

THE MEMBER WHO DOESN'T MINCE WORDS

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

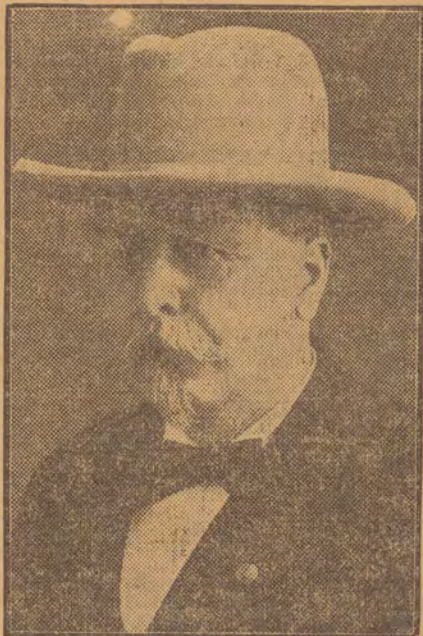
Lansing, April 13.—In the heat of the insurgent movement against Speaker Colin P. Campbell no member has been more loyal to the presiding officer than the Holland, Mich., veteran, Representative D. B. K. Van Raalte. Whenever a verbal attack has been made upon the speaker from the floor it was invariably Representative Van Raalte who was first on his feet to begin the defense. With his ringing voice and fine command of English Van Raalte is no mean opponent in scathing debate and the representatives who can better him in sarcasm and ironical oratory may be counted upon the fingers of a single hand.

This is Mr. Van Raalte's third term in the house, though a period of more than thirty years separated his second and third terms. He is a real veteran in legislative affairs. Representative Van Raalte served in the house in 1875 and 1877 and was chairman of the ways and means committee that reported out appropriations for the finishing touches upon the then just completed capitol building.

When he returned to the house this session one of the first acts of his fellow members was a complimentary call upon him for an address from the chair. As a third term Mr. Van Raalte had first choice of seats and chose his place in the back row opposite the door leading to the cloakrooms. From this point of vantage his grand voice comes roaring over the heads of the representatives and soars up into the galleries and clear back behind closed doors of committee rooms.

No matter what the issue the representative from Holland throws his whole heart and voice into a speech and because he is absolutely fearless never hesitates to say what he thinks. A duel between Van Raalte and Representative Cramton or Representative Straight is indeed worth hearing. None of these three is inclined to mince words. When any one of them speaks the whole house sits up and listens.

As a warm personal friend of the speaker Representative Van Raalte never fails to support or defend the presiding officer. When Representative Straight fired the opening gun of what has since developed into a systematic filibuster, addressing a scathing speech of criticism to the chair, the first one to recover from the surprise was Van Raalte. He it was who led in the defense of the speaker. From that day



Representative D. B. K. Van Raalte.

Van Raalte is always found with the presiding officer. He occupies Mr. Campbell's old seat and takes just as active part in legislative affairs as did the speaker during last session.

He speaks oftener perhaps than any other representatives with the exception of Representatives Flowers, G. A. Miller and Colby, but unlike some others of the free tongue clan his talks are never tiresome or dry. Van Raalte has the habit of saying something when he speaks.

He is another of the close students of legislative affairs, who follows every bill, no matter how unimportant, and has picked many a flaw in legislation that was flowing unchecked over the sleepy heads of his fellow members. With all his activity Mr. Van Raalte is one of the veterans of the house in age as well as service. He has a most distinguished record for valor in the Civil war. He has been department commander of the G. A. R. and until his retirement last fall had been years a member of the board of managers of the Soldiers' Home. At home he is a banker and lumberman. Tinkham.