The Congression Front
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16th District

The Stream of National Life

Our national life is like an endless living stream. Men and women come and go. Whether in the field of business, industry, agriculture or public service, they add their contribution to human welfare and move on to the vast realm of dreamless sleep. Since the first Congress in 1789, probably more than 12,000 men and women have been a part of the lawmaking body of our country. Most of them are no more. In their own way, they contributed to public service and were carried to the far shore by this endless stream of our national existence. One hundred fifty one years after that first Congress, we mark the toll of the Reaper upon the membership of the 76th Congress and reverently call the roll for the last time: Senators Lewis of Illinois, Logan of Ky., Borah of Idaho; Resident Commissioner Iglesias of Puerto Rico; Representatives Lord of Ga., Owen of Ca., McReynolds of Tenn., Eaton of Calif., Faullan of South Carolina; Bolton of Ohio; Taylor of Tenn., Vargas of Idaho, Birovich of New York, Martin of Colo., Ashbrook of Ohio, Heincke of Neb., Pierce of New York, Curley of New York, Fardier of New York, Dowell of Iowa, Smith of Maine. Their whispered responses will be heard long after they have departed from the chamber of public service.

This Boast of Civilization.

Men are killing each other in the valleys of Europe, among the fjords of Norway, on the plains of China, and in other sectors of the earth. Millions of people are daily speculating on the present course of the war and whether the lamps of civilization will finally be extinguished and leave the world in one massive blackout. Senators, Congressmen, military and naval experts, makers of policy, business enterprises, fathers and mothers, young and old - all discussing war, and it’s probable effect on our own land. It is therefore interesting to re-examine the findings of the Harvard professor, who after an analysis of 902 wars and 1615 internal disturbances over a period of 2500 years concludes that the war index of the 20th century is 8 times greater than in all the preceding centuries: Spain has been at war 7% of the years of her history, England 56%, France 50%, Italy 36%, Russia 46%, Greece 58%, Germany 28%, and ancient Rome 40%. The U. S. has had a war on hand for about 14% of the time that has elapsed since the Declaration of Independence. History would seem to dictate that we become more belligerent with the advance of civilization. Does that make sense?

The President Stirs Up Aviation.

It is now 14 years since Congress enacted the first Air Commerce Act for the encouragement and regulation of aircraft in commerce and for the regulation and promotion of safety. Men with vision could see that air travel would grow only as fear of falling or of air disaster was dissipated. But the record was not too impressive. From 1927 to August of 1938 when the Bureau of Air Commerce in the Department of Commerce regulated civil aviation, there were 116 fatal accidents in domestic air carrier operation in which 401 persons lost their lives. In the field of foreign air carrier operations there were 14 fatal accidents costing 71 lives. In the field of private flying, there were 2359 accidents costing 3842 lives. When Senator Bronson Cutting of New Mexico lost his life in an airplane, Congress took cognizance of the matter and enacted the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 whereby an independent agency called the Civil Aeronautics Authority took over complete control of all aspects of civil aviation. This act also created an Air Safety Board to investigate accidents and make recommendations. The Air Safety Board, took office on August 22, 1938. In the last 13 months of its operation there has not been a single loss of life in domestic air carrier operation. Nor has there been a single loss of life in the last 8 months of foreign scheduled air operations. But comes now the President under authority vested in
him by the Reorganization Act, with a plan to put the Civil Aeronautics Authority back in the Department of Commerce and the complete abolition of the Air Safety Board. What do you think?

WHO WON?

One of the longest legislative battles in many years was the one which raged around the amendments to the Wage-Hour-Act last week. It was in progress for 7 days. It was heated, lively and sometimes very personal. At the end of the debate, the House voted to send the bill, back to the Committee from whence it came. Who won? Well, it's hard to tell. The original wage-hour-act was passed in 1938. As time went on, it became obvious that the law should be amended to remove some of the injustices which it created. Most everybody was agreed on that. At long last, the Wage-Hour-Administrator suggested certain amendments which were grouped together in a bill. The Administration was afraid however that if this bill were brought up for consideration without some limitation on how it was to be considered, it would open up the entire Wage-Hour-Act for amendment and that Members from different sections of the country would offer so many amendments as to weaken or destroy the act. What finally happened was this: Three bills were submitted to the House. The first was the Norton Bill embodying the administration amendments. The second was the Ramspeck Bill which went a little farther than the Norton Bill. The third was the Barden Bill which went much further in relieving agriculture from some of the provisions of the original act. The House first considered the Barden Bill and tacked on a score of amendments. It then defeated the Barden Bill. It then sidetracked the Ramspeck Bill. Finally, it considered the Norton Bill and added more than a score of amendments. Then it defeated the Norton Bill in its amended form. Then it voted on the original Norton Bill - the administration bill - without amendments. This bill was then sent back to the Committee. By so doing, it killed all prospects of wage-hour legislation at this session. All sides claim a victory. Best guess is that nobody won.

IX. PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES - Republican
Joseph William Martin Jr. of Mass.

If you ever sit in the gallery of the House of Representatives and watch the proceedings, you will note that from time to time, members journey to a seat behind one of the Committee tables and hold conversation with a dark-haired man of 56 who has a genial countenance and a hearty laugh. That happens to be "Joe" Martin, Republican Floor Leader in the House who has been prominently mentioned as a dark horse possibility for the Presidency. He is the living counterpart of one of Horatio Alger's heroes. Joe Martin's father was a blacksmith in the little town of North Attleboro, Mass., just outside of Boston. There Joe Martin grew up. There he still lives. He worked on a small newspaper. Later he became owner of that paper. He still owns and publishes it. He began in politics as a precinct committeeman. When Woodrow Wilson was elected President in 1912, Joe Martin was elected to the Massachusetts legislature. During the war, he served in the Mass. state Senate. He has filled many posts in the Republican party including that of National Committeeman from his state. He was a close friend of President Coolidge. In 1924, he was elected to Congress and is completing his 8th term. Everybody calls him Joe. He is shrewd, likeable, liberal, kind, sensible, sound. He's a "folksy" sort.