



THE COMMISSION CITIES TESTIFY

Mayors Of Cities Under Progressive Plan Tell How It Operates

TAX-RATE LOWER, MORE IMPROVEMENTS

Direct and Official Information Regarding the Success of the Commission Form of Government in Other Cities Presented to Voters of Charlotte — "Has Worked Wonders," "Reduced Tax Rates," "More Public Improvements," Some of the Terms Used.

For the purpose of securing first hand, accurate and official information regarding the operation of the commission form of government in other cities The Chronicle has wired the mayors of a number of cities under the commission form asking for a statement regarding the success of the plan in the respective cities.

Memphis, Tenn.

"Memphis, Tenn., April 7.—Commission government has worked wonders for Memphis during three years of operation. Tax rate reduced 18 cents in face of unprecedented improvements. Rates now lowest in city's history. Citizens would not under any circumstances return to antiquated bicameral form. We have five commissioners including mayor, all elected by the people.

"W. M. POPE, Secretary to Mayor."

Memphis has a population of 131,105.

Huntington, W. Va.

"HUNTINGTON, W. Va., April 7.—This city governed by four commissioners elected at large, not more than two being from same political party. Commissioner receiving largest vote becomes mayor. Commission government has existed here four years. During first two years a \$100,000 floating indebtedness was entirely wiped out and city is free of debt save a reasonable bonded indebtedness. More paving, more sewerage, more parks and improvements generally under four years' commission government than under any other ten years of government by council. If a vote was taken to return to council plan of government not five per cent of voters would favor it.

"FLOYD S. CHAPMAN."

Huntington has a population of 31,131.

Topeka, Kan.

"Topeka, Kan., April 7.—The city of Topeka has operated under commission form of government for three years. Plan has proved very satisfactory and people seem well pleased. Mayor and four commissioners are elected at large. Taxpayers are getting more for their money in efficiency and promptness and business-like manner of conducting city affairs. No action on part of people to return to old system.

"R. L. COFRAN, Mayor."

Topeka has a population of 43,684 and is one of 35 cities in Kansas having the commission plan.

Montgomery, Ala.

"MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 8.—The City of Montgomery has five commissioners with the president acting as mayor. Under commission form municipal expenses have been reduced approximately \$75,000 per annum. Commissioners are elected at large and public opinion seems to favor it over the old form of government. Individual responsibility upon heads of different departments, the abolishment of red tape delay as to municipal legislation and quicker action in all municipal matters are the result of commission form of government.

"W. A. GUNTER, JR., President Board of Commissioners."

Montgomery has a population of 38,138.

GOVERNMENT TURNS DOWN OFFICERS' TIPS.

WASHINGTON, April.—Lieut. Col. J. F. Reynolds Landis, United States military attaché at Rome, "tipped" the doorkeeper of the American Embassy in the Eternal City only to find that his Government would not stand the expense. Each of three quarterly accounts of the office contained \$1.25 for these "tips." Comptroller of the Treasury Tracwell today held that gratuities to a doorkeeper were not authorized by law.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA STARTS

Recognition By United States And Other Powers Is Yet Withheld

GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN RETICENT

Chinese Representative in Washington Gets First Notice of Convention of Parliament of New Nation—Impressive Scenes Mark Opening of Senate and House of Representatives—Recognition by United States Expected at Any Time.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Recognition of the New Chinese Republic by the United States and other world powers came to a point today with the scheduled meeting of the Chinese constitutional assembly. No official word was forthcoming at the White House or the State Department this morning as to what the United States proposed to do. It was taken as settled that neither Great Britain nor Japan would recognize Yuan Shi Kai's Government at this time and there was some doubt if other powers would.

The new Republic was successfully launched today according to a cablegram received from Peking at the Chinese legation here by Minister Chang Yin Tang.

Within a few minutes after the receipt of the news the great five barred flag of China with its red, yellow, blue, white and black stripes was hoisted to the staff over the legation building.

First Parliament Convened. PEKIN, April 8.—The first Parliament of the world's youngest Republic was inaugurated today amid general rejoicing throughout the country.

The scene of the gathering of the joint inaugural session of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives was a remarkable one.

Five hundred representatives out of a total of 598 and 177 Senators out of 274, all of them earnest looking men of mature years and nearly all dressed in European fashion, with frock coats, silently awaited the appointed hour of opening.

As the clock struck 11, several bands played the National anthem while the assemblage rose to its feet. The senior member of the House of Representatives then made a few congratulatory remarks to the notable gathering and formally declared both houses open.

Enthusiastic Scenes. Scenes of enthusiastic jubilation followed before an adjournment was taken until April 15.

The proceedings, brief and simple, were watched by a large number of foreigners.

Outside vast crowds thronged the precincts of the Parliament buildings and cheered as a salute of 101 guns boomed from the city walls. The occasion was observed as a general holiday.

The American charge d'affaires has intimated to the Chinese Government that recognition of the Republic by the United States will be made when the parliamentary officers have been appointed and a quorum declared.

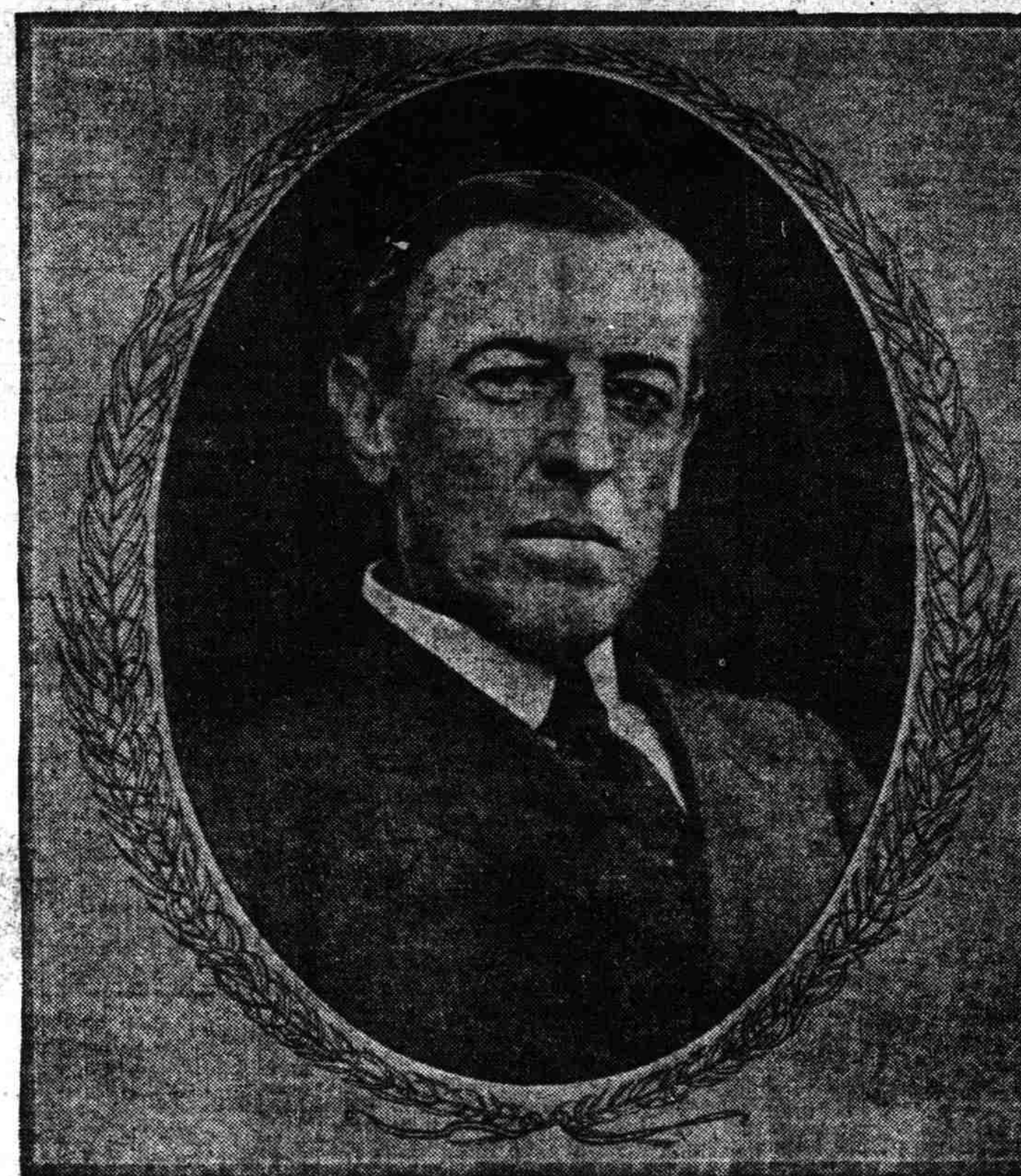
WILSON ENTANGLED WITH CITY OFFICERS

Well-known Young Man Of Charlotte Puts Puzzling Proposition To The City Court

L. O. Wilson, convicted of retailing in the Recorder's court in December in two counts owes the city of Charlotte \$500. In the form of a note which he gave December 2 and he has refused to pay it. This afternoon at 4 o'clock Recorder Hamilton Jones is hearing the authorities as interpreted by Colonel W. R. Henry, attorney for Wilson, tending to show that Wilson's arrest last night and his consequent imprisonment on a capias was false and illegal. The attorney is demanding a ruling from the court before his client will attend to the matter of paying the note that is now due.

It is understood that Wilson expects to enter suit against the officers for arresting him and the point Colonel Henry is desirous of having the city recorder rule on has an important bearing on the probable civil litigation. It is the contention of Colonel Henry that when a note is given for a fine, the latter being regarded in-law as a form of punishment, and when the note is accepted, it becomes a civil action and under the constitution of this State no individual can be arrested and imprisoned for a debt. Colonel Henry claims that the city's acceptance of the note as standing for the fine means that Wilson is merely indebted to the city as though he had borrowed such an amount and that the city has no right to arrest and imprison him for the non-payment of the debt. The case undoubtedly has some interesting angles of law and in its potentialities, it abounds in numerous features of interest.

WILSON REVIVES CENTURY OLD PRECEDENT TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE



President, While Packed Galleries Look On, Makes His Personal Appeal To Congress For A Decided Downward Revision In The Country's Tariff Laws

WASHINGTON, April 8.—President Wilson stood on the Speaker's rostrum in the hall of the House today and personally read his first message to Congress, the first President since John Adams to exercise that privilege.

The renewal of a custom abandoned a century ago and now surrounded by such wide differences of opinion among members of Congress, attracted to the Capitol a large assemblage. Galleries were packed with National figures, Mrs. Wilson and her three daughters and the women of the Cabinet circle prominent among them. The diplomatic gallery probably contained a representative of every Nation with an envoy in the foreign corps here.

The Unusual Scene.

As the President read on, every eye was riveted toward the Speaker's stand with its new occupant. Never in the life of any man present had a President occupied that historic place in such a capacity.

Here was the head of the Nation come to assert that he was a person, "a human being," come to deal with his fellow men in control of the Nation's destiny as a man of force, not a mere Department of the Government. It was all so unusual that to many it seemed almost unreal, but the President, smiling as he spoke and talking to the great assemblage, as man to man, soon developed in the gathering a fellow feeling.

Throughout the message the President read in a clear voice which carried his words to every corner of the big hall. Members of the House and Senate sat throughout in close attention following every word closely. A murmur of conversation that swept the gallery when the President began his figure at the clerk's desk read on in his commanding but conversational style. As he closed his introductory remarks, explaining his presence before them, Senators and Representatives joined in the applause.

Wave of Applause.

The President concluded the reading at 1:08 amid a wave of applause and immediately left the chamber. When the President concluded he said: "I thank you sincerely."

As the House and Senate members arose and applauded the President stepped quietly down from the clerk's desk and escorted by his reception committee, left the hall.

The Vice-President left the Speaker's stand and headed the procession of Senators as it left the chamber. The visit of the President to Congress had lasted ten minutes and become history.

Gallinger. He then left the Capitol for the White House.

President Wilson slipped away from the White House quickly after today's Cabinet meeting, accompanied only by his secretary and one secret service man and upon arriving at the Capitol was escorted to the rostrum in the House where Speaker Clark sat on one side and Vice President Marshall at the other. The President, speaking with his usual clarity of tone and notable diction, read his message while the company actually packed into the chamber, gave the closest attention.

The President began his message as follows:

"I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to address the two houses directly and to verify for myself the impression that the President of the United States is a person, not a mere Department of the Government, hailing Congress from some isolated island of jealous power, sending messages, not speaking naturally and with his own voice, that he is a human being trying to co-operate with other human beings in a common service. After this pleasant experience I shall feel quite normal in all our dealings with one another."

I have called the Congress together in an extraordinary session because a duty was laid upon the party now in power at the recent elections which it ought to perform promptly, in order that the burden carried by the people under existing law may be lightened as soon as possible and in order, also, that the business interests of the country may not be kept too long in suspense as to what the fiscal changes are to be to which they will be required to adjust themselves. It is clear to the whole country that the tariff duties must be altered. They must be changed to meet the radical alteration in the conditions of our economic life which the country has witnessed within the last generation. While the whole face and method of our industrial and commercial life were being changed beyond recognition the tariff schedules have remained what they were before the change began, or have moved in the direction they were given when no large circumstance of our industrial development was what it is today. Our task is to square them with the actual facts. The sooner that is done the sooner we shall escape from suffering from the facts and the sooner our men of business will be free to thrive by the law of nature (the nature of free business) instead of by the law of legislation and artificial arrangement.

Past Experience.

We have seen tariff legislation wander very far afield in our day—very far indeed from the field in which our prosperity might have had a normal growth and stimulation. No one who looks the facts squarely in the face or knows anything that lies beneath the surface of action can fail to perceive the principles upon which recent tariff legislation has been based. We long ago passed beyond the modest notion of "protecting" the industries of the country and moved boldly forward to the idea that they were entitled to the direct patronage of the Government. For a long time—a time so long that men now active in public policy hardly remember the conditions that preceded it—we have sought in our tariff schedules to give each group of manufacturers or producers what they themselves thought that they needed in order to maintain a practically exclusive market against the rest of the world. Consciously or unconsciously, we have built up a set of privileges and exemptions from competition behind which it was easy, by any, even the crudest, forms of combination to organize monopoly; until at last nothing is normal, nothing is obliged to stand the tests of efficiency and economy, in our world of big business, but everything thrives by concerted arrangement. Only new principles of action will save us from a final hard crystallization of monopoly and a complete loss of the influences that quicken enterprise and keep independent energy alive.

Make Haste Slowly.

It would be unwise to move toward this end heading, with reckless haste, or with strokes that cut at the very roots of what has grown up amongst us by long process and at our own invitation. It does not alter a thing to upset it and break it and deprive it of a chance to change. It destroys it. We must make changes in our fiscal laws, in our fiscal system, whose object is development, a more free and wholesome development, not revolution or upset by confusion. We must build up trade, especially foreign trade. We need the outlet and the enlarged field of energy more than we ever did before. We must build up industry as well, and must adopt freedom in the place of artificial stimulation only so far as it will build, not pull down. In dealing with the tariff the method by which this may be done will be a matter of judgment, exercised item by item. To some not

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It is plain that those principles must be. We must abolish everything that bears even the semblance of privilege or of any kind of artificial advantage, and put our business men and producers under the stimulation of a constant necessity to be efficient, economical, and enterprising, masters of competitive supremacy, better workers and merchants than any in the world. Aside from the duties laid upon articles which we do not, and probably can not, produce, therefore, and the duties laid upon luxuries and merely for the sake of the revenues they yield, the object of the tariff duties henceforth laid must be effective competition, the whetting of American wits by contest with the wits of the rest of the world.

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A Long Fight.

It was Andrew Johnson who revived congressional agitation for the direct election of Senators. As a member of the House of Representatives, he introduced two resolutions for the change, and in 1860 renewed the agitation as a member of the Senate. In 1868, as President, he sent a special message to Congress advocating

Resolution Comes Again.

Senator Bristow reintroduced the resolution in the special session immediately following. The fight of the preceding session was rethought, but this time the friends of the resolution won by a vote of 64 to 24, or five more than the required two-thirds. The House had passed a resolution which made it clear the Federal Government was not to interfere with senatorial elections in the States. Finally the House conferees receded and the House agreed to the Senate measure by a vote of 237 to 29.

Previous to this time, the several States had taken the bit in their teeth by enacting laws which in effect did not wait for a constitutional amendment on the subject. Probably the most successful of these was adopted in Oregon. It virtually directed the members of the Legislature to elect the person who received the majority vote at the regular election, when the placing of the name of a candidate for United States Senator upon the tickets was authorized.

POPULAR ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS IS EFFECTIVE

Ratification Of The Seventeenth Amendment To The Federal Constitution By Connecticut Legislature Today Makes The Measure Part Of The Country's Law

ENDS FIGHT BEGUN NEARLY A CENTURY AGO

Long Campaign Renewed by Andrew Johnson When a Member of the Senate Finds Its Culmination in Success by Action of General Assembly of New England State Taken Today.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Direct election of United States Senators became one of the provisions of the Constitution today by Connecticut's ratification of the amendment to that effect. Thirty-six States, the requisite three-fourths of all in the Union, now have approved the change. It remains only for the Governor of all States which have acted favorably to formally notify Secretary Bryan and for him to issue a proclamation announcing the change.

The amendment to the constitution is the second within the last few months.

HARTFORD, Conn., April 8.—The proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution providing for popular election of United States Senators was ratified by the General Assembly today. It was approved in the House 150 to 77 and passed the Senate unanimously.

The Amendment. The new amendment to the Constitution, for the popular election of United States Senators, is the seventeenth to be adopted. It reads:

"The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications, requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures.

"When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies, provided that the Legislature of any State may empower the Executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the Legislature may direct."

The amendment primarily transfers the power of electing Senators from the State Legislatures to the people at the polls. To effect this change it was necessary to alter the machinery for the filling of vacancies in the Senate.

For more than 60 years proposals have been made to change the Constitution so as to provide for the direct election of Senators. It was not, however, until June 24, 1911, that the Senate was induced for the first time in its history to give its consent to the change. On that day it voted to submit to the States the proposed amendment. The resolution to submit had already passed the House in a somewhat different form. Before adjournment of the session, both houses agreed to the language to be employed and the resolution was deposited with the Secretary of State May 16, 1912, for distribution among the States.

Theory of Choice.

The original theory in establishing the choice of Senators was that they represented the States, whereas the members of the House represented the people of their districts. It was because this theory of the State as a unit that all States, large and small, were given equal representation in the Senate. Rhode Island having the same number as New York or Pennsylvania. In the theory of the Constitution framers this entity of the State was thus made more distinct under the Federal system and the State Legislature was regarded as the suitable medium for expressing the State entity. Later it was contended that State entity would still be preserved if the people of the entire State, instead of the Legislature, chose the Senators, and this view has now been accepted as the basis of the new system.

In 1826 the first action was taken in Congress looking to a change. In that year Representative Storrs of New York introduced a resolution making Senators elective by the people. Another resolution of similar import was introduced by Representative Wright of Ohio in 1829. In 1850 Senator Clemens of Alabama introduced the first senatorial direct election resolution in the Senate. Nothing resulted from these movements.

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the measure, and then repeated his recommendations in his annual message.

The subject was revived in 1873, 1876, 1886 and 1888, but without success. In 1893 the House agreed to the proposition, as it did in the succeeding Congress, and still again in 1898, 1900 and 1902. The proposed change on none of these occasions won a favorable report from committees in the Senate.

With the House thus arrayed year after year in favor of the change, the Senate became the battleground. Senator Bristow of Kansas took the lead in advocacy of amending the Constitution along this line. In December, 1909, he introduced his first resolution. A year later he obtained a report from the committee, but a feature had been tacked onto his proposal which brought on a fight in the Senate, threatened to kill the entire proposition. This interposed feature was to amend other provisions of the Constitution so as to deprive the Federal Government of power to supervise the State regulations as to the time and manner of election. The votes of Southern Senators threatened to defeat the main proposition if the Federal Government was given this power. Senator Root made a speech, in which he criticized the method employed by Southern States in depriving negroes of the right of suffrage. Senator Bacon replied that the Federal Government was being given the power once more to enact "force bills" and send armies and marshals into Southern States to intimidate voters. On February 28, just before the end of the session, the resolution was defeated by four votes.

Resolution Comes Again. Senator Bristow reintroduced the resolution in the special session immediately following. The fight of the preceding session was rethought, but this time the friends of the resolution won by a vote of 64 to 24, or five more than the required two-thirds. The House had passed a resolution which made it clear the Federal Government was not to interfere with senatorial elections in the States. Finally the House conferees receded and the House agreed to the Senate measure by a vote of 237 to 29.

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The control of Legislatures by great corporations was assigned by Senator Bristow as one of the main reasons for the demanded change. "With the development during recent times of the great corporate interests of the country," said he, "and the increased importance of legislation relating to their affairs, they have tenaciously sought to control the election of Senators friendly to their interests. The power of these great financial and industrial institutions can be very effectively used in the election of Senators by Legislatures, and they have many times during recent years used that power in a most reprehensible and scandalous manner. They have spent enormous amounts of money in corrupting Legislatures to elect to the

(Continued on Page Two)

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE. Went to House chamber for joint session. Senator Shafroth introduced bill to change time for beginning of Congress to first Monday in January after national elections and inauguration of President to second Monday in January. HOUSE. Received members of Senate and in joint session listened to President Wilson deliver his first message to Congress. Republican leader Mann submitted to ways and means committee his recommendation for Republican members of important committees. Representative Sims reintroduced bill to abolish commerce court and a bill to repeal American coastwise shipping toll exemption clause of the Panama act.