

WASHINGTON NEWS

Representative A. O. Stanley, chairman of the steel probe committee, returned to Washington after a flying visit to Pittsburg, where it is said he gained valuable information to be used in the investigation by Mr. Stanley's committee.

The Cummins amendment to admit Canadian flour and cereal products to the United States free of duty under the reciprocity agreement was defeated by the senate 14 to 52. The other Cummins amendments were also badly defeated.

Congressional inquiry as to the mysterious letter said to involve President Taft and his brother in the granting of lands at Controller Bay, Alaska, to the Guggenheim interests, resulted in the failure to find such a letter.

A special dispatch to the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, says: "Former Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, who has been in Washington in consultation with President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, relative to the contempt proceedings against the federation officials, conferred at the capitol with many of the democratic leaders in both houses of congress. There were numerous exchanges of views regarding the political situation, and fairly general expression of hope from the democratic standpoint. 'Experience has made us cautious in the matter of prediction,' said Mr. Parker, 'but the outlook certainly is better than usual.' Some of the democratic congressmen told Mr. Parker that they would not be disappointed should they see the democratic ticket headed with his name, as in 1904. Judge Parker said the Gompers case would again come up in the district supreme court July 17, but refused to comment on the possible outcome."

A special dispatch to the Louisville Courier-Journal, says: "Insurgent republicans predict that Canadian reciprocity will constitute the sole tariff legislation enacted by the extra session of congress, and that adjournment will take place about August 1. Speaker Clark and house leaders will insist upon action on other tariff measures, and the speaker predicts congress will not adjourn before September 1.

Doctor Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture has been urged by Attorney-General Wickersham to resign, "for the good of the service."

Senator Bailey's free list amendment to the Canadian reciprocity bill was defeated in the senate by a large majority. So evident was the margin against it that Senator Bailey did not ask for a roll call.

Fresh from a conference with President Taft, Chairman Smith, of the senate territories committee, gave notice of an amendment to eliminate the judiciary recall provision in the Arizona constitution and said that if the resolution is adopted as it passed the house it would be vetoed.

A special dispatch to the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "As a result of the theft of the master key of the office building of the house of representatives, which opens every room wherein are stored legislative secrets, martial law has been de-

clared in the edifice, and none may enter or leave without passing before a heavy guard."

Despite denials that have been made that government officials intend to permit the Guggenheim interests to control Alaskan transportation through a monopoly on the water front of Controller Bay, congress is determined to go ahead with its investigation.

Whether congress will adjourn after the senate has voted on reciprocity, the wool bill and the farmers' free list bill or must remain in session until fall is to be decided by a caucus of the house democrats.

An Associated Press report says: "A characterization of the confederacy as an 'infamous cause' by Senator Heyburn, Idaho, brought from Senator Williams of Mississippi a bitter rebuke in the senate. 'But for the parliamentary rules that refrain me,' declared Mr. Williams, 'I would have a few words to say about the kind of human being in whose heart such thoughts can exist.'"

LITTLE LESSONS IN DIRECT LEGISLATION

If all political power originally resides in the electorate, and is derived from it, it is evident that the departments of government, legislative, executive and judicial, exist and operate by virtue of the electoral franchise exercised by citizen voters, and are directly responsible to the electorate for the performance of their functions. Not only are government officials directly and indirectly responsible to their constituencies, but they are at all times so responsible, and their constituencies may at any time summon them to account and discharge them for failure to perform aright the duties of their office. The electorate in a democracy is the "people"—and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, is not a government by a court, or a caucus, or a convention, or a congress, but a government by initiative and referendum, that is to say, by direct legislation. As long ago as 1780, the men of the Massachusetts town-meeting embodied this principle of fundamental democracy in their constitution. They said, article five: "All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them."

This was seven years before the session of the so-called "constitutional convention" at Philadelphia, the proceedings of which, as reported by James Madison, now show that the members of that body framed the constitution of the "more perfect union" in order to "counteract the tendencies" of a "turbulent democracy," represented by Samuel Adams, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson—revolutionists, who, it must be remembered, were not in that famous body.—George Hammell, in Twentieth Century Magazine.

ENTHUSIASM

"How did your act take amateur night?"
"Great. When I sang the first verse they yelled 'Fine!' and when I sang the next they yelled 'Imprisonment!'"—Christian Intelligencer.

Simmons of North Carolina on Rack

The following is a special dispatch to the Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal:

Washington, July 10—(Special.)—The tariff record of the democratic party was kept clean in the senate today at the expense of Senators Simmons, of North Carolina, and Bailey, of Texas. With interrogations and reproaches that stung like whip lashes, Senators Reed, Kern and Williams cited the Denver platform of 1908 in favor of free lumber, and forced an admission from Senator Simmons that he repudiated that platform in "deference to the sentiment of the lumber interests in his own state." Senator Kern did not leave the field before bringing out that Mr. Simmons was a member of the resolutions committee which framed the Denver platform, and had a voice in the convention which adopted it unanimously.

Show Up for Simmons

Senator Simmons' ordeal came at the end of a speech in which he supported his amendment to the reciprocity bill, which is backed by the great majority of democrats in congress, and opposed by Bailey, Simmons and one or two other democrats. The senate leaders in putting Mr. Simmons on the grill, in the midst of the desperate fight he is making for re-election in North Carolina, simply exonerated their party from responsibility for his protectionist votes and his present attitude on reciprocity, in defiance of the great bulk of democrats.

Bailey Takes Hand

They had planned to hold a conference at which the differences between the Bailey-Simmons group and the remainder of the democrats would be fought out, but it was learned tonight that the dissenters declined to enter the conference. The only thing to do, therefore, was to show them up on the floor, and this was the net result of the proceedings of today. During his baptism of fire Mr. Simmons was supported by Mr. Bailey, who whispered to him answers for embarrassing questions and who once or twice broke in before Simmons could retort, and answered the question himself. Once this maneuver drew a protest from Senator John Sharp Williams, who suggested that the Texan permit Mr. Simmons to answer for himself.

Make Exposures Boldly

Finding that they had the exposure to make, the democratic leaders approached their task boldly and conducted it thoroughly. Mr. Simmons showed a great deal of bitterness, indicating that he considered his grilling by Senator Reed the result of personal dislike, despite Mr. Reed's protestations that he merely wanted to set the house of the democrats in order. When the debate, in which the republicans sat silent, some smiling, but took no part, was ended, Bailey and Simmons were very angry, while their colleagues felt simply as would parents who had been punishing disobedient children, and, while spanking, had spanked well.

The senate was discussing the Cummins and Simmons amendments to the reciprocity bill, all of which by agreement were to be voted on

before adjournment. None had any chance of passage. Mr. Simmons had about completed his speech, and Senator Clapp, "insurgent republican," was on his feet prepared to take the floor when the North Carolinian announced he had not finished. He said he was representing the bulk of the sentiment in his state.

Reed Interrogates Simmons

Mr. Reed arose and cited a speech made twenty years ago by Senator Vance, a noted North Carolinian, in which Vance opposed every form of protection. In reply Mr. Simmons said that if Vance were in Simmons' seat today he would vote as Simmons intended to vote. Senator Gore then handed to Mr. Reed some paragraphs from a speech, including an attack on Mr. Simmons for his protectionist leanings.

"Whose speech is that? I insist on knowing!" cried Mr. Simmons. His upraised fist vibrating and his voice hoarse with anger.

"Mr. Kitchin, of North Carolina, made it in the house," replied Mr. Reed. After some fencing Mr. Reed began his direct catechism as follows:

Reed—The senator states that he is democratic.

Simmons—Yes.

Reed—And that he stands on democratic platforms. Yet he says he is in favor of a tariff on lumber.

Simmons—Yes; and I would vote for it.

Reed—I want to read him the last democratic platform adopted by the Denver convention.

Kern—And unanimously.

Reed—Demanding an immediate repeal of the tariff on wood pulp, print paper, lumber, timber and logs. I should like to ask the senator if he stands on that platform when he says he favors a tariff on lumber.

Explains His Position

Simmons—When the democratic convention, which made that declaration adjourned, and went home, on account of the fact that lumber is the largest single interest in my state, employing tens of thousands of men, the people of North Carolina rebelled against that declaration of the democratic party to such an extent as to make it manifest to the chairman of the democratic executive committee of that state, Mr. Eller, that we were in danger of losing control of the state as he result of that declaration. To meet that condition, Mr. Eller prepared and for the committee issued and circulated broadcast over North Carolina a pledge on the part of the democratic executive committee of that state that no democratic senator or representative from that state would vote, notwithstanding the national platform declaration to put lumber on the free list unless mill machinery, which enters so largely into the cost of manufacturing lumber, was also put on the free list.

"If I did not recognize the authority of the executive committee of my state to bind me in that regard as an honorable man, I ought to have said so when the campaign was on, and when we were using that pledge to get the votes of the lumber people of my state. I did not do so, neither did any other representative of my state, but on

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