

hours to the final debate on the measure. At 2 o'clock the vote was taken on the adoption of the conference report, which was agreed to, 43 to 31.

Following closely upon this action, the senate adopted Mr. Aldrich's concurrent resolution providing for a reduction of the duties on various manufactures of leather to meet the views of western senators, who had been defeated in their efforts to obtain protection for hides.

Mr. McCumber's resolution providing additional rebate regulations for the bill, amended at the instance of Senator McLaurin, to include a provision for free cotton bagging, was adopted without division.

After this action there remained nothing for the senate to do except to await the signing of the measure. Senators Aldrich and Daniel were appointed a committee to wait on the president in conformity with the custom of informing the chief executive that congress had concluded its business and was ready to adjourn if he had no further communication to make. Six o'clock was agreed upon by the two houses as the hour for final adjournment.

Democrats and republicans, regular and irregular, formed little social groups, with no indication of hostility.

A resolution offered by Mr. Culberson, expressing the appreciation of the senate for the able and impartial manner in which the vice president had presided over the sessions of that body, was adopted.

In especially happy language Mr. Sherman thanked the senate for the courteous treatment which had been extended toward him at all times. His life in the senate, he said, had been made a continual pleasure by the consideration that had been shown him at all times. Concluding his remarks by wishing the senators a happy return to their homes, he declared the extraordinary session of the sixty-first congress adjourned "without day."

A burst of applause was accorded the vice president as he laid down the gavel of his authority, and at 5:58 p. m., two minutes in advance of the time fixed, the senate adjourned sine die.

With its members nearly exhausted from the heat and the arduous labors of the last four months, the house of representatives devoted the last day of the special session to perfecting the tariff bill and transacting a mass of routine business. Speaker Cannon announced his committee appointments, and they were received with varying degrees of satisfaction.

The concurrent resolution amending the leather schedule of the tariff bill was adopted without a dissenting vote, after it had been discussed for little over half an hour. No such good luck, however, befell the McCumber-McLauren resolution, revising the drawback provision and placing cotton bagging on the free list, which had previously been adopted by the senate. On the claim of Chairman Payne that it was not in order, it was consigned to the committee on ways and means.

It was but a few minutes before 5 o'clock when Mr. Payne's resolution, fixing 6 p. m. as the hour of adjournment sine die, was adopted.

While the committee appointed to notify the president that the house was ready to adjourn was performing that duty, there was such an exodus of members from the chamber that the attendance dwindled away to a mere corporal's guard.

A half hour remained before the appointed hour of adjournment and the time was dragging so heavily that by direction of the speaker the hands of the clock were set ahead twenty-five minutes. Before adjourning the house, Speaker Cannon, with the members standing with their hats in their hands, made a neat speech in which he thanked them for their service during the special session. Upon its conclusion he got a round of applause from both sides.

The speaker said: "I desire to thank the membership of the house of representatives for efficient and faithful, and, in my judgment, wise service during this special session of congress. Representing as we do in the aggregate ninety millions of people, scattered as the population is from the Atlantic ocean to the Golden Gate, and from the northern boundary to the southern boundary, and producing as we do one-third of all the products of all the civilized globe, it is but natural when the chosen representatives of the great body of the people come together with varying interests, with virile constituencies, that they should disagree as to the proper policies that should govern the enactment of legislation. Out of that disagreement comes compromises. Legislation is impossible except by the vote of

a majority, and that majority can not agree without compromise."

Immediately after signing the Aldrich tariff bill President Taft issued this public statement:

"I have signed the Payne tariff bill because I believe it to be the result of sincere effort on the part of the republican party to make a downward revision, and to comply with the promises of the platform as they have been generally understood and as I interpreted them in the campaign before election.

"This is not a perfect tariff bill, nor a complete compliance with the promises made, strictly interpreted, but a fulfillment free from criticism in respect to a subject matter involving many schedules and many thousands of articles could not be expected. Suffice it is to say that except with regard to whisky, liquors and wines, and in regard to silks and as to some high classes of cottons, many of which may be treated as luxuries and proper subjects for a revenue tariff—there have been very few increases in rates.

"There has been a great number of real decreases in rates and they constitute a sufficient amount to justify the statement that this bill is a substantial downward revision and a reduction of excessive rates.

"This is not a free trade bill. It was not intended to be. The republican party did not promise to make a free-trade bill.

"It promised to make the rates protective, but to reduce them when they exceeded the difference between the cost of production abroad and here, making allowance for the greater normal profit on active investments here. I believe that while this excess has not been reduced in a number of cases, in a great majority the rates are such as are necessary to protect American industries, but are low enough in case of abnormal increase of demand and raising of prices to permit the possibility of the importation of foreign articles and thus to prevent excessive prices.

"The power granted to the executive under the maximum and minimum clause may be said to assure the removal of obstacles which have been interposed by foreign governments in the way of undue and unfair discrimination against American merchants and products.

"The Philippine tariff bill section I have struggled to secure for ten years past, and it gratifies me exceedingly by my signature to give it the effect of law. I am sure it will greatly increase the trade between the two countries and it will do much to build up the Philippines in a healthful prosperity.

"The administration clause of the bill and the customs court are admirably adapted to secure a more uniform and a more speedy final construction of the meaning of the law.

"The authority of the president to use certain means assists him in the application of the maximum and minimum sections of the statute, and to enable officials to administer the law gives a wide latitude for the acquisition under circumstances favorable to its truth, of information in respect to the price and cost of production of goods at home and abroad, which will throw much light on the operation of the present tariff and be of primary importance to officially collected data upon which future executive action and legislative recommendation may be based.

"The corporation tax is a just and equitable excise measure, which it is hoped will produce a sufficient amount to prevent a deficit and which incidentally will secure valuable statistics and information concerning the many corporations of the country and will constitute an important step toward that degree of publicity and regulation which the tendency of corporate enterprises in the last twenty years has shown to be necessary."

Champ Clark has issued a statement in which he says:

"Many, generally republicans, or near-republicans, and more individuals keep mouthing about dissensions among house democrats and the perfect unity among house republicans, notwithstanding the truth known of all men who care to know that the house democrats came out of the tariff fight more thoroughly united on that question than they had been in a generation, and the republicans came out of it worse shattered than ever before.

"Some papers, either through carelessness or malice, have gone so far as to say that had the democrats not been absent in large numbers, unpaired, we would have defeated the conference report on the tariff bill. There is not a syllable of truth in it.

"Now mark how plain a tale will put them down: On my motion last spring to recommit the Payne bill with instructions—which in-

structions constitute a comprehensive democratic platform so far as tariff is concerned—all democrats voted for it except four. On the Payne bill itself, voted on immediately after my motion to recommit was defeated, the republicans lost one vote, and the democrats lost four, a net loss to the democrats of three, a more nearly unanimous democratic vote than has been cast on a tariff bill in a generation.

"Many newspapers are trying to make it appear that the Payne-Aldrich-Smoot bill is a revision downward. This is absolutely untrue. The average of rates of the Payne-Aldrich-Smoot bill is about 2 per cent higher than the average rate of the Dingley bill. When the maximum goes into effect March 31, 1910, the average rate will be about 27 per cent higher than the average of the Dingley bill."

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says:

Because of his instrumentality in having a higher duty placed on hosiery, Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, is to be tendered a banquet by the hosiery industry of the country and the manufacturers of Pennsylvania. The banquet is to take place on October 26 in Philadelphia. A great industrial parade, in which operatives employed in the hosiery factories and other industries in Pennsylvania are to take part is planned in conjunction with the dinner.

President Taft must abrogate the Cuban reciprocity treaty or, it is said, he will be unable to grant to France, Germany and other sugar-producing countries the advantages of the minimum rates of duty of the Payne tariff law. This is made the subject of a letter sent to the president by Representative Broussard of Louisiana. The Cuban treaty contains a clause which stipulates that the Dingley rates on sugar will not be reduced by "treaty or convention" as long as the treaty remains in force, according to Mr. Broussard.

#### GOVERNOR JOHNSON AND TONNAGE TAX

Herman, Minn., June 29.—Editor The Commoner: In the current issue of your paper you have an article relative to Governor Johnson's veto of the "Tonnage Tax Bill." You further invite your readers to comment on this article.

We note that you print Governor Johnson's veto message in full and we presume that you have perused the same. If this is the case we feel that your comment was influenced by other information and from other sources and we can not help but believe that your information came from prejudiced parties and from biased opinions, for we are firmly of the opinion that were you thoroughly conversant with the existing conditions that you would not have taken the stand you did.

It is true that the state democratic platform contained a pledge for the tonnage tax; The Commoner says "if the governor believed the tonnage tax wrong he ought to have repudiated the plank of the platform immediately." As a matter of fact Governor Johnson repeatedly, during his campaign, stated that he would veto any legislation which in its scope would work hardship on any one part of the state, and further, it is a well established and incontrovertible fact, in this state, that the tonnage tax would work untold hardship and privation on the residents of the northern part of Minnesota.

Governor Johnson arose above his party and plainly demonstrated the fact that he was governor of all the people. Platforms are sometimes wrong, are sometimes made with certain objects in view and while theoretically should be in the nature of a contract, practically this is not always true as evidenced by the platforms of both great parties in years gone by. Great indeed is the man who has the courage to do right and who has the courage to face the disapproval of the makers of his platform when he is convinced that his course is for the benefit of the people.

It would seem to the casual observer that a man should be right irrespective of his party's wishes. Governor Johnson's position today is that he is the governor of all his people and not the mere figurehead of his party.

The republican congressmen who have repudiated their party are classed as statesmen and as public benefactors and the democratic congressmen who have repudiated their party, when their party was right, are classed as traitors to the cause. When a man repudiates a wrong even though that wrong is sanctioned by his party he ought to be regarded as a benefactor and the rank and file of the people of Minnesota, regardless of party affiliations, so regard Governor Johnson.

DR. THOMAS M. THAYER.