

The Commoner.

Lodge, republican, Massachusetts; Henry F. Leppett, republican, Rhode Island.

The California senate committee on judiciary reported favorably a constitutional amendment providing equal suffrage for women.

California never will ask congress for any money for the Panama exposition according to a resolution offered in the state senate.

Japanese on the sugar plantations of Hawaii where Filipinos also are employed threaten a general strike unless the latter are discharged.

A bill providing for the physical valuation of railroads was introduced in the lower house of the Kansas legislature.

Paul Morton, president of the Equitable Life Insurance Society, and secretary of the navy under Theodore Roosevelt, died of apoplexy in a New York hotel. He was a son of the late J. Sterling Morton, who was secretary of agriculture under President Cleveland.

The Iowa legislature is deadlocked on United States senator. The democrats are voting solidly for Claude Porter.

An Associated Press dispatch from Helena, Mont., says: "The Montana legislature in joint session condemned the action of certain 'so-called' democrats in the legislature of Massachusetts in voting for the re-election of United States Senator Henry Cabot Lodge; declared that the re-election of Mr. Lodge was, on its face, the result of a corrupt bargain, and demanded a rigid investigation of the methods by which Lodge obtained his election. The resolution on the Massachusetts

election was presented by State Senator Fred Whiteside immediately after the joint ballot for senator had been taken and was adopted by a *viva voce* vote. From the democratic side there was a volley of ayes while from the republican side came a few scattering noes."

Governor Bass of New Hampshire has advised the legislature to ratify the income tax amendment.

The New Mexico constitution was adopted by a large majority at an election held January 21. The constitution was denounced by the democratic territorial convention on the ground that it was "a reactionary, boss-made corporation document." The constitution now goes to the president for approval.

A New York dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "William Barnes, Jr., of Albany, who led the fight against Theodore Roosevelt last fall, in the Saratoga convention, was chosen chairman of the republican state committee here to succeed Ezra P. Prentice, resigned. The position had been offered by cable to James Wadsworth, Jr., former speaker of the assembly, but he was out of reach and no reply had been received from him when the committee met."

A Washington, D. C., dispatch says: "In preparation for the national political campaign of 1912 a call has been issued by the board of directors of the National League of Democratic clubs for a conference in Indianapolis April 12 to 13. It was called at the request of the presidents of the state leagues that such a meeting be held at some central point at which leading democrats from all over the country may gather and discuss plans for an active and systematic campaign next year."

terms for distributing the committee spoils, there was frequent, uproarious laughter. The letter denounced the caucus as a 'frame-up' and the democrats who supinely fell down 'before these self-sustained successors of Caesar' as 'fellow worms,' as 'Catilines incog.' and declared that the handful of men who framed up the committee rewards were early birds, Catilines in miniature, usurpers and conspirators, who impudently stuck this cut and dried slate under the noses of gentlemen. The letter held that it was cruel mockery to summon the new members to Washington merely to vote as they were told. 'Worms inclined to turn will have an opportunity at the caucus,' read the letter, which added that the symbol of union 'would be a ring in the nose.' The democrats made no immediate response, Mr. Borland of Missouri merely referring to the incident as a waste of time."

The house committee on the census agreed to amend the congressional apportionment bill so as to provide for one representative for Arizona and New Mexico when they become states.

Senator Burrows delivered a speech in the senate defending Senator Lorimer.

The house of representatives has adopted an amendment to the Moon bill codifying laws relating to the judiciary, which will stop the practice of corporations doing an interstate business from taking practically all suits against them out of the hands of the state courts and placing them in the federal courts. The amendment was offered by Representative Garrett of Tennessee, and after a preliminary skirmish, in which party lines were tightly drawn, was finally adopted by a practically unanimous vote. Mr. Garrett, in explaining the amendment, said it would prevent a New Jersey corporation, for instance, from transferring state suits against it to the supreme court, on the ground that the officers of the corporation live in New York. The amendment is regarded as an important one and called out a general debate.

Democrats of the house turned again upon Speaker Cannon January 16. The Washington correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal describes the fight in this way: "The fight developed as the result of the second attempt to use the new rule, which gives the house power to discharge a committee from further consideration of a bill that has been referred to it. The insurgents and the democrats believed that this rule was iron-clad; that as soon as the consideration of bills, by unanimous consent, had been concluded on every first and third Monday of the month the house was bound by the new rule to take up the motions to discharge committees from the custody of the specified bills. When the moment arrived today, however, Speaker Cannon gave recognition to Representative Hull of Iowa, chairman of the military affairs committee. Mr. Hull moved that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole, and take up the consideration of the military appropriation bill, upon which it had been working last week. There was an immediate rallying of forces and stiffening of ranks among the insurgents and democrats. Mr. Fitzgerald insisted upon the consideration of a motion to discharge a committee, which was upon the calendar. Speaker Cannon declined to give Mr. Fitzgerald the preference, but said he would be glad to consider a point of order if Mr. Fitzgerald wanted to make one. The democratic member

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Washington News

The Alabama law to prevent agreements and combinations between insurance companies for the purpose of fixing rates on fire insurance was held constitutional by the United States supreme court.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "Representative Calder, a New York republican, sprang a sensation in the house by reading an open letter of Representative Dies of Texas, a democrat, attacking the democratic caucus and declaring it a 'solid deck' for the coming caucus, a feast of stale

dishes. A call of the house forced a full attendance of the democrats. Republicans had passed word around of the plan to read the letter to the house while the roll call was on and the house and gallery were crowded. When the reading of the letter was begun Representative Helfin of Alabama tried to head it off by making a point of order that the letter was not germane to the pending postoffice appropriation bill, but was promptly overruled. As the reading continued, with the ridicule it thrust on the democratic leaders, who were denounced in sarcastic

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