

THE NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AT WASHINGTON

What Other Law Makers are Doing and Other Interesting Events of the Union.

Washington.—So probable is it that an extra session of Congress will be necessary to get action on the Canadian reciprocity agreement that President Taft has fixed April 4 as the date on which such a session may be called. The date was selected after consultation with Champ Clark, who will be the speaker of the next House, and Representative Underwood of Alabama, who will be chairman of the ways and means committee that will have charge of and report the reciprocity bill in the House. The President had intended to convene the extra session at an earlier date, but Clark and Underwood told him they desired a month's time after the present Congress adjourns, in which to map out Democratic plans for the next Congress. There is no change in the situation in the Senate regarding the Canadian reciprocity agreement, and the leaders see no hope of bringing the McCall bill to a vote at this session.

Houses Pass Sundry Civil Bill.
The House made a record in passing the sundry civil appropriation bill, the greatest supply measure of the season, which had been up only two days. The bill carried more than \$17,000,000. Usually it has taken five to fifteen days.

Only three minor alterations in the bill were made on the floor. Without a dissenting voice \$45,500,000 was appropriated for continuing work on the Panama canal, an unprecedented proceeding. The bill carried \$350,000 for raising the battleship Maine, \$400,000 for the continuation of the tariff board for two years and a series of appropriations for public buildings totaling \$27,284,725.

Will Fortify Panama Canal.
After nearly five hours of debate, the House voted overwhelmingly in favor of fortifying the Panama canal and appropriated \$3,000,000 to begin the work, the total cost of which is estimated at \$12,000,000.

The action of the House practically settles the question of fortifications, for the sentiment in the Senate is said to be more than two to one in favor of protecting the Isthmian waterway.

Sutherland Amendment Passed.
Having succeeded, by the use of the Sutherland amendment as a club, in laying out the Borah resolution for the election of senators by the people, the opponents of that measure are in good humor. They believe they have averted the possibility of its passage at the present session.

The following western senators voted for the Sutherland amendment to the resolution providing for the popular election of senators: Carter and Dixon of Montana, Flint of California, Heyburn of Idaho, Piles and Jones of Washington, and Nixon of Nevada and among those voting against were Borah of Idaho, Bourne and Chamberlain of Oregon, and Newlands of Nevada.

This amendment was fought by the friends of popular election of senators.

National Capital Brevities.
The great forest fires of last fall cost the government \$1,050,000 for the actual expenditures of fighting the flames.

Immigrants to the number of 26,361 were admitted to the United States during January. Of this number, 12,241 were women. Six thousand Jews were included in the total.

The new Japanese treaty of trade and navigation was ratified after a two hours' executive session of the Senate. While the apprehension of western senators that the treaty might let down the bars to coolie labor was not entirely removed, these senators contented themselves with expressing their solicitude. They interposed no objection to ratification.

The House committee on judiciary ordered favorably reported the Norris resolution instructing the attorney-general to send to the House any information he has regarding the al-

leged monopoly of the coffee trade. After months the special House committee investigating the charges of Senator Gore, alleging bribery and improper methods in the handling of Indian lands, has completed its report. The report will exonerate all members of the House or the Senate of any improper connection with the so-called "McMurray contracts."

The Interstate Commerce Commission decided against the railroads in both the "eastern" and the "western" cases. Proposed advances in class freight rates in official classification territory, aggregating among all the railroads in the territory approximately \$27,000,000 a year, were disapproved by the commission.

PRIMARY DISRUPTS WINDY CITY

Money Scattered Freely and Parties Are Split Wide Open.

Chicago.—Chicago has been shaken during the last few weeks by the hottest mayoralty fight in the history of the city. The city's first experience with a direct primary in a mayoralty campaign has proven to be both spectacular and expensive.

Never was money spent so freely in a mayoralty campaign. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been scattered broadcast by the candidates striving to become the nominees of their respective parties. Both the Republican and Democratic parties are split wide open and no mayoralty candidate in either party has the advantage of united organization backing.

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French Cabinet to Resign.
Paris.—Premier Briand and his associates in the French cabinet, at a meeting held in the premier's office, decided to hand their resignations to President Fallieres. This decision was definitely determined upon after hours of discussion.

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