

WASHINGTON NEWS

By a viva voce vote the senate adopted the resolution ordering a sweeping investigation of conditions preceding and during the strike of coal miners in the Paint creek region in West Virginia. The resolution, first introduced in different form by Senator Kern, has been before the senate for a month. Under the resolution authority is given to look into the charges of peonage in West Virginia, violation of the immigration laws, of interference with the mails and postoffice and of violation of the constitution and laws of the United States in the trial of citizens of the United States by military tribunal. The committee will examine into reported combinations among operators in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act and alleged discrimination by immigration authorities at ports of entry. The terms of the authorization are so broad that the committee will be able to inquire into anything and everything which figured in the troubles between the miners and operators. The investi-

gation will be the second in the history of the nation to be made of the acts of a state by a legislative branch of the federal government. The strike in the Cour d'Alene mining region in Idaho was investigated by a house committee in 1900.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated May 27, says: The house progressives with their membership of nineteen present met in caucus and unanimously approved the committee appointments framed by their leader, Representative Murdock, and adopted a resolution asking progressive men and women of all parties to join the party. It was the first time in the history of congress that a party had made its committee assignments at an open session. Representative Chandler of New York created somewhat of a stir by stating that the progressives must not be overconfident that amalgamation with the conservative element of the republican party was not possible in the future if the republicans dropped

their Penroses and their Barneses and adopted progressive principles. He was the only one present to urge this view. Representative Murdock pledged himself not to ally with the republican party and charged that the republican gatherings recently had indicated their party was capable only of post mortems. The progressives were allowed representation on all of the house committees, except the rivers and harbors, and agriculture, being a total of twenty-eight assignments. The more important selections follow: Murdock, Kansas, ways and means; Chandler, New York, judiciary; Hinebaugh, Illinois, appropriations; Kelly, Pennsylvania, rules; Lindbergh, Minnesota, banking and currency; Copley, Illinois, postoffices; Temple, Pennsylvania, foreign affairs; Woodruff, Michigan, good roads, and Nolan, California, labor.

The following statement was issued by the state department: "The state department has authorized the American embassy at Tokio to deny a San Francisco telegram which appeared in Japanese papers to the effect that preparations were being made for war. The report was to the effect that troops of artillery were being sent to Hawaii and that the Philippine garrison was to be increased.

"A few artillerymen have been sent to Hawaii in pursuance of plans adopted before this administration began, but no increase is known of in the Philippine garrison. The department regrets that any newspaper or newspaper representative should send so misleading a telegram from the United States."

Senator Kenyon of Iowa was among the first callers at the White House to commend President Wilson for his stand against lobbyists.

Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois was elected democratic floor manager and assistant to Majority Leader Kern by the democratic caucus. Senator Lewis' position is a new one to the senate. The caucus adopted a resolution urging all democratic senators to remain in Washington and went on record as being opposed to any long trips to Europe, such as several senators had planned, until the tariff bill had been disposed of. Plans were discussed for keeping members in line and getting them to the senate for important votes. The caucus also named a committee to confer with a committee from the house and members of the national committee regarding the reorganization of the congressional committee. Senators Gore, Chamberlain, Shively, Newlands and Thomas were named.

Immediately following President Wilson's statement calling attention to the existence of a powerful lobby working against the provisions of the tariff bill, Senator Cummins of Iowa introduced a resolution in the senate demanding the immediate investigation by a committee of five senators to determine the identity of all persons who had made efforts to present arguments or bring interest to bear in favor of changes in the tariff law. Senator Gallinger objected to the resolution as "absurd." The objection was later withdrawn, but on demand of Senator Owen of Oklahoma the Cummins resolution finally went over one day without action. The Cummins resolution was called up again in the senate on May 29, and passed after a sharp debate over terms.

An Associated Press dispatch of May 29th says: The senate adopted tonight a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to investigate a charge that a lobby is being maintained in Washington or elsewhere

to influence pending legislation, with particular emphasis on its efforts for or against the Underwood tariff bill now before the finance committee.

The resolution was in direct response to the statement made by President Wilson that an insidious lobby, with plenty of money, was operating against the tariff bill. President Wilson, in his talk with newspaper correspondents today, declared he was in sympathy with the proposed investigation and would be glad to furnish the names of the lobbyists to whom he referred "if public necessity required."

He added that if a senate committee were charged with the investigation it would have ample power to gain information.

Under the resolution which was adopted as introduced by Senator Cummins with amendments by Senator Kern, the judiciary committee is directed to report its findings within ten days and hearings probably will begin at once.

The resolution as adopted directs the committee to report the names and methods of lobbyists and the bills or items, if in the tariff bill, they are "seeking to change."

The names of senators to whom "representations by such persons or any persons" were made and under what circumstances, all persons to testify under oath.

Whether any senator is financially or professionally interested in the production, manufacture or sale of any article mentioned in the tariff bill.

The interest any senator has in any legislation pending, or has had in any legislation during his term of service.

The president is respectfully invited to "aid the committee in its investigation by giving to it any information in his possession," relative to the investigation which he considers proper to make public.

There was little difference of opinion over the needs for an investigation, but a sharp colloquy arose, when Senator Kern proposed an amendment to that part of the resolution dealing with the testimony of senators and the information to be obtained from the president.

The Cummins resolution, the original measure, provided that the committee take the statement under oath of all senators who have received representations during the present session regarding pending legislation.

Mr. Kern's amendment authorized the committee to "ascertain the character or representations made to influence legislation by any persons and the names of senators to whom they were made."

Senator Cummins proposed to ask the president to furnish the names of the "lobbyists to whom he referred in the public statement issued by him," and "any other information about them or their efforts to bring about changes in the resolution now before the senate which will promote the general welfare."

Under the Kern amendment he is invited to furnish any information in his possession with reference to the subject matter of the investigation "which he considers proper to make public."

Republicans, led by Senators Root and Cummins, declared the Kern amendment "emasculated," the resolution and left it practically valueless, while democrats, under the leadership of Senators Kern and Reed, held that the change made but little difference in the end to be accomplished. The Kern amendment was adopted on a party vote, 38 to 28, and the resolution by a viva voce vote, without any apparent dissent.

Although the debate grew warm at times, there were many exchanges that brought laughter from both sides of the chamber. Just before

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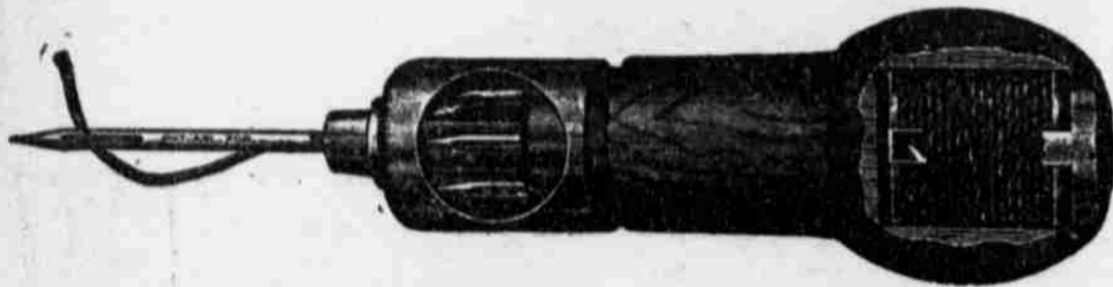
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