

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS IN SPECIAL SESSION

(Continued from Page 13.)

eyed or sensible proposition' to obtain the discharge of a committee.

"He chided both the democrats and the insurgent republicans, and practically announced that as an individual member he proposed to even up for some of the things said about him in the past. Shouts of applause from both sides greeted his declaration that 'I never felt less like dying than I do now.'"

"Mr. Norris, of Nebraska, asked for modification so as to permit individual amendments.

"Mr. Henry said the new rules were a party measure and that opportunity was given for a vote on substitute rules proposed by the republican party.

"Answering this, Mr. Norris said that as between the rules of the old congress and those proposed by the democrats, he preferred the latter, although he would like to have an opportunity to amend even the democratic rules.

"Minority Leader Mann demanded the yeas and nays on the adoption of the rule for the consideration of the rules, and they were ordered.

The special rule was adopted by a vote of 198 to 135, and Mr. Henry of Texas, the chairman of the rules

committee opened the debate on the proposed new rules."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the opening of congress the president sent the following special message:

"I transmitted to the Sixty-first congress on January 26, last, the text of the reciprocity trade agreement which had been negotiated under my direction by the secretary of state with the representatives of the Dominion of Canada.

"This agreement was the consummation of earnest effort, extending over a period of nearly a year, on the part of both governments to effect a trade arrangement which, supplementing, as it did, the amicable settlement of various questions of a diplomatic and political character that had been reached would mutually promote commerce and would strengthen the friendly relations now existing.

"The agreement in its intent and in the terms was purely economic and commercial. While the general subject was under discussion by the commissioners I felt assured that the sentiment of the people of the United States was such that they would welcome a measure which would result in the increase of trade on both sides of the boundary line, would open up the reserve productive resources of Canada to the great mass of our own consumers on advantageous conditions, and at the same time offer a broader outlet for the excess product of our farms and many of our industries.

"Details regarding a negotiation of this kind necessarily could not be made public while the conferences were pending. When, however, the full text of the agreement accompanying correspondence and data explaining both its purpose and its scope become known to the people through the message transmitted to congress it was immediately apparent that the ripened fruits of the careful labors of the commissioners met with widespread approval. This approval has been strengthened by further consideration of the terms of the agreement in all their particulars. The volume of support which has developed shows that its broadly national scope is fully appreciated and is responsive to the popular will.

"The house of representatives of the Sixty-first congress after the full text of the arrangement with all the details in regard to the different provisions had been before it, as they were before the American people, passed a bill confirming the agreement as negotiated and as transmitted to congress. This measure failed of action in the senate. In my transmitting message of the 26th of January, I fully set forth the character of agreement and emphasized its appropriateness and necessity as a response to the mutual needs of the people of the two countries as well as its common advantages. I now lay that message and the reciprocity trade agreement as part of the present message before the Sixty-second congress, and again invite earnest attention to the considerations therein expressed.

"I am constrained in deference to popular sentiment and with a realizing sense of my duty to the great mass of our people whose welfare is involved, to urge on your consideration early action on this agreement.

"In concluding the negotiations the representatives of the two countries bound themselves to use their utmost efforts to bring about the tariff changes provided for in the agreement by concurrent legislation at Washington and Ottawa.

"I have felt it my duty, therefore not to acquiesce in relegation of

action until the opening of the congress in December, but to use my constitutional prerogative and convoke the Sixty-second congress in extra session in order that there shall be no break of continuity in considering and acting upon this most important subject.

"WILLIAM H. TAFT.
The White House, April 5, 1911."

WHEAT AND RECIPROCITY

The statement has been frequently made that wheat is cheaper in Canada than in the United States and that removal of the duty will result in cheapening the American price. On this point Henry Heaton, of Atlantic, Ia., writing to the Public, says:

"I wonder why the American Economist does not compare prices of wheat between Winnipeg and Fargo. One is almost due north of the other. Fargo is on a direct road to Chicago, and much nearer to it than Winnipeg. I would naturally expect the price of wheat to be lower in Winnipeg than in Fargo, but I have always found it higher. And why does not the Economist call attention to the fact that wheat at Fargo is always 10 to 12 cents lower

than at Minneapolis? I know of no reason why wheat should be higher in Minneapolis than in Fargo or Winnipeg, except that Minneapolis is nearer to market, and that there are great mills located there which put the wheat in more salable shape at a lower cost than any other mills on this continent if not in the world."

GETTING THE TRUER VIEW

From the Springfield Republican: Age has mellowed William Jennings Bryan, not to speak of the mitigating effect of the acceptance of his ideas that were once fought with fiery bitterness. There is both humor and truth in this statement of Mr. Bryan made before the Boston City Club: "If I ever did think of running again for the presidency—and I do not—with these two men (Roosevelt and Taft) carrying out so many things I have advocated, I am afraid some republican would raise the third-term cry on me, and say I had already had two terms of my policies." It is just as well now and then for the unthinking to be brought face to face with the fact that the man best entitled to the copyright on "my policies" lives in Nebraska and not in Oyster Bay, L. I.

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