

Nelson said he would not commit himself until he had consulted the rules as to his powers.

"I think I shall retire," he said.

Mr. Nelson remained until the secretary could deliver the contents of the Madison resolution. The three absentees refused to modify their former communication or add anything to it. Thereupon Mr. Nelson left the room.

The notification given out by Chairman Nelson that a meeting would be held in Chicago next Tuesday and requesting attendance was sent to all the members here. The five members continued their deliberations.

Secretary Sleman of Washington, D. C., remained in the committee room.

Senator Fletcher of Florida was made chairman pro. tem. The resolution offered by Senator Purcell of North Dakota was then adopted by the five members. It follows:

"Whereas, This committee, pursuant to adjournment, met at 10 o'clock of this day with Chairman Nelson in the chair and six members present, including the chairman; and

"Whereas, There are three other members of the committee, to-wit: Senator Sutherland and Representatives McCall and Denby, in the city and the building in which the committee is meeting; and

"Whereas, All possible effort has been made without effect to induce said members to attend the session of the committee; and

"Whereas, The chairman withdrew from the committee room and failed and neglected to return after more than four hours' absence, and has abandoned any connection with the committee at this meeting, and has arbitrarily and without any authority under the resolution creating the committee, or a vote of the committee, given notice of a meeting of the committee in the distant city of Chicago on Tuesday, September 13, and is attempting to force an adjournment to said city; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That under such circumstances it is the duty of those present to make reports to the congress of their findings in the matters submitted to the committee, that all members of the committee be authorized at any time before the convening of the next session of congress to prepare and file such reports and findings as they desire."

Mr. Graham then moved that the members of the committee be authorized to say that the findings be given out. Mr. Graham presented the report of the democrats and it was adopted by a vive voce vote.

Mr. Madison asked leave to file a separate report and findings, which was agreed to.

Mr. Madison then moved that both reports be filed with Secretary Sleman, with instructions to have the same printed and copies filed with the secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives.

Pursuant thereto copies of the democrats' reports and the report of Mr. Madison were filed with Mr. Sleman.

Mr. Purcell moved that if Secretary Sleman did not file the reports he should return them to Senator Fletcher, who will have them printed and filed.

The members then adjourned to meet at Washington December 3.

Representative Madison, speaking for himself and the four democratic members, said:

"The committee at its last session in Washington adjourned to meet in Minneapolis September 5 for the purpose of formulating reports to congress. The committee met in pursuance of this adjournment. There were eight members present, constituting a majority. At the request of the chairman we adjourned to meet September 7. We met in pursuance to the adjournment, eight members of the committee being present. Later Senator Sutherland and Representative McCall withdrew.

"The committee, after the transaction of certain business, then voted without objection on the part of any member to take a recess until today at 10 o'clock. At 10 o'clock we convened, Chairman Nelson in the chair. There were six members present; also the secretary of the committee, Mr. Sleman. Immediately after calling the committee together the chairman read a statement, the substance of which was that certain members were not in the city and that one of them, Senator Root, could not be here until Tuesday, and said there was one of two alternatives for us to adopt, either to adjourn until Tuesday in Minneapolis or in Chicago on Monday.

"The chairman stated he would entertain no other motion except to adjourn, to which protest was made as arbitrary and unfair, and a motion was made to instruct and empower the secretary of the committee, Mr. Sleman, being without a regular sergeant-at-arms, to bring in

Senator Sutherland, Representatives Denby and McCall at once to the committee.

"The chairman said he would entertain that motion because he felt there were two things we could do, one was to adjourn or to do what we could to secure the attendance of the absent members.

"We have been doing what we could to secure the attendance of absent members. We have insisted they should come to the meeting and engage in deliberations on the committee report. They have so far refused. There has never been an attempt to transact other business, except that a motion was made to take a recess to 2:30 p. m., which the chairman declined to put, but said he would let some other member put it if he desired. He repeated again that the only thing we could do was to adjourn or use such efforts that we could to compel the attendance of a quorum.

"About 11:30 he stated he desired to leave the room on an errand and would be back in a minute. The committee has not voted to adjourn legally. It is legally in session. The chairman has been here presiding over its deliberations and retired with the statement that he would soon return.

"Instead he has sent us, through the secretary of the committee this notice: 'You are hereby notified that a meeting of the joint committee to investigate the department of the interior and its bureaus, officers and employes and of forestry in the department of agriculture and its officers and employes is hereby called to be held in Chicago, Tuesday, September 13 at 10 o'clock, and you are hereby requested to be in attendance.'

"Of course the chairman has no authority under the resolution on which the committee has acted to adjourn the committee to any time or place, and his action in this respect is unaccountable and absolutely without authority.

"The only thing that we have insisted on is that all the members should be present and discharge the duty incumbent on us under the resolution authorizing the creation of the committee. We object to being hauled about over the country and object to unreasonable delays to secure the presence of absent members. It was as much their duty to be here the morning of September 5 as ours."

A dispatch, dated Washington, September 9, says: "Word was received at the department of the interior today from Secretary Ballinger that he expects to arrive here on September 24. It is understood President Taft expects to call his cabinet together here on September 21, in which event his secretary of the interior will be unable to attend."

RAILROADS INSTRUCT EMPLOYEES

In the letter written by E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe railroad to the employes of that company, Mr. Ripley says:

"Various letters from employes have reached me asking for information as to the wishes of the management in political matters. For obvious reasons these could not be answered.

"As every employe knows, this company has consistently refused to be mixed up in political questions or to attempt in any manner to influence the votes of its employes. It is not the intention to deviate from this policy. No questions will be asked of any employe before election how he will vote, nor after election how he did vote. Each man must be guided by his own convictions as to what is right in principle and how his interests will be affected by his vote.

"Yet in these days when the demagogues are in evidence, and unjust attacks are being made upon the railroads, I may properly suggest that you consider well what influence your vote will have upon the future. Certain candidates are asking for election on the ground that further regulation is necessary, and further reduction of rates. You know—or can ascertain—the history and record of the various candidates. You know who is anti-railroad and who is conservative.

"The Santa Fe has no candidate for any office. It has no interest in the success or defeat of any political party, but I do not hesitate to say that its interests and yours will be conserved if its employes cast their votes solidly against those who stand for anti-railroad legislation and who seek to build themselves up upon that platform."

FRANCES BARTHOLOMEW

Miss Frances Bartholomew of Philadelphia has undertaken to save two hundred children inmates of disreputable houses and dens of vice, in the district lying in the net work of courts and alleys in what is known in Philadelphia as "Hell's Half Acre." Some terrible stories are told of conditions in Philadelphia and this good woman is certainly entitled to the good wishes and the hearty co-operation of all men and women.

The name of Frances Bartholomew will be written high in the hearts of the fathers and mothers of America for

"I think that taking a little child  
And bringing him to his own  
Is a derved sight better business  
Than loafing around the throne."

The Commoner's Million Army

In the campaign of 1908 The Commoner's Million Army rendered distinguished service to the cause of democracy and it may well be believed that a similar organization will even be able to do better work in the year of 1910 now that men who were heretofore indifferent are aroused to the importance of action.

If half of the readers of The Commoner would take active interest in the organization of this Million Army plan, the results would be immediately noticeable and the contribution to the

welfare of popular government would be enormous.

Many individuals are willing to help in a patriotic movement but find it difficult to know just what to do to make their efforts count. In a struggle such as the one we are now engaging in, the efforts of every man, woman and child on the side of popular government will count and in The Commoner's Million Army a practical plan is presented whereby the efforts of many individuals may be aggregated and used with telling effect.

Recommendation for Membership

The signer of this enlistment blank is personally known to me, and is in every way worthy of membership in The Commoner's Million Army.

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APPLICATION BLANK

## The Commoner's Million Army

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I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization.

Signed.....

Address.....

Signed.....

Address.....

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With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead). If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.