

FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—Republican leaders in the house of representatives at the very beginning of the session make it plain by the tactics being played that they are afraid of the enormous majority their party has in the popular branch of congress. Every move shows beyond any doubt that Speaker Cannon, General Grosvenor and Mr. Dalzell, the powerful triumvirate who are to make drastic special rules for rushing through bills, for the strangling of certain propositions—no matter from which side of the political fence they spring—have made up their minds not only that there shall be as little legislation as possible, but that an adjournment early in the spring will be forced upon the senate if it can possibly be accomplished. Never before at this stage of the proceedings have there been evidences of the party lash being applied so vigorously.

Speaker Cannon in his daily contact with both republicans and democrats does not conceal the fact that outside of the regular appropriation bills this congress, if he can have his way, will do little else than vote the annual sums necessary for the operation of the government. Already scores of republicans who feel that not for four years have they been permitted to accomplish anything for their districts are groaning under the frightful discipline in store for them. Weeks before the assembling of congress it was generally understood there would be no river and harbor bill passed at this session. That was not surprising because a measure of this sort was passed on the 3rd of last March, and it made ample provision for the continued improvement of the waterways. But members were hardly prepared for the edict that has gone forth in regard to public building bills. More of these measures have been introduced this session than usual. The speaker and his chief lieutenants will not listen to the plaintive appeals of the congressmen to permit at least a limited "omnibus" measure to be enacted. There is grumbling on all sides and quiet threats that before the adjournment a combination will be formed to override the presiding officer and those who agree with him in preventing legislation calculated to deplete the treasury of the United States and bring about a greater deficit than Secretary Shaw has been willing to admit will be shown probably at the end of the fiscal year.

The house republicans in their conversations have difficulty in concealing their fears concerning the next congressional election. And that feeling is uppermost at this writing in the minds of the legislative managers who are endeavoring to weld their

big majority so that an early adjournment may be brought about. They think that if little is done and congress finishes its work by the middle of April the people will forget all about the shortcomings of the party in power.

The speaker has packed the ways and means committee of the house to his complete satisfaction against the possibility, he undoubtedly thinks, of its making any direct attempt during the present session at revising even in the slightest degree the existing tariff schedules. Mr. Cannon and those who agree with him appear to be certain that they have on that committee ten republicans who can be absolutely relied upon to "stand pat," to use the famous expression of the late Senator Mark Hanna. They are Messrs. Payne, of New York, chairman; Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Grosvenor, of Ohio; McCleary, of Minnesota; Hill, of Connecticut; Boutell, of Illinois; Watson, of Indiana; Curtis, of Kansas; Needham, of California and William Alden Smith of Michigan.

There are eighteen members of the ways and means committee. Two of the republicans the speaker would not care to trust too far. They are Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts and Mr. Babcock, of Wisconsin. They have in the past acted with the "insurgent" republicans on matters affecting the tariff. The most dangerous insurgent of all has been Representative Tawney, of Minnesota. It will be recalled that in the last congress on the Porto Rico question, which involved a fight alleged to have been in the interest of the beet sugar producers, Mr. Tawney was the head and front of the revolutionary element of his party. By taking him off the ways and means committee and putting Mr. McCleary, of Minnesota, in his place, the speaker is credited with having not only obtained a good floor leader, but a vigorous chairman of the all-important appropriations committee. Mr. Tawney has a constituency that is reported to be for tariff revision, and it is well known that his own sympathies are in accord with the people he represents. Mr. McCleary belongs to the ardent, high protection wing of the republican party. The speaker has put Mr. Tawney where he is not apt to stir up any great amount of trouble for his party. Had he remained on ways and means he would have been in a position to kick out of the traces in the event President Roosevelt later in the session sends in a special message pointing out some of the glaring defects in the existing schedules and the necessity for certain modifications that would lift the pressure upon the administration for moderate revision. It is quite well known here that Speaker Cannon and his closest friends in the house have a fear that after the railroad

rate question is disposed of the president may conclude to try conclusions with the house republican leaders on the tariff. Many well informed people here think that is why the speaker has been so careful in packing the ways and means committee so that it is, in his opinion, unalterably opposed to the consideration of tariff matters during the present session. With ten anti-revision republicans on it the speaker feels certain they can prevent the upsetting of his plans by outvoting the two tariff revision republicans and the six democratic members.

There is little probability that Senator Foraker will yield to the administration on the railroad rate question. He tells his friends and allies that it is his purpose to remain firm, and that he will press to the utmost his views. He is not willing to grant to the interstate commerce commission the rate-making power, and with the strong sentiment in the senate against the president's plan it would seem reasonable to conclude that if Senator Foraker can not have his way there will be enough men with him to prolong the discussion and keep congress in session much longer than the house leaders figure at present. On the railroad question the policy of the house democratic leaders is to prepare a bill of their own which will be offered in the committee. No matter how much superior it may be to the measure to be framed by the republicans they do not, of course, expect the republicans to adopt their bill. The democrats will make a report to the house on their proposition. If they can not secure any amendments to the republican bill in the event it proves to be unsatisfactory they will then support the committee proposition, provided it is known to be satisfactory to President Roosevelt. In other words they will come to the support of their leader, Mr. Williams, come to the support of President Roosevelt should it be discovered that a republican combination has been formed to defeat the demands for railroad rate legislation.

In spite of the personal controversy in the house between Mr. Williams and Representatives Lamar of Florida, and Shackelford of Missouri, the democrats are more united and determined than they were in the last congress. They are attending the sessions of the house regularly, and but for this strict attention to their duties it would not have been possible for the democrats to have compelled their political opponents to lop \$5,500,000 from the emergency appropriation for the Panama canal. That was an unpleasant object lesson for the republicans and proved what a determined minority can accomplish if their men are on the watch for such opportunities.

ALFRED J. STOFER.

"ONCE WAS BORN A MAN"

"Once in the world's history was born a man; once in the roll of ages, out of innumerable failures from the stock of human nature, one bud developed itself into a faultless flower. One perfect specimen of humanity has God exhibited on earth."

This fine sentence will be found in an address delivered many years ago in London by Frederick William Robertson. It had reference, of course to the One, the anniversary of whose birth all Christendom celebrates.

Mr. Robertson pointed out that nothing, in the judgment of historians, stands out so sharply distinct as race—national character; that nothing is more ineffaceable. For instance:

The Hebrew was marked from all mankind. The Roman was perfectly distinct from the Grecian character; as markedly different as the rough English truthfulness is from Celtic brilliancy of talent. Now, these peculiar nationalities are seldom combined. You rarely find the stern old Jewish sense of holiness together with the Athenian sensitiveness of what is beautiful. Not often do you find together severe truth and refined tenderness. Brilliancy seems opposed to perseverance. Exquisiteness of taste commonly goes along with a certain amount of untruthfulness. By "humanity," as a whole, we mean the aggregate of all these separate excellences. Only in two places are they all found together—in the universal human race and in Jesus Christ. He, having as it were, a whole humanity in himself, combines them

all. Now this is the universality of the nature of Jesus Christ. There was in him no national peculiarity or individual idiosyncrasy.

It would be well if everyone who delights in searching for good reading without concern for the suggestions made by those who fix our literary fashions, could read Mr. Robertson's entire address. The universality of Christ's sympathies and their intense particular personality are "the two powers of his sacred humanity," which Mr. Robertson emphasized.

Touching the universality of his sympathies we are reminded that the sacred characters of Scripture—priests, prophets, and apostles—were intensely national in their sympathies. For example, the apostles "marvelled that he spake with a woman of Samaria" and just before his resurrection their largest charity had not reached beyond this: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom unto Israel?"

Coming down to modern times, when Christ's spirit has been moulding men's ways of thought for many ages, the national spirit is yet predominant with us; and while Mr. Robertson offered no criticism to this, he pointed out that "fellow feeling, true and genuine," is even in this day limited to the men of our national household if not, indeed, confined to a much smaller sphere. But this thought was employed by Mr. Robertson not for the purpose of criticism, but rather in order to illustrate what he called "the mighty sympathies of the heart of Christ." He said that "none of the miserable antipathies that fence us from all the world bounded the outgoings of that love,

broad and deep and wide as the heart of God. Wherever the mysterious pulse of human life was beating, wherever aught human was in struggle, there to him was a thing not common or unclean, but cleansed by God and sacred."

There was no such things as the "lower orders" in the conception of the Nazarene. As Mr. Robertson said: "He whose home was the workshop of the carpenter did not authorize you or me to know any man after the flesh as low or high. To him who called himself the Son of Man, the link was manhood and that he could discern, even when it was marred. Even in outcasts his eye could recognize the sanctities of a nature human still. Even in the harlot 'one of Eve's family,' a son of Abraham even in Zacheus."

Referring to "the power of intense, particular, personal affections," Mr. Robertson pointed out that the Nazarene was the brother and Savior of the human race, "because he was the brother and Savior of every separate man in it." Mr. Robertson said:

Now, it is very easy to feel great affection for a country as a whole; to have, for instance, great sympathies for Poland, or Ireland, or America, and yet not to care a whit for any single man in Poland and to have strong antipathies to every single individual American. Easy to be a warm lover of England and yet not love one living Englishman. Easy to set a great value on a flock of sheep and yet have no particular care for any one sheep or lamb. If it were killed, another of the same species might replace it. Easy to have fine, large, liberal views about the work-

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