

PASSED WITHOUT DEBATE

House Broke All Records in Regard to Pension Bill.

WENT THROUGH IN 20 MINUTES

Deficiency Bill Passed the Senate After Displacing the Nicaragua Canal Bill—Pension Bill Carries \$145,233,830.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The house today adopted the conference report on the bill extending the marine inspection laws to sailing vessels of 700 tons and over, and providing for licensing their second and third mates.

Barney (Rep. Wis.), in charge of the pension appropriation bill, then called up this measure and made a general examination of its provisions.

Allen (Dem. Miss.), of the appropriations committee, in reply to Barney, called attention to the fact that when the first came to congress, 14 years ago, the pension appropriation bill invariably precipitated a bloody-shirt discussion, and he congratulated the country that congress had progressed since then and that there would be no acrimonious discussion on this bill. The country at least had the gratifying information that the pension roll had reached the maximum.

"And I congratulate the country for this," said Allen, in conclusion, "that while one of the most gallant and desperate soldiers of the Confederacy (himself) helped to report this bill, the president of the United States is down in Dixie doing honor to the Confederate dead. We all have cause to rejoice." (Laughter and applause.) There was no further debate upon the bill. It was read through without a word of criticism and passed, the whole time occupied in its consideration being less than 20 minutes. This is the shortest time on record for a general pension bill. The bill carries \$145,233,830. The total number of pensioners on the roll is 993,714.

In the Senate.

The senate decided upon convening today to take a recess from 1:30 until 2:30 o'clock in order to permit senators to attend the funeral of Mrs. Bright, wife of the sergeant-at-arms.

Morgan (Dem. Ala.) presented a memorial from the national board of trade favorable to the construction of the Nicaragua canal, asking that the document be printed in the Congressional Record. Allen (Pop. Neb.) objected, and the objection provoked an animated discussion, involving the rules of the senate as well as the wisdom of the construction of the canal.

Morgan accepted the objection as an effort to obstruct legislation on the subject of the canal and prevent the country securing information on the subject. Allen resented this imputation, saying he was favorable to the canal on general principles, though advocating government ownership. He predicted that the canal would cost \$500,000,000. Without determining the mooted point raised by Allen, the senate, at Hale's request, took up the urgency deficiency appropriation bill.

Cockrell (Dem. Mo.) addressed the senate in regard to the mustering out of the volunteer soldiers, a large majority of whom he said, wanted to be mustered out, and many of whom were making sacrifices by remaining in the service.

Hale (Rep. Me.) said he had no doubt that the rank and file of the army abroad had a great desire to return home, and he expressed the opinion that they should be allowed to do so.

Allison (Rep. Ia.) expressed sympathy with the desire to have a large number of volunteers mustered out.

Sewell (Rep. N. J.) said the war department had for the past several months been gradually weeding out soldiers for discharge, and that many thousands had thus been relieved from this duty. He had no doubt that even without legislation 50,000 men would be released within the next six months. The urgency deficiency bill was then passed.

At the instance of Harris, the senate adopted a resolution calling upon the president for information as to the status of the report of the Nicaragua commission.

Repairing the Massachusetts.

New York, Dec. 17.—The Herald says: So serious are the injuries sustained by battle-ship Massachusetts as a result of the mishap several days ago that Naval Constructor Bowles estimates that the cost of her repairs will be at least \$24,000. Requisitions covering this amount for material and labor have been approved, and repairs will be started at once. Constructor Bowles estimates that six weeks at least will be necessary to complete the work.

Train Ran Into a Sleigh.

Imlay City, Mich., Dec. 17.—A southbound engine, light, on the Pontiac, Oxford & Northern railroad, tonight struck a sleigh containing five people, throwing them out, seriously injuring two and killing three outright. The dead are: Mrs. Thomas Robb, of Lam; Walter Robb, her son, aged 4, and Mrs. John Yerkes' son, aged 14 months.

LOOKS BAD FOR MRS. BOTKIN.

Damaging Evidence Introduced at the Murder Trial.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The defense in the Botkin murder trial today received the worst set-back it has experienced since the case opened. The evidence of two of the witnesses examined today was of such a convincing nature that the chagrin caused by its introduction was plainly written upon the faces of the accused woman and her counsel. The evidence clearly showed that Mrs. Botkin wrote the anonymous letters sent to Mrs. Dunning from this city, apprising Mrs. Dunning of the alleged misconduct of her husband, and informing her that she had grounds for commencing a suit for divorce. The handkerchief which was inclosed in the box of poisoned candy was proven to have been purchased in this city by Mrs. Botkin, another link in the chain of the prosecution.

DEFIANT ONLY IN TALK.

Admiral Dewey's Opinion of the Philippine Insurgents.

Manila, Dec. 19.—Rear-Admiral Dewey, when a press correspondent called upon him today, was courteous and pleasant, but absolutely declined to discuss the political situation in the Philippine islands, on the ground that his sphere was purely naval. He then proceeded to cross-examine the correspondent about everything ashore. He was glad to learn that the insurgents were releasing the sick Spanish soldiers they held as prisoners, notwithstanding Aguinaldo's grandiloquent refusal to do so. This proves that the insurgents are very conciliatory, in spite of their defiant talk.

Admiral Dewey always believed that the insurgents were friendly, especially since the warships of our fleet have visited the different ports of those islands, and since some of our officers have made tours inland, carefully investigating popular sentiment and judiciously preaching the gospel of peaceful settlement everywhere with highly satisfactory results.

Hawaiian Bills.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The senate committee on foreign relations made some progress today with the bill reported by the Hawaiian committee for the government of the Hawaiian islands, but adjourned over without completing the work. The house committee on merchant marine and fisheries today ordered a favorable report on a bill to extend the navigation laws of the United States to the Hawaiian islands.

Ex-Confederates in Soldiers' Homes.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Representative Rixey, of Virginia, today introduced a bill for the admission of ex-Confederate, as well as Union, soldiers, to soldiers' homes.

Four Persons Killed by a Train.

New York, Dec. 19.—A wagon containing eight persons was struck by a train on the Pennsylvania railroad tonight at the Allenwood crossing, a few miles from Manassas, N. J., and four people were killed, two fatally injured, and two others seriously injured. The dead are: Mrs. Ellen Allen, Bessie Allen, her daughter; Miss Allie Alger, and Jennie Crammer. The fatally injured are: David S. Allen, husband of Mrs. Allen, who was killed, and Kate Allen, their daughter. Mr. Allen was of the family of which Allenwood takes its name, and was one of the most prominent men in that part of New Jersey.

Dying by Hundreds.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—On board the steamer Gaelic, which arrived from the Orient today, was Rev. H. W. White, a missionary. He brings news of a terrible condition of affairs existing in the Chin-Chow-Fu province, a section 150 miles long and 70 miles wide, inhabited by over 4,500,000 people, mostly farmers. Owing to two successive droughts the crops have been failures, and the people of the province are dying by thousands from starvation and the outlying provinces and the government are doing little to help the suffering. The people of Shang-Tung province are also starving. In some of the villages of the latter place there are hundreds of deaths in a week's time. In Chin-Chow-Fu there have been as many as 180 deaths in one day.

Important Mexican Concession.

New York, Dec. 19.—A dispatch to the Herald from Mexico City says: The last act of the Mexican congress today was the confirmation of one of the largest concessions for many years. The concession was granted to Captain A. B. Smith, of Los Angeles, Cal., and his associates for colonizing, steamship and railway enterprises of the first magnitude.

The colony lands include many leagues on the Gulf of California, with the condition that a canal be constructed from the lands to Yuma, Cal., and a steamship service be placed from the head of the gulf to the southern boundary. The service will also be extended to the Lower California points. The line will comprise six modern steamers.

Bound for Home.

Paris, Dec. 19.—The American peace commission left for Havre and Southampton tonight, and will sail for New York tomorrow on the steamer St Louis.

CUBA'S NEW GOVERNMENT.

Formal Order of the War Department—Assignment of Commands.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The war department made public the formal order for the military government of Cuba. The notable feature is that Major-General Ludlow, who is designated as military governor of Havana City, while nominally subordinate to the division commander, General Brooke, is apparently charged to exercise all the civil functions in that place under direct authority of the president. General Lee's functions appear to be limited to those strictly military, and it is thought he may be eventually charged with all the duties, civil as well as military, of the government of the province. The text of the order is as follows:

"War Department, Washington, Dec. 15.—By direction of the president, a division to be known as the division of Cuba, consisting of geographical departments and provinces of Cuba, with headquarters in the city of Havana, is hereby created under command of Major-General John R. Brooke, United States army, who, in addition to commanding the troops in the division, will exercise the authority of military governor of the island.

"Major-General Fitzhugh Lee, United States volunteers, commanding the Seventh army corps, is assigned to the immediate command of all the troops in the province of Havana.

"Major-General William Ludlow, United States volunteers, is designated as the military governor of the city of Havana, and will report direct to the division commander. He is charged with all that relates to the collection and disbursement of the revenues of the city and its police, sanitation and general government, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the president.

R. A. ALGER.

"Secretary of War."

The commands of military departments of the division of Cuba, commanded by General Brooke, so far as decided upon, are as follows:

Department of Pinar del Rio, Brigadier-General W. Davis.

Puerto Principe, General H. L. Carpenter.

Santa Clara, General Simon Snyder.

Santiago, General L. Wood.

This leaves the provinces of Havana and Matanzas unprovided for. These commands probably will be left open until the return of the president from the South, but the probabilities are strong that Major-General Lee will be assigned to the district of Havana, and Major-General Henry to the command of Matanzas.

CALVIN S. BRICE DEAD.

Millionaire and ex-United States Senator Passes Away.

New York, Dec. 17.—Calvin S. Brice died at 3:15 o'clock this afternoon at his home in this city. Mr. Brice contracted a severe cold one week ago today. Friday last he went down to his office, returning home in a suffering condition, and Saturday took to his bed. He grew steadily worse until this afternoon, when he died.

Calvin S. Brice was a native of Ohio and was born in 1845. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister. Three years before the civil war he entered Miami university, and in 1861 he enlisted in a university company for the war. He served in West Virginia in the Ninety-sixth Ohio infantry. In 1863 he graduated from the university, and, after teaching school a few months, he became captain of a company in the One Hundred and Eighth Ohio, and served to the end of the war. In the winter of 1890 Mr. Brice was elected United States senator to succeed Henry B. Payne, and took his seat March 4, 1891.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

The Monthly Statement of Exports and Imports.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The monthly statement of the imports and exports of the United States shows that in November imports of merchandise amounted to \$52,109,560, about \$348,000 less than November, 1897. The imports free of duty aggregated over \$22,000,000. Exports of domestic merchandise last month aggregated \$127,483,467, an increase over November, 1897, of about \$13,000,000.

For 11 months ended November, 1898, the exports of the United States amounted to \$11,117,681,199, exceeding the imports by \$537,837,046, an increase over the same period of 1897 of \$143,026,115.

The imports of gold during November amounted to \$5,825,701, and the exports \$913,467. The silver imports amounted to \$2,268,635, and the exports \$4,023,078.

Buried in a Hog Pen.

Franklin, Neb., Dec. 17.—The body of Peter Kreighbaum, a wealthy farmer, who disappeared mysteriously last week, was found buried in a hog pen on his farm, three miles south of this place. The coroner has empaneled a jury and will at once begin an investigation.

Mexico Preparing Extradition Treaty.

City of Mexico, Dec. 17.—The foreign relations department is preparing a draft of an extradition treaty with the United States, which will be forwarded to Washington to Ambassador Romero, who will negotiate it with Secretary Hay.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Items of General Interest Gleaned From the Thriving Pacific States.

Export of Salted Fish.

Japan has become a new customer for the fish of the Northwest, and last year 1,400 tons of salted fish was shipped from the North Pacific coast. The Nippon Trading Company of Seattle has gone actively into the business of shipping salt fish, and buy in all the ports of the Sound and British Columbia. This year they are shipping over 600 tons, and have orders for more if they could get the fish. Seattle shipped out 300 tons last year and Tacoma shipped the same amount, while about 600 tons was bought and shipped from the Fraser river. There are besides the Nippon Company, which is made up of local Japanese business men, three or four other firms there engaged in exporting fish. The North Japan fishing industry is running out and her people are looking this way for a supply, the same as they are looking to this coast for flour and other natural products.

Advance in Price of Fish.

At Seattle the price of salmon has advanced from 10 cents per pound to 15 cents per pound in the last few days, the cause being assigned to the closing of the season and consequent scarcity of fish. The demand for fish in general is reported to be better than has been the case for some time, steel-head salmon are beginning to run and the Tyee variety is expected in a few weeks, but as yet the run is rather short. Good fishing is reported in the Narrows, a few miles from Tacoma, and the run is expected to continue there until January 1. The catch now is said to be about 12,000 salmon daily, of the dog salmon variety. A few herring were captured at Quartermaster harbor on Saturday and it is said that they were the forerunners of the regular season's run.

Favors San Diego.

After viewing all the ports on the Pacific Dr. Weigand, general manager of the North German Lloyd Company, which has in contemplation the operation of a steamer line from this coast to the Orient, is reported by the San Francisco papers to be on his way home by way of Hong Kong and Suez canal. As many of the stockholders of the company are interested in Northern Pacific securities, Tacoma was considered to have an excellent chance to be chosen as a terminus. It now seems that the Santa Fe Railroad Company having interested the Australian government in the advantages of San Diego harbor for a trans-Pacific mail route, the steamship company is inclined to favor the Southern California port.

Honolulu Taking Our Flour.

R. I. Lillie, the purchasing agent on the Pacific coast for the firm of Theodore H. Davis & Co., of Honolulu, is in the Northwest. Mr. Lillie will load a vessel at Seattle with flour and other Northwestern products for shipment to the islands. The short grain crop in California last year has turned the greater portion of the trans-Pacific demand to Oregon and Washington. Portland and Washington flour cargoes have been discharging in San Francisco for a number of weeks past, and then reshipped by the Californians to Honolulu. It is likely, therefore, that the present engagement of flour by Mr. Lillie for Honolulu will be but one of many similar engagements.

New Flour Mill Running.

William Kirkland, with Carl and Bismark Sholl, have completed their flour mill in Walla Walla, and it has been turning out flour since Saturday, November 26. Mr. Kirkland, the miller, was with Dement Brothers for eight years, and in Isaacs' mill for five years, consequently has all the experience necessary. The mill building and ground and the water power represent an outlay of \$6,000, and additions to the machinery are to be made in the near future to the value of from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Two qualities of the fine patent process will be turned out, as well as the ordinary baker's brand. The mill is one more addition to Walla Walla's manufactures.

Big Bond Bids.

The county commissioners of Gallatin county, Mont., opened bids last week for \$137,000 worth of 20-year 5 per cent bonds. The premiums offered were the largest ever bid for bonds in Montana, and ranged from \$1,712 to \$7,904. The bidders included a great many of the same firms who bid for Portland bonds and the acceptance of the bids is still held in abeyance.

Ready for Business.

Two new banks were opened in Roseland, B. C., December 1, and considerable rivalry exists over which shall secure the greatest number of commercial accounts. The new banks are branches of the Bank of British Columbia and the Bank of Toronto. Of the former H. F. Mytten is local manager, and of the latter A. B. Barker is in charge.

In Flourishing Condition.

The Dallas woolen mills, under new management, has put in eight new looms. The mill is a three-set one, and when fully repaired will be getting out samples for the Eastern market. It also has a large government contract for woolen goods.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 58c; Valley, 60c; Bluestem, 62c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.20; graham, \$2.65; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 42@43c; choice gray, 40@41c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$22@25; brewing, \$24 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$16 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$18; chop, \$15.50 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, \$9@10; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 55@60c; seconds, 50@55c; dairy, 45@50c store, 30@35c.

Cheese—Oregon full cream, 11@13c; Young America, 15c; new cheese, 10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$3.50@4.00; springs, \$1.25@3; geese, \$5.00@6.00 for old, \$4.50@5 for young; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11@12c per pound.

Potatoes—60@70c per sack; sweets, 2c per pound.

Vegetables—Beets, 90c; turnips, 75c per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, 75c per sack; beans, 3c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@3½c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 75c@81c per sack.

Hops—15@18c; 1897 crop, 4@6c.

Wool—Valley, 10@12c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@12c; mohair, 26c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 7c; spring lambs, 7½c per lb.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.75; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$5.50@6.50 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, 3.50@3.75; cows, \$2.50@3.00; dressed beef, 6@6½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 5½@6c; small, 6½@7½c per pound.

Seattle Markets.

Tomatoes, 50@85c per box.

Onions, 85@90c per 100 pounds.

Potatoes, \$10@12.

Beets, per sack, 75c.

Turnips, per sack, 50@60c.

Carrots, per sack, \$1.

Parsnips, per sack, \$1.

Cauliflower, 50@75c per doz.

Celery, 35@40c.

Beans, green, 2@3c.

Cabbage, native and California \$1.00@1.50 per 100 pounds.

Apples, 35@50c per box.

Pears, 75c@81c per box.

Prunes, 50c per box.

Peaches, 75c.

Plums, 50c.

Butter—Creamery, 27c per pound; dairy and ranch, 18@20c per pound.

Eggs, 35c.

Cheese—Native, 12@12½c.

Poultry—Old hens, 15c per pound; spring chickens, 15c; turkeys, 16c.

Fresh meats—Choice dressed beef steers, prime, 6½@7c; cows, prime, 6½c; mutton, 7½c; pork, 6@7c; veal, 6@8c.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$21.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$25.

Hay—Puget Sound mixed, \$9.50@10; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$12.

Corn—Whole, \$23.50; cracked, \$24; feed meal, \$23.50.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$24@25; whole, \$22.

Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.50; straights, \$3.25; California brands, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$3.75; graham, per barrel, \$3.70; whole wheat flour, \$3.75; rye flour, \$4.

Milletstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14; shorts, per ton, \$16.

Feed—Chopped feed, \$17@21 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$17; oil cake meal, per ton, \$35.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 10@12c per pound; Oregon, Eastern, 10@12c; Valley, 15@17c; Northern, 9@11c.

Milletstuffs—Middlings, \$18@21.00; bran, \$15.00@17.00 per ton.

Onions—Silverskin, 50@60c per sack.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 26c; do seconds, 22@24c; fancy dairy, 21@22c; do seconds, 17@21c per pound.

Eggs—Store, 18@22c; fancy ranch, 35@37½c.

Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$2@2.50; Mexican limes, \$5@6.50; California lemons, \$2.00@3.00; do choice \$3.50@4.50 per box.

"Eve" Glad in Furs.

A theatrical novelty in Vienna consists in the introduction upon the stage during a four-act play of representatives of Eve, according to the ideas of different races. The Esquimaux Eve is impersonated by a pretty young woman named Agathe Harsesseu, who is clad in furs from head to foot. Whether or not Agathe owes her popularity to her winsome face is hard to tell, but she enjoys more recalls than any other performer in Vienna, and the audience appears to be happiest when she is present.

Oil Factory Burned.

The cedar oil factory of the British Columbia wood oil mills, at Fort Moody, B. C., was destroyed by fire last week. The business was a new one, being recently put in operation by Messrs. Murray & McDonald. The loss will be about \$1,000, with no insurance. The plant will probably be rebuilt.