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CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

ROUTINE WORK OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION.

Substance of the Bills and Resolutions Introduced in the Senate and House—Condensed Record of the Deeds of the National Lawmakers—Senate.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Mills' speech on finance, with frequent direct criticisms of the president and the secretary of the treasury, was the main feature of today's session of the senate. Wilson has introduced a bill in the senate allowing mineral prospectors and claims on Colville reservation the same as on other public lands. Chief Engineer Craighill, in a letter to Squire, estimates the cost for Puget sound defenses at \$2,822,000, not including torpedo sites.

Washington, Jan. 18.—There was no session of the senate today.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The silver bond bill was laid aside temporarily by the senate today, as no senator was ready to speak. Platt asked Jones of Arkansas when a vote would be had. Jones said he was unable to state, for there were several speeches yet to be heard. Platt said there was no opposition from those favoring the measure; that the majority was evidently obstructing its consideration, and that there should be a time set for a vote. Jones replied that the original bond bill was now a silver measure, and its friends would take due time to present its merits and would fix a time for a vote.

House.

Washington, Jan. 17.—In the house today the speaker announced the appointment of Allen of Utah to the committee on public lands, in place of Curtis of Kansas, resigned. "A free-homestead bill," making actual residence on railroad land grants unnecessary where the lands have been fenced and improved, was passed. Grow opposed the idea of communications being sent to the house by the president and cabinet officers for the purpose of creating legislation, and referred to the letter sent by the president to Mr. Catchings, adding: "This house should resent any attempt by the president or his clerks to dictate legislation to the house." The rest of the day was consumed in discussion of the pension appropriation bill.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The house today passed the pension appropriation bill, to the consideration of which it has devoted the entire week, and adjourned. The clause in the bill changing the existing laws so as to allow widows to obtain pensions under the act of 1890, whose net income did not exceed \$500, per annum was struck out. The provisions under the act of 1890, rejecting, suspending and dismissing applications were allowed, to date from their first application. It was announced that bills covering the amendments ruled out would be reported from the invalid pension committee. The pension bill as passed carries \$141,325,820, about \$50,000 less than the estimate. The bill was passed fifty days ahead of any previous pension appropriation bill.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The session of the house today was devoid of public interest. Quite a number of bills of local importance were passed, as well as the military academy appropriation bill. The president's message, in reply to the resolution of the house calling on him for information as to what steps, if any, had been taken in relation to the Bayard speeches at Boston, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland, was laid before the house. The message and correspondence were referred to the committee on foreign relations. Grosvenor presented a joint resolution which was adopted, directing the secretary of the treasury to destroy all income-tax returns and papers relative thereto in possession of the treasury.

CAMPOS IS INDIGNANT.

As a Private Citizen and Not as Governor-General.

New York, Jan. 21.—A dispatch to the World from Havana says: "General Martinez Campos, after surrendering the supreme command in Cuba to General Marin, made an indignant statement to the World. The censor forbids its transmission by cable, and I send it by messenger to Key West."

General Campos' statement is: "I speak because I am now a private citizen and not the governor-general. Be it known that I have not resigned; the government has removed me, and has done well."

"I feel a great resentment, caused by the conduct of the parties in Cuba. Nations exercise their sovereignty in various ways, but the head should always rule. The principle of authority should rise superior to all else."

"I have been opposed, because, while I may break, yet I never bend. I have prevented a repetition of the sad scenes of the last war, and this has been distasteful to the mob."

"The situation is this: Here is a province, distant from the mother country, where the political parties, by the attitude they are taking, think to shape the policy of Spain. If they had not this idea, I could speedily show what the necessities of the situation are. But they know that they would find me in the way if they should ask me to shoot 1,700 students (an allusion to the massacre of students in the last war), and because of this knowledge they conspire behind my back."

"Yes, this justifies the true saying that Spain has lost the Americas because of the Spaniards themselves. "This is a country of shopkeepers who want to govern, and it is they who are sweeping the country to ruin. Time will tell if this be not so."

THE CUBAN REBELLION.

Insurgents Are Bringing Matters to a Crisis—Editorial Comment.

[Chicago Record.]

Making all due allowance for possible errors in the latest reports of the situation in Cuba, it is still not improbable that the insurgents are on the eve of a stroke which will bring the warfare to a crisis. During the last few weeks the fight has been waged steadily, the insurgents being generally the gainers. General Campos seems to have been unable to make any headway against his opponents, who, aside from the advantage of a complete familiarity with the topography of their country, are insured to its climate and have abundant refuges in which to take shelter. Unless the Spaniards have been resorting to a ruse, and leading the insurgents on simply for the purpose of trapping them, the fall of Havana is within reasonable probability.

We Must Acknowledge Them.

[Chicago Inter Ocean.]

We are under no obligations of courtesy toward Spain. She was one of the few powers that acknowledged the belligerence of the Confederate states during the war for the Union. She hastened to assure Great Britain of the paltry aid of her feeble force in resistance to our application of the Monroe doctrine to the Venezuela issue. Nor are we under any obligation of sentiment. The Spanish government is the most illiberal, the most hopelessly unprogressive, in Europe. Cuba has borne impositions tenfold more aggravated than those which forced the thirteen American colonies of Great Britain into successful revolution. A congressional declaration in favor of acknowledgement of the Cuban republic will be approved from Maine to Florida and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Insurrection or Revolution, Which?

[New York Independent.]

Shall we call it a revolution or a mere insurrection? "Revolutions" have been numerous in Cuba, as Senor Ponce de Leon tell our readers this week, and he ought to know, for he has had lively experience in them. But somehow the Spanish power has not been overthrown. Senor Palma, who is the chief representative of the "Cuban Republic," tells our readers this week why Cuba ought to be free; and he and Mr. Crosby and Senors Pierra and De Quesada appeal with much eloquence and earnestness for American sympathy, dwelling bitterly upon the wrongs and cruelties and oppressions of Spanish government, and their words cannot but excite sympathy.

How Spain Treated America.

[Pittsburg Dispatch.]

If a third of the provinces of Spain were to declare that they had seceded and this country should recognize them as belligerents in less than three months the proceeding would be an exact parallel to Spain's action when the Southern Confederacy was proclaimed. Cuba is Spain's distant colony and our neighbor, and yet we have not imitated the unfriendly Spanish example under the greater provocation.

Our National Interest.

[New York World.]

We have a national interest in the independence of Cuba which has no parallel in the case of any European country. If we were aggressively disposed we might find both reason and precedent for a much more active sympathy with the Cuban insurgents than any body at present proposes to extend to them. All that they ask for is a recognition of their right to do battle for liberty and independence. So much every American ought to stand ready to grant.

Before They Are Wiped Out.

[Atlanta Constitution.]

Let the American people hasten to demand belligerent rights at once before Spain can gather her forces to wipe the Cubans out. Let these rights be granted them at once so that the struggling Cubans may have this advantage in their efforts to secure self-government.

A Fuzzling Matter.

[Boston Traveller.]

The most puzzling thing about the Cuban rebellion just now is why, if the insurgents are numerically as strong as they are represented to be, they do not concentrate enough to seize and hold some town or city on or near the coast, and make a strenuous effort to maintain some kind of communication with the outside world. Until they make some effort of this kind they can hardly ask any of the established nations of the world to recognize them, however much they may have popular sympathy for their struggle for freedom.

The Time Not Yet Come.

[Indianapolis News.]

The people of this country certainly wish the people of Cuba success in their war for independence. They hope the time will come when it will be advisable for the government to recognize not simply the belligerent rights of the insurgents, but the independence of the island. But it may be doubted whether that time has yet come.

England Wants to Trade.

[Boston Globe.]

It is said that England is trying to trade Gibraltar for Cuba. If this bargain is made Spain should see that it is carried through with more promptitude than international bargains usually are. If she waits too long she may have no Cuba to dispose of.

Spain Is a Fakir.

[Washington Star.]

Spain has been in business long enough to know that there is no use in her publishing display announcements of victories unless she is able to deliver the goods.

POULTRY INTERESTS

THE RECENT SHOWS AND FINE BREEDING.

The Largest Chicken Ranch on Earth—A New Method of Getting Breeders Early on the Market—Valuable Hints to Chicken Raisers.

There has been a decided interest in the poultry industry of the Northwest revived by the recent poultry shows. Speaking of the Oregon poultry show just closed in Portland, Theodore Sternberg, the official judge, said: "Fanciers should train their birds for exhibition; namely, render them docile and accustom them to being handled, so that, when they are brought before the judge, the birds will readily stand at attention, thus showing themselves off to the best possible advantage. In a close show, it is the careful attention to all those details that secure prizes for the owners."

On the question of breeding, Mr. Sternberg talked intelligently, as follows: "There is no bird in the proper breeding of which all the skill and intelligence of our best people are not brought into action. It is no child's play to breed a fine specimen of any kind, and there is no man whose position in life or intellectual endowments are so great but that he can find ample use for them in the poultry fancy."

"Breeding fine fowls is not only science, but an art as well. While like produces like, like appearances do not always produce like appearances, but like combinations of blood and ancestral lines are necessary for certain results."

"No person can really have his yards in hand until he has bred fowls long enough to know the color beauties and the color defects, the shape excellencies and shape defects, for five or six generations. Then he will begin to have some knowledge of what one bird mated to another will produce, by reason of his knowledge of the ancestry of the birds."

"The true fancier will keep a record of the birds he breeds from, carefully noting the color, shape, defects, beauties and proportions of each mating."

Winter Laying Qualities.

That certain breeds are better equipped with winter-laying qualities than others, has time and again been proved, says Farm Poultry. But that those qualities will amount to naught unless proper conditions are complied with, has been equally well settled. We know that the Brahmas, Langshans, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Houdans, and some others, will, if in the proper condition, and with good care, lay a good many eggs right through the worst kind of winter. So will the Leghorns, Minorcas, or any of the heavy layers; but the latter require warmer quarters, and much better care than the first lot we named.

The whole matter of eggs in winter can only be settled by proper food and care. No breed can give eggs if they have not warm housing, and such foods as make eggs. During rainy, moody and windy weather, hens must have protection. The farmer who never bothers about sheltering his fowls during winter, and who is satisfied that corn is the best egg food, is the very man who is continually complaining about poultry being a dead loss. And some of this very class write to know which breed can be relied upon to give us eggs in winter.

So that the only reply to give is the best winter layer is the hen (no matter to what class she belongs) that has the best housing and the best food. If one studies the nature of the breed on hand, he will soon learn what is most needed.

The Largest Chicken Ranch.

At this period of the year when the old hens are still molting and half naked, and the nights and morning quite wintry, they should have a warm house and extra care, and especially a clean place to roost, says the Argus of Petaluma, Cal., which is one of the great poultry centers of the coast.

A few days since the writer had the pleasure of looking through the great chicken ranch of Spreckels & Co., the largest one on earth, situated about twelve miles north of this city, and we are now more than ever convinced that cleanliness, proper food and attention is what makes healthy chickens. On this ranch of 200 acres there are tens of thousands of chickens, big and little, young and old, and we walked for miles through long lanes of houses and yards critically looking for sick or delicate chickens and did not see one. Not over 150 chickens were confined together in any yard, and each lot had a warm house that was kept as clean as a pin.

Chickens, like all other animals, enjoy a change, and a hot breakfast these cold mornings is actually necessary if you expect any profit from hens during autumn and winter. Bran or meal scalded with boiling water and mixed with scraps or boiled potatoes, which at present prices are the cheapest and best food, are also good for a change. Chickens that have a large range requires less food, but always remember that it takes liberal feeding to bring eggs in paying quantities. Those which have grown their new plumage and are in good order are laying, but some animal food must be given to secure the best results.

—In a suburb of Macon, Ga., last week, a house took fire during the night and the neighbors gathered to help the inmates in saving their effects. Four women carried a large upright piano from the parlor all the way into the middle of the street, unassisted.

Best Splicing.

The cement splice is, according to a writer in The Wood Worker, the most perfectly satisfactory method of joining together the ends of a belt. In leather belting such a splice is comparatively easy to make, as the ends of the belt may be scarfed to a thin edge with an ordinary iron bench plane, but before rubber belts can be thus treated it is necessary to cut them down in steps, or sections. A four ply belt may have three sections, one thickness of the canvas being cut back several inches, another thickness cut back two-thirds of the distance, a third thickness cut back one-third of the distance, while a thickness of canvas is left untouched at the bottom, the other end of the belt being treated in the same manner, so that when the ends are brought together the sections left on one end will replace those cut on the other end of the belt. To obtain the best results it is recommended that the belt be put into a press after the operation of cementing, but in the absence of that tool the belt may be laid flat upon a board and fastened by driving a number of shoe pegs through the belt into the board, allowing it to remain thus until the cement has set and then closely cutting off the pegs.

Austin Corbin Embarrassed.

The biggest man identified with New York's principal seaside resort is Austin Corbin, the head and front of the Manhattan Beach company. He is a hard worker and probably sees less of his own profitable pleasure grounds than lots of the clerks who hold down desks in the offices of the Corbin Banking company. Mr. Corbin's name came up during a talk with some gentlemen in the corridor of the Fifth Avenue, and one of the groups remarked that, while Corbin was a hustler, he wasn't much of an after dinner orator. "As a Cluver club dinner," said the story teller, "Corbin, who was then president of Reading, was called upon to make a speech. He unwillingly arose, stammered and finally remarked, 'Mr. Chairman, as I am not accustomed to speaking I am greatly embarrassed.' 'And,' uttered a deep voiced guest at the banquet board, 'so is your blanked old road!' This completely paralyzed Mr. Corbin, but it let him out of a bad hole and introduced him to the customs and follies of Cloverites."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Hanging.

Young folks are apt to judge of words by their literal meaning, without any attempt to reason upon the subject. The descendant of a celebrated general of the Revolution, quite a small boy, was visiting Independence hall with his mother, when she pointed to an oil portrait and said:

"There is a picture of your great-great-grandfather, hung by General Washington."

The boy took little notice of what she said at the time, apparently being more interested in the Liberty bell and other curious relics in the hall. But some weeks afterwards, when distinguished guests were dining at his father's table, he broke an interval of silence by asking:

"Mamma, what did you tell me in Philadelphia about my great-great-grandfather being hung?"

The question was a startling one, but it was soon explained to the entire satisfaction of the guests.—Exchange.

Watch the Thumb.

A physician in charge of a well known asylum for the care of the insane recently said:

"There is one infallible test either for the approach or the presence of lunacy. If the person whose case is being examined is seen to make no use of his thumb, if he lets it stand out at right angles from the hand and employs it neither in salutation, writing nor any other manual exercise, you may set it down as a fact that that person's mental balance is gone. He or she may converse intelligently, may in every respect be guarding the secret of a mind diseased with the utmost care and cunning, but the telltale thumb will infallibly betray the lurking madness which is concealed behind a plausible demeanor."—New York Journal.

A German Custom.

One of the most interesting functions of the up to date betrothal is the shopping expedition, where the two mothers and fathers-in-law to be, with their respective son and daughter, go out on an appointed morning and bring home a broom, a carving knife and fork, a salt cellar, a Bible, a brass door knocker, a candlestick, a pair of bellows. This is a revival of an old German custom of presenting a young pair with what they consider the seven emblems of those virtues that go to make up a perfect household. The shopping party is concluded by a luncheon of the united families.

Put to Strange Use.

The old bell which in early days stood on Belfry hill, north of the town of Council Grove, Kan., and was rung to warn the settlers of the approach of Indians, is now used by a citizen as a flowerpot in his garden. For many years after its original purpose was gone it was the common property of the various religious denominations of the town and was rung to call the people to devotions. One day it was blown down in a storm and broken. This destroyed its usefulness as a bell, and the citizen set it inverted in his garden and planted flowers in it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Fame.

"Mr. Speaker," exclaimed a member of the New South Wales parliament, "my colleague taunts me with a desire for fame. I scorn the imputation, sir! Fame, sir! What is fame? It is a shaved pig with a greased tail, which slips through the hands of thousands and then is accidentally caught by some lucky fellow who happens to hold on to it. I let the greasy tailed quadruped go by me without an effort to clutch it, sir!"—London Tit-Bits.