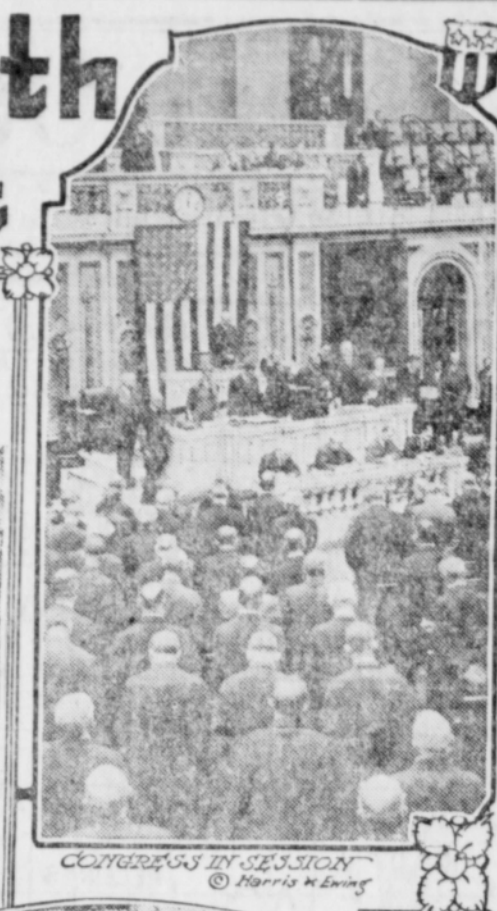


The Twentieth Amendment



AN INAUGURAL SCENE



CONGRESS IN SESSION

Provides for Important Changes in Mechanics of U.S. Government

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

DID you know that the Constitution of this land of the free and home of the brave is likely to be enriched during the Sixty-ninth congress by the Twentieth Amendment? No? Well, you need not feel lonesome. There are others, many others, who have never even heard of this Twentieth Amendment. In fact, it would be hard to find in a day's search a corporal's guard of average citizens who have

No; it is not an amendment prohibiting the broadcasting of radio of jazz. It does not forbid the buying of an automobile on the installment plan. It does not take away short skirts and cigarettes from the flapper. It is not that kind of an amendment at all.

This impending Twentieth Amendment is as different as possible. It has nothing to do with the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of Mr. and Mrs. American Citizen. It is concerned wholly with the mechanics of the government of the United States of America. Perhaps this is why it has no publicity agent and why no propaganda has cried its merits.

Yet this Twentieth Amendment is an extremely important amendment. Its effects may be far-reaching beyond all calculations of the experts in government. It is, in a way, a political experiment which may or may not prove of benefit to this nation dedicated to representative government. The proposition embodied in the amendment is far from being new. It is an old, old proposition that has increasingly engaged the attention and consideration of congress for at least a century, as the railroad and the telegraph have annihilated distance and time, and the press has diffused knowledge of current events.

The Twentieth Amendment, in short, is intended to establish the principle of immediate legislative responsiveness to current popular opinion by doing away with the gap—called by some a hiatus—between the election of members of congress and the seating of the elected members.

Those supporting the amendment point out that congress does not actually begin, under the present arrangement, until thirteen months after the members have been elected. It thus not infrequently happens that issues upon which they have been elected have been either settled or complicated by the old congress. The shortness of the second session often prevents the passage of important measures. Congressmen defeated for reelection vote without responsibility. Election contests are seldom decided before the expiration of at least half the term, with the result that the district is misrepresented, and Uncle Sam pays duplicate salaries.

Those opposing the meeting of congress within a short period after the election admit the force of these points. Their opposition is based mainly upon the theory that deliberation is an essential factor in good legislation and that there is a certain danger in the making of laws by members fresh from the excitement of the campaign. They also hold that in case a presidential election is thrown into the house, it is better to have the

members of the preceding congress determine the choice—they see the possibility of two congresses competing for regularity.

The Constitution (Art. I, Sec. 4) provided that congress should assemble March 4, 1789, and thereafter "in every year . . . on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." Up to and including May 20, 1820, eighteen acts were passed providing for the meeting of congress on other days of the year. Since that year congress has met regularly on the first Monday in December.

Several joint resolutions providing for this Twentieth Amendment have been introduced in this congress. Representative Benjamin L. Fairchild, for example, introduced this joint resolution on the opening day:

Joint resolution (H. J. Res. 13) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States fixing the commencement of the terms of President and vice president and representatives in congress and the terms of representatives and fixing the time of the assembling of congress. To the committee on election of President, vice president, and representatives in congress.

What these proposed constitutional amendments propose to do is indicated by the constitutional amendment before the Sixty-eighth congress. March 14, 1924, the senate voted on this amendment. Note the vote: Yeas, 63; nays, 7. The amendment did not come to a vote in the house. This apparently was not due to any particular opposition to it. It simply got lost in the shuffle of a short session. It is difficult to see why, in view of the practical unanimity of the senate vote, it should not have passed the house, had it come to a vote. The amendment, as passed by the senate:

Section 1. The terms of the President and vice president in office at the time this amendment takes effect shall end at noon on the third Monday in January and the terms of senators and representatives then in office at noon on the first Monday in January of the year in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified, and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2. The congress shall assemble at least once in every year and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in January unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3. If the house of representatives has not chosen a President, whenever the right of choice devolves upon them, before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, then the vice president chosen for the same term shall act as President until the house of representatives chooses a President, but if the house of representatives has not chosen a President before noon on the fourth day of March next following, then the vice president shall become President during the remainder of the term; and the congress shall by law provide that in the event the vice president has

not been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly until the house of representatives chooses a President, or until the senate chooses a vice president.

The many attempts to change the time of the sessions of congress have usually included a provision for a change in the date of inauguration day. Two grounds have been advanced for the proposed changes in the date of inauguration day: One is that inauguration day should come at a season more likely to give pleasant weather. The other is that the President's term should fit logically into the plans for changing the beginning and ending dates of congress.

Is a constitutional amendment necessary to change the date of inauguration day? The Constitution itself fixes no exact date for the inauguration. The constitutional sharks appear to be at variance on this point. Some hold that the amendment is necessary. Others hold to the contrary. The argument in favor of the necessity of a constitutional amendment is briefly this:

The Constitution fixes the term of the President at four years. A change in the inaugural date would result in an extension or curtailment of that period. That extension or curtailment can constitutionally be effected only through an amendment to the Constitution. The yeas appear to have it. Anyway, since 1876 more than fifty attempts have been made to change the inaugural date. In 1876 the date fixed by a proposed resolution was May 1. Ten years later an attempt was made to fix it on the anniversary of George Washington's first inauguration at New York—April 30.

The weather likely to obtain on inauguration day is a factor that has been much discussed. Custom has made this inauguration of the President an out-of-doors pageant which the weather can largely make or mar. When President Coolidge was inaugurated March 4, 1923, the weather was ideal and the vast crowd of spectators packed the entire space inclosed by the east face of the capitol, the congressional library and the senate and house office buildings. And with the powerful amplifiers used every word of the President's inaugural address was distinctly heard by every person.

William H. Taft's inauguration day, March 4, 1909, was a complete contrast. It was so stormy that the ceremonies had to be held indoors.

Senator Hoar of Massachusetts in 1898 sponsored a resolution fixing the last Wednesday in April as inauguration day. But weather bureau reports showed that from 1873 to 1897 the weather was little, if any better, on the later date.

preserve, and if another robin attempts to enter their domain a fight takes place. The stranger is often driven away, but sometimes the newcomer is victorious, and then the first pair have to seek fresh grounds.

"Czar" of Latin Origin
The Slavic word czar or tsar ultimately represents the Latin Caesar, but came, according to Miklosich, through the medium of a Germanic language in which the word had the general sense emperor.

Current Wit and Humor



TOO FUNNY

"Hullo! What are you laughing at? Is it me?" demanded the bad but angry golfer.
"N-no, sir," stammered the caddy.
"Then who are you laughing at?"
"Your opponent, sir."
"Oh, I see," said the golfer, somewhat mollified. "But what's so funny about him?"
"Well, sir," replied the caddy, incautiously, "he plays exactly like you do."—Tit-Bits.

Wanted Protection
"Say, boss," cried a dark-skinned customer, rushing much perturbed into a store, "a no 'count boy has threatened mah life. Ah craves protection."
"How about a bullet-proof vest?" queried the man behind the counter.
"Wuthless, plumb wuthless. Ah 'yo' got no razer-proof collars?"—American Legion Weekly.

"A CHEAP SKATE"



First Fish—He never spends a cent!
Second Fish—Sure, he's a cheap skate!

Cause for Celebrating

Tipton—I hear Harry had a big party last night. Why was he celebrating?
Lipton—Because of a distant relative.
Tipton—Who?
Lipton—His wife. She's gone to visit her mother.

Hearsay Evidence

Some ladies want to improve on modern improvements.
"You are wanted in court," telephoned a balliff.
"But I am giving a bridge party."
"Madam, you are wanted in court."
"Oh, dear. Can't I give my testimony by phone?"

Pepless Discretion

"Your speeches need more pep."
"I'm afraid to try for pep," answered Senator Sorghum. "My friends out home are all comfortable and making money. An attempt at pep always creates a suspicion that you are attempting to change the order of things."—Washington Star.

Cause

"I think we ought to find some reason for your bankruptcy."
"Didn't I say we kept a police dog and my wife's learning to drive."

She Was Younger

He—You look ten years younger since you had your hair bobbed.
She—Why, I am ten years younger.

HARD BOILED



Mother—Little sister is crying. Go and see what she wants.
Bobbie—Aw, women's tears don't move me.

Don't Hang Him

Soviet Guard (to prisoner, a former lumber agent)—Yes, you are condemned to death. Have you any last wish?
Prisoner—It would delight me if my firm was allowed to furnish the gallows.—Sondags-Nisse.

Let Neighbors Alone

"Do you suppose there ever was a human being who didn't talk about his neighbors?" asked the cynical man.
"Yes," said his companion.
"Name him."
"Robinson Crusoe"

Believed in Gags

Ignatz—I'm a comedian.
Hysteria—Do you believe in gags?
Ignatz—Sure thing.
Hysteria—Why don't you wear one, then?

New Scientific Light on Plant Intelligence

An intoxicated carrot has convinced Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, the British plant physiologist, that plants have intelligence.

Sir Jagadis is more than ever convinced that trees fall in love just as human beings do, as a result of his latest experiments. The intelligence of plants, he says, approaches the instinctive intelligence of the lower forms of animals. He bases his conclusions on observation of the injection of alcohol, chloroform, carbonic acid and other chemicals into living plants. He also has looked into arboreal amours on the spot.

Trees apparently select other trees nearby as objects of affection, Sir Jagadis said in an interview. Trees thus smitten send out tendrils to enfold the objects of their affection.

By injections, Sir Jagadis said he was able to make a carrot drunk or to make it lose consciousness. Plant fibers really are muscles, he contends.

Cuticura Soap for the Complexion. Nothing better than Cuticura Soap daily and Ointment now and then as needed to make the complexion clear, scalp clean and hands soft and white. Add to this the fascinating, fragrant Cuticura Talcum, and you have the Cuticura Toilet Trio.—Advertisement.

Raw Diamonds Not Costly

Diamonds are sold at an average price of \$16 a carat at the mines in South Africa, while purchasers pay from fifteen to twenty times as much for the cut gem in this country. The rarity of fine stones, an expert says, is but one factor in the high price. The great amount of high-grade labor expended to turn the raw stone into a finished gem is the main item.

The cutting process involves the constant risk of spoiling the entire stone. A first step consists in cleaving the specimen with the grain and requires great care and skill. Small ends are recut into brilliants, while the gem itself is faceted on top and bottom.

The next process involves the lapping of the remaining facets, which requires more time than the cutting and causes the stone to lose from one to two-thirds of its weight.—Popular Mechanics.

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Warning! Unless you see the name "Bayer" on package or on tablets you are not getting the genuine Bayer Aspirin proved safe by millions and prescribed by physicians for 25 years. Say "Bayer" when you buy Aspirin. Imitations may prove dangerous.—Adv.

Wood Bridge War's Chasm

Prof. E. M. Borchard of Yale recently opened a lecture course at the Berlin university. He said in his opinion his chief task consisted of re-establishing international scientific relations and preparing the way for the resumption of German-American exchange of professorships such as existed before the war.

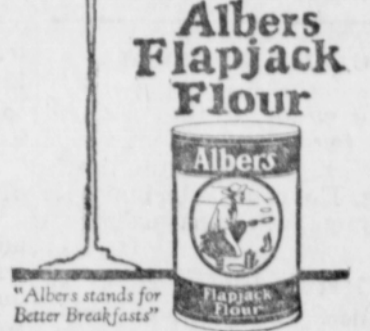
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A fish diet may not strengthen the brain, but going fishing invigorates the imagination.

Easy for mother, too!

Turning out a Flapjack breakfast for a wintery-appetite family is no work at all for mother. All she does is add a little water or milk and bake on a hot griddle. No fuss! No bother! And what a breakfast!

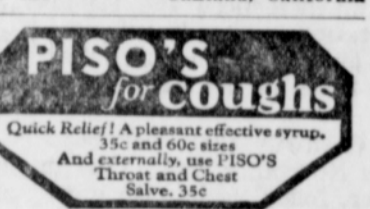


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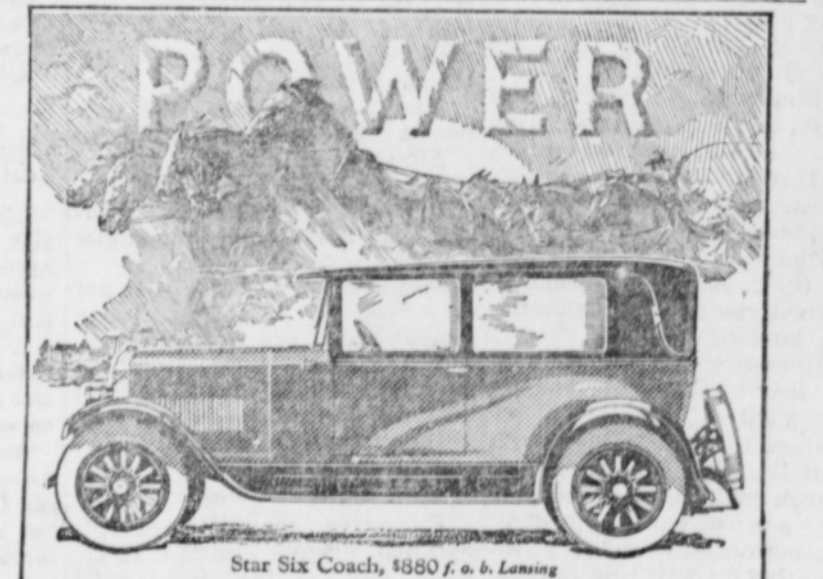
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A Change From Home

"I wonder why three-fourths of the stenographers in business offices are women?"
"I suppose it's because men like to feel that there is at least one class of women they can dictate to."—Boston Transcript.

Starting Waves

King Canute could not stop the waves, but English hair dressers say any woman can start them with a waving night cap. This cap consists of rubber bands which may be adjusted so as to produce waves in the hair of the wearer at just the points desired and produce long or short waves at will.



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The "Wee Bit"

I have elsewhere quoted the profound remark of the Russian artist Bryulov on art, but I cannot here refrain from repeating it. Once when correcting a pupil's study, Bryulov just touched it in a few places, and the poor study immediately became animated. "Why, you only touched it a wee bit and it is quite another thing!" said one of the pupils. "Art begins where the wee bit begins," re-

plied Bryulov, indicating by these words just what is most characteristic of art. The remark is true of all the arts, but its justice is particularly noticeable in the performance of music.—Tolstoy, in "What Is Art."

Robins Stand on Rights

The robin has lived so long in the company of man that you will seldom find it far from a human dwelling. In the suburbs of towns one pair of birds will have three or four gardens which they look upon as their own