

THE LITERARY DIGEST

PUBLIC OPINION (New York) combined with THE LITERARY DIGEST

Published by Funk & Wagnalls Company (Isaac K. Funk, Pres., Adam W. Wagnalls, Vice-Pres., Robert J. Cuddihy, Treas., Robert Scott, Sec'y),
44-60 E. 23d St., New York

VOL. XL., No. 5

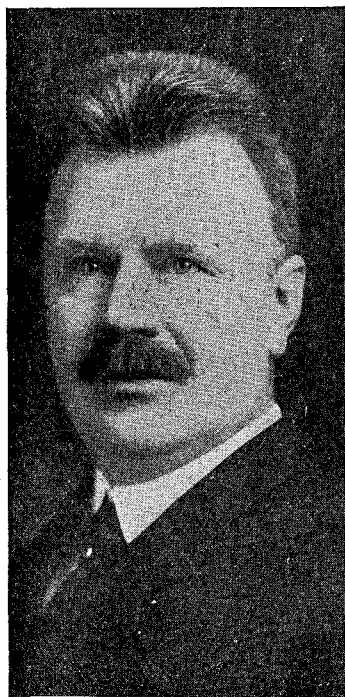
NEW YORK, JANUARY 29, 1910

WHOLE NUMBER, 1032

TOPICS OF THE DAY

CANNON VIEWED BY HIS OWN PARTY

JUST as Robespierre, after dealing out life and death with despotism, had his own convention turn upon him and hurry him to the fatal knife, so the Czar of the House of Representatives now sees his own party haling him to the fate to which he has sent the victims of his displeasure. One of his own trusted followers,



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HE HEARS THE PEOPLE'S CALL.

Representative Diekema says "the country demands a change" in the Speaker's chair and announces his willingness to take the gavel. He has been in Congress nearly three years.

will end the war and restore party harmony, it adds, is "the defeat of Speaker Cannon and the overthrow of Cannonism and Aldrichism in the National Congress." It is "a people's war," agrees the *Toledo Blade* (Rep.), and "its end is going to be simultaneous with that of Speaker Cannon." The handwriting on the wall is now "so legible for the eyes of a certain gentleman from Danville, Ill., as to be no longer obscure even to him," thinks the *Louisville Herald* (Rep.), and so agree the *Philadelphia North American* (Ind. Rep.), the *South Bend Tribune* (Rep.), the *Spokane Spokesman-Review* (Rep.), and many other papers. He "is discredited

Representative Diekema, say the Washington dispatches, is out as a candidate for the Speaker's place, saying that "the country generally demands a change," and that there is "in the minds of the people a resentment against the Speaker which can only result in his retirement."

The Speaker is recognized as being next in power to the President in matters of legislation, and it might be expected that the press of the party, as loyal organs, would rally to the support of so great a figure in the party councils. It must be recorded, however, that the opposite is the case. Where open condemnation is not heard, an ominous silence is the rule. The *Cleveland Leader* (Rep.) declares the insurgents against Cannon "are fighting the battles of the great American people—fighting for a people's Congress—for representative government," and the only thing that

in the eyes of the country," declares the *San Francisco Call* (Rep.); and the *Philadelphia Telegraph* (Rep.) avers that "Cannonism is a burden that a patient nation has been weighted with for too long a period." Says the *Hartford Courant* (Rep.):

"It seems safe to say that there are districts in this conservative State of Connecticut where the announcement that the Republican candidate for Congress was running on a pro-Cannon platform would result in his staying at home if a respectable Democrat was up against him.

"It is an old saying that Washington is the worst place in the country to get a true sense of public sentiment. They may still think down there that the old fellow is a tower of strength, but the cold fact is that the United States has had enough of him. He put up the absurd bluff of pretending to be a candidate for the Presidential nomination, but he didn't fool anybody unless it was himself; and we credit him with sufficient sense of humor, not to say sufficient straight intelligence, to have known the folly of the performance any way."

The *New York Press* (Rep.), after noting the disaffection of Ohio and Indiana members against the Speaker, concludes that his power is broken and urges the House to throw off his yoke at once. To quote its words:

"The rule of the House Boss, now broken as to the present Congress, is sure to be destroyed in the next. But if the Republican majority is safely to be preserved for the second half of Mr. Taft's Presidential term it will be necessary to strip Cannon finally of his usurped powers at once and to show plainly to the country that his practises are condemned by the whole body of House Republicans, no less than by those independents whose dogged resistance to his tyranny has brought about its overthrow. To permit the Speaker to resume his throne as of old at the present session would be to invite disaster upon the Republican party in the off-year election—a thing that would paralyze the hands of the President and defeat his wise policies, making Democratic prospects in 1912 brighter than they have been since 1892.



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THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE INSURGENTS.

Everis O. Hayes, of California, is the man who tells the President and the reporters what the rebels against the rule of Cannon are fighting for.

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Published weekly by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 44-60 East Twenty-third street, New York, and Salisbury Square, London, E. C.

Entered at the New York Post-office as Second-class Matter.

When Cannonism is so unbearable everywhere that members of Congress are driven to renounce it, there is no possibility that the Taft program in the present Congress can make any progress or gain any confidence under Cannon auspices. The President's appeal for progressive legislation must be made to the members of Congress on the merits of his measures, several of which have the



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HE THINKS THE TAFT BILLS ARE "CHILDISH."

Chairman Mondell, of the House Committee on Public Lands, will use his influence against the Administration's public-land measures.

tactical mistakes. His first was when he abandoned a tolerant policy and openly began using his control over committees and legislation to reward personal friends and to punish personal enemies. The reasons he gave for refusing to rename Mr. Foraker as head of the Currency Committee indicated bitterness and narrowness. Then he plunged into the folly, in his Kansas City speech, of saying that those who did not agree with him and support him were not Republicans, and were to be driven out of the party with bell, book, and candle. As in the heavenly house there are many mansions, so in the Republican House there are Republicans of many varieties, and no man may esteem himself a supreme court to adjudge infallibly who belongs and who does not. Mr. Cannon injured himself irreparably when he adopted this mad course."

Defense of the Speaker rests upon the plea that he was placed in the chair by the majority and that opposition to him is therefore rebellion against majority rule. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* (Ind. Rep.) puts it:

"In all matters of controversy within the Republican ranks Speaker Cannon represents the majority of that party. His views and his methods are perfectly understood, and in the party caucus he was nominated for Speaker, not in spite of those views, but because of them. And it is most wretched and contemptible in those who oppose the opinions and practises which Speaker Cannon represents to seek to cast personal odium on the official exponent of those views. What Speaker Cannon stands for is Republican doctrine as laid down in the party platform and interpreted by the majority of the party in Congress. Those who do not like it are quite at liberty to abuse the Republican party to their hearts' content, but it shows not only poverty of intellect but moral depravity to let opposition take the form of personal abuse of leaders."

While the above is the only explicit defense of the Speaker we have seen, the *Chicago Inter Ocean* (Rep.) has this to say in condemnation of his opponents:

"The conflict between the regular and insurgent Republicans is

hearty support of the Representatives who refused to let the Speaker club them into submission.

"Mr. Taft must now fully realize that he can accomplish nothing by trying to hold the Cannon machine together, and that the best hope for all lies in granting to the House of Representatives the right to conduct its own affairs free from the despotism which has disturbed and threatened the party."

The main accusation against the Speaker is that he has stood with the conservative forces against the reforms brought forward under the Roosevelt and Taft Administrations and has used his tremendous power to block their progress. Moreover, as the *New York Globe* (Ind. Rep.) remarks:

"'Uncle Joe,' either because of a decay of powers or because his long lease of authority has led him to forget some things, has committed great

one of principles and can not be reconciled by placation or patronage in Washington. It will have to be fought out before the people at the polls.

"The exact situation is that the President recognizes that instead of dealing with one party in Congress, he must deal with two—that there are two parties, each claiming to be Republican.

"One of these parties must go up and the other go down. They stand for antagonistic principles.

"The regular Republicans wish to go on with the Constitution as it is and the form of government we have had, dealing with evils as they arise by due process of law.

"The insurgents are set on a governmental reconstruction with a prying paternalism as its ideal.

"The regular Republicans desire government still to exist for the people. The notion of the insurgents is that we can never be happy until the people exist for government.

"Between such opposites there can be no peace. One will be the Republican party of the future. The other must be something else.

"It is for the people to see and say, and they will do it."

OPPOSITION TO THE TAFT MEASURES

"WHY, some of these bills are childish!" exclaimed the chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands a few days ago when telling the reporters why he refused to introduce the Administration's conservation measures. "I am against the principle of most of these bills," he went on, "and where I favor the principle, I am against the language and the methods the bills use to carry out their ideas." Chairman Mondell expresses in these words, according to some of the Washington correspondents, an opposition that pervades a considerable section of the House and Senate and that will bend every effort to delay the conservation bills until public interest in them has waned, when they will be quietly killed. Mr. Mondell finally consented to introduce four of the bills, but balked at the other five or six, drawing this fine distinction: "I have not refused to present the President's measures; I have simply declined to offer them—they are very radical propositions." His reluctance to father these bills is explained by the *Philadelphia North American* (Ind. Rep.) as due to the fact that "Mr. Mondell is a Cannon cuckoo," a phrase we fail to find in the dictionary.

The Taft bills provide for a classification of the public lands, for withdrawals of land by the President, for the safeguarding of water-power sites, for the advantageous leasing of oil, phosphate, natural gas, and asphaltum lands, for the sale of timber on isolated tracts, and for the leasing of coal-lands. This last measure is outlined as follows by the Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*:

"The bill relating to coal-lands will serve as a good illustration of the Taft policy in regard to public lands. That bill provides that all lands in the domain containing coal, lignite, or similar deposits not yet alienated and paid for shall be reserved and opened for occupation of no kind save as provided in the bill. A fee of



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"YOU'VE GOT TO CUT LOOSE, MR. PRESIDENT, IF YOU EVER EXPECT TO REACH THE TOP."—Kemble in *Harper's Weekly*.