

The lines are already pretty well formed. The biggest organization supporting the bill is the American Legion; the biggest thing opposing it is organized labor. Secretary of the Navy Wilbur and Secretary of War Davis are, as is usual, on opposite sides. Wilbur is quoted as opposing the bill on the ground that it is probably unconstitutional, and Davis as supporting it as a measure of justice and of safety.

Interest since Congress reconvened has centered largely about this and other new bills, notably the several export corporation measures that are being licked into shape. The committee rooms, where all these novelties are in the shaping, have, except for the votes on *clôture* and the World Court in the Senate, taken the spotlight away from the floors.

Many incidents have occurred that are exhilarating to some, alarming to others. One incident there was depressing to all. Representative Langley, of Kentucky, sent his resignation to Speaker Longworth to be presented to the House. The Supreme Court of the United States had refused to review his conviction on the charge of conspiracy to violate the Prohibition Law, and there remained for him little hope of escaping the Federal penitentiary. He may yet be able to secure a rehearing before the Circuit Court of Appeals, but, even if he should, he might be required to begin serving his sentence before the rehearing is had.

Cleaning Up

WE are delighted to note Police Commissioner George V. McLaughlin's apparent desire to rid "the Finest" of its "Worst."

An editorial in *The Outlook* of January 20 told of the tragic outcome of the demoralized state of the New York City police—the shooting within the walls of a police station-house of an innocent citizen by a drink-crazed policeman. The offending policeman is only one of many of the sworn officers of the law in New York who themselves persistently disobey the law. *The Outlook* called upon Commissioner McLaughlin to act. Subsequent newspaper accounts reveal his earnest personal effort to correct the deplorable situation which he inherited from his predecessor.

The manner in which the new Commissioner summarily dismissed from the force another patrolman who was found

under the influence of liquor has sent a jolt through the rest of the department which will be remembered.

"The police force is not a reformatory," said the Commissioner. "You are fit or unfit to be members of the force. I am going to do away with a condition that causes 6,000 police trials each year. . . . If you men who are charged with intoxication come here and in your own defense say that your condition was due to the fact that you took medicine, you are wasting your time. You cannot convince me of that stuff."

Commissioner McLaughlin talks as if he meant business, and we believe that he does. That another police officer in a drunken rage is reported in the press of January 25 as cruelly beating a sixteen-year-old boy for no reason at all is only another indication of the conditions existing in the police force of which Commissioner McLaughlin has taken charge. To "clean up the force" is going to be a hard task, but he is going about it with a determination which should win. We commend him and wish him success.

The House of Loquacity

THE filibuster in the Senate on the World Court, with the inevitable delay in Senate consideration of the Tax Bill, is probably doing more toward making possible a reform of Senate rules than the characteristic vehemence of Vice-President Dawes has done or can do. Public ire aroused by the filibuster would have lacked its present effectiveness, however, but for the Dawes crusade. The combined force of the two—a circumstance more fortunate than Mr. Dawes could have expected at the outset—may make it possible for the Underwood revision to go through at this session or, at least, to be brought so prominently before the Senate and the country that success at a subsequent session will be possible. Indications are that the Senate Rules Committee will report proposals for amendments before this session ends.

It is understood in Washington that the Vice-President believes the reform which he demands would be accomplished by adoption of the Underwood *clôture*. Senator Underwood, it will be remembered, has through a number of years favored revision of the rules in such

way as to hold debate within reasonable limits, but his present proposal of a revised *clôture* rule was made almost immediately following the so-called "outbreak" of Vice-President Dawes on the day of his inauguration.

The Underwood *clôture* is quite simple and, apparently, would be effective. It is, practically, the old motion for the previous question, familiar to every schoolboys' debating society. It contemplates that any Senator may at any time move consideration of the previous question, which motion must be seconded by a majority of Senators present. Debate is by that action limited to one hour for each Senator, and when the last Senator who wishes to avail himself of the hour's time has finished speaking the vote must be taken on the main question. Thus the Underwood *clôture* rule would end debate, at the outside limit, in ninety-six hours.

Wrong in Details, Right in Principle

THE effectiveness of the Dawes crusade is yet to be determined. That he has made mistakes in his hot pressing of it is hardly to be denied. Perhaps his recent radio talk was a mistake if for no other reason than that nobody, himself not excepted, can be sure of exactly what he said.

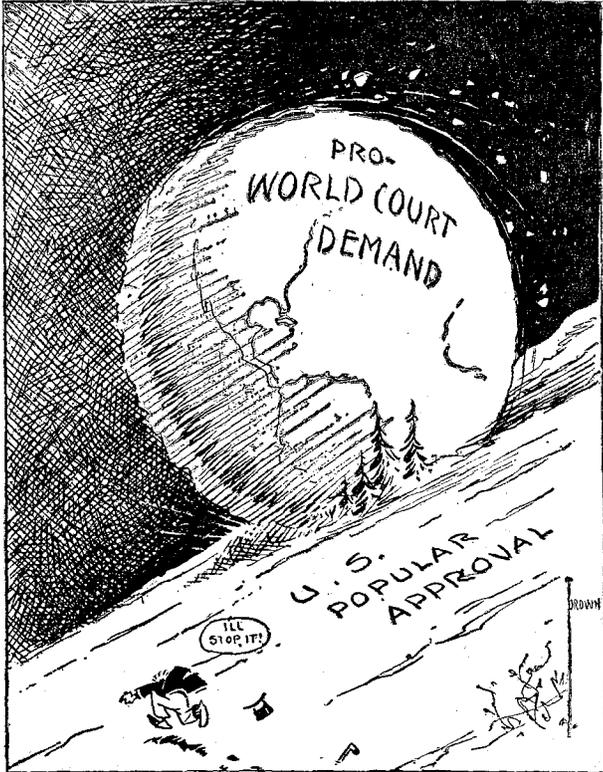
The alumni of Massachusetts Institute of Technology were banqueting in sixty-seven cities, all of them hooked together by radio. The Vice-President was not at one of these banquet boards, but was giving a dinner in his home in Washington in honor of President and Mrs. Coolidge. At the end of the dinner he drove hurriedly to the station of WRC and spoke extemporaneously into the microphone. It was supposed that he would make an after-dinner speech of somewhat regulation pattern. There was no intimation that he meant to press forward in his rules fight. Not a single newspaper reporter was "covering" him. The Washington newspapers got their first intimation of what he had done from excited calls on the telephone. Nobody saw him as he talked except the studio staff of WRC and General James G. Harbord, who introduced him. The record of that speech is written in air and in the memories of his hearers.

There was something in it about a

This does make some obstruction

(Twelfth Night, Act II, Scene 5)

Brown in the New York Herald Tribune



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Some one started something

From R. V. Carr, Bridgeport, Conn.

Harding in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle



Cut the hawser!

From Andrew W. Pera, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Byck in the New York Commercial



'E forgot the bloomin' window

From D. S. Imrie, New York, N. Y.

Cassel in the New York Evening World



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The entombed consumer!

From Andrew W. Pera, Brooklyn, N. Y.