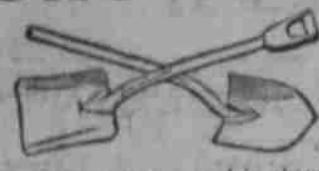


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witnessed a struggle in the Senate between republicans and democrats that prevented the confirmation of the greater part of President Taft's appointments. With more than two thousand appointments before the Senate, democrats declined to permit action on the great majority, and the result will be that President Wilson will fill the places after he comes into office.

The factional struggle, coupled with the interest democratic control for the organization and control of Senate and House under the new administration, injected the political equation into the last session's work to an unusual degree. Several bills that might have become law in the closing days of this session have been held back because democratic leaders preferred to have the subjects carried over until a "democratically" president, Senate and House can have an opportunity to carry out definite legislative programs.

Important actions in the short session just closing include:

"Literacy test" immigration bill passed, but vetoed by President Taft. Final six-year presidential term amendment passed by Senate.

Life prisoners in federal prisons made eligible to parole.

Five-year closed session for Senate incorporated in the international and trade treaty.

Federal control of water power defeated in Senate.

Manufacturers of tools required to state the net weight and contents on outside of food package.

Government authorized by law to seize trust-controlled goods as soon as imported into the United States.

Lincoln memorial authorized in cost \$2,000,000.

The democratic majority that took control of the house when the election was organized insisted on going ahead with other features of tariff revision, and passed wool, cotton, timber and some other bills. All three measures with the aid of the progressive republican forces in the Senate, reached President Taft. They were vetoed on the ground that the tariff board was conducting investigations, the results of which must be known before a proper revision of the tariff could be made.

Legislative work throughout the special session, and the long session beginning in December, 1911, and running through last August, included the following:

Increase in the size of the house of representatives from 396 to 435 members.

Age and service pension law, increasing civil war pensions.

Eight-hour law covering government contracts.

Admission of Arizona and New Mexico to statehood.

Use of poisonous white phosphorus in match-making presented by executive law.

Pure drug law intended to prevent misleading labels on patent medicines.

Wireless communication brought under careful regulation, the law requiring the wireless on all ocean vessels to be adequately manned.

Government transports rendered to carry an ample number of lifecrafts. Red Cross recognized officially as branch of government service in time of war.

Federal relief given to 1912 flood sufferers in lower Mississippi valley.

Commerce, court and tariff board virtually legislated out of existence. Industrial commission authorized to study relations between capital and labor.

This congress has witnessed the restoration of many important treaties with foreign nations. The arbitration treaty with France and Great Britain, negotiated by President Taft, however, were not ratified, because the Senate so amended them that the president considered they did not carry out the understandings made with the two powers.

In the last two years, however, the following important agreements have been perfected:

Precious claims treaty with Great Britain.

North Atlantic Coast Fisheries agreement with Great Britain.

Fair seat-treaty with Great Britain, Russia and Japan.

International wireless treaty with leading foreign nations.

International war price agreement.

International agreement covering sanitary measures for the control of epidemics.

General arbitration treaty with France extended to 1918.

Copyright treaty with Hungary.

International agreement covering assistance and salvage at sea.

Investigations covering a wide range of important subjects were conducted. In addition to those enumerated, the "money trust," campaign expenditures and steel inquiries, special committees and the regular standing committees of the two houses have conducted the following:

Tariff hearings, by ways and means committee, in preparation for new democratic tariff bills.

Currency hearings, preparatory to framing monetary reform.

Investigation of affairs of American Kolby Mills for sale by J. H. O'Reilly Co.

Sugar Refining Company, and its alleged domination of the market.

Inquiry into the Titanic disaster.

Investigation of conditions along Mexican border, and alleged financing of Mexican revolutionists by Americans.

"Shipping trust" inquiry, to determine extent of the common control of ocean routes.

Investigations of Indian affairs, on various reservations, and at Washington.

Investigation of agricultural, treasury and other government departments.

Investigation of land grants about Controller Bay, Alaska.

President Taft has used the veto power freely throughout the congress. Fully twenty bills have met his disapproval, including democratic tariff bills, appropriation bills, which contained consumer court, civil service and army reorganization and legislation of which he did not approve; water power bills in which the principle of federal control was not recognized, and the immigration bill containing the "literacy test" feature.

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Investigation of affairs of American Kolby Mills for sale by J. H. O'Reilly Co.

This session has been marked by a series of bills introduced by the Senate, and the House has adopted them.

The Senate has passed the "literacy test" bill, and the House has passed the "silver" bill.

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