

Washington News

An Associated Press correspondent says: "Senator La Follette intends to establish by legislation, if he can, the right of government employes to organize in unions in the manner that trades are organized and affiliate with the American Federation of Labor. His purpose has been made plain in a letter sent to all employes of the railway mail service bearing on the issue that has been raised between such employes of the government and Postmaster General Hitchcock, Second Assistant Postmaster General Stewart and other officials of the postoffice department. A copy of the circular letter was made public recently. One paragraph of Senator La Follette's letter follows: 'The railway mail clerks have the right to organize. If the officers of the department are endeavoring to prevent them from so doing by threats of discharge, such action is without legal authority or moral right.'"

Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh advocates the creating of his civil pension list.

Roosevelt's Panama libel suits have been dismissed.

A bill to restore the army canteen was introduced by Representative Bartholdt of Missouri.

Representative Sulzer introduced a resolution providing for the election of senators by the people.

President Taft has accepted an invitation to address a meeting of the Methodists in New York April 27th.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "A resolution asking for the withdrawal of the United States from the Mexican border and for the submission to congress by the president of all the papers bearing on the Mexican situation was introduced in the house by Victor Berger, the new socialist con-

gressman from Milwaukee. Mr. Berger referred to the 'despotism and brutality of the Mexican governing class,' which he says have goaded the people of that country into revolution."

The first argument before the commerce court was that of an L. & N. case appealing from a reduction of New Orleans-Mobile rates.

The United States and Great Britain have agreed to arbitrate the claim of a Massachusetts whaler's heirs, involving millions of acres of New Zealand land.

Senator Elihu Root, of New York, secured the admission of his son, Elihu Root, jr., to practice before the supreme court of the United States.

The supreme court declined to put the ban on "cut rates" in proprietary medicines on the ground that such action would afford the manufacturers of medicine an unlawful monopoly.

Dr. A. S. Knapp, an international authority on agriculture, died at the national capital.

An Associated Press dispatch says: "John Sharp Williams, the new junior senator from Mississippi, has succeeded in a life-time ambition. He has the seat in the senate which was occupied by Jefferson Davis."

Unless Secretary MacVeagh changes his plans the issue of Panama bonds which the treasury is preparing to bring out will be dated June 1. Plates bearing that date are now being made at the bureau of engraving and printing.

Advances recently made by express companies in charges for the transportation of liquors in packages were considered excessive by the interstate commerce commission and were suspended until an inquiry could be made.

In accordance with plans announced several months ago, the war department will send two more companies of coast artillery to Hawaii in about three months."

Charles D. Hilles, of Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., took the oath of office as secretary to the president.

A SIGNIFICANT DECISION

Louis D. Brandeis submitted to the interstate commerce commission, on behalf of the shippers, that the demand of the railroads for increased freight rates was unnecessary and unjust. He demonstrated that the railroads are violating almost every principle of the science of business management. He maintained that the public should not be compelled to pay for mismanagement. Now comes the interstate commerce commission, with a decision refusing to permit the increases that the railroads request. It says: "It is not apparent that the general public should stand responsible for the mistakes which have been made in financing these railroad systems." Perhaps Mr. Brandeis' suggestions, which have been held up to ridicule by the corporation press, will now receive respectful consideration. Meanwhile, extensions of new lines and expenditures for equipment are proceeding without a halt.—La Follette's Magazine.

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS IN SPECIAL SESSION

The Sixty-second congress met in special session April 5th. Its political complexion is as follows:

Senate—Republicans, 50; democrats, 41; vacancy, 1.

House—Democrats, 228; republicans, 160; socialist, 1; vacancies, 2.

An Associated Press report says: Representative Clark was elected speaker. He polled 217 votes against 131 for James R. Mann, of Illinois, 16 for Henry A. Cooper, Wisconsin, and one for George W. Norris, of Nebraska. The three last named are republicans.

Mr. Clark was nominated by Representative Burleson, of Texas, chairman of the democratic caucus. Mr. Mann was nominated by Representative Currier, of New Hampshire, chairman of the republican caucus. The insurgents did not go through the formality of nominating their candidate, Mr. Cooper. Neither Mr. Clark nor Mr. Mann voted. Mr. Cooper voted for Norris, (Neb.)

The insurgents who voted for Mr. Cooper in addition to Aiken, New York, were: Anderson, Minnesota; Davidson, Wisconsin; Davis, Minnesota; French, Idaho; Kopp, Wisconsin; LaFollette, Wisconsin; Laferty, Oregon; Jackson, Kansas; Kent, California; Lenroot, Wisconsin; Nelson, Wisconsin, and Warburton, Washington.

Victor L. Berger, of Wisconsin, the only socialist in the house, declined to vote.

When Clerk McDowell announced the vote by which Mr. Clark was elected, the house broke into cheers. When Mr. Clark appeared at the main door on the arm of Mr. Mann, there was renewed cheering.

Mr. Mann rapped for order. "It is a great office," he said, slowly, "and filled by a great man. Gentlemen, I present to you your speaker, the Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri."

Mr. Clark himself rapped for order this time, to stop the applause, and then launched into his speech. He frequently was interrupted by applause.

Exercising his privilege as a former member of the house, Mr. Bryan appeared in the chamber at 11:45 a. m. He was quickly recognized by the gallery crowds and a demonstration which started with applause soon was taken up with the cheering on the floor and in the galleries.

A few minutes later Governor Harmon of Ohio appeared on the floor and the cheering was renewed.

Mr. Mann, as the new minority leader, also was greeted with applause. Mr. Mann and Mr. Clark, as the two candidates for the speakership, had their pictures taken in the speaker's offices. Mrs. Clark and her daughter and son, comprising the speaker's family, were with him in his new offices and exchanged greetings with many of the visitors.

CHAMP CLARK'S SPEECH

Speaker Champ Clark said, in part: "Election to the high position of speaker is an exceptional honor, for which you have my profoundest gratitude. To be a member of the house, to represent 2,000,000 American citizens in the more numerous branch of the greatest legislative body in the world, is an honor to which, in the nature of things, comparatively few men may attain. To be chosen by the representatives of 92,000,000 people to preside over their deliberations is a signal mark of your favor, for which the best return is to discharge the onerous and important duties of the station to which you have assigned me with such impartiality, constancy, industry, courtesy and good temper as to expedite the public business, thereby promoting the public weal.

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