SPLIT ON THE TARIFF.

Taft and Cannon Struggle For the Mastery.

REACTIONARIES FOR SPEAKER

Forces of Pelf and Greed Behind the House Czar In His Effort to Prevent Revision of Schedules—Champ Clark Gathers Protectionists—Uncle Joe Snears at Conservation of Natural Resources.

BY WILLIS J. ABBOT.

An impending struggle between the Taft and Cannon forces now is clear to most by all observers here. It is not without the bounds of probability that it will split the Republican party as it has not been sundered before. Prominent democrats saying that the issue lies between the reactionaries and those who would give to the people a moiety at least of the reforms expected in tariff revision, increased powers for the interstate commerce commission and remedial legislation affecting the labor men.

Mr. Taft, in his resort at Hot Springs, Va., where he is "resting," is considering which he will serve the interests of political righteousness or succumb at the altar of progressive civic ethics.

It might be proper cause for wonderment that Bourbon should mark any one at this stage of the political development. The Cannon forces are so full of courage to be expected in the hour of pelf and greed, and the progenitors of both parties have long since demonstrated that they are the shameless servants of the country from whom it will be given to the hearty humans imposed by self-seeking politicians who have used government as a tool for their own ends.

It is possible and logical to assume that the country will have made of Joe Cannon if it can get rid of him. And the people of which signs appear here and there that it will undertake to have, determined looking among the possibilities for a worthy successor.

You see, for the housing of the extraordinary knowledge acquired through years of study, effort, risk to health and life, the country of today gives him the satisfaction of knowing that he contributed to the well and happy lives of his fellows.

Speaking some months ago, I pointed to the prominent place in the progressive movement to which the Hon. Joe Cannon is entitled by his long and very effective service in the cause of good government. I pointed to his party as possessed in the character of the Cannon forces, which it has therefore been doubtful the people's government for which he is.

The Minority Leader.

Washington, Feb. 17.

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It is quite apparent that Democrats as well as Republicans are interested vitally in this movement, against which in general Speaker Cannon already has spoken in emphatic terms, the occasion being a meeting in Chicago of men eminent in financial and commercial life in that metropolis.

In the main this movement has been opposed by all the hordes of men who look upon government as a thing to be used rather than as something organized for the common good. In the congressional debates all sorts of obstacles have been elevated in the pathway along which the conservationists wish to travel, and learned diatribes have been hurled at those who planned to save for the children's children of the people generally the riches of natural wealth given by the generous hand of Mother Nature.

Ownership of Water Power.

I am informed by a gentleman that a strong argument is being used by those who oppose the conservation of the ownership of water power of the nation that the proceeds of those who are on the ingrowths in it will be for the retention for all of the people of the things which the Almighty made and which heretofore have been given freely to those who went forth and took them without violating existing law.

"I believe that in a short time the federal government will cease to give away those valuable water powers," so one of the leaders in the movement said to me. "And I go further and assert that the time is near when the government, either federal or state, will appropriate water power also already in the hand ownership of private parties."

Having talked with leading men on both sides of the controversy, I am in a position to assert, with knowledge that the conflict will be one in which all the talent will be engaged and will go down before no quarter.

The gentlemen who were consulted in the last session of the congress when long, [illegible] were had down and problems considered by a number of senators and representatives.

While [illegible] from the [illegible] of Mr. Roosevelt, it is not difficult to see in this matter the influence of the President, and especially in the appointment of the materials for an [illegible] and [illegible] that strong members of either house will be called on to allign himself on one side or the other.

A Democratic Choice.

From the partisan viewpoint, but which as a problem the average man will agree that the selection of speaker is a matter of importance to the country, the nomination of Champ Clark by the democrats for speaker is regarded as the most formidable one that could be made.

Clark is a man who has been in congress for years, and has been a leader in practical legislation, combining an intimate knowledge of the problems of government with the ability to present his views in a forceful way. He is a man who has been a leader in the house, and who has been a leader in the house, and who has been a leader in the house, and