

Republican Administration Comes Exceedingly High

Concerning appropriations made at the recent session of congress, Chairman Tawney of the house appropriation committee said:

"The total appropriations made at this session of congress aggregate \$880,183,301, an apparent increase of \$60,000,000 over last session. This apparent excess is more than accounted for in the three following items: For the isthmian canal, \$42,447,000; under the statehood bill, \$10,250,000; toward the construction of new buildings, authorized at this session, \$10,321,000, making a total of \$63,018,000, to which might properly be added \$5,000,000 for San Francisco. Other notable increases are three million dollars in the agricultural bill for inspection of meat products and \$10,600,000 on account of the postal service."

Mr. Tawney enumerated several items that do not constitute a charge against the revenues for the next fiscal year, and added: "The sums mentioned amount to more than \$139,000,000 and when deducted leave apparent appropriations of only \$741,000,000 to be met out of the revenues of the next fiscal year. In my judgment the ordinary revenues of the government next fiscal year will amount to at least \$600,000,000. The postal revenues are estimated at \$181,573,000 for 1907, making the total apparent resources of the government next year not less than \$781,573,000, or at least \$40,000,000 in excess of appropriations that may be charged against them."

Senator Culberson of Texas presents an astonishing showing. He declares that exclusive of the Panama appropriation, expenditures in 1904 increased over 1903 by \$35,496,995; in 1905 over 1904, \$34,336,233; in 1906 over 1905, \$17,908,836. He adds: "This shows an aggregate increase of expenditures, excluding all expenses in Panama, of \$93,767,064 in three years. As usual with this administration expenditures for the military and naval establishments increased for this period and of the preceding amount the increase for the naval establishment exceeded \$34,000,000 for three years. The total expenditures for 1903, 1904, 1905 and 1906 were \$2,933,004,409, and deducting Panama expenditures they were \$2,866,421,890. The expenditures for the years 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901, the four full years of the McKinley administration, were \$2,430,316,399. It thus appears that, exclusive of all expenses in Panama the expenditures for the four years of Roosevelt exceeded those of the four years of McKinley, although he conducted the Spanish war, by the extraordinary sum of \$434,104,699."

Under date of June 30 the Washington correspondent for the Brooklyn Eagle sends to his

newspaper the following dispatch: "Two of the big trusts that have been subjected to a fierce mauling and pounding all the session have won important victories during the closing hours of congress. They are the Standard Oil trust and the beef trust, the opponents of which weakened today and yielded the points of controversy which have stood in the way of agreement on the rate bill and the meat inspection bill. Chairman Wadsworth has succeeded in imposing on the government the cost of the inspection law, and he also won out in the fight to keep the date of inspection off canned meat products. The senate receded on both of these issues, after having made a brave show for several days of holding out against Wadsworth. The house unexpectedly came to the support of Chairman Wadsworth late yesterday afternoon by voting to insist on the acceptance of its amendments by the senate. When this news was conveyed to Senator Beveridge and others who had been making the fight for the original provisions on cost and date labels, they threw up their hands and quit. As the bill will become a law, the cost of inspection will be defrayed by the government, and there will be nothing on the inspection label to indicate whether the contents of the can are one or ten years old. The packers, therefore, have won complete victory on the only objections which they raised against the Beveridge bill. The long and bitter rate bill fight was ended when the senate decided to exempt the pipe lines from the stringent provisions that apply to railroads. The victory of the oil trust was even more sweeping and impressive than that gained by the beef barons. Under the bill as agreed to pipe lines are declared to be common carriers. But the prohibition against common carriers transporting their own products is made to apply only to railroads, thereby permitting the pipe lines to escape. Consequently the Standard Oil can operate them in the future just as in the past save for the few restrictions that will be imposed as a result of being described as common carriers. The whole effort of the Standard Oil company has been to save its pipe lines, and in this it has succeeded."

Representative Williams of Mississippi, the democratic floor leader, issued the following statement: "The only notable things congress did was to adopt the democratic policy of railroad rate regulation and the democratic policy of admitting Oklahoma into the union and to refuse to tie in indissoluble wedlock Arizona and New Mexico. The democrats regret that congress did not do some measure of justice to the Filipinos by passing the Philippine tariff. This con-

gress will be almost as much celebrated for what it failed to do as what it did. What it did was distinctly democratic in initiative, origin and character. One of the things congress failed to enact which will need much explanation was some measure to check the collection of vast and corrupting campaign funds. Nothing radical or extreme was demanded, yet congress refused to keep national banks from contributing to campaign funds; it refused to prohibit corporations engaged in interstate commerce from contributing the money of stockholders to campaigns; it refused to provide for publicity of contributions. Even that could not get through a congress the republican members of which feel that without a fund they could not go through a campaign and realize that the sources of contributions must be kept secret. After the president thundered in the index about insurance frauds and wanted congress to do extreme and unconstitutional things this failure to do a very reasonable and constitutional thing will be hard to explain. Congress failed to lop off a single abuse or excrescence of the tariff system. It would not agree that a single duty should not be over 100 per cent of the entire value of the thing taxed. They would not even untax diphtheria serum nor heed the cry concerning it of the little children all over the land. They refused to reduce the duty on iron and steel, although proof was made and finally admission was had that our steel manufacturers are habitually selling their products cheaper abroad than at home, even steel for building ships, thereby building up a foreign merchant marine at the expense of an American merchant marine. With a pig-headedness that is remarkable Oklahoma was uselessly kept out of the union for nearly six months, while the children of the Indian Territory were growing up in ignorance without schools. The congress is to be congratulated upon the fact that it did not follow the lead of the president in the new Roosevelt doctrine that he seems bent upon substituting for the Monroe doctrine. This was shown in the refusal of the senate to ratify the Dominican treaty. This refusal threw cold water upon most of the president's big stick policies, and the senate was able to make this refusal effective by democratic votes. Congress passed a very good naturalization bill after several good amendments offered by the democrats had been adopted. It refused to pass any immigration bill, and it is rumored that the refusal was due to the petulance of Senator Lodge, who found the times out of joint because the house had amended the bill offered by his son-in-law. The bill as amended contained many excellent features, and ought to have passed."

WHAT "INFLUENCE" DID IN THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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is, indeed, making progress; yet hardly enough to warrant a sweeping indorsement of congress and silence as to its crimes of omission.

"There is more difference between what congress has done and what the people wanted it to do than there is between what congress has done and what it had hitherto not done. And no cause is served, save the unworthy cause of political expediency, by emphasizing the things congress has done and remaining silent about the larger things congress has failed to do. Glowing words of praise for house and senate may help in the approaching campaign, and are of course calculated for their effect on the election. They will not help to bring about the right settlement of the questions which a corrupt house and senate have refused to settle right, and which they have not—most certainly have not, if Mr. Roosevelt will pardon us—considered with 'disinterested high-mindedness.'

"Nor will these questions be settled right until the men who have had the largest share in postponing their adjustment are driven from public life."

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those

desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 14.

Extracts from letters to The Commoner follow:

C. H. Davis, LeSueur, Minn.—I can get many democrats here to sign the pledge if I had the blanks. This state is strongly republican, but strange things have happened, you know. We can work at any rate.

George S. Steele, Spragueville, N. Y.—Enclosed you will find my pledge. Whatever I can do to help the cause you have been fighting for and are still fighting for will be given. As I am heart and soul for democratic principles, I believe we will win out in the end.

Otto Weich, Omaha, Nebr.—I send you three signatures to the primary pledge.

Charles Richard, Nye, Mont.—You will find enclosed primary pledge. I shall do all I can to help the democratic party. If I can help any way let me know.

P. H. Conklin, Cedar Run, N. J.—Find enclosed primary pledge sheet with twelve signatures. Send me another blank. Success to The Commoner.

SPECIAL OFFER

E. J. Hall, Marion, Ind.—My occupation is police officer, with a very small salary. I am trying to do my share in the cause of democracy and I don't know any better way than doing what I can in this way. I have been anxious to get at least fifty. This makes forty-three and I trust that I can get more.

Everyone who approves the work The Commoner is doing is invited to co-operate along

the lines of the special subscription offer. According to the terms of this offer cards each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation:

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER

Application for Subscription Cards

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