

ALL ARE SICK MEN

Quay Scoffs at Opponents of Statehood Bill.

CHARGES OF OBSTRUCTION

Beveridge and Gallinger Piling Them To and Fro—General Staff Bill Again Amended—Bill to Harry Anti-Trust Suits Passed.

Toward the end of the session there was a lively passage of words between Gallinger and Beveridge. The former declared in unmistakable terms that Beveridge and his followers on the statehood bill were prolonging the debate in pursuance of a "deliberate and premeditated system of obstruction."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—In the Senate Hale (Me.) presented the conference report of the conferees on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, which was passed.

The general staff bill presented yesterday was reconsidered. An amendment offered by Cockrell (Mo.) was agreed to putting the chief of staff under the direction of the President and Secretary of War.

Twenty-seven private pension bills were passed.

A Senate bill also was passed to expedite the hearing and determination of suits in equity pending or hereafter brought under the Sherman antitrust law.

The omnibus statehood bill was taken up and Koon spoke in opposition. A spirited colloquy arose between Gallinger and Beveridge, during the course of Koon's remarks.

A complete list of the dead and seriously injured up to midnight is as follows: Dead: James Foley, chief.

Andrew White, captain Truck No. 1. Edward Hogan, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Dronoy, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1. Seriously injured: Daniel Barth, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Clancy, assistant chief. Peter Lancaster, captain Truck No. 2. The following probably will recover: William Meley, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

George Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1. William Kennedy, truckman. Joseph Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Jack Hearn, lieutenant. Assistant Chief Clancy's condition is critical, and the physicians who are watching over him cannot determine his chances of living.

Captain Peter Lancaster is dying, and surgeon William Meley and William Kennedy are seriously ill. The men became ill today and rapidly grew worse. Doctors worked hard over them, but Captain Lancaster appeared to be dying, and a priest was sent for and the last rites of the Catholic Church administered.

It was hoped that Meley and Kennedy could be pulled through. Four more of the firemen yielded to the effects of the nitric acid fumes tonight, but probably will recover. Late tonight, Assistant Chief Thomas Clancy, Dan McCarthy and Captain Peter Lancaster were still in a very precarious condition.

Big Store in Oklahoma Burned. OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 4.—Fire that started in the Lion Store, dealers in general merchandise, here this morning caused a loss of \$200,000. Insurance, about one-third the loss. Another fire in frame buildings on Broadway, at the same time, caused an additional loss. Fire apparatus was sent in by El Reno and Guthrie and at 11:30 the fire, which for a time threatened the city, was under control.

UNWILLING TO LOSE HOBBSON. He Is Asked to Try New Post-Conditions of His Resignation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has made the following recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy concerning Captain Hobson's resignation:

"The Bureau is reluctant to recommend the acceptance of the officer's resignation, believing that time should be given him to reconsider his decision and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

Secretary Moody today telegraphed this recommendation to Captain Hobson, with the statement that the department approved it, and that he transmitted it to him and his consideration.

"Upon the severing of my official connection with the Navy I beg to make the following statement and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

"The attitude of the construction corps, to which Mr. Hobson is attached, is disclosed in this indorsement upon the letter."

"The bureau recommends acceptance to take effect February 15, 1903."

PENSIONS FOR EX-SLAVES. Bill Introduced Providing for Them in Old Age.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Hanna today introduced a bill granting pensions and bounties to all ex-slaves who were freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln during the war of the Rebellion.

It provides that persons over 60 years of age and less than 80, male or female, shall receive a cash bounty of \$100 and monthly pensions of \$5 per month; persons between 60 and 70 years of age, a bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$12 per month; and persons over 70 years of age, bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$15 per month.

President Mitchell, of the National Industrial Council, at whose request the bill was introduced, issued a statement tonight to the effect that no one has the authority to charge the petitioners who will benefit should the bill become a law, any money to further its passage.

FREE BEEF AND HIDES

TARIFF DEBATE INJECTED INTO HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Members Wander From Postoffice Appropriation-Sibley and Williams Exchange Compliments.

The general debate on the Postoffice appropriation bill was injected yesterday by an interesting discussion of the tariff question. It was participated in by Sibley (Rep., Pa.), Williams (Dem., Miss.) and Briggs (Dem., Ga.).

The consideration of the postoffice bill in committee of the whole was completed, but it was not passed. The annual attempt to strike out appropriations for special mail facilities between Washington and New Orleans, and Kansas City and Newton, Kan., was failed by Talbot (Dem., S. C.), who followed up his motion after it was defeated in committee of the whole with a motion in the House to recommit the bill with instructions to eliminate the provisions. The latter motion is designed to place the members on record. His motion was pending when the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

At the end of which time the previous question is to be considered as ordered on the bill and pending amendments to its passage.

Rule for Action on Trust Bill. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on pensions today authorized a favorable report on the Senate bill to increase the pensions of all Mexican War veterans from \$5 to \$12 per month.

Confirmed by the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Confirmations by the Senate: S. S. Morton, Receiver of Public Money at San Francisco; F. A. Tarr, Postmaster at Monticello, Wash.

BREATHE NITRIC ACID.

Four Firemen Die of the Poisonous Fumes—Others Are Seriously Ill.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 4.—Four firemen are dead and nine others are said to be seriously ill from the effects of inhaling the fumes of nitric acid while fighting a fire at the plant of the Schwab Stamp & Seal Company last night.

The victims of the disaster were not overcome for many hours after the fire, when one by one they succumbed. A complete list of the dead and seriously injured up to midnight is as follows:

Dead: James Foley, chief. Andrew White, captain Truck No. 1. Edward Hogan, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Dronoy, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1. Seriously injured: Daniel Barth, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Clancy, assistant chief. Peter Lancaster, captain Truck No. 2. The following probably will recover: William Meley, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

George Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1. William Kennedy, truckman. Joseph Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Jack Hearn, lieutenant. Assistant Chief Clancy's condition is critical, and the physicians who are watching over him cannot determine his chances of living.

Captain Peter Lancaster is dying, and surgeon William Meley and William Kennedy are seriously ill. The men became ill today and rapidly grew worse. Doctors worked hard over them, but Captain Lancaster appeared to be dying, and a priest was sent for and the last rites of the Catholic Church administered.

It was hoped that Meley and Kennedy could be pulled through. Four more of the firemen yielded to the effects of the nitric acid fumes tonight, but probably will recover. Late tonight, Assistant Chief Thomas Clancy, Dan McCarthy and Captain Peter Lancaster were still in a very precarious condition.

Big Store in Oklahoma Burned. OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 4.—Fire that started in the Lion Store, dealers in general merchandise, here this morning caused a loss of \$200,000. Insurance, about one-third the loss. Another fire in frame buildings on Broadway, at the same time, caused an additional loss. Fire apparatus was sent in by El Reno and Guthrie and at 11:30 the fire, which for a time threatened the city, was under control.

UNWILLING TO LOSE HOBBSON. He Is Asked to Try New Post-Conditions of His Resignation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has made the following recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy concerning Captain Hobson's resignation:

"The Bureau is reluctant to recommend the acceptance of the officer's resignation, believing that time should be given him to reconsider his decision and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

Secretary Moody today telegraphed this recommendation to Captain Hobson, with the statement that the department approved it, and that he transmitted it to him and his consideration.

"Upon the severing of my official connection with the Navy I beg to make the following statement and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

"The attitude of the construction corps, to which Mr. Hobson is attached, is disclosed in this indorsement upon the letter."

"The bureau recommends acceptance to take effect February 15, 1903."

PENSIONS FOR EX-SLAVES. Bill Introduced Providing for Them in Old Age.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Hanna today introduced a bill granting pensions and bounties to all ex-slaves who were freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln during the war of the Rebellion.

It provides that persons over 60 years of age and less than 80, male or female, shall receive a cash bounty of \$100 and monthly pensions of \$5 per month; persons between 60 and 70 years of age, a bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$12 per month; and persons over 70 years of age, bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$15 per month.

President Mitchell, of the National Industrial Council, at whose request the bill was introduced, issued a statement tonight to the effect that no one has the authority to charge the petitioners who will benefit should the bill become a law, any money to further its passage.

FREE BEEF AND HIDES

TARIFF DEBATE INJECTED INTO HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Members Wander From Postoffice Appropriation-Sibley and Williams Exchange Compliments.

The general debate on the Postoffice appropriation bill was injected yesterday by an interesting discussion of the tariff question. It was participated in by Sibley (Rep., Pa.), Williams (Dem., Miss.) and Briggs (Dem., Ga.).

The consideration of the postoffice bill in committee of the whole was completed, but it was not passed. The annual attempt to strike out appropriations for special mail facilities between Washington and New Orleans, and Kansas City and Newton, Kan., was failed by Talbot (Dem., S. C.), who followed up his motion after it was defeated in committee of the whole with a motion in the House to recommit the bill with instructions to eliminate the provisions. The latter motion is designed to place the members on record. His motion was pending when the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

At the end of which time the previous question is to be considered as ordered on the bill and pending amendments to its passage.

Rule for Action on Trust Bill. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on pensions today authorized a favorable report on the Senate bill to increase the pensions of all Mexican War veterans from \$5 to \$12 per month.

Confirmed by the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Confirmations by the Senate: S. S. Morton, Receiver of Public Money at San Francisco; F. A. Tarr, Postmaster at Monticello, Wash.

BREATHE NITRIC ACID.

Four Firemen Die of the Poisonous Fumes—Others Are Seriously Ill.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 4.—Four firemen are dead and nine others are said to be seriously ill from the effects of inhaling the fumes of nitric acid while fighting a fire at the plant of the Schwab Stamp & Seal Company last night.

The victims of the disaster were not overcome for many hours after the fire, when one by one they succumbed. A complete list of the dead and seriously injured up to midnight is as follows:

Dead: James Foley, chief. Andrew White, captain Truck No. 1. Edward Hogan, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Dronoy, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1. Seriously injured: Daniel Barth, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Clancy, assistant chief. Peter Lancaster, captain Truck No. 2. The following probably will recover: William Meley, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

George Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1. William Kennedy, truckman. Joseph Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Jack Hearn, lieutenant. Assistant Chief Clancy's condition is critical, and the physicians who are watching over him cannot determine his chances of living.

Captain Peter Lancaster is dying, and surgeon William Meley and William Kennedy are seriously ill. The men became ill today and rapidly grew worse. Doctors worked hard over them, but Captain Lancaster appeared to be dying, and a priest was sent for and the last rites of the Catholic Church administered.

It was hoped that Meley and Kennedy could be pulled through. Four more of the firemen yielded to the effects of the nitric acid fumes tonight, but probably will recover. Late tonight, Assistant Chief Thomas Clancy, Dan McCarthy and Captain Peter Lancaster were still in a very precarious condition.

Big Store in Oklahoma Burned. OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 4.—Fire that started in the Lion Store, dealers in general merchandise, here this morning caused a loss of \$200,000. Insurance, about one-third the loss. Another fire in frame buildings on Broadway, at the same time, caused an additional loss. Fire apparatus was sent in by El Reno and Guthrie and at 11:30 the fire, which for a time threatened the city, was under control.

UNWILLING TO LOSE HOBBSON. He Is Asked to Try New Post-Conditions of His Resignation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has made the following recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy concerning Captain Hobson's resignation:

"The Bureau is reluctant to recommend the acceptance of the officer's resignation, believing that time should be given him to reconsider his decision and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

Secretary Moody today telegraphed this recommendation to Captain Hobson, with the statement that the department approved it, and that he transmitted it to him and his consideration.

"Upon the severing of my official connection with the Navy I beg to make the following statement and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

"The attitude of the construction corps, to which Mr. Hobson is attached, is disclosed in this indorsement upon the letter."

"The bureau recommends acceptance to take effect February 15, 1903."

PENSIONS FOR EX-SLAVES. Bill Introduced Providing for Them in Old Age.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Hanna today introduced a bill granting pensions and bounties to all ex-slaves who were freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln during the war of the Rebellion.

It provides that persons over 60 years of age and less than 80, male or female, shall receive a cash bounty of \$100 and monthly pensions of \$5 per month; persons between 60 and 70 years of age, a bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$12 per month; and persons over 70 years of age, bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$15 per month.

President Mitchell, of the National Industrial Council, at whose request the bill was introduced, issued a statement tonight to the effect that no one has the authority to charge the petitioners who will benefit should the bill become a law, any money to further its passage.

FREE BEEF AND HIDES

TARIFF DEBATE INJECTED INTO HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Members Wander From Postoffice Appropriation-Sibley and Williams Exchange Compliments.

The general debate on the Postoffice appropriation bill was injected yesterday by an interesting discussion of the tariff question. It was participated in by Sibley (Rep., Pa.), Williams (Dem., Miss.) and Briggs (Dem., Ga.).

The consideration of the postoffice bill in committee of the whole was completed, but it was not passed. The annual attempt to strike out appropriations for special mail facilities between Washington and New Orleans, and Kansas City and Newton, Kan., was failed by Talbot (Dem., S. C.), who followed up his motion after it was defeated in committee of the whole with a motion in the House to recommit the bill with instructions to eliminate the provisions. The latter motion is designed to place the members on record. His motion was pending when the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

At the end of which time the previous question is to be considered as ordered on the bill and pending amendments to its passage.

Rule for Action on Trust Bill. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on pensions today authorized a favorable report on the Senate bill to increase the pensions of all Mexican War veterans from \$5 to \$12 per month.

Confirmed by the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Confirmations by the Senate: S. S. Morton, Receiver of Public Money at San Francisco; F. A. Tarr, Postmaster at Monticello, Wash.

BREATHE NITRIC ACID.

Four Firemen Die of the Poisonous Fumes—Others Are Seriously Ill.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 4.—Four firemen are dead and nine others are said to be seriously ill from the effects of inhaling the fumes of nitric acid while fighting a fire at the plant of the Schwab Stamp & Seal Company last night.

The victims of the disaster were not overcome for many hours after the fire, when one by one they succumbed. A complete list of the dead and seriously injured up to midnight is as follows:

Dead: James Foley, chief. Andrew White, captain Truck No. 1. Edward Hogan, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Dronoy, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1. Seriously injured: Daniel Barth, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Clancy, assistant chief. Peter Lancaster, captain Truck No. 2. The following probably will recover: William Meley, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

George Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1. William Kennedy, truckman. Joseph Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Jack Hearn, lieutenant. Assistant Chief Clancy's condition is critical, and the physicians who are watching over him cannot determine his chances of living.

Captain Peter Lancaster is dying, and surgeon William Meley and William Kennedy are seriously ill. The men became ill today and rapidly grew worse. Doctors worked hard over them, but Captain Lancaster appeared to be dying, and a priest was sent for and the last rites of the Catholic Church administered.

It was hoped that Meley and Kennedy could be pulled through. Four more of the firemen yielded to the effects of the nitric acid fumes tonight, but probably will recover. Late tonight, Assistant Chief Thomas Clancy, Dan McCarthy and Captain Peter Lancaster were still in a very precarious condition.

Big Store in Oklahoma Burned. OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 4.—Fire that started in the Lion Store, dealers in general merchandise, here this morning caused a loss of \$200,000. Insurance, about one-third the loss. Another fire in frame buildings on Broadway, at the same time, caused an additional loss. Fire apparatus was sent in by El Reno and Guthrie and at 11:30 the fire, which for a time threatened the city, was under control.

UNWILLING TO LOSE HOBBSON. He Is Asked to Try New Post-Conditions of His Resignation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has made the following recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy concerning Captain Hobson's resignation:

"The Bureau is reluctant to recommend the acceptance of the officer's resignation, believing that time should be given him to reconsider his decision and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

Secretary Moody today telegraphed this recommendation to Captain Hobson, with the statement that the department approved it, and that he transmitted it to him and his consideration.

"Upon the severing of my official connection with the Navy I beg to make the following statement and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

"The attitude of the construction corps, to which Mr. Hobson is attached, is disclosed in this indorsement upon the letter."

"The bureau recommends acceptance to take effect February 15, 1903."

PENSIONS FOR EX-SLAVES. Bill Introduced Providing for Them in Old Age.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Hanna today introduced a bill granting pensions and bounties to all ex-slaves who were freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln during the war of the Rebellion.

It provides that persons over 60 years of age and less than 80, male or female, shall receive a cash bounty of \$100 and monthly pensions of \$5 per month; persons between 60 and 70 years of age, a bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$12 per month; and persons over 70 years of age, bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$15 per month.

President Mitchell, of the National Industrial Council, at whose request the bill was introduced, issued a statement tonight to the effect that no one has the authority to charge the petitioners who will benefit should the bill become a law, any money to further its passage.

FREE BEEF AND HIDES

TARIFF DEBATE INJECTED INTO HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Members Wander From Postoffice Appropriation-Sibley and Williams Exchange Compliments.

The general debate on the Postoffice appropriation bill was injected yesterday by an interesting discussion of the tariff question. It was participated in by Sibley (Rep., Pa.), Williams (Dem., Miss.) and Briggs (Dem., Ga.).

The consideration of the postoffice bill in committee of the whole was completed, but it was not passed. The annual attempt to strike out appropriations for special mail facilities between Washington and New Orleans, and Kansas City and Newton, Kan., was failed by Talbot (Dem., S. C.), who followed up his motion after it was defeated in committee of the whole with a motion in the House to recommit the bill with instructions to eliminate the provisions. The latter motion is designed to place the members on record. His motion was pending when the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

At the end of which time the previous question is to be considered as ordered on the bill and pending amendments to its passage.

Rule for Action on Trust Bill. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on rules today agreed upon its general rule for the consideration of the Littlefield anti-trust bill. It will be brought in immediately after the Postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of, and provided for 19 hours' general debate and the remainder of the day.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The House committee on pensions today authorized a favorable report on the Senate bill to increase the pensions of all Mexican War veterans from \$5 to \$12 per month.

Confirmed by the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Confirmations by the Senate: S. S. Morton, Receiver of Public Money at San Francisco; F. A. Tarr, Postmaster at Monticello, Wash.

BREATHE NITRIC ACID.

Four Firemen Die of the Poisonous Fumes—Others Are Seriously Ill.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 4.—Four firemen are dead and nine others are said to be seriously ill from the effects of inhaling the fumes of nitric acid while fighting a fire at the plant of the Schwab Stamp & Seal Company last night.

The victims of the disaster were not overcome for many hours after the fire, when one by one they succumbed. A complete list of the dead and seriously injured up to midnight is as follows:

Dead: James Foley, chief. Andrew White, captain Truck No. 1. Edward Hogan, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Dronoy, pipeman, Engine Company No. 1. Seriously injured: Daniel Barth, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Thomas Clancy, assistant chief. Peter Lancaster, captain Truck No. 2. The following probably will recover: William Meley, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

George Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1. William Kennedy, truckman. Joseph Ryan, truckman, Engine Company No. 1.

Jack Hearn, lieutenant. Assistant Chief Clancy's condition is critical, and the physicians who are watching over him cannot determine his chances of living.

Captain Peter Lancaster is dying, and surgeon William Meley and William Kennedy are seriously ill. The men became ill today and rapidly grew worse. Doctors worked hard over them, but Captain Lancaster appeared to be dying, and a priest was sent for and the last rites of the Catholic Church administered.

It was hoped that Meley and Kennedy could be pulled through. Four more of the firemen yielded to the effects of the nitric acid fumes tonight, but probably will recover. Late tonight, Assistant Chief Thomas Clancy, Dan McCarthy and Captain Peter Lancaster were still in a very precarious condition.

Big Store in Oklahoma Burned. OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 4.—Fire that started in the Lion Store, dealers in general merchandise, here this morning caused a loss of \$200,000. Insurance, about one-third the loss. Another fire in frame buildings on Broadway, at the same time, caused an additional loss. Fire apparatus was sent in by El Reno and Guthrie and at 11:30 the fire, which for a time threatened the city, was under control.

UNWILLING TO LOSE HOBBSON. He Is Asked to Try New Post-Conditions of His Resignation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has made the following recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy concerning Captain Hobson's resignation:

"The Bureau is reluctant to recommend the acceptance of the officer's resignation, believing that time should be given him to reconsider his decision and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

Secretary Moody today telegraphed this recommendation to Captain Hobson, with the statement that the department approved it, and that he transmitted it to him and his consideration.

"Upon the severing of my official connection with the Navy I beg to make the following statement and permit a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the Government may retain the services of an officer whose name has been so prominently mentioned."

"The attitude of the construction corps, to which Mr. Hobson is attached, is disclosed in this indorsement upon the letter."

"The bureau recommends acceptance to take effect February 15, 1903."

PENSIONS FOR EX-SLAVES. Bill Introduced Providing for Them in Old Age.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Hanna today introduced a bill granting pensions and bounties to all ex-slaves who were freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln during the war of the Rebellion.

It provides that persons over 60 years of age and less than 80, male or female, shall receive a cash bounty of \$100 and monthly pensions of \$5 per month; persons between 60 and 70 years of age, a bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$12 per month; and persons over 70 years of age, bounty of \$50 and a pension of \$15 per month.

President Mitchell, of the National Industrial Council, at whose request the bill was introduced, issued a statement tonight to the effect that no one has the authority to charge the petitioners who will benefit should the bill become a law, any money to further its passage.

FREE BEEF AND HIDES

TARIFF DEBATE INJECTED INTO HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Members Wander From Postoffice Appropriation-Sibley and Williams Exchange Compliments.

The general debate on the Postoffice appropriation bill was injected yesterday by an interesting discussion of the tariff question. It was participated in by Sibley (Rep., Pa.), Williams (Dem., Miss.) and Briggs (Dem., Ga.).