

# REVIEW OF THE WHAT WAS DONE

## Enactment of Reciprocity With Canada the Chief Accomplishment

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.  
ANY ONE who has ever been in Washington during August can realize something of the trials of the extra session of the Sixty-second congress. If Dante could have had that experience it would have given him added descriptive material for the "Inferno." Washington in August may not be the hottest city on earth, but those visiting a hotter one seldom survive to tell the tale. Any congress that would remain in the capital during the dog days must either be doing penance or exhibiting to the country a high devotion to public duty. It is literally subjecting its political faith to the trial by fire.

Washington during August is so hot that the asphalt in the streets is muddy, the walls of the public buildings give off heat waves like blast furnaces, the statues in the park take on a tense and agonized look, and the Washington monument is surrounded by tremulous and crinkling air like a hot poker. Generals Humidity and Torridity join forces and open siege. It is so hot that even graft language and the lobbyists flee to the seashore. To listen to a tariff discussion in such an atmosphere must approach the limit of human endurance. No wonder the members call each other liars. They are more. They are torturers. They condemn their victims to a fiery furnace and bombard them with hot air.

It must be that the southern members, being used to a warm climate and hence immune, decided to give their political opponents a foretaste of the wrath to come. Yet there is one thing against the theory. Nobody can be immune to the heat of Washington in August. I know, for I once went through it. That was fifteen years ago, but I remember it as if it were yesterday. I still perspire and shiver up at the mere thought. So far as I know, there is not a single southern city so hot as Washington in August. If there is such a one, God help its inhabitants! After going through that sizzling experience I thought of the hereafter and decided to lead a better life. Perhaps in the present instance the southern Democrats were moved by a similar association of ideas. One cannot go through an August or even a July in Washington without being reminded of the hot place and often mentioning it by name. Probably the southern Democrats thought of where they wanted the Republicans to go and decided to give them a preliminary scorching as an earnest of this desire.

Anyway, we have a new crop of martyrs. Ordinarily a congressman is the last man we would think of in the martyr's role, but he sure played the part this time. Washington weather is often a matter of extremes, but twice a year it outdoes itself. This is on inauguration day and in August.

### What Was Done.

A review of the extra session would not be complete without this advance talk on the weather. It is needed to give atmosphere to the picture. Heat, both physical and mental, is an important ingredient in the psychology of congress.

The special session was called to enact Canadian reciprocity. It did this and more—or, rather, tried to do more, but the president would not let it.

The chief subjects considered were the reciprocity agreement; the revision of Schedule K, otherwise the wool bill; the free list bill, intended to make up to the farmers some of the inequalities in the reciprocity pact; the reduction of the cotton schedule, which finally had coupled to it revision of the iron and steel schedules and some others; the starched bill, the reapportionment of the house of representatives, direct election of senators, publicity of campaign expenditures, the Lorimer investigation, the inquiries into the steel trust and the sugar trust, the probe into the Wiley case and into the administration of the pure food law, the Controller bay investigation and the arbitration treaties with France and England.

Of these the reciprocity agreement has been passed and has gone to Canada for approval; the tariff reduction bills and starched in its first form have been vetoed by the president; direct election of senators, the investigations and the arbitration treaties have gone over to the next session, and the reapportionment, amended starched and publicity bills have become laws.

That is not a very large record of accomplishment, but is a big record of effort—really monumental in view of the hot weather. I presume that never since the civil war did congress undertake so much in the summer months.

### Steel Trust Probe.

The investigations alone have been numerous and laborious—at least have occasioned many labored explanations. There is the steel trust probe, in which the late John W. Gates accused Andrew Carnegie of being a "bull in a china shop" and of kicking over gentlemen's agreements. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, George W. Perkins,

# EXTRA SESSION; AND WHAT WAS NOT

## Steel Trust Probe Attracted Wide Attention --- Con- gressmen as Martyrs

Charles M. Schwab, Judge Gary, a brother of Mark Hanna and other eminent citizens also testified. During the hearings the committee was afforded some rather surprising glimpses of how panics are started and stopped, how trusts absorb their competitors, how a level of prices is maintained without any general agreement there to and how a benevolent corporation may "hold an umbrella" over the business of the country. One of the most remarkable pieces of testimony was that of Judge Gary of the steel trust, who advocated that the government fix prices, thereby making Eugene Debs and Victor Berger look like kindergarten Socialists.

Then there was the sugar trust investigation, in which Claus Spreckels told how somebody put dead rats into his sugar barrels, broke his machinery, conspired against him and scared off his trade. There was the Wiley inquiry, in which it came out that the pure food crusader had been driven into a corner where he had about as much power as an office boy. There was the latest chapter of the Lorimer case, with dark hints of \$100,000 funds and odd glimpses of politics as the game is played both in Washington and Springfield. There was the state

of senatorial elections. Southern Democrats senators swayed their reluctance to this measure and voted for the bill, but the house would not have it. At the close of the extra session there were so many members of both houses absent that it was almost impossible to handle a situation of this kind, but in the regular session there is little doubt that a compromise will be reached and the amendment in some form will pass and go to the state legislatures for ratification.

The extra session broke party lines into small pieces. On reciprocity the Republican president and the Democrats of both houses were found fighting shoulder to shoulder, with only a minority of either the regular or the insurgent Republicans supporting them. But on the tariff and starched measures the lines switched and the Democrats and insurgents were together against the president and the regulars in scarcely any case during the entire session was there a straight party fight. The Democrats were united much more closely than their opponents. In nearly every instance, at least on important measures, the Democratic vote was a unit, while that of the Republicans was divided.

### What the Meaning?

What this forebodes for the future it is as yet too early to determine. The general view of the closest students of politics is that it means an independent or progressive candidate for the presidency in case the insurgents do not succeed in capturing the next Republican national convention. Certain it is that Senator La Follette maneuvered himself into a position of great power in the extra session. His voice was the voice of the senate in the tariff bill conferences. Underwood of the house and La Follette of the senate were the two men who decided the character of the wool, cotton and free list bills. That indicated a revolution in the upper house and caused the old timers to



Photos of Underwood, La Follette and Stanley © by American Press Association.

department probe, wherein a certain paper lost for years was found on the floor, indicating either that there is a trance medium in the department who can materialize paper or that the floor is not swept very often. And there was the Controller bay investigation, from which it transpired that the "Dick to Dick letter" never happened, or, if it did, that it never would happen again.

Surely this extra session hungereth and thirsteth after knowledge. It is of an inquiring turn of mind. It is going to find out things even if it has to uncover all the secret and inside history of the Republican party. Yes, and I had almost forgotten the investigation into the postoffice department and the parcels post. The papers have had little to say about this, and yet it has gone forward none the less earnestly. There were investigations all the way from Alaska to Wall street. We thought that quite a batch of these inquiries materialized during the last congress, but the way the present one is taking up the scent the chase promises to be hotter than ever.

### Direct Election of Senators.

For the public at large one of the most regrettable features of the extra session was the sidetracking of the direct election of senators. This constitutional amendment passed both houses by the required two-thirds majority, but was amended in the senate in a manner the house would not accept. There is little question that the two bodies will get together in the regular session and that the measure will finally succeed, but it may be delayed too long for the state legislatures to act upon it next winter. The amendment that caused the trouble was the same one that created havoc in the last congress. At that time it was known as the Sutherland amendment, but this time was offered by Senator Bristow. It provides that the federal government shall have charge

scratch their heads. Only a few years ago the Wisconsin senator not only stood alone, but was hazed whenever he tried to speak. In this session he wielded the balance of power and thus controlled the senate. Here is food for reflection and material for moral and political essays.

### Session's Political Importance.

While party lines were broken, the extra session was full of presidential politics. One heard on every side the prediction that this move or that would help or hurt the president or would advance or retard Democratic or progressive chances. Such comment was especially free in relation to the various tariff bills, including reciprocity. If the tariff board reports next winter in time for tariff revision on one of two important schedules before the opening of the presidential campaign the effect of the extra session may be modified. As matters now stand the opinion in Washington is that the president will be renominated, but the breach between him and a part of the progressives has grown so wide that a walkout in the convention will result and a third ticket may enter the field. The head of that third ticket would, of course, be Robert Marion La Follette. Some of the Wisconsin senator's friends are even predicting that he will carry the national convention.

The passage of the campaign publicity bill has given gratification to all friends of good government and clean elections. It covers the campaigns of representatives and senators and provides for publicity not only after but before elections and not only in the final polls, but in primaries. At last there is hope of an end to the reign of bribery that has so long disgraced the republic.

As to the reapportionment of the house, this is so adjusted that no state loses a representative, but many gain anywhere from one to six.

### CANDIDATE for PROTHONOTARY.



JOHN N. SHARPSTEEN.

To the Republicans of Wayne Co.:

I take this means of announcing myself as a candidate for the nomination of Prothonotary at the primaries, Sept. 30, 1911.

To most of you I am known personally. During my seventeen years of service as a clerk in the Honesdale postoffice my efforts have been to perform my duties faithfully and courteously to the patrons of the office and the public generally.

To the voters with whom I am not personally acquainted I would say that, since a severe injury sustained by my father a few years before his accidental death when I was sixteen years old I have tried to make an honest living. My birthplace was in Texas township, district No. 4, Wayne county. My school days were limited to the district school and the Honesdale High school. As a boy of eleven years I spent my summers slating picking on the Delaware and Hudson dock and attended school during the winter. I also spent several summers working on a farm in Cherry Ridge.

After school I entered the office of the Honesdale Iron Works, known now as the Guernsey Electric Elevator Co., where I stayed a number of years and later entered the Honesdale postoffice serving two years under William F. Briggs. I then went to the Carbondale Lumber company as a bookkeeper, remaining with them until the appointment as postmaster of Miss Mary E. Gerety, who later became the wife of Hon. C. A. McCarty. In June, 1896, I returned to the Honesdale postoffice where I have been employed ever since. In coming before the people and asking their assistance and vote at the coming primaries, let me say that I am no tool of any boss or bosses. I simply desire in common with every American citizen to better my condition. Your support will be appreciated and if nominated and elected I will devote all my time and attention to the duties of the office to which I aspire.

Most cordially yours,  
J. N. Sharpsteen.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER.



NEVILLE HOLGATE.

I earnestly solicit your vote for the primary election Sept. 30.

### REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE For COUNTY COMMISSIONER.



### Primaries Sept. 30.

I, Ferdinand Kroll, a Republican of the borough of Honesdale, and a supporter of the party, hereby give notice to the voters of Wayne county that I announce myself a candidate for the office of County Commissioner.

### FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

I hereby announce myself to the voters of Wayne county as a candidate on the Republican ticket for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the primaries to be held September 30. To those citizens who do not know me would say that I was born in Wayne county, and have spent my life so far within its borders, excepting two years of volunteer service in the last of the Civil war. My occupation is now and has been chiefly that of farming. This is my first request for county office, and if nominated and elected will discharge the incumbent duties in an honorable, and I trust an efficient manner.

Respectfully yours,  
A. M. HENSHAW,  
Indian Orebar, Pa. 6677eol

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FROM THE 53d ANNUAL REPORT	
Total admitted assets.....	\$ 273,813,068.55
Total insurance in force.....	1,080,233,708.00
Total number policy-holders.....	425,481.00
New Insurance Reported and paid for in 1910.....	118,730,033.00
Increase in Insurance in force over 1909.....	67,240,613.00
Total Income for 1910.....	\$1,970,822.25
Total payment to policy-holders.....	22,865,859.99
Ratio of expense and taxes to income.....	12.78 per cent.
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JOS. A. FISCH, Cashier.

E. C. MUMFORD, President.

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