

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

Democratic Party Leaders Are Divided On Appropriation Question

Washington.—The general problem of Democratic appropriations was taken up in a conference of Democratic advocates of economy. The action of the house naval affairs committee, when the Democrats, after an all-day conference, failed to reach an agreement to cut down the \$146,000,000 to be carried by the naval appropriation bill, was the principal subject of discussion by the 40 members of the house who are determined upon economy.

The party leaders are greatly disturbed by the split in the house on the question of appropriations. The appropriation bills, according to Representative Fitzgerald, of New York, chairman of the appropriations committee, will place the country's expenditures at a point higher than has yet been reached, and economy advocates declare that the appropriations of this congress will be at least \$100,000,000 over the billion mark.

The Democrats who are opposed to the two battleship programme declare that unless the amount carried by the naval bill is materially reduced they will prosecute a filibuster which will prevent the passage of the bill at this session.

Would Bar Strike by Seizing Roads.
The threatened tieup of 54 eastern railroads by the proposed strike of firemen was the basis of a resolution for government ownership of these railroad properties, introduced when the house assembled by Representative Berger.

Berger's resolution proposed that in case of a strike and tie up of the railway system for more than a week, the president of the United States should be empowered to seize the railways with all their terminals, belt lines, lands, coal mines, workshops and other properties on the ground of public emergency, and his right of eminent domain and to manage and operate them through the post office department until congress should create a department of railways.

Filibuster Sounds Knell of Bills.
Unless "economy Democrats," led by Representative Roddenberry, quit filibustering against what they characterize as extravagant appropriation bills, it appeared almost certain that no more bills would be passed in the house at this session.

The filibusters are now preparing to prevent action on the \$180,000,000 pension bill now pending in the house.

The naval bill, which provides for two new battleships and carries an appropriation of \$149,000,000, was allowed to stand but the public buildings bill was cut until it now carries only about \$25,000,000.

President Vetoes Immigration Bill.
President Taft vetoed the Burnett-Dillingham immigration bill, stating in a special message to the senate that his reasons for doing so were based upon protests from various foreign governments.

In his message President Taft sustained the objections to the literacy test, saying in part:

"I do this reluctantly. The bill contains many valuable amendments to the immigration laws, insuring greater certainty of the excluding of undesirable immigrants. But I cannot make up my mind to sign a bill whose chief provisions violate a principle which ought, in my opinion, to be upheld."

Joe Cannon Dined.
The heads of the nation, the cabinet and officials, high and low, met to toast and wine and dine "Uncle Joe" Cannon, and wish him "Godspeed back to Danville, Ill." "Uncle Joe," his cigar tilted back along the well-remembered angle, sat back, at times overwhelmed with emotion as he felt the touch of human friendship among the tributes paid him by friends and foes alike.

Set speeches to the "best fighting man in public life" were made by President Taft, Speaker Clark, Secretary Nagel, Postmaster General Hitchcock, Attorney General Wickereham, Senators Root, Williams and Penrose, Representatives McKinley and McCall, Senator-elect James, and a host of others.

National Capital Brevities.

Census enumerations in the cities and towns of the United States will hereafter be taken largely by letter-carriers, if congress gives its sanction to a plan proposed by Census Director Durand, in his annual report, just made public.

Carrying a total appropriation of \$94,585,628, the army appropriation bill was reported to the senate from the committee on military affairs, which increased the allowance made by the house by \$680,450.

An aggregate of \$19,800,086 is expended annually by the government to maintain the public health service of the various departments, according to a statement forwarded to the senate by the secretary of the treasury.

GENERAL CASTRO



General Castro, former Dictator of Venezuela, who won his fight to land in the United States.

Brief News of the week

By a vote of two to one the voters of the city and county of Denver decided for commission form of government.

Members of the New York stock exchange are considerably exercised over Governor Sulzer's latest message to the legislature, recommending that the exchange be incorporated.

Direct election of saloonkeepers by popular vote is proposed in an amendment to a bill for regulation of the issuance of liquor licenses, offered in the South Dakota legislature.

A government suit alleging that the Chicago & Northwestern railway company is guilty of working its telegraphers more than nine hours a day was filed at Chicago. Penalties aggregating \$30,500 are asked.

A bill providing for a minimum wage for women was passed by the Kansas house of representatives. It fixes \$6 a week for a nine-hour day as the minimum wage of all women workers, except domestic servants.

Every member of the West Virginia legislature except those against whom indictments have been returned, together with many other well-known persons, have been summoned to appear before the special grand jury in the Kanawha county intermediate court.

A man who buys merchandise on the installment plan and fails to keep up his payments can recover all the money paid on it if the installment house takes the goods away from him, according to a decision handed down by Justice Louis W. Marcus, of the supreme court of New York.

"Guilty as charged in three counts of the indictment," was the verdict rendered in Cincinnati by the jury trying the case of John H. Patterson and the 25 other officials or former officials of the National Cash Register company, who were charged by the government with violating the criminal section of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Saturday, the anniversary of the birth of George Washington, will be observed as usual as a public holiday throughout the country. In the capital the leading feature of the observance will be the annual reading of Washington's farewell address in the senate. Senator Brandegee of Connecticut has been designated to read the address.

People in the News

Tuesday was inauguration day in France, when M. Raymond Poincaré was formally installed as president.

President Taft, in recognition of his services in behalf of universal peace, is to receive a gold medal at a testimonial reception and dinner to be held in New York city Friday evening.

General Stewart L. Woodford, veteran publicist and former United States minister to Spain, died at his home in New York. The general was 78 years old.

Jane Addams was the guest of honor at a dinner given by the Progressive club in Chicago on the eve of her departure for a trip through Asia Minor and Egypt.

King George has sent a letter to Mrs. Scott, widow of the explorer, in which he says he knew Captain Scott intimately and that he mourns the loss of a friend.

Robert ("Teddy") Webb, the automobile bandit, accused of slaying Detective Hart at Chicago recently, was captured after a revolver battle with policemen.

Incensed at the destruction of their mail by suffragettes pouring acid into the mail boxes, a mob attacked Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst and other prominent suffrage leaders at London. The women were badly bruised.

MEXICAN SITUATION ALARMS WASHINGTON

President Calls Special Cabinet Meeting to Consider Plans

Washington.—After a prolonged cabinet session Secretary of State Knox was directed by President Taft to reply to the request of Francisco I. Madero of Mexico for a definite statement of the policy of the United States toward Mexico.

Upon leaving the White House Secretary Knox reiterated that intervention was not now contemplated nor would there be any change in the naval or military plans relating to Mexico.

The report from Mexico City that the armistice had been declared off and that hostilities had been resumed caused intense interest among the cabinet officers.

Despite the alarming information that has continued to come into Washington for the last few days, not a member of the president's cabinet favored intervention when summoned to the meeting.

The strictest censorship on all dispatches has been established in Mexico City.

Government officials took charge of the cable offices and discarded messages of correspondents to their papers.

The president was plainly disturbed to learn that communication between Mexico and the United States was precarious and that an apparently strict censorship had been instituted by Mexican authorities. His fear has been that such a condition might arise and that Americans in Mexico City might find themselves facing a situation like that which existed in Peking at the time of the Boxer rebellion.

ARMISTICE IS SOON BROKEN

Heavy Firing Soon Announces Return of Troops to Post

Mexico City.—Hostilities were resumed with renewed fierceness after a truce which lasted only a few hours.

The armistice signed at 2 o'clock Sunday morning by the representatives of both sides, agreeing to suspend operations for 24 hours, was broken before noon. Soon sounds of heavy cannonading and the whirr of machine guns announced the return of the federal troops to their posts in front of the arsenal. It appeared as if the words of Madero and Diaz might prove prophetic and that this time the battle should be to a finish.

President Madero reiterated his refusal to comply with the suggestion of the senators that he resign. He declared that he still was able to dominate the situation and that, if given time, he would crush the rebel forces.

General Diaz had not shown himself to be greatly in favor of the armistice. He consented to it out of respect for the efforts of the American ambassador and the ministers of the powers to bring about a cessation of hostilities until foreigners and other non-combatants within the zone of the fighting could be removed to a position of comparative safety.

There is little actual suffering from lack of food or shelter within the city, but there is a vast amount of discomfort and great danger to those who remain.

Castro Freed by U. S. Court.

New York.—Cipriano Castro is free to come and go in this country at will. Judge Ward, in the federal district court, sustained the writ of habeas corpus in his behalf, overruling the immigration authorities.

Washington Asked to Abandon Fight On Corporation

Salem, Or.—If diplomacy means anything, the Washington legislature certainly should immediately abandon its attempt to shut the Northwestern Electric company out of Oregon, insofar as the selling of electric energy from Washington to Oregon points is concerned.

One of the most diplomatic resolutions ever introduced in the Oregon legislature, and one which is aimed to show the Washington legislature that Oregon is a friendly neighbor, was that which was adopted by the house.

It was introduced by Olson, of Multnomah, and cites the friendly relations existing between the two states. It ended by suggesting that if there are any grave differences worthy of the effort of great states, that a conference committee be named by both states.

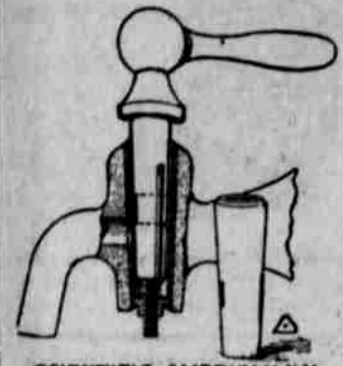
States Hold Conference.

Sacramento.—Horticulturists of Idaho and California conferred in the capitol over the advisability of modifying the existing quarantine prohibiting the importation of alfalfa, bees or honey from Idaho into California, because of the alleged prevalence of the alfalfa weevil in several counties of the former state.

IMPROVED PLUG COCK.

Provided With Removable Sleeve to Facilitate Repairs.

A plug cock or faucet is much more desirable than a compression cock or screw faucet because it is cheaper to produce and is quick acting, for a quarter turn or less of the lever of the plug cock will wholly shut off the flow or open it to full flow, whereas with a compression cock several turns are necessary. However, the objection to a plug cock is that it is not durable and is apt to leak. Furthermore, the repair of a plug cock is rather expensive. Trouble usually manifests itself in wear of the edges of the ports.



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, N.Y.

PLUG COCK WITH REMOVABLE SLEEVE and the only way of repairing the damage is to replace the worn off plug with a new one.

In order to reduce this item of expense and provide a ready means of repairing a worn off plug cock an inventor has recently designed a cock having a removable sleeve on the plug. When the ports through this sleeve become badly worn it is a simple matter to remove the plug from the cock and replace the worn sleeve with a new one. The details of the invention are shown in the accompanying cut. A key on the body of the plug fits a keyway in the sleeve and insures proper register of the ports in the sleeve with those in the plug. The plug is held in place on the cock by means of a nut bearing against a split ring washer, not shown in the engraving.

The Color of Water.
Some interesting experiments were made at Liege for the purpose of ascertaining the true color of water. The water was first boiled four hours over potash manganate and permanganate and then distilled twice in platinum vessels and the product received in a silver vessel protected from contact with the air. This water when evaporated left no stain.

In order to obtain the requisite depth of water for the light to pass through and make any color it would give visible, there were used glass tubes of sixteen feet in length and rather more than one and one-half inches in width. The tubes were closed at both ends by glass flats and furnished with a pipe through which the water could be introduced. When pure water was placed in these tubes and white light sent through it the color was of a blue "of which it is difficult to represent the purity." It is said that the finest blue on a fine day in a mountain region, above the grosser emanations of the soil, can alone be compared with it. No change occurred when the water was kept in the tubes for several weeks. The addition of a little lime-water, which appeared quite limpid, entirely stopped the passage of the light, just as if ink had been put in.

Care of an Electric Fan.

Most people have no use for an electric fan in the winter. It should be stowed away properly, however, so that it will be kept in good condition and be ready for service next season. Here's the best way to do it: After you have unscrewed the connecting plug at the end of the flexible wire which has been used to supply current to the fan from the lighting socket place the fan on a table and wipe it off thoroughly with a dry cloth or dry cotton waste. Go over the whole fan carefully and get the dust off all the exposed parts, even the blades. Now unscrew the tops of the oil cups, which are at each end of the armature shaft, and fill them with good lubricating oil. Replace the caps and wind the flexible connecting wire around the base of the fan and inclose the whole in a paper bag.

The Automatic Range.

The latest development in electric cookery is the automatic range, which possesses many unique features. It will get breakfast while you sleep, prepare luncheon while you are shopping and cook dinner while you are at the matinee.

The vital parts are a clock and a thermometer. After the food has been prepared and placed in its receptacles in the range the clock automatically turns on the heat at the appointed time, and the thermometer automatically turns it off when the boiling, baking or roasting temperature has been reached. The stored heat completes the cooking process.

A Queer African Plant.

In South Africa there is found a plant of the genus mesembryanthemum growing on stony ground which so closely resembles a pebble that it is invariably taken by the stranger to be a stone. Another species of the same plant growing on the hills round the Karoo produces two leaves about as large as ducks' eggs, having a surface resembling weathered stone of brownish gray color, tinged with green. These plants look like stones, but for a short time they put forth bright yellow flowers. Still another species of the same plant resembles the quartz pebbles among which it grows.

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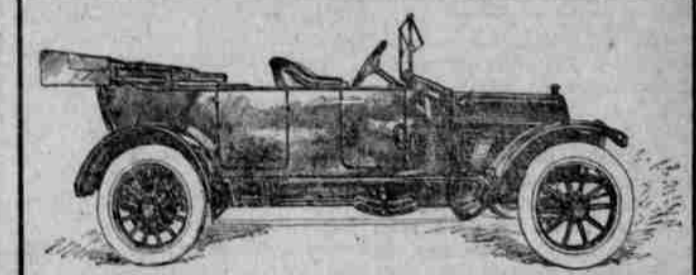
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