

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Friday, March 2.

Washington, March 2.—The senate today passed the bill providing for the settlement of the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes. Under the guise of considering the bill, the senate spent practically the entire day in discussion of the railway question. The bill has passed both the house and the senate, but as the senate amended it in many respects, it will now go into conference. It is a general bill for the adjustment of the affairs of these tribes upon their abandonment of their tribal organization.

Washington, March 2.—The first private claim session of the 58th congress occupied the house today, 25 bills being passed. All these measures carried small amounts for the relief of private individuals, who are precluded under the laws from obtaining their rights. Opposition to many of the bills was made by Mann, of Illinois, and Shackelford, of Missouri. This opposition accounted for the small number of measures considered.

Thursday, March 1.

Washington, March 1.—The discussion of the railroad rate question was continued in the senate today by Dooliver, who spoke in support of the Dooliver-Hepburn bill. He said that the bill was intended merely to supplement the existing interstate commerce law, and contended for its validity from a constitutional point of view, predicting that government ownership of the railroads would be forced upon the country if congress did not meet the present demand for regulation. Dooliver was not questioned, and when he concluded, the remainder of the day was devoted to the bill providing for the settlement of the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians after the termination of their tribal relations.

Washington, March 1.—The house today passed the army appropriation bill, also the Foraker bill providing for the marking of the graves of Confederate dead buried in the North. The discussion developed a unanimity of sentiment in favor of marking Confederate graves and, as the bill had received favorable action by the military committee, it was brought in by Prince and passed unanimously, amid applause on both sides of the house.

The army bill as passed carries something more than \$89,000,000. The house agreed to a senate joint resolution, which continues the tribal government of the Five Civilized Tribes in the Indian Territory until the property of the Indians shall be disposed of.

Wednesday, February 28.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The details of the provisions of the army appropriation bill occupied the house of representatives throughout the day. Throughout members of the appropriation committee, headed by Chairman Tawney, were in controversy with Chairman Hull and the members of the military committee. Each contest was an effort either in the direction of reducing or restricting the amounts carried in the bill. In some cases the appropriations committee was successful, and in others the military committee.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The treaty between the United States and the Dominican Republic, under which the former undertakes to collect and disburse the customs revenues of the latter, was reported to the senate in executive session today by Senator Lodge. While the treaty was given a place on the senate legislative calendar by the report made today, it will not be called up until after the railroad bill has been disposed of, and even then it may go over for some time.

For three hours, lacking three minutes, today, Foraker held the attention of the senate while he read a carefully prepared speech on the railroad rate question. His speech was a protest against any general legislation, on the theory that the existing Elkins law could be so extended as to make it answer all the requirements. He did not fail, however, to point out what he considered the defects of the Hepburn-Dooliver bill, and he made the declaration more than once that it would fail to remedy the evils complained of. The speech was listened to by a large attendance, both on the floor and in the galleries, and at its

Smoot Makes an Enemy.

Washington, Feb. 27.—When the senate takes a vote on the Smoot case, it is quite likely that Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, will vote to unseat Mr. Smoot, notwithstanding that he has always been understood that Mr. Heyburn was a Mormon sympathizer in his own state, and was elected by Mormon votes in the Idaho legislature. Behind this apparent change of front on the part of Senator Heyburn lies an interesting story that developed during the course of his now famous speech against Roosevelt's forest reserve policy.

No Aid for Congo.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The attitude of the American government towards the conditions in the Congo Free State and the American desire for some plan for the administration of Central Africa by the several powers ruling or exercising a controlling influence there are stated in a letter sent by Secretary Root to Representative Denby, of Michigan. Secretary Root says this government has no power to investigate Congo conditions.

close the senator was warmly congratulated by a number of his colleagues.

Tuesday, February 27.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The senate today agreed to vote on the statehood bill before adjournment on Friday, March 9. The proposition was made by Beveridge, and there was little difficulty in reaching an understanding. The suggestion immediately followed a speech in support of the bill by Hopkins, during the course of which Hale suggested that the territories were not prepared for statehood, and suggested that their admission be deferred.

The remainder of the day was devoted to the discussion of the bill providing for the settlement of the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, the major portion of the time being given to the provision for the disposal of the coal lands in Indian Territory.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Military matters held the attention of the house today, the army appropriation bill being under consideration for amendment. That General Corbin and General MacArthur might become lieutenant generals, the provision abolishing that rank was eliminated on a point of order raised by Grosvenor, of Ohio, who substituted an amendment to abolish the grade after these officers had been promoted, but this, too, met defeat. Members of the appropriations committee disputed the right of the military committee to appropriate for an apparatus for fire control of field artillery, but without success. Only eight of the 50 pages of the bill were passed upon when the house adjourned.

Monday, February 26.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The death of ex-Speaker David B. Henderson was the subject of appropriate action in the house of representatives today, when, after the transaction of less than a day's business, resolutions of regret and esteem were adopted and adjournment taken as a further mark of respect to his memory. Several bills relating to the District of Columbia were passed, incorporating the Lake Erie & Ohio River Ship Canal company. The bill will be put on its passage the first thing tomorrow.

During the consideration of district legislation, Sims, of Tennessee, made a severe arraignment of the form of the District. It was un-American, un-republican and un-democratic.

A bill was passed giving a national charter to the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Hepburn railroad rate bill was reported to the senate today by Tillman, in accordance with the action of the senate committee on interstate commerce last Friday. Large crowds assembled in the galleries, anticipating a field day of debate, but were disappointed. There was little of interest in the proceedings regarding the bill. A brief statement from Tillman with the necessary arrangement for printing the report of the hearings before the committee and a promise that a formal report would be made later, was followed by a few remarks from Aldrich, showing the position of the five Republicans who opposed the bill as reported. Aldrich indicated that there would be no unnecessary delay, but that the bill would be discussed in accordance with its importance.

Clapp called up the bill to dispose of the affairs of the five civilized tribes in Indian Territory, and the preliminary discussion was mainly criticism of the disposition of the coal lands owned by the Indians.

Dick occupied the floor during the afternoon, continuing his speech in support of the joint statehood bill.

Among the bills passed was one appropriating \$75,000 for a public building at Moscow, Idaho, and one at Baker City, Oregon, costing \$75,000.

Five Year Census of Agriculture.

Washington, March 1.—Secretary Wilson, of the department of Agriculture, appeared before the house committee on census today in support of the Burleson bill for the compilation of farm statistics by the government every five years, instead of every ten years. Secretary Tomlinson, of the Stockgrowers' association, also urged favorable action on the bill.

Decides for Railroads.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The suits known as the citrus fruit cases, in which all the railroads of Southern California were introduced, were today decided favorably to the railroads by the Supreme court of the United States, the opinion being by Justice Peckham. The cases involved the right of the railroad companies to designate the route for fruit shipped East after leaving their own lines. The decision of the Circuit court for the Southern district of California and also the order of the commission were reversed.

New Naturalization Bill.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The house committee on immigration and naturalization submitted a favorable report today on a bill to create a bureau of Immigration and Naturalization under the department of Commerce and Labor and to amend existing naturalization laws. Representative Bonyne, of Colorado, prepared the report which reviews naturalization frauds and says two principles controlling naturalization are included in the bill.

ARMY IS READY.

All Details Arranged to Send 25,000 Men to China.

Washington, March 2.—It is possible today to give for the first time the details of the preparations which the War department is making for an invasion of China. In case of necessity, which to military minds seems imminent, it is the intention of the government to dispatch 20,000 regulars from the United States to join a Philippine force of 5,000 men for an expedition to the Chinese empire.

The troops for the Oriental service have been selected, the posts from which they will be taken are named in the plans and the proper allotment has been made among the various branches of the service. Not only has this been done by the officers who have been working out the invasion scheme, but they have perfected a plan for the distribution of the troops which will remain in the United States, so that they may be available in case of home disturbances.

The scheme of invasion as at present contemplated is with the view principally of a combination of the American forces with those of other powers, but a subsidiary arrangement has been made to meet the possibility that the United States will be forced to act alone.

If the situation in China demands the dispatching of American soldiers for a march to Peking, within three weeks of the time of the call to arms there will not be a regular infantryman left within the borders of the United States, for it is the intention of the department to send its full force into the field, save only the infantrymen doing duty in the Philippines.

As stated in previous dispatches, the officers of the War College have estimated that 100,000 men will be necessary to make an invading force strong enough to conduct a successful campaign against Peking. If by an unfortunate trend of events it should become necessary that America act alone, there would be no attempt at the outset to reach the Forbidden City. Tentative plans, in case America goes alone into the fight, contemplate a joint army and navy expedition to seize one of the greater coast towns in China. This might or might not have an effect on the Chinese government, but, because of recent events, it would seem that the Chinese governments is not all-powerful in the control of its affairs, and as a consequence such a seizure might be of little avail, save possibly for indemnity purposes.

RAISE PAY OF RURAL CARRIERS.

Cortelyou Recommends an Increase When Routes are Adjusted.

Washington, March 2.—This statement has been furnished the Associated Press for transmission:

"In the matter of rural carriers' pay, it can be authoritatively stated that there is no disposition on the part of the Postoffice department to cut rates. On the contrary, the department has strongly recommended the advisability of congressional consideration of the subject, looking to more adequate compensation.

"In the recent readjustments to complete county service, the number of routes reduced in mileage has exceeded the number increased. These conditions have resulted in lowering the pay of the carriers somewhat. Until the service is completed throughout the country, the average of carriers' salaries based upon present legal allowance will naturally fluctuate from time to time as routes are increased or decreased in length. Under the so-called new rural policy of the department, out of a total of 34,938 routes installed up to February 1, but 27 had been discontinued. These discontinuances were mostly due to readjustments in order to complete service in counties."

Continues Present Rates.

Washington, March 2.—President Roosevelt today issued a proclamation imposing the rates of duties provided by section 3 of the Dingley act upon imports from Germany in return for Germany's concession of minimum tariff rates on United States products. The articles and rate of duty named in the president's proclamation are the same as those now in force, which would have been terminated yesterday, but for the recent action of the German government in giving this country the benefit of its minimum tariff.

Shaw Opposes Souvenir Coins.

Washington, March 2.—Secretary Shaw, of the Treasury department, appeared today before the house committee to discuss the bill providing appropriations for the Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition. He expressed emphatic disapproval of the provision of the bill for the coinage of 1,000,000 \$2 silver pieces upon which the exposition desires to realize \$600,000 profit on the cost of senioreage.

Report on Female and Child Labor.

Washington, March 1.—The house committee on labor decided today to make a favorable report on a bill appropriating \$300,000 for a compilation of full statistics by the department of Commerce and Labor on the condition of women and child workers throughout the United States. This bill grew out of the movement inaugurated by Governor Curtis Guild, of Massachusetts, for the investigation of labor conditions.

Aid Sent to Famine Sufferers.

Washington, March 2.—The National Red Cross today cabled to the Japanese Red Cross \$5,000, making a total of \$27,000 contributed by the American people and transmitted to Japan through that organization for relief of the famine sufferers.

REPEAL LAID ON THE TABLE

House Committee Kills New Timber Land Bill.

Three Northwestern House Members Oppose Measure Favored by the President and Public Land Commission to Get Fair Price for Government Timber.

Washington, March 1.—By a vote of 9 to 4 the house public lands committee today voted to table the bill to repeal the timber and stone act and substitute therefor a law authorizing the sale of mature public timber at its appraised value. The action of the committee is in line with its action taken in the last congress, and effectively kills the pending bill, which was endorsed by the president and the public lands commission. The committee's action makes it impossible to bring the bill up on the floor of the house, even for discussion.

Mondell, Wyoming, French, Idaho, and Dixon, Montana, are among those against repeal.

The public lands commission, after a careful study of the operation of the timber and stone law, condemned it, and recommended its repeal and the substitution of a law which would permit the government to realize something like the real value of its timber. Such a law as recommended by the commission and favored by the senate committee would yield from \$25 to \$100 an acre for the choice timber lands of the West, where the government now receives a beggarly \$2.50. Moreover, a law such as proposed would tend to put a stop to the rank timber monopoly that has been undertaken in the Pacific Coast states. In that it would require lumbermen to pay a fair price for timber, instead of permitting them to get it for a merely nominal sum.

The most vigorous opponent of repeal on the house committee is Mr. Mondell, who believes in legislating to meet conditions in his own state, notwithstanding the effect on the rest of the country. Mr. Mondell contends, probably very truly, that the timber and stone act has been beneficial to Wyoming. The timber of that state is perhaps worth no more than \$2.50 an acre, for the Wyoming forests cannot compare with those of the Northwestern states, either in extent or in quality of timber. Mr. Mondell argues that, inasmuch as the act has benefited Wyoming and has led to no fraud, therefore it must have benefited the entire West and should not be repealed.

KAISER GETS READY.

Fortifies Kiaochou and Prepares His China Squadron for Action.

Berlin, March 1.—Admiral von Tirpitz stated in the reichstag Wednesday that the government had decided to fortify Kiaochou in order that it may be made impregnable from both the land and water sides. He expressed the belief that German residents of the port were in danger from a threatened uprising in China.

This is the first admission officially that Germany is anxious as to the outcome of the present anti-foreign agitation throughout China, and is held here to mean that the situation is much more serious than formerly has been admitted.

The German warships on the Chinese station were recently overhauled, and are in readiness for any action that may become necessary to protect German interests at any point on the Chinese coast. Arrangements have been completed by which the admiral in command is keeping in touch with the German embassy at Peking, and will act under orders from there. All vessels in the squadron, according to the latest advices, are well provisioned and coaled and ready for action at a moment's notice.

Increased Postal Appropriation.

Washington, March 1.—The subcommittee of the committee on post-offices and postroads, which has been considering appropriations for the Postoffice department, practically adopted the bill today, fixing the appropriation for the department at about \$192,000,000 or \$10,000,000 more than the last appropriation. The bill provides for some changes in the department's methods and contains a provision to prevent the shipment of anything but actual mail matter through the mails of the government.

Government Has a Surplus.

Washington, March 1.—For the first time since May 1, 1904, when the government made its payment of \$50,000,000 for the Panama canal property and \$4,600,000 was loaned to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company, the daily statement issued today shows for the fiscal year a surplus of receipts over expenditures. The surplus today amounts to \$1,102,003. This is regarded by the treasury officials as a remarkably fine showing.

Castro Not Aggressive.

Washington, March 1.—Senor Garbieras, the newly appointed charge d'affaires of Venezuela, who arrived in this city last night, took charge of the legation today. When asked concerning the condition of affairs between France and Venezuela, he stated that nothing new had developed. He denied that President Castro had any aggressive plans.



A faint luminous mist in the bulb and on the fingers has been noted by Professor Sommers on rubbing electric light bulbs that have been not long in use. No satisfactory explanation has been given.

The layer of the sea taken up by the clouds each year is now estimated at fourteen feet in thickness. The winds carry the clouds to land, where the water falls as rain, to find its way in due time back to the ocean.

Late statistics show that a Spaniard lives less than two-thirds as long as a Norwegian. The average duration of life is, in Norway, 50 years; England, 45; Belgium, 44; Switzerland, 44; France, 43; Austria, 39; Germany, 39; Italy, 39, and Bavaria, 38.

A remarkable effect of pile-driving was lately observed at Rotterdam. On withdrawing some piles that had been rammed through quick-sand by 150 to two hundred strokes per minute, the points were found to be charred by friction and they ignited spontaneously on contact with the air.

A new sugar plant from South America, which has been named eupatorium rebandum, is pronounced by Beroni, the German chemist, to be of great industrial value. It grows from eight to ten inches high and is found to contain from twenty to thirty times as much saccharine matter as sugar-cane or the beet.

A physician writes of the effect of London's smoky atmosphere upon the human lungs: "The coal miner's lung is black, the lung of the Eskimo is a pearly white, the lung of the Londoner is a rich gray. Natural selection evolves beings adapted to meet all sorts of natural circumstances—among which a carbon-laden atmosphere is not included. Such an atmosphere is a product of man's own stupidity and nature has had no chance of protecting him against its consequences."

Birmingham, England, is having trouble with its new water supply. The water is "soft." The city's health board has warned hardware dealers and manufacturers that galvanized kettles and utensils are dangerous, as the zinc coating is quickly dissolved by the water. Birmingham plumbers say that their business has increased immensely since the new water arrived. It seems to have no great effect on brass taps, but lead pipes and cisterns are eaten away much faster than before.

Readers of the late Paul du Chailly's travels still recall with many a thrill vivid descriptions of encounters with the gorilla in its native forests. But none of the monsters seen by him could be compared with a gorilla recently shot on the shores of the river Sangha, in French Congo, which measured no less than seven feet six and three-quarter inches in height. The substantial accuracy of this measurement seems to be established by photographs that have been sent to Europe. Prof. E. T. Hamy, the French anthropologist, thinks that this specimen indicates a new race, if not a new species, of gorilla.

Gradually all the great rivers are being harnessed for the great advance that the mechanical powers under the control of man are destined to make during the twentieth century. In the nature of the case, those rivers whose upper courses are marked by many waterfalls possess the greatest available power. Recent calculations by Bavarian engineers show that the Danube is capable of developing, together with its Alpine tributaries, a little less than 2,000,000 horse power. This applies only to that part of the river's course lying in Bavaria. Only 700,000 horse power could be effectively utilized, and only 75,000 has as yet been developed. The principal uses found for water power in the Alps are for mountain railroads, and for electro-chemical and electrometallurgical industries.

EARLY DAYS OF THE ERIE.

What Beginnings of Railroads in This Country Were Like.

The monument dedicated at Deposit, N. Y., Nov. 10, in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the beginning of work on the Erie, marks an important date in American railroad history, says the New York Evening Post. Few, if any, roads have passed through such vicissitudes as fell to the lot of the Erie from its very inception; none has been more typical in its construction, and certainly none has been more often or more ruthlessly plundered by conscienceless financial managers. The first passenger train with a locomotive had been put in actual service in South Carolina on Jan. 15, 1831. Two and one-half years later the New York and Erie Company was organized, upon the assurance that the desired road would cost only \$3,000,000. As a hint of the lawlessness to come, the organizers violated the act incorporating their company by beginning business with only 5 per cent of its capital subscribed, instead of 10.

That James Gore King himself was a visionary appears from the speech he made as he dug up the first spadefuls in the "beautiful meadow" in which the inaugural ceremony took place. That vale, he declared, would soon see a different spectacle—"a track of rails with cars passing and repassing loaded with merchandise and the produce of the country." "The freight," he continued, "will amount to \$200,000 per an-

num in a very few years." Frightened at the incredulity expressed on the faces of those who heard this wild prophecy, he hastily added, "at least eventually!" Nine years later, in 1844, only forty-four miles of road were in operation, from which was received in that year the magnificent income of \$46-178.84 from passengers and \$79,841.00 for freight. The cost of operation and repairs was but \$66,945. The only other great railroads then were the Baltimore and Ohio and the road between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

From that time on the road grew slowly enough, like all the other new roads. But, unlike them, it could not combine with other local railroads. Early construction in this country was almost precisely like the development of electric street railways during the last decade. First were a lot of little railroads between cities. Then came connecting links, and finally an amalgamation of many roads into a trunk line. Of this procedure the New York Central is the best example. It was made out of a chain of ramshackle local roads of different gauges. The Erie itself was forced to lease two roads connecting it with Jersey City, as its passengers disliked getting off at Piedmont, its terminal, and coming down the Hudson on a steamer to this city.

The ceremonies at the Erie's completion in 1851 were attended by President Fillmore and four members of his cabinet, including his Secretary of State, Daniel Webster. Two palatial special trains conducted the guests to Dunkirk—with some difficulty, it is true, as one engine, although a monster capable of pulling forty tons, gave out early in the trip. But Elmira was reached in ten hours, and on the second day the remainder of the forty-six miles was covered in seven hours. "This peaceful victory," said a banner on the special train from Newburg, "is more glorious in its triumph than Austerlitz or Waterloo." Another declared that "this day wanting, the world had not seen the extent of human greatness."

"COUSIN" GRAFT OF JAPS.

Secret Service System Among Yellow Servants Amazing.

The hundreds of Japanese who are doing their best to solve the servant problem for the American cities, just as they have solved it for the people of the Pacific coast, form one of the most compact and dependable bureaus of general information that any city has ever seen.

By virtue of what is known as the "cousin system" these Japanese houseboys, cooks and valets know absolutely everything that there is to be known about the working conditions in houses where not they, but other Japanese, who naturally might be expected to be their rivals in business, are employed. They know to the minute when any other Japanese is to leave his position and they know all about the habits of the household in which this Jap has been employed.

Servants of no other nationality ever kept such close tabs on affairs. This solicitude on their part to accumulate all possible knowledge about everything is never known to their employers until it becomes necessary for the Japanese' own purposes to reveal the same.

For instance, there is a broker who for three years has had as general factotum in his bachelor establishment an intelligent Japanese. This little yellow man has been getting \$100 a month, all his employer's old clothing, and other perquisites. The itch for culture attacking the Japanese, nothing would do but that he must go to the university. He would resign his place, he said, if his employer would agree to engage in his stead his cousin. The first cousin proving unsatisfactory, exactly fourteen more were submitted for inspection. The fourteenth having proved worse than the first, the original servant was steered from his higher thought idea and lured back to pressing clothes and setting bachelor table.

During the experience with the fifteen the broker learned what everybody on the Pacific coast has known for years—that among the Japanese servants there exists an organized and wonderfully effective secret service, and that the cousins, who are no more cousins than they are deadly enemies, are responsible for the dissemination of much knowledge about their employers. But they don't break their trust either with him or themselves, even if they are long on the distribution of news that is useful to their craft.

Their Verdict.

It was the first case ever tried in Stony Gulch and the jury had sat for hours, arguing and disputing over it, in the bare little room at the rear of the court room. At last they straggled back to their places, and the foreman, a tall mountaineer, voiced the general opinion.

"We don't think he did it," he said slowly, "for we allow he wa'n't there; but we think he would of ef he'd had the chance."

Also a Reformer.

"Dey're sendin' a lot of grafters to jail," remarked Meandering Mike. "I'm glad of it," answered Plodding Pete. "If dis high-class patronage keeps comin' in maybe de warden will wake up an' improve de accommodations."—Washington Star.

An English Army Order.

An army order advises that, where possible, mules should be used to draw machine guns. "When, however, a mule is not available, any intelligent non-commissioned officer will do instead."—London Mail.

You can't convince a stubborn man that it is impossible to convince him.