

NO RIVER AND HARBOR BILL THIS SESSION

Correspondent Thinks Measure Will Be Given Setback—Representatives Made Outward Signs of Support but Cannon Will Rule Them.

Washington, Dec. 26.—There will be no river and harbor bill this session. It now appears Congress never intended there should be. That "immediate appropriation of at least \$30,000,000" talk was taffy prepared in honor of the National Rivers and Harbors congress, which recently held its convention in Washington.

Now that the 1909 delegates have left the capital city far behind, having scattered to their homes in all parts of the United States, the word is being given out—gently, of course—that owing to the huge deficit "may be" that the rivers and harbors committee will not report a bill during the sixtieth congress. The leader will not say he is blank the bill will not be reported. Such language would not be diplomatic. Besides, the Republican leaders do not deem it advisable to jar people's nerves—especially the waterway men's nerves.

But the representatives are really laughing up their sleeves. While the waterway men were in convention every member of the house was wearing a big badge, reading "I am for waterways" with letters large enough to make it readable a block off. There wasn't an official in the whole city of Washington who didn't know for a certainty Congress was simply asking to vote "at the very least, \$30,000,000" for waterways.

There is not a nit of doubt about it. John was the way the average congressman spoke when visited by the waterway delegates from his home district while the waterways convention was in session. "You waterway men have stirred up such a popular sentiment in favor of waterways we simply wouldn't dare ignore the matter. John, Congress will not vote less than \$30,000,000 for the improvement of rivers and harbors. Yes, this session. The bill providing for such an appropriation may be introduced any moment now. I'm expecting it any time. By the way, John, when you get down home you might mention our interview to the boys. You might say I promised. In strong language to give waterway development hearty support. Between you and I, John, I'm rather anxious that it be known that I'm a strong waterway man. You understand. Well, goodbye, John. Remember, I stand for an immediate appropriation of not less than \$30,000,000."

Loss of Enthusiasm.—After the waterway congress had adjourned, and there was no danger of resolutions denouncing the lack of interest in waterways on the part of Congress, the representatives laid away their badges, and likewise 95 per cent of their waterway enthusiasm.

John's friend is still a waterway man, but not an "immediate appropriation of \$30,000,000" waterway man. "I doubt very much if there will be a waterway appropriation bill very soon," is the way John's friend discusses the situation now. "While I'm a strong advocate of the improvement of rivers and harbors, and always have been, I will tell you as between man and man I very much doubt the advisability of a big appropriation right at this time. Secretary Cortelyou tells us the deficit for

the present current fiscal year is \$114,000,000, with a still larger deficit of \$143,000,000 starting us in the face for the next fiscal year. Well, what is the answer? The answer is, that Congress will and ought to proceed mightily before it acts on a river and harbor bill carrying an appropriation of \$30,000,000, or \$10,000,000, or \$15,000,000. Waterways are a good thing. They're bound to come. They must come. I'm for them, too. But when you talk about plunging the country further into debt than it is now, I doubt very much the wisdom of it. But if a bill providing for an appropriation of \$30,000,000 comes up, I'll vote for it. I'd vote for it if it carried \$100,000,000. How 'John's friend' would 'get under' in the event a river and harbor bill should come up for a vote. It would seem he would of necessity be required to reveal his hand by voting one way or another.

But the system arranged for that. Here's where Uncle Joe comes in. "John's friend" relies on Uncle Joe to see that the bill doesn't come up. And the old Uncle Joe will do his duty. He is chairman because he can and will protect congressmen in such an instance as this. He has placed Theodore Burton at the head of the rivers and harbors committee, and he has a pretty good reason for believing that Mr. Burton will not introduce a rivers and harbors bill unless he (Uncle Joe) is ready for it to be introduced. It may be said here that Uncle Joe is "not ready" for this bill to be introduced. And it won't be.

So if John happens to return to Washington to see his friend, the congressman from his district, the latter is free to say:

"I'm downright angry because that river and harbor bill hasn't been reported, John. The reason is, well, you know, Char Cannon. He is holding that bill up, and we are absolutely powerless. I was sent here to represent my district, but the truth is, Uncle Joe comes pretty close to representing it, and everybody's district, particularly on the waterway question. Tell the boys down home, John, that I'm aching to vote 'aye' on a bill carrying an immediate appropriation of not less than \$30,000,000 for waterways, but that Mr. Cannon is down in Ohio making his campaign for senator, and it is doubtful if he will have much time to draw up a waterway bill this session. But it isn't my fault. You can see that for yourself, John."

Will John's friend vote against Speaker Cannon as chairman of the sixty-first congress when the new session convenes, March 4? You may guess for yourself.

To be admitted into Canada after April 1 all patent medicines containing any of a long list of "deadly" drugs will have to be approved by experts of the department of internal revenue or bear a printed statement on the outside of the package that there is such drug in the preparation and its name.

Eyes tested free at Metzger's. Eye glasses, \$1 at Metzger's.

KITCHEN BOSSES GRAFT ON MEATS

System Cooks Work Almost Openly on Their Helpless Employers.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) New York, Dec. 26.—The statement of a butcher that any one of his calling was ready to pay a considerable commission to the cooks of his patrons would suffer a severe loss of trade if followed by one of the largest meat dealers in this city, or in the country. According to this dealer the demands of cooks for a "rakeoff" on the amount of their employers' bills up to 10 per cent has been a growing practice for the last 15 years. By many, if not most, butcher firms, he says, the demand is not contested; the percentage is paid and the various items on the bill are generally slightly overcharged or overstated in weight, so that the patron is the loser, the cook the gainer and the butcher safe to hold the trade.

This practice, known as "kitchen graft," is more common among families of wealth, consequently among the best patrons, where the wife, busy with society, places more control in the hands of the cook. The latter, if the desired commission is refused or withheld, injures the meat sent her, in one way or another, so that her employer finds it unadvisable to refuse or withhold.

The meat dealer who gave this as his experience has always combatted the system. He says that while any butcher commission is refused or withheld, temporary loss, he will come out even or ahead in the long run, if he makes his policy known.

As typical of the attitude of people which makes this system possible, the following instance was given: A man universally known in the financial district of the city suddenly took his trade, a substantial one, from the meat dealer. The dealer wrote to find if this was done, because his meat was not up to the mark. He got this answer:

"Dear Sir: I have your favor of the 12th. In reply I will say that I have no complaint to make of you or of your supplies. The simple fact is, I have changed my cook and when I change my cook it seems inevitable that I change my trades people. I have neither time nor disposition to fight against the cooks."

"They, not their employers, are the masters. If I don't suit them I have to quit and look for another situation. Perhaps I can do better with my next cook, and I can't get on without him now."

In another case a prominent New Yorker went abroad, and in his absence his wife was induced by the cook to deal elsewhere. On his return he wrote this letter: It is given to show that some will not bear with "kitchen graft," and that others would not if they knew it went on.

"I have asked Mrs. — to change her custom back to your store, because you don't give commissions to servants, thereby putting a premium on dishonesty and waste in customers' households. Since leaving you my butcher's bills have grown and grown until they became simply an absurdity. The meats you sent aboard my yacht were eminently satisfactory. They last

me all the way across the ocean and back. The demands for a commission by servants, according to this dealer, are sometimes bluntly stated, with threats of withdrawal of trade, sometimes merely insinuated, but in most cases, if not complied with, a withdrawal of trade follows. This meat dealer has kept a record of typical instances of the hundreds which come every year. The following are a few of them.

Some Typical Examples. A week ago one of the drivers was approached by a butler and chef in one of the best known homes in Fifth avenue. He was told a commission of 10 per cent would give his concern the trade of the house.

In April, 1904, a cook called on the concern, pointed out how easy it was for a cook to make a family dissatisfied with their supplies, hinted at a commission, and was told she would get none. She left saying she "would make trouble," and made good her threat, for soon after the patronage was withdrawn.

On April 27, 1907, a cook told a driver that she had some tickets to a ball to sell his firm. When he refused she criticized the meat, and said: "You'll be the losers." The family soon withdrew its trade.

The graft is also carried on in hotels. In one case the chef of a prominent hotel asked for a commission. It was refused and he said, "I'll fix you." A week later the concern lost the trade of that hotel.

Paid Rather Than Lose Cook. On June 19, 1907, a well known financier was informed that his cook had demanded a 3 per cent rakeoff from a firm of butchers. He wrote to the firm that he had said nothing to his cook, but that rather than lose a good cook he would like them to pay the 3 per cent and put it on his bill.

The chef who had the authority changed his trade to a house which would pay a 5 per cent commission. The employer, ignorant of the change, called on the original butcher and learned of the change. He asked the reason and was told of the 5 per cent rakeoff. "Well, he said, 'I want good meat and I want a good chef; pay him the commission and put it on the bill.'"

The meat dealer who gives this information says he has investigated the methods that cooks use to drive their employers to places that pay commissions. Sometimes, he says, they simply cook or dress the meat badly; sometimes they dip it first in hot water to make it tough; sometimes, with the connivance of another butcher, they exchange the supplies from the first butcher for poor ones from the second. There are, he says, a thousand and one ways in which they can make the meat appear to be poor if they want to.

He says that as much of the graft is connived at by rival butchers, willing to pay commissions, he can see no remedy, unless the practice is discontinued by employers of servants.

TRAIN RUNS TWO MILES MINUS ONE WHEEL

Middletown, N. Y., Dec. 26.—One of the most remarkable happenings known to railroading occurred to a combination passenger and milk train, running on express schedule on the Ontario & Western road.

When the train reached Summitville, near here, it was discovered that one wheel on the front end of one of the cars was missing.

Trainmen were sent back over the road and found the missing wheel at Redville, two miles and a half distant. The train had run that distance at a speed of 40 miles an hour and railroad men consider it miraculous that there was not a fearful wreck. The wheel had been thrown 20 feet and deeply imbedded in a bank of dirt.

UP THE NILE IN HER OWN BOAT

Mrs. Almeric Invents Fine New Way of Getting Rid of Money.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) London, Dec. 26.—"How much money does it cost?" is a question which never presents itself to Mrs. Almeric Paget. It seems generous to a fault, she who was Pauline Whitney delights in sharing with her intimate friends the diversions which fashion orders and which her wealth enables her to enjoy.

Mrs. Almeric Paget now plans an elaborate expedition up the Nile. She has chartered two dahabees and will start on the journey soon, but it is to be leisurely and luxurious. No time nor date is fixed for the arrival at any stopping place or for departure from it.

Mrs. Paget's present idea is to go as far as the Third Cataract at Hanik. But it is doubtful if she goes so far; very few English women do; the trip grows wearisome.

Mr. Paget will not accompany his wife, but several of his American friends will go with her. Princess Shikha, an American of whom she has been a very great friend, is to be her chief companion, although it is reported that Mrs. Paget's two little girls will go with her, this means, of course, as they are far from strong.

Mrs. Paget has engaged a fine suite at the Grand Hotel, Cairo, and intends to stop there some time before going up to Luxor. There they will study the excavations being made at Thebes in search of long buried treasures.

Then on to Wady Halfa and to Hanik—perhaps, if need be a third dahabeh will transport a touring car and Mrs. Paget's English servants. Mrs. Paget expects to be away from London until the end of March, but this long absence will also include her sojourn on the Riviera, where she is to be joined early in the spring by her sister, Miss Dorothy Whitney.

So Mrs. Almeric Paget proceeds joyously to expend her great income. Her house on Berkeley square is maintained in splendid style. She has an insatiable love for gold plate, which she strives to satisfy by completing the collection of Flaxman dishes, goblets and ewers which was begun by her father, one of the most generous of men. There can be no hobby more costly.

The Muck school of paintings represents Mrs. Almeric Paget's taste in art. She adores Fraagonard and his decadent pastorals; of Boucher's she has 10 examples. Nattier is another favorite and she owns several Watteaus, which are said to have cost her \$50,000. Her villa at Deauville has cost her several thousands in the way of insurance on jewels and other valuables and by the removal of luxuries from her London home.

The German navy is experimenting with shells charged with calcium carbide, which, on reaching the water, produces acetylene gas. This ignites and burns for three hours, as a substitute for searchlights, with the added advantage of leaving the ship which fired it in darkness.

MINE OF POISON IN WASHINGTON

Prospector and Presbyterian Pastor Develop Deposit of Arsenic.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Seattle, Wash., Dec. 26.—A great poison mine is about to be opened in Pierce county, 60 miles southeast of Tacoma. It is located in the mountains about 13 miles from the Tacoma Eastern railway on what is known as Mineral creek.

This poison mine contains enough arsenic to kill the entire population of the United States, according to the experts who have examined it. About five years ago a prospector named Jack Williams came upon a grayish-white outcropping on Mineral creek and not knowing what it was, broke off some specimens and brought them into Tacoma for analysis.

There he found that he had discovered a mine of almost pure arsenic of which only two others are known to exist in the world. Following Williams' discovery, he sold a controlling interest in the property to Roy J. M. Littell, pastor of one of the Presbyterian churches of Tacoma. The latter resigned his pastorate in order to engage in the development of the mine and later secured the financial assistance of hundreds of clergymen throughout the United States.

Dr. Littell has completed arrangements to open the mine and within the next 60 days hopes to have the property in full operation.

The Belgian Royal Society of Medicine, after investigating charges that the public health was menaced by the consumption of unhealthy oysters, recommended that all oyster beds should be systematically inspected and all imported oysters rigorously examined.

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