

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

THE NATIONS FACE. With the march of time, the face and features of our country change even as the faces and features of individuals change in the march from cradle to grave. Had we been privileged to take an airplane ride over the land in 1630, just ten years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, we would have seen 820 million acres of dense virgin forest untouched by axe or saw, 600 million acres of native grass lands bearing tall and short grasses, 430 million acres of open woodlands, hills, mountains, and arid lands, and 50 million acres of desert. How is it with us today after the passage of 300 years during which the plow and the axe have been wielded with vigor and the population has increased from a few foraging Indians and a handful of white folks to a total of 130 million seeking to wrest a livelihood from business, industry, agriculture, the professions and the sciences. Today we have 150 million acres of marketable timber, 200 million acres of cut over forest which is growing, 100 million acres of forest which has been cutover and almost completely ruined to the point where this timber is dying, 150 million acres of farm woodlands, 330 million acres of grazing land, 400 million acres of crop land of which 25 million acres are cropped by the use of irrigation systems, 420 million acres of farm pasture, 50 million acres devoted to sites for cities and other urban purposes, and 100 million acres of wasted and desert lands. Yes, we have exhausted a considerable part of our soil resources. The face of the nation changes with age.

CHILD LABOR. During the last quarter of a century, Congress has placed various kinds of legislation on the statute books designed to put an end to the use of child labor. Efforts have been made to tax the products of child labor or to prevent their shipment in interstate commerce but in most instances the Supreme Court has declared that such laws violate the Constitution. A resolution was therefore passed in 1924 providing for a Constitutional amendment under which child labor could be outlawed. Such an amendment of course must be ratified by three fourths of the states. That resolution was enacted in 1924 and for 13 years a drive has been carried on to secure ratification of the proposed child labor amendment. In that 13 year period, 25 states have ratified it. Eleven more ratifiers are needed before it can become effected. Twenty one states have at some time or another, considered the proposed amendment and rejected it. In this list you will find Conn., Del., Fla., Ga., Kan., La., Md., Mass., Miss., Mo., Neb., Nev., N.M., N.Y., N.C., S.C., S.D., Tenn., Vt., Tex., and Va. Note that the list of states which rejected the child labor ban includes states in the south, the east, the central west and the northwest. Thus does the "sweating" of children go on.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT. Presidential elections are held in November of every fourth year, the Congress goes into session on the 3rd day of the following January, and the President is inaugurated on the 20th. The latter two dates are set by the 21st amendment to the Constitution, better known as the "lameduck" amendment. Suppose however that a contest should arise as to which candidate should receive the electoral vote of a certain state. To settle such a contest, the state in which it arises would have to go thro a long procedure with proper notice before it could be settled. Testimony might have to be taken. Long hearings might be required. If the matter could not be determined in time, the election result could not be properly certified and the installation of a President might have to be postponed. With this possibility in mind, Chairman Summers of the House Judiciary Committee proposes an amendment to the Constitution providing that the date of national elections be moved up from November to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in October.

CIVIL SERVICE. An old poem (If the author remembers correctly) goes, "The noble King of France, He had ten thousand men, He marched them up the Hill, And then marched down again." That describes what the House did on January 27th, in connection with a Civil Service measure. Here in brief is what happened. The Ramspeck Bill was up for consideration, providing that the 14,000 first, second and third class postmasters in the country might if their records were satisfactory, be appointed without term and without a competitive examination at the end of their present terms. This means that once an appointment is made as a postmaster, it would continue until the appointee died, was discharged or retired. For practical purposes it would be a career job. The bill was considered in the Committee of the Whole House and under the rules, amendments can be offered but no roll call vote is taken on such amendments. Therefore, a member might vote for them without being recorded. He merely says aye or no when the question is put or votes by passing between two tellers. Thus it was that three amendments offered by Rep. Collins (D) of Miss. were adopted in the Committee. At the end of the debate which raged until well after six in the evening, Rep. Boileau of Wis. offered a substitute bill which provided that at the end of the term of the present postmasters, the office would virtually be declared vacant and an examination held in which the incumbent postmaster would participate. The one making the highest grade would be appointed postmaster and would thenceforth continue as such without term, thereby making it a career service from a fresh start. This was defeated without a record vote. The original bill with the Collins amendments was then reported back to the House for

final action. A motion was demanded on the Collins amendments in the House. At this point, difficulties arise. Roll calls can not be had when bills are considered in Committee of the Whole House, but in the House, there can be a roll call. Accordingly, when Rep. Ramspeck demanded a record vote, there ensued a wholesale switching of votes so that the Collins amendments were all defeated. Then came a motion to send the bill back to the committee with instructions to substitute a pure civil service bill as endorsed by the National Civil Service Reform League. This too was defeated by a record vote. Then came the vote on the original unamended Ramspeck Bill and it carried without a record vote. After six hours of spirited and testy debate, the legislators got back down to the bottom of the hill.

TID BITS. Since Washington D. C. is under the direct jurisdiction of the President, legal process in name comes from him. Hence, if you fail to pay your rent and the landlord starts suit for collection, you might receive a summons which begins, "The President of the United States to the defendant, Greeting:" It would scarcely be a cheery greeting from the President however.....Believe it or not but the Civil Service Commission has estimated that it costs \$1.40 per person to give an examination in the clerical grades, \$2.91 per person for unassembled professional or scientific exams, and \$1.26 per person for unassembled exams in the skilled trades. There are according to the Biological Survey, 13 million licensed hunters and fishers in the United States..... Ten Million dollars a day in crisp new bills moves from the Treasury Department to the Union railway station every day to be shipped to all parts of the country to replace worn out money and not once in the history of the Treasury have stick-up artists ever attempted to rob these shipments between Treasury and depot.....

FOOTNOTE TO COURAGE: Former President McKinley was once a Member of Congress. He was a distinguished member who was one of the greatest tariff students who ever sat in that body. After the Civil War, in which he served as a young man and during which he received a Commission as Major signed by President Lincoln, he returned to Ohio and became active in politics. He was elected and served for many years in Congress. Once he was elected by only 8 votes. On another occasion by only 5 votes. The latter contest went into a recount and he lost. It was this contest that really started him on his career toward the governorship of Ohio. While Governor, he signed a note for a friend as surety. The amount was \$15,000. The friend proved unscrupulous and used McKinley's name to obtain greater sums. The alleged friend went into liquidation and then it was revealed that McKinley as surety was obligated for \$90,000. To him and his invalid wife, it was a great blow. It represented far more than he was worth. He discussed it with friends and agreed that he would have to resign as Governor and go back to the practice of law in the hope of earning enough to pay this obligation which was not his. Friends came to his assistance. He turned over every dollar's worth of property to them and they made up the balance for which he gave them his personal note. This misfortune did not break his spirit or his courage. He went on and on, and was ultimately elected to the Presidency, only to be brought to an untimely end by an assassin's bullet. His life is a footnote to courage. Reason for this paragraph- McKinley was born 94 years ago on the 29th of January.