

TAX BILL IN HOUSE

Payne Opens Debate on War Revenue Reduction.

WHAT THE DEMOCRATS WANT

Minority Proposes That the Tax be Decreased \$70,000,000, Instead of \$40,000,000—Investigation of Booz Case.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The debate on the war revenue reduction bill opened in the House today. Payne (Rep., N. Y.), chairman of the ways and means committee, spoke on behalf of the majority and Swanson (Dem., Va.) on behalf of the minority. The House is expected to permit the bill to be debated for the exercises in connection with the centennial celebration tomorrow.

Before the war revenue reduction bill was taken up a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a special committee of five members to investigate the death of Oscar L. Booz, of Bristol, Pa., who died recently as a result of having received while a cadet at West Point. This course was taken over the head of the military committee, which reported in favor of the bill. The department to conduct the inquiry, Hull (Rep., Ia.), chairman of the committee on military affairs, reported back from that committee a substantial report in support of the resolution for an investigation. The substitute was as follows:

"Whereas, it is alleged in the newspapers that Oscar L. Booz, of Bristol, Pa., formerly a cadet at West Point, died at his home from injuries purporting to have been the result of having inflicted upon him by certain military cadets of the said Military Academy; and

"Whereas, the Secretary of War is now making investigation of the facts; and

"Resolved, That said Secretary be requested to report the results of his investigation to the House of Representatives together with such recommendations as he may see fit to make."

The report of the committee together with that of Superintendent Mills is attached to the resolution. The presentation of the resolution and the reading of the reports aroused great interest in the House.

Slayden (Dem., Tex.), a member of the military committee, expressed the opinion that the reports concerning having at West Point had been grossly exaggerated.

Clayton (Dem., N. Y.), who was himself a graduate of West Point, defended the Military Academy. He said there was no necessity for bringing up the Drayfus case.

"Why not investigate, then?" asked Wagner (Rep., Pa.).

"The academy is no investigation," replied Clayton. "The son of a washer-woman and a millionaire are on the same footing when they enter the academy."

From his own experience Clayton said, he knew that the reports of having been greatly exaggerated. The sentiment of the cadets was against having or doing anything unfair. Having, as it was practically years ago, he said, had been stamped out.

Hay (Dem., Va.) favored a Congressional investigation, not, he said, because he believed that there was any ground for charges, but because an investigation would vindicate the academy and the cadets.

In concluding the debate, Hull said he had little faith in Congressional investigations. It was erroneous to believe that the Army was interested in shielding West Point and what had been done in the last five years to stop hazing.

"If the charges of hazing should be proved," asked Driggs (Dem., N. Y.), "is there any law which would reach the cadets who participated?"

"The gentleman can answer that question as well as I," answered Hull, "but if proved, if there is any ground for not take steps to discipline the guilty ones from the academy, Congress will."

Driggs protested against the adoption of the substitute resolution, as it did not include provision for an investigation of the general subject of hazing at West Point with a view of putting a permanent stop to such practices. He declared that the practice of inflicting punishment at West Point was notorious.

Wagner, who appointed Cadet Booz, spoke in favor of a Congressional investigation. He said he did not presume to know the exact details of the case, but he said that he had made statements relative to the case which had profoundly moved the people of the country. He was not opposed to receiving any information the Secretary of War had on the subject or to the proposed inquiry by the War Department, but he insisted that any Congressional inquiry would satisfy the country.

Wagner's investigation would bring out the facts and lead to action which would forever prevent cadets from being the victims of hazing in the future. Although the resolution proposed that he would offer a substitute for the committee's resolution providing for an investigation by a special committee of five members, Driggs proposed that he have the power to send for documents and papers and, if necessary, proceed to West Point and that the committee should report within 30 days. Wagner's resolution for a special committee was adopted without division.

The War-Tax Bill. Consideration of the bill for the reduction of the war taxes was begun. Payne, chairman of the committee on ways and means, opened the debate. He said that in reporting the pending bill, the committee left as if they had gone reduction with a limit in the amount of the reduction. The \$50,000,000 remaining after the reduction proposed by the committee took effect would not equal the extraordinary expenditures due to follow as a result of the Spanish War. Among such expenses was the interest on the bonds issued to prosecute the war, amounting to \$5,000,000; the increased Army, which had added about \$100,000,000 to \$300,000,000 for the next two or three years. This increase in expenditures would amount to at least \$100,000,000. The increase in naval expenditures for equipment, together with the pensions growing out of the late war, would add to our expenditures \$100,000,000 more.

"While there is no reason for any domestic cause to apprehend any disaster to business during the next few years," said he, "yet there is a possibility of foreign complications which might have the result of causing depression in business would mean a loss of revenue. A large portion of our imports, on which tariff duties are paid, is of goods going directly into the manufacture of articles both for our domestic and American trade. Anything that cuts off this trade in either direction would result in less of revenue. Some members of the minority of the committee have proposed to abolish all the war revenue and offer in place thereof an income tax. Of course, it is perfectly obvious to every thinking man that this would cause an immediate deficiency in our revenue. The enactment of a new income tax would not furnish a dollar of additional revenue. We have already an income tax law upon the statute books which has not been repealed. The Supreme Court has decided it unconstitutional. What reason is there to show

that a new enactment of this kind would meet with any other fate?

"Another proposition has been made by the minority to abolish the entire additional tax upon beer. This would result in a large reduction of revenue. It would produce the grossest injustice. What argument is there in favor of reducing the entire tax on beer, which does not apply with great force to the reduction of the entire additional tax on tobacco, amounting to \$15,000,000, or the tax on bankers and brokers, amounting to nearly \$4,000,000, and the remaining taxes, amounting to \$15,000,000. Certainly the tax upon beer should never be wiped out until every other vestige of the war tax is removed.

"Swanson (Dem., Va.), a member of the committee on ways and means, followed, presenting the views of the minority. Swanson said the Democratic party fully recognized the urgent necessity for a reduction in the revenues of this Government. During four years, taxation had increased over \$200,000,000, and he declared that this was a burden which was crushing business and commerce would seriously suffer. He expressed regret that the Republicans had failed to avail themselves of the present excellent opportunity to devise a more equitable and permanent system of taxation. He argued that there be a reformation of the tariff and an abolition of the custom duties which have created trusts and monopolies. He also insisted that this Government should collect more revenue from capital incomes and profits, rather than from the consumption and business taxes of the occupation of the people; that taxes should be levied upon what a man has and not upon what he needs."

He said there should be a reduction now in the revenues of at least \$70,000,000, instead of \$40,000,000. The organization of a home government in Cuba, with the pacification of the Philippine Islands and with settlements of the Chinese complications, all of which the Administration assured in less than two years, there ought to be an immense reduction in Government expenses. Swanson asserted that the only persons who were benefited by a large surplus in the Treasury were those who were seeking extravagant and unjust appropriations from the Treasury. He said that the Government should be free of interest and the bondholders who desired the Government to redeem their bonds at a high and exorbitant price. He said that the Government should be free of interest and the bondholders who desired the Government to redeem their bonds at a high and exorbitant price.

The Speaker appointed the following members to constitute the special committee to investigate the alleged hazing of Cadet Booz, in pursuance of the resolution: In the Senate, Mr. Nathan Marsh (Rep., Ill.), chairman; Wanger, Smith (Rep., Ia.), Driggs and Clayton. At 3:30 P. M. the House adjourned.

THE BOOZ HAZING.

Colonel Mills, of West Point, Denies the Story.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Colonel Mills, Superintendent of the Military Academy, has entered the broadest denial, based on the full investigation made by himself, of the report that the late Cadet Oscar Booz was hanged and otherwise mistreated at the academy. The Secretary of War has transmitted Colonel Mills' report to the House Committee on Military Affairs, in answer to the House resolution on the subject.

The report states that in the statement that at the instance of Colonel Mills, he has appointed a board, consisting of Major-General Brooks, Colonel Gillette, Colonel Chas. H. Smith, of West Point, December 11, or as soon as possible thereafter, to investigate, not only the Booz case, but also the methods employed at the academy to prevent hazing.

Colonel Mills' statement is quite long. He says he had no personal knowledge of Booz, whose record at the academy he submits, to demonstrate that there was no evidence of any mistreatment of Booz, but that his resignation was attributed to weak eyes and a poor record in studies. Having carefully questioned cadets who had been in contact with Booz, he found that the cadet had no trouble prior to August 6, 1899, when he had a fist fight, witnessed by six cadets, all of whom are now at the academy. Two classmates of Booz testified that he was not in the line to attend the fight; that he went to it and engaged in it willingly and in the beginning was the aggressor. All the cadets testified that the encounter was short and of little severity, and Booz was in no way injured or marked. On the testimony of the cadets, Colonel Mills also denies specifically the story that tobacco sauce was poured down Booz's throat, and that he was called "Bibber" or ridiculed on account of his religious belief. In conclusion, he asks for the investigation, which the Secretary has ordered.

Favorable Reports on Treaties.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The Senate committee on foreign relations today authorized favorable reports on the ratification of treaties providing for the extradition of criminals between this country and Chile, and also between this country and Bolivia. Similar action was taken with reference to the treaty with Argentina for another year the treaty providing for the demarcation of the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. The committee also authorized favorable reports on supplementary agreements with Great Britain extending for 12 months the time for the ratification of commercial conventions with that country for reciprocal trade with its possessions in the West Indies.

Nominations Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Confirmations by the Senate of the following nominations were made today: Mineral Land Commissioners in Idaho—G. A. Black, of Washington; T. A. Davis, of Idaho; H. B. King, of Idaho; Huntington Wilson, of Illinois, to be Secretary of the United States Land Office; Japan. William D. Bynum, of Indiana, to be commissioner to revise and codify the criminal and penal laws of the United States; H. H. Tatem, of Montana, to be assessor in charge of the assay office at Helena, Mont. D. H. McMillan, of New York, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico. To be Brigadier-General, John C. McGowan, of Wheaton and Brigadier-General A. Chaffee, United States Volunteers.

To Reorganize Consular Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Leverne W. Noyes and Charles Truax, of the National Business League, of Chicago, and Mr. Butler, of New York, addressed the House committee on foreign affairs today in favor of a reorganization of the consular service on business lines. It was argued that the political element enters too strongly into the present system of appointments, and that a consular service closed at the end of a Presidential term had just acquired the knowledge making himself valuable for the place. Representative Aldrich, of Alaska, was heard in his bid to establish a diplomatic and consular school at Washington, similar to the military school at West Point and the naval school at Annapolis, and set forth the merits of the plan.

The Holiday recess.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—It is the understanding of House leaders that the holiday recess of Congress will begin on Friday, December 12, and the session will be resumed on Thursday, January 3. If this is agreeable to the Senate, the recess will be arranged on such limits.

For Ambassador to Italy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The President today sent to the Senate the nomination of George von Meyer, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States to Italy.

"Turn the Bottle Upside Down."

Such is the suggestion of the brewers of Evans' Ale to impress the fact that they have a product perfectly free from drugs and sediments.

THE PHILIPPINE TARIFF

TARIFF COMMISSION GAVE MERCHANTS A HEARING.

Importers Watching for the Decision in the Porto Rico Case—Fight Near Santa Cruz.

MANILA, Dec. 11.—The United States Philippine Commission discussed today the preliminary portions of the tariff bill in committee of the whole. Merchants made a few suggestions. The importers are watching for the decision of the Supreme Court on the Porto Rican tariff. They say that if it is decided to be unconstitutional, it will be a great relief to the Philippines from customs and other taxes.

The United States hospital-ship Solace has arrived at Caviar, on San Francisco. Her officers say the condition of affairs at the island of Guam has been improved since a week ago. Dwellings are being restored, and the people are returning to the country, but the crops are practically all destroyed, though there is no immediate want. The Solace left supplies there, and the American troops are considering the quantity of supplies to Guam from the island. Reports as to the number of deaths are about unchanged. The wives of Commanders Seton Schroeder, Governor of Guam, and of the late Governor of the island on the Solace, remained at Guam.

A detachment of the Fifth Cavalry had a fight with 100 natives south of Santa Cruz Sunday. The insurgents were chased four miles. Fourteen of them were found dead. There were no American casualties. In addition to this engagement there had been several minor encounters between the troops and the insurgents.

CAPTAIN SHIELDS' ADVENTURE.

How the Rebels Treated Him in Marinduque.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 11.—Captain Devereux Shields, who returned on the transport Hancock, has been invalided home on account of his wounds received in one of the most thrilling encounters of the war in the Philippines. Captain Shields and 23 men left Santa Cruz, on the island of Marinduque, on September 11 last for the purpose of making a raid. Two days later they fell into an ambush and were fired upon by about 250 men with rifles, who were supported by 200 men with bolos. Captain Shields, telling of the engagement, said:

"I saw that it was impossible for us to do anything but get out, and I gave the order to retreat. We were wounded and fell unconscious, but soon recovered, and then gave the order for the command to fight its way back to the beach. I told them that as I was nothing but a wounded man, I could not lead them, and I dropped behind a rice stack and told the men to raise a white flag. The insurgents did not recognize the flag and continued to fire. The men fought their way back a short distance and were surrounded and had to surrender. They were killed."

"After the surrender came to me one of them began robbing me and took all my things. He tore a chain and locket from my neck and tried to tear the rings from my fingers. After he had finished robbing another man he came and was just going to shoot me, when I saw a hand and arm come forward and strike up the gun."

"Immediately after the fight we were kept in native huts for 12 days, and then we were taken on a march over mountains, through dense forests, and across rivers, compelled to sleep in mud and rain, and given only the dirtiest water with which to wash our wounds. This continued until about October 12, when we were told that orders had been received to turn us over to the Americans. I wrote to General Hare and he agreed to take us to the coast, and on October 14, we were taken to Buena Vista, and then turned over to the General."

PLENTY OF RECRUITS.

Men Collected at the Presidio Will Be Held There.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 11.—Recruits are arriving at the Presidio from various enlistment points throughout the country at the rate of about 100 a day. There are at present over 600 at the barracks. Many of these will probably be held here awaiting orders from Washington, for it is reported that the Philippine army is being reorganized. Twelve insane soldiers now at the general hospital will be sent to the Government asylum at Washington this week to make room for the insane that are en route from the Philippines.

The following medical contingent will sail for Manila on the Logan Saturday: Assistant Surgeon W. A. Whittington, C. W. Thorp and M. Pursell; Contract Nurses Marie E. Moore and Henrietta Morrison, Steward George Graham, and assistant steward and 11 Hospital Corps men.

Convalescent Company, No. 1, commanded by Captain Carver Howland, left the Presidio yesterday to take its new station at Fort McDowell, on Angel Island.

The Hancock brought the following officers from Manila: Majors F. P. Reynolds and Philip G. Wales; Captains H. J. Hunt, Devereux Shields and F. S. Dewey; Lieutenants P. M. Kessler, J. W. Barnes, E. C. Davis, John Campbell and E. B. Hargrave; Surgeons J. C. Edwards, L. W. Morse, M. Kirby-Smith, P. L. Jones and T. E. Storey.

THE CABINET MEETING.

Preparations for the Centennial Ceremony.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—After the Cabinet meeting today it was stated that the good feeling which had existed between General Chaffee and Count von Waldersee prior to the astronomical instrument incident had been restored, and that the two Generals had since dined together very pleasantly.

It was decided that the members of the Cabinet should attend the centennial ceremonies, both at the White House tomorrow morning and at the Capitol in the afternoon. Colonel Bingham, superintendent of public buildings, asked that a platform be put in place on the East room of the White House a plaster model of his proposed extension of the present executive mansion. Colonel Bingham's history of the present building, with an explanation of the proposed extensions, will be a feature of the White House ceremonies tomorrow.

Funeral of Captain Liscum.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The remains of Colonel Emerson H. Liscum, which have been lying in state in this city since yesterday, were interred in Arlington Cemetery this afternoon. The casket, under command of Colonel William A. Rafferty, consisted of a squadron of cavalry under Major E. D. Thomas; Battery F, Second Artillery, Captains C. D. Parkhurst, and a battalion of marines, commanded by Major Carmon. At the cemetery Rev. Mackey Smith, rector of St. John's Episcopal church, conducted

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Several Days May Elope Before the Prisoner's Fate Is Decided—Other Crime News.

ELDORADO, Kan., Dec. 11.—At 10 o'clock tonight Judge Shinn sent the Jessie Morrison jury to a hotel, directing them to resume their deliberations at 8:30 o'clock tomorrow morning. The jury was sequestered for nearly 14 hours. One of the jurors, Gregory, is slightly ill tonight, and needs medical attention. The opinion generally held is that the jury may take two or three days in reaching a verdict, and that it ultimately will be unable to agree.

When Jessie Morrison awoke in her cell this morning it was with a realization that her fate at the hands of the jury would soon be known. Her hope of acquittal, which had begun to rise with the close of court on Friday last, had become almost assurance. Miss Morrison this morning received 40 letters of sympathy. A New York City physician expressed an invitation from himself and his wife to make her home with them when she is acquitted.

The case has been one of the most interesting in the annals of Kansas crime. The principals were Jessie Morrison, daughter of M. H. Morrison, formerly Probate Judge; Mrs. Clara Wiley Castle and Olin Castle, the latter's husband. All three of prominent families, who had lived in the country for the past quarter of a century. Miss Morrison and Castle were clerks in a "racket" store, and before he married Clara Wiley, Castle had been a member of the same store. He was shown in the trial that much jealousy existed between the two women. Miss Wiley and Castle were married in June last, on June 22 the women fought with a razor in Mrs. Castle's home and the latter died of her wounds 15 days later. In a death statement, Mrs. Castle charged Miss Morrison with entering her house on the night of the murder, and that she was in a threatening manner, and then seizing her with a razor which the defense tried to show she had abstracted from a showcase in the racket store. Miss Morrison pleads self-defense, and the defense declared that Mrs. Castle had called her into the house and attacked her and made it necessary for the defense to cut her to save her life.

Miss Morrison was last July indicted for murder in the first degree, and has since been refused bail. It took five days to secure a jury, over 400 men having been subpoenaed. The jury was composed of about 50 witnesses, and eight lawyers were retained. The taking of testimony consumed 11 days' time, and the arguments were begun yesterday morning. The defendant faintly in her cell on Wednesday night after a fit of sobbing, and cried much in the courtroom. It was feared that she would break down before her testimony was heard, but on the day being over, the war taxes should cease, and the train of extraordinary expenditures following the war should also terminate.

REDUCING THE WAR TAX.

Report of Minority Members of Ways and Means Committee.

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"We are therefore clearly of the opinion that there can safely be much further reduction of the war taxes, and that presented by the committee, and that now is the time to give such relief. Instead of taking off the sum of \$40,000,000, we would make the reduction at least \$100,000,000. We would make these reductions on those articles which are most nearly the necessities of life, and would remove the taxes that are most annoying and vexatious to the people. We believe that by a return to proper economy in appropriations a reduction greater than we advocate can be made and we should be able to show the country that the war taxes should be reduced, and the train of extraordinary expenditures following the war should also terminate."

"We shall not, however, oppose the passage of the bill, for it gives some relief, but will endeavor to properly amend it, and we will be glad to accept of any amendment that will be made to reduce the burden of unjust taxation on the country. The serious objection to the taxes levied by this bill and as they will be levied on the necessities of life, and the burden of unjust taxation on the country, largely owe their growth to the customs imposed in the Dingley tariff law, which prohibit foreign competition."

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Annual Comparative Statement, According to Bills.

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Agriculture, \$4,600,000; Army, \$110,000,000; Navy, \$110,000,000; District of Columbia, \$9,000,000; Postoffice, \$12,000,000; Legislative, etc., \$2,500,000; Military academy, \$1,000,000; Penitentiaries, \$10,000,000; Postoffice, \$12,000,000; Rivers and Harbors, \$10,000,000; Sundry civil, \$10,000,000; Permanent annual appropriations, \$124,358,220.

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August Belmont Is Sick.

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