DEMOCRATIC RULE TO FAVOR SOUTH

Most of House Committee Chairmanships Would Go to Seven States.

BY WILL P. KENNEDY.

Should the Democrats organize the House at the opening of the seventy-second Congress in Decembe it will mean not only the election of the Speaker and floor leader, but the chairmanship of at least 30 of the committees, of which probably seven would go to Texas.

While a series of deaths since the last Congress closed have given the Democrats a present majority of one, the official standing being, Democrats, 214; Republicans, 213; Farmer-Labor, one, and vacancies, seven, it must not be overlooked that all of these vacancies probably will be filled before Congress meets in December. Neither Republican nor Democratic leaders expect to see any overthrows in any of the vacant districts—that is, Republicans will probably be elected to fill Republican vacancies and Democrats to fill Democratic vacancies. Vigorous campaigns are under way, but no further change in party lines is anticipated.

The one chance for Democratic control seems to be whether Stanley H. Kunz, Democrat, will be seated from the eighth Illinois district, or whether Peter C. Granata, Republican, will be seated. The Democrats claim this seat by virtue of a court decision in favor of Kunz, but the Republicans say that merely gives Kunz the right to make a contest before the House itself for the seat which belongs to Granata by virtue of a certificate of election issued to him following the election last year.

13 Deaths Since Election.

When the elections were held last November, the result was: Republicans, 218; Democrats, 216; Farmer-Labor, one. Since then there have been 13 deaths, a record-breaking number.

Of the seven vacancies, five will be filled by elections on November 3—the first and twentieth Ohio districts, the eighth Michigan, second Pennsylvania and the Seventh New York. The New Jersey Legislature is to meet in special session tomorrow to amend the election laws so that a successor to Representative Ackerman can be elected before Congress meets. Gov. Wyant of New Hampshire is making arrangements for an early election of a successor to Representative Fletcher Hale.

Seldom in history has the entire House membership of 435 been in attendance at an organization session at the opening of a new Congress, but a special drive will be made by leaders of both parties to have their full strength mustered on December 7.

It is also probable that, while there will be a sort of free-for-all contest in the Republican caucus with favored sons of half a dozen or more States put forward as candidates, after a few complimentary ballots the fight will close down to between Tilson of Connecticut and Snell of New York. After that contest is decided—and it may be by the election of a third or compromise candidate—it is a pretty safe conclusion that the Republican membership will vote solidly for the Republican candidate whoever he may be.

Garner and Byrns.

If the Democrats should happen to hold control, Representative John N. Garner of Texas will be elected Speaker, and probably Representative Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee, ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee will be made floor leader. This would take Garner, the ranking man, from Ways and Means, and Byrns, the ranking man, from Appropriations.

Under the seniority rule at least 30 of the committee chairmanships would go to representatives from Southern States.

Out of scarcely a dozen committees on which Northern Representatives may be chairman under the seniority rules, a number have Southern men next in line, so that in the adjustment where some veteran Democrat is by seniority entitled to his choice between several chairmanships, a Southern Democrat who stands in second place may get a chairmanship. For example, Representative Loring M. Black, jr., of New York, is in line for chairman of three committees and second in line on several others. He must choose, if the Democrats are in control, between Education, Claims and Revision of Laws. If he prefers the chairmanship of Education then the chairmanship of Claims would go to Representative J. Bayard Clark of North Carolina.

Several Democratic members would thus have their choice of several chairmanships: Lanham of Texas either Patents or Public Buildings and Grounds; Jeffers of Alabama, either Election of the President, etc., or Civil Service, and Rankin of Mississippi, either Census or World War Veterans Legislation.

Texas and Alabama.

Under the seniority rule, if the Democrats are in control, Texas is sure of at at least six, and probably one or two more chairmanships: Agriculture, Marvin Jones; Appropriations, James P. Buchanan; Judiciary, Hatton W. Sumners; Patents or Public Buildings and Grounds, Fritz G. Lanham; Rivers and Harbors, Joseph J. Mansfield.

But Alabama will come a close second with five probable chairmanships: banking and currency, Henry B. Steagall; civil service or election of President, etc., Lamar Jeffers; roads, Edward B. Almon, and war claims, Miles C. Algood.

North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia would be entitled to four chairmanships each and South Carolina to three.

This would give to seven Southern States the chairmanships of 28 of the biggest committees in the House.

The probable lineup on committee chairmanships under the seniority practice of giving the chairmanship to the Democrat who has served longest on the committee is as follows:

Accounts—Representative Lindsay C. Warren of North Carolina.

Agriculture—Representative Marvin Jones of Texas.

Appropriations—Representative James P. Buchanan of Texas.

Banking and currency—Representative Henry B. Steagall of Alabama.

Census—Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi.

Woman on D. C. Group.

Civil Service—Representative Lamar Jeffers of Alabama.

Claims—Representative Loring M. Black, jr., of New York.

Coinage, weights and measures—Representative Edgar Howard of Nebraska.

Disposition of useless executive papers—Representative Robert A. Green of Florida.

District of Columbia—Representative Christopher D. Sullin of New York is first in line, but is expected to give way to Mrs. Mary T. Norton of New Jersey.

Education—Representative Loring M. Black, jr., of New York.

Election of President, Vice President and Representatives in Congress—Representative Lamar Jeffers of Alabama.

Elections No. 1—Representative Edward E. Eslick of Tennessee.

Elections No. 2.—Representative John J. Douglass of Massachusetts.

Elections No. 3.—Representative John H. Kerr of North Carolina.

Enrolled Bills—Representative Mell G. Underwood of Ohio.

Linthicum on Foreign Affairs.

Expenditures in the Executive Departments — Representative Allard H. Gasque of South Carolina.

Flood Control—Representative Riley J. Wilson of Louisiana.

Foreign Affairs—Representative J. Charles Linthicum of Maryland.

Immigration and Naturalization—Representative Samuel Dickstein of New York.

Indian Affairs—Representative John M. Evans of Montana.

Insular Affairs—Representative Christopher D. Sullivan of New York.

Interstate and Foreign Commerce—Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas.

Invalid Pensions—Representative Mell G. Underwood of Ohio.

Irrigation and Reclamation—Representative William C. Lankford of Georgia.

Judiciary—Representative Hatton W. Sumners of Texas.

Quin on Military Affairs.

Labor—Representative William P. Connery, jr., of Massachusetts.

Library—Representative Lindsay C. Warren of North Carolina.

Memorials—Representative Mary T. Norton of New Jersey.

Merchant Marine and Fisheries—Representative Edwin L. Davis of Tennessee.

Military Affairs—Representative Percy E. Quin of Mississippi.

Mines and Mining—Representative Arthur H. Greenwood of Indiana.

Naval Affairs—Representative Carl Vinson of Georgia.

Patents—Representative Fritz Lanham of Texas.

Pensions—Representative Allard H. Gasque of South Carolina.

Post Office and Post Roads—Representative Thomas M. Bell of Georgia.

Printing—Representative William F. Stevenson of South Carolina.

Public Buildings and Grounds—Representative Fritz G. Lanham of Texas.

Public Lands—Representative John M. Evans of Montana.

Pou on Rules Committee.

Revision of the Laws—Representative Loring M. Black, jr., of New York.

Rivers and Harbors—Representative Joseph J. Mansfield of Texas.

Roads—Representative Edward B. Almon of Alabama.

Rules—Representative Edward W. Pou of North Carolina.

Territories—Representative William C. Lankford of Georgia.

War Claims—Representative Miles C. Allgood of Alabama.

Ways and Means—John N. Garner, the ranking Democrat, would be elected Speaker if the Democrats have control, leaving Representative James W. Collier of Mississippi as probable chairman.

World War Veterans' Legislation—Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi.

From the Front Row

Reviews and News of Washington's Theaters.

"The Woman Between" Is Played by Lily Damita.

"THE woman of many moods," Lily Damita has ample opportunity to use them in "The Woman Between," currently being exhibited at the Rialto. As the exotic wife of a rich business man, she falls in love with her stepson, runs a dressmaking establishment, dashes back and forth between European capitals, and is about the most restless woman who ever occupied a man's home. Eventually, after she realizes that her husband is THE man, she calms down long enough to have lunch with him and plan life all over again, in a house where the Mediterranean is the front lawn.

Lily Damita.

Miss Damita, whose methods of ebullient hilarity in the stage success "Sons o' Guns" raised her to particular heights, is much more credible when she laughs than when she cries. The director in this has made her pose like a clothes model. Futhermore, although she is meant not to get along in the household, there is little reason why she should slide around like a panther and why her husband's friends shouldn't be alarmed at her, since her costumes are reminiscent of Lenore Ulric's Lulu Belle. Miss Damita is occasionally comely, and, but for long strips of colored gauze around her throat, might be so at all times. But this business of standing around and posing a la Alfred Cheney Johnson begins to pall after a while.

All of which is to say that the film lacks the spark of life and the red blood of reality. It is sluggish and by no means well drawn, either by line or by character. While it is a fact that many stepmothers are shunned by their stepchildren, a positive hatred like Miss Seagar's seems slightly overdone, and the fact that the rich father should be so blind as not to realize that youth must have youth is another exasperating point. The upshot is meant to be happy. But is it?

O. P. Heggie, who undertakes the role of the father, is not as fine as he usually is, Miss Damita is doubtfully cast, Lester Vail is better than he has been in any film so far, and 14-year-old Anita Louise, acting the part of a young debutante, is far too young for her assignment, although she tries hard, and often nearly succeeds. All in the cast, however, have an up-hill battle, and it is not their fault if they don't win.

E. de S. MELCHER.

"Road to Reno," at the Earle, Vividly Pictures Divorce.

RENO is painted with all the colors that seem necessary to give the impression of a rendezvous for persons who have but the one instinct—to seek pleasure and a sort of recreation—in the week's attraction at the Earle Theater. The vivid reproduction of the surging crowd, shaking off one set of bonds and taking others which are untested, has no place for business or profession save the making of divorce easy. Neighborly Hollywood has had no difficulty in understanding the spirit and has performed well in putting it on the screen. Only here and there can serious thoughts be made evident—when remorse and indignation come to plague the chief actors in new deals for domestic life. Even the hotel clerk and his associate telephone operator are pictured as cynics, to whom life is but a procession of married and unmarried couples. Orchestra musicians play with the tempo of a new freedom and cab drivers are prepared at all times to serve, with speed, frantic persons meeting new emergencies.

It is all presented in "The Road to Reno," without any moral obligations to interfere with the rushing stream of merriment, and the reproduction omits no detail that might contribute to the striking effect. But the play, like all other dramatic contributions, has some individual types and experiences to disclose, and in their presentation Lilyan Tashman, "Buddy" Rogers, Peggy Shannon and William Boyd are involved in a series of emotional experiences, which are as neatly carried out as anything that they could have undertaken. One might wish that Miss Tashman were employing her talents in aiding a real character to achieve something. It is likely to seem that Miss Shannon ought to have a less changeable assortment of morals and that Mr. Boyd ought to be something heroic. Buddy Rogers is one well-drawn, worth-while character, and with him is Tom Douglas, who saves the family with a double tragedy. Otherwise, it is just a picture of Reno, with the final outcome involving some fine examples of supreme regret.

The Earle stage program for the week is offered by a group of talented players, whose acts represent the variety that should make them popular. One of the best numbers is that of the Four Robeys, who combine gymnastic skill with juggling. Al Shaw and Sam Lee, heretofore observed as unique in their examples of dry humor, are unquestionably good contributors to the bill, and Oklahoma Bob Albright, assisted by Beverly Birks and Elinor Hoffman, offers an elaborate collection of musical and comedy features, not the least of which is the singing of "Old Man River," while a young dancer adds sparkle. Primrose Semon, with an associate young woman, performs in the spirit of the entire program, which is notable for its energy.

D. C. C.

"Twenty-Four Hours" Continues Another Week.

THE Louis Bromfield story, "Twenty-Four Hours," which has been made into an excellent film, is deserving of its second week at the Metropolitan. A closely knit yarn, spun out of the best of the Bromfield books, is interesting, exciting and full of speakeasy fire and thunder. While it may not please those who have never seen the red and white table upholstery of a metropolitan beer parlor, it should satisfy customers who prefer a lusty story, acted handsomely by a handsome cast.

Clive Brook, who seldom disappoints, assumes the role of a rich gentleman who, finding his wife cold to his embraces, seeks the affections of Rosie, the night club charmer. Rosie—played consummately by Miriam Hopkins—unfortunately has married a worthless racketeer, who insists on haunting her for the gold which she makes and which he can't make. Being a sensitive gangster, who shudders at the thought of another man making love to her, when he finds that Mr. Brook has advanced far beyond the friendship line, he sneaks into his wife's apartment and quietly strangles her. After this, of course, he gets what is coming to him, but not until Mr. Brook has very nearly gotten what he didn't deserve.

It's all handled with great skill and considerable tact. And you are apt to enjoy the murder scene particularly. Go early—but don't bring the kiddies—and remember Kay Francis is in the cast.

E. de S. M.

AMERICA LAUDED AS NEWS GATHERER

Scholastic Press Convention Hears James H. Furay—Awards Announced.

By the Associated Press.

LEXINGTON, Va., October 24.—Delegates to the seventh annual Scholastic Press Convention, held at Washington and Lee University tonight, heard aspects of international journalism discussed by James H. Furay, vice president of the United Press Association.

America has become the news gatherer of the world, Mr. Furay said. He added that this is a compliment to the efficiency and the neutrality of the United States and that this condition should contribute to international understanding and cordiality.

Prof. O. W. Riegel, acting director of the Washington and Lee School of Journalism, presided at the banquet and presented 12 cups to representatives of high school publications which had been judged superior in four classes, graded according to enrollments.

A bronze plaque given by the local chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, journalistic fraternity, was awarded to William West of E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, winner of the current events contest, and the fraternity also made Mr. Furay an honorary member.

In the A classification, including the largest schools, the cup was awarded to John Marshall High School of Richmond, while E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg; George Washington High School, Danville, and Central High School, Lonaconing, Md., were winners in the B, C and D divisions, respectively.

On Appeals Board

JOHN P. McDOWELL APPOINTED IN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

JOHN P. McDOWELL

Of Illinois, who has been appointed by Secretary of the Interior Wilbur a member of the Board of Appeals of the Interior Department. Mr. McDowell has filled legal positions in the Interior Department for over 25 years and is recognized as an authority on public land law and procedure. He has also had wide experience in field work. He was appointed from Illinois in 1904 and before entering the legal field was engaged in newspaper work in Chicago, being attached to the staff of the old Chicago Herald. —Harris-Ewing Photo.

WATSON CONCEDES DEMOCRATS HOUSE

Indiana Senator Predicts G. O. P. Minority and Garner Representatives Speaker.

By the Associated Press.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., October 24.—Senator James E. Watson predicted here yesterday that the Democrats will organize the House of Representatives in the next session of Congress and that Representative John N. Garner, Democrat, Texas, will be the next speaker.

Senator Watson pointed out the recent death of Representative Fletcher Hale, Republican, New Hampshire, left the Democrats leading the Republicans in the House by 214 to 213 members.

The senior Indiana Senator stopped here en route to Green Castle where he addressed the student body at Depauw University this morning.

TWO ARE REVIVED

Fire Rescue Squad Saves Two Overcome by Gas.

Two lives were saved early today by the Fire Rescue Squad.

The firemen revived William Hoff, 24-year-old carpenter, and Rosella Brown, 23-year-old department store clerk, after working nearly an hour. They had been overcome by gas at their rooming house in the 1300 block of D street northeast.

Dr. C. W. LeMaster of Casualty Hospital, who aided the firemen, said he believed both patients would recover. He ordered them removed to the hospital, however.

Aid was summoned by Robert Dawson, another boarder, after he detected an odor of gas emanating from Hoff's room. The fumes came from a heater which, though burning, was leaking.

MISSIONARIES TO TALK

Two on Furlough From India Coming Here on Tuesday.

Two missionaries on furlough from India are to arrive here Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Simpson's Chapel in the Methodist Building Tuesday morning at 10:30 o'clock.

The missionaries, Miss Lulu Boles and Miss Faith Richardson, are to tell of their experiences in India. They will remain in Washington until Thursday, when they will go to New York and embark on a ship for India.

161,000 SIGNERS SEEN FOR MURRAY

Oklahomans Back Governor's Proposed Election Call in Great Numbers.

By the Associated Press.

OKLAHOMA CITY, October 24.—Great heaps of initiative petitions signed to enable Gov. W. H. (Alfalfa Bill) Murray to call an election on economic reform told the story tonight of Oklahoma's response to it's Governor's unique "firebell's" plea.

While no one had tried to total the signatures obtained at hundreds of booths over the State, Ira Mitchell, one of those in charge of their State-wide distribution, declared there were more than 161,000—far in excess of the number needed for a special election.

The signatures were affixed to seven petitions, all sponsored by "Alfalfa Bill" in defiant retaliation at a Legislature which last Spring refused to adopt his program.

During the legislative session the Governor threatened to "ring the firebells" and "call the roll" among the voters if administrative measures were not enacted into law.

With receipt of enough initiative signatures, Gov. Murray proposes to call a special election next month to consider the program. It would revise taxes, curtail crop acreage, provide free school books and effect other changes.

A total of 72,000 signatures is necessary to put three proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, while 42,000 signatures will be necessary for a vote on legislative bills.

The constitutional amendments provide abolition of State ad valorem taxes and reduction of other ad valorem levies; provision that corporation lands not used in business shall escheat to the State if held for more than 10 years; and provision that the budget officer shall become a constitutional officer and that a three-fourths vote of each House of the Legislature will be necessary to raise any budget item recommended by the Governor.

Floral Prize

TROPHY AWARDED D. C. FLORIST FOR ORCHID DISPLAY.

At the recent annual floral festival held at San Leandro, Calif., in competition with flower entries from the United States and foreign countries, Gude Bros. Co., local florists, were awarded the silver trophy pictured above for a special entry of orchids.

The orchids were shipped by airmail across country, more than 3,000 miles, and upon arrival were as fresh as when they left the local green house.

The San Leandro floral festival annually attracts thousands of flower lovers and entries from florists in foreign countries and the United States. It is the largest event of its kind in the United States and is sponsored by the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce.

—Star Staff Photo.

Capital Man Honored.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., October 24 (AP).—E. C. Crittenden of the National Bureau of Standards at Washington today was elected president of the Optical Society of America for a two-year term.

G. M. OFFICIAL BUYS HISTORIC CHATHAM

John Lee Pratt Buys Residence From Col. D. B. Devore—Often Visited by Washington.

By the Associated Press.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., October 24.—Chatham, one of Virginia's most historic and beautiful estates, has been purchased by John Lee Pratt of Fredericksburg and New York, vice president of the General Motors Corporation, who will take immediate possession.

The handsome estate was sold by Col. Daniel B. Devore, U. S. A., retired, of Fredericksburg and Washington, who occupied it as a Summer home. Col. Devore purchased it some years ago from Mark Sullivan, political writer, who lived there for several years.

Mr. Pratt, a native of King George County, is owner of Sherwood Forest Farms, a large estate in Stafford, a few miles distant from Chatham, and purchased by him two years ago.

Situated on Stafford Heights overlooking Fredericksburg, Chatham was built in 1728 by William Fitzhugh, early Virginia overlord. It was named for Fitzhugh's friend and champion of the colonies, William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.

In the early life of Virginia it was an important gathering place. George Washington was a frequent visitor to the place, which adjoined the farm where he spent his boyhood, and in his diaries are frequent mention of visits to the Fitzhugh home. Martha Dandridge Custis, later Washington's wife, was a frequent visitor, and her granddaughter, Mary Custis, who married Gen. Robert E. Lee, was courted at Chatham by the young Army officer.

Chatham during the Civil Was was used frequently as a hospital and a lookout post.

VON STEUBEN SCION HONORED BY BALTIMORE

Descendent of American Revolution Officer Is Society's Guest at Luncheon.

By the Associated Press.

BALTIMORE, October 24.—Maj. Fritz von Steuben, descendant of Baron Frederick William von Steuben, Prussian-American general of the American Revolution, was honored by Baltimore today.

The visitor was the guest of the Schley unit of the Steuben Society at a luncheon following his reception by Mayor Howard W. Jackson. Maj. von Steuben is in the United States for the sesquicentennial celebration of Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. He came here from Washington and left tonight for Philadelphia.