

Rep. Tinkham Decides to Quit After 28 Years in Congress

House Will Lose Its Single Beard, Big-Game Hunter

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George Holden Tinkham, picturesque veteran Republican Representative from Massachusetts, will retire from the House at the end of the current term, he announced last night.

Big-game hunter, possessor of the only beard in Congress, prewar twister of the British lion's tail, Tinkham said in a statement last night that the Congressional re-districting in the Bay State had left him with a changed constituency to a large part of which he is "a comparative stranger." Hence, after 14 terms in the House he is stepping out at the age of 71.

Work Is Strenuous

His statement also said:

"I have served in the House of Representatives for 28 years with a deep sense of the obligations which service in Congress imposes. I have served with all the vigor at my command and in accordance with the dictates of my own conscience and my own judgment. It has been a strenuous life, in which I have been sustained by the handsome pluralities by which my district has returned me to Congress in each succeeding biennial election. I have been richly rewarded. I am profoundly grateful.

"Men in public life are usually loath to leave it, but taking into account my age and the fact that with our country in a world war of unparalleled magnitude and prospectively of long duration, the labors of Congress are redoubled and the sessions of Congress are continuous, I am ready to stand aside and to have placed upon younger shoulders the burdens which I have carried for more than a quarter of a century."

Has Famous Apartment

Whether he will leave Washington, thereby giving up his apartment in the old Arlington Hotel which he refused to leave when it was transformed into a Government office, the Representative did not disclose. The apartment, with its profusion of stuffed birds, snakes, rhinoceros heads and other hunt trophies, has long been one of the spectacles of Washington, though the number privileged to see it was not large.

Tinkham was born in Boston October 29, 1870. He graduated from Harvard in 1894, practiced law, and entered politics in 1897, when he was elected to the common council. He was a member of the Boston board of aldermen in 1900-1902, and represented his district in the Massachusetts State Senate in 1910-1912.

He was elected to Congress in 1915, and has served continuously since. In the present Congress he is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and ranking minority member of the Committee on Election of President, Vice President and Representatives.



REP. TINKHAM