LAWMAKERS ADMIT THEY'RE GREAT MEN

They Tell the Stories of Their Lives in the New Congress Directory.

NOT BORN TO BLUSH UNSEEN

Vardaman, Murray, Lafferty, and Others Coyly Confess Their Own Achievements.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The Congressional Directory for the present extra session of the Sixty-third Congress will be issued to-morrow. Its political classification of the Congress shows that in the Senate there are 51 Democrats, 44 Republicans, and 1 Progressive—Poindexter of Washington. The 435 members of the House are divided into 290 Democrats, 127 Republicans, 7 Progressive Republicans, 9 Progressives, and one Independent—Kent of California—and there is one vacancy.

The most interesting feature is the section devoted to the geographical sketches of Senators and Representatives. These sketches really are autobiographies, for they are submitted by the Congressmen themselves, and most of them appear as written, the editor having made very few changes.

William H. Murray of Oklahoma indicates his pride in his pseudonym, "Alfalfa Bill," by inserting it in brackets after his name. It seems that Mr. Murray "ran away from his father at 12 years of age; has since punched cattle, chopped cordwood, worked in brickyards, been a farm laborer, reported for and edited newspapers, taught school, practised law and is now an extensive planter and farmer." His wife is the niece of Gov. D. H. Johnston of the Chickasaw Nation. In Oklahoma Mr. Murray is called "the Father of the Constitution," according to his own biographical statement.

Reveals His Full Name.

Walter Lafferty of Portland, Ore., who puts himself down as a Progressive Republican with a big "P" in "Progressive," takes the country into his confidence. He reveals his full name as Abraham Walter Lafferty, adding "but has always been called Walter and signs his name simply A. W. Lafferty." Mr. Lafferty tells of many relatives, including his great-grandparents.

"His brother Rolla served in the Provisional Volunteers in the Philippines, enlisting when he was 17, and coming out with the rank of Corporal," the sketch runs. He was admitted to the bar "five days before he was 21." Almost a page is given Mr. Lafferty.

Senator William Howard Thompson, Democrat, "is the youngest Senator ever elected from Kansas, and will be one of the youngest men in the Senate; he is a disciple of the new school of politics, and is classed as a Progressive Democrat." It is set forth that Mr. Thompson filled "various positions of honor and trust with the strictest honesty and fidelity." Also he "was considered one of the ablest and most popular Judges in Kansas and has been slated for a Federal Judgeship," and "his political success is without parallel in the history of the State."

The reader is informed that "It is acknowledged by all who know him that as a Senator he will not only bring credit and honor to himself, but to the State and Nation as well."

George John Kindel of Colorado, Representative, relates that after being defeated for Congress in 1910 as a Prohibition candidate, he ran in 1912 as a Progressive Democrat and went between 3,000 and 5,000 votes ahead of the National and State tickets, "which proves conclusively that the people of Colorado are wideawake to the needs of fair and equitable transportation."

The sketch of a veteran Congressman from Minnesota occupies less than one line. It reads:

"Charles A. Lindbergh, Republican, of Little Falls."

Representative Jeremiah Donovan of Connecticut puts his autobiography into two lines. Most of the sketches are very brief.

Vardaman Restrains Himself.

Senator James K. Vardaman of Mississippi gives himself about two-thirds of a page, in which he tells that he was "one of the first men in the South to take up the cause of W. J. Bryan, and has been an ardent, earnest supporter of the distinguished Nebraskan from that time to the present." Mr. Vardaman's war experience was brief, but interesting:

"Volunteered as a private for the Spanish-American war in 1898 and was elected Captain of a company organized at Water Valley, his old home, but on account of bitter antagonism to the then Governor, A. J. McLaurin, whose official conduct Mr. Vardaman had criticised in his newspaper, Gov. McLaurin refused to commission him. The company became so incensed at this treatment that it threatened to withdraw from the regiment, but in a speech to the company he urged them to do their duy, remain true to the flag, and elect one of their members Captain to go to the front. He then withdrew, and a few days thereafter was offered the senior Captaincy of the Fifth United States Volunteers."

Mr. Vardaman went to Santiago de Cuba with that regiment and remained there until May, 1909. He became a major. There are references to how Mr. Vardaman ultimately overcame his political enemies.

Representative Lathrop Brown of St. James, Long Island, N. Y., appears in the face of the record to be the youngest member of the House. He was 30 years old on Feb. 26 last. Luke Lea of Tennessee is the youngest Senator. He was 34 on April 12. Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas will be 38 next month.

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