

# CONGRESS AND ITS WAYS

AS SEEN AND DESCRIBED BY MRS. BURTON L. FRENCH.

## UNCLE JOE CANNON IS A CZAR

He Can Absolutely Control Legislation, Younger Members, by Giving up Seats to Old Timers, Often Win Their Way Into Legislative Hearts.

In view of the fact that the Fifty-ninth session of the United States congress will come to a close on the coming Monday, the following well written description of congress and its ways, a product from the pen of Mrs. Burton L. French, formerly Miss Winnie Hartley of Norfolk, will be of interest in Norfolk and Creighton, where the writer also formerly resided, as well as in other portions of the country. Mrs. French was formerly a teacher in the schools at Madison and at Tilden. Her paper, which was read before the past week's session of the Wednesday club in Norfolk, is as follows:

It would be interesting to take the opening day of congress, since March 4 next begins the 60th congress, of which next winter's session will be its first session.

The choosing of seats is the first thing to be done in organizing in the house, and it is very interesting, too. Seats are changed every congress, not every session, members holding the same seats for each term, two years.

Seats are arranged in semi-circles, the speaker's desk being the center of the circles. There are as many seats given to one party as to the other, but since one party always forms a large majority, it naturally follows that some of them must sit on the side given over to the "enemy." Those forming the overflow must take their seats in the "Cherokee Strip," a tier of seats along the wall at the speaker's extreme right and left. This is considered most unfortunate and, needless to say, the daily house journal does not record what members say when they must choose in the "Cherokee Strip." For example, the republican majority is now very strong—so strong that it fills the republican side of the house chamber and the Cherokee Strip on the democratic side is nearly filled by the overflow of republicans.

Balloting for seats is in this way: Members are numbered in alphabetical order, Adams being No. 1. Should there be two members by that name, the senior in service ranks first. Marbles bearing corresponding numbers are placed in a box, a page is blindfolded and draws these marbles, one at a time. Say he draws marble No. 141 first: the member whose number is 141 gets first choice of all the seats. In this way old and powerful members must take equal chances with the young or new members for good seats. Sometimes one sees very pretty courtesies extended. A new member may draw early; he takes the seat formerly occupied by some old and powerful member who is yet waiting to draw; then finally when the old member draws, the young member leaves the seat and goes and escorts the old member to his old seat and himself takes the seat the old member last chose. Old members appreciate this and sometimes they become the champions of the young members who show them the courtesy and so powerful aid is given to the new man. Wives are always most interested in this drawing of seats, as each wife wants to see her husband in advantageous location; consequently the galleries are full of wives and daughters. As the process is long, they often sit without luncheon to see it finished. Seats chosen, business in routine begins in earnest.

Not the least interesting thing to be seen any day in congress, is the way in which reporting is done. At the reporters' table sit four to six reporters, the most skilled in their profession, as much is demanded of them and no mistakes must be made. These men draw a salary of \$5,000 annually and they make no blunders. They must familiarize themselves with members at once. Few new members have anything to say for some time and that helps them. A member rises to speak; down the aisle nearest him slides a reporter so noiselessly and unobtrusively that the casual onlooker would not see him at all; not a word has been lost; the reporter writes in short hand for two to three minutes, then he raises his face once; up the aisle slides another reporter and perhaps in the middle of a sentence begins to write; the first man goes out to a machine, typewrites his notes, sends them through a chute to the printer and returns to the reporters' table. Thus the ceaseless round of reporting goes on; No. 2 lifts his face, a third man takes his place, and so on, and No. 1 is back ready to report before they need him. All reporting is done in ink, an ink well is carried in the left hand and the pen used has the finest point—this makes clear notes; the printer arranges these fragments according to number and the member who has made a speech at 5 o'clock may proceed it at 9 o'clock. Messengers carry manuscripts all over the city during the night to be proof-read, and the previous day's journal is ready for the 5 o'clock mail delivery every morning.

The Congressional library is two blocks east of the capitol and contains at least one copy of every book published. A member wants a book. He presses the button on his desk; a page appears at his elbow and receives the slip bearing the title of the book wanted; this slip is placed in a box in the wall of the house library, a button is pressed and the slip flies through a chute to the library two blocks away; soon the required book is placed in a box in the library, a button is pressed and the book flies through the chute to the capitol and is carried to the desk of the member wanting it. This requires five minutes on the average. It is the general impression that a member of the house can speak when he will. This is wholly wrong. Before a house member can have the floor he must first have gained permission of the speaker. Otherwise he could "Mr. Speaker," until he was black in the face and not be recognized. He may want to speak ten minutes and the speaker will say, "Be ready at 4:30 on Thursday and I will recognize you for six minutes." If the member is absent at the time stated he loses his opportunity. If present he is rapped down at the end of his six minutes. Sometimes in heated discussions a member may get the floor without previous permission. Then, however, should he say anything to which the speaker objects, the latter says, "The speaker did not recognize the gentleman for the purpose of his remarks," and raps him down. This is one of Tom Reed's nine rules and was brought about to keep members from talking at any and all times to any length, thus causing congress to sit months longer than it now sits. Is it any wonder that the speaker is called a czar?

Of course like conditions do not obtain in the senate. There the body makes its own rules and the chairman (vice president) is only a figure head. How bills are passed is interesting. Members cannot advise themselves on all measures brought before them, and so there are many committees, and what is true of one body in this regard, is true of both house and senate. Bills are referred to their respective committees, land cases to committee on public lands, pensions to the committee on pensions, etc. These committees are divided, two members taking for investigation all the New England states, another two taking some particular division of states, and thus labor is expedited, for no member could investigate even the cases which come before his committee. These sub-committees (as they are called) report to their full committee and their report is accepted as a general thing. Then the reports of all the sub-divisions of a committee constitute that committee's report to the house. When a committee reports favorably on a matter, it is seldom voted down when brought before its full body for passage. Suppose a bill has been reported favorably on by a committee. It is then placed on what is called the Union calendar. It could and would remain there forever, unless its author went to the "steering committee" and got permission to bring it before the house (or senate.) This steering committee is made up of the chairman of ways and means, and appropriations committees, the two most powerful committees in either body, and the speaker. Since these chairmen owe their chairmanship to the speaker, you see what a power the speaker has with them and how he can prevent almost any legislation he desires to, from coming before the house. Again the power of a czar in the lower house. The consent of the steering committee gained, a bill goes through with a whoop. Almost any day one may hear applause on the house side of the capitol, both on the floor and in the galleries. Not so on the senate side. There all applause is forbidden both to senators and visitors. The senate is such a dignified body, "Such divinity doth hedge a kind," etc. (Pitchfork Ben Tillman for example) that there must be no noise there. When the senate gets busy, the noise is made by senators one at a time.

Each congress is made up of two sessions, as I have said. Both convene the first Monday of December. The first is the long session and sits until national matters are pretty well cleaned up—anywhere from April or May to August or September. The short session closes March 4, as it finishes the term and were it continued it would necessitate an "extra session" to bring in the newly elected members whose terms were just beginning.

Among these may be noted the employers' liability law, making the mine owner, manufacturer or common carrier liable for the act of the employe whether accident occurs through the carelessness of the latter or in some other way.

Another measure provides for the annual accounting of life insurance companies on surplus or deferred dividend policies.

One also limiting the working hours of certain employes of common carriers to sixteen hours of consecutive service and a rest of eight hours before they can be again called into service.

Other laws of general importance are:

Establishing a department of legislative reference.

Perfecting the law relating to patents on state lands.

Amending law compelling husbands to support wife and children, making non-support a misdemeanor.

Providing for destruction of weeds on highways in the interest of good roads.

Permitting sureties on official bonds to limit liability.

Requiring railroad companies to pay double damage for killing of live stock or setting fire in case settlement is not made in sixty days.

Prohibiting parallel lines of railway within eight miles for a longer distance than ten miles, to protect South Dakota Central railroad.

Providing for parole of inmates of reform school.

A drainage law to be operated in the interest of the public health.

The other measures passed are technical, sectional in their application, or specific as to the correction of defects in present law. Among the resolutions was the one for the formation of the investigating committee which has not yet completed its labors and will be in readiness to receive the Washington delegation a week from today. The most important of the resolutions proposes a constitutional amendment dealing with the subject of revenue and taxation, proposes a tax upon gross earnings of common carriers and other public corporations and an inheritance tax.

The more important measures yet to be acted upon are:

The general education bill.

The divorce law.

The general and special appropriations.

The two and one-half cent rate bill, which having passed the house, is now being considered in the senate.

The bill providing for an expert commission to determine the valuation of railroads and report to the railway commission.

Of all these measures the appropriation bill will have more interest for the taxpayer than any others and the asking is large enough so that it will be noticed.

According to the estimates made by the board of regents of the needs of the various state educational institutions demand an appropriation of \$531,200 for the year 1907-8 and \$281,700 for the succeeding year.

The board of charities and corrections asks for maintenance, a total lump sum of \$341,500 for 1907-8 and \$327,900 for the succeeding year.

Of the miscellaneous appropriations there is the Soldiers' home asking for \$102,322.50; farmers' institute and summer school for boys, \$19,500; county auditor's meeting, \$1,500; live stock pavilion at Mitchell, \$10,218.40; sub-experiment stations, \$13,000; state fair at Huron, \$100,000; National guard, \$30,000; experiment station at Highmore, \$8,000; wolf bounty, \$15,000; legislative printing for two years, \$40,000; a contingent appropriation for state capitol building, \$200,000; special appropriations for the various state institutions for buildings and betterments will reach a half million more. It is a conservative estimate that the appropriations which will be asked for to cover the biennial period, beginning July 1, 1907, will reach \$2,500,000.

On motion J. T. Moore was appointed as road overseer of road district No. 8.

On motion the assessment of Ernest Fenske for 1906 in Norfolk precinct was ordered reduced \$810.00 actual value on account of error in assessment.

On motion the following bills were allowed:

Lacey Mather, care of pauper, \$ 8 25

Sheridan William, land for road 21 00

Leonard Brown, land for road 74 40

Rev. Stanislaus Riemann, clothing for pauper 20 11

J. B. Donovan, county printing 78 25

Gus Kaul, salary, February, 50 00

John Verplank, fees, Welsh case 17 45

W. P. Kennedy, constable fees, claimed \$17.86, allowed at 15 56

H. L. Kindred, coroner's fees, Opatril case 12 20

M. D. Tyler, defending Hundt, Nebraska Telephone Co., Norfolk, tolls 5 80

W. W. Weaver, oil for grader, Nebraska Institute for feeble minded, account Albert Wood Thomas Dillon, care insane patient, assigned to Jack Koenigstein 42 97

Jesse Andrews, care insane patient, assigned to Jack Koenigstein 2 00

Wm. Hassmann, wolf scalp, 2 00

Joe Benish, work, assigned to Jack Koenigstein 19 50

Crowell Lumber & Grain Co., Lindsay, lumber, road district No. 27 77 55

Crowell Lumber and Grain Co., Lindsay, lumber, road district No. 30 24 50

Geo. C. Carrio, handling dynamite, assigned to Citizens State bank, claimed \$15.00, allowed at 10 00

Henry Uecker, work, general fund, assigned to J. Koenigstein 17 00

Henry Uecker, work, road district No. 1, assigned to J. Koenigstein 17 20

C. P. Parish, groceries for pauper 1 40

C. P. Parish, groceries for pauper 53 12

I. L. Huffman, livery 11 25

J. T. Moore, bridge work 21 50

W. Morris, work with dynamite, assigned to E. P. Weatherly 6 00

F. H. Madsen, work on bridge 2 50

J. W. Warriek, bridge lumber 173 03

H. Kilburn, register deaths and births 5 50

Clyde Ryerson, register, deaths and births 5 00

E. F. Ringer, register, deaths and births 2 00

Chas. Letheby, register, deaths and births 10 50

Julius Hulff, register, deaths and births 18 50

B. H. Mills, register, deaths and births 7 00

O. A. Steeper, register, deaths and births 10

Chr. Schavland, county treasurer, jury fees and office expenses 903 35

Wm. Brummond, work, road district No. 8 2 00

Huse Publishing Co., county printing 63 00

Huse Publishing Co., county printing 165 17

Huse Publishing Co., county printing 44 50

B. H. Mills, fees, state vs. Olin John Verplank, fees, state vs. Olin, claimed \$12.10, allowed at 9 45

On motion John Frisch was appointed road overseer road district No. 30.

On motion the following names were selected from which petit jurors are to be drawn for the April term, 1907, of the district court:

Jefferson precinct.—Tom McDonald, Ed Crue, C. A. Smith, Meadow Grove.—John A. Bressler, J. W. McCallum, Deer Creek.—James Hunter, James Hughes, Grove.—Judson B. Fichter, Leonard Brown, Highland.—C. D. Johnson, W. H. Daniel, Fairview.—Henry Witzel, Alex. Reeves, Schoolcraft.—A. R. Osborn, Robert Osborn, Emerick.—R. C. Miles, Tom Reeves, Newman Grove.—I. W. King, Gunder Thompson, Chas. Zessin, L. M. Johnson, C. A. Miller, Kalamazoo.—Ernest Nathan, Wm. Maurer, Green Garden.—Wm. Harms, Wm. Blank, Madison.—Fred Diers, J. C. Reeves, J. L. Daniel, John Horst, Mark Richardson, John Stundts, A. R. Fraser, Union.—Chas. Worley, A. A. Bley, Frank Neidig, Norfolk.—Wm. Seiffert, S. M. Park, W. H. Blakeman, Z. Bateman, F. G. Coryell, A. L. Carter, Geo. W. Schwenk, T. E. Odorne, Herman Buettow, Ferdinand Schultz, B. Asher, J. L. Hight, Chas. Livingstone, E. N. Vall, F. L. Estabrook, W. A. Emery, Valley.—Ora Bussey, F. W. Richardson, Battle Creek.—Geo. W. Losey, Aug. Steffen, T. D. Preece, D. L. Best, Warnerville.—J. D. Horner, Chas. J. Lodge, jr.

On motion the board then adjourned to February 27, 1907, at 9 a. m.

Feb. 27, 9 a. m.—Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present Commissioners Harding, Malone and Taft.

On motion the following bill was allowed:

Dani. A. Reiter, grading, commissioner district No. 1, \$15.00.

On motion W. L. Berry was appointed justice of the peace in and for Madison precinct.

On motion the bond of W. L. Berry, justice of the peace, Madison precinct, was approved.

On motion the amount of the bond to be required from the Western Bridge and Construction company was fixed at \$30,000.

On motion the board then adjourned to March 19, 1907, at 1 o'clock p. m.

County Commissioners.

Madison, Neb., Feb. 26, 1907, 1 p. m.—The board of county commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present, Commissioners John H. Harding, John Malone and Burr Taft.

The minutes of February 5, 1907, were read and approved.

At the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. the board proceeded to the opening and considering of bridge bids.

Upon comparison of the bids submitted, the bid of the Western Bridge and Construction company was found to be the lowest and best bid and on motion the contract for the construction of bridges during the year 1907 was awarded to said Western Bridge and Construction company.

On motion the county clerk was instructed to reduce the assessed valuation on part NW 1/4 NW 1/4, 26, 24, 1, assessed in the name of Adelia Hittle for the years 1892, 1895 and 1896 to \$10.00 for each of said years, said property having been erroneously assessed as improved when the same was unimproved.

On motion the resignation of Wm. Brummond, road overseer of road district No. 8 was accepted.

On motion the appointment by the county assessor of Will McDonald as deputy assessor for Meadow Grove precinct was approved.

On motion the taxes of 1906 of the State Insurance company in Meadow Grove and Newman Grove precincts were ordered stricken from the tax list, the same having been erroneously entered.

On motion the county clerk was instructed to correct on the tax list of 1904 the personal tax of W. S. McCartney in Emerick precinct, his name having been erroneously entered "M. G. Cartney."

# SOCIETY STAYS AT HOME

FOR ITS CHILDREN HAVE THE MEASLES AND THINGS.

## ALL GOING TO SHOW NEXT WEEK

There Has Been Little in the Way of Formal Events During the Week Just Passed, But There is No Excuse for Being Lonesome.

Society has been staying at home taking care of its children, who have "come down" with the measles and the scarlet fever and the chickenpox during the past week. There has been little doing in the way of formal entertainment. And the prospects are that there will be little more during the weeks to come. Lent is cutting a figure with the social calendar, and the figures continue.

But there will be no lack of things to do during the coming week, though invitation affairs are scarce. The Woodward theatrical stock company, with a score of clever people, some of whom are bound to captivate the hearts of the town, will play a week's engagement at the Auditorium, starting Thursday night when the Orpheus Concert company has the house, so that there will be no need of loneliness or blues over a lack of things to do. During the past week the closing number of the high school lecture course was held in the Congregational church when Dr. De Motte gave his lecture. The course has been completely successful.

Pleasures of the Week.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Buchholz pleasantly entertained a company of friends Tuesday evening, the occasion being the birthday of the host. Cards were a feature, after which refreshments were served.

Mr. Tom Price, a popular commercial traveler in this city, entertained a few friends at a pleasant dancing party in his rooms Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haase entertained a company of friends Thursday evening in honor of Miss Nenow, the party being in the nature of a farewell. Miss Nenow goes to California. A pleasant evening was enjoyed.

Miss Letha Blakeman and Dorothy Rudat entertained the members of the V. G. club and their gentlemen friends at a party on last Saturday evening, at the Blakeman home. It was in the nature of a Washington party, the decorations all being the national colors, red, white and blue. The place cards were little hatchets. A feature of the evening was a guessing contest at which Miss Carrie Thompson won the girls' prize and Lowell Erskine the boys' prize. After a series of games, refreshments were served.

The hand boys gave a dance on Tuesday evening, in Marquardt hall, every one attending having had an enjoyable time. These dances have become quite popular.

## WEDDING AT NELIGH.

Charles C. Tinker and Miss Edna Teagarden of Neligh.

Neligh, Neb., March 1.—Special to The News: On Wednesday evening, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Teagarden, took place the wedding of their oldest daughter, Edna Elita, to Charles Chester Tinker. The decorations for the occasion were very tasteful and beautifully arranged, and consisted of pink and white carnations.

At 8 o'clock the wedding March from Mendelssohn was begun by Miss Mildred Galley of Elgin, and the bride, dressed in a beautiful gown of white silk, and carrying the bride's roses, attended by her maid, Miss Claudia Getchell, advanced with the groom, who was attended by Howard Plank, and in a few moments the words were spoken by Rev. Clark of the Congregational church which united the young couple. The bridesmaid was dressed in rose organdie and carried pink roses, and graced the occasion with her presence. After the ceremony a grand good time was had by those present, in a social way and in viewing the many and beautiful presents received. Soon supper was served in three courses and was one of the crowning features of the evening.

The bride is a charming young lady, held in high esteem by a host of friends in Neligh, and her modest, winning demeanor has made a lasting impression on the lives of those she has labored among.

The groom is a graduate of the class of '05 at Gtes academy, and later a student of the Omaha Commercial college, and is a young man of sterling qualities. They will make their home at Lexington, Neb.

## FARM HOUSE BURNS.

Dwelling on Farm Near West Point is Totally Destroyed.

West Point, Neb., March 2.—Special to The News: The dwelling house on the farm of Robert Diers, five miles south of West Point, burned to the ground during the night. The property was in possession of a tenant farmer, who had left the premises only a few hours before the outbreak of the flames. Loss approximates \$900.00 with insurance of \$400.

The price of farm lands in Cuming county is still advancing. Frank Grosse has sold his quarter section in Bismarck township to John Hutterman for \$80.25.

The firm of Egbert and Son, dealers in agricultural implements in West

Point, have traded their business to H. Robison of Merrick county, who will hereafter conduct the establishment. The consideration for the deal was a tract of land in Merrick county. Mr. Egbert, ar., who is a pioneer of Cuming county, will retire from business, his son being as yet without a location.

The Cuming County Association of Rural Free Delivery Carriers met in West Point in regular session, with a fair attendance. Wm. Farley of Winona presided. The regular routine of business was transacted. Mr. Farley was elected a delegate to the state convention of Rural mail carriers which will be held at Grand Island. The next meeting of the local association is scheduled to meet on Labor day.

## TRY TO KICK OVER BILL

EFFORT IS MADE TO DEFEAT TRIPP COUNTY OPENING.

## CLAIM REDS ARE BEING ROBBED

An Editorial in the Current Outlook Implored Public to Ask President Not to Sign the Bill—He Will Likely, However, Make it Law.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

That a strong effort is to be made to persuade President Roosevelt not to sign the bill opening the Tripp county lands in the Rosebud reservation, 160 miles northwest of Norfolk, is apparent from the following editorial which appears in the current number of the Outlook, criticising the measure and imploring the public to remonstrate against the law. It is reported from Washington, however, that the bill will probably be signed by the president. This is what the editorial says:

On February 16 the house passed a bill (H. R. 24,987) to authorize the sale of about one million acres of the Rosebud Indian reservation in Tripp County, South Dakota; and its sponsors are endeavoring to get it rushed through the senate. The bill stipulates that \$6 per acre shall be paid for any of the land filed upon within three months after the tract is opened for settlement, \$4.50 per acre during the succeeding three months, and thereafter at the rate of \$2.50 per acre. Readers of the Outlook may recall that three years ago, when it was proposed to open the Gregory county section of the Rosebud reservation at the rate of \$2.50 an acre, it was clearly shown in an article by Mr. George Kennan (February 27, 1904) that the land in question was worth at least double that amount. The agitation resulted in a compromise price of \$4 per acre. Most of that land is now valued at from \$15 to \$20 per acre and upwards. Tripp county immediately adjoins Gregory county, and, in addition to the fertile quality of the soil, its value has not been lessened by the extension of railroads to the borders of the reservation. Manifestly, the government, as guardian, is under obligation to see that its wards get full market value for their property—a conception of the obligation of congress successfully urged by Commissioner Leupp in framing a law authorizing the sale of 505,000 acres of Kiowa lands in Oklahoma during the past year. In the sale of Indian tribal property the same principles of justice should be observed as are applied in the management of wards' estates in courts of probate. The Hon. M. E. Clapp, chairman of the senate committee on Indian affairs, in a letter recently sent to the Indian Rights association, says on this point:

"My own theory of opening these reservations is that the land should be sold to the highest bidder and the proceeds paid to the Indians. . . . I quite agree with you that the lands should be sold, and whatever they are worth—whatever they bring in the market—should go to the Indians, and I have favored this upon the opening of reservations since I have been a member of this committee."

It is true that the report (No. 7,613) on the bill submits an agreement signed by 705 of the 1,368 adult male Indians of the tribe—a few more than one-half. But under the treaty of 1863 any cession of lands to be valid must be agreed to by three-fourths of the adult members of the tribe; and section 2,116 of the United States revised statutes also provides that no purchase or other conveyance of lands from any tribe shall be of any validity unless made by treaty or convention of the tribe. Consequently, as the necessary three-fourths of the male adults of the tribe have not agreed to the proposition, and as the names of many of those on the so-called agreement were secured under threats that if they did not sign it a bill would be passed that they might not like so well, the responsibility, whatever action is taken, rests with congress. The senate ought not to pass the present bill in its present form; it should either postpone action on the bill, or amend it so that an appraisal of the lands will be provided for prior to its disposal. Friends of justice and fair play would do well to send at once a protest against this bill either to the Hon. M. E. Clapp, chairman of the senate committee on Indian affairs, whose letter quoted above shows that he is opposed to the bill, or to the president, who must assent to the bill if it is to become a law.

## GETS THIRTY DAYS FOR ASSAULT

Gust. Krber May be Sent to Lincoln Under Dipsomaniac Law.

Gust. Krber was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail by Judge Westervelt Saturday morning. The police were called to Nenow addition Friday night to take Krber into custody. Mrs. Amelia Krber appeared in police court in the morning to prosecute her husband on the charge of assault and disturbing the peace. Krber will be taken to Madison to serve his sentence. It was intimated by the authorities Saturday afternoon that Krber might be brought up for trial under the dipsomaniac law.