

# CANNON CONSCIOUS OF NO WRONG DONE

### Resignation Refused, but Election of Successor Would Be Welcomed.

## COHERENT MAJORITY GONE

### Country Mistaken in Belief That Republicans Control, Speaker Declares—New Majority Urged to Take Reins.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—"The real truth is that there is no coherent Republican majority in the House of Representatives." In these words, and some others, Speaker Cannon told the House today of his refusal to resign.

Mr. Cannon gave two reasons for his refusal. One was that he declined, of his own motion, to "precipitate a contest upon the House that might greatly endanger the final passage of all legislation necessary to redeem Republican pledges." The other was, he said, that a resignation in and of itself was a confession of weakness, or an apology for past actions. He was conscious of having done no political wrong.

The speech came just after the announcement of the final adoption of the amended Norris resolution for the appointment of a new committee on rules. There was intense silence when Mr. Cannon asked the indulgence of the House for about three minutes "to make a statement." He said:

"Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: Actions, not words, determine the conduct and sincerity of men in the affairs of life. This is government by the people acting through the representatives of a majority of the people. Results cannot be had except by a majority, and in the House of Representatives a majority, being responsible, should have full power and should exercise that power; otherwise the majority is inefficient and does not perform its functions."

### Minority Has Mission.

"The office of the minority is to put the majority on its good behavior, advocating in good faith the policies which it proposes, ever ready to take advantage of the mistakes of the majority or to appeal to the country for its vindication.

"From time to time heretofore the majority has become the minority, as in the present case, and from time to time after the majority will become the minority. The country believes that the Republican party has a majority of 44 in the House of Representatives at this time, yet such is not the case.

"The present Speaker of the House, to the best of my judgment, has cooperated with the Republican party, and so far in the history of this Congress the Republican party has been enabled, by a very small majority, when the test came, to legislate in conformity with the policies and the platform of the Republican party.

### Majority Is Changed.

"Such action, of course, begot criticism—which I do not deprecate—on the part of the minority party.

"The Speaker cannot be unmindful of the fact as evidenced by three previous elections to the Speakership that in the past he has enjoyed the confidence of the Republican party of the country and of the Republican members of the House. But the assault upon the Speaker of the House by the minority, supplemented by the efforts of so-called insurgents, shows that the Democratic minority, aided by a number of so-called insurgents constituting 15 per cent of the majority party in the House, is now in the majority, and that the Speaker of the House is not in harmony with the majority of the House as evidenced by the vote just taken.

"There are two courses open for the Speaker to pursue—either to resign and permit the new combination of Democrats and insurgents to choose a Speaker in harmony with its acts and purposes; the other is for the combination to declare a vacancy in the office of Speaker and proceed to the election of a new Speaker.

"It has been held always," he went on, "that the ordinary legislative duties and functions of the House, exercised by authority of the Constitution, must proceed according to the order prescribed by the rules. The fact that the Constitution says the House shall have power 'by law' to regulate commerce, make naturalization laws, coin money, establish postoffices, create courts, support armies and navies, etc., has not given these subjects when embodied in bills any right to disturb the order of business provided by the rules. The very object of the rules is to provide in an orderly way for considering those and other subjects entrusted to the House's judgment. To give all those subjects constitutional privileges would be to establish constitutional chaos in the House."

### Resignation Is Refused.

"After consideration at this stage of the session of the House, with much important legislation pending, involving the pledges of the Republican platform and their crystallization into law, believing that his resignation might consume weeks of time in the reorganization of the House, the Speaker, being in harmony with the Republican policies and desirous of carrying them out, declines by his own motion to precipitate a contest upon the House in the election of a new Speaker, a contest that might greatly endanger the final passage of all legislation necessary to redeem Republican pledges and fulfill Republican promises.

"This is one reason why the Speaker does not resign at once.

"Another is the judgment of the present Speaker a resignation in and of itself is a confession of weakness, or mistake, or an apology for past actions."

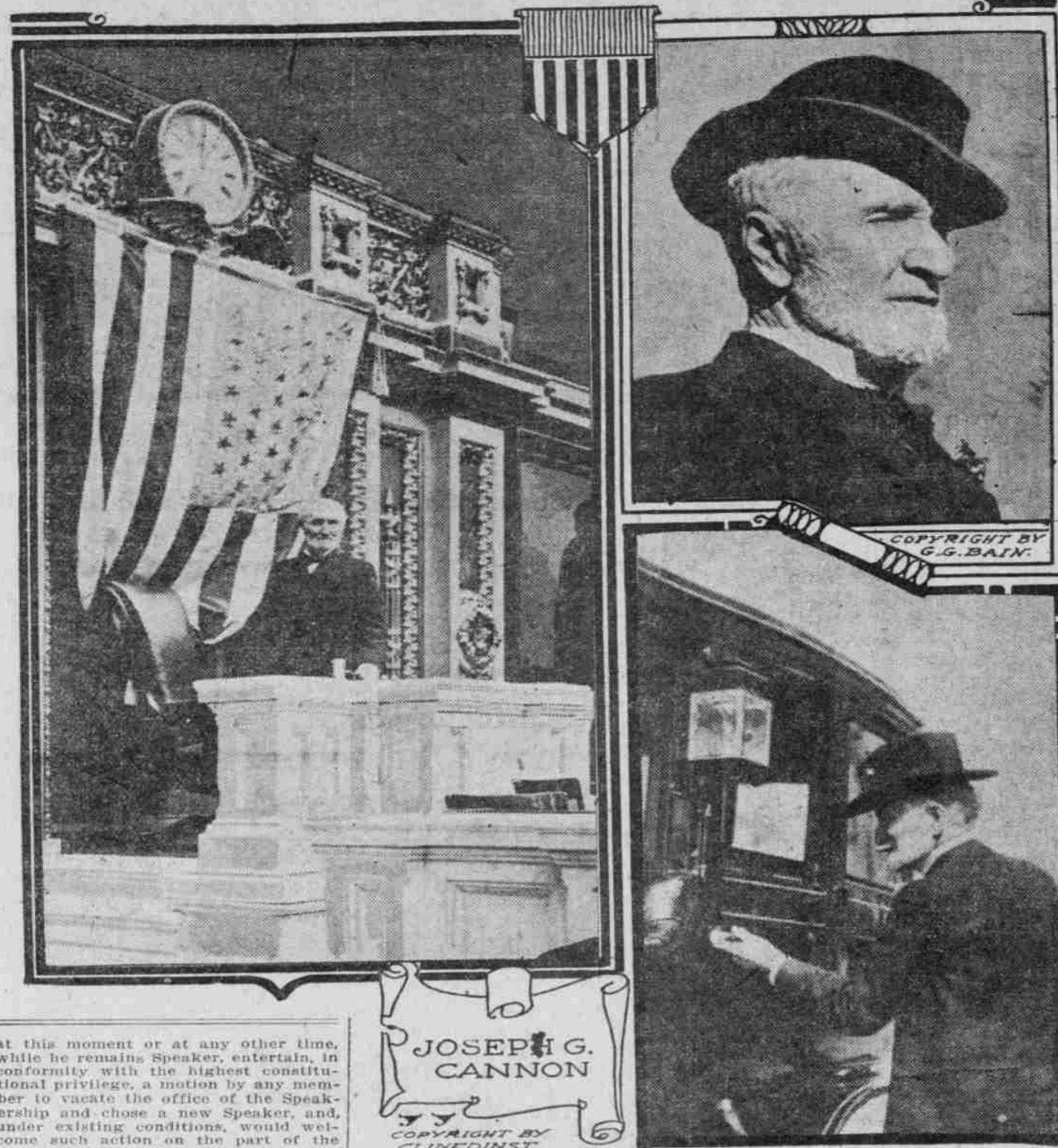
### Rules Long in Force.

"The Speaker is not conscious of having done anything wrong. The same rules have been in force in this House that have been in force for two decades. The Speaker has construed the rules as he found them, and as they have been construed by previous Speakers from Thomas B. Reed's incumbency down to the present time. Among these requirements was one that Congress should provide for a census of the population and an apportionment of Representatives. Whether that construction proceeded too far when the Constitution gave a year for the question, he said, he did not know. But for 20 years the practice has been unvarying. Hence, when confronted with this question this week, he said, he had followed the practice of the House, as he would obey every other rule, without questioning the wisdom that originally created it. He then proceeded to permit a proposition for a new rule to be laid on the table, providing in an order of business require us to proceed to other matters and it is claimed that the chair would be justified in doing this because the Constitution says that 'each House may determine the rules of its own proceedings.' Whether the word 'may' means 'shall' or not, the chair will not stop to examine.

"The Constitution fixes no time when it shall be done and as the House may, and has in one notable instance, proceeded without rules, it does not seem to me that there is here given any Constitutional mandate which would justify the overriding of its rules.

"Fortunately, in this crisis, the chair is not compelled to rely on his own judgment, swayed as it might be by the passions and purposes of the House. He can look back to another hour when, in

THREE CHARACTERISTIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPEAKER CANNON, AROUND WHOM TWO DAYS' BATTLE IN HOUSE HAS RAGED.



JOSEPH G. CANNON

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at this moment or at any other time, while he remains Speaker, entertain, in conformity with the highest constitutional privilege, motion by any member to vacate the office of the Speakership and choose a new Speaker, and, under existing conditions, would welcome such motion on the part of the actual majority of the House, so that power and responsibility may rest with the Democratic and insurgent members, who, by the last vote, evidently constitute a majority of this House. The chair is now ready to entertain such motion.

### Quiet Attention Characterized the Great Assembly until the Speaker said, in clear tones:

"The Speaker is not conscious of having done any political wrong."

Then there was prolonged cheering.

### RANDALL PRECEDENT QUOTED

#### Speaker Finds Democratic Authority for His Ruling.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Speaker Cannon quoted Samuel J. Randall's ruling in 1878 as a precedent for his ruling today that the Norris resolution was out of order. He declared also that to sustain the introduction of the resolution would be to permit a member to interrupt the House proceedings at any time with a proposal to amend the rules.

The Speaker announced his ruling immediately after the routine work of opening the House had been accomplished. Reading slowly, he began his presentation by referring to the fact that he had been criticized for being slow to rule on the point, but he explained this was due to the circumstances under which the question had been brought up. He expected upon the attention of the House.

### Full Debate Demanded.

This, he said, had been done "in a revolutionary manner, making it of such transcendent importance to the future procedure of the House that the fullest, even the most protracted, discussion seemed justified.

"In no manner could the most complete information be brought to the consideration of the question, and in no other way could the largest participation of the membership of the House be assured.

He said that the question of individual privilege in the House had not been reviewed, and the principles governing it had not been questioned for many years. Those principles, he said, were relatively simple.

"It has been held always," he went on, "that the ordinary legislative duties and functions of the House, exercised by authority of the Constitution, must proceed according to the order prescribed by the rules. The fact that the Constitution says the House shall have power 'by law' to regulate commerce, make naturalization laws, coin money, establish postoffices, create courts, support armies and navies, etc., has not given these subjects when embodied in bills any right to disturb the order of business provided by the rules. The very object of the rules is to provide in an orderly way for considering those and other subjects entrusted to the House's judgment. To give all those subjects constitutional privileges would be to establish constitutional chaos in the House."

### Rule of House Obeyed.

There were, however, certain functions which the Constitution enjoins Congress to do and for the doing of which it fixes the time. Among these requirements was one that Congress should provide for a census of the population and an apportionment of Representatives. Whether that construction proceeded too far when the Constitution gave a year for the question, he said, he did not know. But for 20 years the practice has been unvarying. Hence, when confronted with this question this week, he said, he had followed the practice of the House, as he would obey every other rule, without questioning the wisdom that originally created it. He then proceeded to permit a proposition for a new rule to be laid on the table, providing in an order of business require us to proceed to other matters and it is claimed that the chair would be justified in doing this because the Constitution says that 'each House may determine the rules of its own proceedings.' Whether the word 'may' means 'shall' or not, the chair will not stop to examine.

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## TOO MUCH MONEY SPENT

### WISCONSIN PRIMARY NOT VIOLATED, BUT VERY NEARLY.

Investigating Committee Censures Stephenson, La Follette and Others for Conduct.

MADISON, Wis., March 19.—(Special.)—Candidates for United States Senator in the Senatorial primary of 1908 did not plan to violate the law, but they did use questionable methods in the conduct of their campaign, according to the report of the joint Senatorial investigating committee filed with Governor Davidson this afternoon. The report urges corrective legislation to prevent a recurrence of such methods.

"Your committee," the report says, "believes that the Republican Senatorial candidates and their managers did not deliberately plan to violate the law, but in their desire to win their candidates, particularly Stephenson, Cook and Hutton, conducted their campaign with an idea of getting results, and men were hired and money was spent and state officials and employees and members of the Legislature were used without regard to propriety. 'Expenditures of so large a sum of money in a political campaign is of itself degrading, both to the candidate and to the electorate.'

Senator La Follette was severely criticized for the alleged use of state employees for political purposes during his administration as governor.

Opera House Now Store.

HOOD RIVER, Or., March 19.—(Special.)—Lack of room today forced O. P. Dabney, an extensive dealer in furniture here, to rent the Hood River Opera-house. This will prohibit any further theatrical entertainments here for a year unless a new theater is built. The property in which Mr. Dabney has been doing business has just been sold and will be torn down to make way for a brick block which will be started May 1. As no other place was available, he leased the Opera-house for a year and will turn it into a furniture store.

## SOMETHING DOING!

### State Fruit Inspector M. O. Lownsdale on the Ground

#### READ THIS:

Addresses Scappoose Fruitmen.

SCAPPOOSE, Or., March 11.—State Fruit Inspector M. O. Lownsdale spent Wednesday visiting the orchards at this place, and during the afternoon gave a strong talk on the care of orchards and how to combat the prevailing tree diseases, to a representative assembly of local fruit men. The ground work was laid for the formation of a horticultural society for this county. Mr. Lownsdale will come again in the near future to perfect the organization.

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Scappoose, only 20 miles from Portland—on Astoria & Columbia R. R.—35 minutes' ride by rail, along the banks of the Willamette River. A broad, level highway, running parallel with the railroad; ideal for driving or auto-mobiling.

Experienced fruit men, and others desirous of securing an orchard tract of ten or more acres, located on the uplands, five miles northwest of Scappoose, on Portland Southwestern Railroad, with abundance of water; the best of red shot soil—depth 5 to 30 feet—no rock or gravel—elevation 500 to 800 feet—insurance against early budding and frost—should visit our subdivided tract of 1800 acres, and make their selection at once

A few desirable tracts remain unsold at from \$20 to \$50 per acre. A town lot in Spitzenberg goes with each tract.

Daily trips to tract. Call and arrange to visit our

Scappoose Orchard Tracts

M'FARLAND INVESTMENT CO.

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## ASTHMA Free Sample

### Canadian Plans Extension.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 19.—The Canadian Pacific Railway is preparing to build an extension out of Victoria to the north end of Vancouver Island. Negotiations for the right-of-way for this line are now in progress.

## ASTHMA Free Sample

### I have discovered a positive cure for asthma. Send for free sample to prove my statement. To say more is useless. Let the medicine talk. Three months' treatment \$5, prepaid.

J. P. MICHELL, Druggist, 3230 Mission St., San Francisco, Cal.



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ture here, to rent the Hood River Opera-house. This will prohibit any further theatrical entertainments here for a year unless a new theater is built. The property in which Mr. Dabney has been doing business has just been sold and will be torn down to make way for a brick block which will be started May 1. As no other place was available, he leased the Opera-house for a year and will turn it into a furniture store.