

CUMMINS REOPENS FIGHT ON CANNON

Aldrich, Hale, Payne, Dalzell, and
Hull Also Named as Foes of
Progressive Laws.

SUPPORTS RIVAL OF HULL

Iowa Republicans at Dollar Dinner Dis-
cuss Plans to Make a Progressive
Governor of the State.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 1.—Senator Albert B. Cummins, in a speech to-night at a "dollar dinner," given by the so-called Progressive Republicans of Iowa, declared that the fight for progressive principles is not at an end. He said that he did not attempt to obscure or to minimize the extent of their defeat in the recent special session of Congress, but that if any one harbored the delusion that the passage of the recent tariff law ended the fight for fair and reasonable protective duties, it would be wise for him at once to reform his conclusion.

He criticized the course of Congressman J. A. T. Hull of the Seventh Iowa District, and pledged his support to Judge S. F. Prouty, who recently announced his candidacy for the office at the next election.

Many Republicans from all parts of the State were present and at a conference during the day the advisability of bringing out a Progressive candidate for Governor was discussed.

"With respect to the tariff," Senator Cummins said, "the standpatters feel that it makes little if any difference how high the duties are if they be high enough to exclude importations. When they approach the subject, their first, and I have sometimes thought, their only concern is for the producer. They are so much afraid of hurting him that they close their ears to every voice save his, and assume that, knowing what he wants, he will not ask for more than he deserves. The echoes of the platform of 1908, which contains the pledges of the Republican Party, have become so faint in their councils that they are drowned in the cries of impoverished manufacturers.

"On the other hand the Progressives remember that we promised the American people that the duties on imported competitive commodities should be measured by the difference between the cost of production in this and rival lands, and that we made the promise in order to give protection to the producer from unequal competition and protection to the consumer from avaricious exortion. The Progressives, after years of struggle, brought the convention to a full acknowledgment of the justice of their position.

"With respect to further regulations of interstate commerce, the standpatter occupies just the same position that he has always occupied. It is sufficient to say that the agitation for the strengthening of the law regulating common carriers became acute about 1889. It finally resulted in the amendment of 1906. It was a long, weary campaign. The standpatters were either silent or in opposition.

"Joseph G. Cannon was then, as now, the most conspicuous member of the National House. In all these years I never heard of a single utterance from him that could by any possibility be construed into friendliness toward the cause that was struggling on through all these difficulties.

"Aldrich was then, as now, one of the leaders of the Senate of the United States, and if any standpatter can discover a solitary expression upon his part that helped the movement to its final fruition, I would be glad to have it pointed out. Hale, Payne, Dalzell were then, as now, prominent in the Congress of the United States, but I challenge the memory of anyone who hears me to recall one single sympathetic word in the interest of the people in their struggle with the railways.

"Captain J. A. T. Hull was then, as now, the chairman of one of the principal committees of the House, and a man of wide influence throughout the country, and yet I never saw him lift an ounce to raise from our shoulders the burden we were then carrying. The fight was made here and everywhere by the Progressives.

"I have referred to these things in order to call to your attention the fact that the standpatters are not helping to solve the problem. They content themselves with the constant reiteration of the fear that if we touch any of these things we may overturn the fabric of commerce and may destroy the prosperity for which all lovers of the humankind are seeking.

"When it is proposed to further regulate railway rates, they shudder lest we may hurt the railways. The progressives shudder lest they may not be able to help those who are suffering the injustice of rate systems that are admittedly indefensible.

"I am quite ready to admit that progressives sometimes try to do things that are unwise, but without them nothing would be done, wise or unwise. If the standpatter can justify his existence by the consciousness that he sometimes prevents the accomplishment of an unjust thing by standing pat against every onward movement, he may demonstrate his right to rule the affairs of a great country."