The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 1907.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE COMMISSION. The Oregonian has not been in haste new Railroad Commission. It is aware that the dark, unfathorned caves of ocean bear full many a gem and that mute inglorious Miltons are to be found in every village. While, therefore, it discerned small reason to hope from its own knowledge of the appointees that they would accomplish what the people of Oregon expected from the commiseion, still it was willing to wait and hear what others might have to say in the way of encouragement. The Oregonian rather expected that the intimate acquaintances of the gentlemen who have been selected to perform the high-ly important duties of this great office would come forward with evidence that they possessed wide administrative exee and abilities of the first rank. This expectation has not been fulfilled. although we are obliged to say that the fine record of Mr. West as State Land Agent justifies high hopes as to him From all parts of the state, however will be agreeably surprised if the com mission proves adequate to its duties. The most optimistic scarcely express more than a faint hope that with ite actual personnel it will perhaps serve as a tolerable makeshift until the people can exercise their prerogative of The method of choice prescribed by the bill was perhaps the worst that could have been devised. If the commission proves weak, pliable, futile, nobody in particular will be to blame. The responeibility is divided among three men, each of whom can shift it upon his colleagues.

The bi-partisan requirement is not in accord with the best thought upon such matters. Bi-partisan commissions of all sorts have been almost invariable fallures. The notion of partisan, or bipartisan, politics is entirely foreign to the duties of the commission, as the bill itself concedes when it forbids the members to hold official positions in any party. As they stand, one can only that the members will not spend their energies seeking for party advantage rather than in regulating the rallroads. The bill provides that the state board may remove the members in case they are incompetent, but one cannot expect much from this. Were the reputation of a single individual bound up with their successor or failure, he might be moved to action by flagrant delinquency or misfeasance, but a responsibility divided among three officials will not worry either of them greatly. The present arrangement, of course, is temporary. The commission a permanent body is to be elective; but the bill contains no provision for the removal of an unsatisfactory commissioner who has been chosen by the people. Perhaps such a provision would not be constitutional; but its absence is distinctly regrettable and will prove weakness in the working of the plan. Nowhere has the peremptory power of removal proved so essential as in rail-

road commissions When it was finally decided that we needed and must have a Railroad Commission, the least we could expect from the appointive power was that it should lect members who would give the people. It was certainly not presumptuous to hope that the first members would be men well known throughout commission, determine the lines which its future proceedings will follow, and set up a standard of fairness. determination and judicial wisdom for their successors. The present commission may do all this in the most admirable manner; but nobody feels assured that they will. It is a misfortune that they, or a majority of them. emerge from obscurity to a position of paramount importance at a single leap. It is a misfortune no less for the men

plan of a Railroad Commission the ini- though it is by no means impossible tial appointees might do should they prove pliable under railroad influence. To cite a single point out of many, they have authority to suspend the operation of the demurrage clauses for Daily, Sunday included, one year....\$5.00

Daily, Sunday included, six months... 4.25

Daily, Sunday included, three months... 2.25

Daily, Sunday included, cne months... 75

Daily, without Sunday, one year.... 6.00

Daily, without Sunday, six months... 3.25

Daily, without Sunday, six months... 3.25

Daily, without Sunday, six months... 1.75

Daily, without Sunday, one month... 1.75

Daily, without Sunday, one month... 1.75

Daily, without Sunday, one month... 2.30

Sunday, one year... 2.30 retroactive. It is apparent that this Academy, would lend himself disposed. In case of another car short- able integrity, and his presumable con- made their acquaintance. Cowboy age similar to the present one they currence in the tenor of the commit-might suspend the penalties of the law tee's report still further strengthens flict such an outrage upon the state; is to be congratulated upon what seems but their refusal would not be for the to be a practically complete vindicasake of their reputations, since they tion. have none, or next to none,

> cial review and may be stayed by in- dal to injure him. The confidence of junctions; but these remedies are tardy and often far from complete. The members should be of such standing in the state that there would be no dispo-sition to look beyond them to the courts for relief, except in rare and exceptional instances. Their reputations should give assurance not only of good intentions, but also of the ability to carry those intentions into practical effect. The commercial welfare of Oregon for years to come will undoubtedly depend very largely upon the wisdom, ourage and efficiency of the Rallroad Commission. It is regrettable in the extreme that the men who hold its fate their hands are comparatively strangers to the people of the state.

PRESTIGE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER. The Port of Columbia bill passed, the ountles directly concerned, but to the and pilot service there has been no ontention of Clatsop County's representatives that the plan outlined by the Port of Columbia bill will not correct for tonnage to move the products of the vast territory drained by the Columbia shortened to the extreme limit, there rection of any disability was ever initiated unless there was at least a slight The plan embodied in the new law may not be the best method for handling had the interests of the Columbia River

tional Association of Sailing-Ship Owners and again place the Columbia River on an even basis with Puget Sound ports. It is matter of regret that the determination of the railroad company to retire from the service and their agreement to absorb the bar pilotage on all grain vessels was not announced a little earlier. The leading Clatsop county property-owners and the repreentative business men of Astoria are edound to the advantage of the entire ime for consultation and explanation quieted.

roportionately with Multnomah in the enefits arising from such improv ments. Coming events which have cast their shadows before in the railroad world are fraught with great possibilties for Clatson County and the entire Lower Columbia territory, but the keystone of the arch on which the commer cial greatness of Astoria, Rainier, Portland or any other river town will be built is the entrance to that matchless waterway, the Columbia River. We have emerged from the era of economic due to the strictest observance of rules waste through which all new countries and the exercise of greatest caution pass in the early stages of their development. The routes and channels into which commerce is now settling will expense enormously greater than is re not be temporary or experimental avenues of trade, but within the next ew years will be fixed for all time. The Columbia River is in the pathway of this stream of trade, which will flow in and out of the Pacific ports. Our share in this rapidly swelling volume of mmerce will depend wholly on conditions at the entrance of the river.

If the time ever comes when it is cheaper to take the cargo to the ship than it is to take the ship to the cargo. all of the deep-water shipping business will be done at the point nearest the sea. That is a simple economic problem which will always be solved on a dollars-and-cents basis. The best plan now before the people of Astoria, Portland, Rainier, St. Helens and all other Columbia River ports is to get together and work in harmony for improvement of the service at the point where improvement is most needed. If, as is now predicted, the new plan for accomplishing the end sought is not perfect, we can by united effort im-prove it. There is too much at stake in the vast territory concerned to admit of any delay in applying a remedy. If the remedy now at hand does not acomplish all that is desired, something else will be invoked. The commercial prestige of the Columbia River must and will be maintained.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. RADER. The headquarters committee of the Anti-Saloon League has made a final report upon the charges against the for. Rev. Paul Rader. Had the committee body dignity and prestige which would taken the public more generously into command for it at once the respect of its confidence as this unpleasant affair the railroads and the confidence of the progressed, Mr. Rader might have been spared some disagreeable publicity. The secrecy which looked like an effort to conceal or palliate guilt came from boys believe that oaths add vigor to the state for their ability and charac- nothing worse than a preference for ter. They are to fix the precedents for privacy and an excessive dread of pub- under the same delusion. As a matter lle comment, but the result of it was nost undestrable sort,

The report fully exonerates Mr. Raler, and The Oregonian takes pleasure in saying so. It loves to see no man convicted unjustly and rejoices in triumphant innocence. The charges are taken up one by one, candidly consid- expression seems to come and go like ered and disposed of satisfactorily. If other fashions. In the period of the there is an exception to this statement it is the matter of the check alleged to entertainingly, oaths were plentiful in themselves than for the public; since, have been contributed by Mr. Bourne. According to the committee there was success would have been less problem- no such check, and therefore Dr. C. T.

At any rate, Dr. Wilson seems to have admitted to members of the com that he made a mistake as to the facts

and there the matter must rest. We have never for a moment believed enables them to nullify utterly the rem- sciously to a scheme of whitewashing edial intent of the law if they are so Mr. Rader. He is a man of unimpeach-

He will resume his work strengthened The powers necessarily intrusted to by the ordeal which he has passed the public in his integrity will shield him from the attacks of malice.

THE BAILBOAD TRAGEDIES.

Five separate and distinct investigations have been held or are to be held to ascertain the causes of the terrible wreck of a New York Central electric train. These investigations were instituted by the Coroner, trict Attorney, Railroad Commission, a legislative committee and by the rail road company. As this was one of the worst electric train dieasters that has yet occurred, the result of these numerous investigations will be awaited with considerable interest. Practically all branches of the state, as well as the nunicipal government, will figure in these inquiries, and some or all of them should contribute something to th Oregon Senate yesterday by a vote al- stock of knowledge regarding these famost unanimous. It is a measure of talities which are occurring with alarminusual interest, not only to the three ing frequency. Rapid transit is demanded more and more each year, entire Columbia River territory. Of the pecially in suburban trains running necessity for improvement in the tug from our large cities. The enormous prices at which real estate is held it question for many months. It is the these cities practically forces the man of moderate means to the suburbs.

To go far enough out from New York Port of Columbia bill will not correct the evils which have placed the Co-lumbia River in bad odor with the time consumed in making the journey shipowners, on whom we are dependent between the office or workshop and the River. No radically new policy for cor- is a demand for high speed. It is this demand that brings into existence the schedule that approaches the danger element of the experimental involved. line. Competition among the roads induces them to inslet that the men in charge of their trains keep them most the problem. It is the best, however, ing at high speed. The employes, of that could be formulated by men who course, have strict orders to use due caution in slowing down at curves and rossings, but they also generally have Unless unexpected obstructions are orders to make their runs on time. The placed in the way of its operations, the railroad officials who are investigating ew law will remove the sole remaining this latest horror will hardly be exdisability complained of by the Interna- pected to find that all of the blame rests with their own employes. They might make such admission in the seclusion of their offices when the em ployes were "on the carpet" for repri-

mand, but will not make them in pub-The employes themselves occupy position not at all enviable. Strict adherence to schedule is maintained not Infrequently by an abandonment of caution, the man who is unable to put not so narrow-minded as to stand in this train through on time having only the way of any improvement that will a slight hold on his job. It thus seems reasonably clear that both the public, Columbia River. Had there been more time for consultation and explanation railroad companies, which undertake to regarding the merits of the bill, much furnish it, are to blame for these tragof the opposition from Clatsop County edies of the rail. There has, of course, would doubtless have been removed or been great loss of life by trainwreck from causes which were beyond the It will be impossible for the Port of power of man to foresee or guard Columbia to effect any improvement of against, and accidents of this nature onditions at the entrance of the river | will probably continue to occur at invithout Clatsop and Columbia sharing I tervals, regardless of all the safeguards which the ingenuity of man can put

into use The fastest long-distance trains in the world run between New York and Chicago, and, while they have for years maintained a schedule which practically calls for "a thousand miles in a thousand minutes," the only serious ac-cident they have ever experienced was caused by a misplaced switch at a station. The safety and comparative freedom from accident of these trains is over every mile of road. The way for these fast trains is kept clear at an quired for the movement of slower trains, for to eliminate all chances of collision or delay to the fast trains everything else is held up to give a clear track to them. The public pays liberally for this high speed and the protection that accompanies it.

Perhaps the numerous accidents on less carefully guarded trains may be due in part to an effort to maintain high speed without proper track equipment or caution. If this be the case, some of the numerous investigations now on may dieclose the source of the evil. The remedy would then lie in slower trains or better roadbed, equipcertain, the railroads should not be permitted to continue to slaughter pass gers as they are now doing, e though the passenger seems willing to take the chance,

SWEAR NOT AT ALL.

There is reason to believe that the habit of profane swearing is upon the Words are now printed in books which would not have been tolersecome frequent upon the stage. Indeed it seems that some actors believe that profanity gives a spice of wit to the drama that would otherwise be lacking. It was noticed that the principal players who lately delighted us with "She Stoops to Conquer" found it advisable to interpolate half a dozen "damns" which Goldsmith saw no use

Profanity has become more common among boys than it was formerly, and there are women of refinement, so they think at least, who permit themselves an occasional oath to give piquancy to of fact, conversation sprinkled with misunderstanding and publicity of the oaths gains nothing in vigor and loses much in decency. Profanity shocks people of cultivated taste, whatever

their religious views may be It is only fair to say that the increase of profanity le probably merely a passing fad. This disagreeable choice of United States Senate. Georges, of which Thackeray writes so the most elegant society. All the men swore, and most of the women also Alfred Russell Wallace, who worked Wilson must have imagined the cir- with several different young men in song, and it was all about the Mor-Consider what injury to the whole cumstance. This looks improbable, his youth at the surveyor's trade, re- mons.

cords of all of them that their con versation was something frightful This was almost three-quarters of century age. One may guess that the current fashion of indulgence in "strong language" owes its prevalence thirty days and to make their order that Dr. J. R. Wilson, of the Portland in part to Kipling's recent vogue. His characters generally choose an eath in preference to less startling expressions and everybody, young and old, has tales have much the same influence upon language. It may be guessed that improper people affect us in booke very much as they do in life. But the vogue of profanity is transient. It is too silly to last long.

What's the matter with Kansas? One of her citizens is flying the red flag of anarchy and predicting a rebellion in case Moyer and Heywood are found guilty of the cowardly agsassinthe commission are very extensive. To through successfully. Henceforth it ation of ex-Governor Frank Steunen be sure, their orders are subject to judi- will be difficult for the tongue of scan- berg, of Idaho. Organized labor has much to contend with, but one of the greatest obstacles to its progress is the foolish utterances of jawsmiths of the type of Mr. Rolfe, of Kansas, who is in such a warlike mood. If Moyer and Heywood are guilty, they will be punished; if innocent, they will be freed. In either case there is no necessity for loud talking.

General Castro is reported to have suppressed the latest revolution by capturing and executing General Parades and eighteen of his followers, including three Americans. It is painful to read of the execution of an American citizen by the "peppery" fire-eaters of one of those chronic war-seeking nations lying south of us. If, however, the Americans got mixed up in the scheme to displace the duly elected president of the country, they are simply paying the penalty with their lives for their bad judgment, and there will be no occasion for American intervention to eave them.

The Governor refuses to be execu tioner for two of Oregon's normal chools, and the Legislature will take it all out on Drain. Altogether it is not a happy year for Douglas County, for, in addition to other troubles, its nost distinguished citizen is under the recessity of explaining to a judge and jury at Washington some things about his private letters that he would prefer to have left unexplained.

The only way we see for Astoria to get even is to have Gabriel Wingate we up here and be elected Assessor of Multnomah County. Mr. Wingate, it will be recalled, is the broad-gauge atesman who was once on the State Board of Equalization and regarded it not only as his solemn duty, but his sacred, privilege, to make Multnomah pay more taxes pro rata than any other county.

The two Senators from Multnomah. Messrs. Beach and Bailey, who were so anxious to redeem their pledges to the people for revocation of perpetual franchises by passage of the Freeman bill, will fortunately get another chance when the gas franchise revocation measure comes up.

Emperor William is quite optimistic ver the outlook for peace, and predicts that the coming Hague conference "will be qualified to develop further the laws among nations for the good of humanity and of peace." Meanwhile the Krupp gun factories are working over-

The orgies of Stanford White were readful enough and indecent enough, in all truth, but it is doubtful whether a recital of some of them in detail would have been shocking enough to the fine sensibilities of Harry Thaw to drive him even temporarily i

The one great consolation about the empulsory pass law is that, while the ailroads have to give passes to state officers, the aforesaid state officers do not have to accept the passes. Possioccurred to Governor Chamberlain.

Steve Adams trial long enough to declare that he was the murderer of Tyler. Of course they rushed him off to an insane asylum. The only men who ever confess to murder are the men who didn't do it.

The army of Honduras has been defeated by that of Nicaragua. The monthly drawings of the Honduras state lottery will not be involved in the result. It takes place in a reconstruct-

Senator Heyburn thinks Mr. Pinchot with clacquers to hiss him. The Senator was, of course, mistaken. He was speaking in Idaho, where they know

Senator Mulkey's confidential friend, Mr. Rogoway, refuses to permit him to ment or management. One thing is run for Mayor. But we should really like to hear from Private Secretary Barry Bulkeley on the subject.

Mrs. Thaw is about 21 years of age. She was not 16 when she went on the stage, yet in that brief time she has acquired a little bit the most sensational past of any woman in America.

The ghort-weight jobbers at Salem go n the theory that the public isn't entitled to know the contents nor weight ated a few years ago, and oaths have of what it buys, and what the public doesn't know won't hurt it.

It is just possible now that a few of those bar pilots will hereafter have ALL the time at their disposal to promote the interests of the Astoria Chair-Warmers' Association.

Councilman Vaughn, who didn't get a railroad pass, being overlooked, will at least be spared the humiliation of having the pass taken from him by the operation of law.

We hear no talk about tainted money In the great Y. M. C. A.-Y. W. C. A \$350,000 building fund campaign. Haptheir remarks; men occasionally fall plly, there is no such thing in Portland. The Thaw case also developed a few interesting facts about the "ple girl"

not heretofore suspected. Evidently she wasn't good enough to eat. Now we hope that the Mormon Church will not expel Apostle Smoot because he insists on retaining his seat in the

No wonder Evelyn Thaw's mother remains away from New York and the witness-stand. She, too, knows a lot

Senator Dubois has sung his swan-

Senator Explains Deals With Cor- House Republicans Sign Petitions

porations and Denies Charges.

AUSTIN, Tex., Feb. 20 .- "I gave them a written opinion in which stated that if they attempted to do business in the state they would be put in the penitentiary and their prop-erty absorbed in fines and penalties." This is the answer Senator J. W. Bailey says he gave the Standard Oil officials when they asked him about the chances for re-entering Texas. Mr. Bailey made this statement today be-fore the legislative investigating com-mittee in explaining his relations with the Standard and Waters-Pierce 011 ompanies. The request for an opin-

ion came, said Mr. Balley, immediately after the Beaumont oil boom.
Other portions of Mr. Balley's story before the committee had to do with his deals with John H. Kirby, the Texas millionaire lumberman; S. G Bane, president of the Scaboard Na-Pierce, president of the board of direc tors of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company; B. F. Yoakum and other financiers.

Mr. Balley told an interesting story

of his adventures in the financial cen-ters, and firmly maintained that all of his acts and deeds had been honerable and above reproach. He said he helped his client, J. H. Kirby, in regaining his stock from Patrick Cal-houn of Wall street, and stated that the \$156,000 he borrowed was because the Kirby Lumber Company had not legally assumed the state obligations. Henry Clay Pierce, he said, gave his written guarantee for the payment of

this also.

The Senator denied conducting an oil business in Texas in conjunction with the Waters-Pierce Oil Company or the Standard. The concern which he took over for a debt was known as the Southwestern Oil Company, a subsidlary concern to the Houston Oil Com-

B. F. Yoakum, he explained, had purchased the Kirby Lumber Company stock on his solicitation, which was transferred to the Frisco Railway. was Mr. Bailey went into detail regardng his attorneyship of the Tennessee Construction Company, Mr. Bailey de-iled that he had ever represented Adolphus Busch in any transaction. "I have not concluded my attorneyship with the Tennessee Construction Company yet." he said. "There are some matters that ought to be engaging my attention right now.'

He declared that there was not a shadow of truth in the charge that he had accepted money for political services rendered the Waters-Pierce Oil

Regarding the B. F. Yoakum Indebtedness, Mr. Balley said that he urged Mr. Yoakum to buy Kirby Lumber Company stock in that transaction.

Mr. Bailey denied that his efforts in behalf of his clients had any effect upon his public duties. His attendance upon sessions of Congress was as reg-ular, he said, as that of any other member. It was impossible for a law-yer who was a member of Congress to engage in general practice, because of conflicting sessions of court and Con-

Regarding his transportation amend-ment to the rebate bilt and his conversation with Mr. Yoakum about it he

"Mr. Yoakum agreed with me that a common carrier should be nothing more than a common carrier. If my amendment had been adopted, he would not have been able to have any of the lumber land he had purchased. Yoakum was willing to obey this law, if the other roads could be forced to observe it, too."

Frequently during the afternoon Mr. Balley denounced the charges as "iles," and his enemies as "liars."

DEMANDS SCALP OF KELSEY Hughes Says Insurance Superintend-

ent Neglected Duty. ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 20.-Governor Hughes sent to the Senate this morning a special message recommending the removal from office of State Superintendent of Insurance Keisey.

In making the recommendation the Governor says; "With respect to life insurance, New York is easily the most important juris-diction in the United States, if not in the

world, and the vast interests involved imperatively require, and it should be a point of honor for the state to maintain a fearless and efficient administration of its supervising department commanding the confidence of the people. I recommend Mr. Keisey's removal because, as the head of this department, he has failed to perform duties of the first importance, his neglect has demonstrated his unfitness for the position." The message was read and referred vithout debate to the committee on ju-

diciary.

Final Vote in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.-The pl rality of Congressman John Reyburn, Republican, who was yesterday elected Mayor of Philadelphia over William Potter, the Democratic City Party candidate, was 33,003. Hugh Black, Republican, re-ceived a plurality of 52,830 over Edmonds. the fusion candidate for receiver taxes.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 20.-On request of counsel for H. C. Pierce, Governor Folk today postponed until to-morrow action on the requisition for Pierce issued by the Texas authorities, where Pierce is wanted on charges of making a false affidavit.

Delays Action on Pierce Case.

Favors Woman Suffrage.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 20.-The Senate adopted a joint memorial to Congress in favor of an amendment to the Constitu-tion permitting women to vote. The House today adopted the anti-tipping bill.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN BRITAIN

Imprisoned Women Released-Dilke Proposes Suffrage Bill. LONDON, Feb. 20.-A dozen woman suffragists were released from prison this

morning and subsequently were enter-tained at luncheon by their colleagues. Much enthusiasm was aroused by reading of congratulatory messages from the National Woman Suffrage Associa-tion, which closed its convention in Chicago yesterday.

The text of Sir Charles Dilke's bill to enfranchise women and remove women's disabilities was issued this morning. It provides for enfranchising every man and woman of full age residing in the area where an election is being held, and that nobody shall be disqualified by sex or marriage from being elected to either house of Parliament or to local bodies, or from exercising any public functions whatever. It is similar to the bill which Charles introduced last year and which was defeated.

French Angry With Russians.

TOULON, France, Feb. 20.-The action f the Russian squadron, which is an-hored in the harbor, in buying provi-ions from Greek and German houses has incensed the French merchants, who have placarded the streets with denunciations of France's allies and forwarded indignant resolutions to Marine Ministe

BAILEY IN HIS OWN DEFENSE CONSIDER SHIP SUBSIDY BILL PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE YOUNG

for Night Sessions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 .- Until after another conference of Republican lead-ers tomorrow, it will not be determined whether the Littauer ship subsidy bill is to be considered at this session Congress. One hundred and fifteen Republicans have signed a petition for the consideration of the measure at night sessions beginning tomorrow night and continuing through Saturday night.

Representative Watson, the Republican whip, said tonight that these signatures were obtained without any special effort on his part, and that the number could readily be increased to 150, if the House were to try to force

NAVAL BILL THROUGH SENATE

Increased Allowance for Coal and Powder Factory.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 30.-The naval ap propriation bill, carrying \$100,737,697, was passed by the Senate tonight in 52 min-utes. All the committee amendments were agreed to. The only amendment adopted added \$250,000 to the appropriation for coal and transportation and \$130,000 for a powder plant at the Norfolk Navyyard.

Culberson noticed that the Senate committee had doubted the amount of coal as stated. He asked if these items had any reference to the gathering of large fleets, as the President was in the habit of doing, or to the forthcoming exposition at Jamestown, Hale replied that the expense of the Navy in times of peace for ammunition were large. He did not believe any considerable amount of the lund would be used on account of the Jamestown Exposition, although he said that exposition seemed to be developing into more of a military show than any into more of a military show than any

Stone said he had ascertained that the annual consumption of powder by the Army and Navy was about 5,000,000 pounds; that it cost the Government 75 cents a pound, and that the Government could manufacture this powder for about half that amount. He had intended to address the Senate at some length in advocacy of Government manufacture of powder, but would content himself with submitting several letters from certain powder manufacturers of Kansas City. Peoria, Ill., and York, Pa.

MORE ROOM IN THE STEERAGE Immigration Bill Affects Mediter-

ranean Steamers Chiefly.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.-The Navigation Bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor in a statement today points out that the effect of section 42 of the new immigration act, which has just passed both houses of Congress and has been signed by the President, is an increase after January 1, 1909, by nearly 25 per cent in the minimum space allowed for each steerage passenger on steamers coming from Europe, Africa, Australia and South America. The

atement says:
"Generally speaking, the passenger steamers from Northern Europe do not carry any more passengers in the steer-age than will be permitted after 1909. The bill will apply chiefly to steamers coming from the Mediterranean, which already carry at times nearly to their full legal capacity and must, two years hence, either carry fewer passengers or Increase their accomodations "Of 56 steamships arriving at New York

ary, 1907, nine carried more than would be allowed under the new law." CONFER ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

with steerage passengers during Janu-

President and Navy Board Discuss Possible Emergencies.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 .- By invitation, Secretary Metcaif and the entire General Board of the Navy called at the White House this afternoon to discuss with the President questions con-cerning the National defense. It is understood the main point of the conference was to ascertain whether there was any prospect of developments in the recess of Congress requiring action now in addition to the measures al-ready incorporated in the naval appropriation act to put the Navy in shape for emergency.

IMMIGRATION BILL SIGNED

Commission of Nine Created to Investigate Whole Question WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.-The President

today signed the immigration bill The bill provides for a commis nine to make a thorough investigation of the whole immigration question. Three of these commissioners are to be ap-pointed by the President and three each by the Vice-President and Speaker, Al-ready there are a number of applications on file for these positions.

It is announced that the President will not place on the commission any person holding extreme views one way or the

Has No Hospital for Lepers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.-The hearings before the House committee on appropri ations upon the expenditures for the Ma-rine Hospital Service developed the fact that there is no hospital in the United States to which leprosy patients may be sent without pay, except one in Louisiana, which accepts only state patients. It was also brought out that the leprosy hospital in Hawaii will afford no refuge to American patients

Roosevelt Indorses Movement to Acquire Them in Cities.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.-Municipal playgrounds within easy walking distance for every boy and girl in the large cities were advocated tonight by President Roosevelt in a letter and by Representative Boutell, of Chicago; E. E. Brown, United States Commissioner of Education: Henry S. Carlis, superintendent of Washington playgrounds, and other speakers at a "playgrounds banquet" given under the auspices of the Washngton Playgrounds Association Mr. Bou-ell explained the object of his bill now

ending in Congress. The President in his letter expressed hope that Mr. Boutell's bill for playgrounds in Washington will pass Con gress, that sites may be secured before prices become probibilitie, saying: "I regard this as one of the most important steps toward making Washington the model city which we all feel that the Capital should be."

He praises the work in this direction done by Chicago and the High School Ath-ietic League of New York, and calls at-tention to the inclusion of games in the curriculum of German and English schools and several noted private schools in America. He proceeds:

"Play is almost the only method of physical development for our children. and we must provide facilities for them if we would have our children strong and law-ablding. If we don't allow the chil-dren to work we must provide some other place than the streets for their leisure time. If we are to require the parents to rear the children of the country for the service of the state, the state should make the education as pleasant as pos-sible."

He declares city streets unsatisfactory as playgrounds, and says places should be set aside for the purpose within easy walking distance for all children. Available space should be secured at once, that it may not be necessary to demolish dildings at great cost, as New York has had to do. Playgrounds should have careul supervision, that "gangs" may not get

CONSERVATIVES IN MAJORITY

Elect Their Man President of New German Reichstag.

BERLIN, Feb. 20.—The Reichstag to-day elected Count Udo von Stelberg-Wernigerode, who was first vice-president of the House, to be president. The vote stood 214 for Count Udo against 164 for Dr. Spahn, one of the Center party enders and ex-vice-president of

The two conservative parties, the National Liberals and the Radical groups supported Count von Stolberg Wernige rode and the members of the Center party, the Socialists and the Poles voted for Dr. Spahn. The Center party hereto-fore held the presidency for nine years. Count von Stolberg Wernigerode has served in Parliament for 30 years continuily and is regarded as having excellent Parliamentary ability.

Dr. Paasche was elected first vice-president, and Herr Kaempf, Radical Lib-eral, second vice-president.

AGAIN DENOUNCE SWETTENHAM

Kingston People Say He Refuses Offered Aid.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 20.-A mass neeting of citizens held Monday night ondemned Governor Swettenham for refusing monetary assistance coming here. The meeting adopted petitions to Parliament for a grant of \$50,000 and a loan of \$5,000,000 to aid in the rebuilding of the

Plans are now on foot for rebuilding a vastly improved Kingston. All principal thoroughfares will be widened, and Little Port Royal street, that nearest the hurbor front, will be abolished.

Dead bodies are still being recovered from the critical and are the content of the co from the ruins, and while the actual number of killed will never be known, the total cannot fall short of 1900.

Nicaragua Gains the Victory MANAGUA, Feb. 10. - The Nicaraguan army under Generals Vashuez and Fernes has defeated the forces of Honduras a several points, capturing important post

President Bonilla, of Honduras, has issued a proclamation in which recent events are distorted and appealing for recognition of the boundary question. which Nicaragua has not taken into con-sideration since the King of Spain rendered his award in the matter.

Hondurians Whip Nicaragua.

SAN SALVADOR, Republic of Salvador, Feb. 20.—Dispatches received here by the representatives of Honduras say that the Nicaraguan Army invaded Honduras territory at Portillo del Espino and that after two hours' fishting, the in-vading forces were completely defeated, leaving 37 men killed and many wounded

upon the field.

Chamberlain a Physical Wreck. LONDON, Feb. 29 -- An interesting authoritative statement concerning the lished here today. Although it does not confirm the worst ramors, it shows that Mr. Chamberlain is completely broken

Gunboat Gloucester Again Floats.

PENSACOLA, Fla., Eeb. 20.-The United States gunboat Gloucester, which was blown ashore here during the hurriane of last September, was floated to-lay. The vessel is badly damaged and day. The vensor will go into drydock.

