

EDITORIAL

CONGRESSMAN CARY'S RESOLUTION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the events at the recent Special session of Congress was the bill introduced by Representative William Joseph Cary of Wisconsin "proposing an amendment to the Constitution for the election of Representatives for a four-year instead of a two-year term."

We know not whether Mr. Cary's action was prompted by the wrangle that was going on over the constitution of Arizona, or whether the gentleman's action was spontaneous. However that may be, Mr. Cary "saw a light."

The opposition to the Arizona constitution can be summed up in these words: "On the principle advanced by Senator Root that it is not wise to allow the people of the United States to contract the habit of amending the Constitution, neither is it wise to allow the people to amend the Legislatures, Judiciaries, and Executives. Each new election of these is in the nature of an amendment. Therefore, the terms of office should be lengthened, and 'recalls' should be frowned down as intensifications of amendments."

Mr. Cary's proposed amendment is in line with the general opposition that the Arizona constitution is encountering. If you have a good thing you can't have too much of it. An unrecallable Representative to Congress for two years is a good thing for the powers that be. It is a better thing to have him in for four years. So far Mr. Cary's proposition is entirely in line with the Spirit of his Age. In one sense, however, the proposition, though far from being in opposition to the Age aforementioned, strikes a path of its own—a uniquely dignified path.

The storm center about Arizona is the "recall" of the Judges. The language of the dissidents is all about the "sanctity of the Judiciary." This sort of language places the legislator in an inferior category. So far the legislators have given no sign of resenting the affront. The first to step forward to uphold the dignity of his clan is

Representative Cary. His resolution does not quite “meet the bill.” All the same, it is “a step in the right direction.” The lengthening of the Representative’s term of office tends to equalize his “sanctity” with that of the Judge’s. The chasm between the two is narrowed. Its bridging becomes easier. In the fullness of time the two sets may yet be peers in “sanctity”—unrecallable—for life.

Mr. Cary’s resolution now rests in the bosom of the Committee on Election of President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress. The treatment the Committee will ultimately bestow upon the resolution will tell the tale of whether the committeemen are up to the mark of Mr. Cary, or below.

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