

IMPROVE COAL LAW

Congress Will Endeavor to Help Situation This Session.

MANY DEFECTS IN PRESENT LAW

Was Passed for Benefit of Individual, Who is Unable to Work Land After Taking It.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Strenuous efforts will be made at the present session of congress to secure the repeal or modification of the coal land law along the lines recommended by President Roosevelt in his message. That something will be accomplished seems quite probable, but what form of law will be substituted for that under which gigantic frauds have been perpetrated has not yet been made apparent. The influence of the administration will be behind a bill proposing to cut off further sales of government coal land, though permitting them to be worked by individuals or companies on a royalty plan.

The president, like every other practical western man, knows that the existing coal land law is not sensibly framed. That law was built on the theory that the individual could take up and develop a quarter section of coal land, just as the homestead law gives the individual a like area of agricultural land. But no individual can develop a quarter section or a whole section of coal land. He could not afford to install the necessary machinery, or if he could, his profits on a quarter section would not recompense him for the outlay. Moreover, no railroad would think of building a spur onto an isolated quarter section of land and the owner of the land could not afford to assume that expense. So the individual with a quarter section of coal land in his possession would have a white, or rather a black, elephant on his hands. The mineral wealth might be there in abundance, but he could not get it out and could not get it to market.

How to cure this evil is a question for congress to decide, and some solution is likely to be forthcoming this winter. Some favor a change in the law increasing the area of coal land that may be purchased by individuals or by companies or corporations to such size that they can profitably invest and put the coal on the market. These men would increase the price of coal land so that the government would reap a larger benefit from the sales.

EVILS OF CHILD LABOR.

Miss Adams Declares America is in Class with Russia.

Cincinnati, Dec. 15.—Before the first session of the child labor convention here last night, Dr. Felix Adler, chairman of the national child labor committee and professor of political and social ethics in Columbia university, spoke on "The Attitude of Society Toward the Child as an Index of Civilization." Professor Adler spoke of the inadequacy and inefficiency of state laws and urged the necessity for a national law to furnish a background for effective state and local activity and make the enthusiasm of the people contagious in its effect on local bodies, thus inducing greater efforts for the child and a more glorious future for the republic.

Addresses by Miss Jane Adams, of Hull house, Chicago, and United States Senator Beveridge followed. A resolution was adopted emphasizing the belief that it is the duty of the several states to correct evils of child labor in local manifestations, but indorsing "cordially the principle of the Beveridge-Parsons bill for a national child labor law."

Miss Adams urged the desirability of uniform legislation against the evils of child labor, and declared that the census reports show America behind every European country except Russia in so far as child labor and its effects are concerned.

Urges Immediate Action.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Flint, of California, talked with the president today about the break in the Colorado river, which has resulted in such a disastrous flood in Imperial valley, California. When he asked that proper representations be made to Mexico, with a view to securing financial redress for those persons whose property had been injured, the president told him that the State department had already addressed a note on the subject to the Mexican government, but that thus far no reply had been received.

Fed Through Long Pipe.

Bakersfield, Cal., Dec. 15.—Progress in rescuing L. B. Hicks, the man imprisoned in the mountain at the Edison company's plant, is being made at the rate of 20 feet a day. At noon the drift diggers had still 60 feet farther to go before the miner can be released. Milk is still being fed through the long pipe at three-hour intervals, under the direction of a physician. He is gaining in strength and it is believed will hold out until reached.

Why is Lumber Costly?

Washington, Dec. 15.—The house today after some discussion, adopted a resolution of Mr. Miller, of Kansas, authorizing the secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate the cause of the high price of lumber in the various stages of manufacture and sale, with the object of ascertaining whether present high prices are the result of a trust.

RAISE OFFICIAL SALARIES.

Party Leaders in House Agree to Discuss the Question.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The house is seemingly inclined to raise the salaries of the members as well as those of the vice president, speaker, senators and cabinet officers. Before resuming consideration of the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill yesterday, Littauer, of New York, endeavored to have a resolution adopted providing for taking up the question in the committee of the whole, but Underwood, of Alabama, objected to its consideration in committee. He said, however, he would make no objection to its discussion in the house after the bill was reported by the committee of the whole.

He added that he was opposed to the increase, but said he would not block the way of serious consideration. His suggestion formed the basis of an agreement that, when the bill shall be reported, the question of a general advance in salaries will be taken up and voted upon as an amendment before the legislative bill is finally acted upon.

The resolution increases the salaries of senators and representatives to \$7,500 and makes other increases in official salaries. The resolution also fixes the salaries of the vice president and speaker at \$15,000 and of cabinet officers at \$12,000.

SHOULD BUILD OWN WARSHIPS

Admiral Capps Says Government Has Proved Ability.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The ability of the government navy yard to turn out warships equal in all respects to those built under contract, in the opinion of Rear Admiral Capps, of the bureau of construction of the Navy, in his annual report, has been fully demonstrated. He urges that at least one yard on the Pacific coast and one on the Atlantic coast, when practicable, should be given a reasonable proportion of new construction work in order that such yards may always be available for any work the government may desire to undertake therein.

Admiral Capps admits that it costs less to build a warship by contract by reason of the shorter hours of labor, paid holidays, vacations, etc., granted to navy yard employes, but he believes nevertheless that the government should be always prepared to turn out its own ships in times of emergency. The lack of suitable docking facilities at Norfolk and Mare Island is commented upon as being especially embarrassing to the bureau, as no battleships of any class can be docked at either of those yards.

GREATEST MARINE MONSTER

Plans for American Dreadnaught Provide for Fighting Wonder.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Congress yesterday received from the secretary of the Navy the plans which the department has had drawn up for the big battleship provided for in the last session. Four plans were submitted by the bureau of construction and six by private firms and individuals. The plan recommended provides a ship in many respects superior to any other built or building. It was prepared by the construction bureau.

According to the specifications the broadside fire will be greater than that of any other battleship, the elevation of the guns will be greater, with consequent increase of range; the defensive qualities improved over present standards and the total weight of the hull and armor will exceed by over 3,000 tons any other similar vessel. The ship is to be 510 feet long, 85 feet 2 1/2 inches beam, 27 feet draft, 20,000 tons displacement, 2,300 tons coal capacity and 21 knots speed. The design submitted by G. W. Dickie, late of the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, provided for a ship 490 feet long.

Jews to be Brought West.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Realizing the congested conditions of the Jewish quarters of Chicago, New York and other large cities, leading New York Jews are planning to divert Jewish immigration to the West. Jacob Schiff, the New York banker, discussed the subject yesterday with Judge Julian W. Mack. The plan contemplates the organizing of an association financed by Mr. Schiff and other leading American Jews, which will undertake to send Jewish immigration to the South and to the extreme western part of the country.

Convention on Insurance.

New York, Dec. 14.—President Paul Morton, of the Equitable Life Assurance society, has called a meeting of the presidents of more than 30 of the principal life insurance companies in the country to be held in New York city on December 21 to form an association. Among reasons given by Mr. Morton for the organization are: To prevent extravagance and reduce expenses and to consider whether to advocate or oppose legislation.

Dangerous Counterfeit Issued.

New York, Dec. 14.—One of the best counterfeits that has recently come to the notice of the government authorities found its way to the sub-treasury yesterday. It is a \$10 silver certificate bearing the Buffalo imprint. The back of the bill is even a closer counterfeit than the face, but both are good enough to deceive any but experts.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, Dec. 14.

Washington, Dec. 14.—But for the cowardice of 100 members of congress, the house today would have adopted the amendment to the legislative appropriation bill increasing the salaries of senators and representatives from \$5,000 to \$7,500 per annum. Practically every man who voted against the increase did so from fear that his vote would react and result in his defeat two years hence, and nearly every man who voted negatively saw a grab in the legislation proposed. The legislation was entirely meritorious.

The three congressmen from Washington voted for the increase. Binger Hermann voted against it, but he would not be a beneficiary. French, of Idaho, was not present.

Representative Jones, of Washington, today introduced a bill proposing to increase by 20 per cent the salaries of all civil service employes of the government on July 1 next.

The first salary amendment to the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill today was moved by Littauer, of New York, and was as follows:

"On and after March 4, 1907, the compensation of the speaker of the house of representatives and vice president of the United States shall be at the rate of \$12,000 each."

By a vote of 214 to 51 the amendment was adopted. Littauer also introduced an amendment increasing the salaries of the members of the president's cabinet to \$12,000 each, effective on and after March 4, 1907.

On division, the amendment was adopted 204 to 60. Littauer also offered an amendment increasing the salaries of senators, representatives in congress and delegates from territories to \$7,500 per annum. On a rising vote after considerable debate, the amendment was defeated by a vote of 135 to 161.

After disposing of the salary question the house passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

Thursday, December 13.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The senate today listened to the second speech which has been made this session against the continuance of Reed Smoot as senator from Utah. It was delivered by Dubois, of Idaho, who, after reviewing in detail the workings of the Mormon hierarchy and Smoot's prominent connection therewith, concluded with the charge that President Roosevelt used the weight of his administration to assist the Republican Mormon vote in the last election.

A bill was passed providing regulations for fishing vessels to prevent collisions at sea. Adjournment was taken at 4 p. m. until Monday.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The house today, on the request of Representative Pollard, of Nebraska, adopted a resolution directing the judiciary committee to investigate the legal questions involved in the much-criticized payment of a sum of money to Mr. Pollard for the period between March 4, 1905, and July 18, 1905, at which time Mr. Pollard was elected to the 59th congress, to succeed Hon. E. J. Burkett, who was elected to the senate.

A resolution was adopted calling upon the secretary of the Interior for a complete description of all public lands which have been withdrawn or reserved from entry since July, 1906, together with the reason for such action. The report is desired that congress may pass upon the president's recommendations for the withdrawal of coal lands.

Representative Lacey, of Iowa, introduced a bill making \$12 the minimum monthly pension to be paid veterans of the war of 1861.

Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The house of representatives today went on record in opposition to the new spelling as recommended by the president. By a vote of 142 to 25 the following was adopted as a substitute for the item reported by the appropriations committee in the executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill:

"No money appropriated in this act shall be used in connection with printing documents authorized by law or ordered by congress or any branch thereof, unless the same shall conform to the orthography recognized and used by dictionaries of the English language."

Washington, Dec. 12.—The senate

investigate Hill Lines in January. Washington, Dec. 12.—Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce commission, said today that it had not been decided where or when the investigation of the Hill lines will take place. It is known, however, that inquiries will be made at St. Paul and Chicago, and it is probable that Commissioners Prouty and Lane will conduct them. It is not believed that the work will start much before January 15, after the Harriman investigations, in which the inquiries will be made probably December 26 or 27.

Say Elkins Law is Dead.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—The fight of the Standard Oil company against the ten indictments against the Standard Oil company of Indiana which were returned August 29, was commenced today in the United States District court before Judge Landis. The attorneys for the Standard Oil company contend that section 10 of the rate law passed by congress June 29 repeals the Elkins law, under which the government is bringing the action.

today confirmed the nominations of William H. Moody, of Massachusetts, to be an associate justice of the Supreme court of the United States; Charles J. Bonaparte, of Maryland, to be attorney general; Victor H. Metcalf, of California, to be secretary of the navy, and Oscar S. Straus, of New York, to be secretary of commerce and labor.

The feature today was a speech by Senator Rayner upholding the states' rights doctrines as involved in the present Japanese question on the Pacific coast.

Resolutions were agreed to calling upon the president for information regarding the seizure by Mexico of the fishing schooner Silas Stearns, and directing the secretary of war to furnish information regarding alleged experiments with cholera virus at Manila resulting in 10 or more deaths.

The senate in executive session ratified the general act by the delegates of the powers represented at the conference which met at Algiers, Spain, in April last, to draft a treaty concerning Moroccan affairs. Opposition by the Democrats compelled the adoption of a resolution disclaiming responsibility for the participation of the United States in the program arranged by the conference as to the future of Morocco.

Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The question of Senator Reed Smoot's right to a seat as United States senator from Utah was discussed by Senator Burrows in the senate today for more than three hours. The senator had carefully prepared his speech, which received the closest attention throughout by a large attendance of senators and crowded galleries. Smoot occupied his place in the chamber. No interruptions were made during the entire speech, which was an arraignment of Mormonism and the responsibility which attached to Smoot for Mormon principles as a member of the apostolic body in the church.

Washington, Dec. 11.—This was a field day for oratory in the house. The executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill afforded an opportunity for general debate covering a wide range of subjects, from a dissertation on Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel prize, to the raising of salaries of members of congress and including a discussion of simplified spelling.

Boutell, of Illinois, in speaking of the bestowal of the Nobel prize upon President Roosevelt, praised the president's decision to use this money in establishing a fund for bringing about a friendly understanding between capitalists and laborers as "noble, humanitarian and characteristic."

Gaines, of Tennessee, urged increases of salaries for members of congress beginning with the Sixty-first congress. Murdock, of Kansas, spoke on railway mail pay.

The house at 5:05 adjourned until noon tomorrow, no action looking to the close of general debate on the bill having been taken.

Monday, Dec. 10.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The senate committee on judiciary today authorized a favorable report on the nomination of William H. Moody, the present attorney general, to be an associate justice of the Supreme court of the United States.

A favorable report was ordered also on the nomination of Charles J. Bonaparte, the present secretary of the Navy, to be attorney general, and Alfred W. Cooley to be assistant attorney general. Many other nominations were reported favorably.

The nomination of Leffers R. Wilfley to be judge of the United States Circuit court for China was referred to a committee of Senators Spooner and Bacon, who are members of the foreign relations committee.

The nomination of George B. Cortelyou to be secretary of the Treasury and James R. Garfield to be secretary of the Interior, will be taken up tomorrow at a special meeting of the senate committee on finance.

The senate committee on commerce has been polled and will report favorably the nomination of Oscar Straus to be secretary of Commerce and Labor.

More Evidence for Negro Troops.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Gilchrist S. Stewart, representing the Constitutional league, has filed with the president a mass of additional evidence regarding the Brownsville affair which resulted in the discharge without honor of a battalion of colored infantry.

Sell Indian Minors' Land.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Jones today introduced a bill authorizing the sale of the land of Indian minors on petition of parents or guardians on of the Indian agent in charge, subject to the approval of the secretary of the interior. At present large areas of land under government irrigation projects and in rich agricultural districts are tied up because minors are unable to utilize the land and unable to dispose of it. The bill is intended particularly to dispose of the land of Indian children on the Yakima reservation.

Sievens Talks About Canal.

New York, Dec. 12.—John F. Stevens, chief engineer, and J. G. Sullivan, assistant chief engineer, of the Panama Canal commission, arrived today on the steamer Panama from Colon. They expect to return early in January. In speaking of the conditions on the isthmus Mr. Stevens said: "There are at work on the canal 17,000 men. The best workmen are the Italians and the Spaniards. There has not been a death since July, and very little sickness."

SHOULD BE CITIZENS.

President Makes a Strong Plea for Porto Rican People.

Washington, Dec. 12.—In a special message sent to congress yesterday, President Roosevelt strongly advocates granting citizenship to the people of Porto Rico, and recommends other reforms. He begins by reviewing his recent tour of the island and declares we have cause to be proud of our representatives there, adding:

"It would be impossible to wish a more faithful, a more efficient and a more disinterested public service than that now being rendered in the island of Porto Rico by those in control of the insular government."

He speaks in terms of high praise of the schools and the devotion of the teachers, both native and American. He compliments the insular police and the Porto Rico regiment of infantry, recommending that the latter be made permanent. He comments on the rapid growth of sugar and tobacco culture, and says the imports and exports last year were \$45,000,000, against \$18,000,000 in 1901, and \$23,000,000 in 1896, the best year prior to American annexation. In conclusion he says:

"All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the department of War or the department of State. It is a mistake not so to arrange our handling of these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one, when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another."

"In conclusion, let me express my admiration for the work done by the congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in connection with the administration, it is but fair to those who devised this law to say that it would be well nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results."

NEW PLAN TO BUY SUPPLIES.

Keep Commission Proposes to Put It on Business Basis.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The committee on department methods, popularly known as the Keep commission, has submitted to the president its report on the standardization and method of purchase of department supplies. The report reviews at some length the present unbusinesslike and needlessly expensive method of purchasing supplies, by which each of the several departments in Washington has its own standards of quality and makes its own purchases entirely independent of others.

Briefly, the report is as follows: Provision is made by which the preparation of the schedules, advertising for proposals and making the contracts for the purchase of department supplies are placed in the hands of a board to be known as the general supply committee, such board to be under the supervision and control of the secretary of commerce and labor. The head of each department or independent bureau to serve as a member. The board thus constituted is hereafter to purchase the department supplies heretofore acted upon by the board of award. The committee, however, makes exceptions in the case of the military and scientific departments of the government.

TWO EMPIRES STARVING.

Claims of Chinese and Russian Famines Sufferers Conflict.

Washington, Dec. 12.—For the present at least no governmental appeal will be made to the people of the United States for aid for the famine sufferers of China. This decision was reached after the State department had communicated with Louis Klopsch, of the Christian Herald, who raised \$200,000 for the Japanese sufferers, and who regards the Russian famine as infinitely worse, 30,000,000 people or twice the number suffering in China being affected.

According to letters received by Mr. Klopsch, 40,000 square miles in China, supporting a population of 15,000,000, have been flooded and so great is the destitution that many parents are drowning their children rather than see them starve, and are themselves committing suicide.

Japanese Veterans Coming.

Honolulu, Dec. 12.—Many Japanese laborers wearing war medals arrived here today, on the steamer Nippon Maru, from Yokohama. Labor Commissioner Sargent, who came here from Washington recently, in connection with labor matters, said today that the plantations should pay better wages, and that he disapproved of Filipino immigration. General Harrison Gray Otis, of Los Angeles, was a passenger on the Nippon Maru. He expressed himself as being opposed to Japanese naturalization and immigration.

Acknowledge Their Sins.

New York, Dec. 12.—Fines aggregating \$150,000 were imposed today by Judge Holt in the United States Circuit court upon the American Sugar Refining company and the Brooklyn Cooperage company, after the defendants through counsel had pleaded guilty to indictments charging the acceptance of rebates on sugar shipments in violation of the Elkins anti-rebating act. The sugar refining company was fined \$80,000 and the cooperage company \$70,000.

King of Cigarette Fiends.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Julius Perky, of Hammond, Ind., died last night from excessive smoking of cigarettes. He said that he had smoked 500,000 cigarettes during his lifetime. His only sustenance for three months had been diluted alcohol and cigarettes.

RACE RIOT Averted

San Francisco Man Starts Trouble by Striking Japanese.

LITTLE BROWN MEN RESENT

Form Mob to Avenge the Insult of White Rally to Support of Comrade.

San Francisco, Dec. 13.—A race riot, insignificant in itself, but which may strain the relations between Japan and America to the breaking point, occurred yesterday afternoon in the Japanese quarter on Geary street. A young man, El Mell, employed in a saloon at 1515 Geary street, precipitated the trouble by a violent assault upon a Chinese delivery driver. In an angry 100 angry Japanese and a score of young Americans had collected. There was a general move of the Oriental ward Mell.

"Come on, all of you," he cried. "I'll lick every d—d Jap in the crowd."

The warlike tone of the young man aroused the crowd and the race was away, preparatory to a general assault. Older men kept peace until police officers could close in and disperse the young Mell and dispersed the crowd. The fighting blood of Young Japan met the fighting blood of Young America.

KILL COAL OCTOPUS.

House Committee will Draft Bill Leasing of Land.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The house committee on public lands will begin a series of hearings next Monday on a proposition to repeal the coal land law and substitute a law along the lines suggested by the president in his message. The committee is agreed that the present law must be changed, but it is not satisfied as to the best form to substitute.

Representatives of the Geological survey and the Interior department will be heard, together with any one interested, and it is probable that the Interstate Commerce commission will also make suggestions based upon investigations recently made in the Wyoming and Colorado. The expectation is that some bill will be introduced directing that title to coal lands rest in the government, and that to be developed under the leasing or royalty system.

There was some criticism today of the extensive withdrawal of coal land. It being contended that there is no giving the president authority to withdraw this land from entry. The majority of the committee, however, defended the action of the president on the ground that he had made the withdrawals in order to prevent monopolies of coal land in the West, and was acting entirely in the public interest.

Strong efforts will be made to see the enactment of coal land legislation this session.

GEARIN PROPOSES REMEDY.

New Treaty With Japan Exclude Coolies from America.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Senator Gearin yesterday introduced and will speak on a resolution that it be the opinion of the senate that our treaty with Japan be so modified as to prohibit the coming to this country of Japanese coolie labor. He will say that the only solution of existing troubles and inasmuch as the Japanese government does not want her people to emigrate, he believes Japan will agree to such modification of the treaty at a time as will avoid a repetition of the trouble experienced by the Pacific coast with the Chinese prior to the passage of the exclusion act. He will talk with senators from the Pacific coast before making his speech, and will unquestionably have their united support.

Preamble is Adopted.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 13.—The constitutional convention here today passed the following preamble to the new constitution being drafted for the new state of Oklahoma: "Invoking the guidance of Almighty God in order to secure and perpetuate the blessing of liberty, to secure a just and rightful government, to promote mutual welfare and happiness, we, the people of Oklahoma, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution. It probably will be 40 days yet before the entire constitution has been drafted and adopted."

Head of Coal Trust Guilty.

Omaha, Dec. 13.—After being on two days the jury in the case of S. C. Howell, president of the Omaha Coal exchange, charged with maintaining a trust, in violation of the state law, returned a verdict of guilty this morning. The case will be appealed. This is the first trial under the indictment, which includes practically every coal firm in the city. The court will try each defendant separately.

Petition for Postal Savings Banks.

Washington, Dec. 13.—A petition for the establishment of postal savings banks, bearing the names of nearly 600 persons residing in 18 states, was presented to congress today by Representative Boutell, of Illinois.