

DOINGS OF CONGRESS

ROUTINE WORK OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION.

Substance of the Bills and Resolutions Introduced in the Senate and House—Make-up of the Various Committees—Senate.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The president's message on the Venezuelan question occupied the attention of the senate during the brief session.

Many memorials concerning the Cuban rebellion and the Turkish question were presented. Call offered a resolution to investigate alleged election irregularities in Florida.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Though less than a dozen senators were present when the session opened today, the Venezuela issue at once came into prominence but not as directly as in the house, the senate's business taking the form of measures for national defense.

Chandler immediately followed with a bill "to strengthen the military armament," the reading of the title occasioning much whispered comment. It was referred to the committee on military affairs.

In presenting a bill for the repeal of the law imposing disabilities on those who served in the war of the rebellion, Hill spoke briefly. The main purpose, he said, was to wipe out the feature of the statute which prevented ex-Confederates from serving in the United States navy and army.

Washington, Dec. 21.—When the senate journal had been read and approved the clerk of the house announced the passage by the house of a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the expenses of the commission to investigate the boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela, recommended by the president.

The vice-president immediately laid it before the senate. Objection was made to the second reading or reference of the bill until tomorrow. Morgan said there was a resolution relating to this general subject before the committee of foreign relations and he intended to call a meeting of the committee tomorrow to consider not only this bill, but also the resolution. As the matter now stands no action can be taken on the bill until tomorrow.

House. Washington, Dec. 19.—The house devoted itself today to discussing the proposition to have two election committees instead of one, the Venezuelan message meanwhile lying unopened.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Mr. Hitt reported in the house this morning as soon as it had been called to order, and called for unanimous consent, for the consideration of a bill to empower the president to appoint a commission to consider the Venezuelan boundary question, and an appropriation of \$100,000 for the expense thereof. The text of the bill follows:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, that the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the expenses of a commission to be appointed by the president to investigate and report upon the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana."

The bill passed the house. Washington, Dec. 24.—The house today responded to the president's message by pigeonholing the resolution for a holiday recess, and preparing to go to work to provide some means for the relief of the treasury. The speaker announced the committees. The chairman of the more important ones are: Foreign Affairs—Hitt of Illinois, Republican.

Rules—Speaker Reed, Republican. Appropriations—Cannon of Illinois, Republican. Banking and Currency—Walker of Massachusetts, Republican.

Coin, Weights and Measures—C. W. Stone of Pennsylvania, Republican. Rivers and Harbors—Hooker of New York, Republican. Railways and Canals—Chickering of New York, Republican.

Immigration and Naturalization—Bartoldt of Missouri, Republican. Indian Affairs—Sherman of New York, Republican. Pacific Railroads—Powers of Vermont, Republican. Naval Affairs—Boutelle of Maine, Republican. Interstate and Foreign Commerce—Hepburn of Iowa, Republican. Judiciary—Henderson of Iowa, Republican. Public Lands—Lacey of Iowa, Republican.

SUGAR BOUNTY LAWFUL.

Its Constitutionality Sustained by Judge Pardee, of Louisiana.

New Orleans, Dec. 20.—Two sugar-bounty cases were decided today by Judge Pardee, in the United States circuit court. They were tests of the constitutionality of the sugar-bounty act and were filed by the Realty Company and Andrew H. Gay. Judge Pardee's opinion was forcible against the position assumed by Controller Bowler. The decision is against the United States. He holds the sugar-bounty act is constitutional. In addition to that, congress had power to appropriate money for any purpose it saw fit. In his opinion, no court or office had the power to nullify such an appropriation. Congress is the exclusive judge of the purposes to which money shall be appropriated, and after congress passes such an appropriation no court or office has power to revise its action.

The case will be immediately taken to the supreme court of the United States. It is understood the judges have agreed to give the sugar-planters' case an immediate hearing, and it is probable that final judgment will be reached in the next two months.

GREAT STREET CAR STRIKE.

About 5,000 Men Involved—Public Sentiment Said to Be With Strikers.

Philadelphia, Dec. 19.—The great strike of motormen and conductors of the Union Traction line began early this morning. The sentiment of the public is clearly with the strikers. The company employs about 5,000 men. Two-thirds of them are members of the employees' association. The demand of the men is for a working day of ten hours with \$3 a day, a reasonable time for meals, protection from the weather and recognition of their organization.

At 12 o'clock the street railway traffic all over the city, with the exception of a few lines, is at a standstill. The entire police force is busy suppressing the minor outbreaks of violence and men are looked up at every station. Despite the efforts of the strike leaders to reserve order, there has been much violence, although none of a serious nature. At Cumberland and Amber streets about 100 women plugged the switches. The conductors tried to reopen the switches but were driven away by the women. Scores of men have been arrested for cutting the trolley wire.

Education in Alaska. San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The United States commissioner of education has issued a report on education in Alaska, from which it appears that during the past year there have been maintained sixteen day schools with twenty-four teachers. There have been also maintained seven contract schools with forty-nine teachers and employes. The commissioner recommends the appropriation of \$50,000 for the ensuing year for education in Alaska. One of the oddest recommendations of the report is that the government increase its appropriation for the introduction of domestic reindeer as a food supply for the people. Nearly 400 were introduced last year.

Proposed Hawaiian Cable. New York, Dec. 19.—The government of Hawaii has granted to Colonel Spaulding, a well known planter of the Hawaiian islands, a concession for a cable to the United States, with a subsidy of \$40,000 a year. Colonel Spaulding's idea is to apply to the government of the United States for a sufficient subsidy to warrant the laying of the cable and for its maintenance. The object is to secure to the United States the advantage of a cable communication from the Hawaiian islands, in the hope that the cable at some future time may be extended to Australia and China, with which countries we have large and growing commercial relations.

Sudden Death of Charles H. Shattuck. San Francisco, Dec. 19.—News has reached this city of the sudden death of Charles H. Shattuck at his home, 1729 Central avenue, Alameda. Mr. Shattuck was the pioneer ink manufacturer of the coast, although but 38 years of age. He supplied most of the daily papers of the city with their printing inks, and also manufactured a great variety of colored inks for the printing of posters and display advertisements. He was a native of Massachusetts. The cause of his death was rheumatism, which spread to his brain. He had only been ill for a week, and the sudden and fatal termination was quite unlooked for both by his family and his physician. The deceased leaves a young wife, also a native of Massachusetts, and a little girl 5 years old.

Fast Bicycle Ride. Denver, Dec. 19.—A special to the Republican from Cheyenne says: The fastest mile ever ridden on a bicycle was made here yesterday on a thirty-eight pound, ninety-six inch gear tandem by Charles Erswell and John Green, who rode one mile, flying start, unaced, on a straight-away course in 1:17 1-5. The ride was made before a wind blowing thirty miles an hour.

Another Defender for Mexico. Terre Haute, Dec. 19.—The absconding Adams express agent, George W. McCammon, has been traced to Jackson, Miss., and the police have received a telegram that he has left there for Natchez. He is probably trying to reach New Orleans, so as to get to Mexico. It is said his stealings will amount to fully \$5,000. The safe could not be opened here and was shipped to the manufacturer, at Cincinnati. Until it is opened the exact amount cannot be given.

THE FRUIT PESTS

SECRETARY TONNESON GIVES VALUABLE INFORMATION.

A Very Destructive Pear-Root Pest Discovered in California—Official Bulletin and Warnings to Horticulturists—General Farm Information.

Professor C. V. Piper, of the Pullman, Wash., experimental station, has just issued Bulletin No. 17, treating of insect pests of the garden, farm and orchard. This is a vital subject and deserves extreme watchfulness on the part of horticulturists. The Bulletin says: That nearly all our common destructive insects have been introduced from other states, and that such of them as are native are for the most part the same or closely related species to those that have long been studied and combated in other states.

The term injurious as applied to insects is a relative one. Those insects are commonly called injurious that damage plants, animals or stored products useful to man. On the other hand, those insects that tend to destroy weeds or noxious animals are indirectly beneficial. Among the most useful of insects are the ladybugs. Both in the adult and larval stages, ladybugs destroy a great number of plant lice, young scale insects and other soft-bodied forms. Scarcely less efficacious is the golden-eye, or lace-wing fly, a beautiful pale green insect, that destroys plant lice. Several diseases caused by low fungus plants also destroy many insects, especially in wet seasons. While beneficial insects and diseases do much to keep down the number of the pests, yet they are not equal to the task set before them. Hence the necessity and value of insecticides.

The bulletin is fully illustrated and the life and histories of the injurious insects are given, as well as the most approved method of fighting them.

Necessity of Spraying. At the recent meeting in Walla Walla of the Northwestern Fruit Growers' Association, C. A. Tonneson, secretary of the State Board of Horticulture of Washington, read an important paper in which he said: "To be a successful fruitgrower, spraying and other means of preventing the attacks of fruit pests must be employed from the stage of first planting the trees. More than this, the work must be begun in the nursery. With the great possibility before the fruit growers of the Pacific Northwest, we cannot be too particular about guarding against the introduction of infected plants, trees, fruit and any material in connection therewith from all outside sections.

"In each of the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and the province of British Columbia, both infected nursery trees and fruit have been condemned and destroyed under the direction of the boards of horticulture. During this dormant season many negligent orchardists have been served by official notices to spray or disinfect infested trees within a certain limit of time. In one county of the state of Washington 130 notices have been served, requiring orchards to be sprayed before January 1, 1906.

"Clean and thrifty trees can be purchased at as low rates as those infested with any fruit pests. The cost of labor and material necessary to keep a clean and healthy orchard free from the attack of these serious enemies is a very nominal part of the expense of fruit raising. As fruit growers, we must make it a part of our duty to buy only those plants and trees which bear sufficient guarantee by official inspectors' after being fumigated that they are free from serious pests or plant diseases. We must make the work of spraying a regular part of orchard cultivation and obey rules and regulations of our boards of horticulture refusing to let any fruit boxes or packages once used for fruit to come on our premises unless the same has been thoroughly disinfected, and we must make it our duty to notify any fruit pest inspector or his deputy of any violations of the law or of established rules and regulations which may come within our notice.

"An orchardist in the western part of Washington has reported to the board of horticulture that on a single Northern Spy apple tree was produced twenty-five bushels of apples that sold readily at \$1 per box as a result of using the Bordeaux mixture as directed for the scab. Summarized, the difference in the value of spraying and not spraying is about as follows: Average cost of combating insect pests, including scale, aphid, codling moth or scab, at 120 per tree, or eighty trees per acre, \$9.60. Increased value of average fruit crop protected from codling moth, scale or scab, \$1 per tree or \$80 per acre, a net increase of 88 per cent. We can't afford not to spray, but we must be at work now, applying the lime, sulphur and salt solution as thoroughly compounded, as hot and rapidly as opportunities will permit and while purchasing our pumps we shall be prepared for codling moth and scab in the spring when the work most continue. We are watching with great interest the work accomplished by our ladybirds. They are destroying many of our injurious insects, but as yet are not multiplying rapidly enough for dependence upon them. The black Australian bugs are reported to have cleaned many orchards from the black scale, but they do not work sufficiently on the San Jose scale to exterminate it. Investigations are being made to discover some natural enemy which shall prove adequate for the destruction of this scale, but until found, it is advisable for us to continue with our best known remedies, applying them vigorously.

OPINIONS POLITICAL.

The Coming Fight Discussed by the Leading Party Organs.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.) There is one possibility for a united delegation from Ohio, and that would be for the friends of McKinley to unite with their opponents to make the delegation solid for Joseph Benson Foraker for president. If this should succeed and Foraker be elected McKinley could enter the field for the vacancy in the senate thus created. President Foraker might be more willing to help McKinley to the senate than Senator Foraker would be to help McKinley into the White House.

Reed a Record Breaker. [Washington Post.] It is true that a long record must be broken if a speaker becomes president. But Mr. Reed is a record breaker. He broke the record of a hundred years when he introduced his quorum counting device. He not only enraged his political opponents, but he startled his friends by that ruling.

Depends Upon the Nominee. [Harper's Weekly.] We believe, if the Republicans nominate for president a trimmer, or a man either tainted with the evil of bossism or possessed of unsound currency views, and if the Democrats nominate a candidate of good character and ability, that many of those who voted the Republican ticket at the last election will vote for the Democrats, while the vast army of this year's stay-at-homes will go to the polls.

Three Mighty Men. [St. Louis Republic.] William R. Morrison, of Illinois; Roger Q. Mills, of Texas, and John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky, gave the Democratic party the inspiration of a principle of action and a policy of coherence and aggression. There were other men, valiant in service and ripe in counsel, but around these three raged the battle which was fought against foes without and foes within the party. There was a host of Israel before the walls of Bethlehem, but only three mighty men of valor who braved the Philistines to bring back the life-giving water from the well at the gate.

"On Private Business." [Columbus, O. Express.] Benjamin Harrison is again down in New York on "purely private business." There are also a large number of presidential candidates and boss politicians down there on the same errand. If the New York artist who is painting Mr. Harrison's picture could catch the expression of his face at the moment he read Sherman's "Recollections" of him, the artist's fortune would be made.

As Much a Despot as Ever. [Detroit Free Press.] The country is sufficiently acquainted with Speaker Reed to know in advance that nothing will be done in the house bearing upon the problem of raising revenue, that will commit the party to McKinleyism or enhance the presidential prospects of the redoubtable major from Ohio. Mr. Reed is just as shrewd and just as much of a despot as he ever was and is in a position to have things very much his own way.

Harrison a Promising Candidate. [Buffalo Commercial.] The most careful observers of the political situation, and those who are not afraid to report things as they think they see them regard Harrison as the most promising of the presidential boomers, with Allison as an excellent second in the race.

Whitney's Statement. [New York Sun.] Mr. Whitney has put forth a positive statement with regard to the Democratic nomination for the presidency. "I am not a candidate and have not been a candidate and must not be considered a candidate," says Mr. Whitney. Yet if the Democratic national convention should insist upon nominating him, there is nothing in this declaration to prevent the honor being forced upon him; and a very handsome and popular candidate he would make, notwithstanding his present refusal.

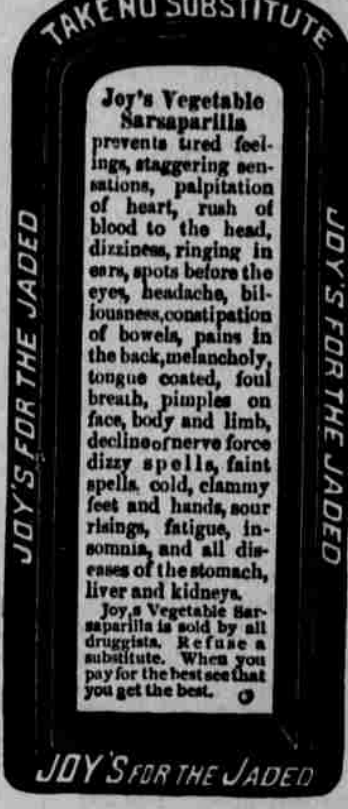
Ohio's Governor Favored. [Cleveland Leader.] McKinley is the first choice in most of the states and second choice in others. Even in New England Ohio's governor is favored by members of the Grange after Reed. That is the case in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut. In New York the Grangers like Governor Morton, but if he cannot be nominated they want McKinley. In Delaware, West Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, Kansas and Mississippi McKinley was the first choice over all the other candidates.

Reed and McKinley. [Boston Herald.] We see nothing in the record of Mr. Reed to endanger his popularity as a Republican candidate if nominated. There are some points about the two men which make him a new candidate in comparison with McKinley. We do not think there will be the need of passing over better-known men as presidential candidates this year that there has been in previous campaigns, and if there were we fail to see where Mr. Reed has made a record that would render him more dangerous to the party than any new candidate likely to be selected. They must all declare for protection in the abstract, and Mr. Reed is committed to nothing more.

Ex-Treasurer Boggs Convicted. Tacoma, Dec. 20.—A verdict of guilty was brought in by the jury this morning against George W. Boggs, ex-city treasurer, charged with fraudulent use of the public funds for personal gain. The maximum penalty is ten years in the penitentiary. Sentence has not yet been imposed.

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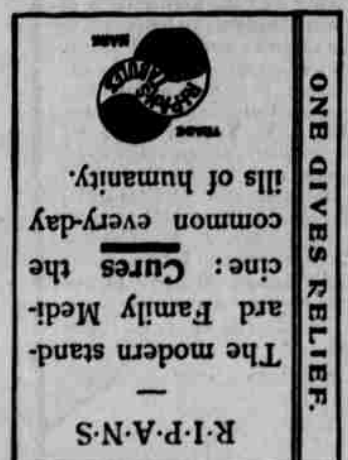
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