

**IN CONGRESS.** The Adams bill, "to increase the efficiency of the foreign service of the United States and to provide for the reorganization of the consular service," previously unfavorably reported upon by the house committee was reconsidered and reported favorably to the house. The bill as recommended is amended slightly from its original form, the salary of consul general of the first-class being increased from \$6,000 to \$8,000 and that of the second-class from \$5,000 to \$6,000. The bill provides for a non-partisan commission to assist the president in the reorganization of the consular service. Consular offices are graded, with fixed salaries, and a system of examination and promotion is provided.

The Puerto Rico tariff bill passed the house Wednesday, Feb. 28, by a vote of 172 to 161, after **Insular Legislation.** being amended to reduce the tariff to 15 per cent of the duties imposed by the Dingley law. Four democrats voted for the bill and five republicans against. It was passed in spite of the protest of General Davis, governor of Puerto Rico, who stated in a letter to the secretary of war:

"I cannot in any words at my command over state the urgency and gravity of the industrial paralysis now existing in Puerto Rico. The only remedy for the industrial condition I can suggest is the opening of markets for accumulated surplus of productions and the establishment of such trade conditions, by congressional legislation as will give confidence to investors and encourage the development of the natural resources. Until this is done, the paralysis must continue and the poor and hapless, in increasing numbers, must be fed or they will starve to death."

The action of congress is severely criticised and in many places formal action has been taken by representative political and commercial organizations condemnatory of the measure, notably among them the New York chamber of commerce. There is every reason for believing that the political effect will be disastrous to the administration, especially because at the last moment the president threw all of his influence in favor of the bill and sent for rebellious congressmen and by all the arts known to statecraft enforced their submission.

The following resolutions were presented in congress by Senator Cullom on behalf of the Chicago National Live Stock Association which is interested in the manufacture of oleomargarine:

"In the interest of justice and fair competition between two principal food products, in which the producer and consumer are alike interested, and as opponents of class legislation, this organization protests against enacting an oleomargarine bill directed against

the vital interests of the laboring classes and others.

"It believes our national lawmakers owe it to our producers, consumers, and commercial interests in this and other countries that before action is taken on any oleomargarine bill, a critical investigation be made by a select committee into the methods employed in the manufacture of oleomargarine, of the ingredients of which it is composed, of its wholesomeness as a food product, of its right to exist as one of the leading commercial industries, unhampered by unnecessary, uncalled for, and prohibitive taxation, or other unwarranted restrictions.

"If it appears oleomargarine is a legitimate article of commerce, the committee should recommend that no restriction be placed upon oleomargarine which is not also put upon butter."

The resolutions owe their origin to the fact that the butter-makers' association have petitioned congress for legislation hostile to oleomargarine.

**REPUBLICAN STEALS.**

From time to time various amounts have been due the state of Nebraska from the United States. Any private individual in making a similar collection, would buy a two cent postage stamp and by mail request the United States treasurer to send him a draft for the amount due him. The cost of the postage would be the total expense of the transaction. **THE CONSERVATIVE** asks former republican state officers to explain their method of collection. Why it was necessary in each instance to send special representatives to Washington? Who they were, republicans or populists? The amount paid in commissions to these special agents? Whether the regular rate was not 25 per cent? What the arrangement was with T. P. Kenard by which he now demands \$13,000 for going down to Washington and bringing back a check?

**PARCEL POST.**

The report from London that the postmaster-generals of England and the United States have about completed arrangements for a cheap parcels post between the two countries, has aroused strong opposition among the small merchants of this country. The proposed system is objected to on the ground that it would result in London merchants acquiring a large mail order business from the United States to the injury of American merchants. This would lead to a demand on the part of the larger American houses for a like system of parcel delivery in this country which would mean an enormous mail order business for the large cities much to the detriment of the small merchant. Hence their protest against our government running a "cheap express."

**TEST CASE.**

John G. Carlisle, ex-secretary of the treasury, on behalf of Ludwig Duplace, a citizen of Puerto Rico, has brought suit in the United States court of claims to test the constitutionality of the Puerto Rican tariff. The action is brought to recover \$6,543 which Duplace has paid as custom duties on goods imported from the United States. He bases his right to recover on the claim that he is a citizen of the United States under the treaty of peace with Spain and the constitution of the United States. Puerto Rico, he claims is a part of the United States and therefore, under the constitution, the duties were illegally exacted.

**PURE POPULISM.** In November, 1890, James E.

Boyd, regularly nominated by the democratic party of Nebraska, was elected governor by a plurality of 1,194 votes. This plurality was made up of straight, old-time democratic ballots and those of conservative republicans who were opposed to prohibition, just as gold democrats now are opposed to free silver.

The legislature contained a majority of populists. Those patriots positively refused to count the vote of the state until they were ordered so to do by a mandamus from the supreme court. Then the question as to whether S. M. Elder, speaker of the house, or George D. Meiklejohn, lieutenant governor and president of the senate, should preside over the joint session was raised by the populists; but the lieutenant governor finally succeeded to the chairmanship. Then the vote was counted and James E. Boyd and all the officers on the ticket with him were declared elected. That was before populism had swallowed democracy in the state of Nebraska. Governor Boyd was sworn in by Judge Cobb of the supreme court.

Ex-Governor Thayer, whom Boyd had been honestly elected to succeed, refused to surrender the gubernatorial chair to him. The ground for his refusal was the alleged non-citizenship of Boyd as discovered and declared by Thayer. To hold his office, Governor Thayer surrounded himself by a company of state militia. Governor Boyd, however, was assigned rooms in another part of the capitol and was recognized by all of the state officers. After three or four days Thayer surrendered the office.

The populists inspired John Powers, however, who was their candidate for governor, to further contest Boyd's election on the ground of illegal naturalization of voters in Omaha. Thus populism, combined with republicanism managed to stave off the seating of Governor Boyd, by their allied contests, until about the 15th of February, when