

THE DEBATE

Senate Will Vote on Financial Bill February 15.

DRAGNET RESOLUTION ADOPTED

President Called Upon for Information Relating to the Flour Securities in South Africa.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—An agreement was easily reached in the senate today to take the final vote on the pending bill fixing gold as the standard of value in the United States February 15.

After several days of debate, the dragnet resolution regarding the conduct of the Philippine war was adopted. It was introduced by Hoar, and practically was adopted as a substitute for resolutions of a similar but of an entirely different character, offered by Pettigrew and Lodge.

Teller addressed the senate upon the financial bill, and will continue his speech tomorrow. The house had another fitting today over the sale of the New York custom-house by Secretary Gage. Sulzer of New York, the author of the resolution, was the investigation of Secretary Gage's transaction with the New York banks, started the ball rolling by charging that the mandate had already gone forth to suppress the silver, a Pennsylvania democrat, formerly a radical advocate of free silver, who is now out of sympathy with the democrats in the house, warmly commended Mr. Gage's course.

Later in the day, during the discussion of the appropriation for the army, Cannon in charge of the bill, challenged any member to move to strike it out. Williams, a Mississippi democrat, replied to Cannon in an eloquent speech, in which he affirmed the loyalty of every American citizen to the flag, and charged Cannon with shrewdly insinuating a challenge that would not be accepted.

THE ROUTINE REPORT.

Delays in Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—In the senate, at the conclusion of routine business today, the resolution of inquiry introduced by Hoar (rep. Mass.), and which was reported by the committee on the conduct of the insurrection in the Philippines, was laid before the senate. Pettigrew (ill. S. D.) said he desired to see the resolution before it was passed. He favored the passage of the resolution, believing the information asked for was entirely proper. He declared he was entirely in favor of the resolution, and the production of his resolution that assured him of the facts he had asserted.

"The blood of every soldier," said he, "who has fallen in the line of duty, is on the hands of the administration. The blood of 30,000 soldiers of South Dakota, who lost their lives after being conscripted into an unwilling service, after their country had repudiated the debt of the administration, and there is no escape for it. I charge that the censorship of the press and the suppression of facts are for the purpose of advancing the political ambitions of McKinley."

"If this action," said Pettigrew, "puts the administration in a hole, as was stated, it was not his fault." Pettigrew reverted to the assertion that acquisition of the Philippines was brought about by the act of God, but he added the only way he could explain the work was that God must have used Mr. McKinley as a prober, or appeared to the president in a vision.

At the conclusion of Pettigrew's speech the resolution of Hoar was passed without division. The resolution introduced some days ago by Hale (rep. Me.), calling on the secretary of state for information in possession of the department relating to the seizure and detention of American flour by British authorities in Delagoa bay, South Africa, was placed before the senate. After it had been modified, Platt (rep. Conn.) made a speech, in which he said he did not become the senator (Hale) to introduce such a resolution at this time.

"I had rather see the country prosper," said he, "than to see my party succeed." (Republican applause.) He expressed regret that the democratic party should revive upon depression and again praised the secretary of the treasury for coming to the rescue of business in behalf of the country. He rejoiced in his action. (Both republican and democratic applause.)

Grosvener (rep. O.) declared that both Secretary Gage and the administration had been vindicated. The committee on silver had not acted on the Sulzer resolution, because the charges the resolution contained were simply a rehash of the same charges to which Secretary Gage had replied.

"I am authorized by the chairman of the committee on rules to say that no one has been asked to be heard in furtherance of the resolution. Not the most favorable resolution has been placed upon trial upon a mere allegation. No one has come upon his own responsibility to affirm the truth of the charges." (Dem. Mo.) ironically commented upon Sibley's speech. Before he had known of Sibley's charge of front he had written an article urging him for the United States. He had not wished to withdraw his personal praise, but he did desire now to withdraw the nomination (democratic) and confer it upon Sulzer of New York, who had always been faithful to democratic principles. (Democratic and republican applause.) He recalled the time when Sibley had told him he had been ostracized socially and commercially because he had supported silver at 16 to 1.

"We hailed him as the hero," said Clark, "because he was the only democrat north of the Potomac and east of the Mississippi valley. Now he wins the applause of those who are hostile to every principle of the democratic faith. His place in this house is on the other side of the political aisle." (Democratic applause.) Clark read the Hepburn letter to Secretary Gage, branding it as a disgrace. While he was describing the manner in which deposits had been made in national banks, Lacey (rep. Ia.) interrupted him. "What did Andrew Jackson do about deposits?" he inquired. "He took them away from a lot of thieves like these," retorted Clark, "and placed them in the hands of honest men. (Democratic applause.) Now, crack away, Lacey!"

"I don't care about the state banks. Instead of the flag," Hepburn a publicist, he said, "I would be humiliated to believe the vice-presidential nomination publicly withdrawn, but he had already withdrawn in favor of the flag." (Republican applause.) Sibley replied briefly. Graciously, he said, he would be humiliated to believe the vice-presidential nomination publicly withdrawn, but he had already withdrawn in favor of the flag. (Republican applause.)

"I believe in the democratic party as a victor," Hepburn said, "and I will write a single line of financial legislation in the next six years. I am striving to do something practical and helpful. If the democratic party is to live it must have a policy. I will keep it with it, but if it invites me to a banquet of carping and fault-finding, I will not attend." (Loud republican applause.)

Hepburn (rep. Ia.) caustically arranged Sulzer for his alleged misstatements in the face of Secretary Gage's report. He said that he had not admitted violation of the law. There ought not to be an investigation of the secretary of the treasury, but he ought to be investigated by a member who distorted the truth, who distorted the facts and who slandered honored public officials. (Republican applause.)

Speaker Cannon directed attention to what he termed the outrageous methods of certain star-route contractors in contracting with the government. He said that he would not fulfill without law. He produced the documents in a case where a young man had agreed to carry mail over a route for four years, and he had not received his money. He said that he was only to run six months.

Terry (dem. Ark.) and Cannon (rep. Ill.) became involved in a colloquy. Terry declared that the silver dollar had been maintained in full value, despite, as he said, all the slanders uttered in this chamber and in public, because the people demanded the silver dollar. He said that he would not be satisfied until he had secured a dollar's worth of anything to be had. He maintained that the American people and the American nation were great enough to do anything they deemed right and proper. He said that he would not be satisfied until he had secured a dollar's worth of anything to be had.

"In response to this challenge," Williams said, "I am an American citizen, and I am proud to be an American citizen. There was not an American citizen, he declared, in or out of the house, who was disloyal to the flag of his country. The gentleman from Illinois, with his hand on his chest, declared that he was not a man in the house, no matter how bitterly opposed he might be to the imperial eagle, who would not stand up against our soldiers fighting in the field, whether the struggle in which they engaged was right or wrong.

"I believe," he said, "that the people out there realize when they are fighting are struggling for their liberty, but when my country lines up for the fray, I am with it. He has issued a safe challenge. But I am not a man in the house, no matter how bitterly opposed he might be to the imperial eagle, who would not stand up against our soldiers fighting in the field, whether the struggle in which they engaged was right or wrong.

"Men have a right to oppose a policy of war," he said. He cited the example of Burke and Chatham, great men who had never refused to vote supplies for war, but who had raised a storm of protest against the war waged against our ancestors because they believed it wrong. He said that he would not stand up against our soldiers fighting in the field, whether the struggle in which they engaged was right or wrong.

"Several amendments by Lenz (dem. O.) and others to increase the appropriation for rural free delivery were voted down. The bill was then passed without division. At 5:40 P. M., the house adjourned until 1 o'clock tomorrow.

THE FLOUR SEIZURES.

Amended Hale Resolution, as it Passed in the Senate. WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The modified Hale resolution relating to the seizure of flour in Delagoa bay, as it passed the senate, reads: "Whereas, it is alleged that property of citizens of the United States, not contraband of war, has been lately seized by the military authorities of Great Britain in and near Delagoa bay, South Africa, without good reason, and in violation of the accepted principles of international law, and

"Whereas, it is alleged that the said property has been retained by the military authorities of Great Britain in disregard of the rights of the owners of the same, it is therefore

"Resolved, by the senate of the United States, that the secretary of state be requested to send to the senate, if in his opinion, it is not incompatible with the interests of the United States, all information of the state department relating to said seizure and detention, and also to inform the senate what steps have been taken in requesting the restoration of property taken and detained as aforesaid.

GOING BACK TO CONGRESS.

General Wheeler, in a Letter, States Absolute News of the Intended Course of General Joe Wheeler, representative in congress from this, the eighth district of Alabama, came in a private letter to Hon. William J. Wood, state tax commissioner, and a personal friend of the general. The letter was mailed in Manila December 2, in it General Wheeler states his intention of returning to Washington, and referring to a bill affecting the mineral lands of Alabama, he says:

"I expect to leave in a few days for the United States, and will devote myself to getting the bill through, which I think can do. I could not have left here while the campaign was on without being subjected to severe criticism. I have resigned my position in the army."

The Pension Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The house committee on appropriations today agreed on the pension appropriation bill and reported it to the floor. The bill provides for \$14,245,230, exactly the amount estimated by the pension office.

THE MOST SEVERE BLOW THE BOERS HAVE YET RECEIVED.

First Detailed Account of the Fight to Reach the Outside—A Fifteen Hours' Struggle.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—The Standard publishes the following dispatch from Ladysmith, dated January 6, by way of Pretoria.

"The enemy today made a determined effort to capture two positions, Caesar's camp and Wagon hill. The latter is a lofty eminence to the southwest, possessed of which would mean that the Boers within rifle range of the town. Caesar's camp was held by the first battalion of the Manchester regiment. The position was separated from that of the Boers by a deep ravine.

"In the early hours of the morning, under cover of darkness, the Heidelberg commando succeeded in evading our pickets, making their way through the thorn bush and reaching the foot of the slope at 2:30. The alarm was raised by our sentries, but before the full extent of the danger could be realized the outgoing ranges had been rustled and their defenders slain.

"On hearing the firing, two companies of the Gordon Highlanders went to the assistance of the Manchester. At first it was thought that the Boers were concentrating on the southern slope, where they had already secured a footing on the plateau. Here, however, their advance was checked by the steady volleys of our infantry and the deadly fire of an automatic gun.

"Lieutenant Hunt-Grobb went out to see if any aid were needed by the troops stationed on the ridge near the town. He was not aware that the enemy had already captured the breastworks, and called out to the sergeant. He received the reply, 'The sergeant is not here. The sergeant has disappeared from sight. Captain Carnegie, suspecting a ruse, ordered the Gordon Highlanders to fire a volley and to charge. The enemy fell back precipitately, leaving the ridge in our hands. The Boers were captured with so much presence of mind. The lieutenant was quite unhurt.

"It was now quite evident that the camp was being assailed on the left flank and the ridge which led to the town. The general lay in the shallow gully with a Scottish square of armed men around him. The dead man's son and a small number of his regiment, with the chaplain and the pipers while the solemn services of the church were spoken.

"Then once again the piper pealed out 'Lochaber no More,' against the stillness of the night. The piper was almost home bearing the widow in her Highland home moaning for the soldier she would welcome back no more. Then, as if touched by the magic of one thought, the soldiers turned their heads and saw the still form in the shallow gully toward the heights where Cronje, the lion of Africa, and his soldiers stood. Then every cheek flushed crimson, and the most sacred law of the army was broken. The Boers, who had been silent until now, spoke more eloquently than ever spoke the tongues of men. For a moment the Boers were the spirit of vengeance, and each sparkling eye asked silently for blood. God help the Boers when the next Highland pibroch sounds! God rest the Boer souls who died in the battle of Ladysmith. For neither death nor hell nor things above, nor things below, will hold the Scots back from their blood feud.

"At the head of the grave, at the point nearest the enemy, the general lay in sleep, his officers gathered around him, while in line behind him his soldiers were laid in a double row wrapped in their blankets. No shots were fired over the dead man's head. Only the faintest of salutes was given, and then the men marched campward, as the darkness of an African night rolled over the far-stretching breadth of the veldt.

"The same writer thus depicts the way in which the disaster overtook the Highlanders: "During the night it was considered expedient that the big Highland brigade, about 4000 strong, under General Wauchoppe, should get close enough to the enemy to be able to make a charge. The brigade moved cautiously through the darkness towards the kopje where the Boers were most strongly entrenched. They were led by a guide who was supposed to know every inch of the country out into the darkness of an African night. The brigade marched in line of quarter column, each man stepping cautiously and slowly, for they knew that any sound meant death. Every order was given in a low whisper and in whispers it was passed along the ranks from man to man. Nothing was heard, as they moved toward the gloomy, front-facing heights, but the brushing of the branches of the trees and the deep-drawn breaths of the marching men.

"So, onward until 3 o'clock on the morning of Monday. Then, out of the darkness a rifle rang, sharp and clear, a herald of disaster. A soldier was seen to fall, and the hidden wire laid down by the enemy. In a second, in the twinkling of an eye, the searchlights of the Boers fell broad and clear as the noonday sun on the ranks of the Highlanders, though it left the enemy concealed in the shadows of the frowning mass of hills behind him.

"For one brief moment, the Scots seemed paralyzed by the suddenness of their discovery. They knew that they were huddled together like sheep within 50 yards of the trenches of the enemy. Then, clear above the confusion, fell the voice of the general—'Steady, men! steady!' and, like a echo to the front came the crash of nearly 1000 rifles not 50 paces from them. The Highlanders reeled before the spook-like trees before them. The best, their bravest, fell in that wild hail of bullets, yet gasping, lying, bleeding from every vein, the Highland chief raised himself on his hands and knees and cheered his men bravely. They were practically at an end. Nevertheless, small parties of the braver spirits kept up a murderous fire on our men from behind the rocks.

"The moment had evidently arrived to strike the final blow, and Colonel Park quickly issued the necessary order. Three companies of Devonshire, led by Captain Lacey, Lieutenant Field and Lieutenant Masterson, made a brilliant charge across the open, under a terrific fire, and fairly hurled the enemy down the hill at the point of the bayonet. In the course of the struggle, Captain Lacey and Lieutenant Masterson were killed and Lieutenant Field was mortally wounded while accompanying the charge. The Boers were not yet finally beaten. Taking advantage of the storm now raging, they essayed to capture the position by another rush. Three of their leaders reached the parapet, but were shot down by lieutenant Digby Jones and Lieutenant Walnut, the latter of whom also fell. The renewed check effectually discouraged the assaults, and the deadly duel was practically at an end. Nevertheless, small parties of the braver spirits kept up a murderous fire on our men from behind the rocks.

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BURIAL OF GENERAL WAUCHOPE.

Over His Grave the Highlanders Swore Revenge.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Some of the most brilliant work of the war of descriptive writing ever done by British correspondents has been appearing in the British papers in the last few days. The Daily News' correspondent thus writes of the burial of General Wauchope:

"Three hundred yards to the rear of the little township of Modder River, just as the sun was sinking in a blaze of African splendor on the evening of Tuesday, the 12th of December, a head-shallow grave lay exposed in the breast of the veldt. In the west the broad river, fringed with trees, ran murmuringly; to the eastward the heights, still held by the enemy, showed a line of sentries and the veldt undisturbed peacefully. A few paces to the northward of that grave 50 dead Highlanders lay, dressed as they had fallen on the field of battle. They had followed their chief to the grave, and they were to follow him to the grave, and they grim and stern those men looked as they lay face upward to the sky, with great hands splayed in the last death agony, and brows still knitted with stern lust of the strife in which they had fallen. The plaid dear to every Highland clan were represented there, and as I looked, out of the distance came the sound of the piper: it was the general coming to join his men.

"There, right under the eyes of the enemy, moved with slow and solemn tread a band of Highlanders, the Highland brigade. In front of them walked the chaplain with bare head, dressed in his robes of office; then came the pipers with their pipes, 16 in all, and behind them, with solemn tread, moved the Highlanders, dressed in all of the regalia of their regiments, and in their midst the dead general borne by four of his comrades.

"Out swelled the pipes to the strain of the 'Flowers of the Forest,' until the soldiers' heads went back in haughty defiance and eyes flashed through tears like sunlight on steel; now singing to a mournful wail like a woman weeping her first-born, the piper dropped the dropped sword and tears rolled down the wailing faces, and the choking sobs broke through the solemn rhythm of the march of death. Right up to the grave the general's body broke away in companies until the general lay in the shallow gully with a Scottish square of armed men around him. The dead man's son and a small number of his regiment, with the chaplain and the pipers while the solemn services of the church were spoken.

"Then once again the piper pealed out 'Lochaber no More,' against the stillness of the night. The piper was almost home bearing the widow in her Highland home moaning for the soldier she would welcome back no more. Then, as if touched by the magic of one thought, the soldiers turned their heads and saw the still form in the shallow gully toward the heights where Cronje, the lion of Africa, and his soldiers stood. Then every cheek flushed crimson, and the most sacred law of the army was broken. The Boers, who had been silent until now, spoke more eloquently than ever spoke the tongues of men. For a moment the Boers were the spirit of vengeance, and each sparkling eye asked silently for blood. God help the Boers when the next Highland pibroch sounds! God rest the Boer souls who died in the battle of Ladysmith. For neither death nor hell nor things above, nor things below, will hold the Scots back from their blood feud.

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