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GEO. F. HECK

PROPRIETOR

Independence, Oregon

## BRIEF REPORT OF THE DAILY WORK OF NATION'S LAWMAKERS

Washington, April 27.—A sensation was sprung in the house today, when Gardner, of Massachusetts, introduced resolutions of inquiry in response to a charge by Diffendorfer of Pennsylvania, that money and influence were being used to give an Eastern manufacturer a monopoly in the contracts for shoes for the army and navy. Diffendorfer said he could prove his assertion, and as a result Gardner called upon the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy for all possible information concerning the shoe contracts.

Diffendorfer interrupted Gardner in his speech on the free list bill yesterday while discussing government prices for army shoes. "Is it not a fact," he asked, "that Herman & Co., of Boston, absolutely control, after freezing out every other competitor in the United States, the manufacture of shoes for the army and navy of the United States?" Gardner said that he had never heard of such a firm.

"I shall be at liberty, then, in the near future," Diffendorfer said, "to show to the gentleman that they have absolute control of the shoes manufactured in this country for the army and navy, and that they have frozen out competitors that I know of who have lost out and today are bankrupt, owing to the fact that this firm of Herman & Co. has used its influence with the representatives of the United States, or those in control of the United States government have used their influence, to freeze out competitors and have placed them on the black list, so to speak, and have even gone so far as to give money so that other firms may not be competitors after freezing them out."

Washington, Apr. 27.—A bill providing for the enlargement of the national house of representatives from 391 to 433 members and the apportionment of these members to the different states on the basis of the population shown by the recent Federal census passed the house early this evening after vain efforts of members of both political parties to amend it.

The proposed size of the house is identical with that provided for in the Crumpacker bill passed by the house at the last session of congress, but not acted upon by the senate. The Houston bill, passed today, leaves to the legislatures of the different states the power to rearrange the congressional districts in their respective states on the new population basis of one member for each 211,877 inhabitants.

The two important amendments proposed and defeated today were to put the re-districting power in the hand of the governors of states when the legislature had failed to act; and to limit the house in the future to a membership of 430 or 433, leaving future reapportionments to the secretary of commerce and labor. Each amendment was vigorously championed by the Republicans and had some Democratic support.

Washington, April 26.—After a day of caucuses, conferences and secret meetings, in which the Democrats of the "progressive" Republicans of the senate were blocked by the regular senators, the two factions tonight are resting on their arms.

Whether the fight of the "progressives" for more appointments to committees of importance will be transferred to the senate floor rests with a meeting of the progressives in the morning.

The skirmish began in the meeting of the Republican committee on committees early in the day. Ballinger reported the list of committees.

Immediately La Follette objected, insisting that the "progressives" were being treated "unjustly and unfairly." He said he would reserve the right to oppose further in his own time. The Ballinger list was adopted, the four insurgents voting no.

Washington, April 27.—Victor Berger, of Milwaukee, the Socialist member of congress, in a resolution introduced today, not only proposes to abolish the senate, but aims to strike from the hand of the president the veto power and take from the courts authority to invalidate legislation enacted by the house of representatives. All this is proposed as an amendment to the constitution, which, if petitioned for by 5 per cent of the voters in each state, shall be submitted to a general referendum.

"The senate has run its course," said Mr. Berger, after his threatening document had been dropped into the hopper on the speaker's desk.

"It must some day, as with the British house of lords, yield to the popular demand for its reformation or abolition."

**Japs Free American Suspects.**  
Washington—The two Californians, Richardson and Fletcher, arrested in Japan as spies, because they photographed the Maizuru naval station, have been released, and the State department has been notified by Ambassador O'Brien. An investigation disclosed that they inadvertently directed their cameras toward a forbidden zone in getting a picture of the harbor from the deck of a steamship on which they were traveling.

**Congress May Discuss Arrests.**  
Washington, D. C.—With a view to determining whether any Federal law was violated in the arrest of J. J. McNamara in connection with the Los Angeles Times explosion, Representative Korbly, of Indiana, telegraphed to Indianapolis, asking for all the facts. Mr. Korbly has been urged by labor constituents in Indiana to lay the matter before congress.

Washington, April 26.—The Democratic free list bill, characterized by the Republicans as "political soothing syrup," was roughly handled in the house this afternoon by the Republican side.

Underwood, Democratic chairman of the ways and means committee, introduced it in an hour's speech, shortly after the session convened at noon. It is now left to the mercies of Mann, of Illinois, leader of the Republican side, and what Mann said about it in the two hours he held the floor gave both sides food for much debate, comment and criticism.

Underwood, in explaining the proposed measure, acknowledged that it would mean a reduction in government revenues by at least \$10,000,000 a year, but declared that this would be more than met by government economies.

"This free list bill is not offered as a compensation to the farmer for products of his that were put on the free list in the reciprocity bill," said Underwood, "because we do not believe the passage of the reciprocity bill will in any way affect the farmer's income. One of the objects of this bill is to remove from the protected list those implements that the farmer uses in producing his crops. The other purpose is to reduce the cost of living to the masses by putting their food products on the free list."

Underwood announced that this was only the beginning of the Democratic revision of the tariff.

"We propose to revise the tariff schedule by schedule," he said. "That, in our opinion, is the only proper way to handle the tariff question in congress. The Democratic party does not stand for the wiping out of the custom houses; we realize that the expenses of government must be borne by a judicious system of duties. But by lowering and adjusting prohibitive duties we can fully maintain the amount of customs revenues."

Underwood charged the Republicans with making the Payne tariff law so that it left a tariff on everything that the farmer used, while reducing many of his protective duties.

The minority report, signed by all of the Republicans on the ways and means committee, declares that the measure represents a "transparent attempt at the manufacture of political capital." It asserts that congress was called together specifically to pass the Canadian reciprocity bill.

"The interests of the farmer and of everybody else will be subserved," says the report, "if the country is spared further exploitation and further tariff legislation at the present time and if adjournment is taken promptly after the reciprocity bill shall have been finally acted on."

Washington, April 24.—Despite the fact that high officials of the Navy department have apologized to Professor Beers, of Yale, and his daughter for the slight recently administered in connection with a social affair at Annapolis, congress may make an official investigation of the alleged snobbery at the naval academy and at West Point as well. Apparently Representative Korbly of Indiana and other members of congress who have taken an interest in the incident, are not satisfied with the explanations of the Navy department about "social status" and the like, and some hot words are likely to find utterance on the floors of congress as a result of the form the official apology in the Beers case has taken.

The incident, arising from the snub given Miss Beers at a recent social "hop" at Annapolis, has grown in importance, a circumstance distressing to Navy department officials, who are loath to see anything that tends to create a prejudice against the service. Miss Beers was taken to the hop at Annapolis by a midshipman, who was subsequently reprimanded for so doing. Miss Beers is employed as governess in the household of Lieutenant Commander William H. Tarrant, U. S. N. Then came the storm.

Following the storm came the apology. Secretary Meyer and the superintendent of the academy saying it was demanded because of a misunderstanding of the "status" of the young woman. In other words, it was found that she was not in "domestic service" as a matter of necessity, but was from a family of "social status." Therefore an apology was unnecessary.

**New Land Office Needed.**  
Washington—The Oregon delegation is discussing the advisability of introducing a bill to establish a new land office in Central Oregon, probably at Madras. Present land offices at The Dalles, Lakeview, Burns and Vale are too far removed from the new country being opened by the Deschutes road. Fifty to 75 new settlers are reported arriving daily and the distance to the land office is working a hardship.

**Foed Becomes History.**  
Washington—With the resignation of Edward C. Finney as chief law officer of the reclamation service, to take effect May 1, practically all the officials of the Interior department whose names figured prominently during the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation, have now severed their connection with the government service.

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