

# CURRENT TOPICS

**J**OSEPH G. CANNON was re-elected speaker of the house of representatives. He received 204 votes against 166 votes for Champ Clark, the democratic candidate, with twelve votes scattering. Although Mr. Cannon was re-elected by practically the solid republican vote, thirty-one republicans known as "insurgents" rebelled and voted with the democrats against the adoption of the old rules. These republicans were: Cary, Wisconsin; Cooper, Wisconsin; Davidson, Wisconsin; Davis, Minnesota; Fowler, New Jersey; Gardner, Massachusetts; Good, Iowa; Gronna, North Dakota; Haugen, Iowa; Hayes, California; Hinshaw, Nebraska; Hubbard, Iowa; Kendall, Iowa; Kinkaid, Nebraska; Kopp, Wisconsin; Kustermann, Wisconsin; Lenroot, Wisconsin; Lindbergh, Minnesota; Lovering, Massachusetts; Madison, Kansas; Morse, Wisconsin; Murdock, Kansas; Nelson, Wisconsin; Norris, Nebraska; Pickett, Iowa; Poindexter, Washington; Volstead, Minnesota; Woods, Iowa; Hollingsworth, Ohio; Johnson, Ohio; Steenerson, Minnesota.

**R**EPRESENTATIVE Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, brought about the first test vote on the rules when he moved that the old rules be adopted for this congress. He moved the previous question in order to shut off debate and this motion was carried by 194 yeas to 189 nays. Seven democrats voted with Dalzell on this motion. These democrats were: Broussard, of Louisiana; Estopinal, of Louisiana; Goldfogle, of New York; Riordan, of New York; Conroy, of Louisiana; Moon, of Tennessee, and O'Connell of Massachusetts. All of the thirty-one "insurgent" republicans voted with the majority of the democrats against this Dalzell motion.

**W**HEN THE next motion—to adopt the old rules—was submitted it was defeated by 189 yeas to 193 nays. On this vote the thirty-one "insurgent" republicans voted with the majority of the democrats while but three democrats—O'Connell, Estopinal and Broussard—voted with the Cannon men. Champ Clark, the democratic leader, then offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of fifteen to revise the rules, this committee to report at the beginning of the December session. Mr. Clark demanded the previous question on his resolution but the motion for the previous question was defeated by a vote of 179 yeas to 203 nays. On this motion sixteen democrats and five insurgent republicans voted with the Cannon men. Then Fitzgerald, democrat, of New York, proposed a substitute for the Clark motion. The Fitzgerald amendment made no change in the present method of the selection of the committee on rules or other committees which are now appointed by the speaker. It enables a member to have a proposition brought before the house without having to go to the speaker for recognition and makes a few other minor changes, none of which, it is said, are at all disagreeable to Mr. Cannon. Newspaper reports agree that it was plain that there was a clear understanding between Cannon and Fitzgerald. The Fitzgerald amendment was adopted by a vote of 211 yeas to 172 nays. On this vote Hollingsworth and Johnson of Ohio, and Steenerson of Minnesota, republicans, deserted the insurgents and voted with the Cannon men. Twenty-three democrats deserted their party associations and voted with the Cannon men. These were as follows: Bartlett, Nevada; Brantley, Georgia; Broussard, Louisiana; Conroy, Louisiana; Edwards, Georgia; Estopinal, Louisiana; Fitzgerald, New York; Fornes, New York; Goldfogle, New York; Goulden, New York; Griggs, Georgia; Harrison, New York; Howard, Georgia; Keliher, Massachusetts; Lee, Georgia; Lindsay, New York; Livingston, New York; McDermott, Illinois; Moon, Tennessee; O'Connell, Massachusetts; Peters, Massachusetts; Riordan, New York; Sparkman, Florida.

**A**S A RESULT Cannonism is practically victorious. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia North American says: "In

preventing the house from doing away with the old nefarious system, two men stand forth as entitled to particular distinction. One of these is Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn, a follower of the notorious Pat McCarran; the other is Townsend, of Michigan, one of the authors of the Esch-Townsend rate bill and a former supporter of the Roosevelt policies. Townsend was a leader in the insurrectionary movement, chiefly because the system prevailing in the house prevented the house from getting an opportunity to express its actual convictions with respect to great public questions. Today he declared that the adoption of the old rules and a continuation of the boss system are absolutely necessary to the enactment of such remedial legislation as the president is pledged to recommend to congress. Townsend is a fair example of the man with good impulses who yields to pressure and deserts the principles for which he has contended. As for Fitzgerald, he is a Brooklyn democrat. It is now recalled that Pat McCarran, the Brooklyn boss, came to Washington last winter and remained here two weeks and held some conferences with Speaker Cannon. It is believed the deal by which Fitzgerald was to rush to the salvation of Cannonism was arranged then. Why the five or six Tammany members from New York City went to Cannon's aid is not known definitely, but conjectures are plentiful, especially among the democrats. The Georgians who went to the support of Cannon were led by Livingston, who, obviously, wished to preserve his place upon the appropriations committee, and by Griggs, who is also a seeker for favors. The estimate placed upon these deserting democrats by their fellow democratic members was expressed in the democratic caucus which followed the session of the house this afternoon. The attitude taken by the democrats at a caucus held this evening, after the house adjourned, is in sharp conflict with the new policy of Cannon. A resolution was adopted to prevent members of the minority accepting committee assignments without the approval of Minority Leader Clark. The resolution read: 'Resolved, That it is the sense of the democratic caucus that no democrat should accept appointment on any committee without the previous approval of the present democratic leader.' This was adopted by a vote of 135 to 1, one member voting 'present.' Previous to the vote, however, several members had left the caucus, including Representatives Fitzgerald, New York; Moon, Tennessee; Edwards, Brantley and Livingston, Georgia."

**O**N THE DAY following his "victory" Speaker Cannon announced the ways and means committee and rules committee. The new members of the ways and means are: Cushman, of Washington, republican; Harrison, of New York, and Broussard, of Louisiana, democrats. The full committees as announced are as follows: Rules—Speaker, Dalzell of Pennsylvania, Smith of Iowa, Clark of Missouri, Fitzgerald of New York. The latter is author of the amendment to the rules adopted: Ways and Means—Payne of New York, Dalzell of Pennsylvania, McCall of Massachusetts, Hill of Connecticut, Boutell of Illinois, Needham of California, Calderhead of Kansas, Fordney of Michigan, Gaines of West Virginia, Cushman of Washington, Longworth of Ohio, Crumpacker of Indiana, Clark of Missouri, Harrison of New York, Broussard of Louisiana, Underwood of Alabama, Griggs of Georgia, Pou of North Carolina, and Randell of Texas.

**A**FTER THE announcement of the personnel of the committees, Champ Clark, the minority leader, said: "Originally the speaker had the power, and exercised it, to appoint all the committees, both the majority and the minority members. Under Speaker Reed, when Bailey of Texas, was the minority leader, and under Speaker Henderson, I think that the minority leaders were consulted a good deal regarding the appointment of minority members. When Cannon was elected speaker and Williams minority

leader, the speaker conferred on the minority leader the favor of appointing minority members on committees with one or two exceptions. Now the speaker resumes the power of appointing the majority and minority members on committees for the purpose of punishing me because I had the courage to fight certain things that he wanted done. He has a perfect right to appoint the majority and minority members, and I am not complaining about it, but his efforts to punish me will be absolutely futile if his purpose is to swerve me from the line of conduct which I think is for the welfare of the democratic party, and, therefore, of the country. Committee assignments do not make and unmake men in the house of representatives. I had nothing whatever to do with the appointment of the committee on ways and means and the committee on rules, and I would not have cared a bauble if he had put me on the tail end of the committee on ventilation and acoustics. Every man makes his own place in the house of representatives. He did not give me my place, and he can't take it away from me." Representative Underwood, of Alabama, would not discuss his appointment on the ways and means committee other than to say: "If Mr. Clark asks me to resign from the committee on ways and means, my resignation will be at the speaker's desk within two minutes."

**R**EPRESENTATIVE Ollie James, of Kentucky, is anxious to learn President Taft's present attitude in regard to an income tax. To this end he introduced a resolution in the house. The Associated Press says: "The resolution quotes President Taft as saying in a speech at Columbus, O., on August 16, 1907, that 'in times of great national need, however, an income tax would be of great assistance in furnishing means to carry on the government.' Mr. James refers to President Taft's tariff message wherein it is estimated that there would be a deficit in the treasury by July 1 of \$100,000,000. The resolution asks the president if, in his opinion, the 'times of great national need' have not come, 'when an income tax would be of great assistance in furnishing the means by which to carry on the government.' The president is asked, if he does so believe, to submit to congress recommendations relative to imposing a tax upon incomes 'to the end that the rich may bear their proportion of the burdens of the government.'"

**C**ONVICTED bankers, now prisoners in the penitentiary at Pittsburg, Pa., discovered an apparent discrepancy of more than \$26,000 in the penitentiary accounts. An Associated Press dispatch from Pittsburg says: "The board of visitors of the western penitentiary some time ago appointed Henry Reibar, formerly paying teller of the Farmers' Deposit National bank, now an inmate of the penitentiary, to audit the books of the institution. Finding an apparent discrepancy and being unwilling to assume all responsibility, Reibar secured the assistance of William Montgomery, former cashier of the Allegheny National bank, and J. B. F. Rinehart, former cashier of the Farmers and Drivers' National bank of Waynesburg, Pa., both convicts in the western penitentiary, who are said to agree with him in his findings."

**A**N ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from Boston Mass., says: "Of the thousands, who, when they feel like 'cussing,' relieve their feelings by exclaiming 'Gee Whitaker,' few know how the exclamation originated and who fathered it. George Whitaker of Ashford was the man and his death at a ripe old age has just been announced. George Whitaker was a famous old 'forty-niner' and the first chief of police of New Britain, Conn. He was a terror to all evildoers, who, when they saw him coming would exclaim, 'Gee Whitaker,' and make themselves scarce. That is how the widely used phrase originated."