

HOWELL CRIES 'GOLDBRICK' AT NEW APPOINTMENT PLAN FOR G.O.P.

Says Scheme to Give States
Delegates to Convention on
Congressional Representa-
tion Basis Is Huge Fraud.
Shows How Good Republican
States Would Have Fewer
Men at Meeting Than Some
That Are Democratic.

At 2 o'clock, after a long and
lucid discussion of the question
of reducing Southern representa-
tion, the national committee
adopted a motion to recommit
the entire matter, with instruc-
tions to the subcommittee to
work out a new plan of apportion-
ment, and present it at this
evening's session.

By J. C. WELLIVER.

Just at the time when the Republi-
can national committee was appar-
ently on the point of adopting today,
a plan of reapportioning representa-
tion, that would leave the un-Republi-
can South only a little less potent
than in the past, a bomb was ex-
ploded.

R. Beecher Howell, committeeman
from Nebraska, did it.
Mr. Howell told the committee, in
language that at times was more
forceful than parliamentary, that it
was handing the party and the country
a gold-brick and a fraud. Further,
he warned that the country was
inspecting its bricks closely
nowadays, and would not accept this
one.

Will Cry Favoritism.
"The country," he thundered, "will
say, if you adopt this plan, that you
refused to call a national convention,
which would have given relief, in order
that you might not give the relief."
Mr. Howell's ire was roused because
the committee seemed to be almost
certain to adopt a plan which was ap-
proved by all the Southern members,
and which would reduce Southern repre-
sentation only to an unimportant meas-
ure, while also reducing the representa-
tion of a number of Northern States that
are almost always Republican.
The present system of representa-
tion in Republican States gives each
State two delegates for each Senator,
and two for each Congressional dis-
trict. No matter whether the Senators
and Congressmen are all Democrats or
all Republicans, no matter whether the
State ever cast an electoral vote for a
Republican candidate for President,
it gets representation on the same basis
as a State that never failed to go Re-
publican.

Is Basic Injustice.
This is the basic injustice of the old-
time Republican organization, the one
for whose correction, it was supposed,
the national committee had been called
together.

Instead, Mr. Howell charged, the com-
mittee was perpetrating a plan that
would give no relief at all.
The national committee yesterday
turned over to a subcommittee the task
of preparing the new apportionment
plan. This subcommittee consisted of
Messrs. Warren of Michigan, Borah of
Idaho, Sanders of Tennessee, Smoot of
Utah, Esterbrook of New Hampshire,
Hadley of Missouri, Remmel of Arkan-
sas, Howell of Nebraska, and Barnes
of New York.

The plan which the committee re-
ported back this noon provides that,
first, primary election of delegates shall
be permitted, without appeal or con-
test; this part was promptly adopted.
These came opportunity. The com-
mittee's plan gives each State:
Four delegates at large, representing
the Senators.
An additional delegate at large for
every Congressman at large.
A delegate for every Congressional
district.

An additional delegate for each Con-
gressional district in which the Republi-
can vote of 1908 or the Congressional
vote of 1914 shall be found to equal
25 per cent of the total vote cast in
the district.

Must Be Ratified.
Two delegates each to Hawaii,
Puerto Rico, Alaska, and the Philip-
pines.
This plan, it was provided, must be
ratified, before taking effect, by State
organizations representing a majority
of the potential voters in the electoral
college.

It was explained that the plan
would reduce twenty-three or
seventy-four districts from two to
one delegate each. Of these, sixty-
two are in the South and eight in the
North.
When it looked as if the skirts were
growing and the plan about to slip
through, Mr. Howell rose. He is
about six feet three inches tall,
broad shouldered, and commanding,
though extremely courteous.
He started reading a minority report, in
a voice that was resonant with feel-
ing and earnestness.
"To adopt this majority report," he
declared, "would be subversive of the
whole purpose for which we have
(Continued on Sixth Page.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE TODAY VOTED TO ABOLISH HALF-AND-HALF PRINCIPLE

Panama Official Under Probe on Charge of Graft

YEARLY AWARDS \$6,000,000

Contracts on which John
Burke, as manager of the com-
missary department of the Pan-
ama railroad, is alleged to have
exact rebates to enrich him-
self amount to \$6,000,000 an-
nually.

Railroad is practically owned
by Federal Government, the
controlling stock being held in
the name of the Secretary of
War.

Officials scout idea that
Burke can be punished if it is
found he took rebates.

Burke said to be, in a sense,
not a Government employe.

Garrison Wants to Know If John Burke Issued Rebates on Contracts for Canal Rail- road Commissary.

Secret service agents investigating
the charges that John Burke, man-
ager of the commissary department
of the Panama Railroad, profited by
alleged rebates on \$6,000,000 worth
of contracts awarded annually, contin-
ued their probe today under the di-
rection of the Secretary of War.

Question Before McReynolds.
Whether Burke, as the employe of a
corporation, the controlling stock of
which is owned by the Federal Govern-
ment and held in the name of the Sec-
retary of War, is actually subject to
punishment, or even discipline, in event
the charges against him are true, is a
question which Attorney General Mc-
Reynolds will decide Thursday.

Investigation of the alleged question-
able methods pursued by Burke in
awarding contracts to those who made
him the donee of liberal presents, most
of which the charges say were in cash,
has been going on for weeks. Officials
of both the War Department and the
Isthmian Canal so stated today.

On Leave of Absence.
Burke is on leave of absence and is
now at Indianapolis, Ind. If the ruling
is accepted that he is not an employe
of the Government, then no action will
be taken against the official.

Secretary Garrison admitted that At-
torney General McReynolds had been
called upon to decide the status of the
commissary employe.
"Burke is not a Government
employe, and what, if any, punishment
can be meted to him if he is guilty,"
declared Secretary Garrison, "will have
to be determined by the Department
of Justice. I do not know how much is
involved in the affair, but reports say
that the sum may be large. The matter
has not progressed sufficiently at this
time to be discussed freely."

Garrison Charges Bribery.
"The alleged questionable transac-
tions which agents of both the War De-
partment and the Canal Commission
are investigating, involve the old story
of the purchasing agent buying sup-
plies from the contractors who are
most liberal in their donations to him.
It is a form of bribery within the law
and I do not know whether Burke, if
guilty, is a case of such a nature."

"Asked whether the investigation of
Burke's transactions as rumored had
anything to do with the alleged fric-
tion between Col. George W. Goethals,
chairman of the Canal Commission, and
Robert McCall, former editor of The
Commonwealth who was recently appoint-
ed a member of the committee, the Sec-
retary said:
(Continued on Sixth Page.)

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.
Met at 10.
Heated debate when Senator Kern
lectured on the proposed bill for delay-
ing currency bill.
Widow of Colonel Galliard granted one
month's leave of absence.
Senator Bristow says currency bill will
be voted on Saturday night.
HOUSE.
Met at noon.
District Committee reported bill to
abolish half-and-half principle.
Secretary Bryan appeared before For-
eign Affairs Committee.
Numerous committees considered appro-
priation bills.

FIGHT AGAINST NEW TARIFF IS BLAMED FOR DULL BUSINESS.

Cabinet Officers Probing Re-
ports That Great Industries
Have Needlessly Forced Em-
ployees to Remain Idle.

Administration Admits Esti-
mates of Revenues Were
Too Low, But Is Fighting to
Prevent Deficit.

Whether there is actual justifica-
tion for the present halt in business
conditions will be ascertained by the
Wilson Administration.

President Wilson and his advisers
are admittedly alarmed because of
the increasing reports of factories
and railroads in various sections
adding to the ranks of the unem-
ployed.

Utter Designs Feared.
While they say that they believe that
the stoppage of work is temporary be-
cause of the necessity of business re-
adjusting itself to changed conditions
under the new tariff, it developed today
that the President also has been told
that there may be another reason.

This is that certain industries which
were most affected by the new tariff
have deliberately curtailed production
to meet the new conditions. Officials
of the Administration are inclined to believe
that they think reduction of shop forces
right now will aid their campaign for
increased rates.

Redfield Begins Inquiry.
Secretary of Commerce Redfield has
already started an inquiry into the sub-
ject. It will be broadened to include all
industries about which complaint has
been made.

It is admitted that the exact nature
of the complaint is not known. The
Department of Labor is to aid, and
the result will be available soon after
the first of the year.

Hope in Currency Bill.
President Wilson has told members of
his Cabinet that he believes that when
the currency reform bill is a law, busi-
ness will improve. But he also believes
that the uncertainty regarding the trust
question may be operating against in-
creased business. Consequently, he has
urged the Judiciary Committee of the
House to get all its data for proposed
legislation ready as quickly as possible.

The President will outline his plans to
Congress immediately after the currency
bill is cleared up, and he thinks that
once the definite policy is known, busi-
ness men will be able to complete their
plans in the open.

It is admitted that the original esti-
mate of the revenue to be produced by
the tariff bill has been too high. The
income tax feature will not produce as
much as was expected. But an
attempt will be made by the Democratic
leaders to enforce economy in all the
Government departments so that there
will be no deficit. Figures on the tariff
bill, however, will not be available until
early in February.

Pajama-Clad Men Ousted by Flames

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 17.—One was in-
jured, several were overcome by smoke,
and thirty pajama-clad young men fled
through smoke-filled halls today when
the bachelor apartments at 500 Todd
street, Wilkesburg, were damaged in a
blaze that started in the kitchen.

At 11 p. m., twenty of Long Island, was
burned on the face and back, and re-
moved to a hospital.
Investigation disclosed that the apart-
ments had been broken into and
oilied waste strewn about and fired.

Roosevelt, Jr. and Wife Make Short Visit

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and Mrs.
Roosevelt, who arrived in Washington
last night, left this morning for White
Sulphur Springs, Va. Although a num-
ber of the close friends of the Roosevelt
family knew of their presence here, the
son of the former President and his wife
kept close to their hotel and resumed
their trip to the Virginia resort this
morning.

Dance Tonight, Arcade Auditorium.
Special Feature—On the Ocean, Dancing
Taught. Phone, Col. 3795. Not public.—
Advt.

HUSBAND GETS DECREE



MRS. NELLIE BAKER KELEHER.

POPE IS SHAKEN BY DEATH OF CARDINAL

Physicians Summoned After
Pontiff Is Told News About
Rampolla.

ROME, Dec. 17.—The condition of the
aged Pope Pius X today slightly alarm-
ed Dr. Marchisava and Dr. Amici, who
were summoned to the Vatican immedi-
ately after the death of Cardinal Mar-
ciallo Rampolla was announced to his
holiness.

Cardinal Rampolla died suddenly, the
result of an illness that attacked him
following a religious ceremony. He was
formerly papal secretary of state and
was considered a likely candidate for
the pontificate on the death of Pope
Leo. He was a Sicilian, born in 1842,
and was of noble family. His tempo-
rary title was Marchisava Del Tindaro.

The effect of the death on the Pope,
coupled with the recent death of Car-
dinal Gregorio, was greatly feared by
the Vatican physicians. Both cardinals
were close friends of the Pontiff, and
Cardinal Rampolla was hoped that he
would succeed him, and he had been
elected to succeed Pope Leo but for
the Austrian veto which turned the
sacred college to Pius.

The Pope was not told of Cardinal
Rampolla's death until his usual astra-
dropped to his knees where he stood.
"It's God's will," he said, and prayed.
He then retired to the private chapel to
celebrate mass for the dead cardinal.
Meanwhile, Vatican attendants sum-
moned Drs. Marchisava and Amici, and
after the mass Pope Pius retired to his
private apartments.
The death of Cardinal Rampolla re-
duces the sacred college to fifty-six, and
it was said today that a consistory prob-
ably will be arranged for January to
fill the ranks.

Pet Dachshund of Mrs. Bryan Missing

Mrs. William Jennings Bryan today
asked the police to find her pet dach-
shund. The dog strayed away shortly
before noon from the residence of the
Secretary of State. Mrs. Bryan had serv-
ants search the neighborhood for the
dog, and, finding no trace of it, she had
the police notified. The dog is wearing
license tag No. 7278.

Public Utility Ownership Up for Debate in House

The proposition for Government own-
ership of public utilities was brought
squarely before the House today when
it began consideration of the Houston
bill authorizing a \$5,000,000 bond issue
for construction of a government-owned
and operated railroad in Alaska.
The measure provides that after com-
pletion the road may be leased to pri-
vate interests for periods of ten years.

ADOPTS AND ORDERS A REPORT TO HOUSE ON CRISP MEASURE

This Repeals That Part of the Organic Act of 1878
Which Provides That the Federal Government
Should Pay One-Half of the Expenses Incident
to Upkeep of the National Capital, and Makes
No Provision for Any Substitute Form.

By THEODORE TILLER.

The House Committee on the District of Columbia
today voted to report a bill abolishing the half-and-half
principle governing the fiscal relations of the Government
of the United States and that of the District.

This, perhaps, is the most drastic action taken by any
committee of Congress, as it affects the District, within
a generation.

The committee adopted and ordered a report to the
House on the Crisp bill. This measure repeals that part of
the organic act of 1878 which provides that the Federal
Government shall pay one-half of the expenses incident
to the upkeep of the District.

The bill as it now stands makes no provision for any
substitute form of government, and leaves yet to be deter-
mined the great question of how the District of Columbia
alone is to raise annually by taxation the more than
\$11,000,000 needed for its maintenance.

Only three of the members of the committee present
voted against the repeal of the half-and-half plan. These
were Congressmen Winslow of Massachusetts, Wallin of
New York, and Keister of Pennsylvania. They made an
ineffectual attempt to obtain a postponement of such vital
action, but the majority of the committee determined to re-
port the bill at once.

It is generally understood that this hurried action,
taken at a special meeting of the committee held behind
closed doors, was for the purpose of inserting the Crisp
bill, if such be possible, as a rider upon the District of Co-
lumbia appropriation bill now pending in the House.

APPROPRIATING CLAUSE DROPPED.

The Crisp bill provides:
"That section 3 of the act of June 11, 1878, entitled 'An Act
Providing a Permanent Form of Government for the District
of Columbia,' be, and the same is hereby amended by striking out
the following words in said section: 'Congress shall appropriate
the amount of 50 per cent thereof, and the remaining 50 per cent
of such approved estimates,' so that the section when amended
shall read as follows:

"To the extent to which Congress shall approve of
such estimates shall be levied and assessed upon taxable prop-
erty and privileges in said District of Columbia other than the
property of the United States and of the District of Columbia."

"That all laws or parts of laws which authorize one-half of
the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia to be
paid out of the Treasury of the United States are hereby ex-
pressly repealed."

Following the meeting of the committee, Chairman
Johnson said that an amendment had been added to the
Crisp bill which provides that hereafter in submitting their
annual estimates the District Commissioners shall not ask
to appropriate more than the revenues in hand. In other
words, if the District revenues amount to only \$10,000,-
000, the District government must get along on that
amount, regardless of its needs, as the Crisp bill proposes
(Continued on page six.)

Give Early

"Give Early," is the slogan of the Associated
Charities. There are fourteen families waiting
anxiously for Christmas which is worth while. Seven-
teen adults and sixty-one children are waiting to hear
whether their homes can be kept intact.
Do not hesitate, but send your contributions at
once to the Associated Charities, 923 H street N. W.