

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Washington News

President Taft attended the funeral of a brother-in-law, Thomas McK. Laughlin, at Pittsburg.

Mrs. G. J. Diekema, wife of Representative Diekema of Michigan, died at the national capital.

Perry Belmont of New York, president of the national publicity association, declares that the McCall bill, providing for publicity of campaign contributions was reported out of the house committee only by the persistent efforts of the democratic members.

Senator Tillman is slowly recovering and has been removed to his home in South Carolina.

Senator LeRoy Percy formally took the oath of office as a senator from Mississippi.

William J. Calhoun, the new United States minister to China, has left for his post at Peking.

Word has been received that Horace G. Knowles, United States minister to the republic of San Domingo, was assaulted on the public streets of Santo Domingo.

President Taft visited Chicago on St. Patrick's day as the guest of the Irish Fellowship club.

The last chapter in the postoffice scandals of 1903 was written when United States Attorney Baker nolle

crossed the remaining undisposed indictments. Mr. Baker told the court that George W. Beavers, former superintendent of salaries and allowances, and August W. Machen, superintendent of rural free delivery, had served sentences for similar offenses and that the government had no desire to further prosecute them.

It is generally believed that the United States supreme court decision in the Standard Oil case will not be rendered until next May.

An agreement between the United States and France has been reached on all tariff differences. The president has signed a proclamation giving France the 25 per cent reduction on rates provided for in the Payne-Aldrich bill.

President Taft has invited Finance Minister Fielding of Canada to meet with him in the hope of adjusting differences.

When Moses A. Haas and Frederick A. Peckham of New York, indicted for conspiracy in connection with the cotton leak scandal of 1905, appeared in criminal court, they were re-arrested on other indictments pending against them. Justice Gould fixed bail at \$6,000 for each and the men returned to New York. Their attorneys took out a writ of habeas corpus which Justice Gould made returnable on April 1.

party instead of being united, is divided into factions which are fighting each other to the death. So we seem justified in expecting a democratic house by a good working majority.

While President Taft was elected by a majority of more than a million of the popular vote, his majority was much less than was Roosevelt's in 1904. Notwithstanding Taft's large majority, democrats made certain notable gains in 1908. In addition to cutting down the republican majority in the house from fifty-seven to forty-seven, democrats elected governors in Ohio, Indiana, North Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado to succeed republican governors, while the republicans elected their first governor in Missouri for four decades by reason of a democratic row over the gubernatorial nomination, which also accounts for the fact that President Taft carried Missouri by 629 plurality in a poll of over 750,000. Locusts come every seventeen years, but republican governors of Missouri are selected only every forty years. So, in the elections of 1908, democrats made a net gain of four governors. They also elected those splendid democrats, Shively of Indiana, and Chamberlain of Oregon to succeed republican in the senate of the United States which reduced the republican senatorial majority by four.

The elections of 1909 also show democratic gains. In Kentucky the legislature, which elected that rancorous republican, William O. Bradley, to the United States senate by the aid of four democratic bolters, is succeeded by a legislature in which the democrats have more than a two-thirds majority in both houses. They not only carried every legislative and senatorial district which usually goes democratic but many which usually go republican. While the present legislature does not elect a United States senator, the state senators elected in 1909 hold over and participate in the election of a senator. As the democrats have a majority of eighteen of the hold-over senators, it is certain that a democratic United States senator will be elected.

Gratifying as that result in Kentucky is, the most significant gains were made in Massachusetts, where the paramount issue was the Payne-Aldrich-Smith tariff bill. The republican majority on the governorship was reduced from 60,000 to 8,000. Still more significant than the vote for governor, however, was the vote for lieutenant governor. Eugene Foss, the democratic nominee, was defeated by a plurality of only 5,000 and Foss is one of the boldest tariff reformers in the land. He tried for years to force the republicans to revise the tariff downward, but finding all his labors in that regard in vain in the republican party, sensible man that he is, he abandoned the g. o. p. and cast his fortunes with the democracy of the old Bay state. So strong is the tariff revision downward sentiment in Massachusetts that Senator Henry Cabot Lodge has the fight of his life on his hands for the senatorship. Young Butler Ames, Representative in congress, son of General Adelbert Ames and grandson of General Benjamin F. Butler, is hotfoot after the toga of the senator from Nahant. As both are millionaires there is liable to be a hot time in the old commonwealth this fall. Let us hope that out of it may come a democratic state administration, a democratic United States senator and more democratic representatives in congress.

It will be remembered that as a result of the passage of the McKinley tariff bill a majority of New England representatives in congress, elected in 1890, were democrats, and history has an incorrigible habit of repeating itself. In this connection it should not be forgotten that the Payne-Aldrich-Smith bill is worse

## Prospects for a Democratic House

Hon. Champ Clark in Norman E. Mack's National Monthly

It is an old saying that in this country one campaign is scarcely finished till another is begun. It is ten months till the November election but already not only are forecasts being made but preparations also, for, while it does not always hold true, it general does, that the party which wins in the congressional election preceding a presidential election wins that presidential election also. Consequently, while the republicans will hold the White House and senate until March 4, 1913, much interest attaches to the complexion of the house of representatives in the Sixty-second congress not only because of the political power which goes with it but as a forerunner of things to happen in 1912.

To state the case modestly the signs are that the democrats will elect the next house unless a foreign war should unfortunately intervene. Revising the tariff is always a ticklish performance for the party in power, ending under normal conditions, in the defeat of that party. Republicans revised the tariff in 1874 and lost in 1874. They again revised it in 1890 and lost. Democrats revised it in 1894 and lost. Republicans revised it in 1897 and won—but they won only by the skin of their teeth and by reason of the Spanish war. When the house elected in 1898 convened, it had only thirteen republican majority which was promptly increased by the simple but effective plan of throwing out democrats who were elected and putting in republicans who were not elected, for republican leaders can always be depended upon to commit any outrage which will give them a political advantage from the shift of the presidency as in the Tilden-Hayes contest down to petit political larceny. In

the election of 1898, a change of only seven would have given the house organization to the democrats, but a miss is as good as a mile. The house organization went to the republicans and with it the presidency in 1900. No man in full possession of his senses can doubt that the Spanish war gave the republicans that narrow margin of thirteen in the house elected in 1898. Democrats did as much fighting as republicans but it was conducted by a republican administration and the republicans were helped politically thereby. It gave President McKinley several thousand fat offices to dispose of with which to reward the faithful, heat up the lukewarm and poultice the sore heads of those disappointed and disgruntled by his original disposition of official pay.

The trend of events is toward a democratic house. In the Fifty-ninth congress, elected in 1904, the republicans had a majority of 114. In the Sixtieth congress, their majority was fifty-seven. In the present congress, the Sixty-first, they have forty-seven majority. Both the Fifty-ninth and the Sixty-first congresses were elected in presidential years, when the republicans had the benefit of enormous campaign funds and when the whole of Theodore Roosevelt's influence and popularity were exerted in favor of a thoroughly united party. The true measure therefore, of the trend towards a democratic house is found in the reduction of the republican majority of 114 in the Fifty-ninth congress to fifty-seven in the Sixtieth. A like change at the ensuing election will give us a democratic house by a small majority. That would probably be the result under ordinary circumstances with a united republican party; but the

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