

WARRING OUT NATION'S CASH

Appropriations Committees Hold Rank Above Even Ways and Means—Famous Clerks and Some Famous Chairmen.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.
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Washington, Dec. 14.—There are two places in the capitol of the United States that the raging storms of political warfare seldom reach. These are the rooms of the committees on appropriations of the senate and the house. Elsewhere in that big building the warfare goes on incessantly between the majority and the minority. Both in the house and the senate party lines are tightly drawn. In other committees there is nearly always a truce in the warfare. While politics governs the selection of the members of these committees, and they are drawn up ready for any sort of fray that may be framed up about two to one in favor of the majority, once they get inside their rooms the Democratic majority may lie down safely beside the Republican lion and all is peace.

The making of appropriations for the maintenance of the government is one of the things regarded as of too much importance to justify the entrance of politics. With the exception of a few rare instances partisan politics is unknown, and when these committees bring out a bill it does not represent a creation born of political exigencies, but the best labors of strong men who have dealt with the questions involved purely on their merits.

Clerks Who Become Indispensable.

One may get a good idea of how free from politics is the house committee on appropriations from the fact that its clerk, James C. Curtis, is a staunch Tennessee Democrat. He is perhaps the best authority on the question of governmental expenditures in the world. He knows how to provide for the billion-dollar government machine as well as a schoolboy knows how to play. In the committee of which he is clerk originate all the big appropriation bills. He and his assistants get things well in shape long before the committee meets at the beginning of sessions of congress. And when the committee does meet it has comparatively little to do beyond ratifying what they have done. It is an unwritten law with the house committee on appropriations that political considerations shall not enter into the selection of its clerks, and when they once begin their service it is almost a lifetime job. Committees may come and committees may go, chairmen may succeed others and be succeeded themselves, but the clerks stay on. The result is that they get to know more about spending government money than any one else, and congress needs them more than they need congress.

In the senate the same sort of situation prevails. The clerk of its committee on appropriations, Thomas Clieves, has been there almost since the memory of man. He stayed there through the days when the Democrats controlled the senate, and none of the vicissitudes of politics has ever affected him. Some time ago he was a member of the clerical force of his committee and it was given to Kennedy F. Rea, a Democrat of the strongest type, and had won his spurs there. These two committees are about the only ones in congress that are not regarded as among the personal prerogatives of the chairman.

Committee is Comparatively Young.

The house appropriations committee had its birth at the close of the civil war. Prior to that time the ways and means committee not only raised the funds for the maintenance of the government, but spent them as well. It also exercised the functions now discharged by the committee on banking and currency. For the first time the head of the ways and means committee during the civil war period, concluded there was too much work for one committee and he proposed to make three out of it. Ways and means was to look after matters of revenue, appropriations and currency after currency and banking legislation.

Stevens was never speaker of the house, but during and immediately after the civil war period he controlled the house as no speaker until Reed ever controlled it. His proposition for the division of ways and means was easily passed, and he chose the chairman of the new appropriations committee, stating that he regarded it as the most important committee of the house. He seemed to have correctly appraised the situation. During tariff legislation years, ways and means expends the appropriations committee as the moon sometimes eclipses the sun, but during about three years out of four, appropriations outshines ways and means. For the past 11 years ways and means has been a do-nothing committee. Yet it is very jealous of what it supposes to be its work.

Congress Appraises Relative Rank.

Last year there was a quarrel between ways and means and appropriations as to which should move out of the capitol and into the new office building. Ways and means did not want to move. It pleaded its age, its superimportance, the dignity of its chairman, who serves as the majority party leader, and a hundred and one other things that should entitle it to stay in the capitol. The appropriations committee part. It narrowed down to a decision of the house as to which it considered the more important committee, and the vote was a decisive one in favor of appropriations. It was in the debate on this question that Mr. Curtis received as high tributes as any man ever received from the floor of the house. Republicans vied with Democrats in commending his skill in looking after the expenditures of the government.

Randall, the Incomparable.

There has been comparatively few chairmen of the house committee on appropriations. The first was Stevens. He was succeeded as chairman by Dawes of Massachusetts, who in turn was succeeded by Garfield. Garfield was succeeded by Randall, who, though elected speaker between times, served as chairman of the committee. He was the only other chairman down to the present time. No man ever had more opportunities to make a competence out of his political position than Randall, and he served at a time when such things were no frowned down upon so much as they are now. Yet he approached the event of life a poor man. At last he was not able even to leave Washington during the summer on account of the expense it entailed, even though he knew that to stay in the city's heat might be fatal. At this

Emperor William, Then and Now



Emperor William of Germany as he appears today and as he looked in 1865.

This shy, sweet-faced, urchin looks like a nice, gentle little fellow to be petted and taken care of. And so he was at the age of 6. At present he is Kaiser William of Germany, dictating methods to everybody in the empire from generals in the army to the country school teachers.

June 26, 1865. George W. Childs, A. K. McClure and others leased a summer home for him. He was willing to accept it only under condition that he would repay them when he was able. He would have left his family in want but for the timely intervention of Childs, McClure and others, who made an investment for the family that netted \$2000 a year. The aged statesman refused even to accept this, but finally acquiesced in its presentation to his devoted wife.

Holman, the Watchdog.

The most economical chairman the committee ever had was William S. Holman, the Indiana watchdog of the treasury. If there was ever an unjustifiable appropriation made while he was chairman it has yet to be found. That many meritorious ones were not made goes without saying. Holman was penurious in his personal habits. He was so rigidly honest that he would not travel in a Pullman car at government expense while on inspection trip among the Indian agencies of the west. He sat up all night in a day coach while his fellow members slept in the Pullman. At another time he refused to take passage on a steamer from Fort Yates to Bismarck, where the fare was \$2. He had some government mules hitched to an ambulance and went to Bismarck in that conveyance, together with his party. Joseph G. Cannon was a member of that committee, and he slipped a crisp bill into the driver's hand with instructions to hit every stone in the road. So before they arrived at Fort Lincoln Holman got out to walk, and was left in the rear. When he finally arrived he presented a sorry spectacle. He had his trousers' legs tucked into his boot tops, while his blue flannel shirt and his boots were covered with dust. The officers of the fort were drawn up to receive him. It was proposed to fire a salute in his honor, but on advice of Mr. Cannon they compromised by having the band play "Hail to the Chief."

Despite his miserly economy, Holman was widely regarded as a most valuable public servant. He was the only chairman of the committee from whom the chairmanship was taken by his own party. The Cleveland administration concluded that he was a little too much of a watchdog of the treasury for them, so he was not reappointed in the fifty-third congress, but was succeeded by Snyres of Texas, who gave place to Joseph G. Cannon. Chairman Tawney is perhaps the youngest man, both in point of service and in point of age, who ever held the chairmanship. Adkins of Tennessee and Hiseock of New York complete the list of men who have presided over the house appropriations committee.

When one says the appropriations committee has to consider the annual expenditure of a billion dollars it conveys the idea of an immense pile of money and a large amount of work. But when one says the committee has to consider the idea grows to even greater proportions. To maintain this great government of ours, not counting state, county and municipal expenditures, costs the people who constitute it \$2,739,726 every hour of the day. Every time the clock ticks the United States government must draw \$31,700 from the pockets of the people and the banks. It takes the average man twenty minutes to go to work. In that time the government expends \$100.000. The volume of gold the money which the appropriations committee recommends shall be spent each year amounts to a fifteen ton carload.

TESTIMONIAL FOR BISHOP MULDOON

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Chicago, Dec. 14.—Elaborate arrangements have been made for the big testimonial meeting in the Auditorium tonight in honor of Bishop Muldoon to take up the duties of the new bishopric of Rockford, to which he was appointed recently by the pope. The testimonial promises to be one of the most elaborate affairs of its kind ever held in Chicago. Archbishop Quigley will preside over the gathering and addresses will be delivered in behalf of the clergy of Chicago and in behalf of the laity by the city. All of the Catholic societies of Chicago and vicinity will be represented at the meeting. The chief feature of the event will be the presentation to Bishop Muldoon of a purse containing a fund wherewith he may purchase a home in Rockford. The money has been collected with the aid of the Catholic organizations. Archbishop Quigley and Bishop Muldoon will go to Rockford for the installation ceremony, which will be followed in the evening by a large banquet. Many Chicago priests and laymen will accompany the two prelates to Rockford and will return to Chicago after the banquet. A special train will be provided for the prelates, which is expected to number at least 1000 persons.

I. C. TAKES UP BOLL WEEVIL FIGHT

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Jackson, Miss., Dec. 14.—Starting from this city today, "boll weevil" special train will be run by the Illinois Central railroad over its main line and branches through the counties of Mississippi that are threatened by the boll weevil pest. The tour of the special train will occupy the entire week. Literature will be distributed and exhibits shown to illustrate the ravages of the boll weevil and the best method of fighting the pest. Incidentally it is intended to impress upon the farmers the advantage and desirability of diversifying their crops.

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WEALTH FOUND IN NATION'S SOIL

Report of Secretary of Agriculture Shows Country is Growing Rich.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—The secretary of agriculture in his annual report issued today presents a review of the progress of agriculture in the United States during the past twelve years. Concerning the farm production of 1908 he says that the farmer has created wealth by the billions. Production has been above the average of recent years with few exceptions, and while some prices have fallen, others have risen. The farm value of all farm products of 1908 reaches the most extraordinary total in the nation's history—\$7,778,000,000. This is about four times the value of 1901 and more than double that of 1907. The amount of mineral, oil and precious metals. The farmer contributes 87 per cent of the raw materials used in those manufacturing industries which depend mostly or considerably upon agricultural materials, and these industries use 42 per cent of all materials used in all industries.

The Corn Crop.

The corn crop this year is 2,643,000,000 bushels, valued at \$1,615,000,000. Compared with the average of the preceding five years the quantity is 23 per cent higher and the value 43 per cent higher.

Value of Rye.

Rye in value is \$2,000,000, 17 per cent above the average. All cereals aggregate 4,329,000,000 bushels, a total that has been exceeded three times, but the value reaches \$2,844,000,000, or more than 40 per cent above that of 1907, and exceeds still more the totals of former years. Compared with the average of the preceding five years the quantity is 23 per cent above and the value is higher by 42 per cent.

Increased Prices.

Detailed increases of prices received by farmers for their products are next presented in the report, and in concluding the subject the secretary says that the consequences of such rises in prices need not be feared. The old cotton plantation that no lender wanted as a mortgage security is now sought for investment, and its owner can borrow without mortgaging. The farmers of the poor mortgage-ridden Kansas of former days have stuffed the banks of that state full of money. They have organized banks of their own and have sent money to the east to be invested.

National Forests.

The number of national forests is now 182, and the total area 168,000,000 acres. At \$1 per thousand feet stump-

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- YOUNG MEN'S COLLEGE CLOTHES included in this sale
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FOREIGNERS SEND MUCH MONEY HOME

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
New York, Dec. 14.—American dollars will furnish Christmas cheer in many humble homes in Europe this year. Since December 1, in 14 days, several million dollars in foreign money orders have been issued by the New York postoffice. The aggregate is considerably in excess of the figures of last year, though not up to the records of some previous years. It is expected that the total, including large sums that will be carried away by the steamships sailing this week, will amount to more than \$6,000,000.

There was a time when Ireland received by far the largest proportion of these Christmas gifts from her sons and daughters who had taken up new homes on this side of the Atlantic. In the last few years, however, she has been closely pressed for first place by Italy. A single ship sailing from New York last week carried nearly \$100,000 in money orders sent by Italians living here to relatives and friends in Italy, France, Germany, Hungary and Russia, with Denmark, Austria, Sweden, Belgium, Greece, The Netherlands and Switzerland following in the order named.

Cornerstone of New Theatre.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
New York, Dec. 14.—Arrangements have been concluded for interesting ceremonies tomorrow to attend the laying of the cornerstone for the much discussed new theatre. A feature of the program will be addresses by Gov. Hughes, Mayor McCollan and others and music by the forces of the Metropolitan Opera.

A KAI'S HEADACHE ESCAPE.

Do you know that every time you have a cough or cold and let it run on thinking it will just cure itself you are inviting pneumonia, consumption or some other pulmonary trouble? Don't risk it. Put your lungs back in perfect health and stop that cough with Ballard's Horehound syrup. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by Skidmore Drug Co.

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