

# SEEN from the PRESS GALLERY

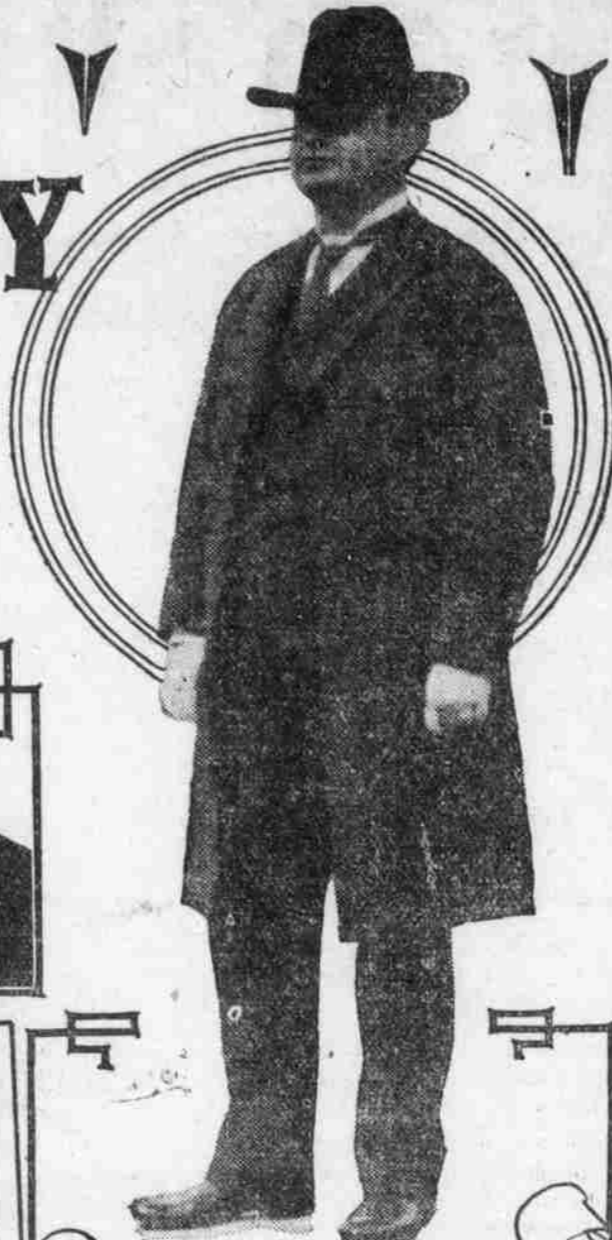
By EDWARD B. CLARK

CUBA has reciprocity in trade with the United States. The bill giving the island the benefits of the trade agreement was considered at an extra session of congress called by President Roosevelt. There was a good deal of sentiment in the Cuban matter, more than there has been in connection with the Canadian reciprocity measure. The bill went through the house and was sanctioned by the senate taking all told only three weeks in its passage.

The members of congress debated and talked twenty percentum reductions, sugar trusts and the like for four days and then the tense hour approached when the vote was to be taken. The time was tense notwithstanding the fact that it was known that the bill was to carry by a great majority. The galleries were packed with people and in the halls without were hundreds unable to



JAMES WILSON, SECY OF AGRICULTURE



SEN. BAILEY



"THE AUGUST TRIBUNAL"



SEN. TILLMAN

road to run straight, but we'll send it around the tree."

If the Australian tree is still standing, it stands as a monument to an Irishman who had a soul.

Once Representative William Alden Smith, now a United States senator, tried his level best in the house debate on Panama to make Congressman Dinsmore of Arkansas supply a stock of good Republican campaign material, just as Blaine baited Ben Hill in the old days. Dinsmore was talking about the hasty recognition of the independence of Panama by the United States and drew a comparison between that action and the attempts of this government to keep foreign nations from recognizing the confederacy in 1861.

The Arkansas member got warmed up and began to talk about the power of the confederacy. He made the statement that its soldiers had thrashed the Union army in the first six battles of the war. He got still warmer as he went on, and suddenly Smith of Michigan sprung the question, "Are you defending the rights of the states to secede?"

Dinsmore came to himself like a flash. "Ah, Brother Smith," he said, "how you would love to lead me into the pit! I have an abiding affection for you, but neither my feet nor my tongue shall go astray for the benefit of the Republican party."

Everybody knows what a stickler the senate is for courtesy. Courtesy has a seat at every desk. When one senator refers to another, whether he be a political foe or a political friend, it is always as the "distinguished gentleman from Maryland," or from Maine or another state, as the case may be. Senator Tillman said a fairly good thing one day. It was a side remark, but it reached the gallery and was enjoyed by the auditors, who had become a bit weary of resisting the impulse to salamau every time a senator rose and handed a few verbal flowers to a colleague.

Senator Bailey had just referred to the "distinguished senator from Maine." "Quit it," said Tillman, "you'll distinguish them all till they're so stuck up that no one else can distinguish them one from the other."

When James Wilson came to Washington as secretary of agriculture he understood a bit of self-description by saying to a caller: "I am what they call a layseed." It should be noted that Mr. Wilson did not say that he was a layseed. He has the Scotch Presbyterian habit of sticking to the truth even in his humor. It was rumored once that in order to evade the laws of this country certain great companies were planning to take out corporation papers abroad. The matter was called to the attention of the agricultural member of Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet. His comment was this: "We have laws; we have petit juries; we have grand juries; we have a department of justice; we have courts, and we have penitentiaries." Then Mr. Wilson smiled just a little grimly and refused to discuss the subject further. He couldn't have said anything that would have added one iota to his meaning, and he knew it. There is no waste of words in the conversation of James Wilson.

Secretary Wilson unquestionably would be a success as a managing editor of a great newspaper. He knows news. When the Beveridge packing-house investigation measure had passed congress and Secretary Wilson was in the west on a tour of inspection, he was asked by a newspaper man at the close of one of the secretary's busiest days in Chicago what the news was.

Mr. Wilson said: "Sit down and I'll give you the news and nothing else. These things have been done within the last few days and not one of them has been touched on in the newspapers. The rest of the stuff is ancient history."

Then the secretary, with all the discrimination of a trained city editor, gave his facts, and they were all new facts and worth the publishing. When a newspaper man goes to see the secretary in Washington he knows that if he gets one word beyond the ordinary interchange of "pleasant day" courtesies he is going to get something worth publishing. Mr. Wilson having been in office for several years and being a keen student, has discovered that certain things are published and certain things are not published. He has learned how to save himself time and words. In the parlance of the press, Mr. Wilson is "good copy."

Congress appropriated some money to erect a new building for the department of agriculture. Every congress wishes to make a record for economy. So it was that the amount appropriated was not sufficient to put up a structure that would meet the future demands of a rapidly growing branch of the government. The secretary of agriculture knew it, and so, with a certain shrewdness that was all for the good of the country and the service, he saw to it that the money was put into two comparatively small structures. The two taken together will be big enough for present uses, but in order that they shall form a complete and artistic whole it will be necessary one day to join them, and the connecting link will be a big building in itself. The argument for more room is apparent and convincing. The agricultural department will get more building money from congress, and get it soon, and the anger that was aroused at first by the secretary's shrewdness will be turned to laughter and to something much like admiration. The Iowa farmer's successors in office will have to thank him for removing a mountain of trouble from their path.

As government departments rank, the one devoted to the promotion of agriculture stands next to the foot of the list. This is on paper only. Its importance to the country is so great that men say its proper place is near the head of things governmental. The passage of the packing-house inspection and the pure food laws have increased the working duties of Mr. Wilson's department immensely.

Secretary Wilson sheds trouble. He is a good deal of an optimist, and when difficulties arose over cotton crop matters, and there seemed imminent danger that a scandal would result, there was no sign of worry on the secretary's part. President Roosevelt felt implicit confidence in the cabinet official who had come to him as a heritage from the McKinley administration, and there is no doubt whatever that he expressed his confidence personally.

In one respect the secretary of agriculture holds himself to be particularly fortunate. Possibly he doesn't consider it to be really a matter of good fortune except at such times as he sees the trouble of his fellow cabinet officials who are more than suspected of having presidential ambitions. Presidential politics personally do not worry James Wilson. The constitution of the United States keeps such worry from him, for the secretary was born on the slopes of the Ayrshire Hills in Bonnie Scotland, and on man from over the water can sit in the chief chair of the nation.

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## Officers Named for Imaginary Army



WASHINGTON.—An army that does not exist is being officered by the war department in obedience to the mandate of congress. Fifty and more men versed in the profession of arms are already on the eligible list for commissions in this army. Three new boards of army officers, composed of seasoned colonels, experienced majors, captains and first and second lieutenants, were recently named to pass upon the qualifications of other candidates ambitious to direct imaginary military forces.

Artemus Ward's shoulder strap company of warriors, assembled to take part in the big family feud of 1861-5, had at least one private—the humorist himself, who was in command; but the army of the United States volunteers is to have none. Don Quixote armed with a big stick, his head protected by a "Malbrino helmet," mounted on his charger, "Rosinante," and followed by the faithful Sancho Panza

was a more real, more tangible and more formidable force than the ghostly army of United States volunteers. It's a joker in the Dick militia bill, enacted into law by congress on May 27, 1908.

The Dick bill originally provided for an actual army of United States volunteers similar to the volunteers who enlisted for the Spanish-American war after state organizations were found to be troublesome.

The bill also provided for a separate section for an eligible list from which officers were to be commissioned when the army of United States volunteers, subject only to the will of the commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States, might be called into being in a condition of war.

The section providing for the volunteer army was stricken from the bill in the course of a legislative wrangle over the privilege of the states to organize volunteers. The authority creating the army was thus destroyed, but the contingent section bringing into existence the list of eligibles for the army's commissioned officers was not disturbed. The bill thus passed congress, disembodied the army but providing officers for it. That is why the war department is now qualifying men as eligibles.

## Postal Clerks Ask Right to Organize

EMPLOYEES of the postal service, particularly the men employed in the railway mail branch, are making a determined fight for legislation under which they may organize and affiliate with the American Federation of Labor. Samuel Gompers, president of the federation, is supporting the movement.

Many men formerly in the postal service, but who were let out because they were active in encouraging employees of the service to organize, have told the committee of the wrongs which they assert are done the employees. In a general way, the grievance of the employees is that men are frequently dismissed for purely political reasons, men let out of the service have no recourse.

It is pointed out that the postoffice department now forbids the individual employee from laying any complaint he may have before his senator or member of congress. The civil service commission has come in for much



criticism because it has not taken more interest in cases of dismissed employees. Witnesses have pointed out to the committee that the commission will not act in the case of a dismissed employee unless it has prima facie evidence that the dismissal was because of politics. It is next to impossible, say the dismissed employees who have testified, to prove that men were removed from the service through political influence.

Some of the new members of the house who have become much interested in the grievances of the postal employees believe a remedy of some sort will be found in the committee on civil service.

## Would Label the Unspoken "Speeches"



REPRESENTATIVES VICTOR MURDOCK, insurgent Republican, of Kansas; Swager Sherley of Kentucky and Frank Clark of Florida, both Democrats, have been fighting to have every unspoken "speech" printed in the Congressional Record labeled something like this: "Not delivered in the house of representatives."

These men believe that the Record, as it now leaves the press, perpetrates a fraud on the reader every time it declares that Congressman — delivered the following speech on such a date, when all Congressman — did was to get permission to insert in its columns a carefully prepared man-

uscript intended for the consumption of his constituents, at the expense of the United States government.

"It is the only honest way," declared Murdock to the correspondent. "The Record, under the present system, is not a true report of the proceedings of the house. It may well be that an article of value, prepared by a member of congress, should be printed in the Record, but it should be so designated.

"The first result of labeling things in the record by their right names would be the abandoning of the present abuse by individual representatives. When a man's constituents begin to ask him, 'Did you really deliver this speech, or did you just have it printed?' he will quit the practice.

"Congress could not possibly afford the time that would be necessary for the delivery of all the speeches that appear in the Record. Therefore, speeches will have to be shortened, and they ought to be.

## Auto-Suggestion Way of Keeping Cool

A WILTED representative, John J. Fitzgerald of Brooklyn, N. Y., chairman of the house appropriations committee, is the first distinguished convert to Dr. Harvey W. Wiley's theory with respect to the effect of auto-suggestion on the temperature of the body. Mr. Fitzgerald sat at his desk all through a sizzling, sweltering day, wearing a smile of perfect peace. His coat was buttoned tightly, the collar of it turned up around his neck, and every now and then he shivered with unseasonable delight.

Right in front of Mr. Fitzgerald, a large person with bushy black whiskers lay on his stomach on a snow-bank squinting through a transit or some other funny looking instrument of that sort. To his right another large person, clad in furs, sat on a cake of ice and scribbled busily in a notebook. In the middle distance three Eskimo dogs fought over a dead fish. In the background dozens of stately ice barges floated round casually.

"I'm certainly happy that I found Whistle to Dodge Bergs. These are the days when icebergs worry the transatlantic steamship skippers. It isn't pleasant to run along through a fog on a murky night and smash into one of those floating mountains of ice. The liner captains have a way of finding ice that at first strikes the landsman as curious. When it is suspected there are bergs in the neighborhood the whistle is kept going. If there is an echo the navigator slows down and keeps a sharp eye out, for echoes don't grow in the open ocean.



this painting of the "Farthest North" of the Greely expedition," said Mr. Fitzgerald, referring to the enormous canvas in front of him, which, massively framed, covered most of the west wall of the big appropriations committee's room. "Dr. Wiley is right when he says this worrying about the heat is largely the result of one's mental attitude. I've been sitting here looking at this picture for an hour and I am thinking of resuming my winter flannels. I wish I could carry it around with me."

"This auto-suggesting business is fine," Mr. Fitzgerald remarked to a visitor. "I'm going to install a picture of the burning of Rome in my home next winter and see how much I can save on coal bills."

Considerable Halibut. A halibut caught recently in Thurso Bay measured seven and one-half feet long and over three feet broad, and weighed over two hundred and fifty pounds. It was far the biggest fish caught off the north of Scotland for many years, and was sold for over £4.

### Emotions in the Sexes.

The old notion that women are more emotional than men has been discredited by a celebrated authority of Europe.