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AN EPOCH MAKING SESSION

How the Fifty-ninth Congress Has Met the New Issues Initiated by President Roosevelt, With Extension of Federal Powers as the Dominant Note.

By EDWIN S. POTTER

PROBABLY more new and extraordinary questions have been under consideration by the congress which began its legislative session of our national lawmaking body not counting the many acts favorably reported to or passed by either branch and left in a state of suspended animation, their fate to be determined by the next session, the amount and character of new laws enacted make the Fifty-ninth congress the milestone of a new era in the history of American institutions.

The day of the nation has come; state and local powers are on the wane or in a state of retreat. Commercial and industrial concentration having brought about new opportunities for abuse of privilege, and the muck rakers having waked up the public mind to the various existing evils, President Roosevelt found in this congress workable soil for the growth of federal powers in dealing with these evils. The impress of the president's mind was given to all the more important remedies adopted. Neither friend nor foe in the political arena will question the statement that the work of the session bears the Rooseveltian stamp, although the Democrats all along have pointed out that the president was merely camping along the trail blazed by their party platforms. Nevertheless the president's party, being in the majority at both ends of the capitol, has either taken the credit or been forced to assume responsibility for what was done, even when aided by Democratic votes.

Railroad Rate Regulation.

The keynote was struck unmistakably in the message which congress received at the opening of the session—namely, the insistence on federal fixing of interstate railroad rates as well as the presentation of rebates or any kind of special favors. Rate bills of various kinds and descriptions were promptly introduced in both senate and house; but the house majority being under better discipline, the bill was more promptly formulated there, which was approved at the White House. It was fathered by Representative Hepburn of Iowa as chairman of the committee on interstate commerce. It was so modified in the committee as to come before the house without Democratic opposition, and after a few days of perfunctory discussion it was passed on Feb. 8 by the almost unanimous vote of 346 to 7, the seven opponents all being Republicans. As passed it gave the interstate commerce commission full power to regulate interstate freight tariffs without express recognition of the rights of appeal in the courts. This, however, was only the foundation of the law that was to go into the statute book.

In the senate the Hepburn bill was destined to run the gauntlet of fierce opposition from a conservative faction of the Republicans led by Aldrich and Braker and become the football of personal and party bickerings over a period of three months. The main point of the dispute was the question of a broad or narrow court review provision, and at one time, after the president's political and personal enemy, Tillman, had been placed in charge of the measure, there was a tacit coalition between the president and the minority. Later, however, the president accepted the compromise Allison amendment, upon which his party associates had agreed, vesting jurisdiction in the circuit courts to enjoin, set aside, annul or suspend any order of the commission on appeal of the carrier concerned. It was at this time that the Democratic leaders charged the president with bad faith on the strength of representations said to have been made through ex-Senator Chandler. Finally the bill, with sixty-seven amendments, passed the senate May 18 by a vote of 71 to 23. Still further changes were made in conference thereafter. The senate conference held out against the house proposal to drop the clause placing pipe lines under federal control. As this was finally agreed to by senate and house, the pipe lines are to be regarded as common carriers, but are not prohibited from carrying their own products. Railroad and railway mail employees are exempted from the anti-pass amendment. The president signed the bill June 29.

Investigations and Inspections.

In both branches bills were introduced early authorizing investigations of the railroad monopolies, and a combination of these known as the Tillman-Hinsdale-Campbell measure passed the house Jan. 23 and, though signed by the president, was sharply criticized by him for not carrying funds and due authority. The money was appropriated later, and under this authority the interstate commerce commission has al-

ready unearthed a vast amount of graft and crookedness in railroad and oil industries.

The pure food bill, which passed the senate Feb. 21, 63 to 4, was also in line with this federalizing tendency. It did not pass the house until June 23, 240 to 17, and then with a number of amendments which endangered its final passage. In its final shape the provision affecting state rights or state and municipal control over the original package was cut out. As to blended whiskies, the package must be labeled "blended" or "mixed." The senate's provision remained requiring labels to state the amount of alcohol contained in food packages, but not in bottled drugs. This favors the patent medicine people. It is made a misdemeanor for any person to manufacture or sell any food, drug, medicine or liquor which is adulterated or misbranded or which contains any poisonous or deleterious substances. For violation the penalty is \$500 fine and one year's imprisonment. The law goes into effect Jan. 1, 1907.

The greatest sensation of the session came from the president's investigation of the charges against the Chicago beef packers as presented in Sinclair's novel, "The Jungle." For fear of what the Neill-Reynolds report might contain the senate passed the Beveridge meat inspection amendment to the agricultural bill May 26 without opposition. Then when influences in the house committee on agriculture were seeking to weaken this bill the fear of greater losses through prolonged agitation brought the friends of the packers to agree to a substitute satisfactory to the president. This placed the cost of inspection on the federal government and did not require the packers to date the labels on their meat packages. Rather than see the entire bill fail, as the senate conferees said at last, they decided to recede on these and some minor points. An appropriation of \$3,000,000 was made to cover the inspection expense.

The national quarantine bill, virtually putting state and local health authorities under federal control for the purpose of fighting contagious diseases, passed the senate April 2 and the house next day with little opposition.

In January, McCall of Massachusetts proposed a \$15,000,000 appropriation for the president's traveling expenses. But near the end of the session a bill appropriating \$25,000,000 for that purpose passed both houses, in the senate by a close party vote. Democrats regarded it as extravagant and unconstitutional.

A New Star on the Flag.

The statehood muddle, left over from the preceding congress, was one of the most difficult tangles to be unraveled. Under the leadership of Speaker Cannon a Republican insurrection against joint statehood for Arizona and New Mexico was crushed, and the bill was passed Jan. 24, 194 to 150, the insurgents numbering forty-three. On March 9 the senate passed the statehood bill with provision only for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one state. The bill finally emerged from conference under a compromise agreement providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as the state of Oklahoma and authorizing Arizona and New Mexico to hold a plebiscite on joint statehood next fall. This was approved by both houses and became a law with the president's signature June 16.

Notwithstanding the disagreement over the immigration bill the house bill making uniform the conditions for naturalization was adopted by the senate on June 28. Declaration must be made two years in advance. Anarchists and polygamists are barred.

For Lock Canal at Panama.

The house was the first to go on record in favor of the lock type for the Panama canal, and the senate followed suit June 21, 36 to 31. By a party vote the senate directed that American products and manufactures should be used in the construction of the canal, and in this the house agreed.

On Jan. 27 the house adopted the bill authorizing the construction of the Lake Erie and Ohio ship canal, and on June 18 it passed the senate, 41 to 11.

After standing pat against the onslaughts of the tariff revisionists during most of the session the majority permitted the passage of the bill placing denatured alcohol on the free list. This is expected to be a great benefit to many industries requiring power machines or vehicles.

Another bill which strengthens the arm of the executive in striking at the predatory trusts by preventing corporations from getting immunity because of testimony before a government bureau becomes a law.

Labor interests, though angered at the failure of the eight hour bill to even come to a vote, were pleased somewhat by the passage of the employers' liability act making interstate carriers liable for injuries to employees in the absence of prescribed safety appliances and regulations.

Other measures of general interest which passed both houses were:

Authorizing the return of unidentified Confederate flags.

Abolishing the grade of lieutenant general.

Adding \$5,000 to each state's quota for agricultural experiment stations.

Prohibition of gambling in the territories.

Provision for marking Confederate graves in the north.

Extending the time of tribal relations for the five civilized tribes.

Changing coin and bullion reserves to \$300,000,000 and \$100,000,000.

Providing for the selection of a delegate from Alaska.

To prevent hazing at Naval academy.

To reorganize our army medical corps.

Important Bills That Failed.

The Philippine tariff bill, which was one of the pet administration measures and which was forced through the house by making a concession of 25 per cent of the Dingley rates on sugar, tobacco and rice, by the vote of 258 to 72 as early as Jan. 16 was put to sleep effectively in the senate committee on the Philippines through a combination of Democrats and stand pat Republican senators. The committee voted 8 to 5 against reporting this cherished administration measure, and the efforts to bring about a reconsideration proved futile.

The senate on June 5 tabled the proposed constitutional amendment permitting a federal divorce law.

The house defeated by a large majority the Adams bill authorizing whipping posts for wife beaters in the District of Columbia.

The senate on Feb. 14 voted 38 to 27 in favor of the ship subsidy bill establishing thirteen new contract mail lines to Central American, South African, Australian and Pacific island ports at the rate of \$5 per ton a year for the foreign trade and \$6.50 per ton for the colonial trade. It includes provision for a naval reserve force by payment of retainers to officers of subsidized vessels. This measure is stranded, however, in the unfriendly house committee on the merchant marine.

A new bill to restrict and regulate immigration, which passed the senate May 23, contained provision for an educational test—namely, the ability to understand the English language—and raised the head tax from \$2 to \$5, while creating a commission to investigate the entire subject. When, however, the house passed this bill June 26 the educational test and the head tax were stricken out and, the senate refusing to agree, the bill died in conference.

Throughout the session the senate committee on foreign relations resolutely resisted the administration's influence to report favorably the Santo Domingo treaty.

Other administration measures which failed badly in one house or the other were:

For federal control of life insurance companies.

Specific laws for prevention of election corruption.

Uncle Sam's Big Expense Account.

Just before the close of the session it became apparent that the total of appropriations to carry on the government for the next fiscal year would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$900,000,000. At this writing the exact figures have not been officially reported. It is customary for each party to insert in the record a week or two after the end of the session a statement of the appropriations and its own explanation thereof. This total recalls the outcry that was made only fifteen years ago, when the Fifty-first congress, under Reed's speakership, appropriated a little over \$1,000,000,000 in the two years of its existence. Replying to the criticism that it was a "billion dollar congress," Reed said, "It is a billion dollar country." Even the Fifty-fifth congress, which covered much of the Spanish war expenses, spent only \$1,553,000,000 in its two years; hence, at the pace set by this first session, the Fifty-ninth congress is certain to outstrip all its predecessors in the matter of public expenditures. To the criticism of the minority the dominant party replies that the country has grown in all directions. As a matter of fact, the numerous investigations and federal inspections provided for have added largely to the cost of government.

The approximate amounts carried by the different appropriation bills and some extraordinary appropriations were as follows:

Permanent annual	\$31,471,520
Postoffice	19,056,500
Pensions	140,245,500
Naval	102,071,956
Army	71,817,165
Fortifications	5,053,522
Military academy	1,653,115
Sundry civil	107,300,000
Legislative, executive and judicial	20,750,000
District of Columbia	10,131,306
Urgent deficiency	16,000,000
General deficiency	11,546,000
Agricultural	3,390,000
Indian	10,250,000
Diplomatic and consular	5,089,594
Public buildings	35,000,000

Extra appropriation for Isthmian canal 11,000,000
San Francisco earthquake 1,500,000

Senate's Action on Treaties.

After having refused to ratify the Santo Domingo treaty, for which the administration had done its utmost, the senate agreed just before adjournment that the Moroccan treaty should come to a vote not later than Dec. 12 next before it would die by limitation. The Japanese copyright treaty was ratified Feb. 28 and the trademark treaty with Roumania May 4.

The death of Senator Gorman of Maryland left the minority without its leader, and Senator Blackburn of Kentucky was chosen as the new leader. Two other senators, Platt of Connecticut and Mitchell of Oregon, were claimed by death, the latter after his conviction in the land fraud case had made his further attendance impossible. Senator Bigton of Kansas was compelled to resign after the supreme court had approved his conviction on the charge of using his official position for pecuniary gain. Representatives who died were Castor of Pennsylvania, Patterson of Pennsylvania, Marsh of Illinois and Lester of Georgia, the last having been killed by falling through a skylight in a Washington apartment house. The new faces in the senate were those of La Follette, from Wisconsin; Geavin from Oregon; Benson, from Kansas; and Wylie, from Maryland.

The thanks of congress were extended to General Horace Porter for his efforts in finding the grave of Admiral John Paul Jones.

County Commissioners.

The Board met on the 2nd, all members present. After reading and approving minutes of former meeting the following business was transacted:

Luke Taylor, Joe Collins and W. H. Weaver, of Franklin, and Cas. Hayes, of Louisa, were relieved of poll tax. Report of E. N. Williams, Superintendent of County Home, was received and filed. He reports 5 white and 16 colored inmates. Harry Holmes was allowed to go to County Home, Dr. R. F. Yarborough, Superintendent of Health, reported County Home and convict camp, of Louisa township, in excellent condition. It was unanimously ordered that suitable resolutions of respect be drawn and recorded in the minutes of the Board regarding the life and services of the late John A. Burt, a former member of the Board. The date of the election called at a former meeting of the Board for a special school tax district, in Youngville township, was changed to Friday, August 17th. The jurors for August term of Franklin Superior Court were drawn, and will be found in another column. A few accounts were allowed and the Board adjourned to meet next Monday to hear complaints regarding valuations for taxes, &c.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

In the death of Jno. A. Burt, Esq., which occurred at his residence, in this county, on the 17th day of June, 1906, another former member of the Board of Commissioners of Franklin county has departed. His record as a man and a county official was without blot. He was scrupulously honest, high minded, fearless in the discharge of his duty, and withal charitable to the point of catholicity. Careful and painstaking in the county's affairs, and ever watchful of its interests, there was among his colleagues a feeling of security and reliance upon and in his judgment that amounted to implicit confidence.

Now in evidence of the high esteem in which he was held, and of our sorrow at his decease, we, the Board of Commissioners of Franklin county, in regular session assembled, do hereby resolve:

- 1st. That in the death of John A. Burt the county has lost a useful and loyal man and the State a patriotic citizen.
 - 2nd. That the sympathy of this Board is hereby extended to the family of the deceased in their affliction.
 - 3rd. That this preamble and these resolutions be published in the FRANKLIN TIMES and be spread upon the minutes of the Board.
- T. S. COLLIER, Chm.
W. M. BOONZ, Clerk.

IN WAY OF PERFECTION.

PAPER FROM COTTON STALKS A GREAT SUCCESS.

Effect of New Invention Will be to Increase the Value of the South's Cotton Crop Nearly \$100,000,000 a Year.

Harvie Jordan, President Southern Cotton Association in Manufacturers' Record:

The manufacture of paper from the fiber of the cotton stalk is one of the latest and most interesting inventions of the new century. For many years expert inventors have been busily engaged experimenting with the cotton stalk, and now it appears from recent developments that their labors and expenditures of money are to be rewarded with signal and striking success. Not only have these investigations passed the experimental stage, but they are rapidly being shaped to be placed into practical operation. It has been unquestionably demonstrated that all grades of paper, from the best form of linen grade to the lowest, can be manufactured from cotton stalks. In addition to this, a variety of by-products, such as alcohol, nitrogen, material for gun cotton and smokeless powder, can also be secured in paying quantities. The time is not now far distant when paper plants equipped with all modern machinery and devices for making paper and the utilization of the other by-products referred to will be built and placed in operation throughout the cotton growing States of the South. The establishment of these mills for the manufacture of paper from cotton stalks will at once develop a new industry of quite enormous proportions and insure the utilization of a waste product which at the present time has comparatively little or no value. It will prove the entering wedge of checking the present increasing cost of paper, which is becoming such a burden upon the newspaper industry of the country.

It is estimated that on a area of land producing a bale of cotton at least one ton of stalks can be gathered. Upon this basis of calculation this new industry can annually depend upon from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 tons of raw material. This will not furnish necessary supplies to meet all home demands, but permit of the export of pulp or finished products to foreign countries. At the present time there is approximately \$287,000,000 invested in paper mills in the United States, with but few plants located in the South. The bulk of the material going into the manufacture of paper at the present time is spruce pine, and which is annually becoming more expensive in the depletion of the forests and the high prices which such commands in the markets for other uses. The utilization of a waste product such as the cotton stalk manufactured into commercial paper, will be a boon of inestimable value to the whole country.

The practical effect of this new invention will be to increase the present value of the South's cotton crop nearly \$100,000,000 annually. The growers will be amply paid for the expense of removing the stalks from their fields and delivery to the paper plants, and in addition thereto receive a profit on this product of their labor. In the southwestern section of the belt the new industry will especially be of value and a blessing. With the removal of the cotton stalks from the field in the early fall the death knell of the boll weevil will be sounded and its present devastating influence reduced to a minimum. So that from every standpoint the speedy development and extension of this new industry will be welcome in all sections of the cotton belt. Paper manufactured from the cotton stalk is of the strongest texture and softest finish. It is reported that several plants will be erected during the next few

months in certain sections of the South which will be in full operation by January 1, 1907.

Board of Education.

At the meeting of the Board of Education last Monday, all members, and Superintendent White, were present. In addition to regular routine business the following matters were attended to:

Regarding the consolidation of Nos. 1 and 2 districts in Sandy Creek township, it was decided that the Board meet with the committee some time during the coming month with a view of getting all matters satisfactory.

The matter of enlarging Jones Hill school in district No. 5, Dunns township, by adding a part from Harris township was continued for further information, and to confer with the joint committees of Dunns and Harris townships.

The Superintendent reported to the Board that arrangements have been made to hold a teachers institute for each race, in this county, as follows: For the white, from July 30th to August 11th, inclusive, to be conducted by Prof. W. R. Mills and K. E. Sams and Miss Hettie Watson.

For the colored, from August 15th to the 18th, inclusive, to be conducted by Prof. Mills and Sams. There will be no charge for teachers living in this county, but teachers from another county will be required to pay a fee of \$2, to be refunded in case they teach in Franklin county the coming school year.

Teachers expecting to teach in this county will be required to attend these institutes.

Marriages.

During the month of June following were issued the following couples in this county:

WHITE—G. T. Bridges and Zelma T. Wheeler, Charles F. Carroll and Marian N. Massenburg, Charles R. Church and Lelia H. Johnson, W. H. Collins and Annie L. Brandley, W. M. Pearce and Ella Madlin, T. F. Terrell and Martha Lennie May, N. A. Tunstall and Katie E. Goswick.

COLORED—Dallas Davis and Sarah Brodie, Kellie Ellis and Rosa Alston, Huly Harris and Rotanna Tanner, Ed. Malone and Lucy Branch, Joseph Mitchell and Minnie Thomas, Richard Neal and Emily Wilson, Herbert Person and Rotanna Hayes, Edward Plummer and Eula Rogers.

Died in the Hospital.

The TIMES regrets to have to chronicle the death of June S. Strange, a young man who was taken from here to St. Vincent's hospital, Norfolk, about two weeks ago, to be operated upon for appendicitis. He lived some days after the operation but the shock was too much for him and he passed away on Monday morning. His body arrived here Tuesday and was taken to Maple Springs church where it was interred, a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends being present. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. H. Mashburn.

The deceased was about 18 years of age, and had a large circle of friends. He was a son of our countryman, Mr. W. S. Strange, and the bereaved have our most sincere sympathy.

Injunction Case.

There was an injunction case argued here yesterday evening before Judge Cooke, the title of the case being Herring vs. Eason, from Wilson. F. A. Woodard, of Wilson, appeared for Herring, and J. H. Post of Raleigh, and Jno. E. Woodard, of Wilson, for Eason. After hearing argument Judge Cooke continued the restraining order, permitting Eason to build his wall, but required him to leave an open stairway.