

What error leads, must err

(Troilus and Cressida, Act V, Scene 2)

Alley in the Memphis Commercial Appeal



And it's planting time, too

From A. Walden Klaus, Vickburg, Miss.

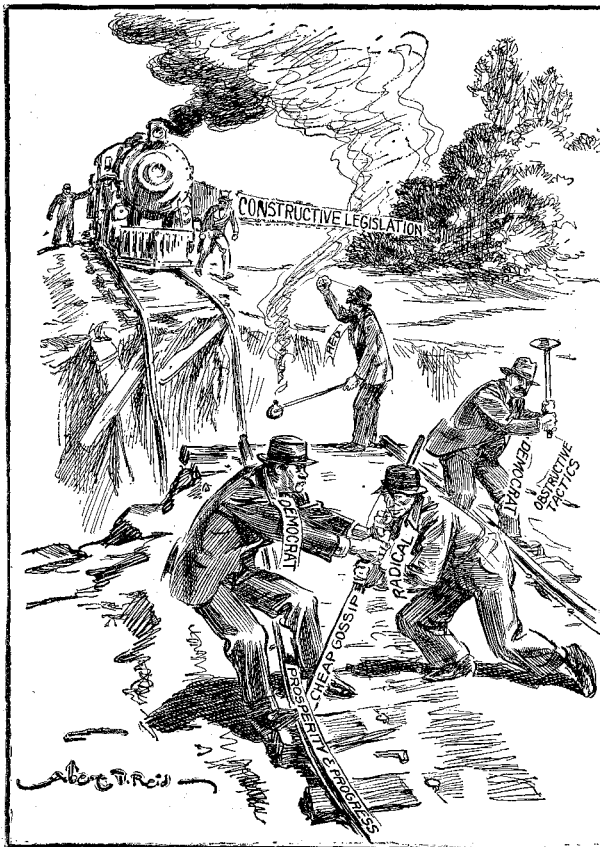
Sykes in the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger



Unprotected

From Mrs. J. H. Hamilton, Ardmore, Pa.

Reid in the National Republican



Halted!

Perry in the Portland (Oregon) Telegram



An opportunity he won't overlook

of the penalties of Government service that salary adjustments cannot ordinarily be made quickly. At least partial compensation is found, however, in the fact that the postal employee is not "laid off" in slack seasons. That the jobs are desirable even at present salaries is shown by the tremendous numbers of applicants on the waiting lists.

The Indicted Representative

CONGRESS during the present session has investigated supposedly criminal actions to a much greater extent than any other Congress ever did. It may be the irony of fate that, of the four indictments thus far returned against present and past Government officials, two are against members of Congress. One of the legislators under indictment—John W. Langley, Republican Representative from Kentucky—has had nothing actively to do with any of the investigations. The other—Burton K. Wheeler, Democratic Senator from Montana—is "prosecutor," the moving spirit in one of the most multifariously active of the investigating committees, that inquiring into the conduct of the Department of Justice by Harry M. Daugherty.

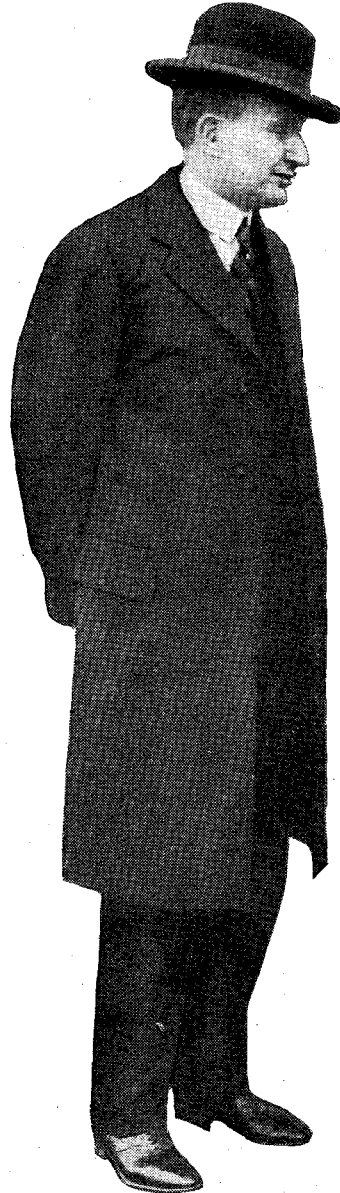
Langley, charged with aiding in illegally procuring large quantities of liquor, is doubly indicted, once in Washington and once in his home State and his home district. Wheeler, charged with accepting fees from oil and other interests after he was elected Senator, was indicted by a grand jury in his home State. Both men assert their innocence and Wheeler charges a "frame-up."

Langley's indictment, at least so far as the Washington case is concerned, grew out of the Veterans' Bureau investigation. He is not accused of participation directly in that mess, but the main witness against Forbes furnished also the information which led to Langley's indictment. There is no particular significance to Langley's indictment beyond what would ordinarily attach to a criminal charge against any member of Congress. He is not a figure of very considerable importance in National affairs. The establishment of his guilt or of his innocence will probably produce no far-reaching effect.

The Indicted Senator

WHEELER'S situation is entirely different. He is one of the most volcanic of the explosive Westerners. New to the Senate, he carried himself

quickly to a commanding position. He has made innovations in Senate judicial procedure. If we operated under the British system, he would have been in a fair way to bring about changes in the Constitution. Against Daugherty, a man already in an indefensible position, he



P. and A. Photos

Senator Burton K. Wheeler, who conducted the investigation resulting in the ousting of Daugherty and who has himself now been indicted

conducted a sensational investigation. As many people see it, he inexcusably "played politics." He did not destroy Daugherty, because Daugherty had destroyed himself, but he employed destructive tactics. His methods did not win favor with thinking people.

Now Wheeler says that Daugherty procured the indictment against him. W. J. Burns, Daugherty's chief of investigations, has admitted that he and the former Attorney-General discussed Wheeler's probable involvement, that

such discussions were had both before and after Daugherty's resignation, and that agents were detailed to investigate Wheeler. The Judge in whose court the indictment was returned is a very new appointee, and it is charged, though not in any way definitely proved, that he was Daugherty's selection.

All of those things may mean little or nothing. The speed with which the indictment was found, however, will be looked upon by many as significant. Even those who have no sympathy with Wheeler's methods—and we should guess that these constitute a large majority of the American people—will be disposed to wonder why the justice mill has ground so quickly in Wheeler's case and so slowly, for instance, in Fall's.

The facts of these matters cannot now be known. The one certain thing is that all of them are parts of a disgusting mess.

The House and the Election of the President

NOW that attention is being directed to the possibility of the next President being elected by the House of Representatives—in the event, that is, of no candidate securing a majority in the Electoral College—it is curious to note that originally such an occurrence was expected to be far from unusual.

In No. 66 of the "Federalist" Alexander Hamilton mentions this prerogative of the House as one of the "important counterpoises" provided by the Convention of 1787 to the authority given to the Senate in trying impeachments. The House, he points out, "will be the umpire in all elections of the President which do not unite the suffrages of a majority of the whole number of Electors, a case which it cannot be doubted will sometimes, if not frequently, happen." "The constant possibility of the thing," argues Hamilton, "must be a fruitful source of influence to that body. The more it is contemplated, the more important will appear this ultimate though contingent power, of deciding the competitions of the most illustrious citizens of the Union, for the first office in it. It would not perhaps be rash to predict, that as a mean of influence it will be found to outweigh all the peculiar attributes of the Senate."

"Not rash to predict," indeed! Of the many forecasts of the working of the Constitution that have so far been disap-