

## VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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### Washington News

By C. H. TAVENNER special Washington correspondent.

By what possibility could the United States become involved in trouble with foreign nations by participating in the celebration of Lake Champlain? Or by sending delegates to the International Congress of Collisions and Salvage? Or by having a representative at the meeting of the International Seismological association, which has to do with earthquakes?

Congressman Courtney W. Hamlin, of Missouri, has asked the Republicans of the House for an answer to these queries. He has a reason.

President Taft and Secretary of State Knox spent large sums of money for above mentioned purposes, and when Mr. Hamlin, as chairman of the committee on Expenditures in the State Department, asked how the money was spent he was denied all information. "We couldn't possibly give you any information as to these expenditures," declared Mr. Taft and Mr. Knox in chorus, "could not possibly think of it! You see, these expenditures were made under a statute which permits us to withhold all details on the ground that it might involve us in trouble with foreign nations!"

Mr. Hamlin said he found that the State Department spent \$125,000 secretly every year, and he declared it was ridiculous to assert that some of the things for which this money was spent "might involve us in trouble with foreign nations." "We of course do not know," said Mr. Hamlin, "whether the \$10,000 expenditure authorized by secret certificate, of President Taft, for participation in the celebration of the Discovery of Lake Champlain was spent for the purpose appropriated or not, but I suspect that in all human probability this \$10,000 was spent in paying railroad fare, hotel bills, automobile hire, banquetings, wine, etc. "To permit any man, even though he be the president of the United States, to spend an average of \$339 45 of the people's money each and every day of the year, without compelling him to account to anybody as to how, and for what purpose he expended this money, does not accord with my idea of properly regarding the treasury."

The Stanley steel investigating committee will continue its probe of the trust. The efforts of Wall street to bring the investigation to a halt have failed. It being obvious that the House will not heed the command of special privilege to stop the inquiry, it is doubtful now whether the proposition of forcing the investigating committee to abandon its inquiry will even come up on the floor of the House. But if the attempt is made, it is certain that the House will stand by the committee and order it to proceed with the hearings. This marks a new order of things. In the past the steel trust has been able to have bills side tracked, delayed, and finally chloroformed in committees of the House. All this is today impossible.

An entirely unprecedent thing occurred in Washington during the week following the convening of the present session of Congress on Dec. 4, although the country may have been too busy to have noticed it.

The Democratic House met on every one of the six days following the opening day, remaining in session throughout each day, every moment consumed in real work, until it was time to light the lamps. This policy is in con-

trast to the Republican custom of meeting on opening day, and after remaining in session a few moments, adjourning to the second day thereafter; and upon convening the second day thereafter, of adjourning to the second day after that, and so on, until the full two weeks had been wasted, when adjournment would be taken for the holidays. In the meantime, of course, the congressman's pay of \$20.83 per day, \$156 per week and \$625 per month would go merrily on, the people paying the bill.

The new policy simply means this, that the Democrats mean business.

"If anybody thinks this will be a 'do-nothing' Congress they are badly mistaken," was the answer made by Champ Clark to the proposition that the Democrats proposed to devote the present session to efforts to "put the Republicans in a hole," so as to strengthen their own position for next year.

"The Democratic party made the definite promise to give the people relief from conditions which have come to be regarded as intolerable," the speaker continued. "The best way for us to play politics is to carry to a conclusion, in-so-far as we are able, the excellent record we have already made. The people are looking to us for the accomplishment, rather than for strategy, and we need have no fear of the future if we go along with our program as we have started." Mr. Clark has been telling his co-workers in the House that if the party goes to dilly-dallying around, trying to put the President, and the stand-patters, and the insurgents in a deep, dark hole, the result will be more disastrous to the hole diggers than to those whom they might intend to engulf therein.

Mr. Clark, in other words, realizes that the present is his party's opportunity, and that the best way to take advantage of it is through action, rather than with attempts to shift the blame to the other fellow.

Somebody wrote to Washington to ask what had become of Mr. Norton, who was lately secretary to President Taft. The writer hastens to answer, as follows: Mr. Norton is alright. He has gone the way of previous secretaries and is now in one of Mr. J. P. Morgan's banks. It is only a short jump, after all, from White House to Wall street, and the path is much traveled, both coming and going.

The Chicago beef barons, charged with conducting a trust to squeeze the people on the price of beef, declare they are innocent, which would lead one to think that they would be in a hurry to get to trial. Query: Have they been battling in one court after another for nine years just to keep the public from finding out that they are innocent!

### The President's Message.

In his annual message the president says: "It has been said that the court, by introducing into the construction of the statute common law distinctions, has emasculated it. This is obviously untrue. By its judgment every contract and combination in restraint of interstate trade made with the purpose or necessary effect of controlling prices by stifling competition, or of establishing in whole or in part a monopoly of such trade, is condemned by the statute. The most extreme critics can not instance a case that ought to be condemned under the statute which is not brought within its terms as thus construed."

If that is true then why has Mr. Taft neglected to cause the arrest of John D. Rockefeller and other Standard Oil leaders, together with the Tobacco trust magnates, under the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law?

The supreme court in the oil and tobacco decisions declared that these particular trusts and the men maintaining them had violat-

ed the law. Indeed, Mr. Taft himself gives in his message, particular emphasis on the "anti-trust" quality of these decisions. He says: "In the Standard Oil case the supreme and circuit courts found the combination to be a monopoly of the interstate business of refining, transporting and marketing petroleum and its products, effected and maintained through thirty-seven different corporations, the stock of which was held by a New Jersey company. It in effect commanded the dissolution of this combination, directed the transfer and pro rata distribution of the New Jersey company of the stock held by it in the thirty-seven corporations to and among its stockholders; and the corporation and individual defendants were enjoined from conspiring or combining to restore such monopoly, and all agreements between the subsidiary corporations tending to produce or bring about further violations of the act were enjoined."

"In the tobacco case the court found that the individual defendants, twenty-nine in number, had been engaged in a successful effort to acquire complete dominion over the manufacture, sale and distribution of tobacco in this country and abroad, and this had been done by combinations made with a purpose and effect to stifle competition, control prices and establish a monopoly, not only in the manufacture of tobacco, but also of tin-foil and licorice used in its manufacture and of its products of cigars, cigarettes and snuffs. The tobacco suit presented a far more complicated and difficult case than the Standard Oil suit for a decree which would effectuate the will of the court and end the

violation of the statute. There was here no single holding company as in the case of the Standard Oil trust. The main company was the American Tobacco company, a manufacturing, selling and holding company. The plan adopted to destroy the combination and restore competition involved the re-division of the capital and plants of the whole trust between some of the companies constituting the trust and new companies organized for the purposes of the decree and made parties to it, and numbering, new and old, fourteen."

In this same message Mr. Taft predicts jail sentences for trust magnates in future prosecutions under the Sherman anti-trust law.

Will some one kindly explain in the president's behalf why he again asks the people to wait and why he does not call the oil and tobacco magnates to account under the criminal clause of the law which he says was so vigorously upheld by the supreme court in the notable cases recently, before that body?—The Commoner.

Dennis Quiver was arrested at Pine Ridge and brought to Valentine by Sheriff Rosseter Monday night on a charge of stealing horses from Frank Bowman residing north of Cody.

Bob Smith and a man named Tuttle were arrested at Gordon early this week by Sheriff Rosseter on a charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. It is alleged that the two men destroyed property in a room at the Commercial hotel in Merriman and the proprietor, J. F. Naylor had them arrested. They were fined \$25 50 which they paid.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO SELECT YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

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Dinner at Britt at 11 o'clock a. m.

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Valentine, Box 5 Nebraska

## Socialists Attention

It is a matter of vital importance that every Socialist should send his name, address, and the name of his voting precinct—also, of any other Socialists in Cherry county and any valuable information pertaining to Socialism, to the undersigned as soon as possible, to make it easier for the Socialist County Central Committee to keep up the good work.

Michael J. Faber, Chairman, Co. Central Com. Valentine, Nebr.

## A Crippled Mind.

Many strong minds, giant intellects, are held down and starved out by crippled digestive power, dyspepsia and the poison absorbed as a result of chronic constipation. If your stomach lacks digestive power the natural and simplest thing to do is to put into it the agent it lacks. Above all things avoid strong drugs that paralyze and irritate the stomach and bowels. A sound, healthy stomach contains the same digestive agents Spruce Pepsin tablets contain.

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