

WASHINGTON NEWS

The Chicago Tribune correspondent says: A bill for the government of the Panama canal zone and the operation of the canal itself was agreed on by the majority of the house committee on interstate commerce. The main provisions of the bill follow:

It gives to the president the right to fix tolls within certain limits, a maximum of \$1.25 a ton being prescribed, with a minimum sufficient to maintain and operate the canal.

No preference in the rate of tolls is to be given American owned merchant ships.

Ships owned or controlled by railroads and operated with the intent to restrain trade or ships engaged in any agreement or combine forbidden to pass through the canal.

Dismissal of the canal commission, the president being authorized to appoint, for a four year term, a governor of the zone at an annual salary of \$10,000.

The bill was adopted by the committee by a vote of 14 to 4. The minority, composed of Representatives Knowland, California; Broussard, Louisiana; Calder, New York; and Doremus, Michigan, will hand in a report, which will differ mainly from the majority on the question of toll charges.

The provision in the majority agreement relating to rates is as follows:

"Charges may be based upon the gross or net registered tonnage, displacement tonnage, or otherwise, and may be based on one form of tonnage for warships and another for ships of commerce, but the tolls shall not exceed \$1.25 per ton, based upon the net registered tonnage for ships of commerce, nor be less than the estimated proportionate cost of the actual operation of the canal."

The prohibition clauses, summarized, include:

That it shall be unlawful for ships to pass through the canal which are "owned, leased, operated, or controlled by any railroad company engaged in interstate commerce or by any other corporation in which such railroad company has any interest whatsoever."

That it shall be unlawful for any ship to pass through the canal if the owner "shall be engaged in any agreement, combination, ship ring, or conference with intent to restrain or prevent or with the effect of restraining or preventing competition, through the Panama canal among ships, ship lines, or ship companies, or between railroads and such ships, ship lines, or ship companies."

It was announced at Harmon headquarters here that Governor Harmon would not consent to the placing of his name on the ballots of the Massachusetts preferential primaries April 30, since Governor Foss had decided to permit the use of his name as a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination.

Senator Stephenson of Wisconsin was "vindicated" in the senate by a vote of 40 to 34. By this vote the senate rejected the charge that \$107,793 which the senator admitted spending in the Wisconsin primaries had been used corruptly. The Associated Press report says: Twenty-eight republicans and twelve democrats held Senator Stephenson's election a valid one, eighteen democrats and sixteen republicans voting to declare his election corruptly obtained.

The ballots were cast as follows: For Stephenson: Bradley, Bran-

degee, Briggs, Burnham, Burton, Clark of Wyoming, Crane, Curtis, Dillingham, Dupont, Gamble, Heyburn, Lippitt, Lodge, Lorimer, McCumber, McLean, Nixon, Oliver, Penrose, Perkins, Richardson, Root, Smoot, Sutherland, Warren and Wetmore, republicans; Bankhead, Chilton, Fletcher, Foster, Johnston, Newlands, Overman, Pomerene, Rayner, Smith of Maryland, Watson and Thornton, democrats.

Against Stephenson: Borah, Bourne, Bristow, Brown, Clapp, Crawford, Cummins, Dixon, Gronna, Jones, Kenyon, La Follette, Poin-dexter, Smith of Michigan, Townsend and Works, republicans; Bryan, Chamberlain, Culberson, Gardner, Hitchcock, Johnson, Kern, Lea, Martine, Myers, O'Gorman, Owen, Percy, Shively, Smith, of Georgia, Smith of South Carolina, Stone and Williams, democrats.

The pairs were: Nelson with Bacon, Gallinger with Clarke of Arkansas, Guggenheim with Davis, Cullum with Simmons, Paynter with Gore and Bailey with Reed, the first named in each case being favorable to Stephenson and the last named against him.

The senators unrecorded and unpaired were Martin and Swanson, Virginia; Taylor of Tennessee, Tillman of South Carolina, and Mr. Stephenson of course refrained from voting. For Senator Taylor Mr. Lea explained that he was too ill to be consulted.

Senator Robert Taylor, senior senator from Tennessee, died at a Washington hospital following an operation.

MR. BRYAN IN WISCONSIN

Editorial in the Wisconsin (Madison) State Journal: Sixteen years ago the press was guessing and petty bets were being wagered on who would be the democratic presidential nominee. The situation was not unlike that which confronts both parties today. When the democratic convention was through with its work in Chicago there was but one question raised from the Berkshire Hills to Lake Tulare, and that was—Who is Bryan?

The petty bets and the press guesses were all wrong. Disappointed politicians accused Mr. Bryan of turning a "trick," of springing upon the convention a well rehearsed speech. The opposition party called him a demagogue, an application that is familiar to all great men. Mr. McKinley had been an advocate of the silver cause for many years in congress in accord a republican platform plank. In 1892 he had made a better free-silver speech in Toledo than Bryan had made at the convention in Chicago. But that was easily forgotten. Bryan had, with his speech, captured the nomination over the heads of party bosses; that was an unpardonable sin. But it proved that the most skilled machine politicians sometimes at least, fail in their best laid plans to "walk away with the convention." A man with no other ammunition than a human appeal to the people still has a chance and a place in the political life of this republic.

Mr. Bryan not only carried the largest popular vote in that election but he carried it against the most stupendous campaign fund that had ever been corralled in the history of American politics, a campaign fund that exceeded the total campaign funds of all the national campaigns of the republican party. It does not matter what you call a man who can

do this. Name him a trickster, a demagogue, or anything else, he is still a good deal of a man.

During the past sixteen years, Mr. Bryan has been three times the national standard bearer of his party, and three times the standard bearer against defeat. Parties seldom set up as their leader a fallen leader. It is easy to be renominated as a party standard bearer with victory for a background. This record is also an unprecedented story in the history of American politics. And it doesn't matter what you may call that three-time leader. The fact that he was three times leader of a majority party in a republic of 90,000,000 people makes him a whole lot of a man.

Mr. Bryan is a traveled student and observer of governments. As a student he has something to say; as an observer he has something to report. It matters little whether one may believe himself to be in agree-

ment with Mr. Bryan's theories of government or not. He who despises the observations and declarations of such a man as this injures only himself. Madison welcomes her distinguished visitor today.

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