

The 64th Congress Most Important One

Washington, Dec. 6.—National politics, international problems of grave moment, and a threatened revenue crisis combine to make the first session of the Sixty-fourth Congress, which convened today, the most important national legislative gathering of a decade.

A tangled mass of international difficulties and policies that threaten serious complications unless delicately handled must be cleared up. The way of American neutrality in the world-war must be made straight. A depleted treasury and rapidly fading revenues, must be made to yield the funds for the military preparedness program of the administration. And out of all this, before the political dog-days of 1916 blaze their way across the land, there must be shaped the men and issues that will decide the struggle next for November control of the Federal government.

When Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark dropped their gavel in Senate and House today, they opened a political and legislative free-for-all struggle that will wrangle its devious and noisy way through winter, spring and summer to the election of 1916. The Democratic administration began its final fight to make clear the record upon which it will go before the people after its first experience in power in twenty years. A vigorous and powerful Republican minority initiated its struggle to regain the "seats of the mighty" lost in the disastrous 1912 campaign.

On the Democratic side the conceded standard bearers for the next fight are, so far, President Wilson and Vice-President Marshall, and they have at least the national support of the Democratic rank and file. The influence of William Jennings Bryan, which despite his recent retirement to private life, will be felt throughout the session, must be reckoned in the political balance, however. On the Republican side the quadrennial crop of "booms" has already put in its appearance. The booms are as yet in the "modest violet" stage, but by the time the torrid sun of legislative oratory has chased away the winter snows, they will blush like fall-blown peonies.

In the Senate Republican ranks, Senators Weeks, of Massachusetts; Borah, of Idaho; Cummins, of Iowa; Sherman, of Illinois, and Penrose, of Pennsylvania, have already been "mentioned" and are "in the hands of their friends." A well developed boom is under way. Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, who led the fight for military preparedness in the last Congress, is in line as a Republican vice-presidential possibility. On the Democratic side Senator J. Hamilton Lewis, of Illinois, has been spoken of for second place on the ticket if Vice-President Marshall for any reason should be left out.

With these aspirations in sight, and more certain to develop as the session goes on, national politics is in for a big winter in Washington. Every opportunity for political advantage, for political maneuvering and for political oratory will be grasped out of its hiding place and displayed with pride or scorn, as the case may be, to the country.

Into this kaleidoscope of politics will be cast the pretentious administration legislative program. It will begin with the military and naval preparedness plan framed by the War Department and endorsed by President Wilson, which the President will present personally to Congress in his annual message tomorrow. The preparedness scheme will meet with stormy times as soon as it reaches the House. It is practically certain that if the President's program goes through without serious modification it will be with the aid of Republican votes. For the Democratic side of the House has dwindled from the magnificent majority of the last Congress to bare control. The Democrats have a majority of only 24 seats.

With the peace propaganda of William Jennings Bryan thundering through the land and echoing in the ears of the Bryan Democrats, it will be practically impossible to keep the majority intact, and preparedness will stand or fall on Republican votes. The President's plan must get by the opposition of Representative Claude Kitchin, the Democratic leader, who, although by no means a Bryan supporter, has announced that he will oppose the scheme. If preparedness

can be put through the House it will have comparative smooth sailing in the Senate, it is expected.

The narrowness of the majority in the House and the independence of Floor Leader Kitchin, the Bryan Democrats, and the so-called Tammany group fore-shadow trouble for the administration, and general internecine strife among the majority party throughout the session. Only the calm and cloistered influence of the quiet caucus and the generous use of the party whip will prevent open and militant revolt on many of the issues which must be thrashed out.

With this situation in mind the Republicans chuckle gleefully. Their organization in the House is powerful and fairly compact. "Jim" Mann, as a floor leader, is master of every parliamentary trick and legislative artifice, and commands the sharpest tongue in Congress. "Uncle Joe" Cannon will be back, after two years exile "back home" in Danville, Ill. and "Uncle Joe" is a power on the floor.

A score of the "Old Guard" who fought with Cannon and Danvell and Payne in the days of the real Cannon organization, will be in their old places. And the thorn in the side of the Republican organization in the House—the Progressive party—has dwindled away to a mere nominal representation. Parous times and real opposition are in store for the House Democrats on every legislative proposition advanced. Every administration measure seems doomed to be mauled, clawed and torn before its well ventilated remnants will get away from the House minority. It will be a great series of battles.

On the Senate side Democratic conditions are somewhat better, although many of the issues to be met during the session will cause divisions of both sides of the chamber.

But no matter what situation may arise in the Senate or House, the administration must make provision for replenishing the depleted treasury. The deficit grows day by day, and the revenues fall off month by month. The war tax bill enacted by the last Congress expires at the end of this year. It must be re-enacted. Sugar under the Underwood tariff law, automatically goes on the free list in the spring. That provision of the Underwood law probably will be repealed. When this proposal is made the century old tariff fight will be on again, and the oft-repeated tariff talk will be turned loose, with the Republicans clamoring for protection and the Democrats demanding revenue.

The woman suffrage and national prohibition issues which now appear with embarrassing importance upon the political horizon are again to the fore, and both will be agitated in no uncertain manner throughout the session. Record votes were taken on both of these questions during the last Congress, however, and it is doubtful in the press of other business they will find their way to either House or Senate floor. Both Democrats and Republicans are willing to side-step these issues gracefully until after the Presidential campaign.

Mellon Charges That The U. S. Destroyed the New Haven

Washington, Dec. 6.—Charles S. Mellon accused the United States government with having destroyed the New Haven Railway Company. Mellon has been on the witness stand twenty-six days as the chief witness for the government, but in two hours after he was turned over to the defense for examination he had wiped away practically all the evidence the government had so laboriously extracted.

British Sink Turkish Ships

London, Dec. 6.—A British submarine has sunk a Turkish vessel in the Sea of Marmora and another Turkish ship was sunk December 4.

Mother of Mrs. Vanderbilt Dead

Portsmouth, Eng., Dec. 6.—Mrs. Nancy French, mother of Mrs. Elsie French Vanderbilt, is dead.

Clark Speaker And Clarke Presi- dent Pro Tem.

Washington, Dec. 6.—On the eve of a great political battle Congress assembled here today. The ceremonies were simple. There were many new faces and several old ones who after a lapse of two years have been returned.

The regular session of the Sixty-fourth Congress will be an extraordinary session. Since the last session the world war has begun, the Lusitania has been sunk, an almost continuous crisis with Germany has taken place and ex-Secretary Bryan has resigned from the cabinet.

Speaker Champ Clark, of Missouri, was re-elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and in the Senate Senator Clarke was elected president pro tem. of the Senate.

There were introduced in the House today 2,160 bills. Six hundred of these were public, the remainder private and pension bills.

Representative Mann received the Republican vote and two Progressives, while four Progressives voted present. Manger London, the New York Socialist, refused to vote.

The roll-call showed 372 of the 433 members of the House present.

The estimate for the coming year is the largest expenditure of the history of the country. The estimate is \$1,285,857,808.16, of this amount \$375,000,000 is for pensions and a sinking fund for the public debt.

The High School Championship Game

Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 6.—The University committee on high school athletics, consisting of N. W. Walker, chairman; E. R. Rankin, secretary; T. G. Trenchard, and C. E. Ervin, has made announcement of the second annual State championship contest in basketball among the high schools of North Carolina.

The regulations governing the contest this year are in the main similar to those which governed last year's contest. Any basketball team representing a high school, city or rural, that shall have played and won up to to and including February 19, 1916, as many as three games from teams representing schools of similar rank and shall have lost none, shall be eligible to enter the preliminary contest, provided the manager shall by February 21 notify the committee of his desire to enter the contest and shall send a record of the games played.

In the event that a team has played a hard schedule, the committee reserves the right to waive the letter of the requirements, as stated above, if after carefully reviewing its record such a course seems wise, and allow it to enter the contest, provided it shall have won seventy-five per cent of the games played.

Immediately after February 21, the committee in consultation with the

Recall of German Naval Attaches Causes Crisis

Washington, Dec. 6.—The recall of Captain Boy-Ed and Von Papen caused high feeling here today when it was known the German Ambassador, Count Bernstorff, had insisted that the United States should furnish Germany the evidence in the case against the two naval attaches.

The German honor is at stake, said Count Bernstorff, and Germany wants the evidence so that she may see if there was real or mere fancied cause for their recall.

The German Ambassador was told frankly that the United States was the judge of these matters and that she would exercise the right of asking the recall of any or all who were persona non grata to this government and that it was a matter for America to pass upon and not Germany.

The demand for the evidence in the case came from two sources by cable from Berlin and from the German Embassy at Washington.

Pope Benedict Makes Plea For Peace

Rome, Dec. 6.—Pope Benedict XV, today at the sacred consistory made a special plea for an early peace and pleaded for Generosity among the warring nations when the time comes to make peace.

National House Now At Work

Washington, Dec. 6.—The House of Representatives today got under way of the strenuous times of fight and furor that will make up the first session of the Sixty-fourth Congress. A narrow nominal Democratic majority, and an aggressive, vigorous Republican minority that participated in the organization of the House showed clearly the possibilities for legislative and political upheavals in the massed disputed legislative business that will come before the body.

A House membership of 229 Democrats, 197 Republicans, 6 Progressives, one Socialist, one Independent, with one vacant seat, was presented on the roll before Clerk of the House South Trimble when he called: the House to order for organization today. The Democratic majority had dwindled to a point where the defection of twelve members of the majority party would throw control into the hands of the opposition. And on the Republican side the experienced leaders who carried the burden of Republican legislation through sixteen years of unbroken power in the House, were back in their places after the temporary exile that kept them at home after the 1912 campaign.

The crowded galleries that looked down upon the opening scene, as Clerk Trimble pounded his gavel, and called the gossiping membership to order, saw many new faces, and many faces which had disappeared for a time, only to return. Where in the last Congress the calm, dispassionate, conciliating personality of Oscar Underwood inspired Democratic confidence, a new leader appeared. Claude Kitchin, the North Carolina orator, impulsive, vigorous, and vitriolic in debate, assumed the chieftainship of the slender Democratic majority.

"Jim" Mann, the sharp-tongued, argus-eyed, parliamentary expert, occupied his old place in the Republican floor leader's chair, but he was surrounded by experienced lieutenants whose aid was missing in the last Congress. There was "Uncle Joe" Cannon, returned to his place after two years of retirement, swinging his arms with boyish gestures, and itching for legislative battle, without a thought of the more than three score and ten years behind him. Versed in every parliamentary artifice and while "Uncle Joe" looked well fitted for his winter's work.

There was W. B. McKinley and

Rosenberg, and Sterling of Illinois, and "Nick" Longworth of Ohio, Ebenezer Hillard, John T. Tilson of Connecticut, all members of the old Republican House organization in the days of Cannon and Cannonism, who had come back to plague Democratic leaders, and they all looked overjoyed at the prospect of real legislative battling.

Galleries and floor applauded as veterans and recruits answered to their names in the first formal roll-call of the new House, by States. A flutter of applause greeted "Uncle Joe," and another welcomed Mayor London, the only Socialist member of the House. The roll showed the presence of a quorum, and Clerk Trimble called for nomination for Speaker.

The usual formalities were gone through, the long roll-call was completed and Champ Clark, again chosen as the Democratic candidate for Speaker, was escorted to the chair to thank the House for his re-election. Minority Leader Mann was given the complimentary vote of the minority. The Speaker was sworn in, Representative Talbot of Maryland, the oldest Democrat in the House, administering the oath. Cheers from both sides of the chamber greeted the Speaker as he began again his duties as the presiding officer of the body.

State by State the members of the House were called forward, and as each State delegation gathered in front of the Speaker's stand the oath of office was administered, collectively. Meantime the cloak rooms and corridors were crowded with members, renewing old acquaintances, making new ones, and gossiping about the prospects for legislation during the session. A hum of conversation swept the crowded galleries and several times the Speaker was forced to interrupt the proceedings to bring order out of the disturbance.

The session dragged along, constantly disturbed by the hum of conversation, which at times grew to a roar. The Democratic officials of the House, Clerk South Trimble, Sergeant-at-Arms Robert Gordon, Doorkeeper Sinnett, and Postmaster General Durbin were re-elected by resolution. Chaplain Henry D. Gooden, the blind spiritual director of the House, was re-elected unanimously, the minority employes were chosen by a resolution proposed by the Republicans.

Turkish Troops Placed at Disposal of German Government

Geneva, Dec. 6.—A dispatch from Constantinople this afternoon states that the Sultan in a speech before the Turkish Parliament announced that Turkey has made a special agreement with Germany whereby the Turkish troops are placed at the disposal of the German government and can be sent anywhere the Germans see fit. They may even be sent to the Poland scene of operations, the Sultan is quoted as saying in his speech.

It is said that the speech of the Sultan did not meet with favor in Parliament, and that a committee later told the ruler that such a radical move as he had announced would bring about a revolution.

Some radicals, it is said, have begun plans to break the agreement which the Sultan and his officials made.

Austrian Monitors to Attack Russians

London, Dec. 6.—Austrian monitors are reported ready to start for Bulgarian ports to attack the Russian forces in Roumanian waters.

The Rumanian government has ordered all foreign ships seized in Roumanian ports.

Berlin reports the defeat of the remnants of the Serbian armies on the Montenegro border.

Nothing is reported from the western front except irregular artillery duels. The weather is interfering there and at the Darnalles.

THERMOMETER RECORD.
The thermometer registered 27 at 12 o'clock last night.

Reservist to Manufac- ture Sentiment, Blow Up Plants, Ships, Etc.

Rome, Dec. 6.—Reports here say that when the German reservist were caught and unable to reach Germany on account of the vigilance of the British navy the reservists were ordered to report to the German consul wherever stationed and received instructions to form themselves into squads to blow up ships, destroy ammunition plants, organize strikes and to aid the German government in all other manners possible by acts or otherwise.

German Representative Kills Himself

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 6.—Colonel Boris Porrmariwsky, aged 43, who was in Wilmington to purchase the DuPont Powder Works for the German government, shot and killed himself today. The only reason assigned was ill health. On the body was found a note written in English: "Do not accuse anybody of my death."

Chinese Populace Favor Monarchy

Washington, Dec. 6.—Reports to the State Department indicate that the Chinese people have voted to change the government into a monarchy (Great Britain, France and Russia had filed protests against the change, fearing a revolution, but this protest was unheeded.

The Southern provinces gave the largest vote against the change.

Price of Cotton.
Cotton sold on the local market yesterday for 12 cents.