

# DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Friday, February 23.

Washington, Feb. 23. — Preceded by a debate which indicated no hesitancy, but rather a relish, in taking action against alleged railroad combinations, the house agreed without opposition today to the Tillman-Gillespie resolution, directing the Interstate Commerce commission to make an immediate inquiry and report regarding alleged restraints of trade on the part of certain railroads in the handling of coal and oil. The resolution was not in the form in which it passed the senate, and will go back to that body for its second action.

Proceeding under call of committee, bills were passed to require \$75 worth of work annually on mining claims and \$5 worth of work on roads and trails for each mining claim in Alaska; allowing foreign ships to clear from American ports without examination certificates when the countries to which they belong recognize American certificates of inspection; to prevent foreign built dredges from operating in the United States, except the dredges now at work in the United States under contract.

Washington, Feb. 23. — By a vote of 3 to 5 the senate committee on interstate commerce today agreed to report the Hepburn railroad rate bill without amendment, but the resolution reserved to the members of the committee freedom of action concerning amendments offered in the senate. By a vote of 5 to 3, Republicans prevailing, Tillman, a Democrat, was given the honor of reporting the bill. This establishes a precedent, in that a Republican senate committee has given to a Democrat control of an important measure passed by a Republican house and endorsed by a Republican president.

Thursday, February 22.

Washington, Feb. 22. — Knox's much discussed and long expected railroad bill was introduced in the senate today, and because of the exceptional interest on the subject was accorded the unusual privilege of a reading for the information of the senators on the day of introduction.

At the request of Hale, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, the bill providing for the punishment of heaving at the naval academy at Annapolis was taken up and discussed at length. Dick advocated extreme measures, saying that nothing less would accomplish the desired result. He said that he had investigated the heaving practice, and was prepared to pronounce it "an educator in brutality." He considered it a crime out of harmony with the office held by the midshipmen. The bill was passed.

Washington, Feb. 22. — The house today refused to adjourn in celebration of Washington's birthday, and its members participated in a general field day of debate on the army appropriation bill. The speeches took a wide range.

Ship subsidy was discussed for an hour by Gilbert, who took the position that ships could be built as cheaply in this country as abroad. He asserted that the United States possessed the finest merchant marine fleet of any nation.

Tomorrow the joint resolution directing the Interstate Commerce commission to investigate the railroad, soft and anthracite coal and oil trusts will be considered and most likely adopted.

A bill was passed reserving from disposal by the government Battle Mountain, S. D. The mountain is made a part of the Battle Mountain Sanatorium reserve. The mountain takes its name from being the ancient battleground between the Crow and the Sioux Indians.

The conference report upon the urgent deficiency bill was agreed to. A joint resolution was agreed to allowing Alaska teachers and employees of the bureau of education to assign their salaries.

Wednesday, February 21.

Washington, Feb. 21. — Secretary Shaw submitted a report to the house today concerning permanent appropriations made from the general treasury, in compliance with a resolution of Representative Tawney of Minnesota, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, who has been leading the fight against permanent appropriation and has a bill pending which provides for abolishing such appropriations except for sinking fund, international payments and a few other fixed obligations.

Will Report Bill.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The Philippine tariff bill, which has been held up in the senate committee ever since it passed the house, is soon to be reported. The Democrats of the committee, who were supposed to be solidly arrayed against the bill, held a conference today and two out of the five declared their intention to vote to report the bill—Carmack of Tennessee and McCreary of Kentucky. Three Republicans, however—Hale of Minnesota, Barrows of Michigan and Brandegee of Connecticut—are opposed to the bill.

May Try Behring Sea Claims.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The house committee on judiciary today returned a favorable report on a bill to confer jurisdiction upon the Circuit court of the United States for the Ninth circuit (Pacific coast states) to determine in equity the rights of American citizens under the award of the Behring sea arbitration of Paris and to render judgment. The house committee also ordered favorable report for United States courts at Victoria, Tex., and Miami, Fla.

It is the desire of Mr. Tawney that appropriations shall be made available for two years for the payment of expenditures properly incurred within that time, and at the end of that period all unexpended balances shall be transferred to the surplus fund, thus avoiding making the appropriations permanent.

The report of Mr. Shaw shows that there were about 250 permanent appropriations in 1904 and 1905. In 1904 they aggregated \$62,000,000 and in 1905 \$46,000,000. He states that he favors the Tawney bill in the main, but suggests a few additional amendments.

Washington, Feb. 21. — After 15 years of more or less serious consideration of the subject, the senate today passed the Heyburn pure food bill by the decisive vote of 63 to 4. The vote was taken after a day devoted almost exclusively to desultory debate on the bill. Several efforts were made to amend the bill, and the committee accepted a number of suggestions, but only those thus accepted were incorporated in the bill as passed.

Tuesday, February 20.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The senate listened three or four hours today to a discussion of the details of the pure food bill. A number of minor amendments were suggested, but under the agreement to vote on all amendments tomorrow none of them could be acted on today. Raynor presented by request a reply from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company to the charge of discrimination against it by the Red Rock Fuel company, of West Virginia, denying unfair treatment. The senate adjourned a few minutes after 4 o'clock out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Castor, of Pennsylvania.

Gallinger presented four petitions from residents of Oklahoma praying for prohibition in the proposed state of Oklahoma. The most voluminous contained the names of 8,000 voters, and Gallinger said that it was 264 feet long. One of the others contained the names of 6,000 women, and another those of 6,000 children. The fourth was signed by Indians only.

The pure food bill was then taken up. A long discussion of amendments offered by various senators ensued and was participated in by Lodge, Piles, Hemenway, Gallinger, Spooner, Heyburn, McCumber and others. Hemenway and Piles appearing for the first time in debate in the senate.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The house of representatives today took an immediate adjournment out of respect to the memory of Representative George A. Castor, of Pennsylvania, after the passage of appropriate resolutions and the appointment of a funeral committee. Representative Castor died yesterday in Philadelphia.

Monday, February 19.

Washington, Feb. 19. — Three bills were passed under suspension of the rules—requiring a two-thirds vote—in the house today.

The first makes gambling unlawful in the territories of the United States, including Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Alaska. The bill is directed particularly against Arizona and New Mexico, where it was stated gambling was licensed.

The second provides additional work for the census bureau by requiring statistics to be taken on insurance, fisheries, electrical industries, savings banks and crimes.

The third appropriates \$50,000 for the purchase of 300 acres of coal land on the island of Batan, one of the Philippine archipelago. On the last named bill a debate of two hours was had. The others were debated 40 minutes each.

Washington, Feb. 19. — Discussion of the pure food bill occupied practically all of the day in the senate. The speakers were Heyburn, who has charge of the bill; Foraker, who presented a number of amendments desired by liquor interests; Money, in favor of his substitute; and McCumber. An order was made to devote time tomorrow to considering amendments under the ten-minute rule, and begin voting at 5 o'clock Wednesday.

The president transmitted to congress a special message agreeing with the minority report of the consulting engineers on the Panama canal in favor of a lock canal.

No Religious Test.

Washington, Feb. 20. — In presenting petitions against Senator Reed Smoot, signed by thousands of women of California and Colorado, Perkins and Patterson took occasion today to define their position on the protests against their position on the protests against that religious views should not be considered in passing upon the qualifications of a senator, and that his honesty and attributes that command confidence and respect should be above all else. Patterson thought there were great constitutional questions to be considered.

To Hear Wicksham's Side.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The senate committee on judiciary will tomorrow grant a hearing to Judge James Wicksham, of Alaska, whose nomination is held up on account of various charges. The committee, while willing to give Judge Wicksham an opportunity to refute the charges, will not confront him with his accusers, or even furnish him with their names. Judge Wicksham will leave for Alaska soon after the hearing is concluded.

## SEALERS MAY SUE UNCLE SAM.

Bill Allowing Courts to Adjust Claims for Compensation.

Washington, Feb. 23. — A favorable report was made today on Senator Fulton's bill which permits owners of sealing vessels seized for pelagic sealing in Behring sea to go into the Circuit court for the Ninth circuit to recover from the government an amount equal to the loss they sustained through the seizure of their vessels.

Years ago, when Behring sea was held to be a closed sea, the United States claimed jurisdiction over the east half and Russia over the remainder, and sealing was prohibited. Many sealing vessels were captured by the two governments. The Supreme court subsequently held Behring sea to be an open sea and denied the jurisdiction of this government beyond the three marine leagues limit.

Following this, British sealers whose vessels were taken by American revenue cutters and recovered from the United States, and owners of American ships taken by Russians recovered from that government. But this government has never paid the claims of American sealers whose vessels were illegally seized by the American government. It is to pay these claims that the bill is pressed. In the aggregate it is not believed the claims will exceed \$1,000,000.

'TWTX' HOPE AND FEAR.

Morocco Delegates Doubtful of Success of Conference.

Algiers, Feb. 23. — Although the Franco-German deadlock remains unbroken, the opinion of the delegates to the Moroccan conference fluctuates as to the results, the view today being rather more hopeful that some solution is possible. This is due largely to the German attitude that an adjustment eventually will be reached. The American delegates also continue confident, despite the French and British pessimism. Some of the delegates express the view that some conciliatory movement will be made directly from Berlin.

At the afternoon session the conference settled a few minor points on the bank question, including the adoption of a gold basis.

The Italian delegates are discussing the possibility of the appointment of a number of the conferees as arbitrators for the settlement of the controversial points of the French and German projects, should agreement relative to the majority of the details be attained.

Ambassador White persists in his optimistic view of the ultimate result of the conference.

## RUSSIA WILL BRAND COWARDS.

Officers Who Surrendered Without Cause To Be Disgraced.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23. — Unprecedented regulations to purge the army of officers accused of cowardice and surrendering during the war for no reasonable cause were announced today by the military organ, the Ruskaya Invalid. Captive officers returning from Japan will, unless they were wounded when captured, be tried before courts of honor, and unless reinstated by the unanimous decision of their fellow officers, will be dismissed in disgrace. "Cowards," a frequent excuse for surrender, will not be accepted.

The higher officers who were responsible for the surrender of their organizations must secure a vindication from a court of honor and the minister of war. Such cases will be submitted to the emperor individually.

The troops which composed the garrison at Port Arthur are exempt from these provisions, the responsibility for the surrender of that fortress falling upon General Stoessel.

Men Won't Let Women Talk.

Washington, Feb. 23. — Discard in the congress for uniform divorce laws became so great this afternoon that Miss Fannie Leake Cummings, the sole representative of Washington state, withdrew and left for her home. Her reason was "the men won't let the women talk." Of these offenders, she said, ministers were the worst. It was earlier in the day, while she was making a speech on the "Real Causes of Divorces," that U. Larue Munson, of Philadelphia, asked her to cease, because he considered her remarks "nauseating."

Drydock Dewey Adrift.

New York, Feb. 23. — According to a dispatch to the Herald from Las Palmas, Canary islands, the drydock Dewey broke adrift three times and was picked up with difficulty by the fleet which is towing it. This is reported, the dispatch says, by the tug Potomac, which recently reached Las Palmas. The fleet and drydock are now 480 miles west of the Canaries, the dispatch says, and everything is going well.

Condemns Export Tax on Coal.

London, Feb. 23. — The British export tax on coal apparently is slated for removal in the forthcoming budget of Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith. Mr. Asquith informed a deputation today that, while he declined to make any declaration in regard to the taxation until he presented the budget, he considers the coal tax vicious and unnecessarily injurious to an important industry. He said that the members of the deputation would find him anxious to remove it.

# WILL FALL BACK ON VETO POWER

If Senate Committee Draws Teeth of Rate Bill.

President Announces His Position — Will Leave Committee Free to Make Amendments, But Issues a Warning — Court Review May Be Inserted.

Washington, Feb. 22. — When the senate committee on interstate commerce meets on Friday to vote on a rate bill, the announcement will be made authoritatively that President Roosevelt will not attempt to prevent amendment of the Hepburn bill; that he will leave the committee free to exercise its best judgment, and if possible compromise its differences; that, if a reported which does not meet his approval and in that form is passed by congress, he will content himself to exercise his veto power. This announcement will be made as the result of a conference here today between the most active persons supporting the house bill without amendment, but will be delivered to the committee by a senator who has supported an amendment providing for judicial review of orders of the Interstate Commerce commission.

Conservative members of the committee assert that they have the necessary votes to amend the Hepburn bill, if they are left free to exercise their individual judgment, so that they will not be put in the position of opposing the president's policy. Under these conditions, it is said that Senators Elkins, Foraker, Crane, Kean, Aldrich, Carmack, Foster and McLaurin will vote for an amendment providing for judicial review. Seven votes is a majority of the committee. Messrs. Cullom and Carmack will not be present when the committee meets on Friday, but as Mr. Cullom is opposed to amendment, this will not affect the result. An informal meeting of the committee will be held today.

## PURE FOOD BILL.

Provisions of the Measure as Passed by the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 22. — The pure food bill as passed by the senate makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture or sell adulterated or misbranded foods, drugs, medicines or liquors in the District of Columbia, the territories and the insular possessions of the United States and prohibits the shipment of such goods from one state to another or to a foreign country. It also prohibits the receipt of such goods. Punishment by fine of \$500 or by imprisonment for one year or both is prescribed. In the case of corporations, officials in charge are made responsible. The Treasury department and the departments of Agriculture and of Commerce and Labor are required to agree upon regulations for collection and examination of the articles covered by the bill, but no specific provision is made for investigation except by the department of Agriculture. The investigations by that department are placed in the hands of the chief of the bureau of chemistry and, if he finds that the law has been violated, the secretary of agriculture is required to report the facts to the United States district attorney, who in turn is required to institute proceedings in the Federal courts. The bill also defines foods, drugs, medicines and liquors and also defines the standards for them. There is an exemption for dealers who furnish guarantees against adulterating and misbranding.

Jarvis Has First Claim.

Washington, Feb. 22. — The Alaska governorship is still in the air. D. H. Jarvis, of Seattle, who was offered the position, has not yet made known his wishes, but it is believed he will accept if he can get out of certain business contracts which are now binding him. In case Captain Jarvis declines, it is a free field. Senator Flint, of California, today presented to the president John P. Clum, recently appointed postmaster at Fairbanks, and urged his appointment. As postoffice inspector Mr. Clum has been all over Alaska.

Ask Roosevelt to Settle.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22. — An official news agency dispatch from Paris, which bears strong marks of inspiration, suggests the possibility of intervention by President Roosevelt, as in the case of Russia and Japan, to reconcile the diametrically opposite views of France and Germany. "In the general hope that an entente may be reached." In diplomatic circles confidence is felt that failure of the conference will not lead to war.

Discovery of Ancient Frescoes.

Venice, Feb. 22. — While workmen were engaged in renovating the church of Santa Maria Gloriosa de Frari, some ancient frescoes were disclosed behind the monument of Doge Nicolò Tron. One of the frescoes represented a panoply with the coat of arms of Doge Tron, and another consisted of decorative bands with figures of the evangelists.

Will Preserve Cliff Dwellings.

Washington, Feb. 22. — The senate committee on public lands today authorized favorable reports on three bills concerning National parks. Among these is the bill creating Mesa Verde National park, in Colorado, to preserve the ruins and relics of the prehistoric cliff dwellers.

## PRACTICED HIS PHILOSOPHY.

He Could See Misfortunes in Their Humorous Aspect.

"Thank goodness for a clothes-line!" exclaimed Eric Gordon, fervently, as he and his wife were putting the finishing touches on a week of packing, preparatory to moving out of their house. "That's what the Thurstons would say. Did you know they call that room they live in their 'one-room flat'?" When all the chair and tables are full, they stack things in a corner and say, "Thank goodness for a floor!"

"Mercy!" said the tired-looking young woman who was resting for a minute on a packing-box. "How do people live so?" "Adaptability to circumstances and the knack of turning the humorous light on things. They have a mighty good time—all owing to their philosophy. Now isn't it better to rejoice over your thoughtfulness in forgetting to pack this clothes-line than it would be to lament because we've lost that trunk strap?" He tipped up a trunk, and proceeded to rope it stoutly as he went on: "If we can acquire the habit of being amused by things which nag most people; if we can learn to enjoy lying awake when we can't go to sleep; if we can look on the noise which disturbs us as a kind of music—"

"So easy to preach!" murmured his wife. "Eric, do you know that it's going on midnight? Mother will report having asked us to sleep there if we don't come soon. O Eric, do you know you've left out that vase on the trunk behind you?"

"Yes; I couldn't find a place where I dared pack it. I'm going to carry it in my hands." "The idea! You think more of that vase than of everything else we own!" "Maybe. It's our choicest possession. I guess." He glanced admiringly over his shoulder at the rare piece of glass. Then he asked, abruptly, "How am I going to cut this rope? I want to put the rest of it round that box, and John Blake has walked off with my knife."

"And everything in the house that might cut is packed, and everybody in the neighborhood is asleep!" "Don't you suppose there's any sharp-edged thing lying around?" "I'm afraid not," she answered, dubiously, and together they made a fruitless tour of the rooms.

"I might gnaw it," hazarded Gordon, humorously, picking up the rope and trying to break it. As he did so his foot slipped and one arm flew out, striking the cherished vase behind him. With a lunge he reached for it, only to give it a blow that sent it crashing into fragments on the hard tiling of the hearth.

"O Eric!" gasped Mrs. Gordon, and waited for him to say the rest. "There was a half-minute of silence. Then, with a grim twinkle, he picked up a jagged bit of the beautiful rainbow-hued glass.

"Thank goodness for something to cut this rope with," he said, quietly, beginning to saw the clothes-line apart. "There's nothing more to pack now. Dolly, and we can get right over to your mother's and have a good night's sleep."—Youth's Companion.

## THE ISLAND OF PATMOS.

Where St. John, the Beloved, Wrote His Revelations.

The Isles of Greece, "where burning Sappho loved and sung," are forever reappearing in history. Just the other day it was the ancient Lesbos, called in modern times by the name of its old-time capital, Mytilene, at which the allied fleets of Christendom planned to make a demonstration against the Turk. Factional fights between the sympathizers of the Sultan and the Greek patriots in Crete every few months threaten to make the haunt of the Minotaur the scene of international complications. Samos has been in the limelight several times since the Greek war for independence, and the investigations of European and American archeologists in Delos, Aegina and Euboea have kept these islands in the public eye. Very few, in fact, of the members of the Grecian archipelago, barren and untenanted though they are, have entirely drifted out of notice.

Even the least known of them all in antiquity, hardly mentioned by the prehistoric writer, but made famous by the visions of the best loved of the apostles, Patmos, is frequently familiarly spoken of, though seldom visited. For throughout the length and breadth of the Christian world many edifices stand in commemoration of St. John, Great and small, humble and grand, cathedrals, churches and chapels, they cover a period of history extending from the day when the conversion of Constantine made Christianity the official religion of civilization down to the present time. At one end stands the little chapel built by the piety of the simple fishermen of Patmos above the cave where St. John passed the long days of his banishment from the mainland of Asia Minor. At the other are the central arch and the columns of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, now being erected at the cost of a king's ransom and years of thought and patient toil. The contrast between the capital of the new world and the barren island in the Grecian archipelago, between the wealth of the twentieth century and the provincial village of the Roman empire, is typified by the unlikeliness of the two structures.

High up on the steep hillside of the little island of Patmos is still to be seen to-day the natural cave in which St. John lived for many years and wrote his Revelations. The cave, roughly divided into two compartments, is cut deep into the solid rock, the walls are damp with the natural moisture

of the earth, and the only light comes from a single candle burning before an ancient shrine.

There is still pointed out in the solid rock a smooth, round hole, which was used by St. John for a pillow, and directly above this, seen when the light is raised, is a long fissure running diagonally across the ceiling. Through this fissure the spirit descended and inspired the Revelation.

## "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."

How a Pretty Old Story Is Misread and Misinterpreted.

When a lovely woman weds a rich, coarse, cruel man, the cynical modern observer exclaims, "Beauty and the Beast!" The characterization is a wicked misreading of one of the loveliest of myths, a story as fruitful of wisdom to-day as when it sprang out of the early life of the world.

Beauty was a good daughter and a brave woman. Her father lost his fortune, and she set herself to serve him. When prosperity promised to return to him, she begged a gift of roses rather than of jewels or laces. When he again fell into trial, was captured by the Beast and forced to promise one of his daughters as a ransom, Beauty at once offered herself as the sacrifice.

In the palace of the Beast, surrounded by every luxury, but not knowing what fate awaited her, she never forgot her old father, dreamed of him nightly, and at last begged leave to go to see him and return. Although she was persuaded to stay a week beyond her leave, she came back loyally to the palace of the Beast. The poor creature was half-dead of grief for what he believed to be her loss, and the sight of his pain and his delight gave her courage to avow her recognition of his noble qualities, her love for him, and her resolve to be his wife in spite of his hideous exterior.

Instantly the Beast was transformed into a handsome young prince, freed from an evil charm by the devotion of the brave woman, and Beauty and the prince came into their just inheritance of joy and peace.

The symbolism of the myth has a profound truth. The Beauty who would work a charm upon the Beast in man to-day must also possess the simplicity which prefers the rose to the diamond, the industry which does not fear poverty, the filial loyalty which will not flinch from dangerous duty, the intuition which sees the great heart with the ugly form, and the courage which dares all for love.

When the woman of to-day and tomorrow has all these powers at her call, we shall see, not the hideous modern parody of Beauty and the Beast, but the perennial repetition of the lovely old story in which, led through trials by a brave and virtuous woman, "they all" live happy ever after.—Youth's Companion.

## A Historic Leg.

There resides in Washington an old man who saw service in the Civil War as a colonel, although in after years he came to call himself general, whose only wound in action was a slight scratch on his leg. Nevertheless, this wound has always been a matter of great glory and pride to him, and he has nursed it ever since, and has grown lazier every year that the memory of his bravery might ever be with him.

One afternoon, when he sat at his club, nursing the injured leg, a fellow clubman of recent acquaintance sympathetically asked:

"Lame, general?"

"Yes, sir," was the reply, after an inexpressible solemn pause, "I am lame."

"Been riding, sir?"

"No," this time with rebuking sternness, "I have not been riding."

"Ah, I trust it was not due to a fall on the ice, general?"

"No" came in tones of ferocity.

"Perhaps, then, you have sprained your ankle?"

With painful slowness the old fellow lifted his leg in both hands, set it carefully on the floor, rose deliberately from his chair, and looking down upon the unfortunate questioner with mingled pity and wrath, burst forth in almost sublime rage:

"Go, sir, and read the history of your country, sir!"

## An Odd Race.

An exciting form of winter sport in which Canadian boys excel, is barrel racing, and it is great fun I can tell you.

These races are on ice. Ordinary barrels, with their heads removed, are placed in regular intervals along the race course, for about a quarter of a mile.

Then, at a given signal, all the boys skate for the first barrel. Many reach it together, and, as each skater must pass through all the barrels in order to win, there is quite a scramble for first turn.

Sometimes a barrel wheels completely around while a boy is working his way through it, and when he comes out, he is so confused that he skates off in the wrong direction. Usually the laugh of the spectators makes him realize his blunder, and he quickly turns about and tries to make up for lost time. It is quite an exciting sport and an amusing one also for the spectator, as the boys and barrels hob about in the most ludicrous fashion.

The men will go on till the end of time giving their girls novels and "Lullabies" during their engagements, and then wonder after marriage why they don't own a cook book.

When a girl flirts with a man she makes a fool of herself and tries to make a fool of him.