats voting solidly for Speaker Clark, but there are some signs of strife among the Republicans. Representative Gardner already has announced his opposition to Representative Mann.

"I have nothing to say about the speakership matter or the Gardner episode," said Representative Mann Tuesday, "except that I still hope that the president in some way through God's providence may aid in bringing about a peace which shall be lasting and permanent and provide for disarmament and the removal of the heavy burdens of military and naval preparedness and if I can in the slightest degree assist to bring about such a result I would rather do that than to be speaker."

"The charge of Mr. Gardner that I am for Prussia and Prussianism is, of course, utterly untrue. I am for America first, last and all the time and do not take sides in the European war. In Mr. Gardner's opinion that is my offense. "I suppose it is inevitable that in the present situation in regard to political control of the House every man who gets a grouch will be tempted to bluster around and say that he will not play unless he can have his own way. That is always one of the results of a very narrow margin of votes. But in the end I think the Republicans will have the good sense to let get together and act as a united party at least in the organization of the House."

Representative Lenroot of Wisconsin, whom Gardner will support for speaker, had no comment.

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CAN WALK 3 MILES

Annoying Troubles of Heart, Stomach and Digestion All Removed

Mr. David T. Remington of Springfield, Mass., expresses himself as truly grateful for the new combination of purifying and building-up treatment embodied in Hood's Sarsaparilla and Peppermint Pills.

He is one of the best-known men in the state, having been for 21 years in the State House as member and doorkeeper and sergeant-at-arms. He says he had annoying symptoms about his heart, stomach and digestive organs. His old friend, Senator George E. Putnam of Lowell, urged him to take a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla and Peppermint Pills, which he did, and now—"I can say I never felt better in all my life. I can walk from my house down town and back, a mile and a half each way."

Why not begin this treatment at once? Hood's Sarsaparilla and Peppermint Pills are sold by all druggists. Get them today. 200 doses \$2.—Adv.

WAR DEPARTMENT FOR IMPROVING MERRIMAC

Federal Appropriation of \$7,076,500 Recommended Conditioned on State or Local Co-operation.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Federal appropriation of \$7,076,500 to provide a channel 18 feet deep and 200 feet wide in the Merrimac river, Massachusetts, from Black Rocks Beacon to Hunts Falls, conditioned upon state or local co-operation, was recommended to Congress yesterday by the war department.

The war department reported adversely on the proposal to improve the Merrimac to Manchester, N. H., but recommended improvement of the river from Lowell to the sea. The department also recommended provision for a channel 1,000 feet wide and not less than 23 feet deep across the bar at the mouth of the river at the expense of the United States to cost \$80,000 a year.

In urging this improvement of the Merrimac the department suggested that the first federal appropriation be \$1,000,000, the subsequent appropriations to be made so as to complete the work in four years, the state or local funds to be made available at the same rate.

CHICAGO MUST RETRENCH

Deficit of \$4,000,000 in City's Finances Means Big Cut.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Plans for retrenchments in 1917 in the various municipal departments to meet a deficit of \$4,000,000 in Chicago's finances were announced yesterday by the city's budget committee, and, according to department officials, will mean various curtailments of efficiency in several branches of city service. The plans include:

A twenty per cent reduction on the normal number of street lights.

Seven hundred fewer policemen.

Abolition of twenty-two fire companies.

Elimination of one hundred positions in the health department and of several hundred positions in various city hall departments.

DOUBT IF POSTAL RATE RISE.

House Leaders Predict That Proposed Increases Never Will Be Law.

Washington, Dec. 28.—House leaders predicted yesterday that the proposed increases in postage rates on second-class matter, now included in the tentative draft of the postoffice appropriation bill, never would be enacted into law.

General Sporting Notes.

Hans Wagner, the great shortstop of the Pirates, is willing to make a shift to first base from shortstop and will probably be allowed to do so. He is growing old and naturally the long throws across the diamond are beginning to tell on his wing. Johnston, the regular first baseman through the 1916 season, has been disposed of, so as to make room for Wagner at the initial sack. Wagner played this base last summer, when Johnston was benched on account of his light hitting and played a fast game there, apparently being as much at home on that bag as around the short field. With Wagner at first, it probably will give Bugbee a chance for a regular berth at shortstop. With this combination, it would live up the team, as Bugbee is one of the fast-st men in the game, and a sure hitter.

It is understood that Manager Bill Donovan of the Yankees is willing to trade some of his young material for the veteran Eddie Plank, former star for the Athletics and now with the St. Louis Browns. It is talked around the St. Louis club next season and that if he is not traded to some other team, he will retire from baseball. Plank says that he wants to return to the club, as he is sick of playing in torrid St. Louis and the club management sees that he is in earnest. Plank has been a money saver and could afford to retire from the game, as he has financial interests in his home town.

When Jimmy Calahan took over the responsibility of manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates last spring, he had several men on the squad, who were practically useless to the management and he set himself to weeding out the surplus as soon as possible and fill the gaps with youngsters from the minors. Several of the minors did not remain in the smoky city very long, but some of them did, there being five who are almost sure of a berth next season. They are pitchers Burleigh Grimes and Bill Evans, infielders Carson Bigbee and "Hooks" Warner and Catcher Bill Wagner. Grimes comes from Birmingham of the Southern league and is well built and a very heavy chap in the pinches. Evans never saw a major league game until he joined the Pirates late in the fall, but has a quantity of stuff and did remarkably well in the college games which he pitched last spring, and after coming to the major ranks last fall he pitched a few innings of great ball. "Billy" Wagner seems to have a good deal of the old Honus Wagner batting eye with him, as he meets the ball squarely and hard on each occasion at bat and is the making of one of the prettiest backstops in the league. Bigbee in the Northwestern league made a good record as a base runner. Warner did well last fall in the games which he played, being a hard worker and fast. He is a giant in build and is one of the most powerful men in the big leagues.

NO 8-HOUR COMPROMISE

The Railroads Will Await the Supreme Court Decision

NO ACTION TO ANTICIPATE THIS

Payrolls Will Ignore Adamson Law Until Courts Determine Issue

New York, Dec. 28.—Pending the decision of the supreme court of the United States on the question of the constitutionality of the Adamson eight-hour law, the railroad managers declare they will not be parties to any action that might tend to nullify or anticipate in any way the court proceedings. The railway workers of the country are being notified that the Adamson law will be ignored in making up payrolls after Jan. 1 and "until such time as the issue is finally determined in the courts."

The notices contain the first formal declaration that pending the decision of the court there would be no compromise on hours or wages between the railroads and the brotherhoods.

The conference committee of railroad managers met here yesterday to discuss the situation, preparatory to a joint meeting to-day with the brotherhood chiefs.

ROAD SEVERELY CRITICIZED.

New Haven System is Ordered to Furnish Monthly Statements.

Boston, Dec. 27.—Passenger service on the lines of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad in this state is severely criticized by the public service commission in a report made public last night. The company is ordered to furnish monthly statements to the commission, showing in detail each delay of five or more minutes in passenger trains with the reasons therefor, and also a statement showing the status of plans for the improvement of the passenger service.

In reviewing the financial condition of the railroad the commission says:

"The financial troubles of the New Haven company have been chiefly due to the investment of huge amounts of capital at wasteful prices in the securities of other companies."

"The present railroad plant is relatively inefficient and inadequate and the ratio of operating expenses consequent is high. The earnings in the past of the railroad system proper have been amply sufficient to support the credit necessary to place the road in a first class operating condition."

URGES FEDERAL PULP MILL.

Congressional Committee Recommends Erection of Paper Plant.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Erection of a government pulp and paper mill to insure an adequate supply at reasonable prices, was approved by the joint congressional committee on printing yesterday, which annually draws specifications for government paper. The government uses approximately 30,000,000 pounds of print paper a year, which is sufficient to absorb the output of a 50-ton mill.

The report says water power and extensive forests and mineral deposits to supply such a mill can be found on many government reservations. The House committee on printing has also recommended a government mill.

More Shipping Demanded.

There isn't much use in crying over spilled milk, but just the same one can hardly help thinking how fortunately the United States would be situated just at present, were it independent of foreign shipping facilities. The thought is suggested by the plan to "nationalize" the entire ocean-going outfit of Great Britain, that is, to bring it under one administrative head and utilize it exclusively for the transportation of munitions and food supplies for the allied nations. In the end, it is said, it means the calling in of British ships engaged in trade between neutral countries and using them to carry the things necessary for the maintenance of the armies and civil populations of the entente.

Already the tonnage of the world has shrunk to so low a point that the shipyards in the world cannot provide enough to keep commerce afloat, and the prospective withdrawal of more British shipping accommodations from the uses of general trade will throw an additional burden upon neutral shipping. A far-seeing policy in America in the last quarter-century would have been productive of a merchant marine capable of meeting American ocean transportation needs in large measure, but other concerns prevailed, and the result is that now we are frantically building a shipping outfit at war prices, that can be made profitable only by charging excessive transportation rates, which, in turn, add to living costs.

Well, we are building our new merchant marine now, and are really doing a pretty good job at it, supplying ourselves, not with palatial ocean greyhounds to be sure, but with a fine outfit of useful freighters capable of carrying cargoes at a ton-mile cost lower than that needed by foreign built ships in order to make them competitive. The long-sleeping American ship-building ingenuity is awake again, and by standardization and a whole long category of efficiency devices is sending vessels down the ways and out over the world at a great rate. And with every rivet driven into these new ocean carriers there ought to be sent home into American thinking the conviction that all these ships and more like them must sail the seven seas after the war is over, and that the legislation necessary to their doing so must be enacted.

No just complaint of Britain's "nationalization" of its shipping can be made. England and her allies need her ships because they need both shells and grain. But we need ships, too, and our business is to have them, and once we get them it becomes our business to keep them and the world trade they represent. —Manchester Union.

WAR COUNCIL NAMED BY FRENCH PRESIDENT

General Joffre Is Omitted, But Honored as Marshal of France

Paris, Dec. 28.—As marshal of France Gen. Joffre will be more of a spectator of the war than an active participant. Following the announcement that the French commander in chief had been signally honored in the revival of the rank of marshal, Pres. Poincare signed a decree appointing a war council in which Joffre's name does not appear.

The conduct of the war is now settled upon a small council patterned after the one headed by Lloyd George. It is composed of Premier Briand, Gen. Lyautey, minister of war; Rear Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine; Albert Thomas, minister of national manufactures; Alexander Ribot, minister of finance, and Pres. Poincare.

The minister of war will communicate the decisions of the war council to the other ministers and military commanders and take measures to insure their execution. He will be responsible for every-thing concerning the preparation and maintenance of France's military resources.

The army is commanded by two generals, Nivelle in the north and east and Sarrail in the Orient. They are directly responsible to the minister of war.

Press and public welcome the revival of the dignity of marshal in favor of Gen. Joffre, who remains exalted in the hearts of his countrymen as the savior of France at the battle of the Marne.

EUROPE TAKES 2,000,000 BUSHELS IN 24 HOURS

Big Export Sales of Wheat Send Prices Up—British Shipping Protection a Factor.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Big export sales resulted yesterday in a steep advance for wheat. Gains in value amounted to 6 1/2 cents a bushel on some grades. The market closed unsettled but 3/8 6 1/2 net higher, with May at 173 1/4@173 3/4, and July at 141 1/2@141 3/4.

It was estimated Europe had taken 2,000,000 bushels or more within the last 24 hours. Traders appeared to be much impressed with advices indicating Great Britain was taking strong measures to protect shipping and facilitate exports from this side of the Atlantic.

TO RECEIVE BONUS.

American Express Co. Employees to Receive Benefit.

George C. Taylor, president of the American Express company, announced today that all employees in the service of the company for one year or more who receive a salary of \$2,000 per year or less, will be awarded a bonus of an extra month's salary in recognition of their excellent service to the company, and to the public, during the past year. This bonus will be payable in quarterly installments on the 1st of January, April, July and October, and those employees who have not been in the company's service a full year will receive subsequent installments as their twelve months' period is completed.

It is estimated that about 12,000 employees will share in this bonus, and the total amount involved will be about \$1,250,000.

It's Hard to See the One You Love—Unhappy.

Says a character in a story printed in the January Woman's Home Companion: "Why can't Walt be contented? 'What if we are poor! I'd work my hands off if it would help—but it don't. Why have I got to sit by day after day and see him fret and stew and eat his heart out because he can't live the way you did? Seems as if I couldn't bear it any longer.' She turned toward the portrait of the man. 'Sometimes I hate you!' she cried. 'It's because you were no-account and worthless that Walt's poor now. If you'd have done what you ought to have done he'd have plenty—and be happy. He'd never had anything to do with me if he'd had all that money, but oh—I'd even give him up now if it'd get back what he used to have.' She drew a long, aching breath. 'It's the hardest thing in the world to see somebody you love unhappy and not be able to do one thing to make it different.'"

TO MEET IN PLAINFIELD.

Extension School in Agriculture to Begin Jan. 2.

A committee consisting of L. M. Edson, A. L. Smith, R. W. Pike and Raymond Paige, has succeeded in making arrangements for one of the extension schools in agriculture to be held in Plainfield beginning Tuesday morning, Jan. 2, and lasting through Friday, Jan. 5. The school will be held in the town hall in Plainfield village. There will be morning sessions beginning at 9:30, and afternoon sessions closing a little before 4 o'clock in time for the farmers to get home to attend to chores, and probably one evening session.

Following are the subjects which will be taken up by competent speakers and specialists: The Corn Crop, Feeds for the Dairy Cow, Feeding Economic Rations, Co-operative Marketing of Woodlot Products, The Principles of Breeding, The White Pine Blister Rust, Practical Breeding, Feeding the Farm Flock, Clover and Alfalfa, The Farm Poultry House, Herd Management, Killing and Marketing Poultry, Clean Milk, The County Farmers' Association, Limes and Liming, Fertilizers, Soy Beans, Dairy Judging, Drainage, Business Dairying, Farm Manures, Diseases of the Dairy Herd, Crop Rotations.

This school has been made possible by the hearty co-operation of the farmers in and around Plainfield with the Agricultural Extension Service at Burlington. The school is conducted absolutely free and all interested are invited to attend any and all sessions.

About 45 names of farmers in and around Plainfield are attached to the petition for this school and they are certainly in obtaining it for their town.

There is no farmer who cannot benefit by some if not all the lectures on the topics listed above and it is hoped that all farmers within reaching distance of Plainfield will take this opportunity of learning how to improve their farms.

The Telephone Girl.

The young lady who sits at the switchboard of a central telephone office with a receiver clamped to her head, a transmitter in front of her mouth and plugs in both hands needs more than the meekness of Moses and the patience of Job to answer everybody's call immediately when they all call at once, are at in a desperate hurry and not one of them can wait a minute. She is expected to believe that the business of each party ringing her up is as important as she claims it to be and that a delay in getting the connection he wants will be likely to disturb the solar system. The delay creates a disturbance all right but it is contracted to the wire that reaches her ear and brings a startling self-revelation of the person at the other end of the line.

Nobody knows better than the telephone girl how thin is the veneer of courtesy in too many instances, and how horribly it will crack at slight provocation. Because she is merely a voice to the patrons of the telephone she is taken into their confidence to a greater extent than they meet face to face and before whom, for decency's sake, they must curb their tempers and bridle their tongues. It is doubtful if some gentlemen (?) address their wives at matrimonial boards on the occasions of muddy coffee and burned toast with quite the frankness they employ in telling the operator their opinion of her inability to keep lines from being "busy" when they want to use them. It is more doubtful if they would indulge in such freedom of language were they addressing, instead of an apparently im-

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Strange.

Miss Homeleigh—Perhaps you won't believe it, but a strange man tried to kiss me once.

Miss Cutting—Really! Well, he'd have been a strange man if he tried to kiss you twice.

HIGH HEELS PUT CORNS ON TOES

Tells Women How to Dry Up a Corn so It Lifts Out Without Pain

Modern high-heeled footwear buckles the toes and produces corns, and many of the thousands of hospital cases of infection and lockjaw are the result of woman's suicidal habit of trying to cut away these painful pests.

For little cost there can be obtained at any pharmacy a quarter of an ounce of a drug called frezone, which is soft, corn or callous without the slightest danger or inconvenience.

A few drops applied directly upon the tender, aching corn stops the soreness and shortly the entire corn, root and all, lifts right out. It is a sticky substance, which dries the moment it is applied, and thousands of men and women use it because the corn shrivels up and comes out without inflaming or even irritating the surrounding tissue or skin. Cut this out and try it if your corns bother you.—Adv.

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The old family remedy—in tablet form—safe, sure, easy to take. No opium—no unpleasant after-effects. Cures colds in 24 hours—Grip in 3 days. Money back if it fails. Get the genuine box with Red Top and Mr. Hill's picture on it—25 cents. At Any Drug Store

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