



## Franklin and Nashville

By JOHN McELROY.

### CHAPTER XIV.

#### The Cavalry Corps.

The Cavalry Corps, now raised to a strength sufficient to compete successfully with the redoubtable Forrest, was commanded by Maj.-Gen. James H. Wilson, formerly of the Army of the Potomac, who had been selected by Grant for this purpose. The First Division of this force was commanded by

Gen. Thomas for duty, and by him was sent to the Fourth Corps to report to Gen. Stanley. The latter was just going on "sick leave" on account of his wound received at Franklin, and without being assigned to any division. Gen. Stanley, by rank, assumed temporary command of the corps in the absence of the regularly assigned commandant. The immediate result of this was to send Brig.-Gen. Wood, who had been second in rank in the corps through

campaign, and actually in command of the corps in the absence of its regular chief or his assumption of still wider duties. As second in rank, Wood was essentially in confidential possession of much knowledge which he would not otherwise have, for the possibility that accidents might occur in the campaign may throw the larger command upon him requires that he should have the means of judgment and action in such an event. He is therefore in much closer relations to his superiors than he would be as a division commander merely. Again, in marches or in any scattering of forces, as senior, his command will be extended over other portions of the corps in the absence of the commander, and I had not infrequently found myself in command of another division beside my own either by definite orders or by operation of the Articles of War. When to this is added such command as fell to me in the October campaign in Georgia and in the battle of Franklin, which could not have been mine if I had not stood next to Schofield in the corps, it will be seen that for me it was the practical test of a grade, as it would have been for Gen. Wood in the Fourth Corps if Gen. Couch had remained there. My only purpose in noting these things is to make intelligible the feeling in the army that such



"NO COMMANDER EVER UNDERWENT GREATER DISTRESS OF MIND THAN GEN. THOMAS."

the brilliant Edward M. McCook, then absent with two brigades on an expedition into western Kentucky. The Fifth Division was commanded by Brig.-Gen. Edward Hatch, of distinguished record in the Army of the Tennessee; the Sixth Division by Gen. Richard W. Johnson, who had commanded a division in the Army of the Cumberland, and the Seventh Division by Brig.-Gen. Joseph F. Knipe.

#### The External Question of Rank.

In this connection it may be interesting to introduce some side lights from Gen. Cox's book, "Military Reminiscences of the Civil War," showing how the question of rank, always inevitable in any army, which had at times similar consequences in the Army of the Potomac, played a conspicuous part even in the unrelated bodies of men which Gen. Thomas had molded into his powerful fighting force. Gen. Cox says:

"The halt at Nashville was the occasion for some temporary changes in the organization of my division. Col. Henderson had not fully recovered from the ill health which had interrupted the command of his brigade, and having obtained a leave of absence to go home for a few weeks the command of this brigade remained with Col. Stiles. Gen. Reilly also found the need of recuperation, and was granted a short leave. It happened that Col. Doolittle, who had distinguished himself in command of the post at Decatur, had got back from a short absence, and reached Nashville after communications with Murfreesboro were interrupted. Not being able to join his proper command, I was glad to make arrangements to give him temporary service with me, and to renew the pleasant acquaintance made on our journey from Georgia. He acted as Chief of Staff for a few days till Reilly left, and I then assigned him to command Reilly's Brigade, where there was no officer of sufficient experience for that command.

"Another change which occurred was the general officers, and strongly illustrated the chafing likely to arise under such circumstances. In pursuance of a policy before mentioned the War Department was bringing

the year, and was one of the oldest officers in the Army of the Cumberland. In the rearrangement of divisions when the temporary command would cease it would displace Gen. Kimball, who was also one of the most experienced Brigadiers, and would reduce him to a brigade. The dissatisfaction thus caused in Thomas's own department made him transfer the problem to Schofield and the Army of the Ohio. Thomas proposed to Couch to take a division, therefore, in the Twenty-third Corps. Schofield was induced to consent to this, as it was accompanied by an arrangement for the speedy organization of a division of new troops to which Gen. Ruger could be assigned, whilst Couch should take that which



BRIDGE OVER THE CUMBERLAND AT NASHVILLE. (From a wartime photo.)

Ruger now commanded. When the new scheme was laid before Couch he replied with dignity that he would readily serve where he was ordered, but could not, of his own election, take a position that would throw him into a lesser command. The formal orders making the changes were then issued. We had two good Brigadiers in our corps, who had recently proved their capacity to take the new division—

transfers are not good administration, except when they are in the nature of promotion for brilliant service. The feeling was also strong that the loss of one's footing in one large army, unless caused by exceptional reasons, fully understood, is a reason against a trans-

fer to another, where, in generous rivalry, all have been striving to merit advanced instead of diminished grades. In justice to Gen. Schofield, however, I must not omit to say that he fully appreciated my situation, and with an earnestness which outran anything I could claim, exerted himself to secure my promotion and to make me eligible to the permanent assignment to the corps' command when his own author-

ity was afterward enlarged. Gen. Couch's position was by no means a desirable one for him, for he could not be ignorant of the sentiment of the army, and he would probably have preferred a division in the Potomac Army to one in ours, for there, in spite of a temporary eclipse, he had a fixed and honorable reputation which would justify a reasonable expectation of regaining prominence in it.

Hood's audacious advance to a position in sight of Nashville filled the whole country with anxious forebodings



ON THE LINE OF WORKS AT NASHVILLE.

pressure to bear upon officers to make them accept any active service suitable to their rank or resign and leave room for promotions for others, since Congress refused to enlarge the number of general officers. Maj.-Gen. Bariss N. Couch had been during the war hitherto connected with the Army of the Potomac, but had drifted out of active service and was "waiting orders." Grant had suggested that he be sent to command the District of Kentucky, relieving Burbridge, whose administration was not satisfactory to the General-in-Chief. But political influences at Washington did not favor this change, and Couch was ordered to report to

Reilly, who had been distinguished in the battle of Franklin, and Cooper, who had conducted his brigade by a most nervous and circuitous retreat from Centerville to Nashville, but the commissions of these only dated from the taking of Atlanta, and, being junior on the list of general officers, their claims to the larger command were not considered very strong.

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## SERIOUS BUSINESS NOW ON HAND.

The Democrats Have Taken Hold Like Practised Hands—Good Team Work in the House—Passage of the Bill for Popular Election of Senators—Canadian Reciprocity—Presidential Booms Hatching—The Governor of New Jersey—Everything Passing Up to the Senate.

The serious look has come into men's faces at the Capitol, and the whirling sound is heard. The machinery is in motion. And as the wheels revolve the finished product is being turned out for inspection and approval, the while the wheels continue to revolve and more and more the great gears revolve the abnormal, which were so conspicuous in the very early April days, have ceased to be. Now at the south end of the Capitol it is as if an old clock, the legislative plant is running without noise or friction.

The new men are coming into the big places handsly and living up to the requirements. Speaker Clark is now able to run the House as he has for the last decade. His floor leaders no longer display timidity in guiding the great legislative body thru the maze of daily proceedings. It is not particularly different in all the outward aspects than it was 10 years ago, when the Republicans were in their pulpy days. Of course, there are the new faces, but the day-in-day-out aspect of things is about the same.

#### The House Leaders.

The House leaders have had little opportunity yet to show what they can do. Representative Underwood, Chairman of Ways and Means, is just getting thru with his first bill, Canadian reciprocity, and that is not of a character to seriously strain a Ways and Means chairman's capacity to take care of himself and his party's interests. The resolution for the popular election of Senators has passed the House after discussion which occupied one afternoon. The bill was in charge of Representative William Waller Hucker, of Keyesville, Mo., who has been in Congress for 12 years and is now Chairman of the Committee on the Election of President, Vice President and Representatives in Congress. He would hardly be styled one of the House leaders, though he is a prominent man in the House organization.

It fell to his lot to have charge of two very important measures in the course of the first few days, for after the passed constitutional amendment for the popular election of Senators came the bill to amend the law regarding publicity of campaign expenses. That bill belonged to Judge Tucker's committee, and was put thru the House so as to permit of publicity before its passage. Such a measure was part of the Democratic platform at the last Presidential election, and it will be remembered what a lot of talk there was along in the Summer and Autumn of 1908, when the Democrats wanted, and as far as their own campaign was concerned, had publicity of contributions before the election, whereas Mr. Taft, then the Presidential nominee, insisted that only publicity after the elections was necessary. Mr. Tucker had a little trouble getting that bill thru the House, and the Republicans got him into a corner from which he finally extricated himself. However, his committee will probably be hardly heard from again in this Congress.

#### Canadian Reciprocity.

The strain now will be chiefly upon the Democrats of Ways and Means, and from this time on for a month or two they will have abundant opportunity to show whether they are equal to the big tasks which the House has placed upon them. In the discussion of the reciprocity question of the best Democratic debaters of the Ways and Means Committee were trotted out and given an abundance of time. Representative Charles Smith, of North Carolina, who was selected to open the argument for the bill, is one of the best stump speakers in Congress. The purpose evidently was to let him have a speech that could be circulated next year as a campaign document. And, as usual, Mr. Kitchen did not disappoint the House Democrats who chose him for the opening speech.

Of course, there is an apportionment bill to pass from the Census Committee, but that will take at best no more than a day. The census is virtually decided, and the committee to report any business to the House, and accordingly the Chairman will have no opportunity to show what they can do. The House is now in the center of the stage. Incidentally it might be suggested that if he gets off well with his tariff program his friends are thinking about greeting him for the Presidential race. They say he is a very able man, level-headed and experienced in public affairs, and that there is no one in the House who probably takes as well with the country as a Presidential candidate.

Mr. Underwood is too busy just now to pay any attention to these compliments from his friends around the Capitol. But his name is bound to be on many tongues for a few months in connection with legislative matters. He is young enough to be a Presidential candidate in 1912 if some other should be nominated in 1912. He is receiving congratulations on the passage of the President's reciprocity bill, which went thru the House by an overwhelming majority and is now "up to" the Senate.

#### The Political Effect.

Of course, everybody is still asking everybody else at Washington what the political effect will be. That interrogatory is applied to every big move on the checker board. It applies to everything that President Taft does, as well as to everything that Congress does. And as Presidential politics are very much in the air many questions are heard as to what effect a successful extra session of Congress will have upon the Presidential aspirations of the Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri, and likewise upon President William Howard Taft.

Some wise folks have been proclaiming around the Capitol that the time was at hand when the Democrats could not afford to play politics, and the word has gone around that when the Democrats decided to bring out the Canadian reciprocity bill early they had achieved politics, and were attending strictly to the business for which the President called Congress into extra session. All the same, the Democrats are very jubilant over the prizes that are being won by their tactics in wringing reciprocity to the front, and likewise for bringing out the farmers' free list, and the Republicans are beginning to feel that the Democrats are showing all of a sudden for conducting the business of legislation, and that goes to show how much political

advantage with reference to the next Presidential campaign is now in the hands of the people who dwell in the Federal City by the Potomac.

The Democrats are by no means yet out of the woods. There is plenty of time for false steps that will give the Republican brethren cause for taking issues with the masses. The snap and dash with which the Democrats have inaugurated their return to power, of course, encourages them to expect that they will sweep the country in 1912, and their candidates are crowding to the fore. Naturally, too, the Democratic activities makes the Republicans take notice, for they will not jog along in an indifferent sort of way when the Democrats are proceeding at a brisk trot.

There has really been little difficulty, and should not have been, in getting a reciprocity bill enacted by the House under all the circumstances. Neither should there be much difficulty in getting a farmers' free list thru the Democratic House. The real trouble will come, and the real test of ability to ease up to requirements, will be when the Democrats undertake to revise the cotton and woolen schedules, the framing of which has taxed the brain powers of the ablest Republican legislators of the last quarter of a century.

#### Presidential Booms.

During the recent April days, teeming with these Democratic activities in the National House, Presidential candidates have accordingly been pushing a little farther into the field. Under the cover, as it were, of these activities there have been several maneuvers the significance of which is not altogether clear.

For example, a vigorous little boom-let has been launched for Gov. Dix, of New York, who apparently has no earthly prospects of delegates outside of his own State. His income-tax letter, in which he vigorously interdicted proposed constitutional amendment, has been used here at Washington to arouse interest in his Presidential prospects. There seem to be agents on the ground in his behalf, and they talk in that blasé manner proper to the Presidential boomer, and particularly to the New York Presidential boomer, about the splendid qualities of the Empire State Governor.

It hardly needs to be said that the boomers have made no impression upon those people in Washington who have any say about Presidential campaigns beyond arousing curiosity. Perhaps the Dix boom is designed to help Gov. Harmon by preventing Gov. Wilson, of New Jersey, from entering in a very formidable delegation. Perhaps Tammany Hall is working out some fine plan. The day is not distant now when the strife for convention delegates will be on.

There were too many other interesting topics current in Washington at the time to permit of much attention to the action of South Carolina Republicans at Columbia. The other day, under the lead of Capt. John G. Capers, of brilliant Republican record, in endorsing President Taft for renomination, and a re-election, the 300-word telegram, describing the meeting of the Executive Committee and embodying the resolutions it adopted, was not only sent to the White House offices, but was given out there. Furthermore, certain friends of the Administration took pains to obtain for the telegram as wide publicity as possible. Still other friends of the Administration, who have complete control of the party machinery, will probably act in the near future. These State Committees are now in the process of organizing, and the South and the South Carolina politics, and when they declare for a Presidential candidate it is certain that the State Conventions in due season will make the pledges good.

The South Carolina resolution referred to the desire of the Palmetto Republicans to "take this early opportunity to join our sister State of North Carolina in its prior endorsement of the statesmanship, wisdom and courage of William Howard Taft, the leader and safe counselor of our party, and to pledge to him the delegates from this State at the next National Convention." Capt. Capers spends a deal of his time in Washington, where, it is understood, the resolutions were written and where they were approved by the same influential friends of the Administration that approved of the North Carolina resolutions. It is hardly any secret that the South Carolina resolution holds the North Carolina and the South Carolina Republicans as in the hollow of his hand. They are chiefly officeholders, very largely Postmasters.

There seems to be a disposition to let the Southern movement grow just fast enough to offend and if anything discourage the La Follette boom in the South. Good politicians, and the La Follette boom, and watching President Taft's behalf, because it is realized that in these early stages of a campaign the most successful developments will be under way without attracting much attention.

#### Gov. Woodrow Wilson.

It is noted that Gov. Woodrow Wilson's travels of the Winter and the Spring are taking him to many States and incidentally strengthening his Presidential prospects from all accounts. Southerners in Congress are beginning to pay more attention to him than ever before as a Presidential aspirant. One begins to hear it said that the South is coming rapidly into line with him. He is easily the best advertised of all the Democratic aspirants. Since his visit of a few days ago to Indianapolis the Middle Western Democrats are talking much about his qualifications.

The President makers of the Democratic Party in Washington say that in the course of a few months there will be only two Democratic candidates—Clark, the Speaker of the House, and Wilson, the Governor of New Jersey. The Gov. Harmon boom, although carefully encouraged, has been steadily declining, and many believe will before long become purely a favorite son affair.

The Democratic tariff program has been gradually developing. The House is now going full tilt, and the big bills which the Democratic caucus has authorized are being "ground out" of the legislative mill with great regularity. The Senate, as already stated, has the Canadian reciprocity bill, and will soon have the "farmers' free list" as its companion. An hundred "necessaries of life," in which the farmer is sup-



The Welcome Mr. Bryan.

posed to be interested, are to be placed upon the free list. The Senate follows the House in voting its supplemental measure, which includes the agricultural machinery, harness, boots and shoes, flour, lumber, cotton bagging, salt and many kindred articles are to come in duty free if the bill becomes a law, and the Democratic theory is that the prices of all these articles will become less to the farmer as well as to other consumers.

#### The Agricultural Schedules.

Representative Needham, of California, a Republican member of Ways and Means, now declares that the Democrats intend also to revise the agricultural schedules, including pineapples, raisins, lemons, oranges and so on, which have been under the protection of the tariff since the Civil War. These would not be touched at this session of Congress. At the Senate end of the Capitol, however, one hears now much talk about the prospect that after the Canadian reciprocity bill has become law and the Senate has discussed some of the other pending tariff bills for a while there will be a general disposition to adjourn.

Of course, all the gossip in that connection is quite unsatisfactory, because it is indefinite. No one knows what the duties on sugar, because of the fact that sugar is a splendid revenue producer the Democrats will apparently be slow about tinkering with that schedule.

#### Things Up to the Senate.

Consequently the big query of the extra session is rapidly shifting Senate-ward. Before very long the Administration's supporters there must evidently afford a show of hands. They must make a substantial showing in support of the triumphant Democratic House to be met with general resistance or whether there is to be a policy of temporizing. If it is to be a general resistance, it will mean a prospect of Congressional adjournment by mid-July. If the Senate Republicans propose to fight the various revision bills thru to the last stage with a hope of effecting compromises and thus completing tariff legislation right away, as far as this Congress is concerned, adjournment cannot be expected till into the Autumn.

Senate committees, including that on Finance, which handles tariff bills, will be made up now in a few days. Senators will take no great interest in the prospects of tariff legislation as long as they are concerned with such intimate personal matters as their committee assignments.

The make-up of the Finance Committee, when the several Republican and Democratic vacancies have been filled, will indicate much about the treatment of Democratic tariff bills. House Democrats are expected to cut the high-protection schedules as deeply as they dare, without alarming business throughout the land. They know that if their revision of the woolen schedule, for example, is allowed to pass the Senate it will be in greatly modified form. That becomes a problem of compromise in conference. The deeper the Democrats cut the schedules in the House the more likely they will obtain as much revision in conference as they think they really should have.

#### Prospects of Reciprocity.

A long debate over reciprocity in the Senate is assured. It will hardly be less than two weeks. It may easily last a month. As reciprocity is an Administration measure, reported from the Finance Committee, it will require action of Congress, although without recommendation, the committee probably will not deliberate over it long. The reciprocity debate, which should go far toward demonstrating the Senate's temper toward the farmers' free list, if not toward further revision, should be in full swing in a week or little more, just about the time when the House will apparently have quite half of all its legislative program completed.

Republican Senators have been groping in the dark for some time. It is certain also that the Administration is very much in a quandary as to what its attitude ought to be toward the several Democratic measures that will come trailing in behind the Canadian reciprocity. It is not to be inferred that Republican Senators are greatly

concerned about respecting the President's wishes in that regard. And yet, with all the differences of opinion prevailing among the Republicans and with the conceded fact that insurgents will hold the balance of power, the President will undoubtedly exercise a very great influence over the legislative achievements of the extra session.

#### Democratic Team Work.

Just now everybody at Washington comments admiringly of the splendid team work in the House. Republicans are chagrined and hink back to two or three short years ago when they undoubtedly had the best party organization ever seen in this country. Then far the House Democrats have hardly slipped cog, and while apparently achieving politics, have none the less played a game of successful politics that simply makes the Republicans edify. When the bill for publicity of campaign expenses before election was under consideration the Democrats "lost their bird," as one New England Yankee put it, by dividing over a Republican amendment which carried temporarily. The Republican jubilation, however, was tolerably short lived, and the incident is likely to teach the new Democratic members a little more caution.

Many House Chairmen are eager for committee meetings to consider the mass of bills which has already been dumped in upon them. While the Democratic caucus restricted the measures upon which reports could be made at the extra session, this will not prevent committee members from transacting a lot of preliminary business. Chairman Sparkman, of the Rivers and Harbors Committee, has announced that he is ready to grant hearings to all who come advocating any project for water ways improvements. The general disposition seems to be to make the extra session one of investigation and industry all along the line, and not a thumb-twirling, idle affair while the Senate deliberates.

## "OPENING THE BOOKS."

The Democrats Propose a Thorough Investigation of All the Departments—No Belief That it Will Develop Anything Sensational.

Nine House Chairmen of committees are just now furrowing their brows and girding themselves for business. One is the Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the State Department, He is Representative Courtney W. Hamlin, of Missouri. Another is Chairman of Expenditures in the Treasury Department, Wm. E. Cox, of Indiana, and so on down thru the list of nine Executive Departments. The Chairmen have met en masse with Speaker Clark, and inaugurated their plans for "opening the books."

There is an impression in Washington that this much-advertised effort is likely to prove a fiasco. The old stage-business method of a few Democrats, no one of whom is known in Washington for any great Congressional achievements to date, will likely startle the country with disclosures, and, above all, that they are not likely to suggest improved methods for handling the Government's business.

As far as can be judged none of these Chairmen and none of their Democratic associates on the committee are men of particular business or legal experience to qualify them for passing upon the business methods of the Government. The Administration, however, will have as defenders upon these committees a number of very well-informed Republicans. The great attack, of course, will be made upon the Treasury Department. The leading Republican on that committee is Representative Chamberlain J. Hill, of Connecticut, one of the best-informed men in public life as regards Treasury business. Heading the Republican minority on Expenditures in the War Department is Representative Ascher C. Hinds, of Maine, a thoroughly informed man and a student of Government affairs.

Will Do a Lot of Digging. The nine committees will undoubtedly do a lot of digging. Even if Congress adjourns in July or thereabouts the nine committees now plan to stay in Washington all during the Summer, and that will go far toward preventing the dullness of a country village which

(Continued on Page Two.)