NORED BY THE SENATE.

ident Simon Declined to Recognize the Benson House.

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Hon. W alobby of the senate chamber in rent resolution to notify the gov-T VOT of the organization of the legis-

The resolution failed to put in usion Co other form on a resolution by fore Th Legisle 1.4 announced that he had in his sion a communication from the porary house. It had been sent in Friday, but he had taken the libe caue to withhold it, expecting the conits nonent resloution also to be submitted. resolution was not at hand, but he sted of meht it proper now to present the unication. It was in brief the centars of the Benson house organon, and setting forth the unconstimality of such action, stating that no time was a quorum present. The

mication was signed by R. E. why, temporary chief clerk. The senate listened to the reading of 17 Vote omumnication, but took no action

the matter, and the regular order of iness was resumed. After several had been introduced, King (Poput, of Baker county, asked unanimous ent to introduce a resolution. ere was no objection, and King sent following to the clerk's desk:

"Whereas, There appears to be some tion as to whether the house of Harney; one. sentatives, comprising the other ach of this legislative assembly, has ganized and is ready to proceed with iess; that there is one organization such house claiming to be the temray house, duly organized as such, d one organization, claiming to be manent and duly organized; that the nate has not been notified by resoluman or otherwise of such permanent manization; that this branch of the slative assembly cannot perform slative duties for which its memwere elected without the concurce of the house of representatives on I bills and joint resolutions passing body; that this branch of the gislative assembly has for two weeks a organized and ready for the transon of buisness, and the cause of sch delay on the part of the house of resentatives has not been fully made own to this body; therefore,

"Resolved, That a committee of ree members of the senate be appointto examine into the conditions we set forth and ascertain whether must either of the two pretended oraizations of the house of representais a legally organized branch of his assembly, and, if so, which of the one. we is so organized, and report the conion thereof to the senate at as nearly date as may be deemed practicable by aid committee."

This brought up the matter of the se recognition in an unexpected A motion was made to lay the solution on the table, but it did not any. After some debate a vote was taken, resulting in a tie, the resolution ailing to be adopted.

shortly after this episode a messenfrom the house was announced. He hid his message in front of President imon, who opened it and read it, and then said:

"The chair is in receipt of a commication puporrting to be a message on the house stating that the house seffected permanent organization by ecting Hon. H. L. Benson as speaker, R. R. Hays as chief clerk and other neers, and is ready for the transaction business. The chair has already abmitted to the senate a message from the temporary organization of the use, advising the senate that such permanent organization was effected in an irregular and unconstitutional manher and without the presence of a quorum, and that such action was illegal and void. The chair is of the opinion that no permanent organization af the house has been effected and that the pretended permanent organization, without a quourm mentioned in this communication, is not valid or binding, and that the senate cannot recognize such an alleged permanent organ-ization of the house. The chair, therefore, declines to entertain or receive this communication, and rules that the same cannot be entered upon the jourual. The decision will stand as the judgment of the senate, unless the senate will overrule the decision of the chair."

TO REAPPORTION THE STATE

Representative Somers' Bill Ease on Monetary-Conference Bill Considered

Under the constitution, it is the m was crowded Monday afternoon nicipation of action on the house portion the state in constitution, it is the portion the state in constitution of action on the house portion the state in constitution. portion the state in senatorial and legislative districts, based on the state census of 1895; and to that end, Represontative Somers has framed a reapporpearance, but the matter came up tionment measure. The census figures were obtained by Somers from the secother form on was lost on a tie retary of state. The ratio of apportionand subsequently by a decisive ment for senatorial districts is one senand subsequently by a dickness in the for senatorial districts is one sen-of President Simon, which was ator for every 12,084 of population, and fraction thereof exceeding one-half; and house. Immediately after the and for representatives one for every is one for every is a senatorial districts is one senato ator for every 12,084 of population, and was called to order, President 6,042 of population. For senators, the apportionment is as follows:

- First district-Marion county; two senators
- Second-Linn; one.
- Third-Lane; one.
- Fourth-Douglas; one.
- Fifth-Coos, Curry and Josephine; one
- Sixth-Jackson; one. Seventh-Gilliam, Crook and Klam-
- ath: one Eighth-Lincoln, Benton and Lane;
- one:
- Ninth-Polk; one. Tenth-Yamhili; one,
- Eleventh-Clackamas; two.
- Twelfth-Washington; one,
- Thirteeth-Linn and Marion; one.
- Fourteenth-Multnomah; eight. Fifteenth-Clatsop; one.
- Sixteenth Washington, Columbia
- and Tillamook; one.
- Seventeenth-Wasco and Sherman; one.
- Eighteenth Morrow, Grant and
- Nineteenth-Umatilla; one. Twentieth-Union and Wallowa; one.
- For the representative districts, the pportionment is as follows:
- First representative district-Marion county; five representatives.
- Second-Linn; three,
- Third-Lane; three. Fourth-Douglas; two.
- Fifth-Coos; one.
- Sixth-Douglas, Coos and Curry; one.
- Seventh-Josephine; one.
- Eighth-Jackson; two. Ninth-Benton; one.
- Tenth-Polk; two.
- Eleventh-Lincoln and Tillamook; one
- Twelfth-Yamhill; two. Thirteenth-Clackamas; four. Fourteenth-Multnomah; fifteen. Fifteenth-Washington; three. Sixteenth-Clatsop; two. Seventeenth-Columbia; one.
- Eighteenth-Wasco; two. Nineteenth-Gilliam, Sherman and
- trook: one; Twentieth-Morrow and Grant; one.
- Twenty-first-Umatilla; two.
- Twenty-second-Union: two Twenty-third-Baker and Malheur;
- Twenty-fourth-Lake, Klamath and Harney; one.
- Twenty-fifth-Wallowa; one

Hold-over senators representing joint districts shall be considered senators for the new districts in which they reside.

The most important change in the measure is the increase of the representation of Multnomah county. It gives fifteen representatives as against nine at present, and eight senators as against five at present. Multhomah has abbut one-fourth the state's population.

Senator Mulkey's road bill is for an amendment to the old law providing for taxing lands adjacent to the county roads for the purpose of improving them. It makes the territory affected to extend not more than two miles on each side of the proposed road, or to the next adjacent parallel road, instead of three miles, as under the old law. It provides that not less than one-fifth of the tax shall be paid, by the county, the remaining four-fifths to be paid by the taxpayers, provided that the county court may determine for the county to pay more than one-fifth of the tax. The law, as it now exists, provides for the payment of the entire tax by the taxpayers residing within three miles of the road in question. Less than a majority of the taxpayers residing within the limits may petition the county court for such tax levy for the purpose of improving a county road. The court, upon discretion, may order the levy upon petition of less than a majority.

SENATORS WERE BUSY.

for the First Time

Washington, Jan. 28 .- The senate had a busy session today. Cuba, the proposed international monetary conference and the Nicaragua canal cause in for a share of attention. Mr. Turpie closed his speech on the Cuban resolution, urging that Spain had atterly failed to quell the outbreak, and that the United States should intervene.

The Wolcett bill for an international monetary conference was considered for the first time. White, Cannon and Daniel urged that the conference would be futile, and was not intended as a serious movement toward bimetalism. It was made evident, however, that the bill would meet little opposition beyond the contention of senators that the bill would accomplish nothing. Stewart offered an amendment providing that, in case the conference failed, the secretary of the treasury should within thirty days begin the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver. No final action on the bill was taken. The Nicarauga canal debate was resumed, Daniel speaking against the measure. Morgan submitted a letter from President Hitchcock, of the canal company, replying to the recent letter of Minister Roderiguez. Morgan also offered an amendment designed to meet the objections presented by Mr. Roderiguez.

Indian Bill in the House.

Washington, Jan. 28 .- The house overrode another of President Clevelansd's pension vetoes today by a vote of 137 to 52. The bill pensioned Jonathan Scott, of the Sixth Iowa cavalry, who is now living at Oswego, Kan., at the rate of \$72 per month. Mr. Cleve-land vetoed it on the ground that the disability for which the beneficiary was to be pensioned was not contracted in the service.

The rest of the day was devoted to a continuation of the debate on the Indian appropriation bill. Only a few amendments were adopted, and those were of minor importance. About twenty-five pages of the bill were covered.

A bill to satisfy a peculiar claim was passed, on motion of Turner. It was the claim of John F. McRae, a deputy United States marshal, for keeping thirty-six African slaves, landed by the ship Wanderer, at Savannah, Ga., in 1859, until they could be shipped back to their homes, in accordance with the provisions of the laws for the suppres-sion of the slave traffic. The amount was \$462.

REDUCED TO ASHES.

Two Million Dollars' Worth of Philadelphia Property Destroyed.

Philadelphia, Jan. 28 .- A tiny spiral of smoke curled out of the cellar window of a big building on Market street at 6:50 o'clock this morning. A few hours later one of the most valuable blocks in the city had been consumed in raging flame. It was the block bounded by Market, Thirteenth, Fil-bert and Juniper streets, in the very heart of the city. A few steps to the right looms the massive city hall; around the corner is the Pennsylvania terimnal, and directly across the way John Wanamaker's great store stretches from street to street. So fierce was the flames and strong the wind, which aided their work, that even this building, distant the width of Market street, was saved almost by miracle from total destruction, and Mr. Wanamaker tonight places his loss at \$100,000. The total loss is variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000, but in the chaos and confusion now existing, it is all but impossible to secure accurate figures. The losses are very generally covered by insurance.

THE HEROD OF HAVANA.

Senator Turple So Characterized Captain-

General Weyler Washington, Jan. 27 .- In the senate today Turpie of Indiana, characterized Captain-General Weyler as "the Herod of Havana, the murderer of women and children," and as an indescribable diminutive reptile." These bitter words were incident to Turpie's speech of two hours on the Cameron Cuban

esolution. The speech did not develop the criticism of the secretary of state which had been foreshadowed by Turpie's remarks last week, as the senator confined himself largely to a careful analysis of the constitutional rights of congress, his conclusion being that congress, as representing the people, had the primary and paramount authority to recognize new governments. Turpie frequently turned aside from his arguments to pay a glowing tribute to the insurgent government and its leaders. General Maceo was eulogized as a hero, whose memory would be hon-ored by the people of Cuba libre as the American people honored the heroes of Revolutionary days. In connection with Maceo's death, the senator re-In connection ferred with bitter denunciation to Gen-

In the Bouse.

eral Weyler.

Washington, Jan. 27 .- After consuming most of the time today in disposing of District of Columbia business, the house took up the Indian appropriation bill, and made fair progress with it before the hour for adjournment was reached. The bill carries \$7,535,791, or \$366,294 more than the current law, and \$246,265 more than the estimate. Twenty of the seventy pages of the bill were disposed of.

The conference report on the immigration bill was presented, and Danford, who has charge of it, gave notice that he would call the report up at an early date. A bill was passed calling on the war department for an estimate of the cost of a water route from Galveston to Honston, Tex. Johnson of Indiana, took advantage

of the latitude allowed in debate to read a speech in favor of an early reform of our banking and currency laws. He described the depressed condition which existed during the recent campaign, and argued that unless the incoming Republican administration corrected the evils, it would be swept out of power in 1900, and the country would suffer loss and disaster, which it would take years to eradicate. He insisted that those who believed the enactment of a protective tariff would restore prosperity would be disappointed. Unless there was a thorough and adequate revision of our banking and currency laws, he said, there should be no lasting prosperity. He agreed with the president that the greenbacks should be retired. He thought that with the establishment of a broader banking system the banks should have the privilege of issuing notes against their assets.

Curtis of Kansas, offered an amendment to the Indian bill to permit merchants to go into the Kickapoo reservation in Kansas to collect their accounts. It was explained that this year, for the first time, merchants had been excluded from this reservation. The amendment was adopted.

IN CHETCO MOUNTAINS.

D. Hartman Shot and Killed Near the Oregon Border.

Grant's Pass, Jan. 27.-Somewhat meagre particulars have reached this city of a murder committed in the Chetco mountains, about twenty-five miles north of Chetco, Cal., on the 21st inst.

D. Hartman, an expert miner from

THE SUWANEE RIVER. Historical Sketch of the River of

Song.

Leslie's Weekly tells this tale of the Suwanee River, the river of song: Just how a river, a narrow little sand-bottomed, blue-watered river, that plays so small a part in the map of the United States as does the Suwanee, could ever have become so famous in this wide world, does seem strange to one when he comes to think of it, all because of a mere song. But, after all, it has a charm all its own, and the average visltor will find, when he once falls into its spell, that it will linger with him with surprising tenacity, and grow upon him like the shadow of some mysterious fascination. No doubt there was some such inspiration behind the lines: Way down upon the S'wanee ribber,

Far, far away; ar's whar my heart am turnin' ebber, Dar's whar de old folks stay.

Be that as it may, no such ideal picture book songs as this are ever heard on the Suwanee River in real life, unless it be now and then, when some resident of this section chooses to hum a few lines of this same song in a spirit much the same as that of the deacon in church who says "Amon" when the preacher has finished the morning prayer-simply agreeing to what the author of this immortal song has written.

But there are songs along the Suwanee River that are characteristic and unique in all their plaintive melody, pathos and humor. The negroes who are found at work along the river, either on the little boats that haul timber up and down from the mills or phosphate from mines, or out in the lumber camps and fields along the river bank, seem to be all given to song. They go about their work in the morning with a song and sing all the livelong day, crooning some plaintive air in a monotonous fashion, or else joining in a chorus where there are several of them, and making the woods around fairly reverberate with the echoes of their camp meeting hymns, such as this:

Jes' look over yonder what I see Angels bid me ter come See two angels callin' at me Angels bid me ter come.

Rise an' shine, mourner, Rise an' shine, mourner, Rise an' shine, mourner, Fur de angels bid 'er me ter come:

How their rich, mellow voices do melt away in the distance as they join in this sweet old air, and how the plaintive strain seems to die away upon the sighing waters of the famed river! And when they get to the chorus how they swing around at their work and bear down on the loud pedal of their voices and throw the genuine old jubilee vigor of camp meeting into the song. If they are cutting logs for the saw mill nigh at hand they are apt to swing their axes in rull time with the measure of the song, and this gives It all the more interest and peculiar charm.

One of the lively "jig songs" that are often heard in the lumber and phosphate camps along the Suwanee River runs something like this:

Jaybird up the sugar tree, Sparrow on de groun', Jaybird shake de sugar down, Sparrow pass it eronn'.

Shoo, ladies, shoo, Shoo, ladies, shoo, Shoo, ladies, shoo my gal, I'm boun' for Sugar Hill.

Five cents is my pocket change

Ten cents is my bill; If times don' git bettah heah I'm boun' for Sugar Hill.

The music to this song is much in the

The president's ruling was received in silence by the senate, which appeared to think that it was entirely correct, and it would be useless to attempt to set it aside, even if so disposed.

Senator Morgan's Views.

The following dispatch has been re-Seived by Bourne from Senator Mor-gan, of Alabama: "Under the constitution, as it is executed by the statute in accord with section 2, the house contists of sixty members, and the senate onsists of thirty members. A quorum to do business consists of two-thirds of each house under article 12 of the constitution, and this includes the permaaent organization. A quorum being in sttendance, business can be done; otherwise no organization can be made, except to compel the attendance of absent members."

An effort is to be made to establish La Grande, Union county, the "Eastern Oregon agricultural college," which shall receive one-half the annual government appropriation now made to the state agricultural college and experiment station at Corvallis. A bill has been prepared to that effect, and it is understood that it will be championed by Representative Stanley, of Union.

Representative Langell has introduced a bill to make Ashland college and normal school a state institution, to be known as the "Southern Oregon normal school." A board of twelve regents is appointed, and the general policy of government is the same as for other normal schools. The bill carries a \$15,000 appropriation.

At the request of the Arlington Rod and Gun Club, Representative David has introducetd a bill to prevent night hunting of wild ducks, geese, swan or other water fowl, on the islands of the Beardsley murder trial several years Columbia river.

A CRAZY MAN'S DEED.

W. W. White, of Polk County, Made a Full Confession.

Independence, Or., Jan. 28 .- An attempt at suicide and wholesale poisoning occurred on the Ben Mason ranch, a few miles south of town, last Sunday morning.

W. W. White, a county charge, is stopping at Mrs. Mason's. He is old and feeble, and in a fit of despondency, made an attempt to take his own life by swallowing a dose of strychnine. The Mason family are early rises, and about 5 o'clock Sunday morning they heard strange noises coming from the old man's room. An investigation showed that White was in great agony, and every indication pointed to a case of poisoning. A physician was called and relief administered. As soon as White could make himself intelligible he confessed to taking poison for the purpose of suicide, and also to having attempted to poison the whole family by putting strychnine into the well and the water pail. He further said that he had put poison in the water trough for the purpose of poisoning the stock. He said that he wanted them all to go together.

The news spread rapidly over the neighborhood, and a large crowd of neighbors soon gathered at the home of the Masons.

There is every evidence that White is partially insane. When in his normal mental condition he does not appear to have a vicious disposition, but lately he has suffered from fits of mental despondency.

White is the witness who testified so damagingly against Putnam in the

Jones had some difficulty, growing out of a dogfight, when, without any other provocation than the mere disagreement, Jones seized a Winchester and shot Hartman, killing him instantly, Jones then left, and is supposed to be headed this way, though so far as known no effort is being made to capture him.

The shooting occurred at a mining camp, and was witnessed by but one man, who had camped with Jones, and who, in company with P. Costello, the postmaster, at Smith River, Cal., took the body to Chetco, where it is being embalmed for shipment East.

Jones is described as a man 5 feet 8 inches in height, weighing 150 pounds, nearly bald-headed, with a sandy complexion. The name of Jones is be-lieved to be assumed.

Decided Against the Sailors.

Washington, Jan. 27 .- The United States supreme court today affirmed the judgment of the California district court in the case of Robert Robinson and four other seamen, arrested at San Francisco for refusing to obey the orders of the master of the Aragona, after having entered into articles to make a voyage to Valparaiso. The constitutionality of the law empowering a justice of the peace to arrest deserting seamen was involved; also the question as to whether their arrest violated the "Involuntary servitude" amendment to the federal constitution. Both points were decided against the sailors.

Nelson, B. C., Jan. 26.-Dugald Patterson, of Emmet, Mich., was killed here yesterday by a falling log. At the Trail creek smelter, George Braden, also an American, fell into a pot of molten slag and was frightfully burned.

fashion of the common negro songs, lively, yet full of pathos and plaintive melody. There is that in all negro songs that is plaintive, even their most exasperating foot-shaking and soul-stirring "jlg songs."

True, typical negro songs rarely ever show any particular effort at preparation. They seem to just boil right out of the darkey's heart and soul, and if by chance they manage to get a fairly good jingle or rhyme to them, It is by no special poetical painstaking on the part of the author, and, in fact, is of but little consequence to him.

Such are the songs that one hears on the Suwanee River, in these modern days of progress and material development.

Paper Cannons.

To add to the number of astonishing things that are made of paper, Krupp, manufacturer of cannons, has lately completed a number of paper fieldpleces for the use of the German infantry.

Their caliber is five centimeters, or a little less than two inches; and the pieces are so light that one soldier can easily carry one. But the resistance is greater than that of a field-piece of steel of the same caliber.

It is not expected that these paper guns will replace those of steel. They are intended for use in situations where the movement of field artillery would be impracticable.

Paper artillery on the field of battle seems a most extraordinary thing, but it is hardly more so than paper wheels for freight cars on railways appeared when they were first introduced-or, for that matter, than paper water palls were.