

# Looks As Though This May Be A Do-Nothing Congress

## No Business Yet Transacted and Apparatus Now Will Be After Holidays Before Real Start Is Made in Direction of Getting Down to Business

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
Washington, Dec. 17.—Two weeks have gone by but Congress is not yet organized.

No really important business has been transacted but it begins to look as if it will be after the holiday recess before a start will be made.

The executive session in the House of Representatives last night... The Democratic majority in the House is in a better condition in that respect than their Republican opponents.

The spirit of the electorate in the last Congressional campaign was to vote "against things." The men in office in both parties suffered. The verdict generally was negative—a continuance of the negative campaigns that have prevailed ever since the war.

About the only things that have come to the front since the last election and which are bound to transcend in importance everything else in the session are, first, tax revision downward; second, the soldier bonus, and third, a fight on the railroads to force lower freight rates for farm products.

All three issues will be interwoven and party lines are bound to be broken when the parliamentary maneuvers begin whereby bills are framed and reported by committees.

To sum up the present situation, it is no exaggeration to say that Congress is almost unanimously in favor of some kind of tax reduction measure. Congress, moreover, remains unconvinced that a soldier bonus if enacted would bring about the serious consequences to the Nation's economic condition which the Treasury Department experts say would be the result.

As for the contest to get lower freight rates, the indications at the moment are that the railroads will lose their fight. Sentiment to repeal the so-called earning clause is so powerful that it will take a combination of Democrats and Republicans to break it down and keep the transportation law intact.

There are rumors that President Coolidge, while opposed to any change in the earning clause of the Transportation Act, will not make an issue of it with Congress.

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## Tells Inside Story Of Insect Battle

### Chief Howard in Annual Report Gives Account Of Work For the Farmer

Washington, Dec. 17.—The insect work of what is going on in the United States is detailed in the annual report of Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, which that official made public here today.

Touching on other pests the statement declares that "strong efforts have been made to control the Japanese beetle a new pest which has been spreading in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The insect is being carefully studied, farm practices are being modified to help reduce its multiplication and progress has been made in introducing natural parasites from the Orient.

"Campaigns have been carried on against the gypsy and brown tail moths. Cereal and forage insects have been given much attention in various parts of the country where damage is being done or where new pests are gaining a foothold. The European corn borer is one of the most important of those introduced pests; another is the alfalfa weevil, while grasshoppers, the southern stalk borer, the wheat straw corn, the corn ear worm and webworm have caused serious losses.

These are several typical pests. Insecticides have been devised to destroy them and in many cases they have been used with good results. In new treatments for the control of ticks and mites and the extermination of malaria mosquitoes have been conducted.

"Another branch of this varied work has to do with insect damage to crops and those that destroy them and with their products. The use of scientific control procedures has been applied against the blight on cotton in its second season in the cotton Southern States and Northern California over which this year extends is a little larger than the State of Delaware and in the last ten years the western coast has yielded over a million bales of cotton of marketable quality, valued at \$2,000,000. This is fifty times as much as has been killed by fire on the same area during the same period.

"The bureau devoted much attention to improving the methods of bee culture and has had a good sized apiculture devoted to intensive studies of the ways of bees and means of controlling their diseases and preventing them from enemies."

### FRENCH BOYS IN FACTORIES GIVEN INDUSTRIAL COURSE

Paris, December 17.—The death of skilled workmen in France is causing a revival of the apprentice system in the form of training schools in factories. One of the most advanced of these is in a Paris automobile factory. Here sons of employees are given a two year course of lectures, demonstrations and experimental work, and finished off with a year in the shop doing a man's work.

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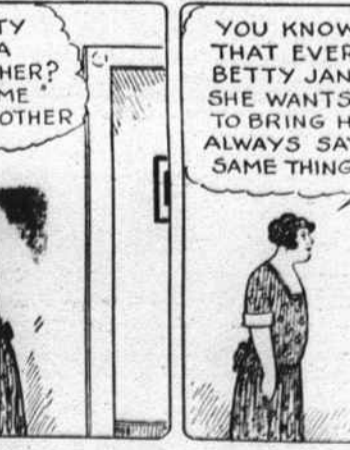
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