

AS CONGRESS SEES ITSELF

O wad some power
the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as
ithers see us!

—Robert Burns

THE "Official Congressional Directory, Sixty-sixth Congress," which is now off the government press, might very well carry the subtitle, "As Congress Sees Itself." For it contains as usual a biographical sketch of each senator and representative—with one exception. And these biographies are autobiographies. To be sure, there is a sort of censor who is supposed to see to it that the authors do not hand themselves too many flowers. This functionary came into being because a former Kansas senator a few years ago made the whole country snicker. But human nature is the same—in congress as out—and most of the contributors to this exceedingly interesting volume seem to be possessed with the idea that they must explain why they are exactly the men for the place—so exactly that they were of necessity elected. And as the ideas of the qualifications of a member of congress are about as many as the writers, the autobiographies do not lack variety.

The one exception referred to is Representative James O'Connor of Louisiana; he simply gives his name. In contrast, many other members need nearly half a page to set forth the details of their wondrous past.

Of those whose portraits are herewith given, "Uncle Joe" Cannon's account of himself is condensed, even laconic; Champ Clark's is about three times as long. Incidentally it may be said that the attitude of brotherly love of the two former speakers is for pictorial purposes strictly.

Joseph Gurney Cannon, Republican, of Danville, the directory says, "was born at Guilford, N. C., May 7, 1836; is a lawyer; was state's attorney in Illinois, March, 1861; to December, 1868." Then it is stated that he was elected to the Twenty-second congress, and that he was elected speaker in the Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth, Sixtieth and Sixty-first congresses. That's all there is to the seven lines of his autobiography.

Champ Clark takes 29 lines. Outstanding facts set forth in it are that he was the "youngest college president in America"; "a hired farm hand"; "led in the Baltimore Democratic national convention of 1912 for the presidential nomination on 29 ballots, receiving a clear majority on nine ballots."

Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas worked as a reporter on the New York Tribune and he has become the second largest publisher of periodicals in the United States. After obtaining an education in the common schools of Garnett, Kan., he learned the printing trade on the Garnett Journal, went to Topeka in 1884 and became a typesetter on the Topeka Daily Capital, "of which he is now owner and publisher." Incidentally, it may be stated that he owns Household, Capper's Weekly, the Missouri Valley Farmer, the Farmer's Mail and Breeze, the Nebraska Farm Journal and the Oklahoma Farmer. His publications are said to have a combined circulation of about 1,725,000. And he is intensely interested in the repeal of the postal zone law, which is regarded as exceedingly beneficial by the publishers of the country daily and weekly newspapers.

Representative John Miller Baer of North Dakota sets forth that he is the first Nonpartisan elected to congress; is married to the "daughter of the North Dakota flaxseed king"; that he has a son who is the eighth John M. Baer in unbroken sequence born in America, and that he resigned from a postmastership to engage in cartooning and journalistic work.

Senator Nelson of Minnesota and Senator Bankhead of Alabama are veterans of the Civil war. The latter merely says of this: "Served four years in the Confederate army, being wounded three times." Senator Nelson says: "Was a private and noncommissioned officer in the Fourth Wisconsin regiment during the Civil war, and was wounded and taken prisoner at Port Hudson, La., June 14, 1863."

There are five other veterans of the Civil war: Union Senator Francis E. Warren of Wyoming; Representative Henry Z. Osborne of California and Representative Isaac R. Sherwood of Ohio; Confederate Senator Thomas S. Martin of Virginia and Representative Charles M. Stedman of North Carolina.

Senator Warren, fought in the same battle in which Senator Nelson was wounded and captured. Senator Warren served as a private and noncommissioned officer in the Forty-ninth Massachusetts regiment. He received the Congressional medal for gallantry on the battlefield at the siege of Fort Hudson. These two veterans find pleasure frequently in "fighting over" the battle which meant so much to them.

Representative Osborne served in the Ninety-second New York regiment. He enlisted at the age of sixteen.

Senator Martin was educated at the Virginia Military Institution. While there much of his time was spent in the cadet battalion of the institution serving the Confederate states.

Representative Stedman served with General Lee's army throughout the war. He was wounded three times. Enlisting as a private he was mustered out as a major.

Representative Sherwood was a fighter and is proud of it. His autobiography reads in part: "Democrat of Toledo; was born in Stanford, Dutchess county, N. Y., August 13, 1835; was educated at Hudson River Institute, Claverack, N. Y., at Antioch college, Ohio, and at Poughkeepsie Law college; enlisted April 16, 1861, as a private in the Fourteenth Ohio infantry and was mustered out as a brigadier general October 8, 1865, by order of the secretary of war; was in 43 battles and 123 days under fire, and was ten times complimented in special and general orders and on the battlefields by commanding generals for gallant conduct; commanded his regiment in all the battles of the Atlanta campaign, and after the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., upon recommendation of the officers of his brigade and division and on the indorsement of General Schofield, commanding the army, he



SENATOR NELSON



REPRESENTATIVE J.M. BAER



SENATOR ARTHUR CAPPER



SEN. JOHN M. BANKHEAD

was made brevet brigadier general by President Lincoln February 16, for long and faithful service and conspicuous gallantry at the battles of Resaca, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville; member of Loyal Legion and G. A. R."

So only seven Civil war veterans are members of the Sixty-sixth congress—54 years after the close of the memorable struggle between the North and South. Soldier representation in congress was at its peak between 1880 and 1890.

The fact that the period between 1880 and 1890 marked the larger soldier representation in congress indicates that most of the soldiers who were in their twenties at the close of the war in 1865 did not begin to aspire to congressional service until had reached thirty-five or forty years of age. Many of them were between forty and fifty when they took their seats.

There has been much conjecture as to how soon the veterans of the War of 1917, as the recent world war has been officially designated by the war department, will occupy a majority of seats in congress. As a majority of those who actually saw foreign service, which will be the larger political factor as the years go by, were between twenty and twenty-five years of age, it may be safely calculated that it will be at least 15 years before there will be another soldier congress. That will be in 1934. It may be sooner if the newer custom of electing young men is continued. The average age of congressmen has decreased in recent years. Several of the present members are in their early thirties. The West shows the greater tendency to elect young men.

Two veterans of the War of 1917 are already in the house—in fact, were in it when they put on the uniform. They are F. H. La Guardia of New York, who was a major in the air service, and Royal C. Johnson of South Dakota, who fought in the trenches and was wounded. King Swope, a returned soldier, has been elected a representative from Kentucky to fill a vacancy and has just taken his seat. His election has set the politicians wondering, inasmuch as he was elected on the Republican ticket in a Democratic district and his platform was opposition to the League of Nations.

Representative Lucian Walton Parrish of the Thirteenth Texas district not only had the distinction of winning a \$50 gold prize as the best debater in his last year at the University of Texas, but won his election by the use of a "flivver." He says: "... prior to entering the race for congress he had never sought or held public office or emolument; he had, however, been active in public affairs, as president of the school board, as president of the chamber of commerce of Henrietta, and had held other like positions of trust. C. F. Spencer of Montague county and E. P. Haney of Wichita county were his opponents in the race for congress, and both of them were seasoned politicians. Mr. Haney having represented five of the 12 counties in the congressional district in the legislature of Texas and Mr. Spencer having been county attorney of Montague county, and at the time he entered the race was district judge of Denton, Montague and Cooke counties, and besides was reared in Wise county, giving him an extensive acquaintance in these four counties of the district, while Mr. Parrish was practically unknown in any part of the eastern district. With Mr. Spencer in the east and Mr. Haney in the west, all the political prophets were quite sure Mr. Parrish had no chance to win. However, with

characteristic determination, he made an untiring and vigorous campaign. In an automobile he went day and night, speaking from one to four times a day, and reached practically every community in the 12 counties. When the result of the first primary was known, Mr. Parrish was winner by 253 votes.

J. Kuhio Kalaniani'ole, territorial delegate from Hawaii; "Republican of Waiiki, district of Honolulu, island of Oahu; was born March 23, 1871, at Kola, island of Kauai, Hawaii; was educated in Honolulu, the United States, and England; was employed in the office of minister of the interior and in the customhouse under the monarchy; is cousin to the late King Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani, monarchs of the then kingdom of Hawaii, and nephew of Queen Kapiolani, consort of Kalakaua; was created prince by royal proclamation in 1884; married Elizabeth Kahau Kaaui, daughter of a chief of the island of Maui, October 8, 1896; was elected delegate to the Fifty-sixth, Fifty-ninth, Sixtieth, Sixty-first, Sixty-second, Sixty-third, Sixty-fourth, Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth congresses."

Quite a number of members in addition to the gentleman from Hawaii have considerable to say about their ancestry. Several trace their blood back to members of the Continental congress. One announces that he is a "direct descendant of the father of Hannah Dustin." An Ohio representative, however, easily leads them all.

Henry I. Emerson of Cleveland, representative from the Twenty-second Ohio district, sets forth his ancestry back to the year 1695 in this country and had the honor of being elected to the Sixty-sixth congress without a single vote being cast against him. Here is his story of himself:

"Republican of Cleveland; was born in Litchfield, Me., March 15, 1871, son of Ivory W. Emerson, a veteran of the Civil war. Mr. Emerson is a direct descendant of (1) Michael Emerson, who came to this country in 1655 and settled in Haverhill, Mass., and was the father of Hannah Dustin, a famous woman of New England; his son (2), Samuel, was born in Haverhill, but moved to Dover, N. H., where his son (3), Timothy Emerson was born; (4) Smith Emerson, born at Dover, N. H., December 26, 1745, was a captain in the Revolutionary army and served under Washington at Trenton and Princeton; (5) Jonathan Emerson was born at Dover, N. H., but moved to Litchfield, Me., with his son (6), Andrew Emerson, where (7) Ivory W. Emerson, the son of Andrew, was born; served in the city council of Cleveland in 1902 and 1903; practiced law in Cleveland since 1893, and has offices in the Society for Savings building; was elected to the Sixty-fourth congress by 1,074 plurality, renominated at the Republican primaries August 8, 1916, without opposition; re-elected to the Sixty-fifth congress by 5,065 majority; was renominated August 13, 1918, without opposition at the Republican primaries, and had no opposition at the election. The Democratic committee endorsed Mr. Emerson and the Socialists nominated no candidate against him; was elected to the Sixty-sixth congress, receiving over 32,000 votes, and not a single vote being cast against him."

On casual examination of the directory it would seem as if most of the members are lawyers. We find mention of occupations of many kinds—iron molder, baker, stock raiser, cowboy, tree surgeon, manufacturer, physician, cheese maker, glass blower, lumberjack, miner, baggagehandler, farmer, etc. About 40 members are or have been newspaper men, although it is to be noted that several fail to mention the fact.

Among those who own up to newspaper connections, Randall of California simply says "newspaper editor and publisher." Osborne of the same state gives full details of his work as a printer and reporter and of his official connection with the International Typographical union.

Senator Medill McCormick of Illinois, a grandson of Joseph Medill of the Chicago Tribune, says "writer and publisher." Hardy of Colorado is an editor and publisher and is president of the National Editorial association. Cramton of Michigan is a newspaper publisher. Champ Clark says "edited a country newspaper." Senator Harding of Ohio, "has been a newspaper publisher since 1884." Ashbrook of the same state has been publisher of the Johnstown Independent since he was seventeen years old. Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin has a magazine bearing his name, but he says nothing about it in his very brief autobiography. Senator Ashurst of Arizona says "has pursued the following occupations: Lumberjack, cowboy, clerk and cashier in stores, newspaper reporter and lawyer." Senator Owen of Oklahoma says "has served as teacher, editor, lawyer, banker and business man."

This Congressional Directory is, in all seriousness, an interesting book and may be read to advantage by all good Americans who are discriminating readers.

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She tried and tried to get him to "come on," but it was no use, for this time he was going to have his own way. At last, pleading with him like a mother, she said: "Don! Do come on before they blame you."

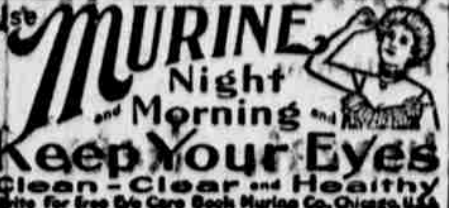
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