

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Saturday, March 24.

Washington, March 24. — Hazing at the Annapolis Naval academy was dealt with by the house today in the passage of a senate bill with a house substitute. The action was taken after a protracted debate, which placed on record the impressions of the special committee which investigated the subject recently and a severe criticism by Hepburn of efforts to condone hazing. Several amendments were proposed, but all were rejected save one, it being the duty of cadet officers, as well as other academy authorities, to report infractions of the rules. The bill repeals that portion of existing laws which makes it compulsory to dismiss midshipmen guilty of hazing in any degree, and substitutes punishment according to the nature of the offense. Cruel and brutal hazing may be punished by dismissal. Previous to consideration of the hazing bill, 265 pension bills were discussed and passed.

Friday, March 23.

Washington, March 23. — Spooner today concluded his speech in the senate on the railroad rate bill, and the fortifications appropriation bill was taken up and passed. It carries an appropriation of \$125,000 for the erection of a powder manufactory, and Daniel spoke at length in support of the provision. He declared that the nation was entirely at the mercy of a powder trust, and urged that the amendment should be adopted as a safeguard. As passed, the bill carries an appropriation of \$5,278,993. Tillman also spoke on the railroad rate bill, suggesting that the Interstate Commerce commission should have authority to enjoin the railroads from increasing their rates. He said the suggestion had been made by a "corn field lawyer" in Oklahoma.

The following bills were also passed: Creating a steamboat inspectors' district in Alaska; providing for filling in the naval station at Honolulu; authorizing the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad to construct bridges across the Missouri, Yellowstone, Snake and Columbia rivers.

Washington, March 23. — The consideration of the legislative appropriation bill in the house today was enlivened by a small spat between Prince and Tawney, a proposition to buy a private car for the president, which was ruled out of order, and a jeering speech by Smith, of Arizona, about the suppression of debate by the rules.

An echo of the statehood controversy yesterday resulted in an effort to correct the journal. Williams maintained he was put in the ridiculous position of moving to instruct the conferees after they had been appointed, a motion clearly out of order at that time. The correction was made as suggested.

Thursday, March 22.

Washington, March 22. — The statehood bill was taken from the speaker's table in the house today, placed in the hands of three selected conferees and a request made of the senate for a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two houses. This action was not accomplished without many words and votes. It was developed, however, that there were votes enough to carry out the program of the leaders. Then followed 40 minutes of fiery speeches, some of which provoked much amusement among the large attendance of members and the crowded galleries. Then came the final vote on the adoption of the rule, which 175 members approved and 156 opposed.

The legislative appropriation bill constituted the subject for the remainder of the day. Criticism was made of the management of the library of congress, and Hardwick, of Georgia, found himself opposed by members of both sides of the chamber in his endeavor to restrict the white house appropriation so as to eliminate a social secretary for the wife of the president.

Washington, March 22. — The railroad rate bill occupied practically all of the time of the senate today. There were two speeches, one by Lodge and the other by Spooner. Lodge spoke in advocacy of his amendment, looking to the enlargement of the Interstate Commerce commission, and in doing so replied sharply to some recent utterances of Commissioner Prouty. Spooner devoted his attention to the constitutional powers of the inferior courts, contending that these courts could not be destroyed nor their jurisdiction taken from them.

Revise Second-Class Rate.

Washington, March 20. — The house committee on postoffices and postroads reported the postoffice appropriation bill to the house today. It provides for an expenditure of \$191,373,848 for the fiscal year 1907, or \$913,221 less than the modified estimates of the Postoffice department. This amount exceeds the appropriation for 1906 by \$10,351,755. Legislation for freeing the mails of heavy matter and for gaining information to reclassify mail is included in the bill. One provision appropriates \$10,000 to pay freight on supplies.

All Eat Chinook Salmon.

Washington, March 20. — United States senators and a few favored members of the house feasted on royal Chinook salmon from the Columbia river today, Senator Fulton acting as host. A big 50-pound fish was cooked and served Oregon style, and liberally served to every senator with his luncheon. So popular has fresh Columbia river salmon become that it is impossible to hold a quorum in the senate when one of these fish is being served.

Wednesday, March 21.

Washington, March 21. — The entire day in the senate was devoted to the consideration of the railroad rate bill. Culberson began the proceedings by presenting an amendment prohibiting corporations coming under the operation of the proposed law from making campaign contributions and he was immediately followed by his colleague Bailey, who offered the amendment so long promised by him and followed this action with a speech in which he explained that he would not now present the amendment but for the fact that Dolliver had referred to and criticized it in an interview. He indicated some displeasure over the interview, but exonerated Dolliver from discourtesy in the matter. The Iowa senator disavowed any intention to reveal a secret and the incident was closed pleasantly. Eoth Bailey and Dolliver made speeches reiterating their views and they were followed by more or less extended remarks by Tillman, Patterson, Heyburn and Knox. Bailey was interrupted in the middle of his speech by the announcement of his father's death, and immediately left the senate chamber.

Washington, March 21. — Representative George R. Patterson, of the Twelfth Pennsylvania district, died suddenly here today. Heart failure is ascribed as the cause of death. The house adjourned immediately after it was called to order, out of respect for Mr. Patterson. The statehood bill will be taken up tomorrow.

Tuesday, March 20.

Washington, March 20. — In less than 20 minutes the senate voted away \$140,000,000 of the public funds. The sum is carried by the pension appropriation bill, which brief document was made the subject of very little discussion. The railroad rate bill was laid aside for the day and the major portion of the time was devoted to the consideration of the fortification bill. In that connection the question of the necessity for seacoast fortifications in the Philippines was discussed at length, with the result that all provisions for such fortifications in these islands was eliminated. The consideration of the measure was not concluded. There was also a brief discussion of the power of the conference committee to amend the bill providing for punishment for premature divulgence of government secrets so as to make the inhibition extend to senators and members of the house of representatives, but the subject was left undisposed of for the time.

Washington, March 20. — The house of representatives today did business with a microscope in one hand and the bill making appropriations for the salaries of its officers and employees in the other. The result was that, although 5 1/2 hours were spent in reading the legislative appropriation bill for amendment, less than 25 pages were completed. The spirit of economy in little things was all absorbing. Points of order were made and many of them were fatal to proposed increases in the salaries of officers, janitors, doorkeepers, messengers and laborers.

A point of order which made the engine room of the house cost \$270 instead of \$280 a year, as proposed, caused a constitutional debate of more than an hour on the point as to whether the house could do as it saw fit in the matter of fixing the salaries of its employees. The conclusion seemed to be that it could, and that it prescribed its own action by its rules. However, these rules prohibited increasing a salary without provision of law.

Monday, March 19.

Washington, March 19. — There were three speeches on the railroad rate bill in the senate today. McCreary, Bailey and Heyburn were the orators. McCreary announced his determination to vote for the bill whether amended or not, but said that he would not object to a reasonable provision for the review of the Interstate Commerce commission's findings. Bailey replied to criticisms of his suggestion for a prohibition of the suspension of the commission's orders by courts below the Supreme court. He contended, that congress had the absolute power to prescribe limitations for the courts which it creates, and cited a large number of decisions in support of his position. Heyburn advocated a review provision, but expressed the opinion that, even if it were omitted, no person could be deprived of his right of admission to the courts.

Measure Oregon Streams.

Washington, March 20. — The Geological survey has formed a new hydrographic district, comprising the states of Washington and Oregon. The headquarters of J. C. Stevens, hydrographer in charge, will be at 351 Washington street, Portland. Mr. Stevens is trained in engineering, and has had several years of experience investigating the hydrography work in the arid states of the West. He is well qualified for this important work. The Oregon state surveyor at present co-operates with the government geographical survey.

Claim for Exploded Shell.

Washington, March 20. — A claim for \$15,000 has been presented to the War department by the parents of three children who were injured by the explosion of a shell on the American lake camp site near Tacoma. This shell was fired during the maneuvers two years ago, but failed to explode. The children were playing with it recently and exploded it. The department is unable to pay the claim, and will refer it to congress.

ADVERTISE NORTHWEST.

School Teachers Asked to Enter Competitive Story Contest.

To the teachers of America: To evidence its appreciation of the National Educational association's selection of the Pacific coast as the scene of its next annual convention at San Francisco, California, July 9th to 13th inclusive, and to encourage delegates to include Portland and Oregon in their itinerary, the Portland Commercial club offers FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS in prizes for articles on Portland, Oregon, and this section of the United States, as follows:

First prize, \$1,000; second prize, \$500; third prize, \$250; fourth prize, \$200; fifth prize, \$175; sixth prize, \$150; seventh prize, \$125; eighth prize, \$110; ninth prize, \$100; tenth prize, \$90; ten prizes of \$75 each, \$750; ten prizes of \$50 each, \$500; ten prizes of \$25 each, \$250; twenty prizes of \$15 each, \$300; twenty prizes of \$10 each, \$200; judges, to be acceptable to the officers of the National Educational association, \$300; grand total, \$5,000. In order to be eligible for competition these articles must appear in a regular edition of some newspaper or other publication printed outside of the states of Oregon and Washington, said publication complete to be in the hands of the judges not later than October 1, 1906. These articles must be sealed and addressed to: Teachers' Contest, care Portland Commercial club, Portland, Oregon.

They will be opened by the judges. Prizes will be awarded strictly on the merits of the articles. Contestants can treat any phase of the subject that appeals to them — natural resources, scenery, irrigation, agriculture and horticulture, history, educational and religious advantages, climatic or social conditions, etc.—or in a more comprehensive vein. The judges will be absolutely untrammelled in making their decisions.

This offer is made, not so much with a view of having the country "boomed" in a common acceptance of that term, as to have the teachers of the country become more familiar with this portion of the United States and give expression to their views in such articles as will be acceptable to papers throughout the entire Union.

CANNOT EXPEL SMOOT.

Two-Thirds Majority of Senate is Required, and is Impossible.

Washington, March 23. — It seems certain, in the light of recent developments, that the campaign against Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, will fail. Mr. Smoot's enemies have been hoping to oust him by a majority vote of the senate, but senators who have given attention to his case find that the constitution stipulates that no senator shall be deprived of his seat except by a two-thirds vote of the senate.

The anti-Smoot senators have been taking the position that the protests were filed against Mr. Smoot before he took his seat, and, inasmuch as he was seated under protest, the majority vote can be applied, since it takes only a majority to exclude a senator-elect. But this view is not generally concurred in by senators. Mr. Smoot was seated, and, having been permitted to take his seat, the only way to get him out is to expel him, and this requires a two-thirds vote.

It seems absolutely certain that two-thirds of the senate is not in favor of unseating the Mormon senator, probably not a majority, and for this reason it is believed the much discussed case will fall flat.

Iowa May Oust Standard.

Des Moines, March 23. — The house, by a vote of 48 to 12, today passed the anti-discrimination bill, which is intended to oust the Standard Oil from Iowa or compel a revision of its business methods. The bill prohibits discriminating rates for oil and is patterned after the Missouri law. It provides a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for violation. Representative Cummings, the author, in presenting the bill, asserted that the Standard Oil company had made a price of 4 cents a gallon for oil in his home town recently, in order to drive out competition.

Italian Island Quaking.

New York, March 23. — A cable dispatch to the Herald from Palermo says: There have been 21 earthquake shocks on the island of Ustica during the last three days. The population lives in constant terror. A great valley has been formed in the center of the island and all the houses have been demolished. The shocks were vertical, not undulatory, and were accompanied by loud subterranean rumblings. The last shocks, which occurred yesterday, finished the work of destruction. Panic seized upon the 2,000 inhabitants.

Millions of Sockeye Fry.

Vancouver, B. C., March 23. — Twenty-nine million sockeye salmon fry will be turned out of the Dominion government hatchery at Harrison lake next week and started toward the sea. The fish are about three inches long. The operations at the Harrison lake hatchery last fall and winter were attended with great success. The fish at the Seton lake hatchery, which is a provincial institution, will also shortly be released.

New Drydock for Puget Sound.

Washington, March 23. — Secretary Bonaparte appeared before the house committee on naval affairs today and discussed naval appropriations. He urged an appropriation for a stationary drydock on Puget sound.

CANNOT CONTROL LIFE INSURANCE

Federal Legislation Out of the Power of Congress.

Would Tend to Impair Police Powers of the States — House Committee Unanimous That Supreme Court Decisions Are All Against Federal Control.

Washington, March 22. — That there is no constitutional authority for Federal control of insurance or other state corporations other than railroads is to be the conclusion reported to the house by the judiciary committee. The report has been drafted by Chairman Jenkins, of the committee, and is now in the hands of members of the committee for their perusal. An unofficial poll of the members indicates that with practically no exceptions they concur in the correctness of this conclusion.

The report collates all the important court decisions on the matter involved, treats each exhaustively and reduces the whole problem to these two principles: First — The Supreme court of the United States has declared and has never been shaken or weakened in maintaining, first, that insurance is not commerce, and second, that congress cannot impair the police powers of the states.

Second — The advocates of Federal regulation concede, according to the report, that insurance is not commerce. The report sets forth section 8 of article 1 of the constitution as conferring the only power possessed by congress to regulate commerce.

PACKERS ESCAPE LAW.

Judge Gives Immunity to Individuals But Not Corporations.

Chicago, March 22. — All of the packers who were indicted by the Federal grand jury last summer upon charges of being in conspiracy in restraint of trade and commerce were today granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictment. While the individuals are to go free, the indictments found against the corporations, of which some of the indicted individuals are members and others are employes, are to stand.

The decision to the above effect was handed down this afternoon by Judge J. Otis Humphrey, in the United States District Court.

Immediately following the dismissal of the jury, District Attorney Morrison raised the question of the date for the trial of the corporations. He asked that the case be set for trial and that it commence within two weeks. This met with a storm of protest from the attorneys for the packers, who insisted that they would be unable to prepare for the case before the fall of this year, pleading the number of witnesses whom it would be necessary to bring to Chicago, the strain of the present trial, and various other reasons. After some discussion, Judge Humphrey directed that the lawyers agree among themselves upon a date and notify him of their decision next week.

BUY OUT GREAT LAND OWNERS.

Kutler Proposes to Divide the Land Among Peasant Proprietors.

St. Petersburg, March 22. — M. Kutler, ex-minister of agriculture and now candidate of the Constitutional Democrats for election to the lower house of the national parliament, today began publication of an interesting series of articles on the agrarian question. He says the only solution of the problem, which is a most crying issue before Russia, is the expropriation of the land of the big proprietors for the benefit of the peasants, who, he contends, have a moral right to the land, much of which was stolen from their ancestors by the Boyars when the latter reduced them to slavery.

Pattison's Case Serious.

Columbus, O., March 22. — Governor Pattison's illness took a serious turn today, and his physicians were at his bedside until midnight. Dr. Wilson said that the governor was quite ill today, after having spent a very bad night, but that he was resting more comfortably tonight. There had been an increase of pain, which had raised the patient's fever to 103 degrees. Dr. Wilson declared that there was no danger when he left the governor's bedside, although the governor is a very sick man.

Oregon's Keel Plate Damaged.

Washington, March 22. — One of the keel plates of the Oregon was found to be somewhat damaged six or eight months ago, but the condition was thought to be due to docking. Orders were given at that time not to fire the big guns of the vessel. She is on her way home for a general overhauling and thorough repair. No reports have reached the ordnance office of any weakness to the gun mounts on the battleship.

Gross Earnings Tax Invalid.

Austin, Tex., March 22. — The Court of Appeals of this, the Third district, today declared unconstitutional the law passed at the last regular session of the Texas legislature assessing a special 2 per cent tax on the gross earnings of all railroads.

ALLISON CELEBRATES TWO NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES.



SENATOR WILLIAM B. ALLISON.

Senator William Boyd Allison of Iowa, who the other day celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday, and the day following celebrated the thirty-sixth anniversary of his entrance into the Senate, has served in that body a longer period than any other member now on the rolls. He took his seat March 4, 1873, and since then has been re-elected five times. Before entering the Senate Mr. Allison served four terms in the House. He was born at Perry, Ohio, March 2, 1820, and was educated in the Western Reserve College. Subsequently he studied law, and practiced at the Ohio bar until 1857, when he moved to Iowa. In 1860 he was delegate to the convention at Chicago that nominated Lincoln, and in recent years always has figured as a candidate for the presidency. Mr. Allison has lived in Dubuque nearly fifty years.



Loss of sleep proves to be the curious effect that may limit man's mountain-climbing. Dr. Bullock Workman mentions that in his camp in the Himalayas at 19,358 feet, members of his party were kept awake by lack of breath, and on dozing off would suddenly awake gasping. He concludes that inability to sleep may itself be sufficient to keep climbers from going beyond twenty-three to twenty-five thousand feet.

On the apex of the Prince of Wales' crown, which he wears on special occasions, is a curious feather, or rather, a tuft of periwak feathers, the top of which is adorned with a gold thread. This feather is said to be worth \$10,000, and has the distinction of being the only one of its kind in the world. It took twenty years to procure it, and it caused the death of more than a dozen hunters. The reason the pursuit of the periwak is so dangerous is because it inhabits the jungles and other haunts of tigers.

Drafts over deep wells are usually due to changes of temperature or barometric pressure, air being forced in as the pressure rises and drawn out when the barometer is falling. But two wells in the Vicksburg Jackson limestone of southern Georgia have shown the strange phenomenon of a continuous inflow. This has been investigated by S. W. McCalle, who has found a rapid subterranean stream at a depth of about 120 feet, and it is supposed that the air is sucked in by friction and carried along until the water rises as a large spring.

East of the Missouri River in South Dakota more than 1,000 artesian wells now exist, drawing their water from the supply carried by the underlying sandstone formation, and supposed to come from the Black Hills and the Rocky Mountains. These wells, used mainly for irrigating purposes, are some from the Black Hills and the pressure of water in the eastern part of the State is sufficient to give a surface flow, except on the highest lands. One well at Springfield yields 3,202 gallons per minute, and furnishes power for a flour mill by day and for an electric light plant by night. The development of this source of water supply is still going forward.

The French chemist, Molissan, reports that in the electric furnace gold boils freely at a temperature of 2,400 degrees centigrade. In two or three minutes from 100 to 150 grams of gold pass into the state of vapor. In condensing upon a cold body, this golden vapor forms filliform masses and cubic crystals. At its temperature of ebullition gold dissolves a little carbon, which, at the moment of resolidification, is deposited in the form of graphite. In an alloy of gold and copper, copper distills first. In an alloy of gold and tin, the tin distills more abundantly than the gold, and when a large quantity of these mixed vapors is taken, the tin burns on contact with the oxygen of the air, forming oxid of tin, colored purple by a fine dust of condensed gold. This is an unexpected method of preparing the color known as "purple of Cassius."

KEEP DISCOVERY A SECRET.

Mexican Indians Refuse to Reveal Place Where They Find Rich Ore.

Some two weeks ago a Mexican, of buscon class, offered to sell me a considerable quantity of placer gold, which he claimed he had found within 100 kilometers of Tepisco, but he refused to tell where he had got it," said T. G. Gibson, of Tepisco, Sonora. "Among

this gold was one nugget as large as an ordinary sized marble. A friend of mine bought this gold for \$300 and a day or two later sold it for \$565.

"It is no uncommon thing to find the buscones of that part of the country with gold for sale. This nugget"—here he exhibited a piece of smoothly worn wash gold of irregular shape and about half an inch long by a little over a quarter of an inch wide, with a piece of quartz running crosswise through it—"I bought from a buscon some three years ago in Tepisco. He had several other pieces of fine gold ore, but as I was not interested in mines I bought this simply for the purpose of making a pin out of it.

"About eight months ago a buscon brought into Tepisco a mule load of silver ore, which he sold for \$200 to one of the local ore buyers. All efforts to induce him to reveal the place where he obtained the ore proved of no avail. When he found he was watched by spies of mining men he went back to work upon a little corn ranch that he had in the neighborhood, and there he stayed until those watching him got tired. About two months ago he suddenly disappeared and had not again been seen there at the time of my departure, two weeks ago. It is my opinion that he is again on the hunt for the mine from which he got the ore. Oh, if he knows where it is, he is taking ore out of it on the quiet; for he sold out all his corn and realized on his other crops at a sacrifice before he left.

"It may be that he is taking out denouncement papers. But this I doubt, as an Indian in that country rarely does that, for it means the payment of taxes and incidentally the revealing of the place where the mine is situated. The Indian about there has been so badly treated and cheated that he is afraid of every one and suspicious of even the mining authorities.

"The silver ore which this Indian brought into the town was an oxide almost jet black, running like a seam through a wide vein of hard lime formation. One of the pieces of ore brought in by the Indian assayed \$1,800 to the ton in silver and \$1,500 to the ton in gold. Very little of it ran much less. The man who made the assay has tried every means in his power to induce the Indian to tell him where the hidden mine is. But the best he could get out of him was that it is in the north, at a considerable distance from Tepisco, and that the whole region, which is on the borders of the hot lands, is seamed with veins of silver ore.

"Many buscones have been seen on the hunt for this hidden mine ever since the Indian brought in the famous ore some months ago."—Mexican Herald.

Chinese Eyes Are Straight.

Chinese eyes are straight in the skull, according to E. Lemaire in La Nature. They appear oblique, but they are not really so. Von Siebold, Abelsdorff and Schlegel, the great authorities, all agree that the eyes of the Chinese are straight. The reason the eye appears oblique is that the upper eyelid and the general direction of the eyebrow are oblique; the upper eyelid at the side of the nose forms a special fold which covers entirely the angle where the lachrymal gland is found. In addition the lids are generally very thin and the eyes less open.

A Woman's Way.

Edith—What luck did you have in the last race? Maud—None at all. I backed all the horses with a pretty name, but I didn't find the winner.—Illustrated Bits.

Wise politicians climb into the band wagon rather than risk being knocked down and being run over by it.