

effects of the Congressional system, interesting as they are. Congress becomes under it, as Mr. Wilson says, a "disintegrate mass of jarring elements"(e). It is not surprising to read that constructive statesmen are not forthcoming for there are no great prizes of leadership to be gained, such as exist under the British system, to stimulate men of strong talents to great and conspicuous public service(f). There can be no carrying out of any definite policy of majority or minority(g). Constituencies can watch and understand a few banded leaders who display plain purposes and act upon them with promptness; but they cannot watch or understand forty odd standing committees, each of which goes its own way in doing what it can without any special regard to the pledges of either of the parties from which its membership is drawn(h). The average citizen may well be excused for esteeming government at best as a haphazard affairs upon which his vote and influence can have little effect (i). The practical result of the piecing of authority, the cutting of it up into small bits, which characterises the American constitutional system is, we are told, that it is impossible to fix responsibility anywhere. It is not surprising to read in Mr. Bryce's American Commonwealth that "not uncommonly there is presented the sight of an exasperated American public going about like a roaring lion, seeking whom it may devour, and finding no one"(j).

But notwithstanding the length this article has already reached, we cannot pass over without some special mention such a potentate as the Speaker of the House of Representatives appears to have become. The only clause in the Constitution relating to him is this: "The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers"(k). Mr. Woodrow Wilson de-

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(e) Congressional Government, p. 210.

(f) Ibid., pp. 190, 203, 206, 214.

(g) Ibid., p. 99.

(h) Ibid., p. 186.

(i) Ibid., p. 331.

(j) Vol. 2, p. 320, (2 Vol. ed.).

(k) Art. 1, s. 2, clause 5.