PROGRESSIVES MEET AS FIGHTING FORCE

House Members in Open Caucus Organize for Recognition as a Separate Party.

MURDOCK FOR SPEAKER

Lindbergh Joins, Though Elected as Republican — Members Not to be Bound to Party—Roosevelt Mute.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—It was demonstrated that the Progressive members of Congress, under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt, were determined to be a separate party in the House of Representatives, when they held their first conference at the Capitol to-day and perfected a working organization. Instead of having a caucus, they threw open the doors to the public, and designated the meeting as a conference. They permitted a small army of newspaper men to be present, and invited all followers of the Progressive cause to attend. Nearly 500 persons were present, including many women.

The Progressive Party was represented by fourteen members of Congress. Four others who have not yet arrived in Washington intimated their intention to be designated as of that party, making a strength of eighteen for the new faction at the opening of the Sixty-third Congress.

The number of Progressives supporting the conference was in reality nineteen, for Representative C. A. Lindbergh of Minnesota attended and made a speech in which he said that he would co-operate with the Progressive party in the House, although he was elected as a Republican. Mr. Lindbergh asserted that he could not hereafter attend the caucuses of the Republican party, and signified his willingness to attend the Bull Moose conferences with the understanding that he might act as a free agent. He said he was willing to support all those ideas of the Progressive party in which he believed, but wanted to be free to vote against any proposal in which he did not believe. By vote of the conference he was allowed to be affiliated on that understanding.

The members of the Progressive party in the new House, as so far disclosed, are:

H. W. TEMPLE, Washington, Penn.
W. J. HULINGS, Oil City, Penn.
M. C. KELLY, Pittsburgh.
A. H. WALTERS, Johnstown, Penn.
F. E. LEWIS, Allentown, Penn.
A. R. RUPLEY, Carlisle, Penn.
C. M. THOMSON, Chicago.
IRA C. COPLEY, Chicago.
A. W. LAFFERTY, Portland, Ore.
J. I. NOLAN, San Francisco.
C. W. BELL, Pasadena, Cal.
W. D. STEPHENS, Los Angeles.
VICTOR MURDOCK, Wichita, Kan.
J. W. BRYAN, Bremerton, Wash.
J. A. FALCONER, Seattle, Wash.
WALTER M. CHANDLER, New York City.
WILLIAM HINEBAUGH, Ottawa, Ill.
R. O. WOODRUFF, Bay City, Mich.

Representative Temple of Pennsylvania presided over the conference, which nominated Victor Murdock of Kansas as the third party candidate for Speaker and appointed committees to map out a legislative policy. Committees were also appointed to demand from the Democratic leaders the recognition of the third party's organization in the House, the assignment of Progressives to all the important committees, to draft the legislative programme, and to insist that the Progressives be housed in separate rooms in the House office building, instead of being relegated to the dilapidated Maltby Building annex.

In his speech of acceptance, Representative Murdock sounded the keynote of the new organization. As outlined by him the Progressive Party in the House will work for these proposals:

The initiative and referendum.
Direct primaries everywhere.
Equal suffrage, so that women may vote.
Readjustment of the relations between the people, Legislature, and courts.
A direct accountability of public officials through the medium of the recall.
Recognition of the rights of labor.
Protection of child labor.
The adoption of a minimum wage scale for women.
Open sessions for all caucuses and committee meetings in Congress and a record vote in committees.
The creation of a Federal industrial commission.
The enactment of a tariff drafted on data gathered by a non-political, scientific commission, with its taxes and benefits falling equally, the tariff law to be drafted in public sessions of the Ways and Means Committee, not secretly, and adopted by an open caucus instead of being forced upon a secret caucus through threats of granting or withholding of patronage.
Legislation to prevent any man or set of men from controlling the financial credit of the country.
Legislation generally to carry out the pledges of the Progressive Party platform adopted at Chicago last Summer.

According to Mr. Murdock, both the Democratic and Republican parties were outworn institutions, and the Democratic leaders were half-heartedly taking up their tasks to battle with the powers preying upon the public. Mr. Murdock asserted that Democratic leaders owed their first duty to State's rights. He thought special privilege could not be driven out by State's rights and that the Democratic party would thus fail to cope with National evils, which could only be reached by Federal laws and agencies.

Speeches in accord with the sentiments voiced by Mr. Murdock were made by Representatives-elect Chandler of New York, Rupley, and Lewis of Pennsylvania, Bell and Stephens of California, and Bryan of Washington.

The expected "keynote message" from Col. Roosevelt failed to materialize.

The caucus adopted a resolution affirming that its action was not binding upon the members attending, but that each member was free to support Progressive measures appearing in the House form any source.

All the Progressive members will meet next Tuesday with Dean Lewis of Pennsylvania University, Jane Addams, Gifford Pinchot, Walter Weyl, and other members of the Legislative Committee to consider the party's programme.

DROPPED LOOT GIVES ALARM

Thieves After 400 Pairs of Trousers Scared Off by Noise.

Burglars broke into the office of Pincus Diamond, a tailor of 102 Attorney Street, about 7 o'clock last night and attempted to carry off 400 pairs of trousers which were tied up, ready to be carried away to-day. Next door Julius Throop, a tailor, was at work on the top floor, and he heard a crash as if the house were caving in. He ran to the Clinton Street Station and the Lieutenant on duty sent Detectives Snydecker and Flynn to see what the matter was.

When the police arrived on the roof of 100 Attorney Street they found three bundles of trousers, weighing 250 pounds each, which the burglars had dropped from the roof next door and fled because of the noise they made.

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