

SIFTING COMMITTEE NOW ON THE JOB

(Continued from page 1)
Flansburg for Peterson, the latter having been a member of the Republican committee on committees.

On Friday morning Chairman Taylor called a meeting of the committee on committees which ratified the action of the Democratic caucus and approved the six republican members. Chairman Taylor had gotten warm under the collar, being known as a "fighter" by the House. When he arose to make the committee report he delivered a fifteen-minute speech in which he denounced in strong terms the "insurgents" who had refused to be led by him, who had insisted that the members of the House should have a voice in the naming and selection of the sifting committee and who had been sustained in their contentions in the Democratic caucus by an almost unanimous vote.

The Lincoln Daily Star, one of the leading Democratic organs of the state, had the following to say in its Friday afternoon edition regarding Taylor's speech:

"Contemptible treachery" and "base deception" were phrases used upon the floor of the Nebraska house Friday morning by Chairman Taylor of the Democratic committee on committees, in telling what he thought of the methods employed by insurgent members of his party, who forced the majority leaders of the house to accept their plan for naming of a sifting committee.

The gentleman from Custer delivered a lengthy statement in regard to the matter, which was taken down in shorthand at his request to be incorporated in the house journal. It was full of vitriolic language and as Taylor progressed he became more emphatic, until finally his vocabulary ran out and he had to sit down.

None of the insurgents replied to him. Thomas, one of the two leaders of that element whom Taylor referred to, but did not name, seconded Taylor's motion to confirm the appointment of a sifting committee of fifteen members and to have it take charge of the general file next Monday morning.

Minority Leader Peterson, however, made a few remarks after Taylor got through. He expressed confidence in the sifting committee selected and said he didn't believe it would show any favors, "not even to the gentleman from Custer." He admitted that the minority, as charged by Taylor, had some part in the makeup of the committee, and concluded by inviting the democrats to "go to it" if they thought they had to fight among themselves over its composition.

"Nobody will claim that the committee on committees had a thing to do with the selection of this sifting committee," said Taylor. It is largely the work of two insurgent democrats and the would-be leader of the minority. Our committee has merely carried out the instructions it received from the Democratic and Republican caucuses."

The two insurgents alluded to by Taylor are Messrs. Osterman and Thomas. The "would-be" minority leader is Mr. Cronin. While blaming these three for the situation which deprived the committee on committees of its actual authority to name the sifting committee, Taylor indirectly denied that they had put through the most of their slate, as has been published in some of the newspapers.

"I want everybody to stay in his seat until I get through," said the Custer member at the start, "because if anybody should interrupt me and go up in the air the house will simply know that he has been hit."

"The two members of the committee on committees who instigated and led the revolt, together with the would-be leader of the minority, convened what they called an insurgent caucus, after the committee on committees had met and decided upon a sifting committee of eleven members. One of these men is quoted in a daily newspaper as saying that his crowd insurgured in order to defeat a slate that had been made up in advance."

"Now they are all bragging about having put through their own slate. The would-be minority leader says to

the democrats of this house: 'We fixed up a slate for you fellows and made you swallow it.'

"You members of the majority have been made the goats for their treachery and deception. I use those words advisedly. There was no purpose in making a slate, so far as the committee on committees was concerned. We had a plan in mind to choose the members of the sifting committee in such a way that there could be no suspicion of jobbery. This was to let the different members of the committee on committees nominate men from their own congressional districts for the sifting committee and then have the whole committee vote by ballot on the nominations."

"Was any principle involved in the insurgent move? No, it was all for the purpose of putting through their own slate, while claiming that they were opposed to slates. Such contemptible treachery, base deception and duplicity warns us to be suspicious of these men. I am surprised that this child, born of such mean parentage—"

Here the house broke out into laughter, interrupting Taylor for a moment or two. He kept right on talking, but when he was able to make himself heard again he remarked that he couldn't find words to express himself. He finally concluded with a motion to adopt, not the child of mean parentage but the report in regard to a sifting committee.

The Omaha Daily News, leading independent newspaper of the state, had the following regarding the affair:

Lincoln, March 16.—The house today named a sifting committee to take charge of all bills on general file not yet sent to third reading. The committee, comprised of nine democrats and six republicans is:

John H. Rifenrath, Crofton, chairman; L. G. Todd, Union; James H. Craddock and John H. Hopkins, Omaha; R. C. Regan, Platte Center; Nicholas Mysenburg, David City; George Jackson, Nelson; Soren Fries, Danneberg; John E. Jacobson, Lexington, democrats, and Albert H. Miller, Kennard; Leonard E. Flansburg, Lincoln; J. A. Axtell, Fairbury; W. L. Bates, Lodge Pole; L. B. Stuhr, Grand Island; John F. Nesbit, Tekamah, republicans.

The nine democrats were chosen by their party caucus Tuesday night, the "insurgents" controlling the meeting.

Led by Lloyd C. Thomas, Alliance, insurgents insisted on members from each congressional district selecting their own representatives on the sifting committee and on giving the republicans one sifter from each district. They all got what they wanted.

The overturning of the leaders and success of the insurgency will not cause any change in the actual floor leadership of the democrats, but has removed the possibility of control of the house by any small body of men.

Prominent Democratic leaders have assured Representatives Thomas and Osterman that they did not blame them for "insurgency" for what they believed to be right, especially in view of the fact that they had been sustained in their contentions by so strong a majority of their own party, as shown by the almost unanimous vote at the caucus. They point out the fact that if the leaders were allowed to have full sway at all times there would be little hope for those who differed with them, and that even the leaders may at times make mistakes.

But once again has the dove of peaceful harmony settled above the east wing of the capitol and the daily grind goes on within. At times the members of the house pause and wonder what will happen to the bills which they have passed and turned over to the tender mercies of the senate, in the west wing. The senate has yet to consider the most important bill of the session—the prohibition bill. Democratic leaders are hoping that the senate majority will remember the 30,000 majority cast in favor of statewide prohibition at the election last fall and that they will leave the "teeth" in the bill as drawn up and passed by the house.

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Homesteaders Who Took Less Than 160 Acres of Land Are Given Wider Latitude

Both houses of congress have passed an amendment to the enlarged homestead act so as to provide that where a homesteader on agricultural land has taken less than 160 acres, he may take in a dry-farming area not merely the difference between what he has previously homesteaded and the full 160, but twice the difference.

For illustration, if he has homesteaded 120 acres of agricultural land, under the old ruling he has been limited to forty acres more. Under the new law he can take twice that, or eighty acres, in a dry-farming section.

Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, announces that during January more than 1,000,000 acres were designated for entry under this act, of which nearly 150,000 acres was in Custer county, Mont., and a part Phone 340.

of that is still available for new entries.

In South Dakota there were designated more than 500,000 acres, but it is practically all entered or patented, although there are small areas open to entry in Lyman, Tripp, Gregory, Stanley and Perkins counties.

There were also some lands designated in Colorado, Utah and Washington.

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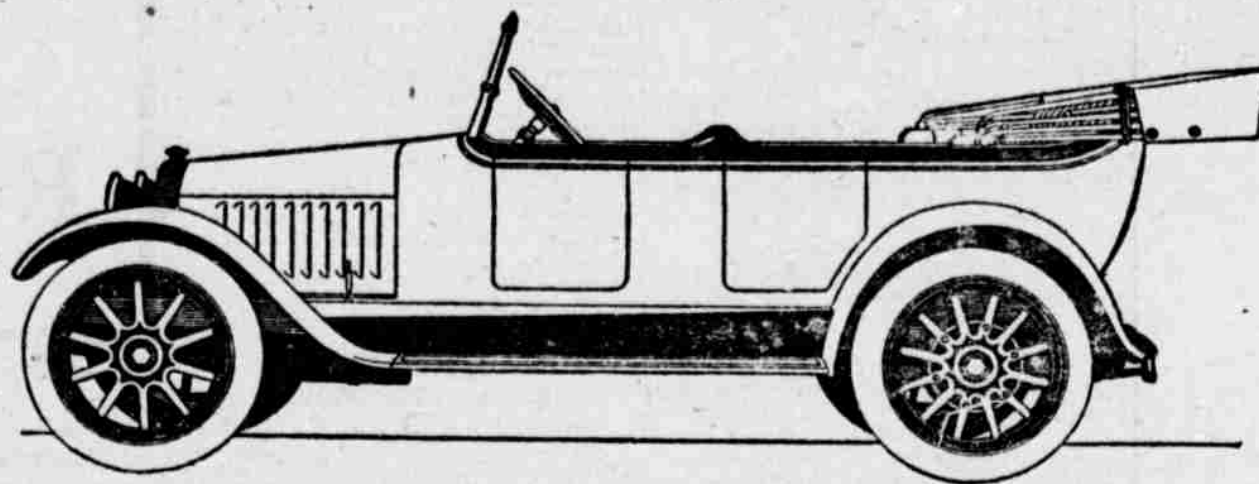
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