

ABOUT CAUCUS RULE.

What It Is and How Its Decisions Are Enforced.

The Senator or Representative Who Bolts from Party Determination Clouds His Political Future.

[Special Washington Letter.]

When you read in the newspapers about a caucus, and understand what it means, it may be well to remember that there are very many people who do not know what it means; and that space is well used in a newspaper to explain the subject.

There were two school-teachers here recently from Chicago, and they are ladies of superior ability and attainments. It was the good fortune of the writer to have an opportunity to accompany them to the capitol building and show them a portion of that magnificent edifice before they secured the services of a professional guide.

While we were walking about the gallery corridors of the senate a policeman came up and reminded us that it is against the rules of the capitol for anyone to carry a camera in the building; and the lady carrying the camera, being from Illinois, took the little picture-maker to the committee room of Senator Cullom, of Illinois, and left it there for a couple of hours.

Meantime we saw many of the wonderful things there, and the ladies wrote down the inscription upon the pedestal of the statue of John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence; an inscription which everyone ought to have in memory or in scrapbook. It is: "He wrote his name where all nations should behold it; and where all time should not efface it."

But to return to our caucus. While we were seeing the senate wing of the capitol we came to a door over which we saw the gilded words: "Conference room." It was explained to the ladies that the word "conference" is, in political language, a synonym for the word "caucus." It was further explained that in the senate there is always a majority and a minority party. When the republicans have a majority they hold their caucuses in the senate marble room; and when the democrats are in a majority they hold their caucuses in the marble room. When either party is in the minority, they use this "conference room" for their caucuses. The marble room is a large and beautiful corridor, capable of comfortably seating 60 or more senators; and there never happens to be more than 35 or 40 members of the majority party. The "conference room" will not comfortably accommodate more than 35 or 40 senators, and the minority never is composed of more than that number.

What are caucuses for? As the political parties developed in this republic, and grew in cohesive strength, it became imperative that each party should act harmoniously in all matters of legislation. Consequently the custom of holding party conferences gradually grew. The members of a political party would gather together in secret meetings, and the majority present would decide upon certain lines of action. Thereafter all of the members of the party would vote together, even though some of the members of the party did not wholly coincide with the policy determined upon. It became necessary to do this in order to secure united party action in all matters.

Finally, when it became a settled party policy to do things in this manner, the conferences were termed caucuses;

order, every democrat in the house voted for Mr. Crisp, and he was elected speaker. In another caucus, in 1893, it was decided to elect Mr. Crisp, and all of the democrats voted in accordance with the caucus determination, and Mr. Crisp was reelected.

When the congress convened in extra session in March, 1897, the republicans being in a majority, there was a republican caucus which determined that all republicans should vote for Thomas B. Reed for speaker; and when the house was called to order, Mr. Reed was elected, receiving all of the republican votes. Thus, you see, the caucus decides what shall be done, and all members of each political party obey the will of the majority of their own party.

Circumstances are such that there will be an extra session of congress in March or April of this year. The republicans are in a majority of the house of representatives; and the caucus will decide upon the reelection of Mr. Reed, and he will again be chosen speaker. For the first time in six years the republicans will have a majority of the senate, and they also will hold a caucus. It will be held in the marble room. The senators do not elect a speaker because the vice president is always the presiding officer of the senate. But the republican senators, in caucus, will select some eminent republican to be secretary of the senate, and some other eminent republican to be sergeant-at-arms of the senate.



THE TUG OF WAR.

Then, when the senate is called to order, all of the republican senators will vote for the officers selected by their caucus.

Then after that shall have been accomplished the republican senators will have another caucus in the marble room, and they will decide who shall be the chairman of the various important committees, and which senators shall be members of those committees. These matters having been determined in caucus, they will be ratified by the solid votes of the entire republican membership of the senate.

In the meantime the democrats, being in the minority, will assemble in the "conference room," and there they will determine upon their candidates for similar offices, chairmanships and committee places. Then, in open senate, they will vote solidly for their candidates. Of course, they know that their candidates will not be elected, but they will give them a solid party "complimentary vote."

Later on the republicans will hold a caucus in the house of representatives, and a caucus in the marble room. Each one of these caucuses will select a committee to meet a committee from the other caucus. These joint committees will formulate some plan concerning currency legislation and other important matters. Those committees will report to their caucuses; and thus a party policy will be outlined, which will receive the solid party votes of the majority representatives in the senate and house; and they will carry their party determination into effect.

Meantime the democratic senators and representatives will hold caucuses, and they will determine upon a policy of opposition. Although in the minority, the democrats will maintain their party policy, and will obstruct party legislation to the best of their ability; and will defeat the majority if they can possibly do so by any parliamentary means.

Whether party rule, by caucus, is proper and worthy of the continued support of politicians is a question which each thinking reader will determine for himself. Young men who are entering upon political careers will do well to study the subject of the caucus, and be prepared to take some positive stand one way or the other. Young men will do well to make mental note of one fact, and keep it ever in memory: Whenever any man of independent spirit bolts from the caucus, or refuses to be bound by caucus determination, it has always happened that such a man lays in a big stock of trouble; and that he is usually defeated by the connivance of leading members of his own party.

The caucus rule is so strong that any man who undertakes to openly oppose it clouds his immediate future. In December, 1889, William McKinley, of Ohio, was a candidate for speaker of the house of representatives. He was defeated in caucus, and Tom Reed became speaker. After the caucus decided upon Mr. Reed, and he was nominated in the house, Mr. McKinley voted with all other republicans for Reed, who was elected. If McKinley had been made speaker by that caucus he might never have been president. But, being defeated for speaker, he was made chairman of the committee on ways and means. That committee formulated a tariff bill which became known as the McKinley bill. That bill made its putative author the most popular man in his party. Thus by being defeated in caucus McKinley came to the front, and attained the presidency.

SMITH D. FRY. Expensive. The Friend—And how did you learn that she had such a big appetite? The Fool—To my cost.—N. Y. Journal.

AN EXTENSIVE COLD WAVE.

Zero Weather Prevails in the West and the South Suffers from an Unusually Frigid Spell.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 9.—The thermometer fell to 10 degrees above zero in Atlanta Tuesday night, the coldest of the year, and the temperature yesterday did not moderate. The weather bureau predicts continued cold throughout this section. A freezing line extends north and south through the northwest portion of Florida, and the temperature at Jacksonville has reached the freezing point. Mobile's thermometers register 20 and at New Orleans 24 is recorded.

Indianapolis, Feb. 9.—The coldest weather of the winter was experienced here Wednesday; the minimum temperature was 9 degrees below zero.

Denver, Col., Feb. 9.—A snow storm in the mountains again tied up the Colorado railroad to the west yesterday. No trains are running on the Midland, although gangs of shovelers are at work. Two passenger trains from the west on the Denver & Rio Grande were stalled between Leadville and Buena Vista and two were held at Glenwood Springs. The Rio Grande officials say the main line will be reopened in a few hours after the storm ceases. No further effort is being made to clear the South Park tracks in the vicinity of Leadville.

St. Paul, Feb. 9.—The worst of the almost unprecedented cold-weather, it is feared, is yet to come. With a clear sky the intense cold continued all of Wednesday, being more severe because of a sharp northwest wind. The highest mercury reached during the day was 18 below zero. At 7 p. m. it was 22 below and falling. Excepting Helena all northwestern weather bureau points reported below zero weather. Medicine Hat and Havre reported snow and a temperature of 6 below zero. At 7 o'clock Helena was 14 above, but Duluth reported 18 below, Swift Current 20 below, Huron, Battleford and Prince Albert 26 below and Winnipeg 34 below.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—Not since 1872 has Chicago experienced such intense cold as that which prevailed yesterday. At eleven o'clock last night 1899 was close upon the undesirable record of 1872, was gaining steadily and had every chance of beating it out by several degrees. The lowest notch reached since the establishment of the weather bureau in this city was 23 below. At 11 o'clock last night it was 19 below and when the weather office closed the officials predicted that in a few hours the mercury would reach 25 below and the record will be broken.

The maximum yesterday was 6 below and the resulting discomfort was accentuated by a strong northwest wind. There were no deaths attributable to the cold, although frost-bitten faces, hands and feet were numerous. Three people collapsed on the street from the effect of the cold, but were soon revived. All through the west and northwest the cold was intense. Reports from points in Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois show temperatures ranging from 16 to 34 degrees below zero, the latter at La Crosse, Wis. There is much suffering in interior towns among poor people.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 9.—This city is experiencing the coldest weather in 25 years. The frost has penetrated the ground to a depth of 4 1/2 feet, or within a foot and a half of the water mains. A double force of men is on duty to see that the fire hydrants are not frozen up. The temperature last night was 15 degrees below zero.

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 9.—Wednesday was a record breaker for cold weather in Omaha, the highest point reached being 15 below zero. At 9 o'clock last night the government instrument indicated 21 below and still falling.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 9.—Yesterday was the coldest since 1872. The maximum temperature was 14 below. At 10 last night it was 22 below and still falling.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 9.—Last night was the coldest night experienced here for 11 years. At 10 o'clock street thermometers indicated 23 below zero.

ASKS FOR A TRUCE. Aguinaldo Requests that Hostilities Cease—Otis Declines the Proposition.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Yesterday there was an almost complete release of the tension under which the rapid occurrence of events in the Philippines has held the officials of the administration since the first startling news from Manila Saturday night. This was brought about through the receipt of a bulletin from Gen. Otis summing up the latest results of the fighting he has had with the natives. His statement that Aguinaldo's influence had been destroyed and that the Filipino leader was seeking for a cessation of hostilities and for a conference was interpreted as an admission that he had realized his terrible mistake. It is entirely improbable that he will be able to restore anything like the status quo or to obtain anything like the same terms as were possible last week. No one here now knows just what Gen. Otis intends to impose in the way of terms.

Secretary Alger said that he had given the general no instructions since the battle and saw no reason for giving any. He realized, he said, that Gen. Otis being on the ground and having proved his fitness, was in better position to deal with the situation than any one in Washington. Should the general ask permission, therefore, to do anything, he would be granted permission immediately.

Will Return to Alabama. Pana, Ill., Feb. 9.—A possibility of the settlement of the miners' strike, which has caused great disorder here for several months and cost the state thousands of dollars in the maintenance of several companies of militia, has been brought about through the presence of President Farley, of the United Mine Workers of Alabama, who were imported by the Pana operators free transportation to Alabama and higher wages at Birmingham and Bessemer than they are receiving here. Many negroes are accepting the offer.

A FIERCE BATTLE

The American Forces Attack Caloccan.

FILIPINOS ARE Routed.

Aguinaldo's Troops are Mowed Down Like Grass.

AMERICANS LOSS IS SMALL.

The Monitor Monadnock Reduces the Enemy's Earthworks to Ruins—The Town is Captured by the Soldiers Commanded by Gen. Otis.

Manila, Feb. 11.—The American forces on Friday afternoon made a combined attack upon Caloccan and reduced it in short order. At a signal from the tower of the De Lome church the monitor Monadnock opened fire from the bay on the earthworks with great effect. Soon afterwards the Utau battery bombarded the place from the land side.

The rebels reserved their fire until the bombardment ceased, when they fired volleys of musketry as the Montana regiment advanced on the jungle. The Kansas regiment, on the extreme left, with the Third artillery deploying to the right, charged across the open and carried the earthworks, cheering under a heavy fire. Supported by the artillery at the church, the troops further advanced, driving the enemy, fighting every foot, right into the town and penetrated to the presidencia, and lowered the Filipino flag.

The enemy's sharpshooters, in the jungle on the right, fired at long range on the Pennsylvania regiment, but the rebels were soon silenced by shrapnel shells and the Pennsylvanians remained in the trenches.

As the Americans advanced they burned the native huts. The rebels were mowed down like grass, but the American loss was light.

The Fourteenth infantry has unearthed several tons of Spanish shells, which had evidently been stolen from the Cavite arsenal and cached by the rebels in the vicinity of Paranaque. Fifteen cart loads of it have been brought into the city, as has also a modern naval gun and a part of its mount. There is no doubt that the gun was either stolen by the insurgents or removed from one of the sunken warships.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The following dispatch from Gen. Otis was received last night: "Insurgents collected considerable force between Manila and Caloccan, where Aguinaldo is reported to be, and threatened an attack and uprising in city. Friday afternoon I swung the left of MacArthur's division, which is north of Pasig river, into Caloccan, driving enemy easy. Our left is now at Caloccan. Our loss slight; that of insurgents considerable. Attack preceded by half hour's firing from two of Admiral Dewey's vessels."

Has Andre Been Found? Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, Feb. 11.—A gold mine owner here has received a letter saying that a tribe of Turgeses, inhabiting the Timur peninsula in North Siberia, recently informed the Russian police chief of the district that on January 17 last, in the province of Yeniseisk, they found a cabin constructed of cloth and cordage, apparently belonging to a balloon. Close by were the bodies of three men, the head of one badly crushed. The police chief has started for the spot to investigate, as it is believed that the bodies are those of Aeronaut Andre and his companions.

One-Third Perished.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 11.—General Live Stock Agent Pennington, of the Santa Fe system, has given out a statement of the probable loss of the stock interests in the various states, owing to the prevailing blizzard. Conservative estimates place the losses at 30 per cent. in Texas, Wyoming, Montana and Dakota.

William May Propose a Conference.

London, Feb. 11.—The Berlin correspondent of the Mail says: Emperor William disapproves of the continuance of the condominium in Samoa and will propose a conference of the three powers after he has received the statement of Joannes Raffel, president of the municipality of Apia.

Guarder Disabled.

Fayal, Azores, Feb. 11.—The British steamer Colorado, from New York, for Hull, has arrived here and reports having passed the British steamer Pavonia, of the Cunard line, from Liverpool for Boston, in a disabled condition about 300 miles from here.

Toronto's Big Fire.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 11.—Fire yesterday destroyed the building occupied by Cowan, Kent & Co., crockery and glassware dealers. The loss is estimated at \$200,000.

Don Carlos Weakens.

London, Feb. 11.—The Rome correspondent of the Chronicle says that Don Carlos has instructed his agents in Spain to stop the agitation on his behalf.

Cervera to be Prosecuted.

Madrid, Feb. 11.—The military court which has had under consideration the loss of the Spanish squadron at Santiago, Cuba, on July 3 last, has decided to prosecute Admiral Cervera and Commandant Moreno, former captain of the Cristobal Colon.

A Shoemaking Machine Trust.

Boston, Feb. 11.—It is announced that a consolidation of all the royalty shoe machinery interests centered in Boston has been consummated in a corporation organized under the laws of New Jersey, with a capital of \$25,000,000.

FIVE GREAT SOLDIERS ON THE STAFF OF GEN. E. S. OTIS.



Brig. Gen. Elwell S. Otis fought the second battle of Manila with a staff of remarkable men. When the insurgents made their onslaught, trusting to find the Americans unprepared and an easy prey, they faced, besides the gallant commanding officer, five great American soldiers. They were MacArthur, Harrison Grey Otis, Anderson, King and Miller. Every one of them was in the fight. Every one of them was waiting for it.

Gen. Marcus P. Miller came out of West Point in 1858 and fought at Malvern Hill, in the Winchester campaign, and at Dismal Court House. He was brevetted for his services in these engagements captain, major and lieutenant colonel. During the war with Spain he was with the Third artillery and in full charge of the defenses of San Francisco. His 41 years' service in the army has been almost a continuous one of service.

Brig. Gen. Harrison Grey Otis' record in the civil war was 49 months in the field, 15 engagements, two wounds in battle and seven promotions. He was brevetted a major on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. Rufus R. Hayes.

Charles King, brigadier general, is the well-known soldier-author of Wisconsin, who at the age of 16 volunteered for the union cause in the civil war and was accepted. From the army he went to West Point, graduated, and then returned to active service. In November, 1874, he was dangerously wounded at Sunset Pass. He fought through the Big Horn and Yellowstone campaigns of 1876, but in 1879 the opening of his old Indian wound forced him to retire from the service. He then joined the national guard of Wisconsin, in which he has since been a colonel.

Thomas H. Anderson, until he became a brigadier general, was the senior colonel of the regular army. Like Otis, Gen. Anderson is Ohio born. He was a lawyer before the civil war, but left the bar to enlist as a private soldier in the regular army. He served throughout the war, fought in 13 battles and was wounded four times.

Arthur MacArthur was the last of the brigadier generals of volunteers ordered to Manila when Gen. Merritt was organizing the American forces there. During the Spanish war he was at Tampa and Chickamauga, where he assisted in the mobilization of the army. He served in the civil war as a first lieutenant and adjutant of Wisconsin volunteers. At the end of the war he was a brevet colonel of volunteers. He was appointed major and assigned to the adjutant general's department in 1888.

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