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:-: **Washington News** :-:

The house has adopted a resolution introduced by Representative Hitchcock, calling for an investigation by the rules committee regarding a delay of forty-nine days between the time the Ballinger investigating committee reports were presented to the house and the date of their receipt by the house committee on agriculture. Mr. Hitchcock's resolution caused a sensation and it aroused the anger of Speaker Cannon, who waxed sarcastic in replying to Mr. Hitchcock's speech, and expressed the opinion that if Mr. Hitchcock had been in Washington all the time he would not find anything mysterious about the reports. The speaker declared that the reports were referred promptly to the house committee on agriculture, and Representative Mann of Illinois, Cooper of Pennsylvania and Scott of Kansas declared that any delay there might have been was due to the inability of the printing office to turn out a map of Alaska as rapidly as could have been desired. In reply to the speaker and to his defenders, Representative James of Kentucky, a member of the Ballinger investigating committee, called attention to the fact that a period of twelve days elapsed between the dates the reports were presented to the house by Representative McCaul, vice-chairman of the committee and the day they were referred to the agricultural committee. This statement, he said, was borne out by the house records, from which he read. Mr. James criticized the house organization and said that if congress had to wait as long to get the reports back from the committee as it had to wait to get them there congress would have adjourned. Mr. Hitchcock then declared that the house and the country had a right to know who was responsible for holding up reports, and on his motion the resolution was adopted.

A Washington dispatch to the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal says: "The staggering arithmetical problem, complicated by questions of international law, of how much of the \$33,000,000 debt of the old state of Virginia, West Virginia should bear, was laid before the supreme court of the United States for its solution. Recognizing the intricacy of the problem and the importance of the outcome, the court consented to devote practically all its time until next Thursday to a hearing of arguments in the case. This is more time than has been given to any other case argued before the supreme court of the United States in many years. The debt of Virginia at the time West Virginia was organized is recognized as about \$33,000,000. Many more millions have been added to that sum as interest. The commonwealth of Virginia seeks to have West Virginia bear about one-third of the debt. West Virginia denies her liability for one cent. To settle the controversy it may be necessary for the supreme court to review the expenditures and receipts of the state of Virginia since 1825 and figure out from that examination the liabilities. The commonwealth of Virginia in 1906 began an action in the supreme court to have an accounting with West Virginia to determine the latter's 'equitable share of the indebtedness of the old commonwealth' prior to the civil war and just before West Virginia was organized as a separate state. West Virginia objected to the suit, but the

supreme court sustained the contentions of Virginia on this point and finally appointed a special master—former Representative Charles E. Littlefield of Maine—to take testimony, evidently with a view to settlement. Mr. Littlefield reported, that both sides took exception to his report. Today the case was set for argument of these exceptions. The equities of such situations are complicated by the so-called Wheeling ordinance and enactments and acts of the two states. The ordinance adopted at Wheeling providing for the formation of the new state contained a provision that the new state should take upon itself a just portion of the public debt of Virginia, to be ascertained by charging it to all state expenditures within the limits thereof and a just proportion of the ordinary expenses of the Virginia government since any part of the debt was contracted and deducting therefrom the moneys paid into the Virginia treasury from the counties within the new state. Virginia claims that West Virginia should pay at least one-third of the debt, or about \$11,000,000. But some years ago West Virginia took the position that a settlement according to the Wheeling ordinance would put Virginia actually in debt to West Virginia in the sum of \$512,000. West Virginia now claims that Virginia cannot require it to pay one-third of the debt because the bondholders of that amount are alleged to have freed Virginia in a refunding arrangement from any liability therefor."

Republican leaders of congress declare there will be no necessity for an extra session, for the important appropriation bills will all be rushed through, though much general legislation may hold over.

A Washington correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "The bill for the election of United States senators by direct vote is said to be in grave danger of defeat. The opposition is said to have planned to tack on a force bill amendment in the hope that the democratic senators will vote against the measure when it comes up for passage."

Senator Paynter, democrat, of Kentucky, defended Lorimer in a speech in the senate. He was a member of the investigating committee. Declaring the question to be a judicial one, Mr. Paynter said: "I do not approach the investigation with any feeling or thought that the country demanded a victim to appease its wrath, neither did I suppose that a sacrificial offering would be made to satisfy a popular demand to give character and standing to the administration."

A Washington correspondent for the Associated Press says: "Revelations of attempts to buy the editorial support of the New York Journal of Commerce in favor of ship subsidy legislation, which that paper has consistently opposed, was made to the house ship subsidy investigating committee by Alfred W. Dodsworth, business manager of the paper. As the result of the evidence Mr. Dodsworth's brother, John W. Dodsworth, editor of the Journal of Commerce, will be recalled to Washington to explain why he failed to enlighten the committee in his recent testimony. It is probable that Charles

A. Conant of New York, a former Washington correspondent, may be asked to throw light on an offer to subsidize the paper, claimed to have been forwarded through him to the Journal of Commerce, which he then

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