

SENATORIAL SYSTEM HANDICAPS SENATE

Chance for Democrats to Maké Campaign Issue.

OLD MEN ON COMMITTEE

Contrast in Ages of Chairmen of Most Important Committees and Cabinet Men Marked.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Whether congress is to be criticized for taking a summer recess is one question. Whether congress ought to have accomplished more before the time for the recess came is another question. Still a third question is whether some aspects of the present organization of congress might not be changed so as to enable it to do its work more quickly and effectively.

As for the desirability, under normal circumstances, of a summer recess for congress, any person familiar with the deleterious effects of heat and fatigue on the judgment and efficiency of public men is likely to answer yes.

Costly Mistakes Made. That answer need not be based on humane consideration for the individuals concerned. That the obtaining of a tariff debate, or of any other similarly strenuous work during a hot summer season has shortened the life of more than one public man is a familiar fact. But the desirability of a recess need not rest on considerations of mercy to tired men.

It can be based on the fact that under conditions of intense heat, fatigue and angry controversy costly mistakes are made. Doubtless many a farmer and many a business man who must sweeter on through the strain of a summer marked by almost universally harassing conditions may lend a responsive ear to those who will make political capital of the proposal for a recess for senators and representatives.

But the more reasonable judgment is that in a year when the most important concerns have been put to the front, there are better subjects for political controversy than whether tired senators shall have an opportunity for rest before taking up the heavy burden of a tax debate and a tariff debate combined.

Heckling is Discouraging. It is expected that the democratic national committee, at a time so rich in opportunities for an opposition party, should include in its publicity a meticulous statement, with critical implications, of the precise days and dates and hours spent by President Harding in horseback riding and the like.

It is a little fact that the public business of congress, especially at this moment, is delayed by the fact that some senators who occupy important positions are either tired or more definitely ill, or both. The rule of seniority, upon which the senate is organized, causes the worst of the more important committee chairmanships to be placed upon the shoulders of those senators who have been longest in service and, therefore, oldest in years.

It is a fact that the average age of the chairman of the ten most important committees of the senate is 68 1/2 years. If we omit the committee on military affairs, of which it happens that a young man, Senator Wadsworth of New York, age 44, is chairman, then the average age of the chairman of the other nine most important committees is 70. If we omit, further, the chairman of the committee on finance, Pennock of Pennsylvania, who with 60 years is comparatively young, then the average age of the chairman of the remaining eight most important committees is 73.

Penrose Absent a Long Time. While Penrose, as chairman of the committee which has charge of both taxation and tariff, is more than ten years younger than the average chairman of the other important committees, it is also a fact that he is not good. Previous to last December he spent the complete year in absence from the senate and he is still in process of recuperation.

Men whose age averages over 70 years are seriously handicapped in their energy and effectiveness by the conditions of a summer session in such a climate as Washington. Quite apart from considerations of summer heat, it is doubtful whether we make the best use of the experience and ripeness of these older senators by dooming them to the drudgery of a committee chairmanship. There are frequent proposals to change the rule of seniority in the senate so as to have the older men for a role similar to that played by the elder statesmen of Japan, and to recruit younger senators for those positions as committee chairmen, in which so much of the work depends for its value, not necessarily upon experience and ripeness, but rather upon energy and devotion to details.

Cabinet Members Younger. It is interesting to compare the average age of the ten senators who are the chairmen of the ten most important committees with the average age of the ten members of the cabinet. The average age of the ten members of the cabinet is 54. This average age of the cabinet is in a way an expression of judgment as to what is the best age for men chosen to stand up day after day, year in and year out, under hard and continuous work. The difference between this average cabinet age of 54 and the average senate chairman age of 68 is 14 years of added susceptibility to the strain of fatigue and heat. It represents in a rough way the difference between the average age of men chosen for efficiency regardless of any other consideration and the average age of those senators who have come to committee chairmanships, hardly less onerous than cabinet jobs, through a process which takes account of seniority only.

Seniority System Attacked. Every once in a while the seniority system of selecting the chairmen of senate committees is under criticism. The chief reason it falls lies in the fact that tradition has grown up which associates the principal honors of the senate with these positions of committee chairmen. There ought to be some way for saving both the dignity and the greater usefulness of these older and more experienced senators without, at the same time, loading them down with the burden of some detail work of the committee. Much of this work is sheer drudgery, which neither calls for any particular ability or experience, nor confers any inherent dignity. It could be better done by senators who are younger in years and newer in

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Mr. Spillane's letters will present that news which every reader of The Oregonian—buyer or seller, producer or consumer, employer or employee, husband or wife, rich man or poor man—most eagerly awaits today.

Watch for These Articles to Appear Soon in The Oregonian

LANDERS HEADS NORMAL

NEW MEXICO EDUCATOR ACCEPTS POST AT MONMOUTH

Former Head of Pendleton and The Dalles Schools to Begin Duties Within Two Weeks.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—J. S. Landers, who is now serving at the head of the training department of the Las Vegas (N. M.) State Normal school, has been selected president of the Oregon Normal school at Monmouth to succeed the late J. H. Ackerman.

It was said today that Mr. Landers had accepted the presidency of the institution and would arrive here within the next two weeks to confer with the board of regents preparatory to taking up the duties connected with his new appointment.

Mr. Landers served as city superintendent of The Dalles public schools for nearly ten years. He later went to Pendleton, where he acted in a similar capacity for eight years. Afterward he was connected with the University of New Mexico and other educational institutions of prominence. He received his master degree in the University of Colorado.

It was said that Mr. Landers had the unanimous support of the board of regents. Dr. Fred C. Ayer of the University of Washington, to whom the presidency was tendered at a meeting of the regents last week, declined to accept the position.

270 Delinquents Pay Tax

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Collections on a total of 270 persons for the \$5 poll tax fee had been made by sheriff Thompson's office since the list of 2500 delinquents were turned over to him. The sheriff estimates that fully 60 per cent of the original list cannot be collected because of mistakes and duplications appearing in it.

Work Rushed on School Building

ALBANY, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Monday, September 13, has been set as the date for the opening of the Albany public schools this year. Preparations are being made for the coming term. Work is being rushed on the new junior high school building which is being erected at the corner of Fourth and Madison streets, adjoining the present Madison grade school.

Phone Equipment to Be Added

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—More than \$50,000 in improvements will be expended in Eugene by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company at once, according to announcement of C. P. Van Houtte, manager, yesterday. Mr. Van Houtte said the approved plans include the placing of 325 new poles, 890 miles of wire in aerial cable, 650 miles of wire in underground cable and extensive repairs throughout the entire exchange.

Clifford's Inn, the oldest of the nine inns of Chancery of London, has a history dating back to 1310 at least.

Geo. E. Kramer C. W. Stose W.P. Kraner & Co. Est. 1893. Men's Tailors Second Floor Couch Building, 100 Fourth St.

ARMY SUPPLIES CHECKED

Camp Lewis Officers Arrive at Vancouver Barracks

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Captain Thomas A. Harris, supply officer for troops in the 59th infantry, and Lieutenant H. G. Travis, also of the 59th, arrived at Vancouver Barracks this morning from Camp Lewis where they are stationed, and spent the day checking up the supplies in the local post. They are also fighting on those that will be needed when Colonel W. H. Jordan and the 59th infantry arrive from Camp Lewis.

The supply detachment of Company L arrived at the barracks this morning from the rifle range near Prosser, where the company has been practicing for ten days. Company K is leaving Monday morning for the range, and will stay until the round is completed.

Presbyterians Have Picnic Dinner

ALBANY, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Class work in the young people's conference of the Presbyterian church of Oregon, which has been in session here all week, was concluded today. The last recreational work of the conference was concluded today also and a big picnic dinner was held in Bryant park this evening. A programme of religious services and addresses will be presented tomorrow and this will conclude the conference, which has been a very successful event.

Beautiful Homes of the Northwest

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Atiyeh Bros. Oriental Rugs Tenth at Alder.

PEACE IRELAND IS DECLARED REMOTE

Agreement of Gaels Called Key to Settlement.

BICKERING HELD RISKY

Sentiments Expressed by Members of Dail Eireann Feared Apt to Irk English People.

BY GEORGE N. BARNES.

LONDON, Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Truly, if the letters published respecting the Irish negotiations are to be taken at their face value, the prospect for peace is remote. Prime Minister Lloyd George is found to have made an offer of a measure of self government. De Valera is found to have treated it with contempt. Lloyd George has replied in principle that he has said the last word. Sir James Craig has declared that Ulster at this stage merely wishes to be left alone.

All of which brings us to the fact that the peace in Ireland depends now more than ever upon Irishmen. It depends upon them either separately or in co-operation agreeing to manage their own domestic affairs, either course is now open to them.

Dominion Status Offered

The British government has offered a scheme of dominion self-government, subject only to conditions imposed by geography and also offering to assist in harmonizing their common interest should Irishmen so desire.

The next step is with Ireland. If De Valera and his friends were to accept the prime minister's offer, Lloyd George's letter, or if Sir James Craig were to express without stipulation a willingness to meet De Valera and to discuss why government agreement in the light of the new fact, then a road to further accommodation might be found. But while De Valera insists upon the impossible, and Craig imposes conditions which make a meeting with De Valera out of the question, no sensible advance can be made.

The position is much the same as when Lloyd George imposed an abandonment of Ireland's claims to separation as a condition to meeting De Valera. Directly this condition was withdrawn, a meeting was had and the door was opened to peace. Sir James Craig should follow the example of Lloyd George and De Valera should descend to the realm of realities.

Letter is Impressive

General Smuts' letter is impressive. The general goes straight to the heart of the Irish people as the real difficulty. He advises the south of Ireland to accept the government's offer and to trust to good will and economic interest ultimately to bring the north into an all-Irish parliament.

But De Valera had received and considered that letter before he replied to the prime minister, so that presumably the general's advice had but little effect. Since the publication of the documents the Sinn Fein meeting in Dublin has certainly not improved the chances of pacification. De Valera has nothing but bitterness and rancor to pour upon troubled waters. His statement, however, expressive of Irish aspirations, are not applicable to a situation demanding practical statesmanship.

Meaning the British people are perturbed. They ardently desire peace and reconciliation, and are willing to sanction any conclusion which may be reached within the conditions laid down in Lloyd George's offer, but nevertheless they are deeply in doubt of the sincerity of De Valera's offer.

King's Lead Followed

The offer palliates. If it does not justify the Sinn Fein excesses. The lead of the king has contributed to the stilling of the opposition for the moment and is shielding the government from the adverse criticism which might have been levelled against it. But it would not be very wise, because of that, for the Irish leaders to indulge in a policy of provocative haranguing or provocative theorizing. In the event of a plebiscite being taken ultimately, the result might be found to have been prejudiced thereby.

There is, however, more immediate danger that the intemperate talk now being indulged in may inflame passion in Ireland and lead to renewed violence. In such an event the resentment in Great Britain

Chance Considered at Hand. Now is Ireland's opportunity. Will she close with it? Judging from De Valera's speeches the answer would appear to be in the negative. But it is difficult to believe he is serious in interposing impossible demands again at this critical moment. If he thinks he can improve on Lloyd George's offer by raising issues where-with to bargain, he is laboring under a fatal delusion, for the British government would not be supported by the people in further concessions.

Gold Dollar Now Standard

ROME, Aug. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—The ministry of commerce announced today that here-

SALVATION NELL. A picturization of Edward Sheldon's famous play—first enacted by Minnie Madden Fiske on the stage. Great as was the stage drama, keener still, in its perception of mob-emotion, the hate, love and jealousy of the men and women of the slums, is the screen production of "Salvation Nell." SCREENLAND NEWS Extra!—Dr. Brumfield's Arrival in Portland—Extra! being the only motion pictures of the famous "man of mystery." In addition the home-grown news shows a number of interesting local happenings—it's good this week! Knowles and the Picture Players have an excellent score for "Salvation Nell." TODAY COLUMBIA TODAY

would break into a conflagration. Or if there should be a sudden breaking away without settlement, there is at once the risk of adopting measures which would in the long run add to the difficulties of ultimate settlement.

Federal Attorney Nominated. WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 20.—Fred M. Harrison of Alaska was nominated today to be United States attorney for the second division of the district of Alaska.

Home Brewer Fined \$200. A fine of \$200 was levied against Heien Bakk of Astoria by federal Judge Bean yesterday when she pleaded guilty to selling home brew. Six intoxicated persons and 25 gallons of home brew were found in the woman's lodging house when it was raided by federal prohibition agents on July 2.

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